

## Chapter 2221 – Auction House's Advanced Features

The conditions have already been met? Shi Feng stared at the system notification, shocked.

NPC Auction Houses were unlike player-built Auction Houses. Like Shops, they could be upgraded as long as they met the requirements; however, an Auction House's requirements were stricter than a Shop's.

Not only did the Auction House in question need a certain amount of daily traffic, but it also required a certain trade volume. Moreover, the Auction House would have to maintain these conditions for some time to qualify for a promotion.

NPC Auction Houses had only qualified for their promotions after players had reached past Level 100 during Shi Feng's previous life.

Players could only enter Auction Houses' noble section after reaching that level and becoming a noble

NPC Auction Houses' noble sections were particularly attractive to players, and they only started to show their value after players reached Level 100. After that, player-built Auction Houses didn't stand a chance against NPC Auction Houses.

The noble section was the trading platform for NPC nobles. To put it simply, it was where NPC nobles sold their items, not players.

NPC nobles owned extraordinary items, which were far more valuable than NPC wandering merchants' goods. Sometimes, these NPC nobles even sold Epic items. The quantity and quality of the items in the

noble section depended on how prosperous the NPC city was. The more prosperous a city was, the higher the quantity and quality would be.

This was also why the various major powers had done everything they could to develop the NPC cities they had been based in during Shi Feng's previous life, especially the various superpowers. If the NPC cities under their rule were prosperous, they could earn more profit from the cities' Auction Houses.

These noble sections had also become a source for top-tier equipment and super-rare items for ordinary players.

Once the noble sections activated, God's Domain's players would truly become active. They would no longer limit themselves to a specific location. Every NPC Auction House would have different items to offer. Although one Auction House might not have the items players wanted, another might.

Hence, players in the past had tried to visit as many NPC Auction Houses as possible, but to enter the noble sections, they had to earn a noble title in the city. This forced players to become more active in other cities, grinding for Reputation Points.

The increased player activity in the past had also brought turmoil to God's Domain.

To secure more profit, the competition between the various major powers had intensified, and they had desperately developed the NPC cities under their rule.

There were two methods to develop an NPC city.

The first method increased the city's player population and commercial prosperity.

The second required the power's players to complete City Development quests, which players would only gain access to after reaching Level 100.

Level 100 was a massive turning point. During the lower levels, the Main God system provided special treatment for players, but after Level 100, players were on their own.

This was especially true for the various major powers.

After players reached Level 100 and activated the City Development Quests, the various major powers had gone into a frenzy to complete these quests to develop their NPC cities and increase their player population as much as possible.

However, every one of these City Development Quests required players to secure various resources from Level 100- plus maps. Furthermore, players would clash with the dark forces, various kingdoms, and empires as they acquired some of these resources.

This was when players started to influence the various kingdoms and empires in the truest sense.

Because of this, it hadn't been unusual to see kingdoms and empires fall into ruin. The various major powers had loved to see this happen.

When a kingdom or empire fell, the various major powers would gain the land and the ability to establish their own kingdoms and empires.

This was also why Shi Feng was trying to prepare for the day players reached Level 100.

Once the many restrictions on players and monsters were gone, the various major powers would realize that the peace they had once known no longer existed. The various major powers and superpowers were dreaming if they thought they could continue as they had been once players reached Level 100. NPC cities would fall, and all of a Guild's investments would go to waste. There were only two methods to prevent such a situation.

The first method was to upgrade their NPC cities.

The second involved improving their own strength.

Sure enough, there are many benefits to linking the Auction House to a Guild Auction House so early. After giving the matter some thought, Shi Feng chuckled and chose to enable the White River City Auction House's advanced features.

He had worried that he wouldn't have enough time to prepare. Starlink had already established a foothold on Dragonheart Island and had mingled in the Gravity Mountain Range for some time now.

From a certain perspective, Dragonheart Island and the Gravity Mountain Range had even better resources to offer than the Bottomless Abyss, especially Dragonheart Island. The island was tailored for players over Level 100.

However, that was no longer an issue since he had promoted White River City's Auction House sooner than expected.

Another system notification immediately rang in Shi Feng's ears. At the same time, the system interface for White River City's Auction House appeared before him.

System: The White River City Auction House's advanced features have been enabled. Activating the Auction House's first Level 1 advanced features.

There were two Level 1 advanced features he could activate right now.

The first was a level reduction feature. This feature would reduce the level requirement to enter the noble section from 100 to 90. Activating this feature would cost 600,000 Gold and 100,000 Magic Crystals.

The second was the auction proxy feature. This feature gave a large-scale, player-owned, 3-star Shop the NPC consignment function. Activating this feature would cost 1,000,000 Gold and 150,000 Magic Crystals.

Why are the prices so much higher than in the past? Shi Feng was speechless when he saw the costs.

During his previous life, the level reduction feature had only cost 300,000 Gold and 100,000 Magic Crystals to activate. As for the auction proxy feature, it had only cost 500,000 Gold and 150,000 Magic Crystals.

Now, the Gold cost had doubled. Even superpowers would be startled to see these prices.

Although Zero Wing had considerably improved its profit margins, accumulating 1,000,000 Gold would still take some time. There were many aspects of its Guild Cities that required funding, and Zero Wing's member count was rapidly increasing. At this point, Zero Wing only had around 200,000 Gold in savings.

Fortunately, the Magic Crystal cost would not be a problem since the Guild had close to 300,000 Magic Crystals saved up.

But after a moment to consider the situation, Shi Feng didn't find these increased prices unacceptable.

Mainstream players had yet to reach Level 75, and the fact that White River City's Auction House had gained access to its advanced features so soon was a huge advantage.

The level reduction feature, for example, would attract far more players. Once players reached Level 90, White River City's Auction House would also become more popular than those in other cities. Furthermore, the auction proxy feature was no different than transforming a Shop into a miniature Auction House, one that could also sell NPCs' items.

Even NPC commoners' items would interest players, and if the Shop was popular enough, it could tempt NPC nobles to sell their items.

Not only would this feature give the Shop access to plenty of rare resources, but the Shop would also have an absolute advantage over its competition.

It seems I'll have to stop spending money for a while.

Shi Feng decided to have Aqua Rose reduce the Guild's expenditures slightly. With this, Zero Wing would be able to activate both features after ten or so days.

With the Auction House's matters settled, Shi Feng entered the Candlelight Trading Firm and began his research into the Casting Goldstone Design.

As one of the God of War's Secret Forging Designs, the Casting Goldstone's production process was quite different from that of ordinary weapons and equipment. It was a combination of magic arrays and forging.

Although Master Forgers generally researched magic arrays as well, they didn't typically specialize in the field since they only needed arrays as support for their creations.

However, the complexity of the threefold magic array that served as the Casting Goldstone's core was simply absurd. The first layer was already three times as complex as an Intermediate Magic Array.

Even though Shi Feng was an Advanced Magician, mastering this threefold magic array would be a challenge.

Once he reached the quiet Meditation Room, Shi Feng carefully studied the threefold magic array.

Time quickly passed.

The more Shi Feng studied the magic array, the more shocked he became. He had never dreamed that magic arrays could be used in such a way.

The Casting Goldstone's three magic arrays were unlike the average magic array. The God of War had faintly touched on the Realms of Truth's principals to link and use these arrays, practically using them to their fullest potential.

In the end, Shi Feng had spent over an hour to master the first layer.

However, when he turned his attention to the second magic array, he realized that it would be significantly more challenging to master. The second layer was at least three times more complex than the average Advanced Magic Array. In fact, it was nearly as complex as a Master Magic Array.

If he allowed another Advanced Magician to tackle this task, they'd likely fail to make any progress. Fortunately for Shi Feng, his brain function had increased after he had drunk the Life Potion, so he could process information far faster than before. In addition, Shi Feng had already reached the Ascension Realm. With these factors, he was just barely able to learn the second layer of the magic array.

Success! Shi Feng was ecstatic when he finally formed the threefold magic array's second layer.

Following which, Shi Feng began to forge the first Casting Goldstone. He wasn't currently concerned with studying the magic array's third layer until he became a Master Magician; until then, completing the task would be impossible. So, he gave up on the third layer, content with relying on a twofold magic array to produce the Casting Goldstones.

Although the production process was troublesome, Shi Feng had dealt with the most challenging aspect and could complete the rest with relative ease. In less than five minutes, he looked down at the shining goldstone in his hand. As the Casting Goldstone took form, it absorbed Mana from its surroundings and decreased the room's Mana density.

I wonder what the effects look like?

Once it was complete, Shi Feng unsheathed Killing Ray and merged it with the Casting Goldstone.

## Chapter 2222 – Qualitative Transformation

The first Casting Goldstone Shi Feng had produced was so hard that not even a Dark-Gold Weapon could damage it, yet the instant it had touched Killing Ray, it liquefied and flowed into the Sacred Sword. Golden, divine runes then emerged down Killing Ray's blade.

In the blink of an eye, the divine runes covered the entire sword. Some even manifested on the hand Shi Feng used to wield the weapon. It was as if these runes connected Shi Feng's hand with the Sacred Sword.

After the last rune formed, Shi Feng felt a stream of dense energy flow into his body, and his mind cleared.

Amazing! It can even improve my mental state! Shi Feng could not help his excitement as he gazed down at Killing Ray.

Improving one's mental state was incredibly difficult. Generally, players could maintain a clear mind when in a high Mana density environment, but now, holding Killing Ray was even more effective. As Shi Feng held his sword, his mind felt sharp and alert, as if he had just swallowed a stimulant.

With this, his performance would be extraordinary.

However, Shi Feng's mental state wasn't the only thing that had improved. Killing Ray itself had changed slightly. Now, divine runes circulated the Sacred Sword as it steadily absorbed the Life Energy around it.

The divine runes only vanished after this continued for three to four seconds. Once they had disappeared, a faint layer of bloody mist took their place.

But Killing Ray's new Attributes were even more astounding than the external changes. The weapon had gained another Passive Skill after merging with the Casting Stone.

**Blood Refining Power:** Increases all of user's Basic Attributes by 15% and main Basic Attribute by an additional 5%. Increases user's physique by 25%, as well. All attacks claim some of the target's Life Energy to restore the user's Concentration.

The Casting Goldstone is already so powerful with a twofold magic array? Shi Feng was stunned after reading Blood Refining Power's introduction.

Killing Ray was nearly as powerful as Fragmented Legendary items in terms of Basic Attribute bonuses now. It was only somewhat inferior in its Attack Power and Skills.

The bonus to his physique was truly horrific. A 25% increase could almost rival the boost players received when they rose from Tier 0 to Tier 1.

With the Casting Goldstone's massive improvements, ordinary experts would have a high chance of defeating Refinement Realm experts if both had the same levels and equipment standards. An improvement to physique alone would improve players' perception, kinetic vision, and reaction speed. Even if players didn't have the fine physical control to exhibit their combat power to the fullest, they could dodge attacks from Refinement Realm experts with these advantages. Furthermore, the Blood Refining Power significantly increased the bonuses to players' Basic Attributes.

Of course, the Blood Refining Power was so effective here because of Killing Ray's extraordinary quality.

The Casting Goldstone's power didn't just originate from the magic arrays used to create it. A small portion of that power came from the weapon it merged with.

Resheathing Killing Ray, Shi Feng returned his focus to producing another Casting Goldstone, merging it with a Level 75 Dark-Gold ranked battle axe when it was finished.

As Shi Feng had guessed, the Blood Refining Power's effects weren't as intense with this battle axe as they were with Killing Ray. Even so, it still increased all Basic Attributes by 13% and the user's main Basic Attribute by an additional 4%. It also increased physique by 22% and absorbed a portion of the enemy's Life Energy to restore the user's Concentration.

It's no wonder why the various superpowers had been so desperate to obtain the Advanced Blood Refining Designs. If even a Basic Blood Refining Design can produce such an item, the items crafted with the Advanced designs can likely empower a first-rate Guild to stand against a Super Guild's assault for some time.

Not even he could help his desire for the Advanced Blood Refining Designs.

If the Casting Goldstone were already so powerful, Tier 2 experts could likely take on Tier 3 experts with the items crafted from the Advanced Blood Refining Designs. Tier 3 experts would even be able to face Tier 4 experts.

A Tier 2 Domain REalm expert could only face ordinary Tier 3 experts of the same level without such a boon. If a Tier 2 Refinement Realm or Flowing Water Realm expert challenged an ordinary Tier 3 expert, they might not even escape with their life.

However, Shi Feng did not give the matter too much thought. Aside from how difficult obtaining the Advanced Blood Refining Designs was, he hadn't even mastered the Casting Goldstone's production

process yet. He was only able to draw two of three of the core magic arrays right now. Even if he had an Advanced Blood Refining Design, he wouldn't likely be able to craft the item.

Following which, Shi Feng focused on forging more Casting Goldstones.

Although the Casting Goldstones he could currently forge weren't perfect, they would still significantly increase players' combat power. These Casting Goldstones would boost the Guild's overall combat power much faster than nurturing Refinement Realm experts, and they didn't cost nearly as much.

Each Casting Goldstone only cost around 40 Gold to produce. That might be an abhorrent expense to most ordinary experts, but it was spare change to Shi Feng.

Gathering the necessary materials was the only thing that troubled him. Even after utilizing all of Zero Wing's connections, he had only collected several hundred sets of materials.

To the massive Zero Wing, several hundred Casting Goldstones was simply not enough. At the very least, he would need 10,000 Casting Goldstones to arm Zero Wing's members enough to confront superpowers in the fields.

Even so, these several hundred sets of materials were not completely useless. At the very least, he had enough to boost the combat power of Zero Wing's main force.

As one Casting Goldstone after another took form, Shi Feng's production speed increased.

Since he hadn't yet been familiar with drawing the magic arrays and worried that he'd fail the production process, he had been very careful when he had started. However, after merging Killing Ray and the first Casting Goldstone, the boost to his mental state made it easier to draw the magic arrays.

After more than 20 hours of continuous work, Shi Feng had gone through 326 sets of materials. Although he had occasionally failed the process and excluding the first two goldstones, he had forged 300 Casting Goldstones.

As Shi Feng was about to begin the next forging process, he received a call request. It was Unyielding Heart, and Shi Feng immediately accepted the call.

“Brother Heart, how are you free to give me a call?” Shi Feng asked while forging a Casting Goldstone. “I’ve heard that you’ve been grinding restlessly in the Bottomless Abyss’s first floor.”

Once Unyielding Soul had garrisoned in Stone Forest City, the Guild had turned its focus to the Bottomless Abyss. Both of its Vice Guild Leaders had devoted themselves to exploring the Regional Dungeon, barely leaving the first floor since they had entered.

“Brother Black Flame, how do you have time for jokes?” Anxiously, Unyielding Heart asked, “Is it true that you’ve agreed to fight Starlink in Dark Night City?”

“Oh? So you’ve heard about it?” Shi Feng said, nodding.

“Every player in the Dark Night Empire knows by now,” Unyielding Heart stated, flabbergasted by Shi Feng’s lackluster reaction. “Starlink recently, and quite loudly, announced the situation to the public. Every player in the empire is talking about this. How could you agree to such a match?”

Since Zero Wing had secured its hold on Stone Forest City, its fame in the Dark Night Empire had become unmatched. As a result, the Guild had finally established a foothold in the empire, and Starlink couldn't do anything about it.

Yet, Starlink had found an opportunity.

A 10,000-versus-10,000 fight might seem like a fair match, but in reality, Zero Wing had an overwhelming disadvantage. Starlink had been in the Dark Night Empire for a long time already and had recruited many talented experts within the empire. It had more than enough high-quality experts to fill the 10,000 slots. On the other hand, Zero Wing had just established itself in the empire and recruited a small number of powerful experts. How was it supposed to compete with Starlink?

If Zero Wing lost this fight, its hard-earned reputation in the empire would crumble. Everyone would think of the Guild as a one-trick pony.

Zero Wing had only established a foothold in the Dark Night Empire because the various major powers and powerful experts saw the Guild's potential to resist Starlink. Thus, many of these powers and experts had formed secret alliances with Zero Wing to band together against the larger superpower.

Although Starlink had many experts under its command, its territory was too vast. It had barely been able to manage its territory, and now that the various major powers were working against the Guild, Starlink was struggling even more to do so. As a result, it had no choice but to dispatch more manpower to these areas, preventing the Guild from concentrating its forces.

However, once the various major powers saw that Zero Wing couldn't withstand Starlink's assault, they'd abandon the Guild and ally with Starlink. Some might even move against Zero Wing to curry favor with Starlink. If that happened, Zero Wing would be doomed.

Shi Feng could only offer a bitter smile as a reply to Unyielding Heart's concern and confusion. The situation regarding the fortress in the Gravity Mountain Range was confidential, so he couldn't say anything about it.

Unyielding Heart could not help but sigh. He then said, "I have a group of hidden experts under my command.

Although there are only a little over a thousand of them, they should be helpful to Zero Wing. I also have some weapons and equipment that we obtained from the Bottomless Abyss. If your main force members use them, their combat power should increase quite a bit."

"Thank you, but let's not do that. If my Guild suddenly gains an extra thousand or so experts, Starlink will grow suspicious. It will look into the matter, and news will spread that Zero Wing requested external aid. In addition, it will expose Unyielding Soul's strength," Shi Feng said, shaking his head. Chuckling, he continued, "Starlink might have an advantage in this match, but Zero Wing's no pushover."

"Alright, then. If you need any help, feel free to ask," Unyielding Heart said, sighing.

A 1,000-versus-1,000 fight might not have been an issue. With a few peak experts and apex experts, one could easily turn the tide of battle. However, a 10,000-versus-10,000 match was a different story. It was very difficult for a handful of players to change such a large-scale battle's outcome. Furthermore, Starlink was a powerhouse. Not even some of the weaker Super Guilds would be guaranteed to win a 10,000-versus-10,000 battle against Starlink.

After Shi Feng exchanged a few more words with Unyielding Heart, he disconnected the call. He then contacted Aqua Rose and had her send the main force members and some core members to the Candlelight Trading Firm. Once they arrived, Shi Feng distributed the 300 Casting Goldstones he had made.

When she used her own Casting Goldstone, Aqua Rose was stunned by how powerful its effects were. She had never expected to find such an amazing item in God's Domain. The Casting Goldstone would even be useful to Flowing Water Realm experts like herself, not to mention Refinement Realm experts.

Later, Shi Feng instructed Aqua Rose to gather the top 10,000 experts in the Guild and recall them to White River City's Guild Residence.

Zero Wing's White River City Residence was quite lively for a while as experts from across the Guild's territories gathered. It was truly an impressive sight. The lowest-leveled of these experts had already reached Level 77, while most of them were already Level 78. These experts were a cut above mainstream experts, who had only reached Level 75.

"Everyone's here, Guild Leader. We can depart at any time," Aqua Rose reported, smiling at Shi Feng, who stood before the gathered experts.

"Good! Let's set off!"

Glancing over the crowd before him, Shi Feng nodded approvingly and led his players out of the Residence. The group then boldly marched toward White River City's Teleportation Hall.

## **Chapter 2223 – Six Wing Appears**

Dark Night Empire, Dark Night City:

Currently, players crowded the central plaza outside the Divine Colosseum. If one observed these players carefully, they would notice that even the lowest-leveled player had reached Level 75, and all of these players were either from main force members from well-known adventurer teams or large Guilds' experts.

"Amazing! There are actually so many experts here! Is the Divine Colosseum holding some kind of event?" a Level 72 Ranger, who had just arrived in Dark Night City, exclaimed.

"Don't you know? In a moment, 10,000 experts from Zero Wing are going to face off against 10,000 from Starlink. One is the Dark Night Empire's overlord, while the other is Stone Forest City's overlord. This is a rare treat in the Dark Night Empire. None of these experts would miss the chance to watch such a spectacular show," a Level 74 Berserker that happened to overhear the Level 72 Ranger's comment explained.

"What?! Something that exciting is going on?! Let's go! We can replace our equipment later," one of the Level 72 Ranger's teammates urged.

It was not every day that one could watch two superpowers duke it out. Even when they did, the public only got to see the tip of the iceberg, but this was an opportunity to watch two of God's Domain's overlords go head-to-head. The upcoming match would be even more exhilarating than watching a war movie.

The Ranger agreed with his teammate's idea. Aside from the invigorating show, they could learn quite a bit from watching peak experts clash. It wasn't very often that peak experts fought each other; they normally just fought larger groups of ordinary experts.

"You guys want to watch?" The Level 74 Berserker chuckled at the Ranger and his team. "See those experts in the plaza?"

"What about them?" the Ranger asked.

“They want to watch the fight, too, but they can’t. They can’t even get into the Divine Colosseum, so they’re watching from out here,” the Level 74 Berserker explained. “Starlink has reserved the entire Divine Colosseum. Anyone who wants to watch the fight directly will have to prove their ability to clear the Trial Tower’s sixth floor or pay 100 Gold.”

The Ranger and his teammates gasped.

“That’s fraudulent! Don’t they want players to watch the battle!?” the Ranger objected.

Players who could reach the middle stage of the Trial Tower’s fifth floor were already considered experts, and those that could reach the sixth floor were some of the best of the best. Not even ordinary Guilds had many of these experts. Although the Level 72 Ranger was a capable expert, he had only reached the late stage of the Trial Tower’s fifth floor; he was still a step away from the sixth floor.

The Ranger couldn’t even dream of completing the sixth floor and reaching the seventh.

The 100 Gold entry fee was just as fraudulent. Ordinary experts barely had more than 20 Gold on them; most of their money went into repair and teleportation fees. They also had to replace old equipment on occasion.

For experts like this Ranger, it would be a luxury to have an extra 100 Gold lying around.

The Ranger finally realized why so many players were standing in the plaza, rather than in the Divine Colosseum itself.

However, a moment after the Ranger fell silent, a 30-man team approached the Divine Colosseum's entrance. None of this team's members wore a Guild Emblem, proving that they were independent players. When the crowd noticed them, they opened a path for these players.

The 30-man team passed through the crowd, disappearing through the Divine Colosseum's entrance.

"Who are they?" the Ranger asked with wide eyes.

Every player in the plaza was an expert, and some were even stronger than the Ranger, but they had all stepped aside for those 30 independent players. It was unbelievable.

However, that wasn't the most shocking part. The Ranger was even more shocked that none of those 30 players had paid a single Coin to enter the Divine Colosseum. In other words, every member of that team had already reached the Trial Tower's seventh floor...

"They're members of the Windwolf adventurer team, a top adventurer team in the Dark Night Empire. The man leading the team is Windwolf's commander, North Wind. I hadn't expected him to make a personal appearance, though. He's normally very secretive, rarely appearing in public. It's a pity I don't have 100 Gold. I'd definitely pay the entry fee to watch this fight," the Level 74 Berserker said as he longingly gazed at the Divine Colosseum.

Although 100 Gold was a huge sum, it was nothing compared to the knowledge and experience he could gain from watching a large-scale battle between two of God's Domain's overlords. Players would be able to experience the battle physically from inside the Divine Colosseum, which would be entirely different than just watching a video recording.

Shortly after the Windwolf adventurer team disappeared into the Divine Colosseum, a large army of players arrived. Everyone in the plaza felt overwhelmingly stifled the moment this army reached the plaza.

“Starlink! Starlink’s members are here!”

“Amazing! They’re so strong! I can actually feel how much stronger they are than me!”

Despite being experts, many of the players in the plaza gasped when they saw Starlink’s army.

Their reactions were so intense because of how incredibly powerful every member of Starlink’s army was. Even the lowest-leveled player had reached Level 77 and was fully geared in Level 75 Secret-Silver Equipment. They were on an entirely different level than the experts in the plaza.

“So, this is a superpower’s strength?”

“Are you kidding me? Our Guild doesn’t even have more than 100 people at Level 77 right now! Those players’ leveling speed is insane!”

“Why are you looking at their levels? Their equipment is so much more impressive! Not even our Guild Leader has a full set of Level 75 Secret-Silver Equipment yet! Look, over a dozen of them are wearing the Level 75 Fine-Gold ranked Evil Spirit Set! You can only get that set equipment from the Bottomless Abyss!”

None of the various major powers had even collected one complete Evil Spirit Set yet. The Level 75 set equipment was god-tier equipment to most experts. They could only dream of wearing such items, yet

Starlink had collected more than a dozen sets. The difference between Starlink and the various major powers' strength was like the difference between heaven and earth.

When the various major powers' upper echelons, who waited in the Divine Colosseum, noticed Starlink's army, they were in awe of the Guild's foundation.

"As expected of Starlink. It's no wonder why even the various Super Guilds are wary of it. I hadn't expected the Guild to successfully annex the Battlescar Workshop as well," a woman in the Divine Colosseum commented as Starlink's army entered the building. She wore a suit of pitch-black armor, with long, red hair spilling down her back and an intimidating aura. The woman turned to Unyielding Heart, who sat in a corner, and commented, "Heart, it seems that your ally is in for a rough time."

Battlescar had been a Dark Workshop that operated on the western continent. Although the Workshop was small, with fewer than 300 members, no Super Guild dared to underestimate it.

This was due to the many astonishing feats the Workshop had achieved. Battlescar had specifically targeted the various superpowers' main force members. On the western continent, it had focused on ambushing superpowers' main forces, and the various superpowers had suffered tremendously for it.

Although many of the superpowers had tried to avenge their members, none had succeeded. On the contrary, they had only suffered further.

Battles involving tens of thousands of players were little more than playing house to the Battlescar Workshop.

Unyielding Heart's expression was grim. He hadn't expected Starlink to hide so much of its strength. Not only had it recruited the Mad Beast Legion from the western continent, but it had also roped in the Battlescar Workshop.

“Blood, haven’t you been focusing on the Fire Dragon Empire? Why are you here?” Unyielding Heart asked the red-haired beauty walking toward him frostily.

This woman was as strong and famous as the Mad Beast Legion’s commander, Startled Wind. He had no choice but to treat her with caution.

“I’m here to see if the Dark Night Empire has any good seedlings, of course. However, I really hadn’t expected to find the almighty Unyielding Soul in such a state, forced to ally with an up-and-coming Guild,” the woman, Delicate Blood, said, chuckling. “Why don’t you leave Unyielding Soul, Heart? Once Zero Wing has been defeated, the situation in the empire will be beyond salvation, and after Starlink finishes with Zero Wing, it’ll turn its attention to Unyielding Soul. You know your Guild is no match for Starlink. You might as well join me as my vice commander. You’ll have a far better future with me than in Unyielding Soul.”

“I will never leave Unyielding Soul. Moreover, Zero Wing’s defeat isn’t a guarantee,” Unyielding Heart snarled softly.

“Perhaps. In any case, give me a call if you have nowhere to go,” Delicate Blood said, chuckling. She did not try to argue with Unyielding Heart. She knew he was only trying to delude himself.

While the various powers discussed Starlink, another army emerged through the Divine Colosseum’s entrance. The lowest-leveled player among this army was Level 77, and many of them had reached Level 78. In fact, this force had even more Level 78 players than Starlink’s.

And every one of these players wore a silver, six-winged emblem on their chests.

“Zero Wing?”

## Chapter 2224 – Zero Wing’s Foundations

Everyone in the Divine Colosseum was stunned when Zero Wing arrived.

“How are their levels so high?”

“So many of them have already reached Level 78! Starlink doesn’t even have 1,000 Level 78 players, yet Zero Wing has more than 3,000!”

“Is this because of the benefits in Stone Forest City?”

The various powers’ upper echelons were especially shocked when they saw the levels of Zero Wing’s members.

The fact that Zero Wing had Level 78 players wasn’t particularly surprising. Many of God’s Domain’s peak experts had long since reached that level and were only a step away from Level 79.

What truly shocked them was the number of Level 78 players Zero Wing possessed. The Guild had far more than the various superpowers, which suggested that their leveling speed was even greater than the various superpowers’ members.

Previously, the average level of Zero Wing's experts hadn't been a match for the various superpowers', but after establishing a city in the Bottomless Abyss not so long ago, these experts' average level was so much higher than the superpowers' experts.

The level difference wasn't even half a level, but as time passed, that gap could grow to a full level or more.

While a single level might not seem like much, the benefits of such a lead were massive.

This was especially true when it came to the minor thresholds every five levels. A one-level lead could give Zero Wing a three to five headstart in Dungeons over the various superpowers.

"Sure enough, Stone Forest City provides some major benefits. It's no wonder why Zero Wing dares to clash with Starlink," Delicate Blood commented. Even she was a little jealous when she saw the levels of Zero Wing's members.

Levels were the foundation of players' strength in God's Domain. A higher-level meant players could hunt stronger monsters and gain better resources, and as players leveled up, they could use higher-level equipment. Moreover, as players leveled up, they could also use higher-leveled equipment.

"I told you Zero Wing's loss isn't assured," Unyielding Heart delightfully responded when he saw the envious look on Delicate Blood's face.

Ordinary players might not notice anything odd about Zero Wing's levels, but Guild upper echelons knew exactly what they meant.

There were no leveling shortcuts in God's Domain. The fact that Zero Wing's members had leveled up so quickly meant they had gained more EXP than others. The only way to do that was to kill more monsters, higher-leveled monsters, or complete more quests. Regardless of which method Zero Wing employed, it was certain that they had gained more resources than their competition.

Now that Zero Wing's experts were a higher level on average than Starlink's, Zero Wing had amassed just as many, if not more, resources than the larger Guild. That fact was also clear in the equipment Zero Wing's members wore. Even the weakest piece of equipment they wore was Level 75 Secret-Silver rank.

Unyielding Heart could tell that although Starlink had explored more of the Bottomless Abyss's first floor than Zero Wing, Zero Wing had secured more resources from the Regional Dungeon.

He knew that Zero Wing didn't lack top-tier equipment. Starlink might have a large number of Evil Spirit Sets, but Zero Wing could mass-produce the Crystal Light Set, which was one rank higher. Most importantly, the Crystal Light Set could level up with its user.

Although the Crystal Light Set would not undergo a qualitative transformation at Level 78, it was still superior to Level 75 Dark-Gold Set Equipment in terms of Basic Attributes. Needless to say, it was leaps and bounds ahead of the Level 75 Fine-Gold ranked Evil Spirit Set.

"Don't celebrate so soon, Heart. Levels are important, but a small level gap won't make a difference. The experts' quality will decide the victor of this match," Delicate Blood retorted, rolling her eyes at Unyielding Heart.

Zero Wing might have a slight edge when it came to levels, but the quality of its experts still couldn't compare to Starlink's. Any Refinement Realm expert could tell the difference between Zero Wing's standards and Starlink's.

Of the 10,000 experts Starlink had dispatched, more than 700 were Refinement Realm experts!

A current first-rate Guild would be impressive if it had 10 Refinement Realm experts. An ordinary superpower, at most, would only have around 400 such experts.

Yet, Starlink had sent more than 700 Refinement Realm experts to this match. Starlink's foundations were much sturdier than an ordinary superpower's.

This was why the various superpowers' upper echelons had been so surprised to see Starlink's experts. With so many Refinement Realm experts, Starlink's army could easily trample over a 10,000-man expert army.

Although these upper echelons were surprised to see that Zero Wing had nearly 100 Refinement Realm experts, it was nothing compared to Starlink.

Once experts had reached the Refinement Realm, they could exhibit far greater combat power when they cooperated.

A three-on-one fight between Refinement Realm experts would end in seconds, and Starlink had nearly eight times more Refinement Realm experts than Zero Wing.

Seven or eight Refinement Realm experts could even take down Flowing Water Realm experts.

Unyielding Heart fell silent after Delicate Blood's last comment.

Starlink's foundations were even stronger than he had expected. Even Unyielding Soul wouldn't be a match for the larger Guild, much less Zero Wing.

Meanwhile, a white-clad youth watched Zero Wing's members, surprised, from within one of the Divine Colosseum's VIP rooms. It was none other than Thirteen Thrones' Guild Leader, Melancholy.

Zero Wing is certainly impressive. It has grown so powerful in such a short time. With a little more time and resources, it could certainly become a superpower in God's Domain. It's a pity that it has to face Starlink. Zero Wing might have a chance of winning if it had to face any other superpower.

Melancholy's investigation into the Guild had been brief, and rumors circulated, stating that Zero Wing only had a handful of experts, while the rest of the Guild's members were quite weak. However, seeing Zero Wing's force for this match, it seemed those rumors had been mistaken. Zero Wing had the ability to form a 100-man raid team of Refinement Realm experts. It was an amazing foundation. Not a single first-rate Guild was a match for Zero Wing.

Not even ordinary superpowers could shake Zero Wing's foundations without taking damage.

Moreover, Melancholy was shocked to see that Zero Wing had a Domain Realm expert other than Shi Feng. If he included Zero Wing's main force commander, Fire Dance, and Vice Guild Leader, Gentle Snow, the guild should have four apex combatants in total. That was nearly as many as an ordinary superpower.

If Zero Wing were truly this powerful, he'd definitely get his money's worth in the upcoming fortress siege.

Although Zero Wing was still much weaker than Starlink, many of the superpowers in the Divine Colosseum reevaluated their opinions of the Guild.

“I have to say, Black Flame; you’ve really surprised me. To think you could actually gather so many experts without anyone finding out, it’s no wonder why you spouted such nonsense,” Lu Xingluo said, smiling at Shi Feng, who led Zero Wing’s army. “Unfortunately, your force isn’t strong enough. I’ll give you one last chance. Admit defeat now and permit Starlink’s members to enter Stone Forest City. Do that, and I’ll forget everything that has happened between us.”

The watching crowd was dumbfounded to hear Lu Xingluo’s offer.

This was Starlink’s opportunity to destroy Zero Wing in the Dark Night Empire, yet Lu Xingluo offered to let Zero Wing off the hook?

I’ve really underestimated Lu Xingluo. It seems he’s not as simple as I assumed. Melancholy carefully watched Lu Xingluo with narrowed eyes.

The outcome of this match was already obvious. Regardless of whether or not these two Guilds fought, the Dark Night Empire’s major powers recognized how powerful Starlink truly was.

Not only could Lu Xingluo continue to hide Starlink’s strength by offering such a deal, but he’d also gain entry into Stone Forest City, killing two birds with one stone.

Zero Wing could also benefit from the deal. If Starlink’s members entered Stone Forest City en masse, Zero Wing’s income would rise significantly, and if Starlink stopped harassing Zero Wing, the smaller Guild could increase its development speed. Moreover, by admitting defeat, rather than fight a losing battle, Zero Wing could hide a portion of its strength from the public.

Unyielding Heart breathed a sigh of relief. This wasn’t a perfect outcome, but it wasn’t the worst scenario, either.

The rest of the various powers' upper echelons sighed with disappointment. None of them had expected Lu Xingluo to make such an offer. Now, they wouldn't get the show they were hoping for. The attending superpowers were particularly disappointed as they had hoped to discover Starlink's exact strength. The Guild had simply been growing too fast.

Unfortunately, that was no longer possible. Even a fool could recognize the best decision here, not to mention a Guild Leader like Shi Feng.

However, as everyone expected this farce to end, a low voice echoed throughout the hall.

"Admit defeat? I'm afraid you don't qualify to demand such a thing!"

## **Chapter 2225 – Shattering Thousands of Attacks with One Move**

Everyone in the Divine Colosseum turned to Shi Feng in utter shock.

"Is Black Flame tired of living?"

Starlink's strength was obvious. With over 700 Refinement Realm experts under Starlink's command, even ordinary superpowers would have to bow their heads before the Guild, not to mention Zero Wing. Furthermore, Starlink had both the Mad Beast Legion and the Battlescar Workshop, both of which were comprised of lunatics.

However, rather than temporarily concede and allow his Guilds to develop unimpeded, Shi Feng chose to fight Starlink.

For a moment, they wondered if Starlink's display had scared Shi Feng silly, and he had blurted out his refusal without thinking.

"Hahaha! Heart, it seems that your ally is quite stubborn!" Delicate Blood said with a glance at Unyielding Heart.

Is this really necessary? Ignoring Delicate Blood's jab, Unyielding Heart could not help but shake his head as he watched Shi Feng.

In response, Starlink's members radiated powerful killing intent as they coldly glared at Shi Feng. The combined killing intent was so powerful that even Domain Realm experts would likely shudder.

"Black Flame! Our Guild Leader has kindly offered you this opportunity! Don't be a fool! If our Guild Leader gets angry, not even Unyielding Soul will survive his wrath, let alone Zero Wing!" Bright Dawn, one of Starlink's Vice Guild Leaders, declared.

Everyone in the hall heard Bright Dawn's claim, but despite the arrogance in his tone, none of them tried to rebuke the statement. Not even Unyielding Heart commented on it.

What Bright Dawn had said was true. A lot of things had become clear the moment Starlink had dispatched over 700 Refinement Realm experts.

The various superpowers always hid a portion of their strength, only revealing a small fraction to the public. However, the small fraction Starlink had revealed was far more than Unyielding Soul's total power.

If Lu Xingluo were resolved to accept some losses, Starlink could thoroughly destroy Unyielding Soul.

While everyone discussed Bright Dawn's comment, Shi Feng ignored the man and shifted his gaze to Lu Xingluo.

"You can certainly try!"

Shi Feng's declaration further shocked the crowd.

"Black Flame is insane! Does he doubt that Starlink will go all-out to annihilate Zero Wing?"

"He really is courageous, but he's also doomed his Guild."

"Black Flame's actually trying to drag his entire Guild down with him! I feel sorry for Zero Wing's members!"

Bright Dawn's declaration proved that today's match wouldn't be a simple fight. If Zero Wing refused to admit defeat, Starlink would stop at nothing to eliminate the Guild. It would no longer give Zero Wing room to breathe.

Moreover, this declaration had been made before the Dark Night Empire's various major powers, proving that it was no idle threat.

And yet, Shi Feng still dared to oppose Starlink. He was simply insane!

When Aqua Rose, Gentle Snow, and Zero Wing's other experts saw the pitiful looks the crowd gave them from behind Shi Feng, they could only respond with bitter smiles.

In a second-floor VIP room, Happy Art watched the conversation between Shi Feng and Starlink's upper echelons anxiously from her position behind Melancholy.

"Is there no way to stop this, Guild Leader? Zero Wing will be a massive help in the upcoming fortress siege with its current strength. If Starlink defeats Zero Wing, however, it will affect the siege's outcome," Happy Art said.

"I can't interfere. Starlink is one of our partners, as well, and it will also be a great help in the siege. Black Flame is still a little naive," Melancholy said. He shook his head disappointedly as he watched Shi Feng. "I had hoped that we could deepen our relationship with Zero Wing, since Black Flame is so capable, but it seems that I was mistaken."

Guild Leaders should always prioritize their Guild's development over all else.

When Melancholy had first met Shi Feng, he had been surprised by the man's individual strength. The other Guild Leader had made a good impression, but the fact that Shi Feng was willing to take his Guild down with him for the sake of his personal reputation was simply foolish.

Melancholy's opinion of Shi Feng's current performance could be summed up in one word- disappointing!

While everyone discussed Shi Feng, Lu Xingluo, who had been silent, finally spoke up.

"Good! Very good! I hope that you will be this stubborn after the match!" Lu Xingluo exclaimed with a grim expression. Even a fool could hear the fury in his tone.

No one would've been surprised to hear Lu Xingluo order his players to attack Zero Wing's, ensuring that none of them left alive, if not for the Divine Colosseum's strict policy against PvP.

Instead, Lu Xingluo led his men to their designated waiting area.

Although he hadn't said anything more, the crowd understood that a storm would sweep through the Dark Night Empire after this match.

"Lu Xingluo is really furious now. Your Guild best be careful after this. Starlink might decide to remove Unyielding Soul from the empire before annihilating Zero Wing to ensure absolute stability within the Dark Night Empire," Delicate Blood warned Unyielding Heart as she watched Lu Xingluo leave the main hall.

"It seems a battle is unavoidable." Unyielding Heart nodded gravely in response.

He knew that Starlink had grown stronger. In fact, the Guild's foundations were so solid that it had already begun its conquest of the western continent. Very few superpowers were capable of such a feat at this stage of the game.

There was a vast distance between God's Domain's two continents. One could only travel between them by relying on special methods.

Naturally, the ability to travel between continents would greatly benefit a Guild. Each continent had different terrain, and as a result, they had different specialties. If a Guild could take advantage of both continents, their development would be nearly assured.

As the crowd watched Zero Wing's members leave the hall as well, they turned their attention to the arena. The various superpowers' upper echelons were particularly eager for the match to start.

Starlink had been developing in secret for a while, rarely clashing with other superpowers. Even when it did, it would limit the scale of the conflict. Hence, no one had any idea of the Guild's depths.

Now that Starlink intended to go all-out against Zero Wing, this was the perfect opportunity to gain more intel on the larger Guild. Although Zero Wing wasn't as strong as the various superpowers, with only 100 Refinement Realm experts, it should have enough strength to expose Starlink's experts. An expert's power wasn't limited to their combat standards. Weapons, equipment, combat techniques, Skills, Spells, and special items all played a role.

There were many aspects of an expert's strength one couldn't see until that expert fought.

Fortunately, the Divine Colosseum's 10,000-man battlefield was the perfect place to witness a Guild's comprehensive strength.

The 10,000-man battlefield was an outdoor map, half as large as an ordinary map in the outside world. Naturally, one had to eliminate every opponent to claim victory.

After a moment, both Zero Wing and Starlink's armies appeared in the outdoor clearing. A dense forest lay behind the armies, offering cover.

"Zero Wing's only hope is to retreat into the forest and use guerilla tactics against Starlink."

"That's right! A head-on clash would be suicide for Zero Wing, but even guerilla tactics will be a problem for them. Starlink's 700-plus Refinement Realm experts will be a frightening force in the forest."

Many of the spectators were upper echelons from major powers. They had all experienced field battles, so they knew how terrifying Refinement Realm experts could be in a dense forest.

However, Zero Wing's members didn't feel into the woods as expected. Instead, they charged at Starlink's army the moment the match began.

"Zero Wing's going for a straight-up brawl?"

The development took everyone by surprise.

A team would have to rely on comprehensive strength to win a frontal clash on an open clearing, and Starlink's was far greater than Zero Wing's.

“Bastards!” Lu Xingluo cursed as he watched Shi Feng lead the charge with a 300-man team close behind him. He then commanded, “Concentrate your attacks! Get rid of them first!”

Following their leader’s order, Starlink’s ranged members took action.

Thousands of Spells and arrows flew toward Shi Feng’s group. Even peak experts’ scalps would tingle against such a fierce assault.

Normally, both sides’ MTs would form a defensive wall, slowly advancing toward their opponents during such a large-scale battle, but Shi Feng and the others disregarded normal protocol as they ran toward Starlink’s army like lunatics.

Every Starlink member present was an expert among experts, with far more accurate attacks than ordinary experts. Most importantly, they properly coordinated their attacks. Moreover, Starlink’s Refinement Realm experts launched their attacks a moment after the first barrage, taking advantage of any blind spots players would expose after blocking the first attacks. Such an overwhelming assault could even take down peak MT experts in an instant.

But just as the Spells and arrows fell on Zero Wing’s members like ravenous wolves, Shi Feng unsheathed Killing Ray and swung the blade forward.

Lightning Edge!

Countless arcs of lightning shot forth, forming a blue river that slammed into the descending Spells and arrows. The instant these ranged attacks encountered this river of lightning, they vanished. After both sides’ attacks dissipated, a small crater, stretching across 50 yards, separated the armies.

### Chapter 2226 – Annihilating Tier 3

Everyone gasped as the river of lightning disappeared.

“How is that even possible?!”

The spectators were astonished to see a single move counter thousands of Spells and arrows.

Some of the many incoming attacks Zero Wing’s members had faced were even as powerful as Tier 3. That first wave could’ve wiped out a 100-man expert team focused fully on defense.

Yet, Shi Feng had countered every incoming attack by himself!

Amazing! He actually managed to execute such a move! Unyielding Heart, who was watched from the spectator stands, was amazed by the way Shi Feng had used his Skill.

Although Unyielding Heart normally used Offensive Skills to defend himself, too, he hadn’t thought it was possible to use an Offensive Skill to counter several thousand attacks. He realized that his thinking was still stuck in the earliest days of God’s Domain. He had thought that one could only cope with such a massive assault by dodging or blocking individual attacks.

While the crowd reeled over Shi Feng’s performance, Lu Xingluo, who led Starlink’s army, sneered and said, “You might be clever for using an AOE Skill to block those attacks, but how many times can you repeat that feat?”

AOE Skills and Spells were extremely rare in God's Domain, and the majority of them were exclusive to magical classes. How many AOE Skills could Shi Feng possibly possess?

On the other hand, Starlink's army was more than capable of replicating that first wave without end.

Lu Xingluo's question snapped Starlink's members out of their daze, and they launched the second wave.

Just as the second assault was about to slam into Zero Wing's vanguard, Aqua Rose waved her Sea Dragon Staff. Under her command, violent, water-type Mana gathered in front of Shi Feng.

Water Raid!

The water-type Mana formed an eight-meter-tall tidal wave in the blink of an eye, halting the incoming attacks as it surged toward Starlink's army.

But before the tidal wave crashed into Starlink's members, the magical class forces at the rear of the army completed their incantations. As a result, defensive barriers rose before the army, blocking Aqua Rose's Water Raid.

The various powers' upper echelons were shocked to see these defensive barriers manifest.

"What?! Starlink already has so many Defensive Combination Spells?!"

“Based on the power of those barriers, they must have cast Tier 2 Advanced Defensive Spells, but how did Starlink get so many of them ?”

“Amazing! Zero Wing doesn’t stand a chance against Starlink!”

Players were prohibited from using tools or Berserk Skills in the Divine Colosseum. At most, they could use their weapons and equipment’s Skills. In other words, the defensive barriers Starlink’s members had used didn’t involve Magic Array Scrolls.

As players leveled up in God’s Domain, they’d encounter more Spells and Skills that required more than one player to cast. These were known as Combination Skills and Spells, and they were far more powerful than the ordinary Skills or Spells. However, they were also extremely rare, and Tier 2 Advanced Defensive Combination Spells were particularly so.

And yet, Starlink had clearly obtained over a dozen of these Defensive Spells, enough to call forth barriers to envelop its entire army.

With Tier 2 Advanced-rank barriers, Starlink’s advantage over its opponent was massive. Even a Grand Lord of the same level would struggle to destroy the barriers, not to mention Tier 2 players.

So, this is Starlink’s foundation? Unyielding Heart felt disheartened as he gazed at the many Defensive Combination Spells.

Defensive Combination Spells could also be used in Team Dungeons, and with such powerful barriers, Starlink’s teams would have a much easier time defeating Dungeon Bosses. Moreover, unlike Magic Array Scrolls, players could use their Combination Spells as often as necessary.

When the various superpowers' upper echelons saw this, their fear of Starlink grew a little. Although they knew that Starlink had hidden a huge fraction of its strength, they hadn't expected it to hide this much. It was no wonder why Bright Dawn had boasted that Starlink could easily take out Unyielding Soul. It seemed that he had told the truth, and Starlink certainly was strong enough to do so.

However, Lu Xingluo watched his opponents with a gloomy expression.

"Everyone, switch targets! Attack Zero Wing's main army! Startled Wind, I want the Mad Beast Legion to form battle arrays and eliminate Zero Wing's vanguard! Let's show everyone what the consequences are for defying Starlink!" Lu Xingluo snarled as he glared at Aqua Rose and the other players behind Shi Feng.

He had wanted to secure such an overwhelming victory that no power in the Dark Night Empire would ever consider rebelling against Starlink in the future.

Yet, even after two waves of attacks, Starlink had failed to harm a single player from Zero Wing. It was just humiliating. "We're going to use the battle array this soon?" Startled Wind asked, surprised.

The battle array they spoke of wasn't a weapon or equipment piece's Additional Skill, but a Combination Battle Array they had obtained from a Tier 2 Skill Book. Up to 100 players could work together to manifest the array, and once it activated, all players involved would receive a huge boost to their physiques and Basic Attributes. These players would share their senses, as well. With these boons, the 100 Tier 2 players involved could even contend with one Tier 3 player.

Startled Wind had hoped to take his time with Shi Feng, but it seemed that he wouldn't get the opportunity.

Starlink had obtained three battle array Tier 2 Skill Books thus far, which gave it the equivalent of three Tier 3 experts. Moreover, a peak expert led the activation for each battle array. For these teams, killing Tier 2 players would be child's play.

Receiving their orders, 300 players from the Mad Beast Legion moved into position to activate their battle arrays. As they did, crimson runes began to appear on their bodies, linking them together. The 300 players' combined aura even felt like impending doom to the spectators.

Before anyone could react, the three 100-man teams broke away from Starlink's army and charged for Zero Wing's vanguard.

"Sword Demon, how many hits do you think Black Flame can take before he falls?" a man with tousled hair asked from the rear of Starlink's army.

This man's attitude would surprise any superpower expert. He actually had the gall to speak to Sword Demon with such disrespect.

Sword Demon was a monster that had made significant progress in the Domain Realm. Even a Super Guild's Guild Leader would treat him with respect, yet this unkempt man dared to question him directly.

What was even more surprising, however, was the fact that Sword Demon didn't seem angry with him. Rather, he simply glanced at the man.

Sword Demon wouldn't hesitate to put any other expert in his place for such an insult, but he didn't dare do so with this unkempt man. The man beside him was Evil Blade, the Battlescar Workshop's commander. Evil Blade was a true lunatic and inhumanly strong.

“The Mad Beast Legion’s strongest team leaders are leading those three teams. They are all peak experts who are more than capable of using the battle array’s power to its fullest extent. Black Flame should only last seven or eight moves against any one of them. He’ll have to flee if he wants to survive longer than that,” Sword Demon replied after giving the matter some thought.

Shi Feng had defeated Sword Demon once already, so he wanted the other Swordsman to last as long as possible against the Mad Beast Legion. Unfortunately, he had witnessed the battle array’s power personally and knew it wasn’t something current players could contend with.

“How boring. And I thought I had found a good opponent. It seems the rumored Sword King isn’t as impressive as rumors say,” Evil Blade said, the excitement in his eyes dying away.

Sword Demon could not help his frown. He wanted to rebuke the man’s words but decided to remain silent. Instead, he returned his gaze to Shi Feng, hoping the man wouldn’t fall too quickly.

At this time, the Mad Beast Legion had also arrived before Zero Wing’s vanguard. The 300 players then spread out and accelerated toward Zero Wing’s members.

In response, another massive lightning bolt escaped Shi Feng’s Killing Ray.

Lightning Slash!

From the sidelines, it looked like a black screen appeared, disrupting the battlefield as it extended and sliced through the Mad Beast Legion. In the blink of an eye, several dozen Mad Beast Legion members collapsed before transforming into particles of light.

Black Panther, the Guardian Knight in the core of the central battle array, flew away from the group, scorched black. Before he even hit the ground, Black Panther's body had dispersed into particles of light...

#### Chapter 2227 – Overwhelming the Battle Arrays

Not even Domain Realm experts would take a 100-man battle array lightly, but as the blue lightning bolt passed through the central array, even the charging Mad Beast Legion members were stunned when they noticed Black Panther's disappearing corpse.

“How is that possible?”

Even Sword Demon and the others watching from a distance were flabbergasted.

Although Black Panther was a member of the Mad Beast Legion, they knew how strong the Guardian Knight was. Not only did Black Panther wear a full set of Level 75 top-tier equipment, but he also carried an Epic Shield and a piece of Epic Equipment. Normally, he had no trouble tanking a Grand Lord of the same level by himself.

With the boons from the battle array, Black Panther could even rival a Tier 3 players' physique and Basic Attributes.

Not even Domain Realm experts could contend with Black Panther when he had the battle array's boons. A Domain Realm expert might be able to predict the Guardian Knight's movements, but Black

Panther could still overwhelm them with his extraordinary reaction speed and Attack Speed. In the end, the Domain Realm experts that had sparred with Black Panther had only received a beating for their efforts. If the Domain Realm experts weren't careful, they could die in an instant.

Yet now, Shi Feng had instant-killed Black Panther.

However, Shi Feng's damage wasn't what astonished Sword Demon and the others the most. If the Skill Shi Feng had used was a powerful Taboo Skill, Black Panther's death wouldn't be that strange. What really surprised Sword Demon was how fast Shi Feng had taken action.

Shi Feng could execute his attacks so quickly that not even Black Panther, who had the physique of a Tier 3 player, had reacted in time.

How did he attack so quickly? Sword Demon watched Shi Feng in confusion.

Shi Feng was just a Tier 2 player. Even if his Basic Attributes were incredibly high, he shouldn't be able to launch an attack that not even Black Panther could block.

Of course, Sword Demon and his companions didn't know that Shi Feng had already reached Level 90. Not only was he more than 10 levels higher than Starlink's members, but most of his weapons and equipment were Epic or Fragmented Legendary rank, as well, and they could all level with their owner.

Furthermore, Shi Feng possessed a Bloodline and the strengthened Killing Ray.

His Basic Attributes were even higher than those of a Level 80, Tier 3 player, and his physique wasn't, in any way, inferior to a Tier 3 player's. All he was missing was the ability to use Tier 3 Skills.

Black Panther might be able to face a Tier 3 player, but that was limited to a player of the same level. Moreover, Black Panther had only reached the Void Realm and had no progress in the Realms of Truth. On the other hand, Shi Feng had reached the Domain Realm and Ascension Realm.

Most importantly, Lightning Slash was an insanely fast attack and could easily reach across several dozen yards. It wasn't that unusual that Black Panther had failed to cope with the attack.

Although Shi Feng's counter-attack had been shocking, Startled Wind, who commanded the Mad Beast Legion from the rear line, continued to bark orders.

"Everyone, surround him! He can't use that kind of Skill multiple times!" Startled Wind shouted.

He had wanted to rely on the battle array to overwhelm Zero Wing's forces, but the strength Shi Feng had displayed thus far made it clear that a single peak expert like Black Panther wouldn't be enough to take him down. In that case, they needed to gang up on him.

After all was said and done, there was a limit to an individual's strength. Fortunately, the Mad Beast Legion members shared their senses when under the battle array's effects. Ordinary experts were no match for their coordination in this state.

The scattered Mad Beast Legion members immediately reconcentrated their strength. They gave up on any hope of individual battles.

Moving as one, dozens of ranged players fired over a hundred Spells and arrows at Shi Feng. With well-practiced timing, they sealed off any path of escape for the Swordsman. These attacks were nothing like the first two waves Starlink's army had previously launched.

Facing the coordinated assault, even Shi Feng had to execute Sword's Orbit to defend himself. He had no room to dodge the incoming projectiles.

This was where battle arrays shined the brightest.

Normally, not even 100 Tier 2 experts would be a match for a single Tier 3 expert, but if these Tier 2 experts perfectly coordinated their attacks and focused their strength on a single location, they could even render Tier 3 experts powerless.

As the rain of ranged attacks pinned down Shi Feng, Ink Rain and Brilliant Python, who led the other two battle array teams, joined the assault.

Brilliant Python was a Berserker, so he took the lead in the two-man charge. When he swung his greatsword, even space itself began to crack. Moreover, every one of his attacks moved like a vicious snake that struck at Shi Feng's weak spots. Brilliant Python neglected his defense, focusing on his assault and fully intent on trading Shi Feng blow for blow.

As for Ink Rain, the female Assassin executed the combat technique Nine Phantom Steps, manifesting nine copies of herself. She surrounded Shi Feng and patiently waited for an opportunity to land the final blow.

This forced Shi Feng to focus on his defense, and as a result, he continued to shove Brilliant Python back two or three steps, not giving the Berserker the chance to land a direct hit. Although Shi Feng wanted nothing more than to follow up with a fatal strike, Ink Rain and the Mad Beast Legion's ranged forces interrupted him before he had the chance.

Whenever Shi Feng tried to target the ranged players, Brilliant Python and Ink Rain did everything they could to stop him, giving the ranged players the time they needed to pull back. Although the two team leaders were no match for Shi Feng's Basic Attributes, he couldn't kill either of them without using a powerful Skill. Both had the support of more than a dozen healers.

For a time, the two sides were locked in a stalemate. Although Shi Feng successfully suppressed the Mad Beast Legion by himself, he wasn't dealing any permanent damage.

Regardless, the watching crowd was shocked by Shi Feng's prowess, especially Starlink's members. They hadn't dreamed that Shi Feng would be so powerful. Despite facing an all-out assault from two battle array teams, he stood his ground.

Even the weakest player on these battle array teams was a Refinement Realm expert, yet despite the boons from the battle arrays, Shi Feng single-handedly contended with 200 of these experts. He was simply inhuman.

"Amazing! To think one player can wield such immense combat power. It's no wonder why you were spouting such nonsense earlier, but no matter how powerful you are, Black Flame, you're still only one man," Lu Xingluo said as he watched Shi Feng. The situation even surprised him. The combat power Shi Feng displayed was truly frightening.

Startled Wind and Evil Blade nodded in agreement. In such a high-speed battle where one did not even have the time to breathe, their Stamina consumption would be extremely high. If Shi Feng continued fighting at this pace, he would soon deplete his Stamina, even if he still had HP remaining.

After a few more minutes, Shi Feng abruptly retreated, shaking off Ink Rain, Brilliant Python, and the rest of the Mad Beast Legion.

Sure enough, dealing with Tier 2 battle arrays is tough without a Sure-kill Skill, Shi Feng thought as he eyed Brilliant Python and Ink Rain.

Battle arrays were one of the main weapons players relied on to defeat high-tiered players. Even Shi Feng had used battle arrays to do so during his previous life, but he had never expected to be on the receiving end one day.

He wouldn't have had so much trouble against a single 100-man battle array, but he currently had to deal with two. In addition, both Ink Rain and Brilliant Python, the core of the two battle arrays, had impressively high combat standards. If he couldn't kill these two, even he'd be helpless.

"What? Are you giving up already, Guild Leader Black Flame?" Ink Rain teased.

"Mhm. This game is too exhausting to continue. I don't want to play anymore," Shi Feng replied.

"I'm afraid that is not up to you!" Ink Rain said, smiling. She then led her team and charged at Shi Feng once more.

As the woman and her companions approached, Shi Feng turned to Aqua Rose and his elite team, saying, "You guys can jump in now."

## **Chapter 2228 – One After Another**

When they heard Shi Feng's invitation, Aqua Rose and her comrades, who had remained on standby, revealed excited grins as they turned to the Mad Beast Legion before charging to meet their opponents.

When Lu Xingluo noticed that Aqua Rose and the others were joining the fray, he glanced at Shi Feng with a sneer.

“Black Flame, I suppose you want to rely on your people to cause chaos while you pick off the Mad Beast Legion members, one by one?” Smiling, Lu Xinguo continued, “Unfortunately, you’re only digging your own graves!”

Although the battle array allowed players to fight higher-tiered opponents, it was truly a weapon to use against large groups.

Shi Feng’s decision to take on the Mad Beast Legion by himself had been the wisest decision. If Aqua Rose and Zero Wing’s vanguard joined the battle, they’d only be a liability, not an asset. Once the two armies truly clashed, chaos would rule this battlefield, and amidst such chaos, players couldn’t rely on AOE Skills or Spells. A single misfire could kill one’s allies.

Without AOE Skills or Spells, even peak experts would find the Mad Beast Legions challenging in a one-on-one, not to mention Aqua Rose and the others, who were only Flowing Water and Refinement Realm experts.

However, Brilliant Python realized that the atmosphere around Zero Wing’s members felt odd.

What’s up with these people? As Brilliant Python watched Zero Wing’s players charge forth, he was confused.

Aqua Rose and the others didn’t look at him and his teammates like they were powerful foes. Rather, their expressions seemed like they had just found the perfect practice targets.

“Ignore them! They are fools if they think they can defeat us in our own battle array!” Ink Rain shouted to her team. She then turned her sights to Fire Dance, radiating intense killing intent.

Her previous clash with Fire Dance was still fresh in her mind.

Her strength was only second to the Mad Beast Legion’s commander and vice commander, yet someone with weaker combat standards had defeated her. It would be hard not to remember such a humiliating defeat.

Although she didn’t know how Fire Dance had increased her Life Rating so drastically last time, she had the battle array. She was going to use this chance to toy with the other Assassin.

Ink Rain’s figure blurred as she dashed forward, only taking a moment to reach her opponent. She thrust her blade at Fire Dance, who ran at the forefront of Zero Wing’s team.

As Ink Rain’s dagger shot forth, she split into nine identical copies.

When Happy Art saw this from one of the VIP rooms, she couldn’t help but gasp.

“That’s...Nine Phantoms, One Kill!” Happy Art was astonished to see Ink Rain’s nine phantoms.

Nine Phantoms, One Kill was a Bronze Combat Technique and one of the most powerful the Thirteen Thrones had obtained from Bronze Legacy Tablets. With a fraction of the combat technique, a Void

Realm expert would be unrivaled among their peers. Had Happy Art fully mastered Nine Phantoms, One Kill, she could've even fought Sand Bone, one of the Flower of Seven Sins' senior cadre members, without losing ground.

Unfortunately, despite the extensive time Happy Art had dedicated to learning the combat technique, she had failed to make any progress. It was simply too complex for her to comprehend and execute. Not even a Domain Realm expert was guaranteed to learn the technique.

Why wouldn't Happy Art be surprised to see that Ink Rain execute Nine Phantoms, One Kill, despite the difficulties of learning the technique?

However, Happy Art didn't know that the battle array's boons were the only reason that Ink Rain could execute Nine Phantoms, One Kill. Without those effects, she wouldn't be able to use the combat technique, either.

"Ink is taking this too seriously. She's actually relying on such a forbidden move," Cloudy Mountain, the Mad Beast Legion's vice commander, muttered with a frown.

Nine Phantoms, One Kill was Ink Rain's greatest trump card. They had wanted her to reserve this move for a Domain Realm expert, but now that she had used it, word would spread.

"Forget it. Just let her be. She might be able to take that final step after exacting her revenge," Startled Wind said, chuckling.

Ink Rain was a prodigy he had set his sights on, and he had been surprised to learn that Fire Dance had actually defeated the young woman.

Unfortunately, that defeat had maddened Ink Rain with thoughts of revenge. It had severely impacted her development.

If Ink Rain could avenge her prior defeat and clear it from her mind, she would have a high chance of reaching the Domain Realm.

Just when everyone assumed that Ink Rain's attack had been successful, a metallic clang echoed across the battlefield, stupefying the spectators.

"What's going on?"

They had only seen Fire Dance lightly swing her short sword before Ink Rain's phantoms had disappeared. Ink Rain stumbled a step back, her dagger vibrating violently as if she had struck an adamantine wall.

"Who is she?" Happy Art muttered as she stared at Fire Dance in surprise.

Ink Rain's assault could likely even kill Domain Realm experts, yet Fire Dance had so casually nullified the attack. Moreover, Fire Dance's Strength was clearly superior to Ink Rain's...

Yet, Happy Art's surprise was nothing compared to the shock Starlink's members felt.

Ink Rain was the core of one of the battle arrays, and the boost to her physique and Basic Attributes was even greater than what her comrades had received. With this boost, she shouldn't have any issues contending with Tier 3 players of the same level, yet her Strength was no match for Fire Dance's...

Before Ink Rain could recover from her momentary shock, Fire Dance swung Thousand Transformations once more.

As the short sword sliced through the air, countless blades bit into Ink Rain, giving the woman no room to dodge.

Peng!

This time, Ink Rain felt as if a hammer had struck her hand, leaving it completely numb. She was forced to stumble two steps backward, as well.

Seeing the weakness in Ink Rain's defense, Fire Dance didn't hold back as she continued to attack the enemy Assassin.

She continued to push Ink Rain back, forcing the woman to defend herself. The Mad Beast Legion members, who were preparing to face off against Zero Wing's members, were stunned.

They had never expected to find yet another powerful player among Zero Wing's members.

Before anyone could recover from their shock, however, the battle between Zero Wing's vanguard and the Mad Beast Legion stunned the spectators once more.

The clash hadn't ended as everyone had expected. They had expected the Mad Beast Legion's charge to shatter Zero Wing's formation. After all, every Mad Beast Legion member was a Refinement Realm

Expert, and they were all empowered by their battle arrays. They should be able to annihilate Zero Wing's vanguard in a few moves.

However, Zero Wing's vanguard repeatedly pushed back the powerful Mad Beast Legion, and even Brilliant Python, one of the battle array's cores, suffered a worse fate than Ink Rain at Gentle Snow's hands.

As if swatting a helpless fly, every one of Gentle Snow's casual swings with her greatsword sent Brilliant Python flying five or six yards away.

"What is going on?"

Lu Xingluo's smile froze as he watched his Mad Beast Legion suffer. Baffled, he watched Fire Dance and Gentle Snow.

Even the various spectating powers gaped in shock. They simply couldn't process what was happening before their very eyes.

## **Chapter 2229 – Group Fight**

The spectating crowd felt stifled by Zero Wing's unstoppable performance.

"Zero Wing is actually this strong?"

The players watching this battle from within the Divine Colosseum weren't ordinary experts; some were even superpowers' upper echelons.

They had all seen the strength of the Mad Beast Legion's battle arrays. The boons the arrays provided were undeniably massive, yet despite such power, the Mad Beast Legion was no match for Zero Wing's 300-player vanguard. It was unbelievable!

Fire Dance's and Gentle Snow's performances were especially stunning.

Based on the combat power Ink Rain and Brilliant Python had displayed, the crowd knew they were peak experts. Even in a Super Guild, they'd be top-ranked players. With the boots from the battle array, even Domain Realm experts would have to avoid a fight with those two.

But neither Ink Rain nor Brilliant Python was a match for Fire Dance and Gentle Snow. The spectators simply couldn't understand how Zero Wing had gained two such powerful experts.

Even Delicate Blood, who sat in the stands, was surprised as she watched the women.

"How are their Attributes so high?"

Delicate Blood had a better understanding of what was happening on the battlefield than many of the experts around her. Although the two women's moves seemed special, as if they used a combat technique with every swing of their weapons, Delicate Blood could tell that they had only reached the Flowing Water Realm.

While incorporating combat techniques into every attack would increase their combat power, Basic Combat Techniques could only offer a small boost. Furthermore, Basic Combat Techniques didn't pose much of a threat to experts like Ink Rain and Brilliant Python.

The real reason that Ink Rain and Brilliant Python were so miserable right now was because of how much higher Fire Dance's and Gentle Snow's Basic Attributes were. However, the two team leaders served as the cores for their respective battle arrays, and the Attribute boots they had received was no trivial matter. Moreover, they should be wearing multiple pieces of Epic Equipment as peak experts, yet for some reason, they were no match for Fire Dance and Gentle Snow...

In contrast, Unyielding Heart brimmed with joy. His eyes were practically glowing as he watched Fire Dance and Gentle Snow. He didn't know how the two women had amassed such high Basic Attributes, either, but with their strength, there was no doubt that Zero Wing's vanguard could suppress the Mad Beast Legion. In fact, it was only a matter of time before the vanguard annihilated the 300 Mad Beast Legion members.

The 300 Mad Beast Legion members were Refinement Realm experts, and if Zero Wing's peak combatants could suppress these players, it would prove that Zero Wing had its own peak legion that could rival the various superpowers'. Combined with Unyielding Soul's peak combatants, not even Starlink would find the two Guilds an easy opponent to deal with.

Meanwhile, on the battlefield, the fights continued for a short time as the Mad Beast Legion rapidly lost members.

"Guild Leader, I'm afraid that the Mad Beast Legion won't last much longer at this rate," Startled Wind reported as he watched one legion member die after another.

He didn't want to admit it, but Zero Wing was stronger than he had expected. The team Fire Dance and Gentle Snow led was more than capable of rivaling a superpower's main force. There was also Shi Feng to take into account, and he was capable of suppressing two battle array teams by himself.

“Alright, join the battle! But make sure that you end it quickly!” Lu Xingluo said as he shot Shi Feng a fierce look.

Lu Xingluo wanted to hide as much of Starlink’s strength as possible, but Shi Feng had given him no choice but to reveal his cards.

Startled Wind nodded sharply and left to gather Sword Demon, Evil Blade, and the Guild’s other Domain Realm experts.

The watching superpowers gasped as these experts broke away from Starlink’s main force. Even Unyielding Heart felt a chill crawl down his spine.

They watched as Startled Wind, the Mad Beast Legion’s commander, Cloudy Mountain, its vice commander, the Four Shadow Demons, Three Kills, and the Battlescar Workshop’s commander, Evil Blade, charged forth. That was a total of eight Domain Realm experts, and among them, Startled Wind and Evil Blade were powerful enough to have shaken the western continent in God’s Domain.

Moreover, all eight experts radiated strange auras. A crimson mark also graced their foreheads, and their eyes were completely black. Not one of them looked like an ordinary human.

“Demon God Transformation! So, that’s what Starlink has been hiding?” Delicate Blood was stunned as she watched Starlink’s eight Domain Realm experts.

Most superpowers were likely still unfamiliar with the term ‘Demon God Transformation.’ Only an extremely small number of players knew about what it was right now. The Demon God Transformation was one of the few ways players could increase their Life Ratings, but trying to perform the act was

extremely difficult. Not only did it require a ton of super-rare materials, but the players undergoing the transformation also had to find the legacy entrance and clear the Demon God's trial.

The materials alone were an intense challenge to procure. Any superpower would struggle to secure a single set, yet Starlink had collected at least eight...

Startled Wind and his companions had reached Fire Dance and Gentle Snow before Delicate Blood could even react. Although Startled Wind and the others' Basic Attributes and physiques weren't quite as powerful as Ink Rain and Brilliant Python's, their combat standards were leagues above.

Among the eight, Startled Wind and Evil Blade's Basic Attributes and physiques could rival Ink Rain and Brilliant Python's, and as a result, they led the charge.

Relying on their superior combat standards, Startled Wind and Evil Blade deflected all of Fire Dance and Gentle Snow's attacks. They responded with their own Advanced Combat Techniques, targeting the women's weak points. At the same time, Cloudy Mountain, Sword Demon, and the Domain Realm experts coordinated their attacks with Startled Wind and Evil Blade's.

After just a few exchanges, Fire Dance and Gentle Snow had taken several hits. They had no choice but to use their Skills and focus on defense.

"It seems that this fight ends here. Although Zero Wing's experts have higher Basic Attributes, it still lacks capable manpower." Delicate Blood could not help but sigh as she watched Starlink's experts push back Fire Dance and Gentle Snow.

At the end of the day, Zero Wing's foundations weren't solid enough.

Fire Dance and Gentle Snow might be very strong, but God's Domain was not a single-player game. Starlink's foundations were far too sturdy. It had eight Domain Realm experts that had undergone the Demon God Transformation, and with that kind of strength, Starlink could decimate any ordinary superpower. Only Super Guilds would have a chance of putting Starlink in its place.

But before Startled Wind and his team could land the final blow, ten sword lights rained down on them from above.

Not only were these sword lights incredibly powerful, but they were also quite fast and accurate. Startled Wind and his companions had no choice but to defend themselves.

Peng... Peng... Peng...

The crowd heard a series of metallic clangs as Startled Wind and the others were forced two or three steps back. All eight Domain Realm experts instantly turned toward the sword lights' origin, and they clearly weren't happy with what they found.

Their attacker was none other than Shi Feng.

Shi Feng's attacks were even heavier than Gentle Snow's. If any of them had to face the ten sword lights alone, they'd likely take immense damage.

"Eight Domain Realm experts dare to gang up on two players who haven't even reached the Void Realm yet?! You must be insane!" Shi Feng said as he looked at Startled Wind and the others.

“Don’t insult us, Black Flame. This is war. There is only victory or defeat. We’ll still fight with everything we have, even if you join the fight!” Startled Wind stated, unperturbed by Shi Feng’s provocation.

However, Startled Wind and his companions still watched Shi Feng with serious expressions.

They hadn’t fought him yet, so they didn’t know exactly how high Shi Feng’s Strength was, but after blocking the previous attack, they knew it must be horrifically high. None of them would be a match for him in a one-on-one.

“Indeed, this is a war. Since that is how you feel... Everyone, attack!” Shi Feng ordered.

Aqua Rose, Violet Cloud, Shadow Sword, Yan Tianxing, Alluring Summer, Yi Luofei, Flying Shadow, Zhao Yueru, and a dozen or so other core upper echelons from Zero Wing, who had refrained from combat, surrounded Shi Feng.

## **Chapter 2230 – Violent Suppression**

When Aqua Rose and the others stepped forward, they unleashed the auras they had kept contained. Although each of their auras was not as powerful as Fire Dance and Gentle Snow’s, the combined pressure easily surpassed their two comrades’.

Startled Wind and his team were stunned.

Aqua Rose and the others hadn't seriously joined the battle yet, so Fire Dance and Gentle Snow's brilliance had easily overshadowed their performances. As a result, Startled Wind and his companions hadn't been able to get a clear estimation of their strength. However, as Aqua Rose's group revealed their true selves, Startled Wind and Starlink's other Domain Realm experts recognized how powerful these players were.

"Are you kidding me?!"

"How can a Guild like Zero Wing have so many experts with such incredible Attributes?!"

Aqua Rose and her comrades no longer felt like current players. The weakest among them likely had Basic Attributes that could even rival Ink Rain and Brilliant Python. Aqua Rose, Violet Cloud, Cola, and Zhao Yueru were only slightly weaker than Fire Dance and Gentle Snow.

When the Mad Beast Legion members felt this combined aura, they couldn't help their instinct to retreat. None of them dared to approach Aqua Rose's group. Only the legion's peak experts withstood the powerful aura, although they were still afraid.

The Mad Beast Legion felt as if they stood before over 20 Great Lords. How could they possibly face such a powerful force?

"Have they already reached Tier 3?" Brilliant Python muttered in shock.

Brilliant Python was his battle array's core, and the boost was even great enough that he could contend with a Tier 3 player of the same level, yet Aqua Rose and the others' auras were no weaker than his own. He couldn't think of any possibility other than the fact that they must have reached Tier 3.

“No, that’s not possible. Players can’t take the Tier 3 Promotion Quest until they’ve reached Level 100. No matter how incredible their leveling speed is, it’s not possible to reach Level 100 at this stage of the game. Even if they have reached that level, they’d still have to complete their Promotion Quests. They can’t even challenge the quest until they’ve met the minimum equipment standards, not to mention complete it,” Ink Rain said, shaking her head.

Ink Rain refused to believe that Aqua Rose and the others had reached Tier 3 already. Just from their Life Ratings, she could tell they hadn’t. There was, after all, a significant difference between a Tier 2 player’s Life Rating and that of a Tier 3 player. Ink Rain didn’t feel the pressure that would result from such a difference in Life Ratings.

However, even if Aqua Rose and the others weren’t Tier 3, they weren’t any weaker than an actual Tier 3 player of the same level.

“Calm down, everyone! These people might have very high Attributes, but their combat standards are subpar. Our Refinement Realm experts easily outnumber theirs by several times! Avoid direct fights! Split up, and keep them distracted! Follow-up units, attack with Combination Spells! Evil Blade, you’ll work with me to distract Black Flame! I want everyone else to work with the Combination Spells to keep Zero Wing’s vanguard busy! Once we’ve annihilated the rest of Zero Wing’s army, we’ll take out time whittling these players down!” After taking a moment to calm down, Startled Wind commanded the Mad Beast Legion’s Refinement Realm experts.

It was impressive that Zero Wing had 20-plus players with the combat power to rival Tier 3 players, but the difference between experts wasn’t limited to Basic Attributes. Combat standards also played a massive role.

After all was said and done, Zero Wing did not even have 100 Refinement Realm experts. Even if Zero Wing’s Refinement Realm experts had higher Basic Attributes, they couldn’t one-shot other players. They could simply split up and tackle these Refinement Realm experts using Boss raiding methods.

With Startled Wind's orders, realization dawned on Starlink's members. Aqua Rose and the others were quite powerful, but the fact remained that Starlink had more Refinement Realm experts.

Starlink's forces then took action.

The Refinement Realm experts that had stood with the main army began to cast their Tier 2 Combination Spells, targeting Zero Wing's vanguard. These Tier 2 Combination Spells were even stronger than single-target Tier 3 Spells, and could even cause a significant amount of damage against Grand Lords. Moreover, these Refinement Realm experts' aim was incredibly accurate.

In the meantime, the Four Shadow Demons, Cloudy Mountain, and Three Kills made their way toward Aqua Rose's group. Their Basic Attributes might not be as high, but they had higher combat standards. With a single glance, they found plenty of weak points in the vanguard's defenses. If they coordinated their attacks with the Combination Spells, killing Aqua Rose and the others would not be difficult.

But the instant Starlink's members reached their targets, they discovered that they had been mistaken-outrageously mistaken.

Naturally, Aqua Rose, Violet Cloud, and Zhao Yueru didn't hold back.

Facing several dozen incoming Combination Spells, Aqua Rose lightly waved her Sea Dragon Staff and cast Aqua Precinct. Twelve water serpents immediately appeared around Aqua Rose, radiating an aura no weaker than that of a Level 75 Grand Lord. Under Aqua Rose's control, the serpents blocked most of Starlink's Combination Spells.

Meanwhile, Violet Cloud activated her Death's Sigh's Shadow Rage, summoning a total of 300 shadow blades. Every shadow blade effortlessly struck down a Combination Spell, and in the end, Aqua Rose shattered the remaining incoming attacks in an instant. In the end, it took only an instant for Aqua Rose to shatter the remaining Combination Spells.

Zhao Yueru took a more direct approach than her companions. Her Frostflame's Wrath was already capable of upgrading her Spells by one tier, so they were currently Tier 3 Spells. With her extraordinary Basic Attributes and physique, she'd have no issues defeating an actual Tier 3 Great Mage, much less a bunch of Tier 2 magical class players.

After casting the Tier 2 Spell Flame Sanctions, over 30 crimson magic arrays appeared around Zhao Yueru. Each released a fiery spear, which was powerful enough on its own to warp the space around it. These spears were easily more powerful than Starlink's Tier 2 Combination Spells, and Zhao Yueru used them to bombard the Mad Beast Legion members.

The Mad Beast Legion members responded in time and blocked the incoming spears, but they still stumbled back seven or eight steps, their arms trembling from the impact and their HPs plummeting. Zhao Yueru's attacks made her just as powerful as a humanoid Defense Turret.

As long as magical class players had enough time to cast their Spells, they'd wreak even more havoc on an open battlefield than their melee counterparts. A magical class player with a special Legacy and a Fragmented Legendary Weapon would be no more than a natural disaster.

Although the Four Shadow Demons and their companions wanted to stop the three women, Cola, Shadow Sword, Alluring Summer, Yi Luofei, Flying Shadow, and Yan Tianxing halted their advance. Despite having higher combat standards, the Four Shadow Demons' party struggled against Cola's due to the huge level gaps.

Yan Tianxing, in particular, could suppress Sword Demon on his own. Meanwhile, Yi Luofei kept Three Kills, who was only second to Sword Demon's strength, busy.

Fire Dance and Gentle Snow continued to push back Ink Rain and Brilliant Python, who fared far worse than Sword Demon and Three Kills.

Elsewhere on the battlefield, the more Startled Wind and Evil Blade fought Shi Feng, the more afraid they became of the Swordsman's prowess. Not only could Shi Feng incorporate a combat technique in every move, but he also used his horrifying speed and Strength to increase the lethality of his attacks. The two Domain Realm experts couldn't get close to him, forced to dodge or use Skills to defend themselves. Even so, their HPs continued to decrease. If not for the rear line healers' support, they would've likely died already.

However, even though Zero Wing had the advantage, Starlink simply had too many Refinement Realm experts. Although Zero Wing's Refinement Realm experts could face five opponents by themselves, it wasn't enough to compensate for Starlink's numerical advantage. Unfortunately, most of Zero Wing's Refinement Realm experts weren't quite that strong.

After several minutes, Zero Wing's vanguard had lost over 100 players, including over a dozen Refinement Realm experts. In contrast, Starlink had only lost around 300 players.

As both Guilds' main armies clashed, Zero Wing's losses were more severe. It wasn't just because of the quality difference between their experts, but the defensive barriers that protected Starlink's members.

"Black Flame, Zero Wing's story ends here. If it were merely a 1,000-man-battle, you might've had a chance of victory. Unfortunately, this is a 10,000-versus-10,000 battle. You, alone, aren't enough to influence the outcome!" Startled Wind snarled, breathing a sigh of relief once he saw that this battle's outcome was assured.

Zero Wing had already suffered more than 2,000 casualties on the main battlefield, while Starlink had only sustained around 500.

As long as they could hold out until Zero Wing's main army fell, the rest of Starlink's players could wear Shi Feng and his companions down, even if Starlink's Domain Realm experts were annihilated. In such a high-speed battle, experts of their caliber were no trivial matter. Fighting at their peak consumed a lot

of Stamina and Concentration, and executing one Advanced Combat Technique after another would increase their consumption.

Startled Wind only had around half of his Stamina remaining, and with Shi Feng facing two Domain Realm experts at the same time, he shouldn't fare any better.

Startled Wind wasn't the only one to consider the issue. Everyone was aware of it. Aqua Rose and Zero Wing's other magical class experts had already blown through more than half of their Mana. Even if Zero Wing's vanguard team eliminated Starlink's 700-plus Refinement Realm experts before its main army fell, the surviving vanguard members wouldn't be useful combat power. How exactly did Zero Wing plan to defeat Starlink's forces?

"You're not wrong. I can't turn the tide of this battle by myself, but what happens if I'm not alone?" Shi Feng asked, flashing a grin at Startled Wind and Evil Blade.

Shi Feng's question made them realize something, and they stared at him with grim expressions.

The moment Shi Feng finished his question, he activated Twilight's Shadow and Twilight of the Gods. The Swordsman then split into eight identical clones, each looking straight at Startled Wind and Evil Blade.

"Crap!"

Many of the watching players gasped when they saw Shi Feng split into eight copies of himself. Some even cursed aloud in surprise.

Startled Wind and his comrades, who shared a battlefield with Shi Feng, felt as if someone had dumped a bucket of cold water over their heads.

### **Chapter 2231 – Instant-killing Apex Experts**

Shi Feng was already unstoppable on his own. He could, single-handedly, destroy a 1,000-man legion of expert players.

And now that he had split into eight clones of himself, even a fool could predict what was about to happen.

Startled Wind and Evil Blade stared with grim faces. They wanted to curse this Swordsman for cheating.

Although Doppelganger Skills were very rare in God's Domain, they were apex experts and had seen quite a few before, but they had never seen a Doppelganger Skill as despicable as the one Shi Feng had just used.

“Run!”

Before anyone could recover from their shock, Startled Wind shouted for a retreat. He turned and fled without any hesitation.

Startled Wind could sense Doppelganger Skills' effects, and although Shi Feng's doppelgangers had lower Attributes than the main body, he could tell that their Basic Attributes were still higher than his and Evil Blade's.

As for combat standards, Shi Feng might not be able to control all eight doppelgangers as efficiently as his own body, but each doppelganger could likely rival Ink Rain and Brilliant Python. If that were the case, they had no chance of victory, even if he worked with Evil Blade. Moreover, since the doppelgangers shared a single consciousness, their coordination would be seamless.

Following Startled Wind's order, Evil Blade ran in the opposite direction.

Even he recognized that only one outcome awaited them if they tried to fight Shi Feng head-on—death. The only way out of this predicament was to buy time and run. No Doppelganger Skill lasted forever, and as long as they could survive the Skills' duration, all would be well again.

Doppelganger Skills were quite powerful, but they had an obvious flaw; they were a huge burden on players' Concentration.

Every summoned doppelganger increased the user's Concentration consumption by 100%. If Shi Feng were facing Boss monsters or ordinary experts, he might be fine, but he was fighting apex experts. His Concentration consumption would be just as high as his Stamina Concentration. Once his Concentration fell to a critical low, it would affect his mental state, which would, in turn, severely impact his performance in battle.

In other words, if they could survive until Shi Feng's Doppelganger Skill ended, they could defeat the Swordsman. Startled Wind and Evil Blade weren't the only ones to flee for their lives. The experts that clashed with Zero Wing's vanguard retreated, as well, especially Starlink's Domain and Void Realm experts. They practically ignored their opponents and fled.

They knew how great the difference was between their strength and Shi Feng's. Once Shi Feng killed Startled Wind and Evil Blade, they'd be next on his menu. Even on the off chance that Shi Feng couldn't slay his current two opponents, he'd make the best use of his Doppelganger Skill by attacking weaker enemies like them.

For a time, chaos reigned over Starlink's Refinement Realm and higher experts as everyone ran for their lives.

The audience in the stands was stupefied.

The weakest player among Starlink's main force was a Refinement Realm expert, and the force was more than capable of annihilating a 10,000-man army of ordinary experts. However, these experts fled just because Shi Feng had used a Skill. They looked like mice that had just run into a cat...

"It's too late!"

With a glance at Startled Wind and Evil Blade, Shi Feng directed his doppelgangers to surround the two experts. If he wanted Zero Wing to win this competition, he couldn't let these two live, no matter what.

Shi Feng had avoided using Twilight Blade's Skills precisely because he worried that Startled Wind and Evil Blade would flee. Naturally, the rest of Starlink's main force would run the moment their commanders did so, and that wasn't the desired outcome.

Starlink's Refinement Realm experts far outnumbered Zero Wing's. If these Refinement Realm experts split up and targeted Zero Wing's main army, they'd pose a much greater threat than if they operated as a single unit. Not even Shi Feng would be able to kill every one of these Refinement Realm experts before exhausting his Stamina.

Hence, Shi Feng's plan since the beginning was to gather Starlink's members as close to each other as possible. He could then pick off these experts and reduce the threat to Zero Wing's main army.

By this point, only half of Starlink's Refinement Realm experts were still alive. Shi Feng had hoped to continue this stalemate for a while longer, slowly reducing their numbers, but as Zero Wing's main army was close to falling, he decided to change his plans.

Although Zero Wing's main army still had over 7,000 experts, a battle between such large armies would snowball. The casualty rate at the start of the battle might not be that high, but as time passed, players would begin to die faster.

Shi Feng could no longer wait.

The moment Shi Feng's doppelgangers surrounded Startled Wind and Evil Blade, all eight attacked together.

Shi Feng held a massive advantage over the duo when it came to Basic Attributes. Hence, even though each doppelganger only possessed 85% of Shi Feng's Basic Attributes, they were still far superior to Startled Wind and Evil Blade when it came to speed. Moreover, ever since Shi Feng started using the Life Potion, his brain capacity had been continuously improving. After including the Casting Goldstone's effects, Shi Feng was now capable of getting two of his doppelgangers to exhibit combat standards close to the Domain Realm.

Not only did these two apex experts have to face a Domain Realm expert with higher Basic Attributes, but they also had to face seven other experts that could rival Ink Rain.

In the first exchange, Startled Wind and Evil Blade each suffered at least three direct hits, instantly losing more than 50% of their HPs.

“Damn it!”

The outcome both shocked and enraged Startled Wind. He stopped holding back and desperately executed every Advanced Body Technique and Lifesaving Skill he had.

Evil Blade bellowed with fury as he summoned his own doppelganger to assist him in this fight, but his doppelganger was significantly inferior to Shi Feng’s, only possessing 70% of his total Attributes. At most, Evil Blade’s doppelganger could act as a meatshield, taking hits. It wouldn’t be able to exhibit any significant combat power against Shi Feng.

Meanwhile, Starlink’s rear line healers frantically cast Healing Spells on the two apex experts. Some even used their trump cards to keep Startled Wind and Evil Blade alive. This allowed the two apex experts to fight and run without worrying about dying.

But even after crossing over 50 yards, Startled Wind and Evil Blade couldn’t shake off Shi Feng. Not even Refinement Realm experts could keep up with the fight, and the three apex experts consumed Stamina and Concentration at an alarming rate.

“Die!”

Shi Feng held nothing back, either, as all eight of his doppelganger executed Sword’s Transmigration simultaneously.

The technique pushed aside every attempt Startled Wind and Evil Blade made to defend themselves, creating the opening necessary for the remaining attacks to strike.

One hit... Two hits... Three hits...

In the blink of an eye, Startled Wind and Evil Blade had each gained an additional dozen or so wounds. Before the rear line healers could do anything about it, both apex experts' HPs hit zero, and their bodies fell to the ground, lifeless.

Every player watching the fight gasped when Startled Wind and Evil Blade died. Even Melancholy, who watched from a second-floor VIP room, was shocked.

Both Startled Wind and Evil Blade stood at the apex of God's Domain. Just trying to kill one of them would give the various superpowers massive headaches, yet Shi Feng had killed both in the same moment.

While it was easy to repel experts of such caliber in God's Domain, killing them was dozens of times more difficult. If an apex expert focused on escaping, even a slightly stronger expert would find it challenging to stop them. Furthermore, both Startled Wind and Evil Blade had the support of multiple healers, yet neither had survived Shi Feng's onslaught...

## **Chapter 2232 – Abyss Unsheathed**

They died?" Delicate Blood turned her gaze to Shi Feng, shocked after watching Startled Wind and Evil Blade vanish from the battlefield.

Startled Wind and Evil Blade's strength was top-notch, even among God's Domain's apex experts. On their own, they could even survive a fight against three or four Domain Realm experts, yet Shi Feng had slain both of them by himself. However, Shi Feng had actually succeeded in killing both of them all by himself.

Shi Feng's strength was simply horrifying!

However, before the audience could recover from the shock of Startled Wind and Evil Blade's deaths, Shi Feng charged toward Sword Demon and Starlink's other Domain Realm experts.

Although Shi Feng's fight with Startled Wind and Evil Blade had seemed slow, it had only lasted a handful of seconds.

To Sword Demon and the others, who struggled against Aqua Rose and her companions' harassment, these several seconds weren't enough for them to cross 100 yards. Shi Feng, on the other hand, only needed an instant.

Naturally, Shi Feng didn't let the enemy Refinement Realm experts he came across in that instant off the hook. Like a group of Grim Reapers, Shi Feng's doppelgangers brandished their swords, reaping a life with each swing of their swords.

"Is he even human?!"

The various major powers' experts watched with wide eyes as Shi Feng left the Refinement Realm experts' corpses in his wake.

Unlike the various superpowers' upper echelons, they knew that Startled Wind and Evil Blade were quite powerful, but they didn't know exactly how strong the two Domain Realm experts were. However, most of them quite familiar with the kind of strength Refinement Realm experts wielded, having personally fought such experts. Many of these watching experts worked towards reaching the Refinement Realm themselves.

And yet, the Refinement Realm experts they looked up to couldn't even last more than one move against Shi Feng. They only saw Shi Feng walk past these experts, and a moment later, the players he passed transformed into particles of light and disappeared...

When Sword Demon and his comrades saw this, their hearts skipped a beat. They hadn't considered that their Refinement Realm experts would fail to stall Shi Feng for even a moment. In the end, they could only watch as the distance between Shi Feng and themselves shrank.

"Black Flame, you bastard!" Lu Xingluo bellowed as he watched Shi Feng's rampage through the rear of Starlink's main army. "Everyone, switch targets! Attack him with everything you've got!"

Those Domain Realm experts were the core of Starlink's army in this competition. If Shi Feng annihilated them, Starlink would struggle to win the battle. Fire Dance, Gentle Snow, and Zero Wing's other core upper echelons were simply too strong.

The ranged players of Starlink's main army immediately turned their attention to Shi Feng, bombarding him with frenzied attacks. They loosed several thousand Spells and arrows in the blink of an eye, all aimed at Shi Feng. Even Domain Realm experts' scalp would tingle if they had to face so many attacks.

However, before these attacks could get close to him, Shi Feng replaced Killing Ray with the Abyssal Blade. He then activated Nine Dragons Slash, summoning 16 phantoms of the Magic Weapon around him.

Sword's Orbit!

The Abyssal Blade phantoms began to rotate around Shi Feng with astonishing speed, their gleaming blades creating a galaxy of stars. The scene was mesmerizing.

A moment later, the thousands of Spells and arrows collided with the rotating stars, instantly shattering. Not a single attack made it through that bladed galaxy.

Despite taking the time to execute Sword's Orbit, Shi Feng's pace didn't slow as he continued to approach Sword Demon and the other Domain Realm experts.

"Crap! What kind of Skill is he using? Is that an Invulnerability Skill?"

"No, it's not an Invulnerability Skill. If it were, the Mana around him would've fluctuated. Since that didn't happen, Black Flame must be using a combat technique."

"How can a combat technique be that powerful?! That's several thousand attacks we're talking about!"

"Players can become so incredibly powerful with combat techniques?"

The many spectating experts were stunned as they watched the scene play out.

They had all watched experts charge into large forces to slay an army's commander before. In fact, it was a common occurrence in God's Domain. There were so many Skills, Spells, and tools available in

God's Domain, and with a powerful enough tool, players could wipe out armies of tens of thousands of players by themselves.

However, they had never seen a player effortlessly walk through thousands of attacks by relying on a combat technique. Some of those attacks had been as powerful as Tier 3 attacks, and every one of them had originated from an expert. They had all been incredibly accurate. Even peak experts would be reduced to a pincushion.

However, none of these attacks could reach Shi Feng. The galaxy of stars he had summoned struck every one of them down.

Although the Abyssal Blade couldn't keep up with Shi Feng's leveling, the Magic Weapon's incredible Skills were still useful. Nine Dragons Slash, in particular, was a major help in group fights. The summoned phantoms were even more useful than the Abyssal Blade itself since attacks wouldn't affect them. When Shi Feng used these phantom swords in conjunction with Sword's Orbit, the technique could be Shi Feng's strongest defensive maneuver.

"Don't think that I'm so easy to kill!" Sword Demon knew that escape wasn't possible as he watched Shi Feng's rapid approach. He immediately used his strongest move against the Swordsman.

The twin swords in Sword Demon's grip began to release a dense, dark energy, and the atmosphere around him began to feel much heavier. It felt as if the space around him couldn't bear the existence of this dark energy.

Following which, Sword Demon used Cross Slash, sending a pitch-black cross of dark energy flying toward Shi Feng.

This attack was Sword Demon's last hope for survival.

As long as the galaxy of stars around Shi Feng remained, Starlink's ranged players would be useless, but if Sword Demon could shatter that galaxy, Starlink could continue its assault against Zero Wing's Guild Leader. Shi Feng would be forced to deal with the attacks, allowing Sword Demon to escape.

Boom!

A massive explosion rocked the battlefield the instant the dark cross collided with the galaxy of stars, creating a powerful storm that swept through the area. Black tears appeared as space began to unravel.

However, when the dust cleared, what Sword Demon saw left him stupefied.

His attack, which had the strength to rival Mythic monsters' attacks, had done nothing to the defensive galaxy around Shi Feng. He had done nothing more than push the swirling lights closer to the Swordsman for a brief moment before they returned to their original positions.

What power. If I hadn't reached the Ascension Realm during my fight with Startled Wind and Evil Blade, my Sword's Orbit would've broken. Shi Feng flashed Sword Demon an amazed look.

Players couldn't use Berserk Skills on this battlefield, so it was practically impossible for a Tier 2 player to display Tier 4 power. Not even Shi Feng could do so. As a result, he had no choice but to combine his Abyssal Blade phantoms' Strength to deflect Sword Demon's attack.

After that last attack, Sword Demon's aura had weakened substantially. Using this opportunity, Shi Feng ganged up on Sword Demon with his doppelgangers.

This Domain Realm expert was much easier to defeat than Startled Wind and Evil Blade.

The instant Sword Demon ran out of Lifesaving Skills, Shi Feng killed him and moved on to his next target.

The scene rendered the spectating crowd speechless.

Despite several thousand attacks bombarding him, Shi Feng had slain Sword Demon, His strength was absurd!

When Lu Xingluo watched another Domain Realm expert fall, he paled.

Shortly after Sword Demon died, Wind Demon and Cloudy Mountain, the closest Domain Realm experts, fell under Shi Feng's blades. Surprisingly, Gentle Snow and Yan Tianxing had successfully killed Three Kills, while Fire Dance and Yi Luofei ended Ink Rain. Because of this development, Starlink's morale plummeted. In less than two minutes after Shi Feng had activated Twilight of the Gods, all of Starlink's Domain Realm experts had died. Furthermore, Starlink had less than 200 Refinement Realm experts remaining.

Everyone could see that Zero Wing's main army had suffered over 6,000 casualties, yet it had secured a chance of emerging victorious. If Zero Wing's remaining members hid in the nearby forest, they could recover their Stamina and Concentration, turning the rest of this competition into a battle of attrition.

"What should we do next, Guild Leader? Should we use that move?" a woman in a strange, black robe asked from beside Lu Xingluo.

“That is my final trump card! I will not use it here!” Lu Xingluo said, shaking his head. Viciously glaring at Shi Feng, Lu Xingluo continued, “We’re retreating!”

Lu Xingluo then left the battlefield, as did the rest of Starlink’s experts, one after another. In less than a minute, the battle ended, and a message appeared above the battlefield.

Victor: Zero Wing!

## **Chapter 2233 – New Powerhouse**

As the system announced the competition’s victory, silence descended on the entire venue. Only after some time did the audience snap out of their daze.

“What?! Zero Wing won, just like that!?”

The spectators couldn’t believe their eyes as they stared at the words hovering above the battlefield.

Although Zero Wing had killed all of Starlink’s top combatants, Zero Wing’s army had suffered. After such a long fight, Zero Wing’s top combatants should have exhausted much of their Stamina and Concentration. If they had continued this battle, they would’ve likely collapsed from exhaustion.

Moreover, Zero Wing's 300-man vanguard only had a little over 100 survivors remaining. Among them, less than 70 were Refinement Realm experts. In contrast, although Starlink had lost all of its Domain Realm experts, it still had over 200 Refinement Realm experts. Overall, Zero Wing had still been at a disadvantage.

Most importantly, Starlink's main army had crushed Zero Wing's main army to a point where it couldn't even be considered an army anymore. The situation wouldn't be easy for Zero Wing to salvage.

And yet, Starlink had taken the initiative to admit defeat...

"Starlink surrendered?" Delicate Blood watched Lu Xingluo, who had already returned to the Divine Colosseum's main hall, in astonishment. She had never expected this outcome.

Starlink was the Dark Night Empire's overlord and a Guild that developed on both the eastern and western continents simultaneously. The Guild had countless experts under its command, yet Starlink had surrendered so strangely...

"Hahaha! I told you that the outcome wasn't set in stone! Zero Wing has won!" Unyielding Heart exclaimed, grinning at Delicate Blood.

"Don't celebrate so soon. Starlink might have lost, but there is a high chance that it only surrendered to keep its true strength hidden," Delicate Blood said, clicking her tongue. "If Starlink accepted defeat in such an important competition to hide its strength, it must have something massive in store."

"That doesn't change the fact that Zero Wing won," Unyielding Heart said, chuckling. "Every player in the empire was watching this match. Now that Zero Wing has won, the powers that previously doubted the Guild's strength will begin to side with Zero Wing."

Unyielding Heart didn't know what Starlink was planning, but the fact that Zero Wing had won this 10,000- versus-10,000 match was undisputable.

Today, the Dark Night Empire entered a new era. Starlink would no longer have full control over the empire. Instead, two powerhouses would contest for control. The various major powers that had hesitated to pick a side would swarm toward Zero Wing.

The Dark Night Empire was very large, and although it appeared to be under Starlink, Unyielding Soul, and Crimson Emperor's control, the three superpowers only commanded the empire's core areas. There were plenty of small, obscure cities that were free of these three superpowers, controlled by upstart powers.

Corporations around the world were actively trying to invest in God's Domain, and while some invested in existing Guilds, others had chosen to form their own. As a result, upstart powers were secretly rising all over God's Domain. Naturally, the Dark Night Empire was no exception. Meanwhile, these upstart powers had been annexing small Guilds and adventurer teams across the empire, and by this point, they were no weaker than first-rate Guilds. Some were even stronger.

Since these upstart powers had their own agendas, they weren't willing to submit to Starlink. That being said, they didn't dare oppose the superpower, either. As a result, they had remained in an awkward position. However, now that Zero Wing had defeated Starlink and proven itself to be just as powerful in the Dark Night Empire, these upstart powers would eagerly ally themselves with Zero Wing to work against Starlink.

Delicate Blood had no response to offer Unyielding Heart. Instead, she shifted her gaze to Shi Feng, who had just left the battlefield.

It seems I'll have to report this to the old commander, Delicate Blood thought as she watched Zero Wing's Guild Leader.

Unyielding Heart hadn't been wrong.

A victory was just that. From today on, the Dark Night Empire had a new powerhouse—Zero Wing.

Meanwhile, in one of the Divine Colosseum's second-floor VIP rooms, Happy Art could not believe her eyes as she stared at the outcome of this competition.

"Guild Leader, Zero Wing...won," Happy Art muttered, dazed.

She had insisted that Zero Wing was an excellent Guild, but she hadn't actually expected it to defeat Starlink in this competition. The difference between the two Guilds was just so massive.

"I can see that," Melancholy said, smiling at Happy Art's dazed expression. "Zero Wing has certainly surprised me. With such strength, we'll have a much better chance of securing the fortress. I really must thank you for your recommendation and reports. I will leave our cooperation with Zero Wing to you. Also, I want you to tell Black Flame something for me; others will always envy those who stand out. Even Super Guilds will be envious of Zero Wing's incredible development speed."

Melancholy didn't particularly care about Zero Wing's other experts, but the strength its vanguard had displayed in this battle had surprised him. Now, he, more or less, understood why Shi Feng had been so confident.

Zero Wing's growth rate was too frightening. It had grown from an obscure Guild in a kingdom into Starlink's rival in such a short time. Moreover, it had successfully nurtured so many powerful experts. There was definitely a secret behind Zero Wing's success, one that even tempted Melancholy.

"I understand," Happy Art said, nodding.

While everyone discussed the competition's outcome, Shi Feng, who had just left the battlefield, was puzzled.

He had been prepared to order a retreat into the forest, employing guerilla tactics against Starlink's remaining forces. Not only would his strategy compensate for Zero Wing's numerical disadvantage, but it would also give his players time to recover their Stamina and Concentration. With their level and Attribute advantage, they could whittle Starlink's survivors down.

He had never expected Lu Xingluo to give up so quickly. Shi Feng found the situation strange since it didn't fit with Lu Xingluo's usually rash behavior.

Just forget about it. In any case, we've won. Shi Feng shook his head as he dismissed the issue.

What mattered the most was the reputation boost Zero Wing would gain with its victory. Although Zero Wing had established a foothold in the Dark Night Empire, it hadn't made any developmental progress yet, even with the benefits Stone Forest City provided. Starlink was simply far too strong.

However, Starlink's prestige in the empire would suffer, while Zero Wing's would soar. After this, Zero Wing could finally absorb the empire's talented players.

If a Guild wanted to become a true superpower, it needed enough talented players and experts.

Although Zero Wing had already surpassed first-rate Guilds in this aspect, it wasn't a match for superpowers. This competition had made that much obvious. The difference between each side's Refinement Realm experts had been massive. There was no need to mention other aspects.

To gain more Refinement Realm experts, Zero Wing needed to recruit a large number of talented players and experts, but relying on Star-Moon Kingdom's player population wasn't enough.

Most importantly, Zero Wing had exposed too much of its strength during this competition. Superpowers would start to become interested in the Guild. Shi Feng needed to increase Zero Wing's overall strength as quickly as possible.

Thinking up to this point, Shi Feng's gaze drifted toward the 10,000 Ancient Gold he had won from Lu Xingluo.

Ten thousand Ancient Gold Coins!

Even for Starlink, this amount was extremely difficult to acquire. If Shi Feng hadn't signed a contract with Lu Xingluo before the competition, Lu Xingluo would likely have gone back on his word, even if his reputation would take a hit for it. Ancient Gold Coins were immensely difficult to acquire. Most independent experts on Dragonheart Island only earned Ancient Copper, with an extreme few earning Ancient Silver Coins. Only superpowers were strong enough to earn Ancient Gold Coins.

It's about time I pay Dragonheart Island a visit, Shi Feng thought, smiling.

He had assumed that he'd only earn so many Ancient Gold Coins after fulfilling his agreement with Thirteen Thrones, but now that he had them in hand, he could secure a foothold on Dragonheart Island.

Later, Shi Feng left the Dark Night Empire's affairs to Aqua Rose while he made his way to Dragonheart Island.

## **Chapter 2234 – Purchasing a Shop**

Dark Night Empire, Starlink's Residence in Dark Night City:

As soon as Lu Xingluo entered his quiet office, he noticed someone sitting in the room. As Bright Dawn noticed the visitor as well, he positioned himself in front of his Guild Leader.

Starlink's Residence was heavily guarded, and the Guild had a rule that no one was allowed in the Guild Leader's office on their own without the Guild Leader's permission. Not even Bright Dawn, Starlink's Vice Guild Leader, was an exception.

And yet, someone sat, apparently waiting, in the Guild Leader's office.

Even more frightening, this player wasn't wearing Starlink's Guild Emblem, and if Bright Dawn hadn't spotted this player, he wouldn't have noticed their visitor at all. It was as if this person did not actually exist inside this room.

Although Bright Dawn wasn't a Domain Realm expert, he was a Void Realm expert, a peak expert. He had sharpened his five senses to their very limits. He'd notice a tiny fly, let alone a living person. However, when it came to the young man in silver leather armor, he couldn't sense the youth even as he looked straight at him.

As Bright Dawn stared, he felt cold sweat drip down his back, yet he couldn't sense where the danger came from.

While Bright Dawn struggled with what he should do, Lu Xingluo spoke, "Dawn, leave us."

"Understood!" The command informed Bright Dawn that his Guild Leader was acquainted with this stranger. Before he left, however, he spared one last glance for the thin young man on the sofa.

Once Bright Dawn left the Guild Leader's office, Lu Xingluo took a seat opposite of the youth.

"Why are you here, Blue Mask?" Lu Xingluo asked frostily.

"I'm here to ascertain your progress with the task that great personage has assigned you, of course," the youth, Blue Mask, replied, unperturbed by Lu Xingluo's cold treatment.

"Rest assured, everything is progressing smoothly. I will personally report on this matter. You don't need to concern yourself," Lu Xingluo said.

"Good." Blue Mask nodded. Smiling, he continued, "However, I've heard that Zero Wing has defeated your Guild. This is quite interesting."

"I am merely letting Zero Wing live a little while longer," Lu Xingluo said, his expression darkening. "Once I've finished my tasks, I'll teach Zero Wing the meaning of despair!"

He had no choice but to surrender to keep his trump card hidden. There was no way he'd let Shi Feng and Zero Wing off the hook. When the time was right, even Unyielding Soul and Crimson Emperor would meet their doom, not to mention Zero Wing.

"Don't misunderstand. I'm not trying to mock you. I am merely talking about Zero Wing. Despite its lack of background, it has developed with such ferocious speed and nurtured so many powerful experts. Zero Wing has even defeated your subordinates," the youth said, shrugging.

Every existing superpower had only developed into such due to an abundance of capital and resources. This was especially true when it came to nurturing experts. Money wasn't enough to accomplish this feat.

However, despite lacking investors, Zero Wing had repeatedly displayed an astonishing growth rate. No one believed that Zero Wing wasn't hiding some kind of secret.

"What? Are you actually interested?"

Blue Mask's comment surprised Lu Xingluo. The young man had never paid attention to anything outside of his own concerns and had zero interest beyond his own.

"I'm on the one who's interested. That great personage is," Blue Mask said, smiling faintly. "That great personage will likely seek out Zero Wing for a chat."

"That great personage is interested in Zero Wing?" Lu Xingluo was stunned.

Lu Xingluo was the Starline Corporation's heir and enjoyed high status and an immense amount of influence in the real world, but compared to that person, he was little more than an ant. Lu Xingluo had never thought that an insignificant pest like Zero Wing would catch that person's interest.

"That's right. I'd suggest that you avoid messing with Zero Wing. At least, not until you've completed your tasks," Blue Mask said.

"I understand." Lu Xingluo nodded.

Since that great personage had decided to make a move on Zero Wing, there was nothing Lu Xingluo could do about it. If negotiations were successful, he'd be fine, but if they failed, Zero Wing would be doomed, even if he didn't make a move.

While the Dark Night Empire was in an uproar about the match between Starlink and Zero Wing, Shi Feng secretly arrived on Dragonheart Island in the Sea of Death.

Dragonheart City was currently crowded with people, and as Shi Feng wandered down the city streets, he could tell that the city was even more prosperous than empires' imperial capitals.

As the only large-scale independent NPC city in the Sea of Death, many powers had gathered here. Even the rarely-seen neutral powers and naval powers frequently visited, especially the neutral powers.

Neutral powers were strong enough that not even superpowers dared to provoke them at sea.

These neutral powers consisted of non-human players. Unlike on land, non-human players weren't restricted at sea. With the superior racial traits, it was easy to imagine how powerful these non-human powers would be on the open ocean.

Non-human players were superior to human players in both leveling speed and combat power achievements. The only downside these players had to deal with was the Promotion Quests, which were far more challenging than those human players had to face.

As for naval powers, they spoke with their ships. Naval powers fought in such a way that made individual players' strength nearly ineffective.

This was why it was so difficult to secure a foothold on Dragonheart Island and why so many powers tried to do so, regardless.

Shi Feng hadn't had an opportunity to establish a foothold on Dragonheart Island in his previous life. At most, he had been able to lead teams to the island to challenge the World Tower. His Guild hadn't even had a temporary Residence on the island.

However, Shi Feng had reached Dragonheart Island much sooner in this life. Moreover, he had the ability to establish a foothold here. He couldn't help but sigh ruefully at the situation.

I missed the best chance to prepare for the Tier 3 promotion in my last life. I won't let it happen this time, Shi Feng swore to himself as he gazed at Dragonheart City's City Hall, his heart pounding with excitement.

Completing the Tier 3 Promotion Quest was an intense challenge. Not only did players need a certain degree of strength, but they also needed the help of specific external items.

Fortunately, Dragonheart City had a large variety of items to offer. As long as he could purchase a Shop here, he could buy many of the items NPC had for sale. It was one of the most reliable methods of acquiring items in Dragonheart City. Of course, the quality of the items available would largely depend on the Shop's location and rank.

Many powers had failed to establish a Shop in Dragonheart City in the past, and as a result, they had lagged behind when it came to Tier 3 players. Shi Feng would not miss this opportunity in this life.

Shi Feng quickly entered the City Hall, and following an NPC administrator, he arrived in an elegant reception room. The NPC administrator then retrieved a list of available Shops in Dragonheart City, allowing Shi Feng some time to browse through his options.

Purchasing a Shop with a high star-rank was the most important thing to Shi Feng right now, but considering the amount of Ancient Gold he had on hand, his choices were limited. If he wished to purchase a 2-star Shop, his only options were grocery stores. He simply couldn't afford a 2-star alchemy workshop or smithy.

Sure enough, I'm limited to a grocery store in the city's inner area. After browsing through the list for some time, Shi Feng felt like a pauper.

Almost all of the 2-star Shops available cost more than 10,000 Ancient Gold. Some of the more expensive Shops even cost upward of 30,000 Ancient Gold.

However, as Shi Feng considered purchasing the 2-star grocery store, he noticed a 1-star Shop at the very bottom of the list. Unlike the other Shops, this 1-star Shop's name was written in gray. When he read the Shop's name, Shi Feng was stunned.

The Wanderer's Shop?

## Chapter 2235 – Shop’s Secret

When Shi Feng saw the words ‘Wanderer’s Shop,’ excitement and shock filled his heart. He had never dreamed that he’d get lucky enough to come across such a golden opportunity.

“Can I purchase this Wanderer’s Shop?” Shi Feng asked the female elven NPC beside him.

Most players wouldn’t recognize the Wanderer’s Shop. Even the current superpowers were likely unaware of what it was. However, every power would recognize the Wanderer’s Shop by its other name.

The Black Market!

The Black Market existed on the dark side of God’s Domain, but its influence could be found in many of the game’s neutral areas, and the Black Market always had a variety of items for sale. No NPC Auction House could even hope to rival the Black Market’s items. Powerful potions and combat techniques were often available, and if one were truly lucky, they might even find a Flying Mount or Fragmented Legendary item. One could say that the Black Market was a heaven for the rich.

Naturally, purchasing the Wander’s Shop wasn’t easy. It would appear randomly in the various neutral NPC cities. Moreover, it would only remain in a city for a certain amount of time before disappearing. Purchasing it would require incredible luck.

And now, the Wanderer's Shop was in Dragonheart City and only Cost 9,000 Ancient Gold, which just so happened to be within Shi Feng's budget.

"Of course, you may. However, you are not allowed to convert this Shop for other uses after purchasing it. You will also be required to pay a 3,000 Ancient Gold management fee once every ten days. If you fail to make the payment, we will repossess the Shop," the elven NPC explained.

How vicious. It's no wonder why none of the powers here have bought the Wanderer's Shop. Shi Feng was astonished when he heard the pricing for the Shop.

A 1-star Shop in Dragonheart City's outer area only cost 1,000 Ancient Gold per month to maintain. Even the 1-star Shops in the city's inner area only cost 1,500 to 1,800 Gold per month to maintain. On the other hand, despite occupying the city's outer area, the Wanderer's Shop's maintenance cost 3,000 Ancient Gold every ten days. In other words, maintaining this Shop each month would cost 9,000 Ancient Gold.

Nine thousand Ancient Gold Coins!

Even the first-rate powers that had operated in Dragonheart City for some time now only earned around 9,000 Ancient Gold per month. Only superpowers could afford such a high management fee.

Of course, no superpower would be willing to spend that kind of money on a 1-star Shop.

Even the 1-star Wanderer's Shop wouldn't have anything particularly valuable to sell. It mostly sold ordinary clothing and groceries. At best, one could purchase ordinary herbs and ores from the Shop. There was simply no profit in owning the 1-star Wanderer's Shop. In fact, it would be even less profitable than owning an ordinary grocery store. Players could sell their crafted products to an ordinary grocery store, but they couldn't do so in the Wanderer's Shop. Investing in this Shop would be no different than investing in a bottomless pit. Only a lunatic would pay a monthly management fee of 9,000 Ancient Gold for such a worthless Shop.

“Are you sure you wish to purchase the Wanderer’s Shop, Lord Bronze Legatee?” the NPC administrator asked for confirmation.

“That’s right; I wish to buy it.” Shi Feng nodded.

The Wanderer’s Shop was a dying business, but that was only true until it was promoted to 2-star status. Once the Wanderer’s Shop reached 2-star status, it would start to reveal its true purpose.

At 2-stars, the Wanderer’s Shop would gain two divine abilities.

First, it could purchase rare items that weren’t usually on the market, such as magic array designs, which kingdoms and empire considered national secrets, and Tier 3 and higher Skill Books.

Tier 3 classes were an intermediate force anywhere across God’s Domain’s main continent. Tier 3 NPCs could even serve as some NPC cities’ Magistrates. Hence, the various kingdoms and empires typically regulated items for Tier 3 and above classes. This was also why players had to visit neutral maps for their Tier 3 Promotion Quests, rather than in a kingdom or empire.

The second ability was the Black Market Teleportation Gate. This ability allowed players to teleport to the Black Market’s marketplace. However, the entry slots were severely restricted. Not only was there a limited number of entry slots, but each slot could also only be used a certain number of times. These entry slots were the Wanderer’s Shop’s true merchandise. Naturally, anyone who owned the Wanderer’s Shop would be first in line to purchase these slots.

Many powers in the past had been unaware of the 2-star Wanderer's Shop's abilities and had missed out on such a rare opportunity. Very few had been lucky enough to purchase a Wanderer's Shop for themselves. Only a fixed number of Wanderer's Shops would appear in each neutral NPC city. At most, only 15 Wanderer's Shops would appear in a large-scale NPC city like Dragonheart City. Once that maximum number had been reached, Dragonheart City would not gain another Wanderer's Shop unless an existing Shop were repossessed.

Once Shi Feng confirmed his desire to purchase this Wanderer's Shop, the NPC administrator saw to the purchasing procedures.

In less than five minutes, 9,000 Ancient Gold vanished from Shi Feng's bag. In exchange, he obtained the Deed to the Wanderer's Shop and all information relating to the Shop.

After Shi Feng inspected the Shop's details, he began to get a headache.

It's no wonder why those powers had taken so long to promote their Wanderer's Shops to 2-star status. This promotion condition is really something... Shi Feng frowned at the Wanderer's Shop's promotion condition.

To promote an ordinary NPC Shop, one only needed a certain level of popularity and transaction volume. The Wanderer's Shop, however, was a different story.

Perhaps it was because the Shop didn't have much merchandise to sell, but it actually required a Bronze Shop Promotion Order to reach 2-star status. Without that, it would forever be a 1-star Shop...

The Bronze Shop Promotion Order, meant for NPC Shops, was far more difficult to obtain than Promotion Orders for player Shops[1]. Generally, these Promotion Orders only dropped in Level 100-plus, large-scale Team Dungeons, and every one of them was worth tens of thousands of Gold. After all, there were a lot of benefits to promoting an NPC Shop.

Unfortunately, the thought of raiding Level 100 Team Dungeons with current players was a joke. If a team of Level 90 experts tried raiding a Level 100 Dungeon, they'd even struggle to defeat the Dungeon's mobs.

Level 100-plus Dungeons catered to Tier 3 players and above. Tier 2 players could do nothing more than spectate or die. This was also why Tier 3 existences were considered an intermediate force in God's Domain.

It seems I'll have to kill a World Boss, Shi Feng thought to himself.

As far as he could remember, the only other way to obtain a Bronze Promotion Order was to kill World bosses.

Although World Bosses were challenging to raid, he had to upgrade the Wanderer's Shop to 2-star status as quickly as possible. He simply didn't have another way of acquiring a large amount of Ancient Gold, and Zero Wing didn't have any members in Dragonheart City yet.

Considering his options, Shi Feng retrieved a Return Scroll and teleported to White River City.

World Bosses were extremely rare and incomparably strong. Even Zero Wing would be limited to raiding Level 70 World Bosses, and that included a little risk. The higher-leveled a World Boss was, the more difficult it would be to defeat. World Bosses' growth rate was far beyond players'.

Unfortunately, if he wanted a high chance of securing a Bronze Shop Promotion Order, he would have to raid the Frost Monarch, a Level 90 World Boss. He had heard that this Boss would drop a Bronze Shop Promotion Order in the past.

However, Shi Feng decided to increase Kite and Anna's strength before attempting such a challenging raid.

He had absorbed plenty of souls from the Skeletal Generals in the Endless Desert. Although the Skeletal Generals were only Great Lords, they were Level 100-plus monsters and considered mini-Bosses. It hadn't been too difficult to collect Soul Essence while killing them.

In total, Shi Feng had collected eight drops of Soul Essence.

Initially, he had planned to save them for Fire Dance and the others. If he used Soul Strengthening on his strongest players, they might be able to break through to the Ascension or Void Realm. But considering his current predicament, Shi Feng decided to use the ability on his Personal Guards first.

Once Shi Feng arrived in the Candlelight Trading Firm, he summoned his two Personal Guards.

Kite had already reached Level 95, while Anna had reached Level 96. Their leveling speeds were simply frightening. In comparison, most mainstream Secret-Silver Personal Guards had only reached Level 90.

Personal Guards didn't earn bonus EXP when killing higher-leveled monsters. They could only level up by completing quests.

After summoning his two Personal Guards, Shi Feng used the Ancient God's Literature Fragment to scan Anna.

Isn't the required number of Soul Essence a little too high? Shi Feng inwardly cursed when he saw that he'd need 15 drops of Soul Essence to use Soul Strengthening on Anna.

Soul Essence was not easy to obtain, and he could only use Soul Absorption once every six hours. The only reason that he had collected so many drops thus far was that he had been fighting Level 100 Great Lords. He doubted that even Great Lords below Level 100 would grant him any Soul Essence.

Shi Feng then proceeded to scan Kite.

When Shi Feng saw that he only needed five drops of Soul Essence to use Soul Strengthening on Kite, he released a sigh of relief. Fortunately, Kite was only a Dark-Gold Personal Guard, while Anna was an Epic Personal Guard.

"Since that's the case, let's strengthen you first." Shi Feng began to chant an incantation, using the power within the Ancient God's Literature Fragment.

### **Chapter 2236 – Soul Strengthening's Effect**

As soon as Shi Feng finished chanting the incantation on the Ancient God's Literate Fragment, silver armor began to encase Kite's body. A fivefold magic array appeared beneath Kite, who carried two black iron swords across his back.

As the magic array completed, Shi Feng felt as if space around him had frozen, and everything around him had turned gray. The dense, violent Mana around Kite also began to increase at an unprecedented rate.

Three times... Six times... Ten times...

So much Mana gathered around the Personal Guard that the ambient Mana around the magic array had been sucked dry, and drops of liquid Mana formed around Kite.

With the magic array to guide it, the liquid Mana encased the five drops of Soul Essence the Ancient God's Literature Fragment had released. These five drops slowly moved toward Kite's forehead, merging with his soul.

As more of the Soul Essence merged with Kite's soul, he began to scream in agony. The very sound of his screams stung. As the last of the Soul Essence merged with Kite's soul, his aura exploded from his body.

Shi Feng could sense the changes that were happening to Kite's body. This new aura was nothing like the aura Kite had released before merging with the Soul Essence. It was obvious that the Personal Guard had grown significantly stronger.

Is Soul Strengthening truly this powerful? Shi Feng stared at Kite in astonishment.

Shi Feng had assumed that Soul Strengthening would only increase Kite's Growth Potential, not affect his current combat power overmuch, yet Kite's current Attribute Panel proved that Shi Feng had been greatly mistaken. However, Kite's current Attribute Panel proved that Shi Feng was greatly mistaken.

Aside from his Growth Potential, Kite's body had improved.

After the Soul Strengthening, Kite's Growth Potential had risen from 94 to 96. All of his Basic Attributes had increased by roughly 5%, as well. A 5% increase might not be much to ordinary players, to it was a huge boost to NPCs. Furthermore, the 5% was a direct boost to his Basic Attributes; it didn't factor in the bonuses from his weapons and equipment.

Personal Guards typically used stronger weapons and equipment than players. Not only was Kite wearing a full set of Epic Equipment, but the black iron swords across his back were Epic Set Weapons, as well. Hence, Kite's weapons and equipment massively increased his total Basic Attributes.

According to Shi Feng's estimates, Kite's overall strength had increased by at least 20% after the Soul Strengthening.

Moreover, that didn't take into account his new Growth Potential. A two-point increase was immensely meaningful for a Dark-Gold Guard. There would be visible differences as Kite leveled up.

With a Growth Potential of 96, Kite could rank among the top Dark-Gold Guards. Very few Dark-Gold Guards throughout God's Domain would be a match for Kite, now.

If I use Soul Strengthening a few more times on him, could he become an Epic Guard? Shi Feng's eyes glowed with excitement as he considered the possibility.

If each Soul Strengthening increased Kite's Growth Potential by two points, then Kite would only need to undergo Soul Strengthening two more times to reach 100 Growth Potential and upgrade to an Epic Guard.

With this thought in mind, Shi Feng used the Ancient God's Literature Fragment to scan Kite again, trying to determine the cost of using Soul Strengthening a second time.

Once the scan was complete, Shi Feng gasped when he saw the required number of Soul Essence.

How vicious! Shi Feng silently cursed.

Kite's second Soul Strengthening cost 50 drops of Soul Essence!

This was ten times more than the first Soul Strengthening.

Collecting 50 drops of Soul Essence was possible with enough time, but if the second Soul Strengthening cost 50 drops, wouldn't the third cost a minimum of 500 drops?

"Sure enough, upgrading Personal Guards with the Literature Fragment isn't going to be easy," Shi Feng muttered to himself, smiling bitterly.

He had hoped to form an army of powerful Personal Guards through the Ancient God's Literature Fragment, but it seemed the chances of such a thing happening weren't optimistic. Based on the scale of Soul Strengthening's cost, he could, at most, upgrade each Personal Guard twice. For Personal Guards like Anna, he'd only be able to afford to upgrade their souls once. The cost for a second Soul Strengthening would be astronomical.

However, after giving the matter some more thought, Shi Feng realized that the scaling might be lower for lower-ranked Personal Guards. If that were the case, he could then afford to upgrade them a few more times than he could with Kite and Anna.

If he could upgrade Mysterious-Iron, Secret-Silver, and Fine-Gold Guards that were close to the next Growth Potential rank, he could use them to boost Zero Wing's overall strength. The only problem was that such Personal Guards were not easy to come by. Even so, they would be easier to find than higher-quality Personal Guards.

Once Shi Feng had finished upgrading Kite, he left to gather Ice Resistance items.

The Frost Monarch was not an easy opponent. If they entered the World Boss's Domain without enough Ice Resistance, even Tier 3 experts would freeze to death.

Fortunately, Zero Wing had been developing its potion and equipment production excellently. The Master Ice Resistance Potions, which the various major powers still considered rare, were relatively easy for Zero Wing to obtain. In fact, several hundred bottles already sat in the Candlelight Trading Firm's warehouse.

Zero Wing also had the Advanced Ice Resistance Armor Kits, which Melancholic Smile had been researching and crafting. Not only would these Armor Kits increase players' Ice Resistance by 10 points when equipped, but they'd also increase players' base Ice Resistance by 3%. Furthermore, each player could equip a total of five kits. In other words, players could increase their Ice Resistance by 50 points and base Ice Resistance by 15% if they equipped the total number of Advanced Ice Resistance Armor Kits. It was an absurd amount compared to the Ice Resistance equipment that was currently available. If the required materials weren't so rare, Zero Wing would've made a fortune by selling off these kits.

Players had already begun to explore Level 80 maps, a few of which included snowy environments. If players could equip five Advanced Ice Resistance Armor Kits, they'd have no trouble traversing these maps. They wouldn't need to sacrifice their Basic Attributes by unequipping their normal armor, either.

While Shi Feng crafted these Armor Kits, he received a call from Melancholic Smile.

“Guild Leader, the Asura adventurer team’s members have arrived at White River City’s Teleportation Hall. Should I call them here?” Melancholic Smile asked.

“They’re here? Good. Have them wait at the Teleportation Hall for a little while longer. I’ll head over once I’m done handling my affairs here,” Shi Feng said, nodding.

World Bosses were not easy to raid. Normally, one would take on a World Boss with a 200-man raid team, while some allowed up to 1,000 players. Of course, players were allowed to bring larger raid teams, but the World Boss’s Basic Attributes would significantly increase as a result. Meanwhile, a team could raid the Frost Monarch with 200 players before the World Boss’s Basic Attributes rose.

Raiding a Level 90 World Boss was a monumental matter. Since Shi Feng didn’t want any of his plans to leak, he had to select trustworthy players for this raid. The only players he could truly trust right now were Zero Wing’s and Asura’s main forces.

Players had to meet strict requirements and were thoroughly vetted before they could join either main force. Zero Wing’s main force members were selected from thousands of Guild experts, while Asura’s were selected through a fierce competition held among the Adventurer’s Alliance. Both main forces’ members were experts among experts.

Hence, Shi Feng had asked Melancholic Smile to request Asura’s participation for the Frost Monarch raid.

Melancholic Smile relayed Shi Feng’s message to the Asura adventurer team’s members in White River City’s Teleportation Hall.

...

A group of Level 78-plus players had gathered in the third-floor bar in White River City's Teleportation Hall. When passersby saw this group, they were astonished by how high the players' Levels were.

Moreover, every member of the group wore dazzling equipment, with the weakest piece at Level 75 Secret-Silver rank. The dozen or so players that clearly led the group even wore Epic Equipment. The man carrying a bluish-purple spear was particularly eye-catching. Not only had he reached Level 79, but the weakest piece of equipment he wore was also Level 75 Dark-Gold rank. Aside from the spear, whose rank couldn't be determined, the man had a total of four pieces of Epic Equipment on him. Even a superpowers' peak experts would be jealous of this man.

This group's aura deterred any players from entering the bar. Not even expert players dared to do anything more than watch from a distance.

Vice Commander, do you think the commander will be surprised when he sees our current stats?" Yan Ya, who currently sat by a window, asked, smiling at the man carrying the spear.

Since the Asura adventurer team had begun to grind on God's Domain's main continent, their development had skyrocketed. Thanks to the constant supply of combat techniques and potions from Zero Wing, the Asura adventurer team had been able to take on dangerous expeditions, as well. Both the adventure team's combat and equipment standards had improved by leaps and bounds.

Nowadays, Asura ranked as one of the top-ten adventurer teams in the Fire Dragon Empire, one of the Four Great Empires on the God's Domain continent.

"Maybe," Lifeless Thorn muttered.

Lifeless Thorn had thirsted for a rematch with Shi Feng for a long time now. Shi Feng was, after all, the first person to defeat him in the Ice Crystal World, and after arriving on the God's Domain continent, Lifeless Thorn had continued to challenge experts from the various major powers, rapidly growing stronger. Now, he wanted nothing more than to challenge Shi Feng.

"Maybe? He'll definitely be surprised!" Cleansing Whistle confidently declared. "We've even raided a Level 80, 100-man Hell Mode Team Dungeon. Our weapons and equipment are just as powerful as the main force members from the Fire Dragon Empire's superpowers."

Solitary Nine and the others nodded their agreement. At this point, only superpowers could successfully raid Level 80, 100-man Hell Mode Team Dungeons. Not even first-rate Guilds had survived the Dungeons.

After waiting for about two hours, Asura's members spotted a group of players wearing six-winged emblems as they entered the bar.

## **Chapter 2237 – Difference in Growth**

Asura's members fell silent as they watched Shi Feng and the others enter the bar. When they saw Aqua Rose and her companions, in particular, they were overwhelmed with shock.

"How does Zero Wing have so many Refinement Realm experts?" Cleansing Whistle muttered, dazed.

Although Zero Wing's members hid their levels with Black Cloaks, Cleansed Whistle could tell by their movements that these players had already reached the Refinement Realm. As Zero Wing's members

walked, they used subtle movements, minimizing their Stamina consumption. It was almost a form of training for them.

Ordinary experts might not see the difference, but as someone who had reached the Refinement Realm as well, Cleansed Whistle noticed immediately. In fact, She had even incorporated that subtlety in her daily life as a form of continuous training to minimize her Stamina consumption while in the fields.

Once she had become familiar with this form of subtle movement, she had begun to subconsciously use the technique while fighting powerful Bosses or other experts in high-speed battles, significantly reducing her Stamina consumption. This was the greatest difference between Refinement Realm experts and ordinary experts.

However, reaching the Refinement Realm wasn't easy. Cleansed Whistle had run around and fought countless experts to train. She had also run across multiple fortuitous encounters in the game. This combination was the only reason she had successfully reached the Refinement Realm.

And yet, every Zero Wing member before her was a Refinement Realm expert. The situation was both unbelievable and frustrating.

"Is this really the Zero Wing we know?"

The situation even shocked Lifeless Thorn and Solitary Nine.

They were very familiar with the power Refinement Realm experts wielded.

First-rate Guilds, which ordinary players thought of as unreachable, would be fortunate to have 10 or so Refinement Realm experts at this stage of the game.

Even after carefully recruiting the best of the best among the Ice Crystal World's Adventurer's Alliance and putting them through countless life-or-death battles, the Asura adventurer team only had a little over 20 Refinement Realm experts. On the other hand, despite remaining in Star-Moon Kingdom and rarely venturing out on dangerous expeditions, Zero Wing had 100 Refinement Realm experts...

For a moment, Lifeless Thorn and the others wondered if they had teleported to the wrong city and were looking at some superpower's main force, not Zero Wing. However, when they saw Shi Feng's familiar figure, as well as Shadow Sword and the others, whom they had previously met, they had no doubt that these were Zero Wing members.

Just what have the commander and his Guildmates been doing? Yan Ya wondered as she gazed at Shi Feng.

When she had lived in the Ice Crystal World, the Matchless Family, a Guild that hadn't even been first-rate, had been colossal to her, not to mention a Guild like Zero Wing, but after adventuring around the various kingdoms and empires on God's Domain's continent, she had learned one thing.

Although Zero Wing might be very powerful, it was only as strong as a first-rate Guild. Across the expansive God's Domain, first-rate Guilds could, at most, lord over a small kingdom. Compared to the various superpowers, a first-rate Guild was nothing.

However, Zero Wing had a team that wasn't any weaker than a superpower's main force...

While Solitary Nine and the other Asura members focused on Zero Wing's Refinement Realm experts, Lifeless Thorn's gaze shifted to Fire Dance, Gentle Snow, and the few others that stood beside Shi Feng. His expression shifted as complex emotions overcame him.

Even if he weren't a match for Shi Feng, Lifeless Thorn had assumed that no other player in Zero Wing could defeat him after he had reached the Flowing Water Realm, yet as he stared at Fire Dance and the others, they felt immensely dangerous. He could tell that they had also reached the Flowing Water Realm, and their combat standards were no weaker than his.

There was also Yan Tianxing and Yi Luoifei. Lifeless Thorn could sense that those two had even greater combat power than his own. They were even stronger than the superpowers' peak experts he had met thus far.

After a moment of silence, Shi Feng swept his gaze across Asura's members and nodded approvingly. He had to admit that Asura's development speed was impressive, and it was now full of talented players. Asura had been faring far better than he had expected.

Although it didn't have the support of a complete Refinement Realm Legacy, Asura had nurtured so many Refinement Realm experts. It was an amazing feat.

Lifeless Thom, in particular, had already reached the peak of the Flowing Water Realm and was only one step away from the Void Realm. Any superpower would try to recruit him at all costs. If he had already reached the Flowing Water Realm without the support of a legacy, he might rise to become a Domain Realm expert with such help in the future, something that even the various superpowers dearly lacked.

"Since everyone's here, let's head out," Shi Feng said.

"Where are we going, commander? We've just arrived in White River City and haven't prepared anything," Solitary Nine asked.

As players who constantly fought on God's Domain's frontlines, they had made it a habit to prepare before heading off to complete a task, regardless of whether they intended to raid a Dungeon or explore a new map. Most of these players had different environments, and players could easily die if they weren't prepared.

"We're going to the Purple Frost Field, and I've already seen to the necessary preparations. Here, distribute these to everyone," Shi Feng said as he revealed a bunch of Master Ice Resistance Potions and Advanced Ice Resistance Armor Kits.

"Purple Frost Field?" Solitary Nine hadn't expected that answer; he had never heard of that place. However, he did not pay it much mind. God's Domain was quite large, after all, and there were many Level 80 maps he hadn't heard of before. He obediently accepted the potions and armor kits Shi Feng handed him.

When Solitary Nine inspected the items, however, his eyes went wide with shock.

Master Ice Resistance Potions were practically impossible to find on the market at this stage of the game. Even if they showed up, they usually sold for at least 60 Gold, yet Shi Feng had handed him 200 bottles. Solitary Nine hadn't even seen the Advanced Ice Resistance Armor Kits before, and when he saw their Attributes, he knew that these items were extraordinarily valuable. One could easily fetch several hundred Gold if they sold the armor kits as a five-piece set.

When Asura's members received their share, they were similarly astonished.

Even superpowers would likely struggle to obtain so many of these precious items, yet Shi Feng handed them out without any hesitation...

Once everyone was ready, Shi Feng instructed Asura's members to use their Black Cloaks and head to the teleportation area. The team then teleported to one of Star-Moon Kingdom's border towns before using Shi Feng's Spatial Gate and their Mounts to traverse the remaining distance. After three teleportations and riding their Mounts for several hours, the team reached a snow-covered field.

This was none other than the Purple Frost Field, a Level 90 to Level 100 neutral map.

As the biting-cold winds assaulted them, the team noticed Level 90 monsters roaming the winter field. Every monster had a humanoid shape made entirely of crystal. Even the weakest of these monsters was a Lord, and they all traveled in groups of 20 to 30, each led by several Great Lords.

[Frost Giant] (Elemental Creature, Lord) Level 90

HP 55,000,000/55,000,000

[Frost Wanderer] (Elemental Creature, Great Lord)

Level 91

HP 120,000,000/120,000,000

Asura's members gasped when they saw these monsters. These monsters were more than 10 levels higher than they were, and with how harsh this map's environment was, their combat power would be limited. Trying to defeat a single group of these monsters would be suicidal.

“Commander, are we really going to explore this place?” Solitary Nine could not help but ask.

He was Asura’s lead MT, but even he doubted that he could hold his own against one Frost Wanderer, not to mention a group of Frost Wanderers and Giants.

“We’re not here to explore. We’re here to kill a Boss,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. He then turned to Cola and said, “Cola, open a path for us! We don’t have a lot of time to waste! The longer we take, the more Stamina we’ll lose to cold.”

“Alright, leave it to us!”

Cola grinned when he heard Shi Feng’s orders. He immediately led Turtledove and Ye Wumina to lure every Frost Wanderer and Frost Giant in the area.

## **Chapter 2238 – Bloodline Lord**

As they watched Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian charge toward three separate groups of frost monsters, Solitary Nine and the other Asura members’ expressions changed.

“Are they insane?” Cleansing Whistle blurted out.

How could Cola and his fellow MTs lure monsters like this?

Even one group of frost monsters was more than enough to annihilate their team. Luring three groups at once was simply suicidal.

Asura's members began to panic, preparing to activate their Berserk Skills to escape this madness at a moment's notice.

They had already spent a long time exploring neutral maps, so they knew that the monsters in these maps would be better coordinated as they reached higher levels. The monsters' individual combat standards would also rise with their levels.

If these monsters hadn't had little-to-no Sills, relying on brute strength in battle, not even a six-man party of Level 80 ordinary players would be able to defeat a single Level 80 Lord.

Not only did the Level 90 Lord ranked Frost Giants have greater combat standards than Level 80 Lords, but they also had higher Basic Attributes. Not even a Level 80 Great Lord was a guaranteed match for a Level 90 Frost Giant. They were an absolute nightmare for current players.

Furthermore, each group had Level 91 Great Lord ranked Frost Wanderers. Each of these monsters likely had high enough Strength to send an MT like Solitary Nine flying. If two Frost Wanderers ganged up on him, not even the healers could save him.

Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian didn't need long to reach their respective targets. The frost monsters noticed the three MTs immediately and responded with deafening roars. The 20-plus Frost Giants immediately moved to surround the MTs, while the spear-wielding Frost Wanderers led the charge against them.

Unlike lower-level monsters, these frost monsters didn't try to attack like an angry mob. Instead, they cooperated like a pack of wolves. Each member of the groups had their own tasks, and they all worked together to cut off any path of retreat for the MTs.

Asura's members gasped as they watched.

"Crap! Are those things still monsters? How is their intellect so high?" Solitary Nine wondered aloud.

The Level 80 Lords they had fought earlier only had slightly higher combat standards than Level 70 Lords, but these Level 90 frost monsters moved like well-trained soldiers. They actually knew how to use strategy to corner their opponents.

Before Asura's members could snap out of their daze, the Frost Wanderers had arrived before Zero Wing's MT trio and brandished their spears.

The Frost Wanderers were six-meter-tall giants, and their frost spears were even longer than they were tall. As the three Frost Wanderers brandished their spears, it looked like they were swinging large tree trunks. Their swings sent snow flying into the air as if these Frost Wanderers were trying to use their environment to attack the MT trio. Solitary Nine, who had been confident about tanking at least one Frost Wanderer by himself, revealed a grim expression when he saw this powerful display.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Three loud explosions echoed throughout the snowy field, yet to everyone's surprise, Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian remained in their original position after receiving the Frost Wanderers' attacks. Although the snowy ground had cracked a little under their feet, each of the MTs had only lost around 5,000 HP.

"They blocked that?" Solitary Nine stared at Cola and his companions in shock.

Even from so far away, Solitary Nine had felt that collision's shockwave, and he had been able to tell how frightening the Frost Wanderers' Strength was based on the intensity of that shockwave. Just one of those attacks would've sent him flying, yet not only had Zero Wing's MT trio held their ground, but they had only lost 5,000 HP, as well.

Cola, in particular, had taken than -3,000 damage. His Strength and Defense were heaven-defying.

The rest of Asura's members were just as stupefied.

Cola and the others had stopped three Level 90 Great Lords, just like that. Their Strength and Defense was unheard-of, even in the Fire Dragon Empire.

Before Asura's members recovered from their daze, Cola and his comrades charged at the Frost Giants that surrounded them.

The three MTs effortlessly broke through the encirclement and lured the three groups of frost monsters toward Shi Feng.

That actually worked?" Cleansing Whistle gaped.

She'd have no way to escape such an encirclement without activating a Berserk Skill, yet Cola and the other two MTs had made it look so easy, simply barreling their way through. Their Strengths were ridiculously high. Not even Lifeless Thorn, who had the highest Strength of any Asura member, would be a match for anyone of those MTs.

“Aqua, get ready to attack!” Shi Feng commanded as he watched the three groups of frost monsters approach.

Nodding, Aqua Rose gave the magical class players behind her their priority targets. As soon as the three monster groups came within 50 yards of Shi Feng, Spells flew at them in rapid succession. Damages exceeding -50,000 immediately appeared above the frost monsters’ heads, and the impact from these Spells forced the monsters to halt their charge.

Aqua Rose, Zhao Yueru, and Violet Cloud’s attacks even managed to stop the Frost Wanderers in their tracks. Zhao Yueru, in particular, had forced a Frost Wanderer to stumble back several steps.

Meanwhile, Zero Wing’s MT trio stopped the few frost monsters that managed to evade the incoming Spells. Once the monsters had been properly herded, Zero Wing’s melee players joined the assault.

The battle progressed in an orderly fashion as the three groups rapidly lost HP, stunning Asura’s members once more.

For a moment, Asura’s players even wondered if these frost monsters were truly high-level monsters.

“How have these people grown so fast? Not only have they reached the Refinement Realm, but their Basic Attributes are also insanely high! Based on their auras, I think my Basic Attributes are only slightly higher after I’ve activated a Berserk Skill,” Yan Ya exclaimed as she watched Zero Wing’s team give these Frost Giants and Wanderers a one-sided beating.

She couldn’t even believe her eyes.

Since they had arrived on God's Domain's continent, the Asura adventurer team had constantly fought the Fire Dragon Empire's many experts, eventually becoming one of the empire's top 10 adventurer teams. Every member of the adventurer team was proud of their development speed.

But compared to Zero Wing's members, their development speed was laughable.

Yan Ya had looked forward to showing Shi Feng the fruits of their labor in the Fire Dragon Empire, but it seemed that they wouldn't get that opportunity. In this map, they'd be nothing more than spectators.

"Hey, I want you guys to attack, too. If we work together, we'll take these monsters down faster," Shi Feng addressed Asura's members, who weren't sure what they should do.

Current players couldn't afford to provoke Level 90 monsters, especially those in the Purple Frost Field. This map was special; not only did it prohibit all forms of teleportation, but these monsters were also quite adept at group combat. Moreover, the Power of Frost these monsters wielded made them difficult to fight in melee combat. If players tried to face these monsters in close quarters, the Power of Frost would corrode their bodies and increase their Stamina and Concentration consumption.

While these Level 90 monsters were a major challenge for other players, they were easy opponents for Zero Wing's main force members. The players on Zero Wing's main force had already reached Level 86 and 87, and every one of them had merged their main weapons with a Casting Goldstone. If one compared their Basic Attributes, these players were already as strong as Level 90 players. Naturally, taking out Level 90 monsters would be relatively easy.

Aside from filling the raid team's slots, Shi Feng had called the Asura's main force members to join them on the Frost Monarch Raid to help power-level them.

The Ice Crystal World was a massive goldmine, and by this point, the various superpowers had already begun to reach into that world and plunder its resources. Contending with these superpowers would be

impossible with the Adventurer's Alliance and Asura's current strength. Shi Feng needed to help them grow stronger.

With Shi Feng's command, Solitary Nine and his comrades regained their senses and moved to join the fray. Although their DPS was a far cry from Zero Wing's main force members, they were still capable of dealing a significant amount.

After nearly 20 minutes, all three frost monster groups had fallen. As the battle reached its end, Asura's members gained a huge chunk to their experience bars, surprised that their current leveling speed was several times faster than normal.

The team continued deeper into the Purple Frost Field for another seven or so hours, during which time, many of Asura's members had gained another level, reaching Level 79. Lifeless Thorn was now only a step away from the Level 80 threshold.

Under Shi Feng's lead, the raid team arrived before a colossal, snowy mountain. A huge cave lay at the foot of the mountain, containing a sleeping, twenty-meter-tall giant with a body made of crystals.

[Frost Monarch (Torre)] (Realm Lord, Bloodline Lord, Mythic) Level 90

HP 960,000,000/960,000,000

When they saw the Frost Monarch's statistics, everyone shuddered.

They didn't react this way due to the Frost Monarch's Mythic rank, but because this World Boss had a total of nine HP bars hovering above its head. In other words, the Frost Monarch was a Level 90 World Boss.

A Bloodline Lord? Even Shi Feng was stunned when he saw the Frost Monarch with his own eyes.

## **Chapter 2239 – Kite’s Strength**

When Shi Feng saw the Frost Monarch’s statistics, his expression revealed both surprise and excitement.

At this stage of the game, most players wouldn’t recognize the term ‘Bloodline Lord.’

To put it simply, Bloodline Lords were the evolved versions of Bloodline Creatures.

In God’s Domain, Bloodline Creatures could only use their Bloodline’s strength on an instinctive level in battle, but Bloodline Lords could fully control their Bloodline, actively using the advantages it provided in combat.

To put it into perspective, a Bloodline Lord was a player that had learned a combat technique, while a Bloodline Creature was a player that hadn’t. Combat techniques allowed players to perform stronger attacks than normal without using Skills or Spells. If two players with similar Basic Attributes faced-off against each other, the player with a combat technique would exhibit drastically higher combat power than the player without.

Although Bloodline Lords were incredibly powerful, they were just as rare in God’s Domain. Mastering a Bloodline was an extremely challenging task. Shi Feng had only heard of Bloodline Lords; he had never actually seen one in person.

Encountering a Bloodline Lord was as dangerous as it was a blessing.

Bloodline Lords commanded incredibly high combat power, akin to kings among monsters of the same rank and level. Fortunately, they were also guaranteed to drop a Bloodline when they died. During Shi Feng's previous life, hunting Bloodline Lords was one of the more reliable ways to obtain Bloodlines.

Even the most common Bloodline was worth as much as a Fragmented Legendary item. Players might not see any significant effects after first using a Bloodline, but as they leveled up, those effects would become more prominent. Eventually, the Bloodline's benefits would evolve from a quantitative transformation into a qualitative transformation.

"Commander, that's a Level 90 World Boss. Is that what we're here to raid?" Solitary Nine nervously asked Shi Feng.

A World Boss!

Even in a massive country like the Fire Dragon Empire, World Bosses were extremely rare. The empire's various superpowers had targeted a few of the World Bosses within their borders, but they had only dared to raid Level 60- plus World Bosses. Even so, they had incurred severe losses during those raids, sacrificing several teams to whittle the Boss down and kill it. None of the Fire Dragon Empire's superpowers had even considered raiding Level 70 World Bosses yet.

And yet, the monster before them was a Level 90 World Boss. This Frost Monarch could likely kill an MT like Solitary Nine in a single hit. He doubted that even Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian could tank the Frost Monarch. After all, there was a full-tier difference between a Great Lord and a Mythic monster. Moreover, the Frost Monarch would be even more of a challenge than an ordinary Mythic monster as a World Boss.

Even Lifeless Thorn turned to stare at Shi Feng.

Although a part of him wanted to raid the Frost Monarch as well, current players had no hope of defeating a Level 90 World Boss. Moreover, it was common knowledge that players couldn't use external items during World Boss raids. Players could not summon powerful monsters or use magic arrays to aid them in battle; any external tools would lose their effects and vanish after use. Players could only rely on their strength to defeat these monsters.

With these restrictions in place, they'd likely need a team of Level 100 players to defeat the Frost Monarch.

"That's right, we're going to raid that Boss," Shi Feng said, smiling when he saw the anxious looks Asura's members were giving him. "A Level 90 World Boss is very powerful, but that is only true for other teams. Our team is an exception."

A Level 90 World Boss was terrifying. Most of God's Domain's players would despair over the Frost Monarch's nearly one billion HP alone. With its battle recovery, the Frost Monarch would recover 9,600,000 HP every five seconds. If a team couldn't deal an average DPS of -2,000,000, the raid would be impossible.

World Boss raids might prohibit external items, but they didn't disallow Personal Guards. Fortunately, Shi Feng just so happened to have a Dark-Gold Guard and an Epic Guard. Moreover, Cola carried a Fragmented Legendary Shield. He should have no problems tanking the Frost Monarch. Overall, Shi Feng was fairly confident in their chances of taking down the Frost Monarch. The only thing that Shi Feng hadn't expected was the Frost Monarch's status as a Bloodline Lord.

However, a monster wouldn't receive a Basic Attribute boost just because it was a Bloodline Lord. They'd simply gain the ability to use combat techniques and could exhibit greater combat power. Hence, completing the raid was still well within the realm of possibility.

Moreover, Shi Feng could not afford to not raid the Frost Monarch. This was one of the few World Bosses that had the highest likelihood of dropping a Bronze Shop Promotion Order. As it was, he couldn't afford the Wanderer's Shop's weekly management fee; he needed that Promotion Order. If he couldn't make the payments and the Shop was repossessed, he'd likely lose the opportunity to own a Wanderer's Shop for the rest of his career in God's Domain. After all, the Wanderer's Shop only appeared at random.

After confirming their target, Shi Feng began to give his team their orders.

"Cola, you'll be the sub-tank later in the raid. I want everyone else to attack with everything you've got," Shi Feng said.

His orders confused both Asura's and Zero Wing's members. They did not understand why Shi Feng had assigned Cola as the sub-tank. Did they have a stronger MT than Cola?

Not bothering to explain, Shi Feng retrieved two Summon Guard Scrolls from his bag and summoned Kite and Anna.

Two figures appeared before the raid team a moment later. One was a Swordsman with two black iron swords, while the other was a staff-wielding Summoner.

"Crap! A Level 95 Swordsman and Level 96 Summoner?!"

Everyone gasped when they saw the Personal Guards' levels.

At this stage of the game, the various superpowers' best Personal Guards had only reached Level 90, and that was after the superpowers had invested astronomical sums of money, allowing their Personal Guards to accept all sorts of high-ranked quests.

Ordinary experts' Personal Guards hadn't even reached Level 85 yet.

When they saw Kite and Anna, Lifeless Thorn and his comrades finally understood why Shi Feng dared to pick a fight with a Level 90 World Boss. Personal Guards were far more powerful than players. At the same Level, a Secret-Silver Guard could slay a Void Realm expert.

If their team had the help of two Level 95-plus peak experts, raiding a Level 90 World Boss would definitely be possible.

However, it was extremely risky to use Personal Guards in a World Boss raid. Unlike players, resurrecting NPCs was incredibly challenging. Not being able to resurrect one's Personal Guards would mean permanent death for these NPCs. If that happened, all of the time and money they had poured into these guards would go down the drain. This was also why the various superpowers didn't even dare to use their Personal Guards in Dungeon or Field Boss raids. The various superpowers treated their high-ranked Personal Guards, in particular, like precious children.

These Personal Guards had yet to reach their full potential. The higher a Personal Guard's rank was, the faster they could level up, and the easier their Tier 3 and 4 promotions would be. Hence, risking a high-ranked Personal Guard's permanent death while they were still Tier 2 was considered atrociously wasteful behavior.

And yet, Shi Feng clearly intended to use his Personal Guards to raid a World Boss. He had to be insane!

Once everyone was in position, Shi Feng commanded Kite to charge at the Frost Monarch with Cola closely behind.

World Bosses had incredibly large perception ranges, and the Frost Monarch noticed Kite from 300 yards away. When it sensed the NPC, the slumbering Mythic monster's eyes opened, glowing with a crimson light. The moment the raid team saw the monster's eyes, they felt chills crawl down their spines. The Frost Monarch's frightening aura even affected its surroundings, and after a moment, purple snow began to drift down from the sky.

The instant the purple snow landed on the players' shoulders, everyone within 1,000 yards of the Frost Monarch felt an intense cold envelop them, and their movements became a little sluggish.

"A group of puny ants has dared to invade my land?! I shall turn you all into ice sculptures to decorate my home for all time!

The Frost Monarch stood and revealed a humanlike sneer. With a wave of its hand, the Frost Monarch summoned a translucent, crystalline spear. Grabbing the weapon, the World Boss threw it at Cola, the spear transforming into a streak of light as it tore space on its way to the Guardian Knight.

So fast! Cola's expression darkened as the attack approached, but by the time he noticed the spear, it was too late to dodge the weapon.

However, as the spear came within 30 yards of Cola, just about to slam into him, a figure appeared before the MT. It was none other than Kite.

Without any hesitation, Kite swung his twin swords at the frost spear. Boom!

As the weapons collided, the ground under Kite's feet caved under the powerful impact, forming a crater that was over two dozen meters wide. As the snow and ice cleared, however, it revealed Kite still standing in his original position, unscathed.

## **Chapter 2240 – Twin Darkmoon Blades**

Solitary Nine and the other Asura members gaped in shock after watching emerge, unharmed, from the Frost Monarch's attack.

"Isn't that Personal Guard a little too strong?!" Cleansing Whistle exclaimed, refocusing on the battle.

Even a Level 90 World Boss's casual attack carried devastating power. Even a Level 100, Tier 3 NPC would have to take care to block such an attack. After all, this was a Mythic ranked World Boss they were talking about. The Frost Monarch's Basic Attributes were even higher than an ordinary Mythic monster's.

However, despite being only a Level 95, Tier 2 Swordsman, Kite had blocked the Frost Monarch's attack without taking any damage ...

"Of all the Fine-Gold Guards I've seen before, none have been strong enough to tank a World Boss. Moreover, this Personal Guard is only five levels higher than the Boss and still at Tier 2. Could it be a Dark-Gold Guard?" Solitary Nine muttered, his heart pounding as he watched Kite stop one of the Frost Monarch's attacks after another.

Throughout his time in the Fire Dragon Empire, Solitary Nine had become familiar with the ranks of the various powers' Personal Guards. It was something that many players paid attention to.

Ordinary players and experts understood that they were no match for the various superpowers' experts. Finding a powerful Personal Guard was the only way they could raise their standings in God's Domain. So long as they nurtured a high-ranked Personal Guard, their Personal Guards could rival, or even surpass, peak experts' strength.

Even the best Personal Guards at this stage of the game were only Fine-Gold rank, and only 30 or so had been found thus far. No one had found a single Dark-Gold Guard in the empire.

Because of this, the general public had assumed that Dark-Gold Guards simply didn't exist.

Yet, Solitary Nine had just learned that Zero Wing had such a Personal Guard.

If news of this spread, it would cause a huge commotion in the Fire Dragon Empire. Even Secret-Silver Guards could surpass peak experts of the same level, and although the public didn't know exactly how powerful Fine-Gold Guards were, they were certain that they could surpass apex experts' strength. Not even two or three apex experts were guaranteed to defeat a single Fine-Gold Guard of the same level.

As for Dark-Gold Guards, their strength was beyond imagining. Many of the Fire Dragon Empire's players assumed that these Personal Guards would be invincible among those of the same level and tier, and as long as one nurtured a Dark-Gold Guard properly, they'd be able to explore God's Domain undeterred.

However, after witnessing Kite's performance, Solitary Nine decided that Dark-Gold Guards were even more powerful than anyone had imagined. Despite being a Level 95, Tier 2 Swordsman, Kite could already contend with a Level 90 Mythic ranked World Boss. The NPC's prowess was simply heaven-defying!

Shi Feng could tell what Asura's members were thinking the moment he saw their shocked expressions. However, he did not bother to explain the situation, only responding with a chuckle and a grin.

Kite was indeed a Dark-Gold Guard, but even among Dark-Gold Guards, he was exceptional. Now that Shi Feng had used Soul Strengthening on the NPC, Kite's combat power had risen, as well. Most importantly, the black iron swords Kite wielded were the Darkmoon Twins, a Fragmented Legendary Weapon Set. It was a set Kite had obtained after completing an Epic Quest in a secret land.

Even if Kite combined the Strength of two attacks, he wouldn't have blocked the Frost Monarch's attacks so easily without the Darkmoon Twins. He would have definitely taken some damage after blocking those attacks.

When Shi Feng had discovered that Kite had obtained the Darkmoon Twins, he had been incredibly jealous, but since the set was reserved for NPCs, he couldn't have used them even if he had taken them from Kite.

With Kite acting as the lead MT, the rest of the raid team moved within 50 yards of the World Boss without issues.

They promptly bombarded the Frost Monarch with attacks.

However, when Kite moved up to the Frost Monarch, the World Boss stopped throwing its spears. Instead, the Frost Monarch wielded its weapon with both hands, sweeping the spear in a horizontal arch against the Personal Guard.

The weapon was as thick and long as a large tree trunk, and the Frost Monarch easily reached targets that were over 20 yards away. As the spear swept across the battlefield, the melee players in its trajectory felt their hearts skip a beat.

The Frost Monarch's long reach made its attacks impossible to dodge.

Moreover, that horizontal sweep carried far more power than the Frost Monarch's ranged attacks. Everyone within 50 yards of the World Boss felt suffocated as the wind the attack generated assaulted them. It felt as if the attack had created a vacuum.

However, Kite moved to intercept the attack before it could strike any of the raid team's players.

Boom!

An explosion shook the battlefield, and Kite stumbled three steps back, a damage of over -230,000 appearing above his head. The Strength in the Frost Monarch's latest attack was obviously much higher than before.

When the team's players saw the damage, they couldn't help but gasp.

Even Cola broke out in cold sweat. If even a Level 95 Personal Guard like Kite took -230,000 damage after successfully blocking the Frost Monarch's attack, he'd die instantly if he tried to do so without activating a Lifesaving Skill.

Of course, the system reduced monsters' damage to a certain degree when they attacked players, but even so, how could any player have higher Strength than Kite?

Good! He blocked it! Shi Feng breathed a sigh of relief when he saw that Kite had only lost a little over 230,000 HP. “Everyone, attack the Boss with everything you’ve got!”

The Frost Monarch was a Bloodline Lord, and it could use that Bloodline to increase the power of its attacks. The thrown frost spears had been a casual attack at best, and now that Kite was within melee range, the Frost Monarch had gotten serious about this battle.

However, the situation was far better from what Shi Feng had expected. Kite had more than 2,000,000 HP, so losing 230,000 HP was well within his tolerance.

Shi Feng’s reminder to attack snapped his teammates out of their daze, and they turned their attention to bombarding the Frost Monarch. The raid team’s Spells and arrows were the first attacks to strike the Frost Monarch’s colossal form.

-34,174.00

-31,647.00

-17,548.00

When these players saw how much damage their attacks dealt, they felt like crying, especially Asura’s members. Although Zero Wing’s members didn’t deal astounding damage, they still dealt over -30,000 with each attack. Asura’s members, on the other hand, dealt less than -20,000 with their attacks. When they normally fought Level 80 monsters, they easily dealt more than -50,000 damage.

The damages they dealt were little more than pelting raindrops to the Frost Monarch...

Fortunately, not everyone's damage was so low. A few attacks were particularly eye-catching, originating from Shi Feng, Fire Dance, Gentle Snow, and Zhao Yueru. Zhao Yueru's fire-type Spells were especially effective, dealing bonus damage. In addition, she forcibly elevated all of her Tier 2 Spells to Tier 3. As a result, every one of her attacks dealt over -150,000 damage to the World Boss. Her overall DPS was even higher than Shi Feng's. Asura's members were thoroughly stunned.

Zhao Yueru was doing the work of 10 Asura members right now...

Even so, the Frost Monarch's HP bar hardly moved.

"Commander! Killing this Boss with our current damage is going to be a problem!" Lifeless Thorn shouted as he watched the Frost Monarch's HP Bar. Even after such a long fight, they hadn't even dropped the World Boss's HP by 1%. At this rate, they'd die from exhaustion before the Frost Monarch could kill them.

Although the raid team's DPS was relatively high, the Frost Monarch's attack range was too vast. Moreover, the Frost Monarch's extraordinary strength did not permit the slightest mistake, since the lightest touch from its spear could kill a player instantly. As a result, the team's players had to allocate much of their attention to dodging the World Boss's attacks, which prevented them from maximizing their DPS.

"We should have a good hold on its aggro by now." Shi Feng was well aware that their team lacked DPS. They were fighting a Level 90 World Boss, after all. How could a half-baked team like theirs deal enough damage to defeat it? Shi Feng then turned to Anna and said, "You can begin!"