

Chapter 2381 – Difference in Foundations

In one of the quiet stone forests in the Cold Spring Forest, a 100-man team was hunting the Level 100-plus monsters residing in a canyon here. In front of this team, the Level 100, Great Lord ranked Three-headed Lizard, which posed a huge problem for the teams of major powers, was not a challenge at all. The team thoroughly suppressed the Great Lord and continuously shaved away at its HP.

“Everyone, put in more effort! The Boss is nearly dead!” a blue-armored man, who looked to be in his thirties, shouted as he blocked an attack from the Three-headed Lizard using his two-handed hammer.

The Three-headed Lizard could launch attacks simultaneously with all three of its heads. Aside from the two MTs in the team blocking two of the lizard’s heads, the hammer-wielding Demonic Fighter was holding his own against the third of the lizard’s heads without losing any ground.

If the experts of the various major powers operating within the Cold Spring Forest were to see this scene, their eyes would most likely fall out of their sockets, because this 100-man team was not a Guild’s, but one made up of independent players.

At this stage of the game, Level 100 neutral maps were still extremely dangerous for players. Even the main force of the various major powers would have a difficult time surviving in a Level 100 neutral map. If they stumbled upon a Level 100 Great Lord, they would try to avoid it as much as possible, since defeating such a monster required quite some time. After all, the longer a battle took to end, the higher the likelihood of the battle attracting nearby monsters. If too many monsters joined the fray, a team-wipe was guaranteed.

This 100-man team, however, had actually taken the initiative to attack a Level 100 Great Lord. Moreover, it was perfectly suppressing the Three-headed Lizard. The team’s strength could practically rival that of the exploration teams of superpowers.

After a few more minutes of battle, the Three-headed Lizard finally lost all its HP and collapsed before the 100-man team, the experience bar of every team member increasing by a sizable chunk. At the same time, a few pieces of sparkling Level 100 equipment dropped around the Three-headed Lizard's corpse.

"Our leveling speed here really is fast. At this rate, I'll reach Level 101 in less than two days."

The leveling speed isn't the most important point. Look at the Attributes of the loot. They're on an entirely different level compared to our Level 95 equipment. If we can get a full set of Level 100 Secret-Silver Equipment, our Attributes will surpass even those of players geared in Level 95 Dark-Gold Set Equipment."

"It's too difficult to obtain Level 100 Secret-Silver Equipment. Normally, only Grand Lords will drop it. Even until now, we've only come across a few Grand Lords, and some of them are too strong for us to raid. Plus, our operation time is very limited. Collecting a full set of Level 100 Secret-Silver Equipment is simply too difficult."

"Zero Wing sure is lucky. It actually managed to transfer Stone Forest City to this place. If our Dark Dragon adventurer team could get a resting spot in a Level 100 neutral map as well, let alone Secret-Silver Equipment, even Level 100 Fine-Gold Equipment would be possible. We could start challenging our Tier 3 Promotion Quests."

When Dark Dragon's members spoke about Stone Forest City, envy filled their eyes. Compared to players that had yet to venture into Level 100 neutral maps, they had a much clearer idea of how valuable a resting spot in a Level 100 neutral map was. However, as Stone Forest City was not open to the public, they could only stare at the city from outside.

"Commander, I heard that Zero Wing has established an adventurer alliance. Silver members in the alliance can enter Stone Forest City. Why don't we negotiate with Zero Wing? With our adventurer team's strength, I believe Zero Wing will be happy to recruit us and promote us into a Silver-ranked adventurer team right away," a Level 100 Dark Cleric said as he looked at the Demonic Fighter leading the team.

Everyone else on the team nodded in agreement with the Dark Cleric's words.

Dark Dragon was one of the famous top adventurer teams of the Demonic Hell World. Dark Dragon might have only 1,000 members or so, but it was fully capable of toppling the main continent's first-rate Guilds. If Dark Dragon decided to join Zero Wing's newly established adventurer alliance, Zero Wing would definitely be more than willing to offer Dark Dragon additional benefits.

"It is indeed inefficient for us to continue like this," Dark Dawn, the commander of Dark Dragon, said after giving the matter some thought. "After this grinding trip, a few of you should go and negotiate with Zero Wing. Say that our bottom line for joining the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance is for us to become a Silver adventurer team. If Zero Wing isn't willing to give us that much, then we can forget about any partnerships."

In Dark Dawn's opinion, the only benefit of joining the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance was the right to enter Stone Forest City. If Dark Dragon's members could not enter Stone Forest City immediately after joining the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance, then there would be no point in seeking membership at all.

Meanwhile, as the Dark Dragon adventurer team's members were resting, explosions resounded, and dazzling lights appeared a short distance away.

"Commander, some players are fighting against each other nearby!" a Ranger that had been monitoring the surroundings suddenly shouted.

"Who are they?" Dark Dawn asked.

“There aren’t many of them. One side is wearing Zero Wing’s emblem, so they should be Zero Wing’s team. As for the other side, I think it’s Starlink’s Hellfire Legion,” the Ranger reported.

“The Hellfire Legion? It seems Zero Wing’s members are in trouble.” Dark Dawn frowned at the mention of the Hellfire Legion.

As an original inhabitant of the Demonic Hell World, Dark Dawn understood just how powerful Starlink’s Hellfire Legion was. The legion’s members all possessed the Demonic Hell World’s special Legacy.

This special Legacy was something all players inhabiting the Demonic Hell World wished to obtain. Unfortunately,

Dark Palace kept a tight grip on the source of this Legacy and would release only a small number to the public. The Dark Dragon adventurer team had paid a steep price and secured merely a dozen or so of these special Legacies. Even so, these special Legacies were already more than enough to let Dark Dragon undergo a qualitative transformation and become a top adventurer team in the Demonic Hell World.

Meanwhile, all 1,000 members of Starlink’s newly established Hellfire Legion actually owned this special Legacy. One could easily imagine how powerful the Hellfire Legion was.

“Commander, should we lend Zero Wing’s members a hand?” the Dark Cleric asked. “If we help them now, our negotiations with Zero Wing should go much more smoothly.”

“No rush. Let’s head over and suss out the situation first,” Dark Dawn replied, shaking his head.

After saying so, he hurriedly led his team to the scene of the battle.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the stone forest, one of Zero Wing's core teams was fending off the Hellfire Legion members' assault while desperately retreating toward Stone Forest City.

"Big Sis Wonder, these people are too strong! At this rate, we won't make it back to Stone Forest City! You should leave us and run!" a female Druid focused on healing said hurriedly when she saw that the members defending the rear of the team kept getting pushed back.

In terms of Basic Attributes and combat standards, the Hellfire Legion's members were superior to them by a large margin. If not for the complex terrain here preventing the scale of the battle from escalating, as well as the few Zero Wing players geared in the Crimson Sunset, their team would've long since suffered annihilation.

However, although they were currently holding off the Hellfire Legion, their deaths were still only a matter of time.

"Don't even think of getting away so easily. We've already placed a tracker on all of you!" Bright Dawn, one of Starlink's Vice Guild Leaders, shouted. He then commanded, "Everyone, make sure none of them leave here alive!"

As soon as Bright Dawn said so, four Void Realm experts from the Hellfire Legion immediately adjusted to prevent Silent Wonder from escaping. Silent Wonder did not have Brilliant Silver with her, so she could rely on only the strengthened Crimson Sunset to do battle. As a result, her advantage over the Hellfire Legion members in terms of Basic Attributes was small. Facing the combined assault of four peak experts, even Silent Wonder had no choice but to focus on evading for now.

While Silent Wonder was occupied, a few Hellfire Legion members used this opportunity to break through Zero Wing's defensive line and charge at Zero Wing's healers.

“Commander, should we make a move?” the Dark Cleric from Dark Dragon asked the Demonic Fighter.

“We don’t stand a chance. That’s a 100-man team from the Hellfire Legion. Even if we join the fight, we’ll only delay the inevitable,” Dark Dawn replied, shaking his head. “Although Zero Wing has Stone Forest City, it still doesn’t stand a chance against Starlink out in the fields.”

The Demonic Hell World’s special Legacy would give a peak expert the strength to contend against an apex expert and possibly even a decisive advantage. Meanwhile, if such peak experts fought in a group, their performance would be even more amazing. Unless Zero Wing’s members gained this special Legacy or its equivalent, they would not stand a chance against the Hellfire Legion members at all.

As Zero Wing’s casualties were increasing, however, a loud hum suddenly came from the sky, immediately attracting everyone’s attention.

When everyone turned to look at the origin of this noise, what entered their sights was a giant crimson vessel made of steel.

Before anyone could react, two dozen figures jumped off the steel ship.

Meanwhile, along with the appearance of these two dozen members, Starlink’s and Dark Dragon’s members all fell into a stunned silence.

Tier 3 players?!

Chapter 2382 – Overwhelming Strength

“Why does Zero Wing have so many Tier 3 players?!”

The distant spectating members of Dark Dragon felt their minds screeching to a halt when they saw the newcomers. Cola and the others were not wearing Black Cloaks, boldly flaunting their Tier 3 life aura. When they jumped off the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship, it was as if two dozen primordial beasts had just dropped from the sky.

Tier 3 was the goal that all experts dreamed of reaching at this point. Even the old monsters of Super Guilds had most likely just started challenging their Tier 3 Promotion Quests. Now, however, Zero Wing revealed that, aside from Black Flame, it had 24 other Tier 3 players.

At this moment, let alone Dark Dragon’s members, even Silent Wonder and the other beleaguered Zero Wing members were stunned by this situation, utterly speechless as they stared at Cola and his companions.

Silent Wonder, in particular, was filled with an indescribable sense of shock. Originally, she thought that she had already seen through Zero Wing’s foundations. She had never imagined that what she saw was merely the tip of the iceberg.

With these additional 24 Tier 3 players, Zero Wing could definitely reign supreme over the entire Cold Spring Forest.

Meanwhile, gloom descended upon Starlink’s members at this sudden development. The imposing aura they exuded before was now nowhere to be found. They also tried to remain as silent as possible, lest they catch the attention of the newcomers.

“You punks from Starlink! Weren’t you guys having fun chasing our people? Why are you stopping now?” Cola demanded, smirking as he retrieved the Titan Shield slung on his back and glancing at the Hellfire Legion members before him.

“Cola, why are you wasting words with them? Since they dare ambush our Guildmates out in the fields, the only outcome awaiting them is death!” Shadow Sword said as he glared coldly at Bright Dawn’s team. “Moreover, the sooner we get rid of them, the sooner we can return. The Guild Leader is still waiting for us to report back to him.”

Upon hearing Shadow Sword’s words, Yan Tianxing and the others nodded in agreement and promptly readied their weapons. They then stalked toward the Hellfire Legion, each step they took making the hearts of the Hellfire Legion members shudder. At the same time, the Hellfire Legion members also started retreating unconsciously.

Vice Guild Leader, what should we do?” the Berserker standing beside Bright Dawn asked anxiously. “Zero Wing has far more Tier 3 players than we anticipated. Our 100-man team can’t handle this.”

The Hellfire Legion had come to the Cold Spring Forest, assuming that Shi Feng would take action against them.

Hence, they decided to hunt for Zero Wing’s members in teams of 100. That way, even if Shi Feng made a move, they could handle him.

Now, however, 24 Tier 3 players had appeared before them.

This was totally different from what they planned!

“Zero Wing!” Bright Dawn gnashed his teeth in anger as he looked at the Tier 3 players. “We don’t have any other choice! Use all the Deification Crystals we have! Everyone else, do your best to escape!”

Even now, Starlink remained considerably fearful of Shi Feng’s existence as a Tier 3 player. Hence, the Guild had specifically assigned 10 Deification Crystals to each of the Hellfire Legion’s 100-man teams. That way, a team could instantly produce 10 Tier 3 players, enough to take down even an expert like Shi Feng easily.

Now, however, their Deification Crystals would only serve to buy time for the others to escape.

After saying so, Bright Dawn and nine other peak experts of the team took out a Deification Crystal from their bags and activated it, instantly raising themselves to Tier 3. Immediately afterward, all 10 of them charged at Cola’s group. They were prepared to pin down Cola and the others to the best of their abilities and allow the rest of their teammates to retreat safely from the area.

“To think that Starlink made such preparations as well... Although Zero Wing is powerful, Starlink is no pushover, either. It seems Zero Wing won’t be able to just swat the Hellfire Legion,” Dark Dawn said, his understanding of superpowers getting refreshed upon seeing Bright Dawn’s team use 10 Deification Crystals.

After Dark Dragon became a top adventurer team in the Demonic Hell World, Dark Dawn had believed that Dark Dragon was superior to the main continent’s various superpowers in terms of peak combatants.

Looking at this scene now, however, that was not the case at all. Even if Dark Dragon’s members had the Demonic Hell World’s special Legacy, the main continent’s superpowers possessed powerful treasures like the Deification Crystal, which could forcibly promote a Tier 2 player into a Tier 3 player for a short period.

“Come!”

Cola revealed an excited expression when he saw Bright Dawn and the others becoming Tier 3 players. He then raised his shield and charged forward all by himself, the confidence he exuded making it seem as if the 10 Tier 3 peak experts before him were no different from Common monsters.

“Coming at us alone?” Bright Dawn sneered at Cola’s recklessness. “If you want to die so badly, we’ll grant your wish! Everyone, get rid of him first!”

Although they were at a numerical disadvantage in terms of Tier 3 experts, every one of them was a true peak expert. This was also the reason why Bright Dawn dared harbor the thought of distracting Cola and the others. Now, Cola was actually charging at their group all alone. Even if Cola was an MT, this was simply suicidal.

After saying so, Bright Dawn swung the Whitebone Greatsword he wielded, the violent aura of death the greatsword released transforming into three ghosts that flew at Cola. Not only did every one of these ghosts carry 120% of Bright Dawn’s Strength, but these ghosts were also akin to doppelgangers; Bright Dawn could control them for 10 seconds.

Tier 3 Undead Knight Skill, Undying Rage!

Aside from Bright Dawn, the two Tier 3 Elementarists positioned behind him also finished casting their Spells. Immediately, pillars of fire descended from the sky, and earth spikes shot up from the ground; these attacks perfectly coordinated with the three ghosts Bright Dawn summoned, thoroughly sealing off Cola’s paths of escape.

This scene dumbfounded both Dark Dragon's members and Silent Wonder's group. The power, rapid execution, and coordination the Hellfire Legion's Tier 3 players displayed were simply inhuman.

Just when the fire pillars and earthen spikes were about to devour Cola, however, Cola released an angry bellow and executed a powerful stomp on the ground. The resulting shockwave shattered some of the approaching earth spikes.

At the same time, he raised the Titan Guard and summoned eight translucent energy shields around himself.

Tier 3 Skill, Heavenly Defense!

In the next moment, the eight energy shields stopped the fire pillars and remaining earth spikes, preventing the attacks from damaging Cola. As for Bright Dawn's three ghosts, despite their frenzied assault, they failed to break through the eight energy shields' defensive net.

"Impossible!"

Bright Dawn gaped at Cola in confusion. He knew about the Heavenly Defense Skill, one of the standard Skills of a Tier 3 Guardian Knight. Many Tier 3 NPC Guardian Knights possessed it. It was not an Invulnerability Skill; the energy shields created carried only 100% of the user's Strength and Defense. In other words, Heavenly Defense was a Skill that provided the user with a more thorough defense. It did not offer any damage reduction effects whatsoever.

Now, however, even after receiving multiple Tier 3 attacks, Cola had actually come out unscathed.

If Shi Feng were present, he would not have found this situation surprising at all. Setting aside the fact that Cola wielded a Fragmented Legendary Shield, his Tier 3 Mana Body alone already allowed him to trample pseudo-Tier 3 players like Bright Dawn.

The Deification Crystal did temporarily promote a player to Tier 3; however, the improvements provided applied only to Skills, Basic Attributes, and physique. The Deification Crystal did not grant players a Tier 3 Mana Body. Meanwhile, without a Tier 3 Mana Body, players couldn't fully exhibit the power of Tier 3 Skills and Spells.

In contrast, Tier 3 Skills and Spells empowered by a Tier 3 Mana Body would manifest drastically stronger effects.

Before Bright Dawn and the other Hellfire Legion peak experts could react to the situation, Cola had already arrived before Bright Dawn and executed Shield Bash.

Sensing the incoming attack, Bright Dawn instinctively raised his Whitebone Sword to block the attack.

Boom!

Upon collision, Bright Dawn felt as if a truck had just rammed him. His entire person went flying backward, his HP falling by over 40,000. The two sides were on entirely different Strength levels.

At this time, Zero Wing's other Tier 3 players had also made a move. Similar to Bright Dawn, the Hellfire Legion's other Tier 3 players were overwhelmed in both raw power and agility. Unable to put up any resistance whatsoever against Zero Wing's members, they rapidly lost HP.

As for the Hellfire Legion's fleeing Tier 2 players, they were like fragile glass before Yan Tianxing, Yi Luofei, and Zhao Yueru. Every attack the trio from Zero Wing executed would reap at least one life. Rather than fighting experts, the trio felt as if they were slaughtering chicken. The difference in strength drove the Hellfire Legion members to despair.

In less than 30 seconds, Zero Wing's members had not only disfigured the surrounding terrain completely but also reduced all 100 Hellfire Legion members into corpses that gradually transformed into particles of light.

Chapter 2383 – Shocking the Continent

Upon seeing the Hellfire Legion members' dissipating corpses, the spectating members of the Dark Dragon adventurer team fell into a daze.

So, these are Tier 3 players? Dark Dawn's heart quaked after seeing Cola and the other Tier 3 experts' performance.

It was no exaggeration to say that fights between Tier 2 players and Tier 3 players were on entirely different levels.

Although Dark Dawn had understood that Tier 2 players couldn't win against Tier 3 players, he had never dreamed that the gap was this massive. Although every member of the Hellfire Legion possessed the Demonic Hell World's special Legacy, none of the Hellfire Legion's Tier 2 players had lasted more than one hit against Zero Wing's Tier 3 players.

The strength of Tier 3 classes completely exceeded Dark Dawn's expectations.

From the fight between the Hellfire Legion and Zero Wing, Dark Dawn could tell that Tier 3 players were superior not just in terms of Basic Attributes but also in reaction speed. A Tier 2 peak expert himself, Dark Dawn could tell that his reaction speed was slower than Cola's and the others' by a heartbeat.

Although the difference wasn't massive by any means, it was still enough to determine whether one could block an attack or not. This difference was why the Hellfire Legion's Tier 2 players failed to block the attacks launched by Zero Wing's Tier 3 players, and ended up getting killed instantly.

After watching the performance of Zero Wing's 24 Tier 3 players, Dark Dawn concluded that even an army of 10,000 Tier 2 experts would suffer annihilation if they tried fighting against these 24 Tier 3 players.

At this moment, the other members of Dark Dragon shared similar thoughts. The frightening power and reaction speed Zero Wing's members displayed simply weren't something that could be overcome with numbers.

While Dark Dragon's members were quietly discussing among themselves, Cola and the others suddenly looked in their direction. This situation frightened Dark Dragon's members, and they very nearly turned around to flee.

"Commander, they're not mistaking us for Starlink's members, right?" the Dark Cleric standing beside Dark Dawn asked worriedly.

Having witnessed the combat power Cola and the others displayed, the Dark Cleric was sure that if Zero Wing's Tier 3 experts took action, then Dark Dragon's 100-man team would definitely share the Hellfire Legion's fate. In fact, the Dark Dragon team might die even more quickly than the Hellfire Legion.

Now that they had already reached Level 100, getting killed even once would pose a significant setback. After all, the amount of EXP required to go from Level 99 to Level 100 was massive. Moreover, the difference in strength between Level 99 and Level 100 players meant they would also miss out on many exploration opportunities.

“I don’t know. We should head over and greet them first,” Dark Dawn replied, shaking his head. He then steeled himself to step forward and take the initiative to greet Zero Wing’s members.

However, by the time Dark Dawn stood up from his hiding place, Cola’s group had already collected the items the Hellfire Legion dropped. They then brought the other Zero Wing members onto the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship and disappeared from the stone forest.

Dark Dragon’s members breathed out a deep sigh of relief.

“They’re actually ignoring us?” Dark Dawn could not help a bitter smile when he saw Cola and the others leaving.

The Dark Dragon adventurer team was an existence that even the expert teams of superpowers feared. However, in the eyes of Cola and the others, Dark Dragon’s members were akin to Common monsters.

However, Dark Dawn also understood the perspective of Zero Wing’s Tier 3 players. Cola and the others possessed the qualifications to look down on the Dark Dragon adventurer team.

At this moment, Dark Dawn regretted his previous hesitation. Had his team moved to help Zero Wing earlier, they might’ve been able to form a close relationship with Zero Wing’s Tier 3 players.

“Commander, they’re gone. Should we head back to the canyon?” the Dark Cleric standing beside Dark Dawn asked. “No, we’re returning to White River City,” Dark Dawn said, shaking his head.

“We’re returning? But we still have plenty of time before we run out of gas,” the Dark Cleric argued. “Returning now will be a huge waste.”

Level 100 neutral maps were quite distant from NPC cities. Even with the help of a Mount, players still took a very long time to reach a Level 100 neutral map. Hence, every team that visited the Cold Spring Forest would endure to their very limits before choosing to return. Their team had spent just half of their expected time in the Cold Spring Forest, yet Dark Dawn was already calling for them to return.

“We’re returning. The sooner, the better. It’ll be best if we can join the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance before news regarding this matter gets exposed,” Dark Dawn said seriously.

Previously, Dark Dawn had still been hesitating over whether he should get Dark Dragon involved in the struggle between Zero Wing and Starlink. After all, the potential risks of siding with Zero Wing were greater than the potential gains. Now, however, he no longer cared about that.

Twenty-four Tier 3 players!

With this many Tier 3 players, Zero Wing could rule over the Cold Spring Forest with an iron fist. The various superpowers would be crazy to pick a fight with Zero Wing here. Not to mention, Zero Wing also had Stone Forest City as its base.

Once news of Zero Wing’s Tier 3 players got out, adventurer teams and experts would definitely flock to the Star- Moon Adventurer Alliance. Hence, Dark Dragon had to join the alliance before that happened and quickly accumulate CPs to raise its position in the alliance. After all, once the demand for the alliance’s CPs increased, acquiring CPs would become more difficult.

The Dark Cleric immediately understood what his commander meant. Following which, Dark Dragon's members hurried back to White River City.

Meanwhile, shortly after the Dark Dragon adventurer team left the Cold Spring Forest, the shocking news that a 100- man team from Starlink's Hellfire Legion got annihilated reached the ears of the various superpowers.

"A 100-man team from the Hellfire Legion got annihilated? Twenty-four Tier 3 players? How is this possible?!" Burning Owl, who was currently raiding a Field Boss, was astonished as he read the report his subordinate just sent him.

Starlink's Hellfire Legion had shocked the various superpowers with its might. Even Burning Owl was not confident that his Heaven Piercer team could survive an encounter with the Hellfire Legion. After all, the Demonic Hell World's special Legacy was no laughing matter.

Now, however, a 100-man team from the Hellfire Legion actually got annihilated?

Moreover, Zero Wing now had an additional 24 Tier 3 players?

Burning Owl could understand how a monster like Shi Feng had come into existence. After all, as the Guild Leader of Zero Wing, Shi Feng could utilize all of his Guild's resources to go on dangerous and rewarding adventures. Hence, his reaching Level 100 and completing his Tier 3 Promotion Quest so quickly was still within the realm of probability.

However, Burning Owl simply couldn't bring himself to believe that aside from Shi Feng, Zero Wing also had 24 more Tier 3 players. After all, even Long Xianglong had just started challenging his Tier 3 Promotion Quest. Burning Owl himself felt unready to take on the challenge.

Shortly after the various superpowers received this information, news of Zero Wing's 24 additional Tier 3 players spread quickly to the ears of the various major powers as well.

"Over 20 Tier 3 players? How did Zero Wing accomplish such a feat?"

"Amazing! Too amazing! Zero Wing is actually patrolling the Cold Spring Forest using its flying ship, combined with those 24 Tier 3 players! Nobody will dare target Zero Wing in the Cold Spring Forest now!"

Aside from the various major powers' members, quite a few independent experts also heard about Zero Wing's recent achievements and were stupefied by this situation. As for the top adventurer teams that were originally planning to attack Zero Wing's members, they gave up on the idea—especially after seeing the mobility of the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship.

After this incident, the number of players seeking to join Zero Wing and the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance skyrocketed.

"Guild Leader! The commanders of many top and well-known adventurer teams have just contacted us. They're hoping that we can increase the variety of rare resources we're accepting so that they can earn more points and get promoted to the Silver rank a little sooner. Some superpowers also want to form a partnership with us in exchange for letting their members enter Stone Forest City," Liang Jing announced excitedly after contacting Shi Feng.

"It seems the actions of Cola's group yielded quite a result," Shi Feng said, chuckling. "How are things coming along with Stone Forest City's private houses?"

Shi Feng had to admit that the deterrent effect of having over 20 Tier 3 players was much greater than just having one Tier 3 player. Now, even the various superpowers that had adopted a wait-and-see approach could no longer sit still.

“It’s done. I’ve already refunded everyone who asked for one. Currently, we have over 12,000 empty private houses available in Stone Forest City,” Liang Jing reported.

“Good. Make an announcement stating that Stone Forest City will not be opened fully to the public. Candlelight will also be holding an auction for the leasing of Stone Forest City’s private houses, and anyone who rents a private house in the city will be able to live in it immediately,” Shi Feng said, smiling.

Shi Feng had set aside the matter of leasing Stone Forest City’s private houses, as the time hadn’t been right. However, now that Cola and the others had completed their Tier 3 Promotion Quest and Zero Wing already had its own Knight Division, including Stone Forest City’s current popularity, it was the perfect time to lease Stone Forest City’s private houses.

Chapter 2384 – Accumulating Advantages

After receiving Shi Feng’s instructions, Liang Jing posted an announcement on the forums, stating that Zero Wing would be leasing Stone Forest City’s private houses.

The moment she published the post on Star-Moon Kingdom’s official forums, the kingdom erupted in an uproar.

Everyone had already learned a little about Stone Forest City through the information Zero Wing's members had leaked. They all came to the conclusion that the city was a haven for leveling resources. Unfortunately, players had been forced to gaze at the city from afar, since it had only been open to Zero Wing's members and the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance's Silver members. However, now that Zero Wing had announced a way for non-members to gain access to the city, how could anyone ignore it??

When they saw the private houses' leasing conditions, however, both the various major powers and the kingdom's independent players gasped.

Stone Forest City's private houses were available for rent, but the Zero Wing was only leasing the houses on a weekly basis, not monthly, and the starting bid for the weekly rent was 30,000 Credits. The price could easily rival the private houses' monthly rent in the Bottomless Abyss.

"Zero Wing is too vicious. Although it's somewhat opening Stone Forest City to the public, only players who rent its private houses will be allowed in the city[!]."

"But this is an opportunity for independent players like us. If we can win a private house in the upcoming auction, we'll have a much easier time leveling up and completing our Tier 3 Promotion Quests."

"Isn't the rent a little too expensive, though? Zero Wing's charging 30,000 Credits per week. How can ordinary players possibly afford that rent?"

Everyone immersed themselves in heated discussions over Zero Wing's latest announcement, and many players considered the private houses starting bid too demanding. None of the independent players that were interested in Stone Forest City's private houses could bring themselves to accept this price.

In contrast, a large number of adventurer teams and Guilds began to apply to join the Candlelight Trading Firm's leasing auction as the news spread. Candlelight's Shops in White River City grew overcrowded as these adventurer teams and Guilds' representatives arrived.

“Are these people mad? We’re talking about 30,000 Credits per week. How much of an advantage could they possibly gain in seven days?” A Level 40 female player new to God’s Domain was confused when she saw the frenzied crowd in the Shop. She wondered if all of God’s Domain’s players had gone crazy.

You’ve only recently joined the game, so you might not realize how valuable Stone Forest City’s private houses are. A player’s leveling speed in a Level 100 neutral map is at least three times that of grinding in a Level 90-plus map. Moreover, Level 100 equipment and resources drop in Level 100 neutral maps. The various superpowers’ teams invest dozens of hours each day traveling to and from these maps just to grind, but if they had a private house in the area, they could teleport directly to the map,” a Level 94 Cursemaner informed the female player. Enviously, he continued, “Moreover, I’ve heard that you can accumulate the Double EXP buff and slightly accelerate your recovery speed while resting inside Stone Forest City’s private houses. All of these benefits can boost your leveling speed.”

If he had had enough money, he would’ve applied to join the auction as well. He wouldn’t have wasted his time slowly earning CPs in the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance, trying to become a Silver member.

Meanwhile, inside one of White River City’s restaurants...

“Elder, Zero Wing has over 20 Tier 3 players now. Even Starlink will be helpless against the Guild in the Cold Spring Forest now,” a handsome man in pitch-black armor reported to Evil Qilin. Anxiously, he asked, “What should we do about the Vice Guild Leader’s command?”

Zero Wing’s foundations had surprised them. With Tier 3 players’ survivability in Level 100 neutral maps, not even 10 Hellfire Legions could affect Zero Wing’s development, much less the current 1,000-man Hellfire Legion.

“We’ve underestimated the Guild. Zero Wing is certainly impressive to nurture so many Tier 3 players so soon. For now, we should settle for renting private houses in Stone Forest City,” Evil Qilin said, frowning as he read the latest report.

Demon Palace only had around two dozen members that were preparing for their Tier 3 Promotion Quest, yet Zero Wing already had that many Tier 3 players...

“Even if we win some, I’m afraid that it won’t be enough...” the handsome youth worried.

Demon Palace ruled over the Demonic Hell World and had a massive number of experts under its command. Even if they rented all of Stone Forest City’s private houses, they wouldn’t satisfy the Guild’s demand.

“We’re not in a hurry. Very few Guild members are capable of challenging their Tier 3 Promotion Quests right now. A few hundred private houses should be enough,” Evil Qilin said, chuckling. “However, this decision will haunt Zero Wing. Since the Guild has opted out of opening Stone Forest City to the public, it won’t last long once the various superpowers’ members complete their Tier 3 Promotion Quests. I can’t wait to see whether or not Zero Wing can hold onto Stone Forest City!”

Evil Qilin only expected Zero Wing to rule over the Cold Spring Forest for a short time. How many experts could the Guild possibly have that could reach Tier 3 so soon compared to the various superpowers? It would only be a matter of time before Zero Wing was left behind.

While the various powers discussed Zero Wing, Shi Feng teleported to one of the Ten Saints Empire’s border towns with Cola and his team. They then boarded the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship and flew to the Demonic Wolf Mountains, another Level 100 neutral map.

The Demonwolf Mountain Range was a forbidden land south of the Ten Saints Empire, and there were rumors that a Ferocious Beast, the Dark Battle Wolf, lived there. Even the Ten Saints Empire, one of God's Domain's Four Great Empires, was afraid of provoking the beast. The Dark Battle Wolf had the strength to rival a Tier 5 Dragon King, a being that could even contend with Tier 6 Gods.

Moreover, a destructive aura enveloped the entire mountain range. Tier 2 players wouldn't survive more than three hours in the area. It was also home to the Dark Wolf race, which had inherited the Dark Battle Wolves Bloodline. They were no weaker than Bloodline Creatures of the same level and tier. During Shi Feng's previous life, not even the various superpowers had dared to venture into the Demonwolf Mountain Range casually.

"Why are we here, Guild Leader? This environment even feels ominous for Tier 3 players. We're not here to grind, are we?" Cola asked nervously as he watched the numerous wolf packs roam the forest below the flying ship.

Since reaching Tier 3, Cola had felt as if he had the strength to toy with Level 100 Great Lords, but when he saw the Three-eyed Demonwolves below, he sensed the threat of death. The Great Lord ranked Three-eyed Demonwolves felt particularly dangerous.

Yan Tianxing and the others felt the same and were just as uncomfortable.

"We're not here to level. These monsters are cheapskates. They give very little EXP and loot. Moreover, those wolves generally move in packs of 500 or more. Even a 100-man, Tier 3 expert team would be dog food here, not to mention our team," Shi Feng said, shaking his head.

"Then, why are we here?" Yan Tianxing repeated the question.

Now that Zero Wing had so many Tier 3 experts, they could raid Level 100 Team Dungeons, yet Shi Feng had brought them to this godforsaken place.

“We’re going to open a portal to the western continent!” Shi Feng answered, chuckling.

If the various superpowers had so many Tier 3 experts under their command right now, they’d definitely start raiding Level 100 Team dungeons or powerful Field Bosses. It was the easiest way to gain more Level 100 weapons and equipment, which would enable more of the Guild’s members to challenge their Tier 3 Promotion Quests, after all.

However, Shi Feng thought that method was too slow for Zero Wing. His Guild didn’t have as many experts as the various superpowers, and if he wanted Zero Wing to grow quickly, he had to expend an abundance of resources. The fastest way to acquire these resources was through trade between the two continents.

Shi Feng hadn’t had the ability to travel to the western continent before, but now that Cola and his team had reached Tier 3, Zero Wing had a chance of opening the portal to the other continent. Naturally, Shi Feng would take advantage of this opportunity.

Chapter 2385 – Western Continent

“A portal to the western continent?”

Yan Tianxing and the others turned to their Guild Leader in astonishment.

God's Domain's various powers were no longer ignorant of the western continent, and a few superpowers had already gained the ability to travel between the two main continents. The resources these superpowers had returned with had made the various powers jealous.

God's Domain's continents had very different cultures. Not only did their developmental directions differ, but each continent had largely different resources. Thus, each continent's players could greatly benefit from the other's resources.

Based on what Yan Tianxing and his comrades knew, players on the western continent had very different daily expenditures than those on the eastern continent.

The eastern continent's players mainly relied on Coins as a currency due to the continent's focus on combat techniques. Naturally, relying on combat techniques in battle placed a huge burden on weapons and equipment, and as a result, players spent a lot of their money on repair fees.

On the western continent, players relied on Magic Crystals more than Coins. The western continent's players focused more on Basic Attributes and Mana use. Thus, they needed Magic Crystals to strengthen themselves and their weapons and equipment.

Of course, Magic Crystals were a rare and precious commodity on both continents, but due to the western continent's developmental direction, Magic Crystals were worth far more there. In contrast, the materials to produce weapons and equipment were much cheaper than on the eastern continent.

If Zero Wing were able to travel between the two continents, it would become a true superpower in no time.

"That's right. I discovered a hidden clue about a Magic Gate here, one that's been passed down since ancient times. As long as we activate the Magic Gate, we'll be able to travel between the continents," Shi Feng said, making up a random excuse to avoid suspicion.

The various superpowers were desperately searching for ways to travel between the continents, but very few had succeeded. It'd be strange if he discovered a portal by chance.

"Is the portal stable, Guild Leader?" Yi Luofei eagerly asked.

When they heard Yi Luofei's question, the rest of the team perked up in curiosity. None of them doubted Shi Feng's word. Players had discovered many of God's Domain's quests and portals through hidden clues. There was nothing strange about one of these clues leading to a portal connected to the two main continents.

Rather, everyone was more curious about whether or not the portal was safe.

If it were a single-use portal, it wouldn't be of much help to Zero Wing. At most, they could make a quick buck by reselling the western continent's resources once. However, if the portal were stable, they could continue to make money until travel between the continents became the norm. The difference between the two would be massive.

"Based on the clue I found, it should be," Shi Feng said. "Unfortunately, we'll only know how large the portal is once we activate it."

The portal they were looking for was stable, or he wouldn't have bothered to travel all the way out here, but since he had never seen or used the portal personally, he didn't know its exact details.

On the eastern continent, the Ten Saints Empire had the most portals that led to the western continent. Based on what Shi Feng knew, there were nearly 10 stable portals in the empire, and among them, the

largest and most stable was under multiple superpowers' control. That was also the portal most players relied on to travel between the continents.

After considering Zero Wing's situation, Shi Feng had decided that the Demonwolf Mountain Range's portal was the best suited for his Guild.

This portal was incredibly stable. During Shi Feng's previous life, a dark power had secretly controlled it. The public had only learned about its existence after travel between the continents had become more commonplace, and the various superpowers had grown to envy the dark power that had controlled this portal.

Shi Feng's answer excited his team. The Guild really wouldn't have to worry about its development if they could secure this portal.

While Shi Feng and his players conversed, the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship reached a frozen lake within the Demonwolf Mountain Range's inner region.

A layer of snow covered the frozen lake, which was so large it could easily contain several cities. If the system map hadn't labeled this area as a lake, players would've likely mistaken it for a snowy plain.

However, before the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship began to descend, the team was overwhelmed by an eerie feeling.

They looked down at the lake, noticing a large number of frozen humans and beasts. The human sculptures all wore the same armor and clothing, and the weakest among them was Tier 3. If the Ten Saints Empire's players saw these human's armor, they would've been shocked.

The armor and clothing those statues wore were that of the Sacred Brilliance Division, one of the Ten Saints Empire's Seven Mythic Knight Divisions. The Seven Mythic Knight Divisions had been the Ten Saints Empire's prided source of apex combat power since ancient times. It was rumored that just one of these Knight Divisions could destroy an entire kingdom.

However, these several thousand Knights stood, frozen, on the lake below. Based on their positions and expressions, it was obvious that these Knights had been frozen before they had even begun to prepare for battle...

Those were several thousand Tier 3 NPCs they were talking about!

Just thinking about the implications of this made Yan Tianxing and his companions shudder.

God's Domain operated on a system of cause and effect. A group of Tier 3 NPCs wouldn't freeze to death for no reason. Something must have attacked these Sacred Brilliance Division Knights.

The scene even dumbfounded Shi Feng. According to his information, there shouldn't be any NPCs here, let alone one of the Seven Mythic Knight Divisions. All he should've needed to do was repair the Magic Gate and protect it from the monsters in the lake.

"Look at that statue, Guild Leader! It seems to be radiating a faint glow!" Blackie said as he pointed at an ice sculpture beneath the flying ship.

Unlike the other frozen Knights, the sculpture Blackie pointed to glowed with a faint, golden light. It was also dressed more luxurious than the rest and gave off a trace of Divine Might. The Divine Might didn't originate from an item, but from the NPC himself.

A Hero!?

Shi Feng was surprised to see the frozen NPC in question.

Heroes were apex beings among the human race, and although everyone knew they existed, meeting a living hero was an extraordinarily rare encounter. Most Heroes had died ages ago and only retained a fraction of their original strength.

And yet, Shi Feng could tell that the frozen Hero below him was still alive.

“Guild Leader, should we check them out?” Blackie asked.

“Let’s go take a look,” Shi Feng agreed after considering the situation.

They didn’t really have a choice. The Magic Gate they were after was sealed under the Hero’s feet. They couldn’t avoid approaching the NPC unless they gave up on the Magic Gate.

Shortly after the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship landed on the lake, a deep, powerful voice addressed the team. “Adventurers, might I trouble you to remove this seal?”

Shi Feng, the team leader, then received a system notification.

Chapter 2386 – Another Inferior Legendary Quest

System: Inferior Legendary Quest, “Last Knight” triggered. You have three minutes to accept the quest or not. You will not be penalized for refusing the quest.

System: If you choose to accept the quest and complete it, you will gain Holy Knight Alba Gray’s favor. Alba Gray’s Favorability of you beyond the corresponding reward will depend on the quest’s completion rate.

System: If you fail to complete the quest, all Basic Attributes will be permanently decreased by 100 points. You will lose five levels, and your Reputation in the Ten Saints Empire will be reduced by 500 points.

The system notifications repeated three times.

He’s Alba Gray?! Shi Feng stared at the frozen, middle-aged man before him in astonishment.

The penalties for failing the quest didn’t particularly surprise him. In fact, for an Inferior Legendary Quest, the penalties were a bit light. Even Epic Quests had more severe consequences for failure.

What truly surprised Shi Feng was the Hero’s name.

Alba Gray!

Every player in Shi Feng's previous life had known this name. Alba Gray had been one of the eight Famed Smiths in the past. Before him, even a talented Grandmaster Forger amounted to nothing.

The various superpowers had gone crazy over Alba Gray in the past because only the Famed Smiths could forge Legendary items. The easiest method of obtaining a suitable Legendary item was to seek the help of a Famed Smith. Relying on players to craft such an item was barely a dream.

Hence, the various superpowers had done everything they could to gain any of the known Famed Smiths' Favorability.

Even Tier 6 God-ranked players would go crazy for a custom-made Legendary Item. They'd even destroy an entire kingdom to get their hands on one.

Unfortunately, gaining a Famed Smith's Favorability was easier said than done. Players would be lucky enough to meet a Famed Smith, much less earn their Favorability. Famed Smiths enjoyed even higher status than Kings, and even the War God's Temple, one of God's Domain's few apex powers, treated such NPCs with great respect.

It was easy to imagine how difficult it would be to earn such an influential individual's Favorability.

Shi Feng had never thought that not only would he meet the legendary Alba Gray here, but he'd even get a chance to earn the NPC's Favorability by simply accepting the quest. If the various superpowers of his past life found out about this, they'd kill him out of jealousy.

Without any hesitation, Shi Feng accepted the Inferior Legendary Quest. He then received another notification stating that his Favorability with Alba Gray had increased by 10 Points. The rest of the team was also notified of the quest.

“Are we really going to challenge this Inferior Legendary Quest?” Blackie asked, worriedly glancing at the Last Knight quest’s rank.

Major powers’ upper echelons, like himself, were very familiar with quests’ difficulties. He was beyond feeling fortunate just because he accepted a high-rank quest.

Great rewards came with great risks in God’s Domain. Many major powers had suffered grievously for accepting high- ranked quests that they couldn’t complete. Some Guilds had even destroyed themselves due to uncompleted quests.

Meanwhile, not only was the Last Knight an Inferior Legendary Quest, but it was also in such a dangerous location. Even with Zero Wing’s 25 Tier 3 players, Blackie wasn’t confident in completing the quest.

The rest of the team was just as concerned. The weakest monster they had seen in the Demonwolf Mountain Range had been a Level 100 Lord, and throughout their journey, they had spotted Level 110-plus Great Lords and Grand Lords. Aside from Shi Feng, they were all new to Tier 3. Furthermore, they had yet to upgrade their weapons and equipment. Just standing in the Demonwolf Mountain Range was incredibly risky for them, let alone trying to complete an Inferior Legendary Quest.

“The quest rewards are incredible. Not accepting it would be a waste,” Shi Feng said, chuckling. He didn’t bother to explain his decision, however. “We’ve already reached Tier 3. Even if we fail and lose five levels, we can earn them back quickly. Enough worrying. Let’s get going.”

The 10 Favorability Points they had just gained were far more valuable than the Basic Attributes and levels they risked losing. Countless superpowers would willingly make such a trade. There were many methods to increasing Basic Attributes, and gaining levels was even easier. Furthermore, if they completed this quest, they’d gain even more Favorability with Alba Gray.

Regardless of the outcome, accepting this quest would only benefit players. Only a fool would reject it.

Shi Feng then approached Alba Gray, and after a moment of thought, the rest of the team saw their Guild Leader's reasoning. Now that they had reached Tier 3, their leveling speed was far faster than Tier 2 players'. Even if they lost five levels, they could recover and maintain their advantage over others relatively easily.

"Lord Hero, may I know what we need to do to remove your seal?" Shi Feng asked Alba Gray.

Unfortunately, my Knight Division came across the Jealous Witch at a bad time, and she cursed us, adventurers. Since my comrades lacked the protection and blessings of the Gods, they died when they were frozen. Although I am protected by the Gods, I cannot fully stop the curse from eroding my body. I ask that you collect some of the Mana the Jealous Witch left behind in this land. I will also need you to stop the Ice Elf, Ulunium, whom the Jealous Witch left to oversee my demise. That will buy me enough time to break free from the curse," Alba Gray mentally relayed.

System: Inferior Legendary Quest, "Last Knight."

Quest content: Collect 1,000 strands of Mana the Jealous Witch left behind in this land to remove Alba Gray's curse. Before removing Alba Gray's curse, you must do all you can to stop the Ice Elf, Ulunium. You have 10 days to complete the quest. The less time you spend completing the quest, the higher the quest's completion rate will be.

Shi Feng's teammate gasped when they saw the quest's contents.

“Crap! This quest is fraudulent!” Blackie’s face twitched as he read the quest details. “Collect 1,000 strands of Mana in 10 days? How are we supposed to do that?”

They were all familiar with the concept of collecting Mana for a quest. Normally, players could complete the task by killing Great Lord rank or higher monsters in a specified location. Although killing Level 100 Great Lords might be easy with their strength, collecting 1,000 Mana strands within 10 days was a joke.

Level 100 Great Lords had incredibly high HP. Even their team would need at least 15 minutes to kill one. Although God’s Domain’s days consisted of 48 hours, they’d have to grind non-stop for five days to complete this quest. To make matters worse, Great Lords only had a chance of dropping the required Mana.

To put it simply, this quest was the system’s way of toying with them.

It’s no wonder why only a few superpowers had earned enough of the Famed Smiths’ Favorability to commission an item. Shi Feng couldn’t help his bitter smile after listening to Alba Gray’s request.

Not even a 100-man, Tier 3 team could complete this quest, especially since players had just recently reached Level 100.

“Guild Leader, we should call in all of the Guild’s experts,” Yan Tianxing suggested.

“That’s not a viable option, I’m afraid,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head.

More help would increase their chances of success, but the Ten Saints Empire was quite far from Star-Moon Kingdom. The teleportation fees alone would be a huge burden on the Guild, and players would

need a long time to travel from the Ten Saints Empire to the Demonwolf Mountain Range. Most importantly, ordinary Tier 2 experts would have no hope of surviving in this forbidden land.

“But at this rate, we won’t be able to complete the quest,” Yan Tianxing insisted. He had considered the same issues with his suggestion, but their team of 25 simply couldn’t slay enough Great Lords within the time limit.

“We’re not completely out of options,” Shi Feng said after giving the matter some thought. “Blackie, contact Melancholic and tell her to gather all of the Secret-Silver Guards I asked her to find in White River City’s Candlelight Trading Firm. I’ll head over right away. While I’m gone, I want the rest of you to collect as many Mana strands as possible.”

He had already instructed Melancholic Smile to locate high Growth Potential Secret-Silver Guards for him. He had even shared all of the clues he knew of with her. He had intended to use Soul Strengthening to upgrade these Secret-Silver Guards to Fine-Gold rank and use them to boost Zero Wing’s combat power. While Secret-Silver Guards could fend off peak experts, they’d be no match for apex experts.

The same couldn’t be said of Fine-Gold Guards, however, especially a full team of them. If they worked together, Fine-Gold Guards could slay Domain Realm experts as easily as playing with children.

“Secret-Silver Guards?” Shi Feng’s order confused Blackie. He didn’t understand why Shi Feng would want a bunch of Secret-Silver Guards, but he did as he was told.

Shi Feng then boarded the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship and left the Demonwolf Mountain Range, which prevented any form of teleportation, in a hurry. Once he was free of the forbidden land, he used a Return Scroll and teleported to White River City’s Candlelight Trading Firm.

Chapter 2387 – Strengthening the Ancient God’s Literature

Fragment White River City, Candlelight Trading Firm:

Compared to the surrounding player-owned Shops and NPC Shops, the Candlelight Trading Firm’s 21-story Shop loomed a giant overseeing the city’s business district. Almost every new visitor to White River City gasped when they saw it. The players that focused on their subclasses gave the magnificent building particularly longing looks.

These players’ reactions weren’t simply because White River City’s Candlelight Trading Firm was a 4-star Shop, but also due to Zero Wing’s latest announcement. All Zero Wing and Candlelight Trading Firm members could purchase a private house in Stone Forest City with their GCPs.

Even the various superpowers hungered after Stone Forest City’s private houses, and because of this announcement, the various major powers’ players envied Zero Wing and Candlelight’s members.

Even a fool would recognize the immeasurable future ahead for Stone Forest City. Although a Level 100 neutral map was very dangerous, there was no doubt that it was an excellent leveling spot for current players. Furthermore, nowhere within God’s Domain’s many kingdoms and empires could match the city’s scenery.

With one of the city’s private houses, one would have bragging rights for life.

Unfortunately, securing a permanent private house in Stone Forest City was easier said than done.

Zero Wing had no intentions of selling its private houses to outsiders, only lease them. Once the lease ended, players would have to bid for the house in another auction.

And yet, as a member of Zero Wing or Candlelight, one could own their own house in the city. Why wouldn't outsiders be jealous?

As Shi Feng made his way toward the Candlelight Trading Firm, his Guild Emblem, that of Zero Wing's core members, attracted many envious looks, even though he hid his appearance and identity with a Black Cloak.

"He's actually a Zero Wing core member? It'd be great if I could get to know him," a Level 96 female Elementalist said, her eyes glowing brightly as she watched Shi Feng pass by.

Nowadays, Zero Wing shone like the midday sun in Star-Moon Kingdom and its several neighboring kingdoms. Even other kingdoms' major powers had to show respect for the Guild. In addition, countless adventurer teams sought to befriend Zero Wing's core members in hopes of gaining some advantage in the Cold Spring Forest.

"Isn't he just a core member? What's so great about that?" a Level 97 male Shield Warrior said in jealousy. "If I were willing to deal with the restrictions, I could join Zero Wing and become a core member, too."

"Even for you, that'd be a challenge," the female Elementalist said, shaking her head at the disgruntled Shield Warrior. "I've heard that since Zero Wing has so many members now, they've raised the requirement for elite members to the middle stage of the Trial Tower's fifth floor. If you wanted to become a core member, you'd have to reach the sixth floor's middle stage at the very least."

At this stage of the game, players only needed to reach the late stage of the Trial Tower's fifth floor to be considered an expert. There was a huge difference between the fifth and sixth floors. Even in well-known adventurer teams, the experts that could reach the sixth floor's middle stage could be counted on one hand.

When he heard the requirement to become a Zero Wing core member, the Level 97 Shield Warrior fell silent. He belonged to a well-known adventurer team from the Black Dragon Empire, and very few of his teammates could reach that stage. He had only recently reached the fifth floor's late stage. He was nowhere strong enough to become a core member in Zero Wing.

We've already raised the core member requirements that high? Shi Feng was similarly surprised when he overheard the conversation.

To ensure that the Guild's core members had enough resources to develop, Zero Wing had limited the number of players that could become core members. The Guild only had limited resources, especially the rarer resources, after all. There simply weren't enough to supply an endless number of members. Of course, exceptions could be made for the players that met the Guild's high standards.

As far as Shi Feng could remember, the minimum requirement to become a core member had been fixed at the early stage of the Trial Tower's sixth floor, with the higher standard of reaching the sixth floor's late stage. If players reached the late stage, they wouldn't have to take part in the core members' monthly elimination competition.

But apparently, the minimum requirement had been raised to the sixth floor's middle stage. It was easy to imagine how many experts had recently joined his Guild. Shi Feng had to admit that using Stone Forest City to promote Zero Wing had been amazingly effective.

Moreover, as time passed, the core membership minimum requirements would become more demanding, and the Guild would acquire even more experts.

Although Shi Feng was pleased with his Guild's development, he felt a little pressured.

More experts meant greater demand for resources. If the Guild failed to meet these experts' needs, it would only be a matter of time before they left the Guild as other powers established towns and cities in Level 100 neutral maps.

Whether or not Zero Wing grew into a superpower would depend on the Guild's income of Coins and resources.

Considering this issue, Shi Feng hurried toward the Candlelight Trading Firm.

Melancholic Smile had already gathered the Secret-Silver Guards she had gone to great lengths to find in one of the top-floor Basic Meditation Rooms. As Shi Feng entered the room, she promptly handed him a detailed list of these Guards.

"Guild Leader, after scouring the various kingdoms and empires, I managed to find 16 Secret-Silver Guards with very high Growth Potential. I've secured other Secret-Silver Guards as well, but their Growth Potential isn't as high," Melancholic Smile awkwardly reported as she gestured to the row of Guards behind her.

Shi Feng had provided her with plenty of clues, and she had utilized the Secret Pavilion's connections to follow them. However, even after so many days of searching, she had only found 16 Secret-Silver Guards that fit Shi Feng's criteria.

"Sixteen?" Shi Feng was ecstatic with her results.

Finding Secret-Silver Guards wasn't easy. They all had a considerably high chance of reaching Tier 4, after all.

Even after ten years in God's Domain, not even first-rate Guilds had been able to afford to take a Tier 4 combatant lightly. Tier 5 and Tier 6 experts were far too rare. As for second- and third-rate Guilds, they had been wise to fear Tier 4 combatants.

Melancholic Smile simply didn't realize how amazing her accomplishment was.

Shi Feng instructed Melancholic Smile to continue her hunt for Secret-Silver Guards with high Growth Potential and materials for the Crimson Dragon Flying Ships. Meanwhile, he snuck the 16 Secret-Silver Guards to the Shop's second basement floor, where the Shop's private warehouse was located. Only the Shop's owner had access to this area.

At Epic rank, the Ancient God's Literature Fragment could only strengthen one Soul per day, but he only had 10 days to complete his Inferior Legendary Quest. At most, he had time to strengthen 9 Secret-Silver Guards. He'd never complete his quest with so few Fine-Gold Guards.

Hence, Shi Feng intended to use the Holy Grail to upgrade the Ancient God's Literature Fragment.

Since the Ancient God's Literature Fragment was bound to his soul, which prevented him from trading it or storing it in a warehouse, he had been afraid of upgrading it. It could also drop if he died. If he lost the Literature Fragment after upgrading it, he would mourn the loss.

However, now that he had risen to Tier 3, he was strong enough to protect himself. Now, the chances of someone killing him were extremely low.

The Ancient God's Literature Fragment's abilities were frightening, and if he could evolve it, it'd become an unimaginable benefit to Zero Wing.

After carefully retrieving the Holy Grail from its shelf, Shi Feng used it to scan the Ancient God's Literature Fragment.

A short moment later, a system notification informed Shi Feng of the Life Force required to evolve the Literature Fragment. He would have to permanently sacrifice 50,000 HP...

So much?! The number took Shi Feng by surprise.

For Tier 2 players, losing 50,000 HP was fatal, and the evolution wasn't even a guaranteed success. If the evolution failed, then he'd lose 50,000 HP for nothing, which was why Shi Feng didn't use the Holy Grail casually.

However, Shi Feng did not consider the issue for long. Compared to the benefits he could gain from upgrading the Ancient God's Literature Fragment, losing 50,000 HP was acceptable. After all, the Ancient God's Literature Fragment wasn't an ordinary Epic item, and he currently had nearly 1,000,000 HP. Fortunately, HP wasn't particularly important for a Swordsman, and Shi Feng knew of many ways in God's Domain to increase his HP permanently.

"Evolve!" Shi Feng growled, gritting his teeth.

As he did, the Holy Grail plundered 50,000 HP from Shi Feng and converted it into purple-blue smoke that enveloped the Ancient God's Literature Fragment.

Suspended in mid-air, the Ancient God's Literature Fragment radiated a golden light as it hungrily devoured the purple-blue smoke.

As the Literature Fragment absorbed more of the smoke, the engraved divine runes sharpened. The surrounding Mana began to flow toward the Literature Fragment, as well.

After 10 seconds of this, the divine runes on the Ancient God's Literature Fragment had completed, fully repaired, and it radiated far stronger Divine Might than before.

What a powerful aura! Shi Feng began to grow excited as he sensed the Literature Fragment's Divine Might.

The strength of the Divine Might meant the Literature Fragment had been upgraded, and the process was a success. Eagerly, Shi Feng clicked to inspect the Ancient God's Literature Fragment.

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

An ancient parchment that has undergone the baptism of time. The divine runes have been fully restored by the Holy Grail and contain unbelievable power.

Summon Heroic Spirit: Sacrifice a portion of the user's soul to summon 18 ancient Heroic Warriors to do battle. The summoned Heroic Warriors will be one tier higher than the user up to Tier 3.

Duration: 12 hours

Cooldown: 3 natural days

(A Weakened Soul cannot conduct the summoning.)

Skill 2-

Soul Absorption: Absorbs the souls of half-dead creatures for a high chance to generate a drop of Soul Essence. Cooldown: 3 hours

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

Skill 3-

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

Cooldown: 3 hours

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

Skill 4-

Divine Resonance: Automatically detects any Ancient God's Literature Fragments within a 1,000-yard radius.

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

Why is it still Epic rank? Shi Feng was confused when he saw the Ancient God's Literature Fragment's statistics.

In terms of abilities, the upgraded Ancient God's Literature Fragment was stronger than some of the Fragmented Legendary items Shi Feng had seen. In fact, if the various superpowers found out about the Literature Fragment's current abilities, they'd likely offer to trade several Fragmented Legendary items for it.

Yet, despite such abilities, the Ancient God's Literature Fragment was still an Epic item. It was unbelievable.

Sure enough, I'll need to collect more fragments if I want to upgrade its rank, Shi Feng concluded.

The Ancient God's Literature was a divine tome, which numerous Ancient Gods had written. It had the power to decimate the heavens and earth. Trying to upgrade a single fragment to Fragmented Legendary rank was simply unrealistic.

However, Shi Feng was satisfied with the results.

With the minor strengthening, the Literature Fragment's Summon Heroic Spirit Skill had massively improved. The Skill was enough to make him a one-man army. Furthermore, Soul Absorption and Soul Strengthening's Cooldowns had shortened significantly. Every one of the changes had exceeded Shi Feng's expectations.

Most importantly, his Ancient God's Literature Fragment now had the ability to locate other fragments within range. This effect would make it much easier to compile the fragments. If he could complete the tome, the Ancient God's Literature would benefit the Guild far more than four or five more Fragmented Legendary items.

Following which, Shi Feng stored the Holy Grail and turned to face the Secret-Silver Guards behind him.

These Secret-Silver Guards weren't like monsters like Anna and Kite. Each only needed three drops of Soul Essence for their first Soul Strengthening. Fortunately, Shi Feng had collected over 100 drops, so he could strengthen all 16 Secret-Silver Guards at least once. With 16 Fine-Gold Guards and Anna and Kite's strength, he could move through the Demonwolf Mountain Range unhindered.

Shi Feng wasted no time as he began to chant the Soul Strengthening's incantation and target the Elementalist before him.

A fivefold magic array, one far stronger than the one that had appeared when Shi Feng had strengthened Kite's soul, immediately appeared under the Elementalist's feet. The array even absorbed Mana from its surroundings and the void at least three times faster than it had with Kite.

Very quickly, a fist-sized ball of Liquid Mana appeared before the Elementalist. This ball of Mana melted into the Elementalist's forehead, and the Secret-Silver Guard released a bone-piercing howl.

Although the Elementalist was in pain, Shi Feng could clearly sense the Guard's aura rapidly growing stronger.

This excruciating process continued for five seconds. By the time the ball of Liquid Mana and the Elementalist had merged completely, the Elementalist felt like a completely different person.

To Shi Feng, the Level 103, Tier 3 Great Mage had only felt slightly threatening, but now, even he'd have to tread carefully in a fight with this NPC.

This NPC improved so drastically?! Shi Feng could not believe his eyes when he saw the Great Mage's statistics.

Previously, the Great Mage had only had 78 Growth Potential, which was considerably high for a Secret-Silver Guard. Secret-Silver Guard's Growth Potential only ranged between 71 and 80, and this Great Mage had only been three points away from Fine-Gold rank.

When Shi Feng used Soul Strengthening on Kite, the NPC's Growth Potential had only risen by two points. While Shi Feng had expected a greater increase for a Secret-Silver Guard, he had only expected a three- or four-point increase at best.

However, the Great Mage's Growth Potential had risen by five points, to 83. The Great Mage had crossed the Fine-Gold threshold and more.

Every additional point of Growth Potential was significant to Personal Guards. At 83, a Personal Guard could perfectly suppress an apex expert of the same level and tier.

Shi Feng couldn't help his growing excitement.

With the Ancient God's Literature Fragment's new strength, he could even elevate Secret-Silver Guards with 76 Growth Potential to Fine-Gold rank. Now, Zero Wing could amass a small army of Fine-Gold Guards.

Shi Feng immediately contacted Melancholic Smile and had her send him the Guild's Secret-Silver Guards with at least 76 Growth Potential to the Basic Meditation Room on the top floor.

"Guild Leader, those guards are currently protecting Silverwing Town. I'm afraid that I'll need some time to find temporary replacements and recall them all to White River City," Melancholic Smile said.

Of the Secret-Silver Guards she had found, she had ordered those that met Shi Feng's requirements to stand guard in White River City. She had sent the rest to defend Silverwing Town in the meantime. Secret-Silver Guards had incredible combat power, and once they reached Level 100, they could complete their promotion to Tier 3. They were an excellent deterrent in the chaotic Ore Empire.

"Don't worry about it. Just recall them all here," Shi Feng said. He did not mind waiting. The upgraded Soul Strengthening still had a 3-hour Cooldown, and it would take a full, natural day to strengthen the 16 Secret-Silver Guards before him.

"Alright, I'll start making the necessary arrangements," Melancholic Smile said, not giving the matter much thought. She then contacted the core members that owned the Secret-Silver Guards in question.

Chapter 2389 – Fine-Gold Team

While Shi Feng waited quietly for Silverwing Town's Secret-Silver Guards to arrive in the top-floor Basic Meditation room, Liang Jing contacted him.

"Guild Leader, we've got trouble in the Dark Night Empire!" Liang Jing exclaimed.

"The Dark Night Empire? What's happened?" Shi Feng asked when he saw Liang Jing's anxious expression.

Although Zero Wing hadn't been developing in the Dark Night Empire for long, it had received help from Unyielding Soul. Because of that, both Zero Wing's strength and the Candlelight Trading Firm's business had been progressing relatively smoothly, and thanks to Stone Forest City, more of the empire's experts sought to join Zero Wing.

Moreover, Starlink hadn't been able to do anything drastic against Zero Wing for fear of unexpected attacks from Unyielding Soul and Crimson Emperor. Hence, Zero Wing's branch in the Dark Night Empire was booming.

"Starlink has established a city at the Gloomy Hills, a map near the Gloomy Ruin, a Level 100 neutral map. Moreover, Starlink has announced that it is opening the city to all of its adventurer alliances' members. Many of the empire's experts are siding with Starlink because of this, and some experts and adventurer teams that had been thinking of joining the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance have changed their minds," Liang Jing explained. "In addition, the Dark Night Empire's various major powers have started to side with Starlink. Even Crimson Emperor is considering a partnership.

"Starlink has also announced that it will lease its new city's private houses with a starting bid of only 10,000 Credits per week. Even many of Star-Moon Kingdom's major powers and adventurer teams have been discussing the idea of shifting their development to the Dark Night Empire."

The fact that Unyielding Soul and Crimson Emperor held Starlink back was a large part of the reason for Zero Wing's survival in the Dark Night Empire. In addition, the Dark Night Empire's various major powers

had sided with Zero Wing to keep Starlink in check. Hence, the most Starlink had been able to do was pressure Zero Wing's territory in the empire.

However, if Crimson Emperor and the various major powers sided with Starlink, the Zero Wing's members in the empire would be in danger. Furthermore, now that Starlink had a city in the Gloomy Hills, Zero Wing's experts couldn't operate in the Level 90-plus resource map. Needless to say, this also made it impossible for the Guild members to reach the Gloomy Ruin.

And with Starlink's bounty still in effect, a large number of independent experts and adventurer teams would target Zero Wing's members.

If this persisted, it wouldn't be long before Zero Wing could no longer survive in the Dark Night Empire.

Zero Wing had already grown to a substantial size, and there were only so many high-level maps in each country. The high-level maps available around Star-Moon Kingdom weren't enough to fulfill Zero Wing's needs.

Although the Cold Spring Forest was rich in resources, very few Guild members were strong enough to grind in a Level 100 neutral map right now. At this stage of the game, a grinding team would need a peak expert to lead it if it wanted to survive in such an area. Unfortunately, unlike the various superpowers, Zero Wing only had a small number of peak experts. The majority of the Guild's players would still need some time to grind in Level 90-plus maps.

"Starlink wants to gather both manpower and resources?" Shi Feng had a rough idea of what the enemy Guild planned after listening to Liang Jing's report.

Starlink's new city might not be as impressive as Stone Forest City, but it was near a Level 100 neutral map. It would also be quite useful to players who wanted to explore the Gloomy Ruin, and Starlink was

accepting far cheaper rent for the private houses in its new city. It was enough to tempt many players. However, this wasn't good news for Zero Wing, which needed Credits and resources.

"What should we do, Guild Leader? At this rate, not only will we earn less income from our private houses, but more experts will target our Guild members as well," Liang Jing said.

The opportunity to enter Stone Forest City was a large part of the reason that the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance had attracted so many experts, but only Silver and higher ranked members could take advantage of that opportunity. On the other hand, Starlink gave all of its adventurer alliances' members access to its new city. Naturally, this would make the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance less attractive to independent experts. Starlink's adventurer alliances would also gain more independent experts to target Zero Wing's members.

"Lu Xingluo is sacrificing his new Guild City just to deal with us? I guess he really wants this to be a fight to the death," Shi Feng said, frowning. "Since he wants a war of resources, I'll play with him until he's satisfied. Make the arrangements. From now on, half the number of CPs required to become a Silver member in the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance, and we'll hold auctions for the Crimson Sunsets. However, only Silver members and above will be allowed to participate, and the starting bid will be 30,000 Magic Crystals and 10,000 Gold!"

"We're auctioning the Crimson Sunsets?" Liang Jing could not help but gasp. "But Guild Leader, those are a part of our Guild's foundation. Our Guild members also need those to survive in Level 100 neutral maps. If we sell the Crimson Sunsets..."

Nothing was more important than one's strength to the various powers and players. If the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance auctioned off the Crimson Sunsets to its members, there was no doubt that experts and adventurer teams would swarm to join the alliance.

However, the Crimson Sunsets were an advantage Zero Wing's members needed over other players. If they auctioned the Crimson Sunsets to the public, they'd only help other players rapidly improve, which wouldn't benefit Zero Wing's development.

“It’s fine. The Crimson Sunset might be valuable, but it is still a Consumable. Moreover, as players reach higher levels, it’ll become less valuable. Since the various superpowers’ experts have started to reach Level 100, this is the perfect opportunity to sell the sets,” Shi Feng said, chuckling.

Before this, he would’ve hesitated to make such a decision, but he didn’t mind now. Now, he had an even stronger trump card to assure Zero Wing’s advantage in the Cold Spring Forest.

The Ancient God’s Literature Fragment!

With so many Fine-Gold Guards, Zero Wing wouldn’t have to worry about the various superpowers’ peak experts.

Giving the matter some thought, Liang Jing agreed with Shi Feng. Besides, Zero Wing didn’t have a better option to stop Starlink from poaching its potential members. She disconnected the call and immediately saw to Shi Feng’s orders, publishing a public announcement regarding the Crimson Sunsets’ auction on the notice boards in the Star- Moon Adventurer Alliance’s Residences.

When players noticed the announcement, it caused a sensation throughout the adventurer alliance.

“Crap! Zero Wing is too amazing! A Tier 2 Mana Set Equipment!”

“If I had a Crimson Sunset, I could challenge my Tier 3 Promotion Quest right away!”

The Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance's members were astonished when they saw the Crimson Sunset's Attributes. None of them had ever thought that Zero Wing would have such powerful equipment. The experts and adventurer teams that had considered joining Starlink's adventurer alliances changed their minds instantly. Some that had even joined Starlink's adventurer alliances already made their way to the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance after learning about the Crimson Sunsets.

Of course, the various large Guilds were just as stunned.

"Is Zero Wing insane? It's actually selling Mana Set Equipment?"

"Zero Wing is probably panicking. Starlink's new city has dealt quite a blow, after all."

These large Guilds all thought Zero Wing was foolish to sell the Crimson Sunsets. The Guild was practically throwing away a huge advantage. Selling the Crimson Sunset might alleviate Zero Wing's current problems, but it wouldn't benefit the Guild in the long run. Moreover, once the Crimson Sunsets were no longer useful, the various adventurer teams and independent experts would return to Starlink's side.

While everyone discussed the Mana Set Equipment, Shi Feng visited his Special Forging Room to produce more of them while he waited for the Soul Strengthening's Cooldown to end.

Before long, all 12 Secret-Silver Guards with 76 Growth Potential arrived in White River City's Candlelight Trading Firm. Including the 16 Secret-Silver Guards he already had, Zero Wing would have 28 more Fine-Gold Guards in its ranks once he finished strengthening them all. Even 28 Secret-Silver Guards would be more than enough combat power for a Guild to rule a Level 100 neutral map with an iron fist, not to mention 28 Fine-Gold Guards.

After nearly two days, Shi Feng had finally strengthened all of the 28 Secret-Silver Guards. The smallest improvement had still been a 5-point Growth Potential increase, while the largest had been a 7-point

increase, rising from 79 to 86 Growth Potential. Even among Fine-Gold Guards, 86 Growth Potential was incredibly rare.

Twenty-eight Fine-Gold Personal Guards. If the various superpowers of my past knew about this, they'd go mad. Shi Feng sighed ruefully as he gazed at the two rows of Personal Guards before him.

If he had had so many Fine-Gold Guards under his command during his previous life, he wouldn't have even been afraid of standing up to superpowers, let alone first-rate Guilds. Fine-Gold Guards were exceptionally rare in God's Domain, and every one of them had the potential to reach Tier 5. If they were provided enough resources, Fine-Gold Guards could have up to a 40% chance of completing their promotion to Tier 5.

Even among the various superpowers, Tier 5 combatants were apex beings. Every one of them was a priceless treasure.

Of course, Tier 5 NPCs were even stronger than Tier 5 players. To suppress a single Tier 5 NPC, one would need several players of the same tier.

And now, he had 28 Fine-Gold Guards standing before him, waiting for his commands!

Chapter 2390 _ Powerful Guard Team

Ten Saints Empire, Demonwolf Mountain Range:

After nearly two days of fervent work, Shi Feng had produced 50 Crimson Sunsets. When he handed them to Liang Jing, he instructed her to keep 20 sets to gradually auction off in the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance, while the rest would be given to Zero Wing's core members. These core members would lead their own grinding teams in the Cold Spring Forest, helping to alleviate the lack of manpower in that area.

Shi Feng had taken a break from crafting the Advanced Mana Set Equipment after giving his new stock to Liang Jing, and he had made his way back to the Demonwolf Mountain Range with his 28 newly-upgraded Fine-Gold Guards.

Although the Crimson Sunset would help resolve Zero Wing's need for manpower in the Cold Spring Forest, it was a temporary solution. Moreover, Shi Feng was the only person capable of producing the Crimson Sunsets, and he couldn't forge enough of them for Zero Wing's members to secure a firm foothold in the Cold Spring Forest. He needed to take care of the root of this problem.

The simplest method to do so was to secure a portal to the western continent and acquire a large amount of the western continent's resources.

Crafting Level 100-plus weapons and equipment in God's Domain was an arduous task, especially for Secret-Silver rank and above. The required materials were very rare, and obtaining them in bulk was a major challenge.

However, through their research, the forgers of Shi Feng's previous life had discovered that they could replace some of the rare materials the eastern continent's forgers needed to craft Level 100-plus Secret-Silver and better weapons and equipment with some of the western continent's specialty materials. Likewise, some of the eastern continent's specialty materials could replace some of the materials the western continent's forgers needed.

Not only had this discovery allowed the superpowers that could travel between the continents to earn tons of resources and Coins, but they had also been able to acquire Level 100-plus weapons and equipment far sooner than their competitors.

Since the various superpowers that had access to intercontinental travel had yet to realize this and were simply using their advantage to earn resources and Coins, Shi Feng had to strike while the iron was hot. If he waited until these superpowers learned this secret, it'd become far more challenging to purchase the western continent's specialty materials in bulk.

These specialty materials were essential to crafting Level 100-plus weapons and equipment at Secret-Silver rank and higher, and if this secret got out, the various powers would try to collect and hoard the materials, rather than sell them.

If Shi Feng waited too long, he'd only be able to purchase materials from independent players and adventurer teams, which would limit his collection rate.

After piloting the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship through the Demonwolf Mountain Range's outer region for about 15 minutes, Shi Feng finally located Cola and his team, who were engaged in a battle against several hundred Battlewolves. After the past two days of grinding in the mountain range, Cola and the others had risen to Level 101. If the various Tier 2 experts heard that this team could gain a full level every two days, they'd be incredibly jealous.

However, Cola and his team weren't having an easy time against these Battlewolves, especially as they fought the alphas, the Two-Headed Battlewolves.

[Two-headed Battlewolf] (Demonic Creature, Great Lord) Level 108

HP 270,000,000/270,000,000

Although the Two-headed Battlewolves had average HP for monsters of their rank and level, these monsters possessed the Dark Battlewolf's Bloodline. Their Defense and Agility were just as high as actual Bloodline Creatures, and their combat standards were on par with the Trial Tower's fifth floor. If a Tier 2 peak expert tried to take on a Two-headed Battlewolf, they wouldn't last more than a few exchanges.

Furthermore, the Demonwolf Mountain Range's wolves tended to move in packs of 300 to 400, and around two dozen Two-headed Battlewolves led each pack. Although the rest of the Battlewolves were only Lord ranked monsters, they could even pose a threat to Tier 3 players when a dozen of them worked together.

Although Cola and his companions had reached Tier 3, they still had to be careful, or members of the team would fall. The team had yet to upgrade their weapons and equipment and had to rely on their Epic Weapons and Equipment to support them in the fight.

If Cola and his team had Tier 3 standard equipment, they'd have no issues taking a pack of Battlewolves out.

"Check it out! The Guild Leader is back!" Blackie was excited when he noticed the approaching Crimson Dragon Flying Ship.

With only 24 players, their team had faced plenty of trouble while fighting these Battlewolves over the past two days. Not even the magical class players' powerful AOE attacks could alleviate the pressure.

These Battlewolves were too smart. Once they sensed a player casting an AOE Spell, they split up, preventing the Spell from hitting too many of them.

But if Shi Feng joined the battle, the Battlewolves would be much easier to defeat.

As the team members looked up at the flying ship, they saw over two dozen figures jump from the ship's deck. Every one of those figures' frightening auras made Cola and his companions' hearts skip a beat.

"NPCs?"

"How are these NPCs so strong?"

The team was shocked and confused as they stared at the Tier 3 NPCs that had disembarked.

The idea of challenging ordinary Tier 3 NPCs no longer fazed them now that they were Tier 3, as well. They had superior combat standards, after all.

However, even Yan Tianxing shuddered when he saw the 28 Tier 3 NPCs that had jumped from the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship. His instincts even warned him to flee.

Before Cola and his companions could react, the Personal Guards charged at the surrounding Battlewolves.

Taking the lead, the dozen or so melee NPCs dispersed the crowding wolves with their charge instantly. They even sent the Great Lord ranked Two-headed Battlewolves flying. The magical class NPCs then followed with a round of Spells, each dealing over -1,000,000 damage.

The Lord ranked Battlewolves lost one-third of their HPs in that single bombardment, while the Great Lords had lost one-tenth of their HPs. The ferocity of the Fine-Gold Guards' attacks easily outshone Yi Luofei's, a Tier 3 magical class player.

After about three minutes, the 300-plus Lord ranked Battlewolves and 20-plus Great Lord ranked Two-headed Battlewolves had been slain, leaving only a bunch of items behind.

Cola and the others were dumbfounded.

Normally, they needed over an hour to defeat a Battlewolf pack, yet these 28 NPCs had done so in three minutes. The difference between their combat power was massive.

From his position on the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship, Shi Feng leveled from 104 to 105 after the battle ended, crossing the first minor threshold after Level 100.

“Where did you find so many powerful NPCs, Guild Leader?” Cola asked once Shi Feng had descended from the flying ship.

Yan Tianxing and the others were just as curious, waiting for Shi Feng’s reply.

An ordinary Tier 3 NPC could serve as a small city’s Magistrate in God’s Domain, yet Shi Feng had managed to employ so many of them, and every one of them was extraordinarily strong.

From what Cola and the others could tell, five or six of these NPCs would be more than enough to annihilate their team of 24. If they had these 28 NPCs help, they could explore the Demonwolf Mountain Range without issue.

“How could I possibly afford the help of Tier 3 NPCs? These are our Guild’s Personal Guards,” Shi Feng said, chuckling.

“Personal Guards?” The explanation stunned Yan Tianxing. “How is that possible?! Not even Tier 3 Personal Guards can be this powerful!”

Yan Tianxing had encountered the Guild’s Tier 3 Personal Guards before, and he had been confident of putting up a fight against the Guild’s Tier 3 Secret-Silver Guards. If he faced any of the Personal Guards standing behind Shi Feng, however, he’d be able to do nothing but flee.

“Of course, these aren’t ordinary Tier 3 Personal Guards. They are all Fine-Gold Guards,” Shi Feng continued with a grin.