

Chapter 2391 – Pioneering Benefit

“Fine-Gold Guards!?”

“These are all Fine-Gold Guards?!”

Cola and the others gasped and stared with wide eyes at the 28 Personal Guards behind Shi Feng.

They all knew how rare Fine-Gold Guards were. Not even some first-rate Guilds had a single Fine-Gold Guard at this stage of the game, and at most, the various superpowers had one or two.

The various superpowers treated their Fine-Gold Guards like family heirlooms, and when these Personal Guards reached Tier 3, they'd be treated as a part of the Guild's foundation. Fine-Gold Guards were incredibly powerful. Even at Tier 2, they could suppress Tier 2 apex experts of the same level, and they'd only grow stronger at Tier 3.

And yet, Shi Feng informed them that the 28 Personal Guards behind him were all Fine-Gold rank...

“You're too vicious, Guild Leader. If we stationed these Fine-Gold Guards in the Cold Spring Forest, they'd likely frighten the various superpowers to death,” Blackie said, his eyes glowing as he gazed at the Fine-Gold Guards.

Compared to the various superpowers' shock when they had found out that these players had reached Tier 3, the fact that Zero Wing had 28 Fine-Gold Guards would be devastating.

Every one of these Tier 3 Fine-Gold Guards had even greater combat power than Tier 3 apex experts. In fact, one of these Fine-Gold Guards could take on two apex experts at once. Needless to say, these Fine-Gold Guards would easily overwhelm peak experts. Now that Zero Wing had so many Fine-Gold Guards, the various superpowers would have to seriously consider the potential losses before moving against Zero Wing, even when their experts reached Tier 3.

“Alright, let’s focus on completing the quest,” Shi Feng said, chuckling.

These 28 Fine-Gold Guards might deter the various superpowers from attacking, but if Zero Wing wanted to become truly powerful, it would need to rely on players and resources. There were limits to what a Personal Guard could accomplish, after all.

“Right! Our quest! With these 28 Fine-Gold Guards, we can now raid the wolf dens we avoided earlier!” Cola exclaimed.

Their team had only dared to attack the Battlewolves in the outer region, one pack at a time, but now that they had 28 Fine-Gold Guards to help, they could raid the Battlewolves’ dens. Not only could they collect the Mana strands more quickly, but their leveling speed would also skyrocket.

“No, we’re not going to the dens. We’ll move to the Demonwolf Mountain Range’s inner area,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head as he gestured to the mountains in the distance.

There were a lot of Battlewolves in the Demonwolf Mountain Range’s outer region, but very few of these monsters were Great Lords or higher. Even with the Fine-Gold Guards, they wouldn’t be able to collect the necessary Mana strands fast enough. They’d be cutting it close if they stayed in the outer region. The inner region might be more dangerous, but there were far more Great Lords available in the area, which would allow the team to collect Mana strands far more quickly.

“Guild Leader, the inner region is full of Level 110-plus monsters, including plenty of Great Lords and Mythic monsters,” Yan Tianxing said worriedly.

Monsters gained a significant Basic Attribute boost with each level after Level 100, and the monsters in the Demonwolf Mountain Range had even greater combat standards than their counterparts in other areas of God’s Domain.

If their team accidentally encountered a Level 110-plus Mythic monster in the inner region, they’d risk annihilation, even if they had the help of 28 Fine-Gold Guards. They had only recently reached Level 101, and the Personal Guards, on average, were only Level 103, with a few at Level 104.

“Relax. We’re only going to explore the border between the inner and outer regions,” Shi Feng said. “Besides, we don’t just have 28 Fine-Gold Guards on our side.”

To prove his point, Shi Feng pulled two Summon Guard Scrolls from his bag and summoned Kite and Anna.

After questing on their own for a while, Kite and Anna had reached Level 108 and 109, respectively. They were only slightly lower-leveled than the monsters in the Demonwolf Mountain Range’s inner region.

The team relaxed when they saw Kite and Anna’s levels. Although neither of the NPCs had crossed the Level 110 threshold, they all knew how powerful these two were. Both had Dark-Gold rank Growth Potential and were far more powerful than the Fine-Gold Guards. With the 30 Personal Guards, the team was fully capable of raiding Level 110-plus Grand Lords.

Following which, the team climbed aboard the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship and made their way toward the Demonwolf Mountain Range's inner region.

A white mist and constant snowstorms bombarded the inner region throughout the year, limiting visibility. Even Tier 3 players couldn't see farther than 400 yards away. If players were not careful, they could easily fall prey to monster ambushes.

However, Shi Feng was relatively familiar with the Demonwolf Mountain Range's inner region, and he piloted his flying ship toward one of the snow-capped forests in the area. Not only was visibility here much better than in other areas of the inner region, but these monsters only ranged between Level 110 and 112. Moreover, the wolf packs in the forest tended to keep their distance from each other, so they wouldn't have to worry about attracting too many monsters while they fought.

"Cola, I want your group to gather the mobs! Tianxing, your group will lure the alpha away from the main group! Everyone else, prioritize the mobs, then target the alpha once they're dead!" Shi Feng said as he watched a nearby pack.

[Two-headed Frostwolf] (Demonic Creature, Great Lord) Level 110

HP 290,000,000/290,000,000

[Frostwolf Chieftain] (Demonic Creature, Grand Lord) Level 112

HP 750,000,000/750,000,000

The wolf pack they faced only had around 200 members or so, 40 of which were Great Lords, and one was a Grand Lord. An ordinary Tier 3 team would have trouble with this pack, but taking these wolves down should be easy for them.

Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian immediately split up and approached the pack from different directions. They herded the wolves into one big group before Yan Tianxing, Flying Shadow, and the rest of the Assassins on the team ambushed the Frostwolf Chieftain, securing its aggro and luring it away from the pack's protection.

As soon as the Frostwolf Chieftain and the pack were separated, Anna and the other magical classes on the team bombarded the Frostwolves with their Spells. The remaining melee members then formed a defensive line, preventing the Frostwolves from reaching the ranged players.

After two dozen rounds of attacks, only the Great Lord ranked Two-headed Frostwolves remained standing. The rest of the Frostwolves lay dead in the snow. With them down, a significant portion of the pressure on the melee classes lifted.

After another ten minutes, every Frostwolf had died, except for the Frostwolf Chieftain. The team's experience bars had risen by a large chunk after killing over 200 Frostwolves, which was a much faster leveling speed than what they had enjoyed in the outer region. They had also acquired 14 Mana strands from the Frostwolves.

Once Cola claimed the Frostwolf Chieftain's aggro from Yan Tianxing, the team finished the Grand Lord off in less than five minutes. Not only did the Frostwolf Chieftain contribute another Mana strand, but it also dropped more than 20 items as it died, one of which was a piece of Level 105 Fine-Gold Equipment. Naturally, the team was excited about their results.

After two days of endless grinding in the Demonwolf Mountain Range's outer region, the best loot that had dropped was a few pieces of Level 100 Secret-Silver Equipment, yet after killing one Frostwolf Chieftain, they had obtained a piece of Level 105 Fine-Gold Equipment, two ranks better than their best prior loot.

“We’ve gotten lucky. This Frostwolf Chieftain dropped a piece of the Snowfrost Set, a Fine-Gold Set Equipment for magical class players,” Shi Feng said, smiling at the Level 105 Fine-Gold ranked cloth armor he had picked up. “The complete set can be used until Level 110.”

Fine-Gold Set Equipment was extremely rare after Level 100. The standard equipment for Tier 3 players was limited to Fine-Gold Equipment after Level 100. Very few experts would be fortunate enough to equip a full Fine-Gold Set Equipment.

Aside from the Snowfrost Set piece, the Frostwolf Chieftain had dropped two pieces of Level 105 Secret-Silver Equipment. This was definitely a benefit of pioneering the area. Normally, a Grand Lord like the Frostwolf Chieftain wouldn’t drop such abundant loot.

“Guild Leader, since the Frostwolf Chieftain drops pieces of the Snowfrost Set, it should drop pieces of other Level 105 Fine-Gold Set Equipment. Based on the results of our earlier scouting efforts, there are several Frostwolf Chieftains nearby. We should kill them all,” Yan Tianxing suggested.

“Mhm. Everyone, get ready. Cola, lure another Frostwolf Chieftain our way,” Shi Feng said, nodding.

Chapter 2392 – Level Skyrockets

With Shi Feng’s command, Cola eagerly left to lure another Frostwolf Chieftain. Meanwhile, the rest of the team got into their battle formations with just as much enthusiasm.

Although they had reached Tier 3, most of them wore the same equipment they had when they had reached Level 100. They didn't even have many pieces of Level 100 Fine-Gold Equipment on them, much less Level 100 Dark-Gold Equipment. They had obtained the majority of their Level 100 Fine-Gold Equipment during their Promotion Quests.

Their Epic Weapons and Equipment might still have been useful at Level 100, but the items hadn't grown any stronger after that point. As they continued to level up, these Epic Weapons and Equipment pieces would become increasingly ineffective.

If they could get their hands on Level 105 Fine-Gold Set Equipment now, not only would it significantly increase their Basic Attributes, but they'd also become strong enough to raid Level 100, super-large-scale Team Dungeons.

Level 100, super-large-scale Team Dungeons were a major turning point for God's Domain's Dungeons because they dropped Level 100-plus Dark-Gold and Epic ranked Weapons and Equipment. Most importantly, they dropped Tier 3 Skill and Spell Books.

They hadn't really understood the importance of Skills and Spells when they had been Tier 2 players, treating them as supplementary tools for combat. They had mainly relied on their Basic Attributes, combat techniques, and combat standards in battle.

However, they had realized that that ideology was no longer useful after reaching Tier 3. Tier 3 Skills and Spells were no less important than powerful combat techniques.

With a player's Mana Body, Tier 3 Skills and Spells would display far more power than Tier 2 Skills and Spells ever could.

This was why, despite their inferior combat standards, Tier 3 NPCs could so easily suppress Tier 3 players of the same level. It wasn't a matter of different Basic Attributes, but the difference in how many Tier 3 Spells and Skills one had.

If they could learn a large number of Tier 3 Skills and Spells as well, their combat power would reach new highs. Even if they encountered Tier 3 experts with greater combat standards, they'd be able to defeat their opponents.

Meanwhile, after fighting alongside the Personal Guards, Cola and his companions handled the second Frostwolf pack much easier than the first. This time, they hadn't even needed to lure the Frostwolf Chieftain away. They had simply bombarded the Grand Lord and its subordinates together.

In the end, the team had annihilated the 200-plus Frostwolves in around a dozen minutes.

Although the Frostwolf Chieftain hadn't dropped any pieces of the Snowfrost Set this time, it had dropped the gloves for the Frostwolf Set, a nine-piece, Level 105 Fine-Gold Set Equipment for plate armor classes. When the team's plate armor classes saw the Frostwolf Set's Attributes, a passionate flame burned in their eyes.

"Crap! That's not fair! This Frostwolf Set is so much better than the Snowfrost Set! Its six-piece set effect increases Strength by 20% and the set's level limit to Level 120! The full nine-piece set effect even upgrades the set by one rank!" Blackie exclaimed.

Nothing was more troublesome than obtaining Level 100-plus weapons and equipment for Tier 3 experts like them. Based on the fact that the Frostwolf Set could be used until Level 120, the complete set ranked at the top even among Level 100-plus Dark-Gold Set Equipment. With the full Frostwolf Set, a Tier 3 player would have the Basic Attributes to even rival ordinary Tier 3 NPCs.

The Frostwolf Set? Shi Feng was just as shocked when he saw the plate armor gloves that radiated a faint, white glow.

The Demonwolf Mountain Range's Frostwolf Set had been quite famous in his previous life. It had been considered one of the top 10 Level 120 Dark-Gold Set Equipment in God's Domain. Even the various superpowers' old monsters had coveted the set.

However, the Frostwolf Set was normally so rare that one could only obtain the pieces by killing the monsters in the Demonwolf Mountain Range's core, and yet, it had dropped for his team in the inner region. This was unbelievable.

Shi Feng's heart started to pound. He immediately instructed the team to hunt for more Frostwolf Chieftains. If they could collect a few Frostwolf Sets, they'd have no problems raiding Level 100 super-large-scale Team Dungeons.

The team continued to grind for seven consecutive days, during which they had practically killed every Frostwolf Chieftain in the Demonwolf Mountain Range's inner region at least once. As a result, Shi Feng had risen from Level 105 to 107, while his companions had leveled from 101 to 104. If the various superpowers' experts discovered their leveling speed, they'd die from envy.

Although the Frostwolves provided a lot of EXP, unfortunately, the Frostwolf Set's drop-rate was quite low. Even after using Divine Providence before the killing blow, the team had only completed three Frostwolf Sets. The team had also managed to collect five of the cloth armor Snowfrost Sets and five of the leather armor Shadowfrost Sets.

Aside from the set equipment, the team had obtained over 1,000 pieces of Level 100 and Level 105 Secret-Silver Equipment, a bountiful harvest. They could now afford to gear a 100-man team fully.

As for their quest's required Mana, they had collected 956 strands in total. They were only a few dozen strands away from their target, and they should have no issues completing their quest in time.

Meanwhile, the leasing auction for Stone Forest City's private houses had netted massive profits for Zero Wing. On average, each private house had been rented for 150,000 Credits per week. After holding several leasing auctions, Zero Wing had earned over one billion Credits in profit. Not only had this alleviated Zero Wing's desperate need for funds, but it had also allowed the Heaven's Rumble Training Center to set up quite a few virtual combat platforms in Fenglin City, which, in turn, enabled the Guild to recruit more capable internal members.

"Guild Leader, when will you be done with your quest? Recently, Starlink has been expanding rapidly. It also has support from Demon Palace, now. Not only has it recruited plenty of experts, but we're seeing more players ambush our members in the fields. Many of the Dark Night Empire's powers have also chosen to side with Starlink. Our members are even too afraid to set foot in a neutral map, and to make matters worse, the situation has started to affect our development in Star-Moon Kingdom," Liang Jing reported, clearly frustrated.

Although they had lured many experts into joining the Star-Moon Adventurer Alliance with the Crimson Sunsets, Starlink had countered this by offering even greater benefits. Now, members of Starlink's adventurer alliances could purchase the Demonic Hell World's special Legacy for far cheaper. The new benefit had attracted many experts.

As a result, Starlink had effectively restricted Zero Wing's resource income, which limited the Guild members' leveling efficiency since they needed those materials to brew potions and craft special tools that were essential for grinding in high-level neutral maps.

Although Zero Wing could purchase these materials through the Secret Chamber of Commerce, it needed Coins to do so, which was by no means a worthwhile trade.

"I understand. I'm almost done here. If we need Coins, start leasing Stone Forest City's private houses for Coins, rather than Credits. That should give us enough to hold out for some time," Shi Feng decided after giving the matter some thought. "I'll return as soon as I've finished my quest."

Liang Jing had no choice but to nod and follow Shi Feng's instructions.

While Shi Feng had conversed with Liang Jing, an abandoned, ancient magic array lit with a colorful brilliance in a forbidden land on the eastern continent. As the rainbow of lights faded, several figures emerged from the magic array.

Despite the very thin Mana in the forbidden land, a dense layer of Mana enveloped these several individuals. In fact, due to their arrival, the surrounding Mana density had substantially increased.

"So, this is the eastern continent."

Chapter 2393 – Demonwolf Mountain Range's Secret

Demonwolf Mountain Range, Howling Wind Canyon:

Shi Feng and his team stood on the mountainside, fighting fervently to fend off a large pack of Demonwolves coming up from the foot of the mountain. This pack was larger than any of the Frostwolf packs they had encountered before, with thousands of members. Moreover, every Demonwolf was Level 110 or higher, including Level 114 Demonwolves. Many of these beasts were Great Lords, and there were a few Grand Lords in the pack. None of the team members could afford to rest lest the Demonwolf pack overwhelm them.

If not for the Fine-Gold Guards blocking the only path up the mountain, and Anna using a magic array to suppress the Demonwolves, these beasts would've devoured Shi Feng and his team long ago.

“Guild Leader, this is an amazing place to grind! Pack after pack of these Demonwolves are running at us. Our leveling speed here is even faster than when we were grinding Frostwolves,” Blackie said, grinning when he saw another pack of Demonwolves approach the foot of the mountain. “I bet we can even reach Level 105 in less than a day of grinding here.”

Compared to when they had grinded Frostwolves, their current leveling speed was on an entirely different level. They had invested a lot of time in their hunt for Frostwolves, but they didn’t need to chase down Demonwolves, which regularly called for reinforcements. They simply needed to station the melee Fine-Gold Guards on the frontline while the rest of the team attacked from a safe distance.

“These beasts are at least Level 110. If we stay here, we can maintain our leveling speed until we reach the same level. If we do, we won’t even have to fear the various superpowers’ experts when they catch up to Tier 3,” Yan Tianxing said, his eyes glowing with excitement.

It was true that Zero Wing had gained a massive advantage when they had reached Tier 3 so early, but Yan Tianxing understood that the various superpowers had far more and stronger experts than his Guild. Zero Wing’s advantage over the various superpowers was only temporary. Once the superpowers’ experts finished their Promotion Quests as well, Zero Wing would be at a disadvantage.

He had constantly been concerned about this. Zero Wing’s feud with Starlink was still happening, and the various powers invading from the Otherworlds couldn’t be underestimated. Every one of these powers was eyeing the resources in Level 100 neutral maps and Stone Forest City.

However, this expedition had alleviated some of his concerns.

After reaching Tier 3 in God’s Domain, the Basic Attributes players earned with each level-up wouldn’t have as much of an impact on a player’s performance as it used to. Rather, weapons, equipment, and combat standards would have a more prominent effect on players’ combat power. However, by leveling up quickly, Zero Wing’s peak experts would have more time for high-ranked quests, which would allow them to upgrade their weapons, equipment, and combat standards sooner. With a level advantage, they had a chance of contending with the various superpowers’ experts and stabilizing Zero Wing’s position.

“How can a Level 100 neutral map have such a wonderful place?” Shi Feng said, chuckling when he saw his teammates’ passionate expressions after Yan Tianxing had mentioned the possibility of reaching Level 110 so soon. “There’s no lack of monsters in this area, but remaining here will be taxing on our Stamina and Concentration. We can’t stay for too long.”

Shi Feng had already known about this area and its Demonwolves, but he hadn’t led the team here earlier because of the atmosphere’s burden on players’ Stamina and Concentration. Considering those factors, their grinding efficiency here wasn’t that much better than grinding Frostwolf packs. Moreover, the Frostwolves dropped better loot than Demonwolves.

However, Zero Wing’s current predicament wouldn’t permit him to remain in the Demonwolf Mountain Range for long, which had led to his decision to grind the Demonwolves.

The team members couldn’t help but glance at their Stamina and Concentration gauges, and just as Shi Feng had warned them, they noticed that they were consuming twice as much as they had while grinding Frostwolves. They really wouldn’t be able to fight the Demonwolves for very long.

“Of course, the environment here isn’t all bad. It does increase our Stamina and Concentration consumption rates, but it is also the perfect place to adapt to our Mana Bodies and train with our Tier 3 Skills and Spells. You’ll rarely find such an opportunity elsewhere,” Shi Feng said, smiling when he saw everyone’s disappointment.

The Demonwolf Mountain Range was no ordinary forbidden land. It was a prized location for players to train after reaching Tier 3, especially since it was infested with berserk Demonwolves. Not only was the map full of chaotic energy, which was much stronger here, but that energy also disrupted Mana. It was the perfect situation to help players adapt to their Mana Bodies.

The Mana Body was the biggest difference between Tier 2 and Tier 3. The Mana Body could also be referred to as a player's Mana pool. Players with Mana Bodies controlled Mana in an entirely different way than players without.

At Tier 2, players used the ambient Mana to power their Skills and Spells, but once they reached Tier 3, they'd use the Mana inside themselves, as well. This was why Tier 3 Skills and Spells were so much more powerful than those at Tier 2.

However, using the Mana within one's body wasn't easy. Players would need a certain level of understanding of their own Mana Body. Meanwhile, players would struggle to use the ambient Mana in environments with chaotic energy, and as such, they'd be forced to rely on the Mana within them. This was why such environments were so helpful to players as they adapted to their Mana Bodies.

"Indeed. I can sense my Mana a little more clearly now. The effects aren't as apparent, but I'm finding it easier to use my own Mana now," Yi Luofei said.

After she had reached Tier 3, something had felt wrong when she had cast her Tier 3 Spells, but she had brushed it off, assuming it was simply due to how unfamiliar she was with her Tier 3 physique. However, it seemed that sense of wrongness had been a result of her lack of control with her Mana Body, which had limited her ability to cast her Tier 3 Spells.

When the rest of the team realized this, they adjusted their approach as they attacked the charging Demonwolves. They started to focus on their own Mana while they attacked, using this opportunity to adapt.

After two hours of practice, the team saw significant improvements to their Completion Rates with their Tier 3 Skills and Spells. On average, the team members increased their Completion Rates by 4%, enough to push many of them across the 80% threshold. Yi Luofei, Zhao Yueru, and Alluring Summer improved the most, with all three reaching past an 85% Spell Completion Rate.

Everyone on the team grew ecstatic. They had never realized that the Howling Wind Canyon would be such an extraordinary training ground.

Even Shi Feng managed to learn some new tricks. He had only had a Bronze ranked Mana Body in the past, and now that he had an Epic Mana Body, the way he conducted Mana had changed. Inspired, he could now manipulate his body with greater precision. He even gained a new understanding of his physical control in the real world.

By the time the team only needed 19 more Mana strands, Cola and his companions had reached Level 105, crossing the first minor threshold past Level 100.

Without hesitation, Shi Feng handed the three Frostwolf Sets to Cola, Turtledove, and Shadow Sword, which gave the three a large boost to their Basic Attributes.

“The Defense and Basic Attributes are so high. I feel like I can even tank a Level 110 Mythic monster now,” Cola exclaimed as he examined his newfound strength.

Shi Feng also gave the Frostshadow and Snowfrost Sets to Yan Tianxing, Yi Luofei, and the rest. With their new equipment, these players’ Basic Attributes were only slightly lower than those of ordinary Tier 3 NPCs.

Armed with appropriate equipment, the team slew the incoming Demonwolves far faster than before. As a result, they collected Mana at a much faster rate.

“Guild Leader, my group is almost out of Stamina and Concentration,” Blackie announced, sounding tired.

“My group’s running out of gas as well,” Yan Tianxing added.

Although the team members all had high-ranked Mana Bodies, they couldn’t completely resist the effects of the violent Mana in the area. If players with a Bronze Mana Body tried to take their place, they would’ve run out ages ago.

“Let’s retreat for now since everyone’s exhausted,” Shi Feng decided after seeing that they only needed three more Mana strands to complete their quest. They could easily collect the rest on their way back to Alba Gray. Shi Feng then retrieved the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship for everyone to board and rest.

Once they boarded, the team found rooms to rest in and logged out of the game. Meanwhile, Shi Feng piloted the flying ship back to the Demonwolf Mountain Range’s outer area.

Once he had reached the safety of the outer area, Shi Feng received a call request from Liang Jing.

“Has Starlink done something again?” Shi Feng asked. It hadn’t been long since the last time she had called.

“There’s nothing new from Starlink, but I just received a message from Chairman Xiao regarding a problem in the Heaven’s Rumble Training Center. He says that a group of people has shown up demanding a challenge, and they’ve already injured quite a few of our advanced disciples,” Liang Jing said.

“Challengers?” Shi Feng asked, “Has Master Lei Bao not taken care of them?”

The Heaven's Rumble Training Center had no lack of challenges since so many people wanted to use Heaven's Rumble as a stepping stone to earn fame in Fenglin City overnight. However, Shi Feng normally let Xiao Yu and Lei Bao take care of these issues.

"I've heard that Master Lei Bao lost in just three moves. Chairman Xiao only contacted me after he had run out of options," Liang Jing said.

They even defeated Lei Bao?" The news surprised Shi Feng. "Who is the challenger?"

Since he had begun training with Zero Wing, Lei Bao had grown considerably stronger. Even among apex internal force experts, few were his match.

"No one knows, and the training center is in an uproar over it. Chairman Xiao is hoping that you can send Fire Dance to take care of this," Liang Jing said.

"No need. I'll visit the training center myself," Shi Feng said, shaking his head. Fire Dance and the others were still in the midst of their Tier 3 Promotion Quest, so leaving their virtual gaming cabins wasn't convenient right now. Moreover, Shi Feng was curious to find out who was strong enough to defeat Lei Bao.

Chapter 2394 – Powerful Assault

Fenglin City, Heaven's Rumble Training Center:

As Shi Feng arrived at Heaven's Rumble Training Center's top-floor training hall, he was greeted by the sight of a large number of people. They were split into two groups: a large group of Heaven's Rumble's disciples and a smaller group of three men and two women. The training center's members wore tense expressions as they stared at the smaller group on the opposite side of the hall in fear.

The three men and two women appeared quite young. The oldest didn't look like he had even reached 30, while the youngest of these strangers seemed to be in their early 20s. However, these five visitors' auras made them stand out.

The eldest of the group, a man with even more bulk than Fang Mingyu, the strongest member of the Fang Family's younger generation, felt like a volcano.

When Shi Feng entered the hall, everyone's attention shifted to him.

"Hall Master," Lei Bao greeted Shi Feng with an apologetic expression.

Shi Feng had requested that Lei Bao serve as the Heaven's Rumble Training Center's acting Hall Master and continued to supply training resources. The older man had even received quite a few bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluids, and yet, a bunch of youngsters had defeated him in three moves, and he had been forced to request Shi Feng's presence...

"How are your injuries?" Shi Feng asked, noticing that Lei Bao seemed a bit weaker than normal.

"It's nothing serious, just a few minor sprains. I'll be fine after some rest," Lei Bao said. "However, you should be careful. These people aren't ordinary fighters, especially the young man leading the group. His strength is inhuman. He even took my full-powered punch and avoided injury."

At this point, Lei Bao was shocked and afraid of the gorilla-like youth leading the small group of visitors. He was extraordinarily strong; not even a neutralizing grandmaster could take his full-powered hit and emerge unscathed. However, when he had punched that youth, it had felt as if he had hit a steel wall.

While Lei Bao informed Shi Feng of the recent events, the young woman in a red dress beside the gorilla youth walked over.

“We meet again, Hall Master Shi,” the young woman said, smiling faintly. “I hadn’t had the chance to introduce myself the last time we met. My name is Fang Shihan, one of Mythology’s Vice Guild Leaders. I am also the Qilin Corporation’s representative. I’ve come to negotiate a partnership.”

“Mythology?” Liang Jing stared at the young woman with wide eyes.

Liang Jing was no longer a stranger to the virtual gaming world. After joining Zero Wing, she had thoroughly researched both the virtual gaming world and God’s Domain in particular. She knew about Mythology, one of the Five Great Super Guilds in the virtual gaming world. Mythology stood at the apex of the virtual gaming world. However, Liang Jing had never dreamed that the Fang Family would have connections with the Super Guild.

Even Shi Feng gave Fang Shihan a surprised look.

However, he wasn’t surprised to hear about Mythology, but because he had never heard about Fang Shihan being one of the Super Guild’s Vice Guild Leaders during his previous life.

“Partnership? What kind of partnership?” Shi Feng asked.

“Mythology’s influence in God’s Domain goes without saying, and I’m sure you can see for yourself the Guild’s training capabilities,” Fang Shihan said as she gestured to the gorilla of a man behind her. Smiling, she continued, “Mythology intends to develop on the eastern continent, and of the various Guilds on that side of God’s Domain, we’ve deemed that Zero Wing has the most potential. We only require 51% of Zero Wing’s shares, and in exchange, the Qilin Corporation will provide capital, while Mythology will provide further training for Heaven’s Rumble’s members. We’ll help your training center rise to fame, which will allow Zero Wing to recruit more talented members.”

“And if I refuse?” Shi Feng asked.

“I’m afraid that isn’t up to you, Hall Master Shi,” Fang Shihan said nonchalantly. “I know that you’ve recently become a neutralizing grandmaster and have successfully blocked one of my father’s full-powered blows, so I’m sure you’re quite confident in your strength. I’m also sure that you’re confident that no fighter in Fenglin City can defeat you.

“But your strength is nothing before Mythology!”

As soon as Fang Shihan said that, the gorilla youth behind her stepped forward, the intensity of his aura skyrocketing. His muscles bulged, tearing his shirt to reveal the dark copper skin underneath. The youth’s aura became twice as strong, and the cold killing intent he radiated even made Lei Bao shudder.

“A Henglian grandmaster!” Lei Bao exclaimed.

Training in the Henglian Style was already exceptionally difficult, and very few people became Henglian masters. However, once someone mastered the style, they’d even be able to hold their ground against a neutralizing grandmaster.

Lei Bao had only heard of Henglian grandmasters before. He could never have guessed that the young man before him, who hadn't even reached 30, would be a Henglian grandmaster.

"No, his aura doesn't feel complete. He should still be half a step away from becoming a grandmaster," Shi Feng calmly stated after observing the gorilla youth for a moment.

"As expected of a neutralizing grandmaster, you have keen senses," Fang Shihan said, smiling. "No, Matt isn't a Henglian grandmaster. He's not quite mentally developed enough for that yet, but he'll have no issue taking on ordinary neutralizing grandmasters.

"Do you still refuse to cooperate, Hall Master Shi?"

She had investigated Zero Wing thoroughly, with a focus on Stone Forest City. As a city in a Level 100 neutral map, it was a treasure trove. Once she had learned about that fact, she had become resolved to obtain Zero Wing, no matter the cost. With Stone Forest City under her control, she could rise through Mythology's ranks.

When he heard Fang Shihan's statement, Xiao Yu began to despair. He hadn't realized the Fang Family was powerful enough to elicit the help of a half-step Henglian grandmaster.

Although Matt wasn't an actual Henglian grandmaster, he'd have an overwhelming advantage over ordinary neutralizing grandmasters in an official competition.

If Shi Feng lost to the older man, the Heaven's Rumble Training Center would be finished. He was the reason that the training center had grown to its current size and fame. If Shi Feng were defeated, Heaven's Rumble would lose everything.

Liang Jing watched the exchange with a grim expression, as well.

Zero Wing required the Heaven's Rumble Training Center to recruit talented members. Losing it would be a major hindrance to Zero Wing's development.

"I won't make this too difficult for you, kid. I'll accept defeat if you can last three hits. If you can't, then you'll hand over Zero Wing's shares," Matt declared before his fist shot toward Shi Feng.

Chapter 2395 – Three Palms

Matt's sudden attack surprised everyone in the hall.

Sure enough, he can't help himself. Fang Shihan pitied Shi Feng when she noticed Matt's attack.

Matt was incredibly talented, and after working with the Hell Training System, the latest training system Mythology had created, his already violent tendencies had become more prominent. Now, he was a combat maniac.

Even in Mythology, there were few people who could spar with Matt. With a neutralizing grandmaster before him, the man was naturally eager to spar with Shi Feng. He had recently gotten closer to becoming a Henglian grandmaster and hadn't had the chance to test his strength properly. Before Shi Feng made his decision was the best opportunity for Matt to force the younger man into a fight.

Although stopping Matt wasn't impossible, Fang Shihan thought it was necessary for Shi Feng to experience Mythology's power.

Lei Bao, who stood by Shi Feng's side, felt stifled when he saw Matt's punch. This strike was completely different than the hits Matt had used during their fight. Not only did this punch break the sound barrier, but it also seemed impossible to avoid.

Lei Bao thought he could even hear the Grim Reaper call his name.

However, just as Matt's hit was about to land, Shi Feng casually took a half step back and rotated his right shoulder as if he had expected the attack. Almost as if an invisible barrier had manifested between them, Matt's punch harmlessly stopped a few centimeters away from Shi Feng's shoulder.

"What? Did I scare you?" Matt quipped when Shi Feng hadn't made another move to stop him. "What happened to all of your confidence?"

Matt was only a half-step Henglian grandmaster, and although he was more physically fit than ordinary neutralizing grandmasters, his mental processing couldn't compare. His senses and reaction speed were just as inferior to that of a neutralizing grandmaster.

If a neutralizing grandmaster focused on evading his attacks, Matt would be helpless against them. In fact, if Lei Bao, a peak internal force master, had focused on evasion, their fight would've lasted a lot longer.

This was why Matt had deliberately challenged Shi Feng to last three of his punches. Otherwise, fighting Shi Feng would be a waste of time.

“Forget it, Matt. Hall Master Shi can’t take your hits. I suggest you face each other in a race. At least that will give Hall Master Shi a chance at victory,” the tall, short-haired woman behind Fang Shihan ridiculed.

The woman’s provocation enraged Heaven’s Rumble’s disciples.

Even veteran neutralizing grandmasters couldn’t help to match a half-step Henglian grandmaster’s physical fitness, much less Shi Feng, who had only recently become a neutralizing grandmaster. Asking Shi Feng to take a direct hit from Matt was a joke.

Xiao Yu began to move forward to advise Shi Feng against falling into the woman’s trap. If he fell for it and lost against Matt, Heaven’s Rumble’s reputation would be in tatters.

“I never said I wasn’t interested. I just don’t think those terms are fair,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. “I have to sell Zero Wing’s shares if you win, yet you’ll just pack up and leave if you lose. What benefit do I get for accepting this challenge?”

“That’s simple. Head Instructor Shi, if you win, I’ll give Zero Wing a 300 million loan, plus state-of-the-art training equipment for the Heaven’s Rumble Training Center. I can guarantee that the equipment I have to offer rivals that in the country’s top dojos and training centers,” Fang Shihan declared, her lips curling into a wicked grin. She reacted as if she had been expecting Shi Feng to ask.

“State-of-the-art training equipment?” Xiao Yu’s eyes glowed when he heard this.

Three hundred million Credits would be a massive boon to the Heaven’s Rumble Training Center, but the state-of-the-art equipment would be far more important.

The equipment Fang Shihan offered might not be worth 300 million Credits, but it was impossible to purchase on the market. Only the suppliers' partners had any access. In comparison, the best equipment available to the public was two generations behind, which was why ordinary training centers and dojos' disciples couldn't hold a candle to those from top dojos and training centers.

If the Heaven's Rumble Training Center could get its hands on this equipment, its facilities would undergo a qualitative transformation. In turn, this would make the training center more attractive to far more people.

Shi Feng didn't respond immediately, however.

"What? You're still not satisfied?" Fang Shihan chuckled at Shi Feng's silence. "If that's not enough, state your demands, Head Instructor Shi."

She already had a good grasp on Heaven's Rumble Training Center's situation. Although Lei Bao normally led the training center, and Heaven's Rumble's members received excellent training, it was nothing compared to the nation's top dojos and training centers, particularly when it came to its training facilities.

If Heaven's Rumble acquired state-of-the-art equipment, its facilities would be an excellent promotional tool on their own, luring in far more members. Shi Feng had no reason to reject her offer. Zero Wing desperately needed manpower, after all.

Fang Shihan assumed that the only reason Shi Feng hadn't jumped at her offer was that he wasn't confident in withstanding Matt's punches. Knowing this, she wouldn't give the younger man any excuses to refuse her challenge.

Everyone in the hall thought the same.

They had already witnessed Matt's power. Everyone would be impressed if Shi Feng remained standing after taking a single hit, let alone three.

"Since Miss Fang has asked, I only have one condition," Shi Feng said, smiling. "He must withstand three of my palm strikes, as well. If you win, Zero Wing will sell its shares. If I win, I want 20 bottles of Life Potion!"

For a moment, shocked silence filled the training hall.

"Are you insane?!" the tall woman behind Fang Shihan blurted, staring at Shi Feng.

"Hall Master?!" Even Lei Bao gave the younger man an incredulous look.

Henglian Style practitioners were not famed for their strength, but for their frightening defense. It was why a Henglian master would dare to fight a neutralizing grandmaster, yet refused to acknowledge apex internal force masters.

Matt was only a half step away from reaching grandmaster status in the Henglian Style, and as such, his skin and bones were as solid as steel. Trying to injure him with human strength was an utter joke. Only bullets could break through his hide now.

"Twenty Life Potions?" Fang Shihan frowned.

Life Potions weren't like S-rank Nutrient fluids. They contained an extraordinary amount of life force. Consuming one bottle of Life Potion would restore youth to an ordinary person, and the potions were in high demand among grandmaster martial artists. Even a major corporation like Qilin Corp. could only secure a small number of bottles. Despite being the Qilin Corporation's princess, Feng Shihan didn't even get that many Life Potions per year.

"If Miss Fang thinks this condition is too demanding, we can forget about this challenge," Shi Feng mused, chuckling.

Neither the Credits nor the state-of-the-art equipment was a priority for Zero Wing and Heaven's Rumble right now. The organizations would only truly be able to develop further by improving the strength of their current combatants.

The Life Potion was undoubtedly one of the quickest ways for Zero Wing and Heaven's Rumble to do so. As long as Zero Wing and Heaven's Rumble became strong enough in the future, obtaining state-of-the-art was entirely possible if they were willing to spend a little money, but that wasn't the case for the Life Potions. They were truly rare items. Not even Lu Xingluo, the Starline Corporation's heir, could acquire many Life Potions, much less Shi Feng.

"Fine! I agree to your condition!" Fang Shihan hissed. Smiling, she continued, "But remember, you only have three palm strikes!"

"Of course." Shi Feng nodded.

"You really think you can win, kid?" Grinning, Matt said, "Even if I stood here and let you hit me 20 times, you couldn't force me to take a single step back, much less three!"

However, before Matt could say anything more, Shi Feng walked up to him and thrust out his palm.

The strike looked light and gentle from an outsider's perspective; it didn't look like it had the power to threaten anyone. That thrust didn't even look like it could injure an ordinary passerby, let alone Matt.

However, just as Shi Feng's palm was about to connect with his target, the movement changed, leaving three afterimages in its wake.

Thud!

A dull sound echoed throughout the hall, and Matt's face lost color until his complexion was a deathly pale. He stumbled three steps back, clutching his abdomen as he fell to his knees, unable to speak for a long moment...

Chapter 2396 – Initial Display of Strength

As Matt knelt, silence momentarily enveloped the entire training hall. The tall woman with short hair, in particular, wore a stiff expression, her mocking words forgotten.

"Impossible!"

"Matt, what happened?!"

Mythology's members were dumbfounded by their comrade's reaction. They were all quite familiar with Matt's strength and defense, but they also knew his personality. Thus, they knew this wasn't an act.

Shi Feng's palm strike had looked gentle. It hadn't even seemed powerful enough to injure an ordinary person, much less a Henglian expert like Matt, yet after taking the hit, Matt had collapsed with his pale face twisted in pain. The strike had clearly left him with substantial injuries.

Even Lei Bao and Heaven's Rumble's disciples gaped in shock, not to mention Fang Shihan's group.

"What did the Hall Master do?"

Heaven's Rumble disciples were confused. They had already witnessed Matt's strength earlier, when he had defeated Lei Bao in three moves. The man had such high defense that he had taken a full-powered blow from Lei Bao without issue, and yet, he couldn't cope with one of Shi Feng's gentle palm strikes.

"Did that guy use some hidden weapon, Vice Guild Leader? How else would he have hurt Matt?" a male youth, who was as large as Fang Mingyu, quietly asked Fang Shihan.

Aside from the old instructor, who wasn't in the hall, the strongest of Heaven's Rumble's visitors were Matt and Fang Shihan. Since Matt couldn't speak at that moment, only Fang Shihan could inform her companions of what Shi Feng had done.

The rest of Mythology's group nodded, agreeing with the male youth. They assumed that Shi Feng must've cheated.

“No. He didn’t just attack with one strike, but three, instantaneous palm strikes,” Fang Shihan said, watching Shi Feng with an indescribably grim expression. “Moreover, all three strikes hit the same location, so it looked like a single attack. His physical control has already reached the Spiritualization Realm.”

Three palm strikes?! How is that possible?!”

Their leader’s answer stunned Mythology’s members. Ignoring the difficulty of striking the same location multiple times, executing three simultaneous attacks was an unbelievable feat. They couldn’t even fathom what kind of mental and physical reaction speed one would need to accomplish it.

“That’s right, I executed three palm strikes, as agreed,” Shi Feng said, not bothering to hide the truth. He was a little surprised to see Matt so pale, however. “Not only does combining three attacks allow me to increase my raw power, but it also doubles my hits penetrating power. To think you only received minor injuries, I’m impressed with your muscular defense. If you had come here a few days ago, I really wouldn’t have been a match for you.”

Adjusting to his Epic Mana Body in the Howling Wind Canyon had inspired him.

After he had become a neutralizing grandmaster in the real world, his mind had begun to secrete hormones to fortify his physical prowess. His mental and physical reaction speeds, in particular, had significantly improved, but superior reaction speed wasn’t enough for him to exhibit his full strength. His physical control wasn’t yet perfect.

However, by controlling the flow of Mana in his Epic Mana Body, he had come up with some combat techniques that would rely on his reaction speed. Although he couldn’t replicate these techniques perfectly in the real world, he was able to exhibit a fraction of the techniques’ power. Even that fraction greatly increased his strength and penetrating power, allowing him to drive the force of his strikes toward Matt’s organs.

Not even an adult bear would escape such an attack unscathed. Although Matt was in incredible shape, he was only human.

Once his pain had subsided to a bearable level, Matt stood, glaring at Shi Feng with a hint of fear in his gaze. He abandoned any thought of fighting the younger man.

“You...Very good! I’ve lost this challenge!”

Henglian Style practitioners were famed for their brute strength and defense. The only reason that they dared to clash with neutralizing grandmasters was their ability to take a hit without sustaining significant injuries. On the other hand, if they got lucky and landed a blow, they could knock out their opponent with a single hit. However, they’d have to flee from a neutralizing grandmaster like Shi Feng, who could ignore their defense. Fighting such an individual would only spell their death.

Still, the situation confused Matt. Aside from Shi Feng, he had only ever taken such a serious blow from his old instructor. His instructor was an old monster who had become a neutralizing grandmaster several decades ago. The old instructor had also received help from plenty of state-of-the-art and medication to grow stronger. His strength had long since reached inhuman levels. In comparison, Shi Feng was only in his early 20s. Just how did this young man become so powerful?

“In that case, will you fulfill your end of the bargain, Mis Fang?” Shi Feng asked after Matt had admitted defeat.

After his fight with Matt, Shi Feng’s mind spun. It wasn’t because he had successfully executed a God’s Domain combat technique in the real world, but because of how impressed he was with Mythology’s expert standards. He had never thought Mythology would be this powerful.

If even Mythology could nurture such incredible fighters, other superpowers shouldn’t be far behind.

More than anything, Shi Feng needed a large stock of Life Potions to nurture his own fitness, as well as help Lei Bao and Fire Dance become neutralizing grandmasters. Otherwise, Zero Wing's operations in the real world would be in grave danger.

The Three Palms, One Strike technique might have looked simple, but it was extremely hard to execute. If Shi Feng hadn't mentally prepared himself, and Matt hadn't simply stood there to take the hit, he wouldn't have been able to execute the technique.

"I don't have 20 Life Potions on me right now, but I'll have someone deliver them to you before the end of tomorrow," Fang Shihan said, frowning. Shi Feng's strength had drastically exceeded her expectations. He certainly couldn't be considered an ordinary neutralizing grandmaster. "We have other matters to tend to, so we will take our leave for now."

After saying so, Fang Shihan left with her subordinates, and Shi Feng didn't try to stop her. Fang Shihan was the Qilin Corporation's princess. She couldn't afford to break a promise she made in public.

After Fang Shihan's group left, cheers broke out in the training hall as the disciples celebrated. Everyone practically worshipped Shi Feng's display, which had renewed their confidence in the Heaven's Rumble Training Center. Some of the normal members even considered applying to become true Heaven's Rumble disciples.

However, the atmosphere in the luxury maglev car parked outside of the training center wasn't as cheerful.

"We're just going to leave, Vice Guild Leader? I know we only came here to test Heaven's Rumble's standards but wasn't our main goal to compete with the training center virtually and steal its virtual combat platforms in Fenglin City?. Shi Feng might be strong, but it'll be a different story when we fight in a virtual combat platform. Not even Zero Wing's Black Flame will be a match for you with your strength as a Tier 3 player, much less Shi Feng," Matt complained.

“No. We need to report this to the old instructor,” Fang Shihan said, shaking her head. “No matter how you look at it, it’s strange for someone as young as Shi Feng to be so powerful. I’m sure there’s some big secret to his strength. If we can discover this secret, we’ll gain far more authority in Mythology. It might even be enough for me to become one of the headquarter’s Three Great Vice Guild Leaders!”

Chapter 2397 – Ascension Realm

Fenglin City, Redstone Restaurant:

Fang Shihan and her entourage stood before a man in one of the Redstone Restaurant’s VIP rooms, which had an antique flair. The man sat cross-legged on the floor with his eyes closed.

Despite the fact that half of the man’s hair had already turned white, his facial features were that of a man in his early 40s. In truth, however, he was already over 70. Although this elderly man wasn’t as large or robust as Matt and the others, his aura felt like that of an unshakable mountain. Standing in his presence, one couldn’t help but revere the old man.

This man was none other than Situ Qingtian, Fang Shihan and her companions’ instructor.

“Matt, is Shi Feng truly as powerful as Shihan described? Was he really able to combine the power of his attacks?” Situ Qingtian asked as he opened his eyes and looked at the younger man before him.

“I’m sure of it. The moment after the first hit, his strike’s penetrating power doubled. If I hadn’t reacted quickly enough and diverted some of the force, He would’ve likely knocked me out,” Matt said, nodding.

Before today, he had only ever experienced that level of power from Situ Qingtian, and the memory of Shi Feng's hits were still fresh in his mind.

"Instructor, I investigated Shi Feng thoroughly, and there were no reports of him possessing this kind of strength. He's only recently reached the grandmaster realm and partially enhanced his mental capacity. He must've found something in God's Domain that has allowed him to execute such a technique in the real world," Fang Shihan surmised.

"It seems Zero Wing isn't so simple, after all. I must have many secrets," Situ Qingtian said. "I suspect this Shi Feng has made considerable progress in the Realms of Truth. He's likely reached the Ascension Realm at the very least."

"The Ascension Realm?! How is that possible?!" Matt exclaimed.

Mythology had discovered the Realms of Truth combat system, which had profound principles, in God's Domain. At first, some of the various superpowers had labeled the Realms of Truth as the Spiritualization Realm, and they had discovered that learning these principles allowed one to gain unbelievable control with combat techniques. Learning these principles was akin to engraving combat techniques on one's bones. Players that learned these principles and practiced them successfully could execute a combat technique with every movement. They could exhibit strength far beyond their natural potential.

However, progressing through the Realms of Truth was an intense challenge. Even Matt, a genius, had barely begun, yet he was considered one of the most accomplished individuals in Mythology. And now, they discovered that Shi Feng, who was much younger than Matt, had gone beyond, reaching the Ascension Realm. How could he allow himself to believe it?

"That is why I am sure Zero Wing has hidden many secrets. Mythology has expended a lot of manpower and resources to explore the Realms of Truth, yet we have barely uncovered some of the training methods," Situ Qingtian said, his interest in Zero Wing growing. "Zero Wing must've obtained some

clues relating to the Realms of Truth and uncovered detailed training methods. No individual could reach such a standard by themselves, otherwise.”

“If that is true, we must obtain this secret!” Fang Shihan declared, passion burning in her gaze.

Mythology had constantly been searching for the Realms of Truth’s secrets, but the clues they had uncovered were few and vague. Needless to say, they had yet to discover any systematic training methods.

If she could get her hands on Zero Wing’s training system and combine it and Mythology’s research, not only could she improve her own combat standards, but she could also gain more authority within the Guild.

Vice Guild Leader, Zero Wing’s roots on the eastern continent are too solid to shake right now, especially now that it has Stone Forest City. I’m afraid that we won’t be able to cause any significant damage. Even if we target the Heaven’s Rumble Training Center, our results will likely be negligible. At worst, we’ll slow Zero Wing’s recruitment rate, but we won’t be able to harm the Guild’s foundations directly,” Matt anxiously said.

He desperately wanted a Realms of Truth training system, as well. If he could progress further through the Realms of Truth, not only would he grow stronger in God’s Domain, but he’d also gain more combat power in the real world.

“Don’t worry about it. Since we now know Zero Wing has obtained clues regarding the Realms of Truth, our Guild will not let it out of our sight. I’ve read through the reports on Zero Wing. It seems the Guild is at war with Starlink, and the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s Phoenix Rain is part of the reason it has held on for so long,” Situ Qingtian calmly stated. “If we can interfere and prevent Phoenix Rain from helping Zero Wing, I doubt the Guild will last long against Starlink. Shihan, visit the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and inform Ku Rong of our stance. I’m sure that old fellow will make the wise decision.”

“I understand. I’ll get it done once I return,” Fang Shihan said, nodding.

She had thought of pressuring the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, too, but she was only a Vice Guild Leader from one of Mythology’s many Branch Guilds. Although she had a good reputation in the Guild, she had no authority to represent the Guild in crucial matters. Now that she had permission, however, she didn’t have to worry about any negative repercussions.

Whether or not the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion would give in to her demands wasn’t even a question. Mythology was one of the Five Great Super Guilds in God’s Domain. Even ordinary Super Guilds had to show it respect, not to mention a super-first-rate Guild like the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

Meanwhile, in Zero Wing’s main headquarters...

Once Shi Feng received the 20 bottles of Life Potion from Fang Shihan’s subordinate, he gave three bottles to Lei Bao. He instructed the man to visit the Extraordinary Tower with the Berserker Lei Bao had made for fun in God’s Domain.

After his fight with Matt, Shi Feng had an odd sense of impending danger.

Although Zero Wing was developing smoothly in God’s Domain, it was far too weak in the real world, especially when it came to poaching talented fighters. The various superpowers had already begun to do so on a large scale.

However, since Shi Feng was so busy with his affairs in God’s Domain, he didn’t have time to pay attention to Heaven’s Rumble’s development. If he wanted his training center to grow, he’d need another grandmaster martial artist to defend it long-term.

Among those working in Heaven's Rumble, Lei Bao was undoubtedly the closest to reaching the grandmaster realm. After him, there were Fire Dance and the others.

Lei Bao's physical fitness and control had already peaked, and he was only a step away from breaking into the grandmaster realm. To make that final step, his mental capacity needed to undergo a qualitative transformation.

Although training in the Extraordinary Tower wasn't nearly as effective as training in the Tower of Four Gods, Lei Bao had a high chance of making that final step with the help of the Life Potions. Once he became a grandmaster, Heaven's Rumble would grow at a frightening pace. The training center would also have a much better chance of resisting the various major corporation's harassment.

After finishing with Lei Bao, Shi Feng split another 10 Life Potions among Fire Dance, Violet Cloud, Cola, Shadow Sword, and Turtledove, the Guild's experts that had already grasped internal force. The Life Potions should help them develop their physical fitness and mental capacity.

Shi Feng then drank one of the Life Potions before returning to his virtual gaming cabin and logging back into God's Domain. He intended to open the portal to the western continent as soon as possible. Only then could Zero Wing stabilize its foothold in God's Domain and secure enough resources and strength to develop the Heaven's Rumble Training Center.

By the time Shi Feng reentered God's Domain, Cola and the others were, for the most part, rested and ready. The team resumed grinding in the Demonwolf Mountain Range's outer region for a while, collecting the last Mana strands for their quest.

"This quest is a tough one. If not for the Fine-Gold Guards, we wouldn't have had any hope of completing it. I wonder what kind of rewards we'll get once we turn it in." Blackie pondered, filled with anticipation as he watched Shi Feng collect the final Mana strand. "It'd be awesome if we earned a Fragmented Legendary item."

This was the first time they had completed an Inferior Legendary Quest, and they had obtained this quest in a Level 100-plus neutral map. The quest rewards would definitely be extraordinary.

“Alright, tidy up. Once everyone’s ready, we’re leaving,” Shi Feng said, chuckling at Blackie’s excitement.

He did not particularly care about the reward items. He knew that not even an Inferior Legendary Quest had a high chance of granting a Fragmented Legendary item. Rather, he looked forward to the Favorability they’d earn with the Famed Smith, Alba Gray.

In no time, Shi Feng and his team stood before Alba Gray once more.

Chapter 2398 – Disintegration Power, Activate!

By the time Shi Feng’s group returned to Alba Gray, the NPC’s Divine Might had weakened considerably. Even with the protection of the Gods, the Hero was in danger of dying.

Seeing this, Shi Feng had to admit that the Jealous Witch was incredibly powerful.

With a single curse, she could cause a Hero’s downfall. With this kind of power and the witch’s erratic mood, it was no wonder why she was considered a natural disaster. When she was in a good mood, she could help a kingdom prosper, but when her mood was sour, she could cause a kingdom’s demise. Kingdoms and empires both revered and feared the woman.

“Lord Alba Gray, we’ve collected 1,000 strands of the Jealous Witch’s Mana. How should we proceed to lift your curse?” Shi Feng asked the frozen Hero.

“Simple. You just need to release the Mana you’ve collected around me,” Alba Gray telepathically communicated with a thread of excitement. “However, while I am removing the seal, the Jealous Witch’s Frost Elf will sense this. I must ask you to stop her until I am free.”

Just as Shi Feng was about to ask for more information, the snow around them stirred. It then gathered into the form of a woman.

The woman was nearly two meters tall and looked mostly human, but unlike humans, her body was made entirely of snow. Divine runes etched themselves in her frozen form, giving her a sacred aura. One couldn’t help the urge to submit to her will as they stood in her presence.

As if the ambient Mana had discovered its master, it gathered around the woman.

“A Higher Magic Elf?!”

Everyone gasped when they saw the snow woman’s statistics.

[Ice Elf, Ulunium] (High Magic Elf, Mythic) Level 110

HP 3,500,000,000/3,500,000,000

Magic Elves had considerably high Life Ratings in God's Domain, much higher than Elemental Creatures. Many of the Spells humans wielded in this day and age had originated from Magic Elves. Mana favored these beings even more than ordinary Elves because they possessed bodies made of Mana itself.

Meanwhile, High Magic Elves stood above Magic Elves in God's Domain's hierarchy, akin to kings among Magic Elves. Their Life Ratings could even rival that of Dragons.

"Do you really think you can escape my Master's curse?" Ulunium mocked as she gave Alba Gray a disdainful look. She then swept her glance over Shi Feng and his companions, saying, "Adventurers, it'd be best if you do not poke your noses into matters that do not concern you. Leave now, and I will spare you. Stay and help Alba Gray, and I'll ensure you remain here, alongside the rest of these foolish knights!"

As Ulunium spoke, the team felt an overwhelming sense of dread. They struggled to move as if the air around them froze them in place. Even breathing became a laborious task.

"Is she really a Mythic monster?" Cola muttered, shocked as he stared at Ulunium.

With just a few words, High Magic Elf had immobilized Tier 3 players. She was nothing like the Mythic monsters they had faced before.

"Guild Leader, she is far too dangerous for us. If we try to fight her, only the Personal Guards will last more than 10 seconds," Yan Tianxing expended an immense amount of energy to whisper to Shi Feng.

"I doubt we'll even last 5 seconds against her," Shi Feng said, smiling bitterly at Ulunium.

He had never expected this Inferior Legendary Quest to be so vicious!

Collecting 1,000 Mana strands within 10 days in the Demonwolf Mountain Range had already been a nigh-impossible task, but the challenge before them was simply a joke.

They might have had a chance if the system had pitted them against an ordinary Magic Elf, but trying to fight a High Magic Elf was on par with challenging a bona fide Dragon.

Although they had raided a Tier 4 Ice Dragon, Heathwaite had been severely injured before they had arrived. Its combat power had been nowhere near its peak. Furthermore, Shi Feng had been able to suppress it with his Heavenly Dragon's Breath, which was the only reason they had had a slim chance of defeating it.

Ulunium, on the other hand, was a completely different story.

Not only was Ulunium's combat power at its peak, but as a High Magic Elf, she had hundreds of Spells under her command. She could wipe a 100-man Tier 3 team off the face of God's Domain in a matter of seconds. If players tried to fight her without specific tools to counter her attacks, their only hope of survival was to flee as far and fast as possible.

Unfortunately, summoning a Tier 4 Great Demon with the Bible of Darkness was impossible, as well. Ulunium had high enough intellect that she'd target Shi Feng immediately, and the Great Demon wouldn't be able to do anything about it.

“Adventurers, give me 90 seconds! If you can hold out for that long, I can free myself from this curse!” Alba Gray suddenly shouted.

Alba Gray’s words left everyone speechless.

They could barely move within Ulunium’s Domain. They’d be lucky to stall her for 10 seconds, not to mention 90. Ulunium was no normal Mythic monster; she was a creature that was more skilled with her Spells than Tier 4 Great Wizards, and she loved large-scale combat. She could annihilate them all with one AOE Spell, leaving no opportunities to challenge her.

“Ninety seconds?” After some pondering, Shi Feng turned to Cola and asked, “Cola, can you hold her for 10 seconds?”

“If I activate my Berserk and Lifesaving Skills, it should be doable,” Cola said after considering his prowess.

He currently wore the Frostwolf Set, and with his Fragmented Legendary Shield, he was more than capable of tanking a Level 100-plus Mythic monster. Ulunium’s Life Rating rivaled that of Dragons, but he shouldn’t have any issues tanking her for 10 seconds if he activated his Berserk and Lifesaving Skills.

“Do you have a plan, Guild Leader?” Yan Tianxing asked.

They could simply surrender, but they’d have to bear the brunt of the quest’s penalty.

“I do, but I’m not sure if it will succeed,” Shi Feng replied. “Unfortunately, we have no other options. Cola, get ready.”

If Alba Gray had asked them to stall Ulunium for several minutes, Shi Feng would've had no choice but to surrender, but he had a chance if he only had to hold her off for 90 seconds.

Shi Feng then retrieved the Bible of Darkness and summoned a Great Demon.

Seeing this confused his companions. They knew that Ulunium was intelligent enough to ignore the Great Demon and attack its summoner. How could a Great Demon possibly slow the High Magic Elf down?

Although they weren't sure what Shi Feng intended, they followed his instructions and split up, putting as much distance between them and Shi Feng as possible. Meanwhile, Cola activated his Berserk Skill and waited for Shi Feng's signal.

"Go!"

Shi Feng yelled once everyone was in position. He immediately released the Mana they had collected around Alba Gray as Cola dashed toward the enraged Ice Elf, activating Justice Roar to attract her attention.

"Foolish humans! You will die here with the rest of these fools!" Ulunium bellowed. Watching Cola, she lightly waved hand.

Ice lances, over a dozen meters long, coalesced in the air and flew toward the MT. Without chanting an incantation or drawing any runes, Ulunium had cast the Tier 4, ice-type Spell, Frost Tooth...

As the ice lances flew toward him, Cola relied on his combat standards and reaction speed to dodge, but he failed to evade one of the lances. He was forced to block the attack with his shield.

Boom!

The ice lance exploded against his shield, and the impact forced Cola to sink into the snowy ground. The attack had dealt over -300,000 damage, taking more than 10% of Cola's total HP.

"How powerful is she?!"

Everyone's eyes nearly fell from their sockets.

Cola had activated his Berserk Skill and Lifesaving Skills, so he should have substantial damage reduction, yet he had still lost over 10% of his HP from one of Ulunium's attacks. Had he tried to charge at the Ice Elf without these Skills active, she would've one-shotted him...

Seeing that the first attack had failed to end her target, Ulunium raised her hand again and began to chant an incantation.

Responding to her command, a powerful blizzard swept toward Cola, streams of wind striking like pythons and threatening to tear Cola apart. As these wind serpents attacked, Cola was forced to halt his advance and defend himself with his shield. His HP rapidly plummeted. At this rate, he didn't have enough HP to last 5 seconds, much less 10. Fortunately, every healer on the team focused on recovering Cola's HP, keeping him alive, albeit barely.

As the seconds passed, Cola's HP climbed and fell like a roller coaster as he danced on the fringes of death. The team's healers couldn't mitigate Ulunium's damage fully, and each round of healing seemed less effective as Cola steadily lost HP.

"I can't hold on for much longer, Guild Leader!" Cola knew he had bit off more than he could chew as he glanced at his HP bar.

As Cola finished his last word, another blizzard assaulted him from behind. Unfortunately, the wind pythons attacking from the front had him preoccupied, and he could only watch as more approached from behind.

It's over!

Sensing the incoming attack, Cola knew his time was up. However, a figure suddenly appeared behind him. It was none other than Shi Feng.

"Ten seconds have passed! Leave the rest to me!" Shi Feng shouted over the roaring wind as he charged at the incoming wind python behind Cola.

"Guild Leader?"

The team was confused as they watched Shi Feng try to meet the incoming blizzard in battle.

Cola was a Guardian Knight, yet the blizzard's pythons had devoured a significant portion of his HP. As a Swordsman, Shi Feng would only dig his own grave by trying to block the python's attack.

Disintegration Power, activate!

Just as the blizzard was about to reach him, Shi Feng activated the Disintegration Armor's strongest Skill-Disintegration Power.

The intensity of Shi Feng's aura immediately skyrocketed, and gray smoke drifted from his body, shattering space around him.

As the blizzard's python reached him, Shi Feng swung Killing Ray to counter its attack.

Chapter 2399 – Power of Tier 4

As he swung Killing Ray, the python of ice and wind stretched open its maw and threatened to devour Shi Feng.

When the Sacred Sword and the blizzard clashed, the results stupefied everyone watching.

With a passing flash of light, the blade sliced apart the powerful, icy attack, dispersing the blizzard.

“He blocked it?!”

“What did the Guild Leader do?”

Cola, who desperately fought to hold his ground against the powerful blizzard attacking him, and Yan Tianxing and the rest, who watched from a distance, wondered if they were hallucinating.

Yan Tianxing and the others could tell how powerful the wind pythons were based on Cola's struggle against Ulunium's attacks. If they tried to block one of the wind python's strikes, it'd be a miracle if they didn't die instantly, even with an active Berserk Skill.

Cola had already activated his Lifesaving Skill, which drastically reduced incoming damage. Without that, Ulunium's wind pythons would've long since ended his life.

And yet, Shi Feng had countered one of the wind pythons with a single strike.

The outcome even surprised Shi Feng. He hadn't expected his strike to be so powerful after using Disintegration Power to upgrade himself to a Tier 4 Sword Emperor.

So, this is the true strength of a Sword Emperor. Shi Feng thought as he relished the strength he had wielded with his counterattack.

Shi Feng had never been able to break past Tier 3 into Tier 4 during his previous life, so he had never felt the power a Tier 4 player commanded. He only knew that they were incredibly strong.

But after taking a moment to adapt to his Tier 4 Epic Mana Body, he, more or less, understood why so few Tier 3 players could stand against those at Tier 4, even when wielding a Fragmented Legendary Weapon.

The differences between Tier 3 and Tier 4 players weren't limited to Basic Attributes and physique. There was also a qualitative difference in the way their bodies conducted Mana. With his improved Mana Body, Shi Feng's mind was clearer than ever before, and his body constantly felt at the ready.

This was evident through his counterattack.

He had used the Bronze Combat Technique, Lightning Flash, executing 17 attacks in a single strike. As he did, the 17 attacks had even devoured the space before them, which was a feat he definitely wasn't capable of without Disintegration Power active.

With how clear his mind was, he knew that Tier 3 players had no hope against Tier 4 players, even if they managed to bridge the gap between their Basic Attributes and physiques. A Tier 4 mental state was on an entirely different level.

During the brief moment Shi Feng analyzed his Tier 4 state, Ulunium became enraged, having seen this Swordsman shatter her attack, and the ambient Mana began to rampage around her.

The Ice Elf began to chant another incantation while she drew divine runes in the air with flying speed, stupefying Yi Luofei and the other magical class team members.

Based on the number of runes Ulunium drew, she was clearly trying to cast a large-scale destruction Spell, but normally, players needed a long time to complete such a Spell. The High Magic Elf, on the other hand, drew several dozen lines of divine runes in two seconds. It was simply unbelievable!

Before the watching team members could snap out of their dazes, a magic array covering a 200-yard radius appeared above the snowy battlefield. As it did, it sucked dry all ice-type Mana in the area, concentrating it within the array's core.

“Insignificant humans, you will pay for your foolishness!” Ulunium snarled after finishing her chant. She then raised a fine-boned finger and pointed it at Shi Feng.

Tier 4 large-scale destruction Spell, Frost Shower!

Several hundred icy meteors pulled themselves free from the magic array and descended on the frozen lake, each one containing enough power to shatter space itself.

“We’re doomed!”

Watching the incoming meteors, the team began to despair.

This attack could even wipe out a team of several hundred Tier 3 players in an instant.

She’s finally getting serious? Shi Feng, on the other hand, wasn’t surprised to see the incoming balls of ice. Calmly, he activated the Seven Luminaries Ring’s Absolute Domain.

High Magic Elves could even rival God’s Domain’s Dragons.

And how powerful, exactly’ was a Dragon?

A Dragon was the personification of a natural disaster. Not even a full kingdom could stop a Dragon’s wrath, and it would be forced to watch as the creature devastated its territories.

High Magic Elves might have a slightly lower Life Rating than Dragons, but they had the combat power to rival the monstrosities due to their exceptional talent with wielding magic.

High Magic Elves could effortlessly cast frighteningly powerful Spells, which usually required a long casting time. An ordinary Tier 4 Great Wizard, for example, would need a dozen seconds to cast a Tier 4 large-scale destruction Spell, but Ulunium only needed two seconds.

As the hail of meteors bombarded the frozen lake, they transformed a 200-yard-radius area into an icy hell.

Fortunately, not even Tier 4 Spells could break through Shi Feng's Absolute Domain, and Shi Feng and his companions within range of his Skill emerged unharmed. The moment Ulunium's attack ended, Shi Feng charged at the Ice Elf.

Ulunium was a magical class being. If she were allowed to cast her Spells freely, she could even slay Tier 5 players, much less Shi Feng's Tier 3 teammates. If Shi Feng wanted to prevent her from slaughtering them all, he had to face her in melee combat.

With Absolute Domain's protection, Shi Feng could approach Ulunium while she bombarded him with a steady stream of Tier 4 Spells, but as he approached, he had to admit that this Ice Elf was incredibly powerful. Not only were her Basic Attributes considerably higher than his, but she also had an endless supply of Tier 4 Spells at her command. Even after forcibly promoting himself to Tier 4, Shi Feng was at a major disadvantage.

With Absolute Domain's duration running out, Zero Wing's members, who watched from a distance, began to grow nervous.

Ulunium would've torn Shi Feng to shreds by now if not for Absolute Domain's protection. Her attacks against their Guild Leader weren't like the Ice Elf's assault against Cola. She had even begun to double speed-cast. Combined with her already-absurd casting speed, not even Shi Feng could dodge all of her attacks in time. He was forced to rely on Sword's Orbit to block some of the attacks, lest the impact knock him back.

As though she had anticipated the moment, Ulunium sneered and summoned a crystalline staff the instant Absolute Domain came to an end. With a swing of her staff, she revealed numerous magic arrays that had been hidden under the snow around her. Countless icicles shot from the arrays, flying toward Shi Feng, and a powerful blizzard of hail and snow descended on the Swordsman.

"Are you kidding me?! Is Ulunium really just a monster?!" Blackie's eyes nearly fell from their sockets when he saw the magic arrays appear around Shi Feng. Not only had the Ice Elf set traps during the battle, but her traps had been so cleverly placed that not even Blackie, a Cursemancer, had noticed them. This was the first time he had ever experienced such a thing in God's Domain.

Moreover, Ulunium had concealed over a dozen magic arrays under the snow. As they activated simultaneously, they had the power of more than a dozen Tier 4 magical classes attacking as one. An attack like this would even turn a Tier 4 MT into swiss cheese.

As expected of a High Magic Elf, she's even calculated my Skill's duration. The incoming icicles didn't surprise Shi Feng in the least. He immediately commanded his summoned Great Demon, which had been on standby, to join the fray.

Mythic monsters' intellect shouldn't be underestimated after Level 100, especially that of a High Magic Elf like Ulunium. Shi Feng had expected her to employ traps. If these creatures were any weaker, the various superpowers of his previous life wouldn't have struggled so hard against Superior Mythics.

The Great Demon appeared behind Shi Feng instantly and blocked the icicles coming in from behind its master. With the Great Demon's help, Shi Feng could concentrate on the wind pythons attacking him head-on.

However, despite focusing on defense, the wind pythons were too powerful for him, and his HP continued to fall with each attack he blocked. If he hadn't had the help of his healers' diligent spell casting, he wouldn't have lasted more than 15 seconds against this bombardment.

With the Great Demon guarding his back and the rear line healers' support, Shi Feng had a much easier time distracting Ulunium. Before even Shi Feng had realized it, another 50 or so seconds had passed, and only 5 seconds remained before Disintegration Power's duration would end.

"All of your efforts are futile, human! Your power is already fading, and once it does, both you and Alba Gray will forever decorate this lake as ice sculptures!" Ulunium declared, flashing Shi Feng a sinister grin when she sensed Disintegration Power begin to fade.

"Is that so?" Shi Feng shot back, unfazed despite Disintegration Power's duration running out. On the contrary, he revealed a bright smile as he said, "I disagree."

With that comment, Ulunium realized that something was amiss. She immediately shifted her gaze toward the distant Anna, but it was too late as the Personal Guard completed the final verse of her incantation.

A holy light pierced the clouds and shot toward the frozen lake as a Higher Valkyrie with three sets of pure-white wings appeared not far from the Ice Elf.

"A Higher Valkyrie?!" Ulunium's expression shifted when she saw her newest opponent.

The Valkyrie gave Ulunium no time to prepare as she threw her Thunder Spear at the High Magic Elf, its astonishing power exploding through the space around it.

A Higher Valkyrie's Life Rating couldn't compare to that of a Dragon, but it was on par with a High Magic Elf's. Ulunium was forced to focus on the Higher Valkyrie's attack, defending herself.

The Higher Valkyrie demanded all of Ulunium's attention, and the Ice Elf had no energy to spare on Shi Feng. She couldn't even defend herself from his Great Demon's attacks, which steadily chipped away at her HP.

As the seconds passed, the curse on Alba Gray grew weaker, yet Ulunium couldn't do anything about it.

Ninety seconds after Shi Feng had released the Jealous Witch's Mana around the NPC, everyone heard ice shatter as Alba Gray broke free of his icy prison.

Chapter 2400 – Sword Saint

Seeing Alba Gray break free from his curse, Shi Feng breathed a deep sigh of relief.

Although the Higher Valkyrie could keep Ulunium busy, it couldn't exist for long. If the Higher Valkyrie had disappeared before Alba Gray had freed himself, Shi Feng wouldn't have been able to stop the Ice Elf even with Twofold Berserk. Not only was there a full-tier difference between them, but Ulunium was also powerful enough to rival a Dragon. Shi Feng wouldn't have been able to resist her attacks for long.

“Damn it!” Ulunium grew incensed when she noticed Alba Gray was free. She swung her icy staff at Shi Feng, bellowing, “I’ll send you all to hell!”

The High Magic Elf began to chant an incantation, and a threefold magic array covering a 500-yard radius began to form in the sky.

The instant the array took shape, it tore apart space around it. Two seconds later, these spatial tears transformed into a gigantic black hole.

So, this is her true strength. Shi Feng looked up at the black hole with a grim expression.

Tier 5 Spell, Void Storm!

Tier 5 Spells were beyond extraordinary. They had enough power to destroy an entire city, transforming it into a lifeless land. This was why the various kingdoms and empires feared Tier 5 beings. Even emperors had to show respect before them.

Shi Feng had never dreamed that Ulunium could cast Tier 5 Spells, despite being a Tier 4 creature.

There was only a difference of one tier between Tier 4 and 5, but the difference between a Tier 4 Spell and a Tier 5 Spell was like the difference between heaven and earth. Any random Tier 5 Offensive Spell could severely injure a Tier 4 creature. If a Tier 4 player tried to stand against a Tier 5 Spell, their death would almost be a guarantee. Even Tier 4 MTs could withstand such power. Players wouldn’t even have a chance to flee since the amount of Mana a Tier 5 Spell commanded would freeze space around them.

When Zero Wing’s members saw the Void Storm forming above them, they turned a deathly pale.

The resulting shockwave would easily cover several thousand yards. They had no hope of escaping this Spell's range.

Before any of them could start running for their lives, however, a pitch-black storm emerged from the black hole, covering the world in an endless darkness.

Not even Shi Feng knew how to get out of this one. Absolute Domain might be able to protect them, but the Skill was still on Cooldown. They couldn't escape via Instantaneous Transfer Scrolls, either, since space around them had frozen.

Fortunately, they had completed their quest. Even if they died, they'd only lose some EXP, which they could quickly recover.

Seeing the descending storm of darkness, Shi Feng prepared to die.

Suddenly, Alba Gray unsheathed the golden sword hanging from his waist and slashed it toward the endless darkness.

A brilliant light spread through the darkness, purifying it. In just three seconds, Alba Gray's holy light had vanquished Ulunium's Void Storm.

"Crap! Isn't that Hero a little too powerful?!"

Yan Tianxing and the others gaped in shock, unable to process what had just happened.

In one move, Ulunium had transformed the day into night, whereas Alba Gray had returned daylight to the frozen lake with a move of his own. Their combat power was simply unbelievable.

Staring at Alba Gray, Zero Wing's members finally understood what it meant to be a Hero.

A Hero could not be overwhelmed by numbers. All of the monsters they had fought were insignificant before Alba Gray. The NPC could likely even slaughter a full group of Tier 4 players instantly.

"Damn it! You've actually become a Sword Saint?!" Ulunium stared at Alba Gray in astonishment as her Void Storm dissipated.

"That's right! Removing the curse has allowed me to grasp some of the principles I needed to make a breakthrough! You are no longer a match for me!" Alba Gray roared, a hint of excitement lacing his tone.

Although the Jealous Witch's curse had caused him endless suffering, studying it had allowed him to understand the concepts he needed to become a true Tier 5 Sword Saint.

A Tier 5 Sword Saint?! Shi Feng was similarly shocked, and he spun to look at Alba Gray.

[Alba Gray (Sacred Magic Knight)] (Hero, Sword Saint) Level? ? ?

HP??????/??????

NPCs faced greater struggles when trying to complete their promotions, but this was also why NPCs' status rose dramatically with every promotion in God's Domain.

A Tier 3 NPC, for example, could serve as a minor city's Magistrate, while a Tier 4 NPC could serve as a Magistrate in a major city. Even emperors had to show respect before Tier 5 NPCs.

But as far as Shi Feng could remember, Alba Gray had only been a Tier 4 Hero during his previous life. This hadn't changed even after 10 years since God's Domain's launch. Alba Gray had never managed to become a Tier 5 Sword Saint.

Even so, as a Hero, Alba Gray had been able to contend with ordinary Tier 5 NPCs. Including his identity as a Famed Smith, even the various empires had taken him seriously.

And yet, Alba Gray was now a Tier 5 Sword Saint!

"It is true. Now that you are a Sword Saint, I am no match for you, but don't you dare think this is over!" Ulunium declared as she glared at Alba Gray. She then turned to Shi Feng and continued, "You, as well, adventurer!"

After her bold declaration, the Ice Elf began to disintegrate into snowflakes.

"Don't think you can get away from me that easily!" Alba Gray shouted. He unsheathed the second sword hanging from his waist and charged at Ulunium, swinging the pitch-black blade.

He had only executed a normal slash, but from a distance, the attack had looked like a black wall, rising into the air and extending more than 500 meters.

The pitch-black wall bisected the High Magic Elf, and Ulunium released a harrowing scream as a snow-white energy crystal fell from her body. Although the attack had significantly weakened Ulunium's life aura, she successfully

As the black wall faded from existence, only Alba Gray remained on the snow-covered lake.

"It seems she still managed to escape." Alba Gray frowned as he glared at the spatial tear before him.

Shi Feng, who stood nearby, wasn't surprised in the least that the Ice Elf had gotten away. A Mythic ranked High Magic Elf was on par with a Mythic ranked World Boss of the same level. In fact, she should be even stronger. She could cast Tier 5 Spells, after all, which proved that she was only half a step away from becoming a Tier 5 being herself. Even a Tier 5 Hero would face a long battle to kill her.

With Ulunium's disappearance, Shi Feng heard the sound of a system notification.

System: Congratulations! You have completed the Inferior Legendary Quest, "Last Knight." Quest completion rate – 93%. Quest rating: S-rank.