

## Chapter 2461 – Fortress's Legacy

Star Valley, Starlight Fortress:

Inside the dilapidated fortress full of Level 110-plus Elemental Creatures, the Silver Lion Legion continued to push toward the fortress's core. Although they faced more Great Lords and Grand Lords as they delved further into the fortress, defeating these monsters became an easy task with the Tier 4 Hero MacAffrey had summoned and the fortress's magic array buff.

After grinding in the fortress for just six hours, every member of the legion discovered that their experience bars had grown considerably. Their leveling speed here was several times faster than grinding in normal maps.

Furthermore, the Elemental Creatures dropped substantial loot, including plenty of Level 110 Mysterious-Iron Equipment. If they were lucky, even Level 110 Secret Silver Equipment and Set Equipment would drop.

The equipment was top-tier to the Silver Lion Legion's members. The highest-leveled players among them were Level 106, while many of them were still stuck at Level 105. Currently, obtaining Level 110 weapons and equipment was a major challenge for them.

Set equipment pieces' Attributes were generally half a rank better than ordinary equipment of the same rank. If players could collect the full set, the set's Attributes would be a full rank better than ordinary equipment of the same rank, with some having even greater bonuses.

Take the Level 110 Secret-Silver Set Equipment the Starlight Fortress's monsters dropped, for example. Although the Hidden Blue Set was only a Level 110 Secret-Silver Set Equipment, not only would having six of the eight pieces increase a player's casting speed by 20%, but it would also increase their Spells'

effects by 25%. With all eight pieces of the set, it would increase one's Spell Completion Rate by another 2% and casting range by 20%

Wearing this set, a magical class expert's DPS would be even higher than players in Level 110 Fine-Gold Equipment!

Even after they reached Level 110, they couldn't be certain how many pieces of Level 110 Fine-Gold Equipment they could obtain. It was likely that only the Guild's peak experts had any chance of securing a full set. Obtaining enough Level 110 Fine-Gold Equipment was simply too difficult for experts of their caliber.

Fortunately, MacAffrey had already announced that he would auction all weapons and equipment they obtained from the Starlight Fortress. This meant that they'd all get a chance to acquire Level 110 Secret-Silver Set Equipment. How much they obtained would only depend on how many GCPs they had saved up.

This was the reason that the Silver Lion Legion members put all of their effort into clearing out the Starlight Fortress's monsters, even without Shi Feng saying a word. They actually hoped that Shi Feng's group wouldn't participate in the battle, allowing them to keep all of the Elemental Creatures for themselves. The fortress only had so many monsters, and there wouldn't be enough Secret-Silver Set Equipment for everyone.

"Guild Leader, are we really going to leave these Elemental Creatures to Divine Tribe's members?" Aqua Rose asked as she watched the Silver Lion Legion push through the fortress's main streets.

Level 110 Secret-Silver Equipment and Set Equipment might not be important to her or the other experts that had ventured to the western continent with Shi Feng, but it would be to Zero Wing's other experts. Moreover, not even Level 110 Common Equipment had shown up on the market yet, much less Level 110 Secret-Silver Equipment.

They had an advantage with the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship, and the fortress's magic array currently suppressed the monster's Basic Attributes. This was an excellent opportunity to secure some Level 110 weapons and equipment for the Guild. Leaving all of the suppressed monsters for the Silver Lion Legion was a huge waste.

"That won't be necessary. Although these monsters drop a lot of loot, only the Grand Lords drop Secret-Silver Equipment, and they only have a chance of doing so. The drop-rate isn't 100%. Since the Silver Lion Legion is willing to help us clear out the fortress, we should allow them to benefit from the task," Shi Feng said, chuckling when he watched the idea of Level 110 Secret-Silver Equipment tempt Aqua Rose. "If we try to clear the fortress ourselves, it'll take us a long time. Besides, we have something more important to take care of."

As per Shi Feng's agreement with Adolf, the Silver Lion Legion was only here to help Zero Wing capture a city. Now that they had captured the Starlight Fortress, the legion had no reason to continue the fight. It was well within its rights to turn around and leave. The fact that the Silver Lion Legion was willing to slay the monsters within the fortress was good news for Shi Feng.

If Zero Wing had to clear out the monsters on its own, he wouldn't have much time left to fortify the fortress.

"Something more important?" After giving the matter some thought, Aqua Rose asked, "Are we raiding the remaining Guardian Bosses?"

The moment Aqua Rose mentioned the Guardian Bosses, Cola and the other Zero Wing experts burst with excitement. They hadn't had a chance to participate in the fight with the Starlight Behemoth directly, so they were itching for action.

"No," Shi Feng replied, shaking his head. "We'll be taking control of the Fortress Lord's Mansion!"

“The Fortress Lord’s Mansion? Guild Leader, don’t you already have the Fortress Lord’s Token?” Aqua Rose inquired.

The Fortress Lord’s Token was necessary to take control of the fortress as a whole, and it was the key component in taking over the Fortress Lord’s Mansion. Normally, when one obtained a Fortress Lord’s Token, they automatically gained control of the Fortress Lord’s Mansion.

However, Shi Feng now informed them that they still needed to secure the mansion.

“I do have the Fortress Lord’s Token, but I don’t control the Fortress Lord’s Mansion yet. In fact, I don’t even have partial control over it,” Shi Feng explained with a bitter smile.

Fortresses built before the Great Destruction weren’t like more modern fortresses. When one gained the Fortress Lord’s Token for the latter, they would gain full control of the Fortress Lord’s Mansion, but that wasn’t the case with ancient fortresses.

Securing an ancient Fortress Lord’s Mansion would prove several times more difficult than capturing the fortress itself. The true value of these fortresses didn’t lie in the resident monsters’ loot nor the items that the Guardian Bosses dropped. Rather, the truly valuable items were the ancient Legacies[] that were stored in the Fortress Lord’s Mansion.

Items such as weapons and equipment were only secondary compared to these ancient Legacies.

Most of the Legacies ancient humans had left behind to reach Tier 3 had been lost to time, and as a result, present-day humans had a far more difficult time completing their Tier 3 and higher Promotion Quests.

Since ancient fortresses like the Starlight Fortress had existed before the Great Destruction, they, more or less, still contained Tier 3 and higher Legacies.

These Legacies were the true treasures within ancient fortresses.

At this stage of the game, players only knew that it was difficult to reach Tier 3. They weren't aware that Tier 3 was only the beginning of their journey in God's Domain. Once they completed their Tier 3 promotions, growing stronger would become many times more difficult.

Why was this the case?

The reason was very simple.

After reaching Tier 3, players wouldn't receive any guidance from the system regarding ways to increase their strength.

Take Tier 3 Skills and Spells, for example. These were the foundation for Tier 3 players' power. If players only relied on Legacy Skill Points to acquire Tier 3 Skills and Spells, they wouldn't be considered a true Tier 3 player. To be a true Tier 3 player, one would need at least 10 Tier 3 Skills or Spells in their arsenal.

One also needed a way to control their Mana Body, which was also a crucial Legacy. These methods were even more important than Tier 3 Skills and Spells.

Although Shi Feng was already a Master Magician, and his control and understanding of magic arrays were far superior to other players, he only had basic control of his Mana Body. This was also the case for

the western continent's experts, who were particularly skilled at controlling Mana. Their mastery with their Mana Bodies was still in the infantile stages.

This was why current Tier 3 experts were no match for Tier 3 NPCs.

Many of the Legacies within ancient fortresses were related to Mana Body control, offering methods that allowed humans, who had no physical advantages, to survive in the dangerous environments that had survived the Great Destruction.

"Guild Leader, how are we supposed to secure the Fortress Lord's Mansion?" Aqua Rose asked. She realized that Shi Feng wasn't joking when she saw his serious expression.

If they could not secure the Fortress Lord's Mansion, the Starlight Fortress would remain ownerless. If that didn't change before the fortress automatically opened to the public, Zero Wing would be left in a very awkward position.

"It's simple. All we need to do is pass the Legacy Trial in the Fortress Lord's Mansion. If we fail, we'll only control the fortress on the surface, even with the Fortress Lord's Token," Shi Feng replied.

To put it simply, the Starlight Fortress Lord's Token was a ticket to obtain the Starlight Fortress's Legacy. How much of the fortress players controlled would depend on how much of its Legacy they could activate.

The various ancient fortresses' Legacy Trials differed in difficulty. The known difficulties were Normal, Hard, Hell, Asura, and God Mode. The more challenging a Legacy Trial was, the greater its rewards would be, but clearing the trial would also require more players. Moreover, all Legacy Trials had a one-week Cooldown.

Shi Feng then led Aqua Rose and the rest of his companions toward the Starlight Fortress's Fortress Lord's Mansion.

A magic array currently enveloped the mansion, and not even Mythic monsters could break through the barrier, let alone players. Only the player that held the Fortress Lord's Token and those that player granted access to could pass through the barrier.

After walking up to the mansion's entrance, Shi Feng retrieved the Fortress Lord's Token and started to chant an incantation. Silently, he prayed, Please, don't let the Starlight Fortress's Legacy Trial be too high of a difficulty.

He hadn't just chosen to capture the Starlight Fortress because its monsters were easier to deal with; most of his reasoning was based on the fact that it was one of the few Small Fortresses in Star Valley that had a Fortress Lord's Mansion with a weak Mana signature. This meant that the Legacy the Starlight Fortress protected wasn't particularly powerful, and the Legacy Trial shouldn't be overly difficult. If he had tried to capture a fortress with a powerful Fortress Lord's Mansion, he would've wasted his effort if he couldn't secure control of the mansion after capturing the fortress.

When Shi Feng finished the incantation recorded on the token, a dark-purple, fourfold magic array appeared on the mansion's main door. A set of gigantic, golden doors then emerged, and as the doors slowly parted, an ancient aura gushed between them.

Crap! Isn't this just a measly Small Fortress?! Why does it have an Asura Mode Legacy Trial?!

Shi Feng was utterly dumbfounded when he saw the golden doors.

## Chapter 2462 – Gold Gate

Aqua Rose and the others couldn't help their surprise when the set of golden doors appeared before the entrance to the Fortress Lord's Mansion.

Although the doors were only eight meters tall, they radiated a sacred aura that tamed the nearby ambient Mana. This aura even affected the Mana within Zero Wing's members.

Although the divine runes and images had been engraved on the doors, these runes and images were indiscernible when players tried to examine them. Even so, the blurred runes and images felt somehow heavy and inspired curiosity.

"What are the markings on the doors? I tried to examine them for a moment, but it made me feel even more exhausted than using Advanced Combat Techniques multiple times in a row," Aqua Rose wondered aloud. After examining the engravings, she pruned her gaze away from the doors.

She had seen plenty of amazing items in God's Domain, but this was the first time she had encountered something that could deplete her Concentration so drastically after looking at it for a few seconds. She didn't doubt that if she had stared at the doors for a few more moments, her mind would've been overloaded.

Fire Dance and the others also turned away from the doors, afraid they'd pass out if they continued to stare.

God's Domain's players rarely fainted from Concentration depletion, but if it happened, the results would be even more severe than from Stamina depletion.



When a player's Stamina depleted, they'd lose the ability to move, but when they lost all of their Concentration, they'd be forced into a deep slumber, which took an incredibly long time to recover from. This could be a fatal setback for players fighting on the frontlines.

"This is normal. The information on this Gold Gate is a Legacy that has been passed down from ancient times. Moreover, this is a relatively complete Legacy and far more complex than the combat techniques we've seen thus far. It isn't something players can simply glance at," Shi Feng said. When he saw his teammates' curiosity, he revealed a bitter smile and continued, "If you look at this Legacy for too long, your recovery could take more than five days."

The Legacy Gates left behind in ancient fortresses fell into three ranks: Bronze Gate, Silver Gate, and Gold Gate.

Each gate was stronger than the last, and the Legacies they contained were more complete with each subsequent rank. Similarly, the higher the gate's rank was, the more difficult the Legacy Trial would be. Many Tier 3 experts would already struggle to clear the Normal and Hard Mode Legacy Trials on the Bronze Gates.

The Gold Gates only contained Asura and God Mode Legacy Trials, which were so difficult that even peak experts would despair at the challenge.

Shi Feng had assumed that, even in the worst-case scenario, the Starlight Fortress would house a Silver Gate. He had never considered that the Legacy Gate would be Gold-rank. Taking control of this Fortress Lord's Mansion would be nearly as difficult as capturing a Large Fortress's Fortress Lord's Mansion...

Has the system elevated the trial's difficulty because we're the first to capture an ancient fortress? Questions filled Shi Feng's mind as he gazed at the Gold Gate before him.

Normally, Small Fortresses had, at most, Silver Gates, and Medium Fortresses would only have a small chance of containing a Gold Gate. He had never heard of anyone finding a Gold Gate in a Small Fortress.

Forget it. Let's just take this one step at a time. Shi Feng shook his head, banishing his worries. He then gritted his teeth and led his team through the Gold Gate.

If he refused to participate in the trial now that he had activated it with the Fortress Lord's Token, he would have to wait for the token's Cooldown to end before he could try again. Moreover, the appearance of a Gold Gate wasn't all bad; this could be a blessing for them.

A high-ranked Legacy Gate might be very difficult to clear, but it would also provide greater help as players learned how to control their Mana Bodies.

A Legacy Gate was an Ancient Fortress's most valuable treasure. It was also the greatest benefit to controlling an ancient fortress. The various powers hadn't initially been aware of this fact in Shi Feng's previous life and had treated the Legacy Gates as a way to gain more control over their fortresses.

The various powers had only discovered the Legacy Gates' true value after some time, learning that these gates were the fastest way for players to unlock the full potential of their Mana Bodies. If players tried to explore and adapt to their Mana Bodies without such help, unlocking their Mana Bodies' potential would take ages.

As Shi Feng and the others walked through the Gold Gate, the world around them warped.

The world settled into place again, and Shi Feng found himself before a sacred, golden mountain, alone. This golden mountain was several thousand meters tall; Shi Feng couldn't even see where the mountain ended. The mountain's aura was just slightly less intense than that of the Tower of Four Gods. While bathed in the mountain's aura, Shi Feng felt an intense pressure bear down on him, reducing his mobility.

So, this is a Gold Gate's trial? Shi Feng looked around him, shocked.

During his previous life, he had only ever entered a Bronze Gate, and he had only acquired the entry slot after paying a huge sum. Even so, he had paid the price gladly. If he hadn't, he would've had to rely on his own experiences to explore and adapt to his Mana Body, like independent players, wasting a lot of precious time in the process.

The stronger one's Mana Body was, the more difficult it was to unlock its potential. Because of this, independent Tier 3 players struggled to surpass the various superpowers' Tier 3 experts.

Unfortunately, it couldn't be helped. It was simply a benefit of having access to a Guild's resources. If that weren't the case, so many players wouldn't be so desperate to join the various superpowers.

Within the Gold Gate, Shi Feng discovered that the difference between a Bronze and Gold Gate was far greater than he had expected.

When he had entered the Bronze Gate, its environment hadn't affected his mental state, but within the Gold Gate, he could feel a void in his mind. Within spaces that had thin traces of Mana, such a mental state would be extremely helpful. While players operated in spaces that lacked Mana, the harsh environments would affect their ability to learn and grow, even with the support of their Mana Bodies.

While Shi Feng and the others quietly observed their surroundings, the phantom of a goddess in dark-blue armor appeared before them all.

“I am this Legacy Gate’s creator, Eliadi. Trial taker, you have two days to climb the sacred mountain and pass the trial. If you fail, you will be removed from this place. Only if three or more of you reach the sacred mountain’s first shrine, will you obtain the Starlight Fortress’s Bronze Mark, securing your hold over the fortress. Remember, this is your only opportunity. You will not be allowed to reach this place again for another month,” Eliadi explained, watching Shi Feng carefully.

The moment Eliadi finished speaking, she vanished as if she had never existed.

Fortunately, we have two days. Shi Feng breathed out a sigh of relief after listening to the trial’s introduction.

He had only been given one day to ascend the sacred mountain when he had challenged the Bronze Gate in the past, but now, he would have two days to complete the trial. Fortunately, this amount of time should be more than enough for Aqua Rose and his other companions to adapt to this environment. This was, after all, the first time they had entered a Legacy Trial.

Before Shi Feng could celebrate his good luck, however, three Knights in exquisite armor appeared on the sacred mountain. Each of the Knights carried swords, and the weakest among them was Level 110 and Tier 3. The moment these Knights manifested, they charged toward Shi Feng.

The Knights were quick, and despite the lack of Mana in the area, dense Mana surrounded each of them.

Three Knights with fully unlocked Mana Bodies, right off the bat? Shi Feng was stunned as he watched the approaching Knights.

Sensing the intense amount of Mana that coated the NPC Knights' swords, Shi Feng wasn't willing to take unnecessary risks. He immediately unsheathed both of his swords and prepared for battle.

He might not have been as worried if his opponents had merely been new Tier 3 NPCs or Tier 3 NPCs below Level 100, but against three Level 110, Tier 3 NPCs with fully unlocked Mana Bodies, he'd lose his life with the slightest mistake.

The difference between a locked Mana Body and one that has been unlocked was like the difference between a Refinement Realm expert and an ordinary player.

This was why some Tier 3 NPCs could serve as Magistrates in the various kingdoms and empires, while others could only serve as a town or city's Guard Captain. Some weaker Tier 3 NPCs were even limited to guarding a palace's entrance. These different statuses were a result of the state of the NPCs' Mana Bodies.

Any Tier 3 NPC that could unlock their Mana Body's full potential would be an elite among those of the same tier. They were no longer ordinary NPCs, but experts. These Tier 3 NPCs could beat expert players to a pulp as easily as ordinary players...

Reaching their target, the three NPC Knights slashed their swords at Shi Feng from different directions.

The Knights were perfectly in sync as if they had been comrades in battle for over a dozen years. Two of the Knights attempted to distract Shi Feng, while one attacked his blind spot. Furthermore, their attacks were powerful enough to throw Great Lords of the same level. If any other Tier 3 player stood in Shi Feng's place, it wouldn't be long before they were defeated.

Unfortunately, the three Knights couldn't fool Shi Feng. As a Domain Realm expert, he quickly determined their attack trajectories.

Shi Feng instantly countered the Knight attacking his blind spot, forcibly altering the Knight's attack trajectory and guiding the weapon to collide with the other two Knights' swords.

Peng! Peng! Peng!

The three Knights stumbled back as a result of the collision, but Shi Feng didn't get off scot-free. He also stumbled half a step back, and his right arm trembled slightly from the impact.

So, this is a Golden Gate's trial? Shi Feng glanced down at Killing Ray, which vibrated with a low hum, astonished. He couldn't help but worry for Aqua Rose and the others.

There was almost no Mana in this world, and because of that, Aqua Rose and his other companions would be lucky if they could exhibit half of their normal combat power, even with the help of their Mana Bodies.

Shi Feng's first clash with the three Knights had been brief, but he could tell that his opponents' combat standards were on par with the Trial Tower's fifth floor. Their combat standards might not be very high, but he was sure they had Silver rank Mana Bodies. Otherwise, there was no way a single clash would cause his arm to go numb with his Basic Attributes.

If even he struggled, it was easy to imagine how the others might fare.

Moreover, he was only at the foot of the mountain. He hadn't even started to climb it yet...

Ascending the mountain was the goal of this Legacy Trial, and as players climbed higher, they'd face stronger opponents. Fortunately, they weren't actually required to kill their opponents. As long as players survived against the mountain's residents for 30 minutes, they'd be allowed to pass, but that was still a challenging task. PvP fights rarely lasted more than 10 minutes, not to mention fights against NPCs, since such high-intensity battles required a lot of Stamina and Concentration.

However, during his first clash with the Knights, Shi Feng sensed the NPCs' Mana circuits and how they used the Mana within them.

Normally, sensing such things in the outside world was quite difficult due to the abundant Mana in the area, but the Legacy Gate's space had barely any. As a result, the flow of Mana within the NPC Knights was easily noticeable. Shi Feng wasn't a magical class player, but he could clearly sense their Mana flow.

Only, because these Knights only possessed Silver Mana Bodies, their Mana Bodies' construction was far simpler than Shi Feng's Epic ranked Mana Body. He wouldn't gain much insight from watching these Knights fight. Even so, he'd gain more information than he had from unlocking his past Bronze Mana body.

After Shi Feng had shoved the three Knights back, they quickly regained their postures and launched another attack, giving Shi Feng no time to catch a break.

This time, however, the Knights opted for a different approach. One of the Knights focused on attacking Shi Feng, while the other two consolidated their mana and waited for an opening. The Knights now knew that they were no match for Shi Feng's techniques, and they had decided to overwhelm him with brute force. It left Shi Feng in a difficult position.

His Basic Attributes were definitely higher than the Tier 3 Knights', but with their Mana empowering their swords, Shi Feng couldn't block the weapons without repercussions. He had no choice but to

dodge and retreat. Fortunately, the Mana only increased the force behind the Knights' attacks; it did not increase their damage.

Ten minutes... Fifteen minutes... Twenty minutes...

As the battle progressed, Shi Feng's excitement grew. He had learned and mimicked the method the Knights used to conduct and use the Mana within their Mana Bodies. It was like learning to draw a new magic array.

The Knights charged at him again, and Shi Feng silently guided the Mana in his body outward, enveloping his Sacred Sword.

This should be enough.

He then swung Killing Ray at the Tier 3 Knights' Mana-coated swords.

Boom!

The sound of an explosion echoed from the foot of the mountain.

The impact from the blow shoved the three Tier 3 Knights stumbling back a step. In contrast, Shi Feng remained steady in his original position, and his arm no longer shook.

Suddenly, the sound of a system notification reached Shi Feng's ears.



System: You have unlocked 5% of your Epic Mana Body.

I've finally grasped the method to unlock my Mana Body! Shi Feng was ecstatic as he glanced down at his weapon.

He had finally learned to mimic the way these Knights conducted and used their Mana.

Of course, he could not mimic the Knight's methods perfectly, since they weren't compatible with his Mana Body. He needed to modify his approach. Moreover, he possessed an Epic Mana Body, which had a more complex structure than a Silver Mana Body. This was why he had only unlocked 5% of his Mana Body with that attack.

It's no wonder why so many experts fought to enter Gold Gates in the past. I've made more than a fortnight's progress in less than half an hour. Seeing the three NPCs eye him hostilely, Shi Feng realized how astoundingly effective it was to train within a Gold Gate's Legacy Trial.

If an expert with a Silver Mana Body stood in his place, they would've likely unlocked all of their Mana Body with one trip. These Knights had offered a perfect example of how to do so, after all, and this environment was the perfect place to observe others' Mana Bodies. This simply wasn't possible in the outside world.

Following which, Shi Feng challenged the next group of NPC Knights. He wanted to familiarize himself and adapt to the new sensation as quickly as possible.

The second group consisted of six NPC Knights, and they used a completely different method to employ their Mana Bodies. Individually, they were about as strong as the first three Knights, but in the end, they were nothing more than lab rats for Shi Feng as he further optimized his Epic Mana Body.

Not only did Shi Feng encounter more Knights as he climbed the mountain, but the Knights also had higher-ranked Mana Bodies. The first Knights only had Basic Silver Mana Bodies, but eventually, Shi Feng faced NPCs with Intermediate Silver and Advanced Silver Mana Bodies. As a result, Shi Feng was able to continue refining his Epic Mana Body.

10%... 15%... 20%...

After more than seven hours of combat and completing his challenge against six Tier 3 Knights with Peak Silver Mana Bodies, Shi Feng finally reached the sacred mountain's first shrine.

After Shi Feng entered the first shrine, Eliadi, the goddess in dark-blue armor, appeared before him again. Eliadi radiated an aura that was even beyond that of Tier 5 beings.

"Trial taker, you have proven to be quite skilled. You have reached the first shrine within nine hours. As a reward for your effort, I will present you with two options. The first option consists of surviving three moves against me. Not only will you clear this trial and enter the mountain's second level by succeeding, but you'll also receive one Legacy Guidance. If you choose the second option, you will have to face this shrine's guardian. If you win, you will gain access to the second level, but you will not receive additional rewards," Eliadi offered Shi Feng. "You have three minutes to consider. Decide carefully!"

## **Chapter 2464 – Three Divine Swords**

Once Eliadi finished speaking, she closed her eyes and waited for Shi Feng's reply in silence. She showed no intention of speaking further.

Players actually have a chance to earn a Legacy Guidance in a Gold Gate? The goddess's explanation had stunned Shi Feng.

Based on what he knew from the past, the Legacy Gates' creators were lofty beings. They'd only appear before players at the beginning of the Legacy Trial to explain the rules. Players shouldn't encounter them again after that.

Shi Feng had never expected that not only would Eliadi appear before him near the sacred mountain's first shrine, but she'd also offer him two choices. Moreover, one of the two options would afford him the chance to obtain a Legacy Guidance. If the experts from his previous life found out about this, they'd try to kill him out of jealousy.

Players didn't receive any guidance after reaching Tier 3 in God's Domain; they'd have to rely on their own abilities to grow stronger, especially when trying to unlock their Mana Bodies.

Even within the Legacy Trials, players could only rely on their observations to learn and improve. They wouldn't be given anything on a silver platter.

Thus, receiving a Legacy Guidance was every expert player's dream.

Unlocking a Mana Body's full potential was only a basic condition to activating a Tier 3 Mana Body. If players could unlock more of their Mana Body's potential, it could offer even greater benefits.

However, unlocking more of a Mana Body's full potential was insanely difficult. If players had taken the wrong path during their early days, they'd have almost no chance of surpassing 100% potential. Players would have to settle for the most basic level of Mana Body.

If all players were offered a chance to receive guidance from an ancient Legacies, far more of the past's peak experts would've been able to reach Tier 5. The stronger a player's Mana Body was, the easier it'd be to complete their future Promotion Quests. This was why some experts with Silver Mana Bodies had reached Tier 5, while some experts with Gold Mana Bodies had been stuck at Tier 4.

When Eliadi had presented Shi Feng with two options, he had felt as if he were dreaming.

"Lady Eliadi, I choose your challenge!" Shi Feng instantly decided.

Challenging Eliadi was undoubtedly reckless, but if he missed this opportunity, he'd regret it for the rest of his life.

Even if he couldn't take control of the Starlight Fortress's Fortress Lord's Mansion now, he could try again after the token's Cooldown. However, if he passed up this opportunity to challenge Eliadi, he might not get another chance to earn a Legacy Guidance.

He had an Epic Mana Body, and unlocking its potential would be far more difficult than with a Gold Mana Body. Just trying to unlock 100% of its potential was an immensely difficult challenge, not to mention unlocking more than that.

"Excellent. You have made a wise decision. You will not receive another chance to challenge me, let alone obtain a Legacy Guidance, no matter how many times you come here," Eliadi said as she opened her eyes. When she looked at Shi Feng, a hint of recognition flashed in her eyes. "However, don't think that you can withstand three of my attacks. Even if I limit my strength to Tier 3, you have less than a 10% chance of completing my challenge with your sealed Epic Mana Body."

Eliadi then pulled a blue greatsword, whose tip had been buried in the ground before her, and raised it above her head.

A frightening amount of Mana suddenly surrounded her, and a Mana storm manifested around Eliadi's greatsword. The storm was so powerful that it could even tear apart space.

Shi Feng could sense that the phenomena weren't due to a Skill or Spell. Eliadi was merely executing a normal attack. "Now, face me! First Sword, Lightshadow!"

As she spoke those words, Eliadi swung her greatsword down at Shi Feng, who stood over 40 yards away.

A gigantic blade of Mana appeared in the goddess's hands and descended on Shi Feng, splitting apart space as it passed.

So, this is the true method of utilizing a Mana Body? Shi Feng was dumbfounded as the blade grew near.

He had met many Tier 5 NPCs, but he had never met one that had such mastery over their Mana Body.

Although Eliadi had suppressed her strength to Tier 3, her normal attacks still had the power of a Tier 4 Skill...

Without hesitation, Shi Feng activated Heavenly Dragon's Power.

The Legacy Trial was located in a different realm. Although players were prohibited from using Invulnerability Skills, they could use any other Skills or Spells they possessed. This was why Shi Feng dared to accept Eliadi's challenge.

Divine runes immediately appeared around Shi Feng's body, substantially increasing his Strength. He then brandished his swords at the descending Mana weapon.

Secret Technique, Lightning Flash!

Boom!

When the weapons collided, the impact created a powerful shockwave that shook the surrounding area. Even the ground trembled at its might. The boom of the collision echoed across the entire sacred mountain.

A figure then shot out of the dust cloud that encompassed the battlefield; it was none other than Shi Feng.

Not only had he lost one-fifth of his HP, but he also failed to stabilize his footing after he landed, tumbling to the ground...

Before Shi Feng could return to his feet, however, the goddess was already poised to attack again. This time, however, she positioned her sword beside her, prepared to execute a horizontal slash.

"Second Sword, Holy Devour!"

Another Mana storm brewed around her, threatening to devour everything in its path. This time, Shi Feng could feel the storm suck away the Mana within him, and the pressure that bore down on him made it somewhat difficult to move.

Shi Feng had no time to respond properly before the Eliadi swung her greatsword.

A torrent of fire manifested before Shi Feng, destabilizing space around it. These flames raged as if they needed to devour everything they touched, including space.

These flames were more than twice as powerful as the earlier Mana sword...

Are you kidding me? Shi Feng's shock reached unprecedented levels as he watched the torrent of fire blast toward him.

Normally, not even Heroes could exhibit Basic Tier 4 power with normal Tier 3 attacks, but not only did the goddess's horizontal swing contain Tier 4 power, but it was also at the Intermediate rank. No one would believe him if he retold this tale.

Despite his surprise, however, Shi Feng didn't hesitate. Realizing that he couldn't afford to hold back, Shi Feng activated Blade Liberation and executed Lightning Flash once more.

Boom!

Space exploded the moment the two fighters' weapons met.

Like before, Eliadi's attack sent Shi Feng flying, and this time, it left him with less than 50% of his HP. However, before Shi Feng could stand up, he heard Eliadi's voice.

"Third Sword, Holy Annihilation!"

Eliadi showed no intention of slowing her assault. Leaping into the air, she rose above Shi Feng and swung her greatsword downward.

This time, the goddess's attack didn't include any Mana fluctuations, but Shi Feng discovered that he couldn't move. He felt as if he were surrounded by enemies, and he could only watch as Eliadi's greatsword descended toward him.

This attack was many times stronger than her second swing... "Power of Destruction, activate!"

## **Chapter 2465 – Silver Mark**

Along with Shi Feng's low shout, Disintegration Power started flowing out of the Disintegration Armor and set the surrounding space aflutter. At the same time, a portion of the Disintegration Power entered Shi Feng's body, instantly elevating him to the Tier 4 realm.

Suddenly, the spatial restrictions and frightening pressure that originally bound Shi Feng's body weakened considerably, allowing him to move again. However, despite these changes, he did not feel safe. On the contrary, his complexion turned even grimmer than before.



Previously, when he was still at Tier 3, he had felt that Eliadi's current attack did not carry as much Mana as her second attack. However, after reaching Tier 4, he realized just how wrong he was.

Currently, the space within 50 yards of Eliadi was actually filled with Mana as dense as steel.

In God's Domain, Mana's existence was akin to air. It would condense into a misty state only after reaching a sufficiently high density. However, the Mana surrounding Eliadi had surpassed the misty and liquid states.

Normally, in God's Domain, the more refined the Mana was, the greater the energy it would contain.

Take Mana that was in a gaseous state and Mana that had concentrated into Magic Crystals. The amounts of energy each contained were worlds apart.

Seeing Eliadi's frightening attack descending toward him, Shi Feng pushed his five senses to their very limits and executed his strongest Skill, Void Slash, inwardly praying, You must block it!

In the next moment, six sword lights appeared from the void, then merged into one to meet Eliadi's greatsword.

Combined with the effects of all of Shi Feng's Berserk Skills, this attack could be said to be the peak of Shi Feng's current capabilities. In fact, he had even executed Void Slash at a 100% Completion Rate. The power of this attack could undoubtedly send Mythic monsters of the same level flying. Most likely, even Tier 4 NPCs would be no exception.

Boom!

A deafening boom echoed throughout the surroundings after the attacks of both sides collided. The entire sacred mountain had even started trembling slightly.

In the next moment, a figure flew out of the sacred mountain's first shrine and landed right at the foot of the sacred mountain, creating a crater that was over three meters deep.

"What a pity. I have waited a long time for a challenger with an Epic Mana Body to show up. If only he had unlocked his Mana Body before coming here. Combined with the power of a Tier 4 existence, he might've been able to withstand my final move," Eliadi said to herself, sighing when she saw Shi Feng disappearing from the shrine.

However, just as she was about to leave, she suddenly sensed something. Her figure then disappeared from the shrine and reappeared at the mountain's foot. To be precise, she appeared beside the crater of Shi Feng's crash.

"He didn't die?" Surprise flashed in Eliadi's eyes for the first time when she saw Shi Feng getting to his feet in the crater.

Despite the Swordsman receiving her attack, his HP had not decreased by even a single point. Only, visible spatial cracks surrounded him. However, these cracks were mending themselves, and eventually, a perfect barrier formed around him.

How close. If I didn't have the Nightwalker's Cape's Void Shield, that attack definitely would've killed me. Shi Feng breathed out a sigh of relief as he looked at the barrier protecting him.

He had still underestimated Eliadi's final attack.

That final attack was even stronger than those of the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship's Mana Pulse Cannons, practically rivaling the Flying Ship's Magic Elven Cannon's already. He had never heard of anyone exhibiting power at the peak of Tier 4 with merely a normal Tier 3 attack.

Fortunately, he had more than one Fragmented Legendary item on him—one of which was even for defense. Otherwise, only death awaited him in this trial.

After inwardly celebrating for a moment, Shi Feng climbed out of the crater quickly and walked up to Eliadi.

"Lady Eliadi, may I know if I passed your trial?" Shi Feng asked as he looked at the goddess.

Although he survived, he had been sent flying all the way down the sacred mountain. Since his agreement with Eliadi was for him to receive three of her moves, he wasn't sure if getting sent flying out of the shrine was already grounds for disqualification. Eliadi had not stated the conditions for qualifications clearly.

"You passed," Eliadi said, nodding. "Moreover, your performance was excellent. You actually managed to receive three of my moves without having unlocked your Tier 3 Mana Body. Of all the challengers I have come across throughout the years, you are the first to accomplish such a feat. As a reward, I will grant you not only a Legacy Guidance but also the Starlight Fortress's Silver Mark."

After saying so, Eliadi drew a silver rune in the air and imprinted it on the Fortress Lord's Token tied around Shi Feng's wrist.

System: Congratulations! You have obtained the Silver Mark and become the Starlight Fortress's Silver Lord. You may freely enter the Fortress Lord's Mansion and make use of the Starlight Fortress's advanced functions.

System: You have completed the challenge of the Legacy Gate's creator. Rewarding Level +1 and one Legacy Guidance from Eliadi.

Upon receiving the series of system notifications, Shi Feng fell into a daze. He never thought that the rewards for this challenge would be so generous.

Just the opportunity to receive a Legacy Guidance was already as valuable as a Fragmented Legendary item. In fact, if the peak experts of his previous life had known about this, they might have even willingly exchanged a Fragmented Legendary item just to receive a Legacy Guidance. After all, in God's Domain, one's own strength had the utmost priority. External items such as weapons and equipment only served to bolster a person's existing strength.

Moreover, so long as one was sufficiently strong, obtaining Fragmented Legendary items was not that difficult a task. Take the independent experts of adventurer teams, for example. Despite these experts not having any major corporations or superpowers backing them, some of them had still reached the apex of God's Domain.

Meanwhile, these people had accomplished this feat by relying entirely on their own strength.

However, aside from receiving a Legacy Guidance, he had actually received the Starlight Fortress's Silver Mark as well. If the various superpowers in his previous life were to find out about this, they would definitely want to eat him alive.

In the past, in order to increase their authority in the ancient fortresses they controlled, the various superpowers had invested countless manpower and resources into nurturing their peak experts. However, extremely few superpowers had managed to obtain an ancient fortress's Silver Mark—especially for ancient fortresses that housed a Gold Gate.

This was because the Silver Mark was no longer something just a handful of peak experts could attain. Obtaining a Silver Mark from a Legacy Gate required 10 experts to clear the sacred mountain's second shrine and three experts to reach the sacred mountain's peak within one challenge attempt.

Moreover, the difficulty of a sacred mountain's second level was far greater than that of the first level.

The sacred mountain's first level served as a foundational level for the Legacy Trial. It functioned more as an educational tool than a challenge.

However, it was a different story once players reached the sacred mountain's second level. The second level and beyond would differentiate the strong from the weak. They were not meant to teach players anything, and all that players could do on these levels was figure out a way to survive.

In the case of the second level of a Bronze Gate's sacred mountain, Tier 3 players would face Tier 3 Heroic Spirits that possessed extremely high combat standards; the weakest among them could rival Half-step Refinement Realm experts. Even worse, players had to go up against multiple Heroic Spirits simultaneously.

As for the third level, rumor had it that the opponents were bona fide Tier 3 Heroes.

Of course, players were no longer required to survive for as long as 30 minutes on the second level and beyond. Nevertheless, they still needed to last 10 minutes.

If even the Bronze Gate's trial was already so arduous, Shi Feng did not even dare imagine what kind of opponents awaited him on the second level of the Gold Gate's trial.

"Alright, you have a choice to make. Do you wish to receive guidance on how to unlock your Epic Mana Body, or do you wish to receive guidance on Mana Techniques?" Eliadi asked as she looked at Shi Feng's stunned expression.

## **Chapter 2466 – Heavenly Blue Successor**

There's also the option to learn Mana Techniques?

Shi Feng could not help but hesitate when he heard the options Eliadi gave him.

Mana Technique was a familiar term, a Mana usage technique that players could use only after reaching Tier 3 and obtaining their Mana Body. It was categorized as a type of combat technique in God's Domain.

Only, combat techniques focused on the usage of a person's physical body for combat, while Mana Techniques focused on the usage of a person's Mana for the same.

However, only an extremely small number of players had the opportunity to learn Mana Techniques in God's Domain because the knowledge had long been lost. Normally, players had to rely on their own inspiration to create Mana Techniques.

As for Shi Feng, even after playing God's Domain for a decade during his previous life, he never managed to learn a single Mana Technique.

If it were before he had witnessed Eliadi's three attacks, he would've most likely chosen to receive guidance on how to unlock his Epic Mana Body without any hesitation. This was because the Mana Techniques he had seen experts use in his previous life hadn't been particularly powerful. Those Mana Techniques only bolstered the strength of existing Skills and Spells slightly, not even as useful as combat techniques.

However, from the goddess's attacks, it would seem that he had been under a misconception.

After all, Eliadi's Mana Techniques allowed her to exhibit strength at the peak of Tier 4 despite having suppressed herself to Tier 3. The strength of her Mana Techniques was many times superior to Bronze Combat Techniques.

Of course, part of the reason why she could exhibit such strength with her Mana Technique was her high comprehension of the technique. Even so, this had still allowed Shi Feng to get a general idea of the power of Mana Techniques.

If he could master Eliadi's Third Sword, Holy Annihilation, then he really would be able to move unhindered through the entire God's Domain.

Normally, players had to rely on Legendary items to transcend tiers. Moreover, the higher one's tier was, the more difficult it would be to transcend tiers. Just the gap between Tier 3 and Tier 4 was already massive. Even with a Legendary item, the best a Tier 3 player could do when fighting a Tier 4 player of equal combat standards would be a draw. It would take more than just a Legendary item to win against a bona fide Tier 4 player.

Eliadi's Mana Techniques, on the other hand, only needed one to unlock their Mana Body to transcend tiers. Meanwhile, given sufficient time, players could unlock even Epic Mana Bodies to 100% potential.

"You have 30 seconds to consider. If you don't make a decision, I will take it as you giving up the opportunity to learn. You have only this one chance, so I hope you consider your decision well," Eliadi said as she looked at Shi Feng.

As soon as Eliadi finished speaking, a system timer appeared before him, the timer counting down the seconds.

Thirty seconds...

Twenty-five seconds ...

Twenty seconds...

The ticking sounds were like a countdown to death, and they stimulated Shi Feng's mind.

He had only this one opportunity to learn a Mana Technique. After he mastered it, he could even teach it to others. This Mana Technique would be a great help for Zero Wing's future.

However, if he wished to unlock his Epic Mana Body past 100% potential, he could only rely on Eliadi's guidance. Otherwise, on his own, the chances of him breaking through the 100% threshold were practically zero.



“You have 10 more seconds to consider,” Eliadi reminded when she saw Shi Feng still in deep thought.

However, Eliadi’s reminder did not catch Shi Feng’s attention. On the contrary, he sank even deeper into thought now.

“You have five seconds left,” Eliadi prompted once more. “Decide!”

At Eliadi’s final reminder, Shi Feng snapped out of his daze and took a deep breath.

“Lady Eliadi, I choose the guidance on my Epic Mana Body!” Shi Feng said with determination.

“Are you certain?” Eliadi asked, gazing at him seriously.

“I am very certain,” Shi Feng confirmed, nodding.

In his opinion, a Mana Technique was indeed amazing. In fact, the value of Eliadi’s Mana Technique surpassed even the value of Legendary items.

However, gaining the ability to unlock his Epic Mana Body past the 100% threshold was much more important since a player’s Mana Body was the foundation for everything. In his previous life, every player that had set foot into the realm of Tier 6 had broken through the 100% threshold. If he wanted to have a chance at reaching Tier 6, then he had to develop his Mana Body beyond 100%.

As for Eliadi's Mana Technique, while it indeed could increase players' combat power by a substantial degree, tiers trumped everything else.

This was especially true for Tier 6!

Even if said Tier 5 player was armed with an extremely powerful Legendary Weapon, they would, at most, be able to fight the weakest of Tier 6 players to a standstill. Defeating a Tier 6 player would be utterly impossible. Needless to say, it would be the same when relying on Mana Techniques.

During ancient times, humans possessed complete Mana Technique Legacies. Nevertheless, they were still incapable of contending against Tier 6 Gods.

Hence, tiers were everything in God's Domain!

Take the current God's Domain, for example. Tier 2 players were helpless against Tier 3 players. This was the case even for the various superpowers' Tier 2 experts. Currently, the various superpowers could compete with each other only by using Tier 3 players. Even if Tier 2 players were amazing and could defeat current Tier 3 experts, if they were incapable of promoting to Tier 3 themselves, it was only a matter of time before they were left behind by Tier 3 players in terms of Basic Attributes as players reached higher levels.

"Excellent!" When Eliadi heard Shi Feng's determined reply, an exquisite smile appeared on her flawless face.

At the same time, the sound of a system notification entered Shi Feng's ears once more.

System: Congratulations! You have passed the hidden trial “Selection of Power” and received Eliadi’s recognition.

A hidden trial?! Shi Feng received a fright when he heard this system notification. He never thought that this challenge would actually include a hidden trial.

NPCs in God’s Domain had different personalities. Normally, they only gave players straightforward trials. However, there were NPCs that would give players double trials. In the case of these double trials, if players failed to clear the hidden trial, clearing the surface trial would be meaningless. They still wouldn’t receive any rewards.

“Since you have chosen to seek guidance on your Mana Body, it seems you have not been misled by the temptation of power. During ancient times, humans have constantly pursued the ultimate strength. Although they eventually obtained this ultimate strength, they also faced destruction because of it,” Eliadi said. In a pleased tone, she continued, “You, however, did not fall prey to the power I displayed. You have passed my trial. From now onward, you are my successor and are qualified to obtain my Legacy.”

System: Congratulations! You have completed the challenge of the Heavenly Blue Saint, Eliadi, and become her successor. Rewarding Mana Body Legacy and Holy Annihilation Technique Legacy.

After the system notification ended, Eliadi took out two Memory Crystals that gave off a colorful glow and handed them to Shi Feng.

“Of these two Memory Crystals, one of them records the method to unlock Epic Mana Bodies, and the other records the Mana Technique I created. You may use each of them only once. I hope you utilize them properly,” Eliadi said before vanishing without a trace, leaving behind only a stunned Shi Feng at the foot of the sacred mountain.

That was really close. Shi Feng sighed in relief after Eliadi disappeared.

If not for him having long known the importance of the Mana Body and the strength of tiers, he would've most likely chosen Eliadi's Mana Technique instead. After all, from what he had seen, Eliadi's Mana Technique would provide players with a huge boost in combat power. So long as current Tier 3 players learned Eliadi's Mana Technique, their combat power would soar to the peak of Tier 3, possibly even the Tier 4 standard. Meanwhile, if one possessed Tier 4 combat power at this stage of the game, they would definitely be invincible among players. Who could possibly resist such a temptation?

However, if he had really chosen to acquire Eliadi's Mana Technique, he would have ended up with nothing at all.

Now that I have obtained the Mark and Legacy, it's time to return.

After snapping out of his daze, Shi Feng stored the two Memory Crystals before making his way to the teleportation array for leaving the sacred mountain. He did not hurry to use the Memory Crystals. After all, they were one-off items. How much knowledge he could absorb from them would depend entirely on himself. It would be a huge waste if he did not use the Memory Crystals in an ideal state and environment.

## **Chapter 2467 – Legacy Room**

Star Valley, Starlight Fortress:

A spatial tear appeared before the entrance of the Fortress Lord's Mansion as Shi Feng teleported out of the Legacy Gate.

Currently, several figures were resting before the entrance, every one of which looked exhausted, as if they had just fought a battle that lasted several days and nights. Their eyes were bloodshot, and their bodies were felt weak and sore all over.

“Guild Leader?” A trace of surprise flashed in Cola’s eyes when he saw Shi Feng coming out of the spatial tear.

Aside from Cola, Shadow Sword, Turtledove, Alluring Summer, and Yi Luofei, who sat beside him, were similarly stunned by this scene. They knew what the situation inside the Legacy Gate was very clearly. Out of their team of 10, the one with the highest chance of clearing the first level was undoubtedly Shi Feng.

Now, however, Shi Feng was actually the sixth person to come out of the Legacy Gate. This development boggled their minds.

After all, in terms of combat standards and Basic Attributes, Shi Feng was the strongest among them. Even the standard of his Mana Body was unmatched.

Theoretically, even if Shi Feng failed to conquer the sacred mountain’s first level, he still should have been the last one to come out of the Legacy Gate.

Ignoring the strange gazes Cola and the others were giving him, Shi Feng asked, “Only the five of you have come out?” “Mhm. Big Sis Fire and the others are still inside.” Cola nodded stiffly.

They made such huge improvements during this period?” Shi Feng was surprised by this situation. The fact that Fire Dance and the others remained inside the Legacy Gate until now meant that they were close to clearing the sacred mountain’s first level already.

The first level of a Gold Gate's sacred mountain!

Shi Feng had personally experienced the difficulty of the Gold Gate's trial. From his experience, everyone, aside from Yan Tianxing, shouldn't have much of a chance at clearing the sacred mountain's first level. After all, the Gold Gate's trial placed much more importance on players' combat standards than on Basic Attributes. No matter how powerful their Basic Attributes were, their attacks couldn't be stronger than those of Tier 3 NPCs that had fully unlocked their Mana Bodies.

Meanwhile, of those that had come to the western continent with Shi Feng this time, Aqua Rose, Fire Dance, and Violet Cloud, three of the four players that had entered the Tower of Four Gods, remained inside although he had already exited. Gentle Snow was staying in the Black Dragon Empire to handle the Guild's affairs.

Shi Feng never thought that Aqua Rose, Fire Dance, and Violet Cloud would last this long inside the Legacy Gate. Although he had already known that all three of them had reached the Void Realm standard and that Violet Cloud had even learned a Bronze Combat Technique, they still shouldn't be capable of surviving until now.

However, Shi Feng quickly shook his head, not dwelling on the matter. After all, the stronger Aqua Rose and the others became, the better it would be for Zero Wing. Following which, he looked at Cola and the others and asked, "Right, what kind of gains did you get inside? How much of your Mana Body did you manage to unlock?"

The real treasure hidden inside an ancient fortress was the Mana Body Legacy. Hence, it did not matter whether players managed to clear the fortress's Legacy Trial or not. The crucial part was how much players learned from the Legacy Trial. If players simply focused on clearing the trial and failed to learn anything, then it would be a huge loss.

“I’ve already unlocked it to 75%,” Cola replied in a slightly prideful tone.

Although he was the first person to exit the Legacy Gate, he had unlocked the most potential out of their group of five. In fact, had he managed to push through one more batch of opponents, he might’ve been able to unlock 80% of his Mana Body’s potential. It should be known that every 10% potential unlocked in a Mana Body would enhance one’s normal attacks, Skills, and Spells significantly.

Upon hearing Cola’s prideful tone, Shadow Sword and the others eyed him with contempt. Cola had unlocked merely 5% to 10% more potential than they had. That was nothing for him to boast about.

Shortly after Shadow Sword and the others finished reporting their progress, four spatial tears suddenly opened up before the Fortress Lord’s Mansion, one after another. A figure then walked out of each spatial tear. These four figures belonged to none other than Aqua Rose and the rest of the Zero Wing contingent.

At the same time as Aqua Rose and the others exited, an additional Bronze Mark appeared on Shi Feng’s Fortress Lord’s Token.

“The Knights on the second level are simply overpowered! Every one of their attacks rivals Mythic monsters’! Who could possibly block those attacks?!” Yan Tianxing’s expression turned ugly when he was teleported out of the Legacy Gate.

“You cleared the first level?” Shi Feng asked as he took in Yan Tianxing’s miserable state.

“Mhm, but the second level is far too difficult. Those Knights are basically at the Tier 4 standard already, and they’re even more difficult than Mythic monsters,” Yan Tianxing replied, nodding with some disappointment at this outcome.

“Not bad. The second level’s Knights all possess Gold Magic Bodies. Their Magic Bodies are not the slightest bit inferior to yours. Moreover, their Magic Bodies are fully unlocked while yours is not. If multiple Knights gang up on you, it is only natural for you to get defeated,” Shi Feng said, not the slightest bit surprised by this outcome. He then swept his gaze over Yan Tianxing’s group of four and asked, “How far have you gotten in unlocking your Mana Bodies?”

NPC Knights that possessed Gold Mana Bodies simply had too large an advantage over current players like themselves. Even Shi Feng would have to activate Heavenly Dragon’s Power to block their attacks.

“I currently have it unlocked up to 90%,” Yan Tianxing reported, slightly disappointed. “It would be great if I could have continued fighting for a little while longer.”

Cola and the others gazed at him enviously, upon hearing that.

They never thought that the second level’s NPC Knights actually possessed Gold Mana Bodies. Gaining the opportunity to observe these Knights would definitely provide them with significant help.

“I’m just a little ways off myself. I managed to unlock mine up to 95%. If I could continue observing for 20 more minutes, I might have been able to unlock my Mana Body completely,” Aqua Rose said, thoroughly bummed.

The Mana that the second level’s Knights exuded was simply too frightening. Every one of their attacks carried power close to the Tier 4 standard. Moreover, they also possessed very high combat standards, basically rivaling Refinement Realm experts. Worst of all, her ability to wield Mana was restricted due to the harsh environment.



Fire Dance and Violet Cloud similarly shook their heads in frustration. Although both of them had unlocked 95% of their Mana Bodies' potential, they still couldn't contend against the second level's Knights.

"Right, Guild Leader, Divine Tribe contacted me previously. They said that there is something they need to discuss with us. However, as we were still inside the Legacy Gate, I told them that we had some urgent matters to deal with and had them rest inside their temporary Residence for now," Aqua Rose suddenly said.

"That isn't an urgent matter," Shi Feng said, chuckling. "It'll be the same if we go after all of you have fully unlocked your Mana Bodies."

"Unlock our Mana Bodies?" Aqua Rose was puzzled by Shi Feng's words.

They had just come out of the Legacy Gate. Without the help of the Legacy Gate, it would be incredibly difficult for them to make any more progress. Fully unlocking their Mana Bodies might even take up to a fortnight.

"Mhm. An ancient fortress's Legacy Gate is indeed the fastest place for players to unlock their Mana Bodies. However, the Fortress Lord's Mansion has something called a Legacy Room. Although its training effects aren't as excellent as the Legacy Gate's, it allows players to experience a fully unlocked Mana Body for three minutes. I believe this experience should be of significant help for you all," Shi Feng said, nodding.

The Legacy Room was the core of the Fortress Lord's Mansion. Only after players obtained the rights to control the Fortress Lord's Mansion would they be allowed to use it. Moreover, the room could be used only 12 times a month, and each player could use it only once a month.

During Shi Feng's previous life, the various superpowers that controlled an ancient fortress allowed only peak experts that were close to fully unlocking their Mana Bodies to make use of the Legacy Room.

Now that Aqua Rose and the others had managed to unlock at least 70% of their Mana Bodies' potential, they would have a very high chance of fully unlocking their Mana Bodies if they utilized the Legacy Room. Shi Feng naturally had to let them try.

After saying so, Shi Feng removed the seal on the Fortress Lord's Mansion and led everyone inside.

### **Chapter 2468 – Silver Mark's Effects**

As Shi Feng and the others walked into the Fortress Lord's Mansion, they felt as if their exhausted mental state had suddenly been refreshed.

"The Mana density here is so high!" Aqua Rose exclaimed when she sensed the Mana inside the mansion. "It's at least twice as high as in Zero Wing City."

Out of all the Guild Towns and Cities in God's Domain, Zero Wing City's Mana density was the highest.

This was also why Zero Wing City remained extremely popular with players even though it was located within Star-Moon Kingdom's borders and in a map that was much lower-level than mainstream players. Currently, the city's daily player traffic still exceeded 6,000,000. In Star-Moon Kingdom, Zero Wing City's player traffic ranked third, inferior only to Star-Moon City and White River City.

However, despite the sparse Mana in Star Valley, the inside of the Starlight Fortress's Fortress Lord's Mansion had a Mana density at least twice as high as Zero Wing City's. Of all the places Aqua Rose could

think of, only the ambient Mana in the Holy City of Titan was comparable to this mansion's in terms of density.

"With such an excellent environment, even training Bronze Combat Techniques won't be a problem," Yan Tianxing commented, his eyes similarly glowing with excitement when he sensed the Mana around him.

Practicing combat techniques placed a huge burden on players' Concentration. If the environment did not possess sufficiently dense Mana, their Concentration regeneration rate wouldn't be able to keep up with their consumption rate. Players would have to rest for a long time after practicing their combat techniques a few times. That sort of training would be inefficient.

Meanwhile, Bronze Combat Techniques were particularly exhausting to practice. Each use of a Bronze Combat Technique consumed several times more Concentration than an Advanced Combat Technique. Moreover, if players hadn't mastered the Bronze Combat Technique, using it would place an even greater burden on their Stamina and Concentration. Hence, the various superpowers had very few peak experts that had successfully learned a Bronze Combat Technique even now. This was also the case for Zero Wing.

"This place isn't just useful for practicing Bronze Combat Techniques." Looking at the excitement on everyone's faces, Shi Feng pointed at a nearby locked room and explained, "There are also Mana Training Rooms here. In there, players can practice not only combat techniques but also Mana control. The efficiency of training inside one of these rooms is several times higher than training in the outside world. It is no exaggeration to say that these rooms are one of the best places for training."

As a fortress that had existed since ancient times, the Starlight Fortress was not as simple as it appeared to be. The standard of magical technology that the fortress possessed was something that current kingdoms and empires could only admire. This was also why the various superpowers during Shi Feng's previous life had contested over ancient fortresses desperately.

Unfortunately, the Starlight Fortress was only a Small Fortress. Its Fortress Lord's Mansion also wasn't very large, with only five floors in total: three above ground and two underground.

Meanwhile, every one of these floors was enhanced by all sorts of magic arrays that increased the density of the ambient Mana, as well as accelerated the Concentration recovery rate of players. Players could also accumulate the Double EXP buff while within the Fortress Lord's Mansion, so they wouldn't have to worry about falling behind in terms of levels, even if they spent a long time training within the mansion.

As for the Mana Training Rooms, the mansion had only 32. A Medium Fortress's Fortress Lord's Mansion would have double the number, whereas a Large Fortress would have 150. The training capability of a Large Fortress was several times greater than that of a Small Fortress. With the Starlight Fortress, Zero Wing would be able to nurture only a small number of the Guild's experts.

However, this was the best Shi Feng could do right now. After all, the difficulty of capturing Medium and Large Fortresses was many times higher.

Generally, Large Fortresses had Superior Mythics guarding them, while Medium Fortresses also had a small chance that a Superior Mythic would appear as its final Guardian Boss. Medium Fortresses would also have over a dozen other Mythic monsters inside. A Medium Fortress simply wasn't something a few players and a Tier 4 Hero could capture at this stage of the game. In fact, during Shi Feng's previous life, the various superpowers had managed to capture Star Valley's Medium and Large Fortresses only after Tier 4 players had come into existence.

After Shi Feng gave everyone a simple introduction, he brought them to the mansion's second basement floor.

The second basement floor was not very large and had only two rooms. One of these rooms was the core room responsible for controlling the fortress's magic array, while the other room was sealed shut by a large door made out of Magic Crystals.

The room with the Magic Crystal door happened to be the most precious location in the entire Fortress Lord's Mansion.

The Legacy Room!

This place was second only to the Legacy Gate in terms of helping players unlock their Mana Bodies. In the past, it had also been the most important location for the various superpowers for nurturing Guild experts.

In God's Domain, the Mana Body might be considered merely a tool to support players, since it was only a matter of time before players fully unlocked their Mana Bodies after reaching Tier 3. However, the speed at which players unlocked their Mana Bodies would give rise to a marked disparity.

This was because players' control over their Mana Bodies and combat styles would undergo significant changes after they unlocked their Mana Bodies. Meanwhile, they would need time to adapt to these changes.

In addition, if players wished to improve their Mana Bodies further—in other words, break through the 100% threshold—they would first need to unlock their Mana Body's full potential. Only after doing so could they start attempting to break through the 100% threshold. The player's success would depend on whether they had taken the correct path or not.

If players discovered that they had made a mistake, they could still change their method of approach in unlocking their Mana Body.

Hence, the sooner one unlocked their Mana Body in God's Domain, the better.

Of course, the Legacy Room had a flaw—it could only allow players to experience what it felt to have a fully unlocked Mana Body based on their current foundations. It would not point out a clear path for players to take.

Even so, having the help of the Legacy Room was still many times better than randomly experimenting in the outside world.

After arriving before the four-meter-tall and three-meter-wide crystalline door, Shi Feng held up the Fortress Lord's Token and chanted the incantation recorded on it to trigger the magic array etched into it.

In the next moment, the token's magic array released a silver glow that resonated with the magic array carved into the crystalline door. The door's magic array likewise released a silver glow.

Immediately afterward, the tightly shut door started opening, and everyone instantly felt Mana of much greater density flowing out of the Legacy Room. When bathed in this Mana, everyone felt their mind clearing up, invigorated like never before.

At the same time, the sound of a system notification entered Shi Feng's ears.

System: You have activated the Silver Legacy Room. This room can be used only 12 times a month, and only one player may enter each time. Players will be able to experience what their current Mana Body feels like at 100% potential for five minutes. Once the session ends, players will not be allowed reentry into the Legacy Room for one natural month.

The Silver Mark also provides such a benefit? Shi Feng gazed at the token in his hand in astonishment.

The difference between three minutes and five minutes might not be very long, but being able to experience the sensation of a fully unlocked Mana Body for even a second longer meant that players could better-familiarize

themselves with that feeling. Meanwhile, the Silver Mark had nearly doubled the duration that players could ^ inside the Legacy Room.

At this moment, Shi Feng more or less understood why the various superpowers had desperately invested into a select few peak experts and continuously had them challenge the Legacy Gate of the fortresses they controlled. They hadn't done so just to unlock more of their fortress's functions but to better-develop their Guild experts. After all, Guild experts were the capital of Guilds. Everything else was secondary.

"Alright, which one of you will enter first?" Shi Feng asked as he turned around to look at Aqua Rose and the others.

Upon hearing Shi Feng's question, Aqua Rose and the others exchanged glances, unsure whether they should enter the Legacy Room or not. Shi Feng had already told them that this opportunity was available to them only once a month. If they did not grab ahold of it properly, they would have to wait another month to experience what fully unlocking their Mana Bodies felt like. At that time, everything would be too late already.

"I'll go first, then," Fire Dance said after giving the matter some thought.

"Alright. Just walk straight into the room. Once you're inside, focus all your attention on your Mana Body and try your best to adapt to the sensations you feel," Shi Feng advised as he pointed into the Legacy Room, which was the size of half a basketball court.

The situation inside the Legacy Room was the complete opposite of the situation inside the Legacy Gate.

Instead of a sparse Mana environment, the Legacy Room's environment abounded with Mana. While standing inside such a room, players would find it practically impossible to perceive the flow of Mana inside their own bodies clearly. They could only rely on their intuition to progress.

"I understand." Fire Dance nodded before walking into the room.

Meanwhile, after Fire Dance entered the Legacy Room, the crystalline door sealed itself once more. Everyone's heartbeat started accelerating at the sight.

"No need to be anxious. Even if you fail to fully unlock your Mana Body this time, you can still continue trying in the outside world. It is only a matter of time before you unlock your Mana Body. Just treat this as an opportunity to experience it ahead of time," Shi Feng said, smiling when he saw how nervous everyone was.

The opportunity the Legacy Room provided was indeed very important. However, even if one failed to fully unlock their Mana Body after entering the Legacy Room, it did not mean that they wouldn't be able to unlock their Mana Body in the future. They merely had to pay a higher price to do so.

At this moment, Aqua Rose suddenly received a message. After reading it, she turned to Shi Feng and said, "Guild Leader, MacAffrey sent me another message. He says something big has happened, and he needs you to pay him a visit now."

"Is it so urgent?" Shi Feng was a little confused as to why MacAffrey kept trying to contact him. "Alright, it's best if I go first. The Legacy Room is already activated. Enter it one by one."



After leaving these instructions, Shi Feng immediately exited the Fortress Lord's Mansion and made his way toward Divine Tribe's temporary Residence in the Starlight Fortress.

## **Chapter 2469 – Storm Brewing**

Starlight Fortress, Divine Tribe's temporary Residence:

After undergoing the Silver Lion Legion's cleansing, the fortress that was originally ruled by monsters was now devoid of monsters. Instead, players now crowded it. Moreover, these players were all very high-level and very well equipped. They were undoubtedly Divine Tribe's experts.

At this moment, these expert players were agog as they walked through the streets of the Starlight Fortress, which had already become the focus of many powers and players.

As a fortress located in Star Valley, a Level 100-plus forbidden land, the Starlight Fortress's functions were simply immense. Not only could it allow players to save up on plenty of travel time, but it could also serve as a players' haven for rest and recovery. At the same time, it would become a trade hub in Star Valley.

After all, Star Valley was massive. Moreover, players had nowhere to rest in the surrounding maps. Besides, Star Valley was rich in resources, a place where players could obtain leveling resources. Hence, as the only trade hub available in Star Valley, the resources the Starlight Fortress could acquire in the future would be immeasurable.

As a fortress that had existed since ancient times, the Starlight Fortress's ambient Mana was incredibly dense; none of the present fortresses found in the outside world had anything similar. On the western continent, which suffered from a dearth of Mana, the Starlight Fortress was a rare training ground.

Shi Feng could sympathize with the excitement Divine Tribe's members felt.

After players captured an ancient fortress, not only could they concentrate a large amount of Mana inside the fortress, but this Mana would also be very gentle. Even players with sub-par control over Mana would have their control artificially improved by a significant margin while inside the fortress.

Although this improvement was only temporary, if players could immerse themselves in such an environment longterm, they could use this experience to achieve a permanent improvement.

To the western continent's players, who prioritized control over Mana before control over their physical bodies, the Starlight Fortress was an absolute gem of a training ground.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, the vice commander and the others are all waiting inside the reception room. Please, follow me."

Shortly after Shi Feng arrived before the entrance of Divine Tribe's Residence, a middle-aged man, who was a Level 106 Guardian Knight, approached him. This middle-aged man gave off a very kind and humble feeling. However, the aura he radiated was not the slightest bit weaker than that of Grand Lords of the same level. In terms of strength, he was most likely stronger than even the Silver Lion Legion's Crimson Witch.

"I'll have to trouble you, then," Shi Feng replied. Inwardly, he sighed ruefully as he considered this humble, middle-aged man.

In the current Zero Wing, Yan Tianxing and Shi Feng himself were the only ones that had reached the Domain Realm.

However, just one day after he captured the Starlight Fortress, Divine Tribe revealed another Domain Realm expert to him.

Shi Feng could not help but admit that superpowers were indeed amazing. It would most likely be a long time before Zero Wing could catch up to them.

After hearing Shi Feng's reply, the middle-aged man led Shi Feng into Divine Tribe's Residence.

Upon entering the Residence's Guild Hall, Shi Feng received something of a fright.

At this moment, the Residence's Guild Hall had been fully renovated. Not only did the interior of the building look splendid, but the floors of the building were even tiled using Mana Ore. Not even the Guild Hall in Zero Wing's main headquarters could compete with this Guild Hall in terms of extravagance.

Mana Ore was a rare type of ore. Although it was not as valuable as Magic Crystals, it contained a significant amount of Mana. Items made with Mana Ore would exude a small amount of Mana and increase the density of the Mana in their vicinity by a certain degree. However, as the cost generally wasn't worth the potential returns, very few superpowers would be willing to use Mana Ore as flooring.

Meanwhile, this was only a temporary Residence for Divine Tribe, yet the Guild had actually used Mana Ore as flooring. This was already beyond extravagance and entered the realm of reckless waste.

However, from this, one could also see how much importance Divine Tribe placed on this temporary Residence.

After all, if the temporary Residence changed owners, the Mana Ore used here could not be taken away. If Zero Wing suddenly decided to change partners, Divine Tribe's actions would be akin to gifting its Mana Ore to another power. However, despite knowing this, Divine Tribe had still done so.

A short moment later, under the middle-aged man's lead, Shi Feng arrived at the top-floor reception room.

Currently, three people were seated inside the reception room: MacAffrey and Crimson Witch, whom Shi Feng was familiar with, and a beautiful female Berserker with blonde hair and crimson eyes. This female Berserker wore silvery-gray light armor and carried a runic greatsword that radiated Mana.

Although this female Berserker was only sitting quietly inside the room, it was as if she had stolen all the color from her surroundings. Aside from herself, everything else inside the room looked monotone in color.

The Magic-eye Goddess? Why is she here? Shi Feng was stunned when he saw this female Berserker. This was because he was even more familiar with this woman than with MacAffrey and Crimson Witch.

She was one of the few Tier 6 God-ranked experts in his previous life, the wielder of Eternal Sin, a Legendary Weapon. In the past, she had ranked high even among Tier 6 experts. She had also managed to develop the Guild she established herself into a super-first-rate Guild, becoming a legend in God's Domain.

Meanwhile, because of the peak hidden class, Magic-eye Hunter, she obtained, she was also nicknamed the Magic-eye Goddess.

Currently, however, this Magic-eye Goddess was wearing Divine Tribe's Guild Emblem. This situation was completely different from what Shi Feng knew.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, are you two perhaps acquainted with each other?" MacAffrey asked curiously when he noticed the change in Shi Feng's expression.

After calming himself, Shi Feng shook his head and explained, "No, we're not acquainted. She just looks very similar to someone I know."

At Shi Feng's reply, MacAffrey no longer paid much attention to the matter, saying, "In that case, let me introduce you. This person here is Fithalia, the commander of Divine Tribe's Divine Hymn Legion. She will also be in charge of the Divine Tribe forces that will be garrisoned in the Starlight Fortress from now on."

"Greetings. I am Zero Wing's Guild Leader, Black Flame," Shi Feng introduced himself as he looked at Fithalia.

"Greetings as well, Guild Leader Black Flame. I had heard plenty about you from Crimson even before I came here. However, after seeing you in person, it seems you're even stronger than what I heard. You are actually unaffected within my Illusory Domain. It seems you have already unlocked your Mana Body to a considerable extent," Fithalia said, a flash of surprise appearing in her eyes as she looked at Shi Feng.

After obtaining her Magic-eye Hunter hidden class, she had gained a naturally occurring Domain that grew stronger the higher her tier became. After she reached Tier 3, even Crimson Witch, who possessed a Peak Gold Mana Body, was not immune to the effects of her Illusory Domain. Within her Illusory Domain, not only would players' control of their own body's Mana decline significantly, but players would also lose the ability to control the Mana around them.

At this point, only experts that had unlocked their Mana Bodies by a certain extent were capable of resisting the effects of her Illusory Domain.

"You have started unlocking your Mana Body already?" Crimson Witch blurted out when she heard Fithalia's words.

She had been researching how she could unlock her Mana Body's potential all this time. However, even now, she still hadn't found any concrete information. She had never imagined that Shi Feng had actually unlocked a portion of his Mana Body's potential already.

"It's just a portion. I'm still far from fully unlocking it," Shi Feng admitted truthfully.

"So, that's the case. No wonder your attacks were so powerful before." Realization dawned upon Crimson Witch when she heard Shi Feng's reply.

Previously, she had felt that the Skills and Spells Shi Feng had used were ridiculously powerful. They looked nothing like Tier 3 Skills and Spells used by the current Tier 3 players. In hindsight, this was most likely due to Shi Feng having unlocked a portion of his Mana Body's strength already; hence, his Skills and Spells were a lot more powerful than the average Tier 3 player's.

Suddenly, she felt that she had a chance to catch up with Shi Feng.

Although she hadn't started unlocking her Mana Body yet, she did have a few leads. She was confident she could unlock a portion of her Mana Body's strength in a few more days. At that time, she would no longer lose to Shi Feng so easily.

“May I know why you asked me to come here?” Shi Feng asked, not bothering with additional explanations on his Mana Body.

“It’s an urgent matter,” Fithalia replied, her expression suddenly turning serious. “Before I arrived at the Starlight Fortress, I received word that plenty of superpowers are making their way to the Starlight Fortress. Even Netherworld Empire, one of the Five Great Super Guilds, is interested. In fact, Netherworld Empire has dispatched one of its trump card legions.

“We might be able to deal with the other superpowers, but Netherworld Empire is a different story. Although Netherworld Empire’s trump card legion has very few members, those players can no longer be referred to as humans. They are complete and utter monsters. Setting aside the high likelihood that they are coming to contest for the fortress’s ruling rights, if they decide to make a fuss inside the fortress, no one will be able to control them. Even if we continue holding on to the fortress’s ruling rights, we will only be rulers in name. Normal operations would be impossible.

“Hence, I asked you to visit in hopes you can sell a portion of the fortress’s shares, Guild Leader Black Flame. Divine Tribe will help Zero Wing as a middleman in this matter. If we include the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship you have in the Starlight Fortress’s defenses, I believe Netherworld Empire will not go too far.”

In regard to Fithalia’s suggestion, neither MacAffrey nor Crimson Witch found anything wrong with it.

On the western continent, there was nobody that did not know how frightening Netherworld Empire was. It could be said to be a gathering of lunatics. This Great Super Guild never operated according to social norms or logic. In fact, it had already annihilated one superpower in God’s Domain.

If Zero Wing and Divine Tribe were to clash with Netherworld Empire, even if they managed to protect the fortress, the fortress itself still wouldn’t be able to establish itself on the western continent.

Their only way out now was to split a portion of the fortress's profits. After all, the Starlight Fortress involved too many things. Zero Wing and Divine Tribe couldn't stop all of the western continent's superpowers. However, it would be a different story if they had Netherworld Empire's assistance.

"I understand Divine Tribe's predicament," Shi Feng said, nodding. Smiling, he continued, "As for the Starlight Fortress's matters, leave them to Zero Wing. If Netherworld Empire wishes to cause a ruckus, it is free to try. If it is capable of doing so, I wouldn't mind gifting the fortress to it. If there are no other matters, I'll take my leave first."

After saying so, Shi Feng turned around and left the reception room, his actions stunning Fithalia, MacAffrey, and Crimson Witch. For a time, silence fell over the entire reception room.

## **Chapter 2470 – Fortress Unlocked**

Quite some time had passed after Shi Feng left the reception room before Fithalia and the others managed to snap out of their daze.

"Has Guild Leader Black Flame always been such an impulsive person?" Fithalia could not help but ask as she turned to look at MacAffrey and Crimson Witch. Her mind couldn't keep up with Shi Feng's pace at all.

When fighting over interests, superpowers rarely started with a declaration of war. They would generally choose to settle things with discussions. Only if negotiations broke down would they take action. After all, a war between two superpowers was no trivial matter. Regardless of the outcome, both sides would end up suffering significant—and even irreparable—losses.



Meanwhile, she had merely proposed to negotiate with Netherworld Empire and asked Shi Feng to prepare to make some minor concessions, yet Shi Feng had flat-out rejected her proposal and decided to clash with the Great Super Guild to the very end.

This simply wasn't a decision a Guild Leader would make. Only a fool would do so.

Of course, she also found Shi Feng's decision understandable.

Zero Wing had gone to great lengths to capture the Starlight Fortress. However, just as it was about to start harvesting its profits, a bunch of people suddenly appeared to claim a share of these profits. Any normal person would get enraged by this matter. However, such a situation frequently occurred in both the real world and the virtual world.

In a situation where one was weaker than the other party, opting for a frontal clash was an extremely unwise decision.

This was especially true now that more than a dozen superpowers were targeting the Starlight Fortress. So long as one of these superpowers took the lead, they would attack the Starlight Fortress without hesitation. At that time, even if these superpowers failed to capture the Starlight Fortress, they would still cripple its operation.

Unlike other fortresses, the Starlight Fortress did not have any NPC soldiers to assist in its management; players had to rely entirely on themselves. Moreover, the ruling power would have only partial authority over the fortress and was incapable of prohibiting entry to certain players by manipulating the fortress magic array. If the ruling power wished to prevent entry to certain players, it would have to rely on its own players to do so. This was also the case when it came to settling fights that occurred within the fortress.

Meanwhile, over a dozen superpowers were targeting the Starlight Fortress, including Netherworld Empire. So long as these superpowers dispatched experts to cause a ruckus inside the Starlight Fortress, stopping them would be impossible with the manpower and strength Zero Wing and Divine Tribe possessed. In fact, Zero Wing and Divine Tribe wouldn't even be able to stop the various superpowers from entering the Starlight Fortress.

If this situation persisted, who would dare visit the Starlight Fortress?

"Guild Leader Black Flame is indeed a very straightforward person. However, even I did not expect him to be so resolute in his stance that he won't even negotiate," MacAffrey said. Likewise, Shi Feng's decisive response exceeded his expectations.

"Commander Fithalia, what should we do next? There is no room for discussions on Zero Wing's side. Are we really going to clash with the various superpowers?" Crimson Witch asked worriedly.

After partnering with Zero Wing, Divine Tribe had invested a huge amount of resources into developing its temporary Residence in the Starlight Fortress. Divine Tribe had even drafted a series of plans around the Starlight Fortress and invested a large portion of the Guild's resources into these plans.

If the Starlight Fortress really became a no man's land, then Divine Tribe's investments would come to naught.

"I am familiar with Hell Rush, the commander of Netherworld Empire's trump card legion. Since he is personally leading the legion over, I will try to negotiate with him," Fithalia said, chuckling when she saw the worried expression on Crimson Witch's face. "Moreover, we still haven't reached that point yet. Once the various superpowers and Netherworld Empire's members arrive, Guild Leader Black Flame might realize how unwise his decision is. At that time, we might be able to turn things around."

She had seen plenty of people like Shi Feng before. After all, all experts were very arrogant. Not to mention, Zero Wing had managed to capture the Starlight Fortress, something none of the western

continent's superpowers had managed. It was only natural for him to have confidence in his Guild's strength and not be afraid to fight the various superpowers.

However, once the various superpowers' experts gathered and Shi Feng personally experienced the strength of these superpowers, it wouldn't be strange if he changed his mind. After all, he had just arrived on the western continent recently and did not understand just how powerful the superpowers here were. He also wasn't aware of just how formidable Netherworld Empire was.

While Fithalia and the others were discussing how to deal with the various superpowers, Shi Feng arrived at the main office on the Fortress Lord's Mansion's third floor to assume control over the entire Starlight Fortress.

Previously, although he had unlocked the magic array sealing the Fortress Lord's Mansion and even allowed Fire Dance and the others to enter the mansion's Legacy Room, he still hadn't gained control over the Starlight Fortress.

This was because an ancient fortress's Fortress Lord's Token did not automatically confer the ruling rights to the fortress on its holder. Players still needed to go through a simple takeover procedure.

When Shi Feng opened the doors to the main office, he was greeted by the sight of an elderly man in butler attire standing inside the old and obsolete office.

Although this elderly man was only a phantom and radiated no aura, he was a near-invincible existence while inside this Fortress Lord's Mansion. At the same time, he was the true ruler of the entire Starlight Fortress.

"Wielder of the Fortress Lord's Token, I am Osset, the Starlight Fortress's administrator. How may I be of service?" Osset asked respectfully when he saw Shi Feng enter.

“I wish to receive control over the Starlight Fortress,” Shi Feng said, declaring his intentions.

Ancient fortresses were different from other fortresses. All authority over the fortress was vested in the administrator. Hence, ancient fortresses would always remain in a semi-controlled state.

If players holding the Fortress Lord’s Token wished to gain any control over the ancient fortress they captured, they had to get it from the fortress’s administrator. Meanwhile, an administrator would pass on their authority only if players possessed the Fortress Lord’s Mark obtained from the fortress’s Legacy Gate. Otherwise, they would only be a fake Fortress Lord, who could be replaced at any given time.

Before players gained authority from the fortress administrator, the entire fortress would acknowledge only the Fortress Lord’s Token and not its holder. Moreover, the Fortress Lord’s Token offered no protection to players. And worse, players had to keep the Fortress Lord’s Token at all times; if the token was brought out of the fortress for too long, it would be automatically teleported back to the fortress and appear in a random location inside.

Only by obtaining a Fortress Lord’s Mark and, subsequently, authority from the fortress administrator would players be considered the partial ruler of an ancient fortress. Players could then store their Fortress Lord’s Token in the core room of the Fortress Lord’s Mansion, utilizing the mansion’s defensive magic array to protect it.

Unless someone else attacked the Fortress Lord’s Mansion and obtained the token from the core room, players would no longer have to worry about losing control over their fortress.

Moreover, after obtaining the authority to rule an ancient fortress, players could also activate some of the fortress’s functions. Among them, the most important would be the Fortress Prison.

This was an incredible function that none of the newly constructed fortresses possessed.

This function was incredible because it allowed the ruler of the fortress to imprison players. So long as players were captured, they would suffer a fate even worse than death. Unless players had fulfilled their sentence or someone outside destroyed the prison itself, imprisoned players couldn't come out of the Fortress Prison. It wouldn't matter even if the imprisoned players killed themselves; they would respawn right back in their cell.

Getting imprisoned was a brutal penalty for players. After all, in God's Domain, time was money, especially for frontline players. Being jailed and prevented from doing anything for several days would cause them to fall behind significantly.

Meanwhile, the Fortress Prison of a Small Fortress, like the Starlight Fortress, could imprison players for a maximum of eight days.

Eight days!

If an expert player suddenly lost eight days' worth of time, they would most likely lose the will to continue living. This was why Shi Feng dared to oppose the various superpowers.

So what if the various superpowers possessed a lot of experts?

If they dared make a ruckus in the fortress, he would capture and imprison them all. He was eager to see just how many Tier 3 experts the various superpowers had for him to imprison for eight days.

As for destroying the Fortress Prison and freeing the imprisoned players, the various superpowers would be dreaming if they thought they could accomplish this feat.

The Fortress Prison possessed an incredibly powerful defensive magic array. Once it was activated, even Tier 5 existences shouldn't think of breaking into the Fortress Prison. In fact, breaking into the Fortress Lord's Mansion would be even easier than breaking into the Fortress Prison.

Very well." Osset summoned a fourfold magic array beneath Shi Feng's feet. He then continued, "After inspection, it seems you possess one Bronze Mark and one Silver Mark. You have automatically gained the Silver Fortress Authority. You may activate one Bronze Fortress Privilege and one Silver Fortress Privilege. Do you wish to choose which privileges to activate now?"

"Yes," Shi Feng said, nodding.

"Here is a list of all the Bronze and Silver Privileges available. You may choose one from each category," Osset said, waving his hand. Immediately, a translucent screen appeared before Shi Feng.

In the next moment, two columns of choices appeared on the screen.

The first column was a list of the available Bronze Privileges. There was a total of three options: Fortress Prison, Fortress Restaurant, and Fortress Hotel.

The second column listed the available Silver Privileges. Similarly, there were three options available: Manafication Tower, Object Creation Tower, and Summoning Tower.

So, these are the Starlight Fortress's Silver Privileges? Surprise flashed in Shi Feng's eyes as he looked at the three entries under the Silver Privileges column.

He had seen many Silver Fortress Privileges before. However, the Starlight Fortress's Silver Privileges could definitely rival those of Large Fortresses.

The Manafication Tower was something that could further increase the density of the fortress's ambient Mana.

Although the Starlight Fortress's Mana density was already very high, if the effects of the Manafication Tower were included, then its Mana density would most likely surpass even Zero Wing City's.

The Object Creation Tower was a sacred training ground for Lifestyle players because it housed Advanced Meditation Rooms and Intermediate Research Rooms. Even a player with subpar talent would have a high chance of becoming a Master Lifestyle player if they could constantly work inside the Object Creation Tower.

The Summoning Tower was something Shi Feng had seen only once before inside a Medium Fortress. However, the Summoning Tower was categorized as a Gold Privilege back then.

As its name suggested, the Summoning Tower had only one function: the summoning of creatures.

Once provided with the appropriate medium, the Summoning Tower could summon creatures of a similar race to act as the fortress's guardian. The stronger the medium, the stronger the summoned creature would be. Only one creature could be summoned in a month, and only one creature could be maintained in existence at a time.

This ability might not seem like much, but it was incredibly powerful in reality.

This was because there were no restrictions on the creature that could be summoned. In other words, if players managed to get their hands on the remains of a Tier 6 God, they could summon a Tier 6 God to defend their fortress.

A Tier 6 God!

This was an existence that even Tier 6 God-ranked players had to avoid crossing. If the Starlight Fortress had a Tier 6 God defending it, let alone attacking the fortress, nobody would dare make a scene in the entire map because the entire map the fortress sat on lay within the fortress guardian's range of activity.

"Wielder of the Fortress Lord's Token, please make your decision," Osset reminded Shi Feng after seeing the latter remaining quiet for a long time.

## **Chapter 2471 – Summoning Tower Activated**

Osset's reminder snapped Shi Feng out of his daze.

"I choose the Fortress Prison and Summoning Tower!" Shi Feng immediately answered.

Of the Bronze Privileges available, the Fortress Prison was mandatory in Shi Feng's mind. Without this function, he couldn't deter his enemies from causing trouble within the fortress.



As for the Silver Privileges, the Manafication Tower and Object Creation Tower would increase the ancient fortress's value and make it more popular among players.

However, the Starlight Fortress was the only captured fortress in Star Valley, and as such, had no competition. Any player that wanted to develop in Star Valley would have no choice but to visit the Starlight Fortress, which made both towers unnecessary.

The Summoning Tower, on the other hand, was a different story.

Of the three Silver Privileges, only the Summoning Tower would grant Zero Wing more control over the Starlight Fortress, which is what the Guild needed more than anything right now. Zero Wing only had 10 members on the western continent, and if it weren't for Divine Tribe's help, it wouldn't have been able to manage the fortress, even if it had managed to capture it.

If the Summoning Tower were added into the equation, however, that wouldn't be the case.

As long as Zero Wing summoned a sufficiently formidable creature, it'd be able to hold the fortress even with almost no members.

The summoned creature would follow the basic behavioral conditions players set. Players could instruct the summoned creature to defend the Fortress Lord's Mansion, for example, or prevent certain people from entering the fortress. Players could also direct the creature to deal with any players that started fights within, as well. Combined with the Fortress Prison, no player would dare cause a scene in this fortress.

Of course, this would only be the case if the summoned creature was strong enough.

If the summoned creature couldn't kill or suppress players quickly enough, the Summoning Tower would be little more than decoration. Unlike the Manafication Tower and Object Creation Tower that provided clear benefits, the Summoning Tower would only be as useful as the summoned creature.

Moreover, nurturing a summoned creature would require a lot of resources.

At first, players would summon the creature at their level. To increase the creature's level, players would have to invest resources. The amount of resources required would depend on the summoned creature's standards. The more powerful the creature was, the more resources it would require to level up.

Based on the rumors Shi Feng had heard, the daily cost of maintaining a Tier 5 Demonic Creature was already on par with an ordinary first-rate Guild's total daily net profits. Without sufficient resources, players simply couldn't support the Summoning Tower's use.

Shi Feng wasn't concerned with that issue right now, however. The Starlight Fortress was the only fortress under player control throughout Star Valley at the moment, and it was also very close to the map's God Mode Regional Dungeon. If Shi Feng could establish his rule over the Regional Dungeon, he'd easily earn more daily income from the fortress alone to surpass first-rate Guilds' total daily income. He could make a fortune just by collecting entrance fees.

Ancient fortresses were not managed by NPCs, which meant that players didn't have to split the entrance fees with the system. Players would receive 100% of the collected entrance fees. Moreover, a Small Fortress could charge a maximum of 20 Silver per person. This was one of the reasons that ancient fortresses had been so popular among the various superpowers in the past.

Once Shi Feng had made his decision, Osset began to chant an incantation. The ghostly NPC then drew a mysterious rune and imprinted it on the Fortress Lord's Token in Shi Feng's hand.

Suddenly, a translucent screen appeared above the token, listing the six privileges Shi Feng had observed earlier. Two privileges' text gave off a dull glow, the Fortress Prison and the Summoning Tower.

Starlight Fortress Prison- Status: Unlocked

Activation cost: 30,000 Magic Crystals

Daily operating cost: 3,000 Magic Crystals

Do you wish to activate the Starlight Fortress Prison?

Starlight Fortress Summoning Tower- Status: Unlocked

Activation cost: 50,000 Magic Crystals

Daily operating cost: 5,000 Magic Crystals

Do you wish to activate the Starlight Fortress Summoning Tower?

Seeing the prompts, Shi Feng chose to activate the Summoning Tower first, setting aside the Fortress Prison for the moment.

The Starlight Fortress was still sealed, and outsiders weren't allowed to enter. Shi Feng didn't need to hurry to activate the Fortress Prison. Magic Crystals didn't grow on trees, after all, and if he activated the prison two days before the fortress opened to the public, he'd only waste 6,000 Magic Crystals.

However, the sooner he activated the Summoning Tower, the better.

Summoning creatures took time, and the more powerful the target creature was, the more time it would require to summon. In addition, nurturing the summoned creature required time. Shi Feng, who lacked time, wanted nothing more than to summon a creature immediately. If he were lucky, he might be able to level the creature up within the next two days.

Monsters weren't like NPCs and players. As they leveled up, their Basic Attributes and combat power would rise to the peak of their level. In comparison, players and NPCs didn't receive such a huge strength boost upon leveling up. They would still need to upgrade weapons and equipment.

Following which, Shi Feng sacrificed 100,000 Magic Crystals to the Fortress Lord's Token, half of which would activate the Summoning Tower, while the remaining half would maintain its operation for 10 days.

With the Summoning Tower's activation, a new rune rose from the token and imprinted itself on Shi Feng's right palm.

System: You have successfully activated the Starlight Fortress Summoning Tower. The Summoning Tower's large-scale teleportation array is now active. You may utilize the Summoning Rune to teleport to the Summoning Tower at any time. The Summoning Rune has a Cooldown of one natural day.

The Summoning Tower had such an ability? A little surprised, Shi Feng glanced down at the Summoning Rune on his palm.

There was nothing amazing about God's Domain's teleportation arrays. Every NPC city had them. Players could even set them up in Guild Residences.

However, these were all small- or medium-scale teleportation arrays. Large-scale teleportation arrays were considered lost technology. Unlike the small- and medium-scale teleportation arrays, large-scale teleportation arrays allowed players to teleport between the two main continents.

The array in the Summoning Tower was a large-scale teleportation array, which meant that Shi Feng would be able to travel to the Starlight Fortress at any time, even from the eastern continent. Moreover, the Summoning Rune only had a one-day Cooldown, making it an incredibly convenient tool.

Traveling between the main continents was an ordeal since ancient teleportation arrays that allowed players to travel between them had fixed teleportation times. If players missed the designated time, they'd have to wait until the next scheduled teleportation. This was particularly challenging for Guilds that wanted to mingle on both continents. Prices for items constantly fluctuated, and if players couldn't offload their stock at the right time, doing so would become complicated.

Not only would this Summoning Rune allow travel to the west far easier, but he could also bring whatever items the west needed at any given time. He'd be able to earn far more money from reselling the east's items than without it.

After a brief moment of elation, Shi Feng activated the Summoning Rune and teleported to the Summoning Tower.

The Summoning Tower was located in the Starlight Fortress's south end. The stone tower was the tallest building in the fortress, standing 200 meters tall. From the top of the tower, one could oversee everything within the fortress.

As the teleportation array on the Summoning Tower's roof lit up, Shi Feng appeared in the tower.

To Shi Feng's surprise, Osset waited for him on the Summoning Tower's roof, but unlike earlier, his body seemed more tangible.

"Wielder of the Fortress Lord's Token, the Summoning Tower is now active. If you wish to summon a fortress guardian, I must inform you of two things. This array requires a medium of sufficient standards to summon a guardian; it cannot summon creatures without input. The more powerful the medium is, the stronger the summoned creature will be.

Each summoning also has a one-month Cooldown. I hope you will use this Summoning Tower properly," Osset informed Shi Feng before transforming into mist and disappearing.

Of course, Shi Feng had already known these factors.

This information was precisely the reason he had chosen the Summoning Tower.

This should be the place. After approaching the Summoning Altar on the roof, Shi Feng pulled a claw the size of an adult human from his bag, placing it on the altar.

This claw had once belonged to the Ice Dragon, Heathwaite, and it was one of the only two Legendary materials Shi Feng had on him.

Initially, Shi Feng had wanted to use the Ice Dragon's Claw once he had obtained an Epic Weapon Design, but summoning an Ice Dragon wasn't a bad second choice. His summoned creature would protect the Starlight Fortress, and an ordinary monster simply wouldn't be up to the task.

Although he could summon the Starlight Behemoth with the Behemoth's Starlight Scales, that monster wasn't nearly as formidable as an Ice Dragon.

As soon as Shi Feng rested the claw on the altar, he heard the sound of a system notification.

System: The Summoning Altar has discovered the Ice Dragon's Claw. Do you wish to analyze this medium?

"Begin!" Taking a deep breath, Shi Feng made his decision.

Not all mediums would work. If the selected medium didn't have enough energy, the summoning wouldn't happen. He already felt the painful sting of losing the Ice Dragon's Claw; he didn't want to sacrifice two of them. Doing so would mean throwing away two Epic Weapons.

As the altar began its analysis, dark-purple smoke emerged from the Summoning Altar to envelop the gigantic claw.

As the seconds passed, Shi Feng grew more nervous.

If one Ice Dragon's Claw weren't enough to summon an Ice Dragon, he'd have to summon the Starlight Behemoth with the Starlight Scales instead. The scales were Inferior Legendary materials, and he had a total of five. They would certainly be more than enough to summon a Starlight Behemoth.

While Shi Feng considered using the Starlight Scales as a replacement, he heard another system notification.

System: Medium's Energy Completion Rate is at 89% and has met summoning requirements. Do you wish to summon the guardian?

"Summon!"

## **Chapter 2472 – Silver Divine Dragon**

Once Shi Feng agreed to begin the summoning, the purple smoke around the Ice Dragon's Claw acted like a hungry wolf that had just found food. In no time, it devoured the stone-like claw.

After devouring the claw, the intensity of the smoke's aura skyrocketed like a beast that had just woken from a long sleep. The frightening aura was so powerful that Shi Feng struggled to move. The aura was almost even stronger than that of a Tier 5 NPC. If a Tier 2 player stood in his place, they might have collapsed under the mighty pressure.

As the purple smoke's aura grew stronger, the pressure Shi Feng felt increased as well. Just as he was about to fall to his knees, the purple smoke flowed into the Summoning Altar's ancient magic array.



Boom!

The instant the purple smoke merged with the magic array, space exploded, forming countless tears around the array. It was as if the surrounding space couldn't endure the power contained within the magic array.

After several seconds, space in the center of the altar began to crumble, revealing a dark void. The void grew, and in the blink of an eye, it had swallowed nearly half of the altar.

Just before the void reached Shi Feng, the magic array engraved on the Summoning Altar flashed with a silver light that instantly suppressed the void. It stopped the growing darkness at the edge of the altar, preventing its further expansion. However, due to the void's presence, the Mana density around Shi Feng steadily decreased.

A Void Land?! Shi Feng stared at the black hole before him, astonished. What is going on?

The Summoning Tower used a sacrificial medium to open a portal to an Otherworld, from which players could guide their target creature.

Naturally, the magic array would use stronger mediums to open stronger Otherworlds.

Yet, after devouring the Ice Dragon's Claw, the Summoning Altar had opened a portal to a Void Land...

A Void Land was a land of death, in which very few creatures in God's Domain could survive. Void Lands didn't even contain a trace of energy, much less Mana.

As Shi Feng stared, confused, the sound of a system notification reached his ears.

System: You have triggered the Epic Quest, "Void Cage."

Quest content: Release the Silver Divine Dragon that is imprisoned deep in the Void Land. Rewards unknown. There is no penalty for failing this quest. Do you wish to accept this quest?

A Silver Divine Dragon? Shi Feng's astonishment only grew when he heard the notification.

He had only used an Ice Dragon's Claw as a medium; he had never expected it to trigger a portal to a Silver Divine Dragon's location.

Dragons were the apex race in God's Domain. Any random Adult Dragon had Tier 5 strength, and they were known as invincible among beings of the same tier. Not even human Heroes, individuals who had received Gods' blessings, were a match for Dragons of the same tier.

However, not all Dragons were equal.

Divine Dragons' were Dragons with the primeval Dragon Bloodline. Rather, they had a significant fraction of the Primal Dragon's Bloodline. Normal Dragons only had negligible traces of the Primal Dragon's Bloodline.

The difference between a Divine Dragon and an ordinary Dragon's strength was on par with the difference between an Archaic Species and an ordinary monster. The two were on completely different levels.

At most, ordinary Dragons were invincible among creatures of the same tier. Divine Dragons, however, could transcend tiers.

Everyone in God's Domain showed the proper respect before Divine Dragons; no one wanted to offend one. Shi Feng doubted that even the Jealous Witch, who was as devastating as a natural disaster, was a match for a Tier 5 Divine Dragon.

With almost no hesitation, Shi Feng accepted the Epic Quest.

Although there were no penalties for failing or refusing the Epic Quest, Shi Feng would have to abandon this summoning attempt by refusing it. If he did, he'd have to wait another month before he could attempt to summon another guardian, and he couldn't afford to do that.

Moreover, encountering another opportunity to summon a Divine Dragon would likely be impossible, and if he could complete the quest, he'd hit the jackpot.

Summoning a Tier 6 God in God's Domain was almost impossible. Not a single Super Guild in Shi Feng's previous life had ever managed to acquire a corpse or body part of such a being. Needless to say, it was utterly out of Zero Wing's reach.

Without a Tier 6 God, a Tier 5 Divine Dragon was the strongest possible guardian he could summon.

After Shi Feng accepted the quest, the Summoning Altar formed a magic array beneath his feet, and a silver barrier took shape around him. Shi Feng could immediately feel the pressure bearing down on him subside. With this barrier to protect him, Shi Feng felt that surviving in the Void Land shouldn't pose much of an issue.

Does it want me to enter the portal?

Once the silver barrier was complete, Shi Feng noticed a new buff in his status window. This buff would last three natural days.

A Void Land was an absolute forbidden land. Aside from Gods and Void Souls, creatures born in Void Lands, surviving in a Void Land was nearly unheard of. Even with this magic barrier, he'd be lucky to exhibit 30% of his usual combat power. Void Lands contained no Mana, and Shi Feng hadn't fully unlocked his Mana Body yet.

If he encountered a Void Soul in his state, he'd die. The weakest Void Soul was still on par with a Tier 4 Mythic monster, while stronger Void Souls could rival Adult Dragon's strength.

Knowing all of this, Shi Feng still gritted his teeth and entered the portal to the Void Land, taking the risk.

Although Void Souls were incredibly powerful, there typically weren't many of them. The chance that he'd run across one in a massive Void Land was quite low. On the off chance that he did encounter a Void Soul, he could summon a Tier 4 Hero with the Hero's Tome. Heroes were protected by the Gods, and thus, their combat power would remain unaffected within a Void Land. With a Tier 4 Hero by his side, he shouldn't have any problems as long as he wasn't spotted by any Tier 5 Void Souls.

Shi Feng then entered the dark space, and the scene around him changed.

Once the world around him settled, he found himself on a gigantic, floating island. The entire island was desolate, and hovering in the center of the lifeless plot of earth was a colossal Magic Cage. The cage was

several hundred meters tall, wide, and long and covered in all sorts of divine runes, which radiated an ancient, eternal aura.

Inside the cage slept a Silver Infant Dragon. Even trapped, the Infant Dragon's aura was unsuppressed, and as it washed over Shi Feng, he struggled to breathe.

What a powerful Life Rating. It's no wonder why even the various superpowers' God-ranked experts in the past were no match for Tier 5 Divine Dragons in a one-on-one fight. Shi Feng was dumbfounded as he gazed at the Infant Dragon hovering in the island's center.

He had seen plenty of true Dragons in his time, but he had never seen a Divine Dragon before.

The Ice Dragon he had fought in the Cold Spring Canyon was nothing compared to this Infant Dragon. The differences between them were like that between an ordinary stone and a diamond.

Working to contain his excitement, Shi Feng began to look for ways to open the Magic Cage.

Most players hadn't seen a Magic Cage at this stage of the game and wouldn't know how to open one, but Shi Feng wasn't most players.

Magic Cages had typically been used during ancient times to imprison criminals while they waited for punishment. The power of time would steadily wear down the prisoner's strength. This was why God's Domain had so many Epic Quests that required players to slay these criminals, finally meting out justice.

To end these criminals' long, miserable lives, players would have to release the seal on the prisoner's Magic Cage.

Shi Feng had never opened a Magic Cage before, but based on what he had learned from others, one first had to locate the core magic arrays, which were located in the outside world. Players could then destroy or decode the arrays to unlock the Magic Cage.

Shi Feng spent the next dozen or so hours searching, during which he found a total of seven magic arrays around the desolate island. Every one of the arrays was incredibly complex, and that wasn't a result of the level of design. Rather, their complexity was a result of the frightening number of elements to each array. Even as a Master Magician, Shi Feng felt a headache brew as he examined the magic arrays.

Whoever designed these magic arrays is vicious! Did they have any intention of letting the Divine Dragon free?! Every one of these magic arrays uses seven elements. Without having mastered all seven, no one could open this Magic Cage. Shi Feng was flabbergasted after examining the core magic arrays.

Magic arrays used Mana as their foundations, and normally, a Master Magic Array would, at most, rely on the Four Major Elements' power. Ordinary people couldn't control the remaining Three Supreme Elements—Illusion, Space, and Time. Not even the Elven race, beloved by the elements, could accomplish the feat.

To decode the core magic arrays, players would need to have mastered all seven elements. Without that master, they simply wouldn't have the power to decode them.

However, players normally only encountered the Three Supreme Elements after reaching Tier 5, and that would only be a brush of contact.

Decoding these magic arrays is impossible. It seems destroying them is my only choice. Giving the matter some thought, Shi Feng realized that destruction was his only option.

The core magic arrays might look very powerful, but they didn't have any significant defensive mechanisms. As long as he could deal more damage than the arrays could tolerate, he should be able to destroy the magic arrays.

Shi Feng then retrieved the Crimson Dragon Flying Ship and attacked one of the arrays with the ship's Magic Elven Cannon.

Boom!

The beam struck the core magic array, and the entire island shook with the impact.

As the dust settled, Shi Feng noticed that the array's glow had dimmed slightly.

Yes! It's working! Shi Feng's excitement spiked when he saw the results of his attack.

The blast hadn't exceeded the magic array's tolerance, but it had exhausted a significant fraction of the array's energy reserves. If he could deplete the magic array's energy to a certain level, the array wouldn't be able to endure the Magic Elven Cannon's attacks and crumble.

For a time, Shi Feng bombarded the core magic arrays, firing the moment the Magic Elven Cannon's Cooldown came to an end. He didn't mind the Magic Crystals he had to spend to do it; he still had plenty on him.

Time passed quickly.

Finally, after a full day of assaulting the magic arrays and expending nearly all of the Magic Crystals in his bag, Shi Feng destroyed the seventh core magic array.

As the seventh core magic array crumbled, the Magic Cage shattered.

### **Chapter 2473 – Dragon’s Contractor**

Finally, success!

Shi Feng breathed a sigh of relief once the Magic Cage in the center of the island broke.

He had somewhat underestimated the core magic arrays. Even with the Magic Elven Cannon’s power, it had taken over a full day’s assault and nearly all of his Magic Crystals to destroy all seven arrays. These magic arrays were even tougher Zero Wing City’s defensive magic array.

The instant the Magic Cage shattered, the slumbering Silver Divine Dragon opened its eyes and released a deafening roar, which echoed across the entire island, making the ground tremble.

The Infant Dragon spread its wings, flapping them and creating a powerful storm that blew away the remains of its confinement. The storm’s mighty winds even made Shi Feng stumble back from over 500 yards away.

Is this the power of a true Divine Dragon? An indescribable astonishment filled Shi Feng as he gazed at the fifty-meter- tall Silver Divine Dragon.



[Silver Divine Dragon (Auerbeck)] (Dragon, Mythic) Level ?? ?

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

He couldn't discern the Divine Dragon's level, but its statistics revealed that it was a bona fide Tier 4 Mythic. Despite the fact that it was only a Mythic monster, the Silver Divine Dragon felt as if it had absolute dominance over the world around it. Even the High Magic Elf, Ulunium, was a weakling next to this Silver Divine Dragon.

Shi Feng had been able to resist, albeit slightly, Ulunium's power, but standing before Auerbeck, he couldn't even consider resisting. Movement was immensely difficult in Auerbeck's presence, much less fighting.

If this Infant Dragon willed it, it could slay him with a thought, and he wouldn't even get the chance to summon a Tier 4 Hero.

Now free of its Magic Cage, Auerbeck landed before Shi Feng and asked, "Little human, are you responsible for releasing me from my cage?"

Auerbeck's tone was mild and calm, but he radiated an insane pressure. When Shi Feng heard the Divine Dragon's question, he felt as if the heavens themselves were demanding an answer, and there was no room for lies.

Yes, Lord Divine Dragon. I destroyed the Magic Cage's core magic arrays and freed you," Shi Feng replied, his tone neither too humble, nor too arrogant as he suppressed his building anxiety.

Dragons were inherently prideful creatures. After all, they stood at the peak of God's Domain and viewed lesser creatures with little-to-no importance.

However, Dragons were a race that also respected strength. If one proved themselves, they could earn Dragons' recognition. Divine Dragons were no exception to this.

If he groveled before the Silver Divine Dragon, Auerbeck would look down on him, and his reward might be even less than if he had performed badly.

"You have truly surprised me. I had never expected such a tiny being to destroy a cage set by a Goddess," Auerbeck said, surprise and curiosity flashing in his eyes as he watched Shi Feng. He looked at Shi Feng as if he had just seen an ant flip an elephant. "However, in my Divine Eyes, you are telling the truth.

"According to the ancient agreement, I will engage in a contract with you to serve as your companion since you have rescued me, but I am a Divine Dragon. A weakling will not qualify to stand beside me. First, you must pass my test. If you do, I will acknowledge you. You have four months to prove yourself.

"I will remain by your side during this time and fight with you. Of course, if you fail my test, our contract will be dissolved.

"Over the next four months, I will give you three chances to challenge my test. If you fail all three, our contract will be dissolved."

System: Congratulations! You have rescued the Divine Dragon, Auerbeck and completed the first phase of the Epic Quest, "Void Cage." Rewarding 10 Legacy Skill Points. You have become a Divine Dragon's Contractor.

System: You have triggered the second phase of the Epic Quest, "Void Cage."

Quest content: Complete Auerbeck's test within four natural months. Rewards unknown.

Sure enough, obtaining a Divine Dragon won't be so easy. The notifications didn't particularly surprise Shi Feng. I'll have to try and grow as strong as possible in the next four months.

The various superpowers had sacrificed much to summon a Tier 5 creature with their Summoning Towers in the past. Some had even been required to kill Tier 5 NPCs to retain their summoned creatures and establish them as their fortresses' true guardians.

Although Auerbeck was only a Tier 4 Mythic, not even ordinary Tier 5 monsters would be a match for the Divine Dragon. It would be odd if no trial existed to retain control over such a creature.

Fortunately, as far as Shi Feng was concerned, four months would be more than enough time for Shi Feng to prove himself a strong enough companion for Auerbeck.

As long as he could fully unlock his Epic Mana Body and obtain the three last fragments of Solomon's Sword, passing Auerbeck's test shouldn't be a problem.

The moment Auerbeck finished his explanation, the Divine Dragon began to chant an incantation.

A fourfold magic array appeared around Shi Feng, rapidly shrinking until it transformed into a silver rune. The rune then imprinted itself on Shi Feng's arm before fading away.

Shi Feng then received another system notification.

System: You have obtained the Contractor's Mark and become the Divine Dragon, Auerbeck's contractor.

System: The Fortress Lord's Token has discovered the Contractor's Mark. Do you wish to let the Divine Dragon Auerbeck serve the Starlight Fortress's guardian?

Shi Feng agreed without a second thought, and once he did, a new tab, 'Contracted Companions,' appeared in his system interface.

He clicked on the tab and discovered Auerbeck's statistics, which contained new information.

[Silver Divine Dragon (Auerbeck)] (Dragon, Mythic) Level 111

HP 10,900,000,000/10,900,000,000

Crap! Isn't his HP a little too high?! Shi Feng nearly cursed aloud when he saw Auerbeck's statistics.

He had thought the Starlight Behemoth's 4 billion HP had been a little much for a Level 113 Mythic Monster. If players wanted to kill such a Boss with conventional methods, they'd need a 1,000-man

team of Tier 3 players. Unless a team could deal -8 million damage per second, they'd never overcome the Realm Lord's battle recovery, much less kill it.

With the Starlight Behemoth's horrific Defense, ordinary Tier 3 experts would barely deal -10,000 damage with their attacks.

Auerbeck, however, was even more frightening. The Divine Dragon was only Level 111, yet it had nearly three times as much HP as the Starlight Behemoth. Its battle recovery alone would regenerate 109 million HP every five seconds, and a Divine Dragon should have at least twice as high Defense as the Realm Lord.

Staring at Auerbeck's statistics, Shi Feng doubted that even Tier 4 players could kill it, not to mention new Tier 3 players.

While Shi Feng was shocked over Auerbeck's astonishing Attributes, the island under his feet began to tremble and fall apart.

"Now that the Magic Cage is gone, this island won't hold for much longer. We need to leave quickly," Auerbeck warned his new human companion.

The Infant Dragon began to chant another incantation, and in the blink of an eye, Shi Feng vanished and reappeared on Auerbeck's back. The Silver Divine Dragon then spread his wings and, with a flap, transformed into a streak of light, flying toward the spatial tear the Summoning Tower had opened and leaving the Void Land.

Meanwhile, Divine Tribe's members were hard at work repairing the Starlight Fortress's infrastructure. They'd also begun constructing hotels and Shops.

To better-manage the fortress, Divine Tribe had sent over 100 Tier 3 Personal Guards to garrison the fortress, all of which were tasked with patrolling the streets and protecting the fortress's various establishments.

While Fithalia and the other Divine Tribe upper echelons planned the patrol routes for the Personal Guards, something odd happened to the Summoning Tower in the south end of the fortress.

Divine runes began to appear around the lightless tower, illuminating the structure with a dazzling glow. Suddenly, an intense aura washed over the Starlight Fortress, and every player within felt stifled, struggling to move.

“Where is this aura coming from?”

“What is going on over there?”

“Did we miss a Guardian Boss?”

Everyone turned toward the brilliantly lit Summoning Tower, growing anxious.

Even Fithalia and the Guild's other upper echelons, who met in their temporary Residence, wore grim expressions.

None of the Guardian Bosses they had faced had such a powerful aura, yet Divine Tribe's team had still relied on a Tier 4 Hero Summoning Scroll to defeat them. Even then, the Silver Lion Legion had suffered significant losses.

Now that the Tier 4 Hero they had summoned had gone, they didn't have a Tier 4 combatant in the fortress. If another Guardian Boss had truly appeared, the consequences would be dire.

They had already invested a considerable amount of resources into repairing a portion of the Starlight Fortress. If they had to fight in another huge battle, everything they had worked for would crumble, even before the various superpowers' experts arrived.

"Quick, look! Something's above the Summoning Tower!"

"Isn't that a spatial tear?"

"Why is there a spatial tear over the tower?"

The fortress's players recognized the dark tear for what it was immediately, and as it grew, they were overcome with curiosity and confusion.

Suddenly, a streak of light flew from the spatial tear, and a figure appeared before them all. As they got a clearer look, what they saw rendered them all dumbfounded.

"A Dragon?!"

“Why has a Dragon appeared?” Fithalia’s expression darkened when she saw the Divine Dragon, which was over a hundred meters long, in the sky.

She had seen a Dragon personally during a quest and was certain that it was a disastrous creature. Neither players nor NPCs, not even NPC cities, could stand before a Dragon’s might.

She had watched a Dark Dragon destroy an empire’s border city and annihilate any reinforcements the empire had sent. Players like her had only been able to watch as the Dark Dragon destroyed the NPC city and the Tier 4 NPC-led army.

If the War God’s Temple in the empire hadn’t sent its forces in time and eventually defeated the Dark Dragon, the creature would’ve even slaughtered the nearby players.

Other than Fithalia, every Divine Tribe member in the Starlight Fortress panicked.

Most of them had never seen the horror Dragons could wreck, but they could all tell how terrifying the creatures were after seeing Auerbeck’s statistics.

Auerbeck’s level of 111 wasn’t anything special, but how did it have 10 billion HP?

With the incredible Defense of Dragons, they would never overcome Auerbeck’s battle recovery, even if Auerbeck stood there and allowed the tens of thousands of players in the fortress to attack.

Compared to Auerbeck’s insane HP, the pressure the Dragon radiated was nearly fatal to Divine Tribe’s members. They were all experts, with hundreds of tough battles under their belts, yet they felt as if they



were filled with lead as they bathed in Auerbeck's Dragon Might. In this state, they'd be fortunate if they could muster the strength to flee, much less fight.

"Why is this happening?" MacAffrey despaired as he watched the Divine Dragon soar above the Starlight Fortress.

Like Fithalia, he had witnessed the power Dragons wielded. Current players had practically no hope of defeating such a creature. Even if they still had their Tier 4 Hero, they wouldn't stand a chance against this Dragon.

Still, Divine Tribe had gone to great lengths to secure its temporary Residence in the Starlight Fortress, investing tons of manpower and resources to develop it. The loss of abandoning the fortress would be extraordinary.

"We don't have a choice. MacAffrey, notify all Tier 3 players and tell them to prepare for battle. I'll try to attract the Dragon's attention while you get everyone out of the fortress. Once we convene, we'll try to lure it away," Fithalia said, taking in a deep breath as she prepared herself for a final struggle.

They knew they were no match for the Dragon, but if Auerbeck wasn't here to capture the Starlight Fortress, they only needed to lure the creature away to save it.

"Isn't the price of this plan a little too high, Commander Fithalia?" MacAffrey paled a bit when he heard the command.

Fithalia wanted to lure the Dragon out of the fortress, but even ordinary players would realize that Auerbeck could likely kill Tier 3 players with a single hit. His commander intended to use their players' 1W Tier 3 experts, as bait.

The various superpowers' Tier 3 experts were desperately grinding to level up. If they sacrificed so many of their Guild's Tier 3 experts now, Divine Tribe would find itself at a disadvantage when it competed with the various superpowers later.

"This is our only option," Fithalia said. "If we don't lure the Dragon out of the fortress, everything we've invested thus far will go to waste. As long as we can draw the Dragon out, we can recoup our losses with the Starlight Fortress's conveniences."

"I understand." Gritting his teeth, MacAffrey began to contact the Tier 3 players in the fortress.

As Fithalia had said, the levels they'd have to sacrifice to lure Auerbeck away would be nothing as long as they secured their hold on the Starlight Fortress. The fortress offered massive advantages, after all.

Suddenly, Crimson Witch interrupted, pointing at the Divine Dragon in astonishment, "Commander Fithalia, it looks like there's a player on the Dragon's back."

"A player? How is that possible?" For a moment, Fithalia assumed Crimson Witch was hallucinating.

They were talking about a Tier 4 Dragon. Even if it were only an Infant Dragon, it still wouldn't degrade itself by serving as a Mount, not even for Tier 4 or 5 NPCs.

In God's Domain, there were individuals known as Dragon Knights that could ride Dragons after capturing and nurturing a Tier 3 Newborn Dragon. These Dragon Knights stood at the very apex of God's Domain, and they even demanded respect from emperors.

But riding a Dragon was nothing but a dream with players' current strength!

And yet, as soon as Fithalia finished her question and turned toward the Divine Dragon, the sight stunned her.

She could actually see someone standing on Auerbeck's back. Although she couldn't tell who it was due to the bright light emitting from the Divine Dragon, she could spot the green diamond marker, which only players possessed, hovering above the figure's head when she squinted.

Before she could recover from her daze, however, Auerbeck began to descend.

As the Divine Dragon approached the ground, the green diamond marker became clearer. It wasn't long before many of the other Tier 3 experts in the fortress noticed it, as well.

"How is that possible?! A player can actually ride a Dragon?!"

"Who is that?"

Surprise and confusion overwhelmed everyone as they stared at the figure on Auerbeck's back.

"Commander Fithalia, it's coming toward us," Crimson Witch exclaimed when she realized that Auerbeck was flying in their direction.

When Auerbeck had first appeared, the Divine Dragon had been too far away for her to notice anything peculiar. Fortunately, unlike Tier 2 players, she could, more or less, resist Auerbeck's Dragon Might, but as the Divine Dragon approached, the pressure she felt grew stronger. Now, even breathing became a challenge.

"Hopefully, the Dragon rider isn't an enemy. Everyone, prepare your Instantaneous Movement Scrolls! If you notice even a hint of aggression, flee! Every life we can save matters!" Fithalia reminded her comrades in a grim tone.

If they had merely faced a wild Dragon, they would, at worst, lose the Starlight Fortress, abandoning it and allowing the creature to destroy it. If the Divine Dragon were under a player's control, however, they had a much bigger problem. If that player wanted to, they could command their Dragon to massacre every Divine Tribe member in the area.

All of the Guild members in the fortress were Divine Tribe's experts, including the Guild's two trump card legions. If they were annihilated, the consequences would be unimaginably dire.

Everyone around Fithalia did as they were told, pulling Instantaneous Movement Scrolls from their bags. Crimson Witch and the Guild's other upper echelons all retrieved Tier 3 Instantaneous Movement Scrolls, trump cards the Guild had prepared for them as a protective measure. These scrolls were incredibly rare, only obtainable by luck.

While Divine Tribe's members in the temporary Residence prepared to flee, Auerbeck arrived above the building. The Divine Dragon's speed caught everyone off guard.

Crimson Witch and the others were wracked with hopelessness, realizing that they couldn't actually activate the scrolls in their hands. Worse, the Instantaneous Movement Scrolls weren't the only thing that had abandoned them. They felt as if space itself had left them to die, siding with the Divine Dragon hovering above them.

“Spatial Imprisonment?! How is this happening?!” Astonished, Fithalia could do nothing but stare at the Divine Dragon as it began to land.

Spatial Imprisonment was a move only the strongest Tier 4 NPCs could use. No monster should be capable of mastering the Skill.

Yet, this Dragon had a naturally-occurring Domain that included the Spatial Imprisonment’s effects...

Now, they had no hope of escape. This stranger held their lives in his hands.

As Fithalia and her comrades’ anguish reached its peak, a familiar voice reached their ears. “I was hoping to find you. I’m glad you’re all here.”

As the Dragon’s rider spoke, he jumped down from Auerbeck’s back.

Seeing the player up close, everyone was stupefied.

“Guild Leader Black Flame?!”

**Chapter 2475 – All Sides Shaken**

When they realized that the figure riding Auerbeck had been Shi Feng, silence fell in Divine Tribe's temporary Residence as everyone stared at the Swordsman.

MacAffrey and Crimson Witch, in particular, watched Shi Feng walk toward them with dropped jaws. They both felt as if they were looking at a monster with limitless strength.

Whenever they thought that they had seen the depths of Shi Feng's, they soon learned that all they had seen was a fraction.

Shi Feng's Crimson Dragon Flying Ship, for example, and the Domain tools he had used to suppress the Starlight Behemoth and strengthen the Silver Lion Legion; the various superpowers coveted these items, yet they couldn't get their hands on them. Shi Feng, on the other hand, had them all.

Moreover, Shi Feng had successfully captured the Starlight Fortress, a feat none of the various superpowers could accomplish at this stage of the game.

And now, Shi Feng even had a Dragon...

Dragons were creatures of ultimate destruction in God's Domain. Even the various NPC kingdoms and empires got headaches whenever one showed up, and yet, Shi Feng had one under his control.

Even if Auerbeck were only a Tier 4 Infant Dragon, it would be more than enough to deter the various superpowers from attacking the Starlight Fortress.

"So, this is why he's so confident." Realization dawned on Fithalia when she glanced at the Divine Dragon standing silently behind Shi Feng. She now had an inkling of why Shi Feng had rejected her

proposal after learning that the western continent's superpowers might band together to target his fortress.

With Auerbeck here, the superpowers' experts would have to be suicidal to cause a ruckus in the Starlight Fortress. They wouldn't even have the chance to escape if Auerbeck set his sights on them.

Shortly after Shi Feng had arrived at Divine Tribe's temporary Residence with Auerbeck, some of the various superpowers' spies reported the situation to their superiors.

"Impossible! You're talking about a Dragon!"

"How can a player possibly control such a powerful monster?"

When the various superpowers' upper echelons read the reports, they assumed their subordinates had turned traitorous, trying to trick them with false information to prevent them from assaulting the Starlight Fortress.

However, as these upper echelons continued to receive similar reports from other spies in Divine Tribe, they couldn't deny the truth. There was no way all of their spies had turned against them at once.

To gain more information and a better understanding of the situation in the Starlight Fortress, they had secretly paid a huge price to turn some of Divine Tribe's members in the fortress to their side. Naturally, they had ensured that none of the bribed players knew about each other to prevent these players from collaborating to provide false information for Divine Tribe's benefit.

Although the reports were unbelievable, it was undeniable after receiving reports from over a dozen spies.

Once they had verified the information, a commotion swept through the various superpowers.

Some of the superpowers that had planned to assault the fortress began to hesitate. They carefully considered whether or not they should oppose Shi Feng and the Divine Tribe with the rest of the superpowers.

Before the Dragon had appeared, they had been 90% sure that they could take the Starlight Fortress. Even if they failed, they'd ensure that no one could use the fortress, even if Divine Tribe sent all of its experts to protect it.

However, the situation had changed.

If they tried to take the fortress with a Tier 4 Dragon guard, they'd suffer severe losses. Players didn't have a snowflake's chance in hell of defeating a Tier 4 Dragon, which was a fact the various superpowers had long since verified. Since God's Domain's launch, Dragons had been responsible for the destruction of many NPC border cities. The western continent proved to be far more dangerous than the east.

Of course, if they gave up on this operation, they'd have a very difficult time finding another opportunity to move against the Starlight Fortress. The fortress had only recently been captured, and even if Divine Tribe had invested a ton of manpower and resources in its repairs, the Guild couldn't fully repair the fortress in three short days. The Starlight Fortress was at its weakest right now.

If they did not assault the Starlight Fortress now, taking it would only become more challenging as time passed.



While the various superpowers considered their next move, a 300-man team attacked a Demonic Creature army camp in a Level 100 neutral map not far from Star Valley.

Not only did this campsite house over 6,000 Demonic Creatures, but every one was Level 110. These Demonic Creatures were even led by a Level 112, Mythic ranked Eight-eyed Scorpion King.

Despite such a powerful force, however, the 300-man team held an overwhelming advantage in the battle.

They even overwhelmed the Scorpion King, not to mention the Level 110 Grand Lords. The army's Boss couldn't manage to deal any significant damage, while the 300-man team continued to chip away at its HP.

The team hadn't suffered a single casualty, even by the time the Scorpion King fell. In contrast, Demonic Creature corpses littered the ground.

"We really got lucky this time. Not only did we find a Demonic Creature campsite, but the Scorpion King also dropped a Level 100-plus Epic battle axe. Thunder, this axe should go to you," a thin man in pitch-black armor said as he handed the battle axe to another man, who stood nearly three meters tall and was covered in runes.

If MacAffrey had seen this, he would've been astonished.

This team was the Hell Legion, the Netherworld Empire's strongest trump card legion. Every member was a Tier 3 player, and they all had the combat standards to rival Grand Lords of the same level.

The thin man, shrouded in a dense, lethal aura, felt as powerful as a Mythic monster...

“Commander, we’ve just received a report from the higher-ups. They claim that a Tier 4 Infant Dragon is guarding the Starlight Fortress, and because of this, many superpowers have abandoned the notion of assaulting the fortress. Our superiors are warning us to be careful,” a Tier 3, black-clad Assassin suddenly informed the thin man.

“An Infant Dragon?” The man’s lips curled into a smile. “How interesting. It’s no wonder why they captured the Starlight Fortress, disregarding the consequences, but if they think that can stop us, they’re mistaken.”

Other superpowers might be afraid of the Dragon that protected the Starlight Fortress, but the Hell Legion was not.

The reason was very simple.

There was only one Dragon in the fortress, while the Hell Legion had 300 players.

If the Hell Legion went on a rampage inside the fortress, they could slay hundreds or thousands of players before the Dragon would reach them. They’d also be able to escape the Dragon’s pursuit. They weren’t concerned that they couldn’t take down the Starlight Fortress in the least.

“Commander, I’ve received another important message. You’ve received a request to negotiate with Fithalia,” the black-clad Assassin added.

“Fithalia?” The thin man smiled when he heard the name. “Since an old friend has so graciously invited me, I must show her the proper respect. Pack up, everyone. We’re heading to the Starlight Fortress.”

## Chapter 2476 – Frightening Divine Dragon

Star Valley, Starlight Fortress:

With Hell Rush in the lead, the Hell Legion finally reached the Starlight Fortress after more than five hours of continuous fighting.

The fortress had already undergone two days of repairs and looked nothing like it had.

Not only did the fortress have a new physical look, but its magic array was now fully active, as well. A layer of Mana enveloped the fortresses, creating an oasis in the Star Valley's Mana-thin environment. Moreover, a faint layer of mist surrounded the fortress walls, adding hints of mystery and solemnity.

"This ancient fortress is amazing. Its Mana is so dense. If we could train in the fortress long-term, our Mana control would improve significantly."

"That's not all. If we can live and train here, we could even improve our combat standards."

"It's no wonder why the higher-ups asked us to take action. If we can take this fortress, we could boost our internal and core members' development speed. We wouldn't have to compete for entry slots to the Demonic Mist Secret Land every week."

When the Hell Legion members saw the Starlight Fortress in the distance, their eyes glowed with excitement.

The western continent lacked Mana, which was why areas with high Mana density became targets for the various superpowers. Players could improve their Mana affinity when in those areas, and they'd have a clearer mind while training. This would be of great help as players tried to gain more control over Mana.

Because of this, whenever a player discovered a Mana-dense area, a war between Guilds shortly followed. Even the various superpowers participated.

Of the Mana-dense environments the Hell Legion's members had experienced thus far, none could hold a candle to the Starlight Fortress. The fortress's Mana was dense enough that it would even be extremely helpful to experts of their caliber.

"Commander, Divine Tribe is behaving strangely. They've only sent one party to guard the front gate. They didn't even bother to send a Tier 3 NPC. Aren't they afraid that players will barge in?" a Tier 3 Ranger in blue leather armor commented when he only saw six Tier 2 players by the Starlight Fortress's entrance.

In the west, ruling Guilds were even required to dispatch Tier 3 NPC guards to the fortress that already had NPCs. The front gate was every fortress's weakest point, even with the defensive magic array active.

If a team attacked the front gate before the gate's defensive mechanisms could be engaged, they could destroy the gate and open the fortress to invasion. Thus, powers typically sent in plenty of powerful Tier 3 NPCs to protect the front gate after capturing a fortress.

Divine Tribe, however, had done the exact opposite. The Guild hadn't even sent a single Tier 3 player to protect the Starlight Fortress's gate, much less Tier 3 NPCs. Moreover, there were only six Tier 2 players by the entrance. Divine Tribe was practically begging for another power to attack.

Even if the Guild wasn't worried about hostile forces destroying the front gate, it was still an important location.

Players would hand over their entrance fees at the gate, after all, and those Coins would be kept in the gate's storage before being transported to the Fortress Lord's Mansion at regular intervals.

If players plundered the Coins during delivery or from the gate's storage, the ruling power would suffer for its lack of security.

"That's not our concern. Get ready, everyone. We're going in," Hell Rush declared, ignoring Divine Tribe's careless organization.

As far as he was concerned, whether or not Divine Tribe sent Tier 3 NPCs to guard the front gate didn't matter to the Hell Legion. If the Hell Legion wanted to break that gate down, Divine Tribe couldn't stop them.

Following their orders, the Hell Legion's members summoned their Advanced ranked Guild Mounts, the Magic-horned Steed.

The Magic-horned Steeds were large, the size of adult elephants. When 300 Magic-horned Steeds charged as a group, even the ground trembled under their hooves.

Once the legion reached the gate, however, the party of six remained indifferent. They neither seemed afraid nor awed by the sight of the mighty Hell Legion. Rather, they calmly approached Hell Rush.

“May I know why you’re all here?” a Level 105, Tier 2 Knight asked. Fearlessly, he explained, “The fortress is still sealed, and uninvited players cannot enter.”

“We’ve received an invitation from Commander Fithalia. You may notify her that the Hell Legion has arrived,” Hell Rush proudly announced, looking down at the six Divine Tribe members before him.

“So, you’re Commander Fithalia’s guests. I’ll contact her for authorization immediately. Please, wait a moment.” When the Tier 2 Guardian Knight heard that the Hell Legion were here at Fithalia’s request, he contacted the Commander and asked her to grant Hell Rush and his companions permission to enter the fortress.

Not long after the Guardian Knight reported to his superior, he began to chant an incantation while watching the Hell Legion. Once he finished, a runic mark appeared on the back of their hands.

“Alright, you now have temporary permission to enter the Starlight Fortress,” the Tier 2 Guardian Knight informed the guests. He then warned them with a heavy tone, “However, before you go in, I must inform you of something.

“Currently, a Dragon is resting in the fortress, and the Mana isn’t fully stable yet. So, once you enter the fortress, I hope that you won’t cause too much of a commotion. You shouldn’t anger the Dragon. If it decides to act, we won’t be able to stop it. I hope you can understand.”

As the Tier 2 Guardian Knight finished his warning, the Hell Legion’s members couldn’t contain their grins. They acted as if the Guardian Knight had told the funniest joke in the world.

Surely, this Tier 2 Guardian Knight was trying to scare them.

But who were they, exactly?

They were members of Netherworld Empire's strongest trump card legion!

They had encountered Dragons far more often than the various superpowers' experts. They knew just how powerful a Tier 4 Dragon was •

They were even confident of defeating one, much less surviving its wrath. After all, it wouldn't be the first time.

Even if they weren't a match for the Starlight Fortress's Dragon, they had plenty of methods to escape its pursuit. Divine Tribe was dreaming if it thought one measly Dragon could make them behave in the Starlight Fortress.

"We understand. Can we go in now?" Hell Rush asked dryly.

"Of course." Realizing that the man before him paid no heed to the warning, the Tier 2 Guardian Knight could only sigh and nod in reply. He signaled for his subordinates to make way for the Hell Legion.

Divine Tribe's guards stepped aside, and Hell Rush led his legion into the Starlight Fortress atop their Magic-homed Steeds. The Mounts left clouds of dust in their wake, and the ground within a 100-yard radius of the legion trembled. The Hell Legion had no intention of keeping a low profile.

As the Hell Legion entered the fortress, however, they felt an intense pressure bear down on them, and every member of the legion struggled to move. Some of them nearly fell off their Steeds.

“What’s going on?”

“Why is there such immense pressure in the fortress?”

Questions filled the legion members’ minds as they fought through the stifling pressure.

Before they could find an answer themselves, however, a gigantic figure descended from above. Not only did this figure’s wings blot out the sky, but it also made the Magic-horned Steeds kneel and tremble. The mighty Mounts were no longer under the Hell Legion’s control.

This colossal figure was none other than the Silver Divine Dragon, Auerbeck.

The instant Auerbeck landed before the Hell Legion, the legion’s members realized something that left them shaken. “Spatial Imprisonment?! But how?!”

The Hell Legion’s members sensed that space around them had seemingly frozen, and they couldn’t help but gasp. At the same time, their expressions turned indescribably grim.



The Hell Legion members had heard of Spatial Imprisonment before. In fact, they were very familiar with the ability.

Quite a few special regions on the western continent were affected by Spatial Imprisonment, in which players couldn't use any tools. It wasn't an uncommon effect.

However, sensing the Spatial Imprisonment here had a different meaning. Here, it was one of the Dragon's passive abilities.

"Crap! How are they so blessed by the system?! Not only did it give them such a powerful Dragon, but the Dragon can even use Spatial Imprisonment?! Who could possibly stop that?!" Thunder Beast, a primitive man that stood at nearly three meters tall, cursed as he lost his earlier complacency.

The Hell Legion knew how powerful Dragons were. Not only had they encountered multiple Dragons in the past, but they had also clashed with a few of them. This was why they had dared to venture to the Starlight Fortress, even after learning that a Dragon guarded it.

Of all the Dragons they had come across, however, none came close to comparing with the Silver Divine Dragon standing before them. It was only a Tier 4 Infant Dragon, yet the Dragon Might Auerbeck radiated made it difficult to move. Not even the Tier 5 Dark Magic Dragon they had met could do this.

To make matters worse, Auerbeck had mastered Spatial Imprisonment, which only a few apex Tier 4 NPCs could master. The Hell Legion had no chance against such a foe.

Once he landed, Auerbeck quietly observed the Hell Legion, and its members froze under the Dragon's gaze. Auerbeck then approached the legion as they watched his every step. The closer Auerbeck got, the stronger the pressure the Hell Legion members felt became.

The Hell Legion's members began to regret their decision to come to the fortress, realizing they had acted a little too rashly.

Had they judged the Dragon's strength properly before causing a scene in the fortress, they wouldn't have been caught off guard.

"Wolf, your group will activate the Mana Barrier!" Hell Rush shouted at the Tier 3 Ranger beside him after seeing his teammates' growing despair. "The rest of you will use that chance to retreat!"

Auerbeck was far stronger than he had expected, but Divine Tribe was dreaming if it thought it could corner the Hell Legion with one Dragon.

If any other superpower's trump card legion stood in the Hell Legion's place, they'd be helpless.

But the Hell Legion wasn't just any legion.

No ordinary Super Guild could match the Legacies and ancient technology Netherworld Empire had obtained.

The blue-clad Ranger, Black Wolf, and the several players beside him gritted their teeth as they each pulled a dark-gray crystal from their bags. They then began to chant an incantation.

Dense Mana radiated out from Black Wolf and his comrades. It formed a pitch-black barrier that swallowed the Hell Legion.

Once the magic barrier had taken shape, the Hell Legion members were freed from Auerbeck's Spatial Imprisonment.

Hell Rush released a held breath in a deep, relieved sigh. He then commanded, "Good! Everyone, use your Return Scroll and retreat!"

The Mana Barrier was Netherworld Empire's greatest creation.

This barrier couldn't suppress their enemies, but it would create a Domain for a short time, freeing the players within from any restrictive effects. With the help of the Mana Barrier, players could even use Return Scrolls in areas that prohibited their use.

Moreover, the defensive barrier would prevent anything from entering once active. The Mana Barrier was the best lifesaving and defensive tool currently available in God's Domain.

Hell Rush had wanted to save the Mana Barrier for their assault on the Fortress Lord's Mansion, but right now, he couldn't care less about that.

With their commander's order echoing in their ears, the legion's members retrieved their Return Scrolls and began to activate them. Meanwhile, Auerbeck swiped at the barrier with a claw.

Boom!

A massive explosion shook the Starlight Fortress as Auerbeck's claw collided with the Mana Barrier.

However, the attack didn't even crack the barrier, much less shatter it.

This scene left the nearby Divine Tribe members stupefied. They had never expected the Hell Legion to have such a powerful card.

They had already witnessed the Silver Divine Dragon's strength. Ordinary Tier 4 Mythics were children in comparison.

And yet, the Mana Barrier remained intact even after taking a blow from the Divine Dragon. The barrier's defensive strength was even greater than the Starlight Fortress's walls when the magic array had been inactive.

"So what if you have a Tier 4 Dragon? You're 100 years too early if you think you can make an example of the Hell Legions!" Thunder Beast laughed when Auerbeck failed to destroy the Mana Barrier.

"Alright, enough. The Starlight Fortress is much stronger than we initially anticipated. We need to revise our plan once we return," Hell Rush warned his teammates, realizing that Thunder Beast wanted to linger.

He had wanted to show off the Hell Legion's power before Fithalia and Divine Tribe's other upper echelons, but he had never dreamed that their Dragon would be so astoundingly strong.

The Hell Legion hadn't suffered any casualties, but they had sacrificed an important magic array, which was a minor loss.

Of course, this experience also showed the depths of the Starlight Fortress's defenses.

Auerbeck might be very powerful, but if Netherworld Empire planned its next move carefully, negotiating a partnership with Divine Tribe would still be possible.

As Hell Rush and his companions were in the midst of activating their Return Scrolls, a voice called out to them.

“You guys just got to the Starlight Fortress; why are you in such a hurry to leave?”

With the question, space within the fortress seemed to shake. Following which, a phantom world washed over the fortress, isolating it from the outside world.

While the phantom world took over, the Mana Barrier's Domain waned. Although the barrier remained in place, the Mana within began to corrode.

A second later, the Hell Legion members discovered that Mana had stopped flowing within their Return Scrolls, and as a result, the magic arrays under their feet began to crumble, eventually disappearing altogether.

It stunned every member of the Hell Legion.

What was going on?

The Mana Barrier was still up, so why couldn't they teleport?

Something's actually suppressed the Mana Barrier? Black Wolf, in particular, was stunned when he sensed that he no longer had control of the Mana around him.

The Mana Barrier could wrestle control of a specified space, even within a forbidden land that prevented teleportation. However, something had suppressed it and thoroughly. The Hell Legion members' plummeting Basic Attributes and physiques made this much clear.

Understanding that they had missed their chance to teleport away from the Starlight Fortress, the Hell Legion's members couldn't help but turn toward the voice's origin.

After this person had asked their question, their ability to teleport had been taken from them. The speaker must have something to do with that.

The Hell Legion's members found that the voice had come from Auerbeck's back. Due to the Divine Dragon's natural glow, they hadn't noticed the man, but squinting to see through the light, they discovered that someone was actually riding the Divine Dragon, standing on his back.

"So, you're Zero Wing's Guild Leader, Black Flame?" Hell Rush asked, staring at the player perched on the Silver Divine Dragon.

Hell Rush's question stunned the rest of the Hell Legion in the Mana Barrier. They all stared at Shi Feng in astonishment.

"Is he really human?"

They had heard that Shi Feng had something to do with the Silver Divine Dragon, but they had never thought that he would be capable of controlling it and be able to suppress the Mana Barrier.

Having either power would overjoy any of God's Domain's superpowers. Both a Dragon and a Domain treasure would be incredibly useful when defending fortresses and rendering other superpowers' attacks useless.

And now, they learned that Shi Feng had both. It was absurd!

"That's correct; I'm Black Flame," Shi Feng replied, nodding.

"I never could've guessed how much strength you've hidden. The various superpowers' heads are already aching over your Dragon, yet your power isn't limited to the creature." Hell Rush could not help his bitter smile as he spoke to Shi Feng. "The Hell Legion admits defeat."

Although the Mana Barrier was still around them, and they had quite a few more to protect themselves from Auerbeck, the magic arrays were meaningless if they couldn't teleport out of the Starlight Fortress. It would only be a matter of time before they ran out of Mana Barriers.

Without the barrier to protect them, they wouldn't have a hope of escaping the Divine Dragon.

As for trying to face Auerbeck in battle, that would be futile. They could barely move under the Infant Dragon's Dragon Might, much less fight.

In other words, the Hell Legion was utterly at Shi Feng's mercy.

Rather than waste time with pretenses, Hell Rush thought it wise to surrender.

However, after his statement, he and his team heard a clear, soft voice.

"Commander Rush, I'm afraid we have a misunderstanding. I invited you here at Guild Leader Black Flame's request. Since you are the Starlight Fortress's esteemed guest, Black Flame decided to welcome you personally."

Another figure stood from her position on Auerbeck's back; it was Fithalia, the Divine Hymn Legion's commander.

"Welcome us?" Hell Rush rolled his eyes.

Why would anyone use a Dragon to welcome guests?

Not only had Shi Feng arrived on the back of his Dragon, but he had also used a Domain tool. Did they really consider this a proper 'welcome'?



The rest of the Hell Legion glared at Fithalia. Even a fool would recognize this display as a warning.

However, they had no choice but to endure the act.

“This isn’t a suitable place for our conversation, Commander Rush. Let’s continue inside the Fortress Lord’s Mansion,” Shi Feng said, unconcerned with whether Hell Rush believed Fithalia or not. He then leaped off of Auerbeck and canceled Miniature World before leading his guests toward the mansion.

The Hell Legion’s several vice commanders looked toward their leader, wondering how Hell Rush would respond.

“Since we’re already here, we might as well talk,” Hell Rush muttered to his vice commanders. He couldn’t tell what Shi Feng was after, and the Swordsman currently held the Hell Legion’s fate in his hands. Hence, he decided to concede.

Hell Rush then followed Shi Feng to the Starlight Fortress’s Fortress Lord’s Mansion. Meanwhile, his vice commanders instructed the rest of the legion’s members to find a place to rest before they followed.

When Hell Rush and his entourage walked toward the Fortress Lord’s Mansion, located in the fortress’s core, they were shocked. As they grew closer to the mansion, they could feel the Mana growing denser. They sensed that the Mana around them had already become 30% denser when they were only half-way to their destination.

A 30% increase could raise their training efficiency with combat techniques, Skills, and Spells by at least 50%, and it would be particularly prominent when practicing Advanced and Bronze Combat Techniques. Training in this environment would yield even better results than when they trained in the Mana-dense secret lands under Netherworld Empire’s control.

“Huh? What is that place?” Hell Rush asked, noticing an ancient tower a short distance away from the Fortress Lord’s Mansion.

The tower only had five floors, but the concentration of Mana around it was second only to the Fortress Lord’s Mansion. Even in the Starlight Fortress’s high-Mana environment, the tower stood out like a shining beacon.

“That’s the Fortress Prison,” Fithalia explained. “It’s where we intend to keep players who cause trouble, similar to the prisons in NPC cities.”

“It’s the same as the prisons in NPC cities?” Hell Rush wore a grim expression after hearing Fithalia’s answer.

His vice commanders stared at the ancient tower in horror.

If they died within the fortress, they would, at most, lose a level and a piece of equipment. With the Hell Legion’s strength, they could recover from the losses in no time.

But none of them wanted to face imprisonment after a death. That outcome would be even worse than if they died three or four times in a row.

Time was more important than money in God’s Domain, especially for frontline players. Opportunity waited for no man. They would only have the highest chances of growing stronger by maintaining their positions at the forefront of the game’s player base, and they might even find a rare opportunity that could change their fates.

If they were stuck in jail for five or six days, however, they'd fall behind, and catching up would be insanely difficult.

A Dragon?

A Domain tool?

Those were insignificant compared to the Fortress Prison.

Auerbeck might be able to annihilate the Hell Legion with the help of a Domain tool, but the legion's members would recover to their peak in three or four days. They might even become stronger than they had been.

Spending a handful of days in the prison, on the other hand, would cripple the legion. Catching up would take at least one to two months.

The Fortress Prison alone was more than enough to deter any power from assaulting the Starlight Fortress.

While Hell Rush and his vice commanders secretly plotted to investigate the Fortress Prison, they arrived at the mansion.

The Fortress Lord's Mansion was now fully repaired and looked like a castle from a fantasy novel. An ancient, mysterious aura surrounded the castle, and the ambient Mana within its vicinity was mesmerizing. There was simply no comparison between the Mana here and the Mana in the rest of the fortress. For a moment, Hell Rush and the others even had the urge to stay for the rest of their lives.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, may I know what business you have with us? If you'd like to discuss something, please, get to the point. I'm not fond of posturing and word games," Hell Rush told Shi Feng seriously.

Hell Rush now had a good understanding of the Starlight Fortress's situation. In his opinion, capturing or causing a ruckus in the fortress was simply impossible for the various superpowers, including Netherworld Empire. He couldn't think of a reason that Shi Feng would specifically invite the Hell Legion to talk.

"Now that you've seen the Starlight Fortress for yourselves, I'm sure you're quite interested in the fortress. I've asked you here to negotiate an alliance. Although I can't offer a temporary Residence, I would like to offer Netherworld Empire's members a 40% discount on all basic expenditures within the Starlight Fortress," Shi Feng explained, chuckling.

"Forty percent? Are you serious?" The offer instantly tempted Hell Rush.

Star Valley was a forbidden land far away from civilization, and travel to the map was incredibly inconvenient. This was precisely the reason that Netherworld Empire wanted the Starlight Fortress's sole temporary Residence. If his Guild could secure a Residence within Star Valley, Netherworld Empire's members could teleport to the forbidden land, saving plenty of travel time and Coins.

Although not having a temporary Residence would be inconvenient, a 40% discount on all basic expenditures within this fortress would allow Netherworld Empire to save a ton on development costs.

Basic expenditures weren't limited to facilities, such as hotels. Entrance fees would be included, as well, which players had to pay every time they wanted to enter the fortress. The discount wouldn't be a major issue if Netherworld Empire only wished to send a few hundred players, but if the Guild sent thousands, a 40% discount could save them an astronomical amount of money.

"Of course." Shi Feng nodded.

"What do you need us to do?" Hell Rush asked.

With the Fortress Prison, the Starlight Fortress's operations would be unshakable. Logically, Zero Wing and Divine Tribe shouldn't need Netherworld Empire's help to safeguard the fortress.

"I wish to borrow the entire Hell Legion for a mission!" Shi Feng declared.

"Borrow the Hell Legion?" Hell Rush stared at the Swordsman in confusion. "What do you want us to do?"

Zero Wing had already allied with Divine Tribe, which was a super-first-rate Guild and even stronger than some Super Guilds. It was no exaggeration to claim that Divine Tribe could deal with most matters in the west with relative ease. Zero Wing shouldn't need the Hell Legion's strength for anything.

"It's nothing major. I only wish to enter Star Valley's God Mode Regional Dungeon to retrieve an item," Shi Feng stated calmly.

## Chapter 2479 – Starlight’s Shocking Transformation

Everyone was stunned when they heard Shi Feng’s goal. None of them had ever thought he’d be crazy enough to enter Star Valley’s God Mode Regional Dungeon.

Not only was God Mode the highest difficulty for a Regional Dungeon in God’s Domain, but the Dungeon in Star Valley was also a Level 100-plus Regional Dungeon. Although the Dungeon had abundant resources to offer, it had dangers far beyond what current players faced in the outside world.

A few superpowers had sent Tier 3 teams into the Dungeon not long ago, but in the end, they had been forced to retreat after less than 30 minutes inside and lost half their members. After those losses, the various superpowers temporarily gave up on the Dungeon.

The Dungeon wasn’t only dangerous because of the extremely powerful monsters within, but because of its harsh environment.

Once in the Regional Dungeon, players would face a much higher gravitational force; even Tier 3 players struggled to move under such pressure. To make matters worse, the monsters that called the Dungeon home had high combat standards.

“Guild Leader Black Flame, I wish I could agree to your offer, but the Star Tomb is no place for current players. Our Basic Attributes may remain the same inside, but that place significantly limits our mobility. Just fighting the Level 105 Great Lords in the Dungeon is a massive challenge, not to mention the Level 105 Grand Lords,” Hell Rush explained after taking a deep breath.

Although Shi Feng’s offer was wildly tempting, the idea of entering the Star Tomb was a joke.

While inside the Star Tomb, Tier 3 players' mobility would be reduced to Tier 1 standards, and to make matters worse, the increased gravity didn't affect the Dungeon's monsters.

And that wasn't all.

Most importantly, players' Stamina consumption would skyrocket during combat in such a high-gravity environment.

If players ventured too far into the Star Tomb, they could lose their lives due to Stamina depletion. Moreover, players couldn't teleport out of the Regional Dungeon, even with Netherworld Empire's Mana Barrier.

If they weren't very careful, they could easily team-wipe.

"I understand your concerns, Commander Rush, but if we succeed, I'm willing to reserve eight of the Mana Training Rooms in the Fortress Lord's Mansion for Netherworld Empire. Of course, we'll calculate the fees separately," Shi Feng informed his guest with a chuckle. "I'm sure you've sensed how dense the Mana is in the mansion, but the Mana Training Room's have even denser Mana."

Aside from securing various rare materials, there was another reason that Shi Feng had traveled to the western continent.

He wanted the Star of Light!

Without the Star of Light, he had no chance of revitalizing the Tree of Life's withered main branch.

The Star of Light was a Legendary material that was only available on the western continent. To be precise, it could only be found within the Star Tomb.

Based on the information he had from the past, three of the Star Tomb's Stars of Light had dropped while players had explored the Regional Dungeon for the first time. With the Star Tomb untouched, this was the perfect opportunity to secure one for himself. If he missed this opportunity, his chances of obtaining the Legendary material would be miserably low by the time he organized another expedition to the west.

To enter the Regional Dungeon, players had to have reached Tier 3 at the very least. Players couldn't enter until then. Moreover, a 100-man team wouldn't be nearly enough to explore the Dungeon. Shi Feng would need at least 500 players to pull off his plan.

Unfortunately, organizing a team of 500 Tier 3 players would be incredibly difficult at this stage of the game. Thus far, only the Five Great Super Guilds could manage it. Hence, Shi Feng had asked Fithalia to invite Hell Rush to negotiate a deal.

"The Mana Training Room?" Hell Rush's eyes glowed when Shi Feng offered the additional benefit.

When he had entered the Fortress Lord's Mansion, he had sensed the extraordinary Mana within. It was, by far, the most Mana-dense location he had ever visited. If Netherworld Empire's experts could train in the mansion, their efficiency would skyrocket.

Yet, Shi Feng had just told him that the Mana Training Rooms had even denser Mana.

If such an astounding training environment truly existed, they could develop their Mana control and unlock their Mana Bodies with unprecedented speed.



“Please, take your time to consider the offer carefully, Commander Rush. If we encounter a situation within the Star Tomb that we cannot overcome, you may retreat, and the benefits I offer will remain yours,” Shi Feng clarified.

“Your offer will still stand?” Hell Rush could not ignore the temptation. “Then, I agree. However, if my team risks annihilation, we will pull back immediately. If you can accept that condition, we’re willing to work with you.”

Hell Rush wasn’t sure what Shi Feng’s goal was, but he couldn’t afford to reject the offer.

Mana was the root of all things on the western continent, which the various powers desperately fought for.

Since capturing the Starlight Fortress was now impossible, he had to aim for the next best thing, and the Mana Training Rooms would allow his Guild’s experts to unlock their Mana Bodies far sooner. Once they did, Netherworld Empire would be able to surpass the two of the other Five Great Super Guilds based in the west when it came to experts with fully unlocked Mana Bodies.

“That won’t be a problem,” Shi Feng answered. He could sympathize with Hell Rush. The Star Tomb was, after all, a Level 100-plus God Mode Regional Dungeon and, as such, far more dangerous than the outside world.

The various superpowers had suffered severe losses to clear the Star Tomb during his previous life, and that was after they had formed the minimum 500-man teams.

Luckily, the current Hell Legion would be more than enough for his purposes. His goal wasn't to explore all of the Star Tomb, just obtain a Star of Light.

The Star of Light was a random drop in the Star Tomb, which meant that even the weakest monsters had a chance of dropping it. Raiding the Dungeon's Bosses wouldn't be necessary.

Adventurer teams had claimed three of the Regional Dungeon's Stars of Light in the past, and all three teams had done so in the tomb's outer region.

Those adventurer teams had merely been grinding for Magic Crystals, but they had lucked out and acquired Stars of Light instead, becoming rich overnight.

Since no one had explored the Star Tomb yet, they should have a high likelihood of obtaining at least one Star of Light.

Following which, Shi Feng signed a contract with Hell Rush stating that Netherworld Empire's members would enjoy a 40% discount on the Starlight Fortress's basic expenditures. In addition, eight of the Fortress Lord's Mana Training Rooms would be reserved for the Guild, with each costing 300 Magic Crystals per hour.

In exchange, Shi Feng would have temporary command of the Hell Legion once they were inside the Star Tomb, and this would remain in effect until Shi Feng completed his task or the team encountered more trouble than they could handle. In addition, Netherworld Empire would dispatch experts to defend the Starlight Fortress alongside Zero Wing and Divine Tribe.

Once they had signed the contract, the alliance between Zero Wing and Netherworld Empire was set in stone. Not long after, news of their partnership spread like the plague, reaching the various superpowers in no time at all.

This ignited a commotion among the various superpowers that had aimed to take the Starlight Fortress.

## **Chapter 2480 – Starlight Fortress Unsealed**

“What did you say? The Hell Legion agreed?”

“Impossible! The Hell Legion has 300 Tier 3 experts, and every one of them is a lunatic!”

When the various superpowers received news of the Hell Legion’s decision, they found it hard to believe.

They had assumed the Starlight Fortress was doomed once the Hell Legion had gotten involved. Even if they didn’t capture the fortress, they were sure to leave it in ruins.

They were all familiar with what kind of team the Hell Legion was.

It was a team of madmen.

The Starlight Fortress might be impressive for its Dragon guard, but after all was said and done, it only had one Dragon. One Dragon wasn’t nearly enough to keep all 300 Hell Legion members in check. They weren’t ordinary Tier 3 experts, and as long as they had a chance of victory, they’d repeatedly resurrect their members and assault the Starlight Fortress until only one side remained.

This was why the various superpowers were so afraid of the Hell Legion.

And yet, the situation had developed in such an unexpected way.

The Hell Legion hadn't even started a decent battle, much less taken the fortress. The legion had actually allied with the ruling power after a short discussion. Moreover, the Hell Legion had agreed to a partnership that didn't include shares of the fortress. The various superpowers' upper echelons even wondered if the reports were about the Hell Legion they knew so well.

While the news spread, the various superpowers, who had been preparing to assault the Starlight Fortress, hesitated.

They had only dared to target the Starlight Fortress because Netherworld Empire had expressed interest in capturing it, but now that the Super Guild had joined the fortress's ruling power, the situation had become disastrous for the various superpowers.

These superpowers weren't afraid of Divine Tribe. The Guild only had a few more Tier 3 experts than the rest of them. If they joined forces, however, they could easily outnumber Divine Tribe, and since the Starlight Fortress only provided players partial authority, capturing it would be child's play.

But now that Netherworld Empire had allied with Divine Tribe, causing a scene in the fortress would be difficult and dangerous.

Aside from the legion members' individual strength, the Hell Legion had enough Tier 3 players that it could rival the total number in several superpowers. Including the Dragon, how were the various superpowers supposed to cause enough chaos to take the fortress from Divine Tribe?

Of course, these superpowers weren't willing to give up just yet.

Although they knew that securing a share of the Starlight Fortress's profits was no longer possible, they still sent a large number of experts to investigate the situation within. The fortress' benefits were related to too many of their interests, and they would jump at any opportunity to gain a fraction of what the Starlight Fortress had to offer.

Meanwhile, in the Azure Chamber of Commerce's distant Demonic Silver mine...

"Even the Hell Legion has failed?" Yan Xiaoqian muttered, stunned after reading her subordinate's report.

She had already been astonished to learn that Shi Feng and Divine Tribe had cooperated to capture the Starlight Fortress.

Then, she had heard about the fortress's draconic resident.

And now, even the fearsome Hell Legion had compromised.

If she hadn't known anything about Shi Feng's group, she would've assumed they belonged to some hidden superpower that developed in the western continent's shadows.

However, she knew more than a little about that group of players.

Shi Feng had arrived on the western continent with 9 companions, all members of Zero Wing. When they had arrived, Zero Wing hadn't had a single ally in the west.

Yet, not only had Shi Feng's group established a foothold in the west after only a few days, but they had even gained two powerful allies.

The Azure Chamber of Commerce had spent over a month establishing itself in the east. The Chamber had only made a place for itself in the Dark Hills, outside of the Fire Dragon Empire's border, after investing tons of resources and manpower in the endeavor. Moreover, the Azure had only accomplished its goal because it had gathered players and secured connections on the eastern continent early in the game. If it hadn't, securing a foothold in the east would've taken much longer.

Shi Feng, however, had secured the Starlight Fortress in less than four days, driving the western continent's various superpowers crazy.

"Young Miss, we don't have much time left before the competition between families. The family has already ensured that you'll have use of the trial grounds. They hope you will cherish the opportunity and restore the reputation the family lost during the prior competition. Please don't let other matters distract you," an amiable old man advised, sitting next to Yan Xiaoqian in one of the mine's lounges.

"I understand. Zero Wing merely has a foothold in the west and access to more resources now. It still isn't nearly powerful enough to help Silent Wonder win the families' annual competition," Yan Xiaoqian said, nodding. Once she had calmed her flustered heart, her confidence returned.

Zero Wing might now have a place on the western continent, but whether or not it could develop in the west was a different matter entirely. The Guild's greatest enemy wasn't the western continent's various superpowers, but the Demonic Creature armies.

As a forbidden land, no kingdom or empire protected Star Valley.

In other words, the Starlight Fortress would face the full brunt of the Demonic Creature armies without NPC help. It was easy to imagine how much danger the fortress was in.

Even if Divine Tribe and Netherworld Empire cooperated, they couldn't necessarily protect the fortress from the Demonic Creatures' invasion.

Even if Zero Wing defended its hold on the Starlight Fortress, that had nothing to do with helping Silent Wonder. The Guild's foundation in the west was new-born, and the western continent's training grounds were superior to those in the east.

"In that case, Young Miss, we should go," the old man insisted.

She nodded in response, but she couldn't help but gaze toward Star Valley.

Just you wait! I will not let Silent Wonder defeat me in this competition! Yan Xiaoqian inwardly swore, recalling Shi Feng's utter disregard for her and Azure before leaving the Demonic Silver mine.

Her family had paid a huge price to get her access to the trial grounds. This was an opportunity that few in God's Domain could enjoy. As long as she could complete the trial, she could even defeat Shi Feng, let alone Silent Wonder.

While Yan Xiaoqian left the Demonic Silver mine atop her Flying Mount, Shi Feng led the Hell Legion to Star Valley's inner region.

Even Tier 3 players could lose their lives in the Star Valley's outer region, to say nothing of the Level 100-plus forbidden land's inner area.

The lowest-leveled monsters in the inner region were Level 110, and they generally moved in groups with Grand Lord leaders. Each of these groups consisted of over a thousand monsters, with some of the larger groups having two or three thousand. They were practically roaming armies. If a 100-man Tier 3 team encountered these monsters, the slightest mistake could lead to a team-wipe.

Fortunately, the Hell Legion's members were extraordinarily strong, and there were 300 of them. They could venture through the inner region in relative safety, although their progress was incredibly slow.

After more than 10 hours of travel, Shi Feng and his team reached the inner region's boundary.

They could see a gigantic mountain not far from their position on the inner region's border. The mountain's aura felt boundless, and those who approached could feel their bodies grow heavier. The closer one got to the base of the mountain, the stronger the sensation became.

This was none other than Star Valley's God Mode Regional Dungeon, the Star Tomb!

"Consider this carefully, Guild Leader Black Flame. Do you really want to go in there? Once we're inside, leaving will be a challenge, and if players die, they won't resurrect outside of the Dungeon," Hell Rush warned Shi Feng as he stared at the mountain before them.

The Star Tomb was a very special location.



When players normally died, they'd resurrect in the nearest NPC town or city, but that wasn't the case in the Star Tomb. No matter how many times players died, they'd only return to life within the Dungeon.

"I understand. Let's head in."

Shi Feng was quite familiar with the Star Tomb's peculiarities, yet he walked into the Regional Dungeon with no hesitation. Hell Legion's members only glanced at each other before helplessly following the Swordsman.

Shortly after Shi Feng and his team entered the Star Tomb, the Starlight Fortress in Star Valley's outer region lit with a bright glow as the seal was finally removed. The Starlight Fortress had opened to the public.