

Chapter 2481 – Fortress of Astronomical Value

“Quick, look! The Starlight Fortress is open!”

“It’s finally open! I’ve been waiting for this moment!”

The various superpowers and independent players in the nearby forest immediately noticed the dazzling glow that enveloped the Starlight Fortress. They had been waiting for the fortress to open to the public, especially the independent players. They all had great expectations.

Independent players were unaware of Netherworld Empire’s agreement, but some of Divine Tribe’s members had leaked information about the situation within the Starlight Fortress. When they finally got to see the fortress’s many benefits, the various independent players caused an uproar.

Aside from the fortress’s Mana-dense environment, which would help them quickly recover from exhaustion, the fact that they could improve their Mana control just by visiting the fortress made it far more impressive than any NPC city on the western continent.

Furthermore, the Starlight Fortress was located within Star Valley. Now that they could enter the fortress, they could grind in the forbidden land, boosting their leveling speed and resource acquisition.

Naturally, they couldn’t miss the opportunity to set up a base of operations within the Starlight Fortress.

Although the various superpowers had dispatched many of their players, they were no match for the number of independent players eagerly waiting to enter the fortress.

The independent players, who had been resting in the forest, charged toward the Starlight Fortress like a flood of madmen. Despite their imposing might, not even the various superpowers' experts reached the fortress before the tide of independent players.

However, the scene didn't enrage the superpowers; they were actually overjoyed to see it.

"I hadn't expected to find so many Tier 3 experts in the area. I doubt Netherworld Empire and Divine Tribe expected so many players, either."

"This is going to be interesting! Even Netherworld Empire's Hell Legion would be helpless against so many Tier 3 experts."

When the various superpowers' upper echelons saw the independent players swarm toward the Starlight Fortress, excitement flashed in their eyes. They had begun to believe that they had no hope of causing chaos within the fortress. After all, Netherworld Empire's Hell Legion was not just for decoration.

They hadn't expected a situation like this, and they had never imagined that independent players would be so interested in the Starlight Fortress.

There were already more than 5,000 Tier 3 independent players, not to mention the Tier 2 players. There were more of them than those in the various superpowers combined.

Even if Netherworld Empire went all-out, they had no hope of defending the fortress against such a force, let alone Divine Tribe.

Before the superpowers' upper echelons could celebrate, however, a Dragon with silver scales flew out of the Starlight Fortress and landed beside the front gate, quietly observing the approaching horde of independent players.

The excited independent players froze on the spot when they saw Auerbeck, none of them dared to move. The sudden development even stupefied the various superpowers watching from afar.

They were talking about 5,000 Tier 3 experts!

And yet, every one of them acted like a mouse before a cat...

Of course, the various superpowers' experts could sympathize. Auerbeck's aura was just that frightening. Even from far away, they felt as if the weight of a mountain had rested on their shoulders. Needless to say, the independent players, who were much closer to the Silver Divine Dragon, felt an even stronger pressure.

"Is that really just a Tier 4 Dragon?"

The various superpowers' experts were at a loss for words as they stared at Auerbeck.

They had realized that Auerbeck was exceptionally strong after the Hell Legion had fled from it, but seeing the Divine Dragon in person, they understood how mistaken they had been.

This was not a matter of strength.

No one should be so foolish as to provoke Auerbeck!

“The Starlight Fortress is now open to the public. If you wish to enter the fortress, listen carefully. All combat is prohibited within the fortress walls. Not only will you be slain if you break this rule, but you’ll also be imprisoned for eight days in the Fortress Prison,” MacAffrey, who stood on the wall above the main gate, announced as he gazed at the players below. “If nobody has any questions, you may register to enter the fortress!”

As MacAffrey finished his statement, the nearby players’ expressions changed. The announcement dumbfounded the various superpowers’ members, in particular.

“Fortress Prison?! What is he talking about?!”

The superpowers’ upper echelons, who had laughed at the Starlight Fortress’s latest predicament, could no longer muster the strength to laugh.

They were familiar with the concept of God’s Domain’s prisons. Once players were jailed, they’d have to serve their time unless someone destroyed the prison from the outside.

It was this moment when the various superpowers understood, more or less, why Netherworld Empire had decided to compromise.

With a Fortress Prison around, who would dare cause a scene in the fortress?

The various superpowers began to despair when MacAffrey began to speak once more.

“Due to the fortress’s limited space, players may only remain inside for one natural day. Each consecutive day you spend in the fortress will cost 1 Magic Crystal. In addition, all basic services the fortress offers cost Magic Crystals. If you fail to pay for the services you’ve requested, you will also spend eight days in the prison. Please keep this in mind during your stay.”

After listening to MacAffrey’s speech, every player in the area was stunned again.

Normally, the various powers did everything they could to increase a fortress’s player population after capturing one, which, in turn, would transform the fortress into a trade hub. This would also give the ruling power access to a huge amount of resources, yet the Starlight Fortress’s owner had decided against that. They showed no regard for attracting players to the fortress.

The entrance fee alone cost a whopping 20 Silver per person, and players were only allowed to spend a day in the fortress. Once that day was up, every additional day would cost a Magic Crystal. To make matters worse, they had to pay Magic Crystals for the services within the fortress...

This was basically daylight robbery!

Only a fool would enter the fortress!

On the western continent, Magic Crystals were incredibly rare, which made them far more valuable than Coins. Moreover, most high-value transactions involved Magic Crystals.

Tier 2 experts would be fortunate to earn three or four Magic Crystals per day, and Tier 3 experts only earned around a dozen. After deducting daily expenses, they'd be lucky if they kept half of their remaining Magic Crystals.

With how the Starlight Fortress operated, Tier 2 experts had no hope of setting up a base within the fortress.

“Are the fortress’s managers insane?”

Their greed for Magic Crystals certainly is! It’s already obvious that no one on the continent has a chance of taking the fortress! The fortress can slowly develop and grow without worry, and yet they’re chasing people away! I can’t wait to see how they’ll survive against the Demonic Creature armies!”

The situation even stunned the various superpowers. They couldn’t fathom what Shi Feng and the others were thinking.

If they had so many Magic Crystals to spare, they might as well spend them in the Divine Colosseum’s Trial Tower!

Moreover, players could afford a luxury meal, which would help them recover from exhaustion far faster than within a Mana-dense environment, with 20 Silver to spend.

In truth, the pricing had left MacAffrey speechless when he had heard it, but Shi Feng had insisted that the fortress would only conduct business using Magic Crystals. So, he couldn’t do anything about it. The Starlight Fortress belonged entirely to Zero Wing, after all. Divine Tribe was only helping manage it.

While some powers and players left in a huff, a 500-man team watched the events unfold from a short distance away from the main gate.

“Are we still going in, commander?” a ruthless, Level 106 man asked the robust man in leather armor next to him.

The robust man was Krow, the Storm Heart adventurer team’s commander.

“Of course! We might as well take a look since we’re here!” Krow said, gritting his teeth.

The 20-Silver entrance fee wasn’t a major concern for Storm Heart, but the fact that the fortress’s basic amenities cost Magic Crystals wasn’t something Storm Heart could afford to play with.

But Krow’s curiosity was too strong to ignore. Thus, he decided to go in and look around. At worst, they’d have paid the entrance fee for nothing.

Having given his answer, Krow led his team toward the Starlight Fortress’s front gate.

Chapter 2482 – Mana Changes

Once Storm Heart’s members paid the exorbitant entrance fee, they carefully walked through the front gate under Auerbeck’s watchful eye.

“What?! Some players are actually willing to pay such a fraudulent fee?!”

“Maybe they’ve decided to do some sightseeing since they’ve already gone to the effort of reaching the fortress.”

The players that had been preparing to leave the area watched Krow and his team with contempt as they entered the Starlight Fortress.

A 20-Silver entrance fee was unheard of on the western continent.

With 20 Silver, a player could fully repair their weapons and equipment in an NPC city. Some Tier 2 players only made that much after a full day of grinding.

Yet, Storm Heart’s members were investing so much money just to sightsee or experience the fortress’s Mana-dense environment. Moreover, they could only spend one day in the fortress. They were foolish to waste their money like that.

After spending a moment to ridicule Storm Heart, the surrounding players packed up and left.

It wasn’t long before 90% of the players around the Starlight Fortress left the area. Now, less than 10,000 players remained in line at the front gate.

“They’ve already secured their hold on the Starlight Fortress, yet they’re chasing away customers. We won’t have to lift a finger to ensure the fortress’s demise.”

“They want to charge Magic Crystals for all basic expenditures made inside the fortress? They certainly know how to dream.”

“How foolish. Do they really think they can squeeze players for all they’ve got just because the Starlight Fortress is the only open fortress in Star Valley?”

The various superpowers’ upper echelons couldn’t help but laugh when they saw how few players were willing to enter the Starlight Fortress.

They had been afraid that the fortress would make some bold move to widen the gap between them, but it seemed their concerns had been meaningless.

Twenty Silver to enter a fortress was a high price to pay, but many expert players could tolerate the cost. With the resources available in Star Valley and the Starlight Fortress’s benefits, they could easily earn back the Coins and more.

However, the Starlight Fortress had crossed the line by charging Magic Crystals for its basic services.

On the western continent, Magic Crystals were players’ foundation. Without Magic Crystals for their Combat Runes, players’ combat power would decrease significantly. Unfortunately, as luck would have it, Magic Crystals were painfully rare in the west. Obtaining a single Magic Crystal was a challenge. If it weren’t so difficult, the continent’s various powers wouldn’t fight so desperately over ore veins that had a chance of producing Magic Crystals.

Although players could obtain Magic Crystals by grinding in Star Valley, it wasn’t easy. Star Valley was still a Level 100- plus forbidden land and far more dangerous than other maps where Magic Crystals dropped.

If a player decided to focus their development around the fortress, they'd only be cheap labor for the ruling power. Only a fool would accept that burden.

Following which, the various superpowers' upper echelons commanded their teams to turn around and leave. They had no intention of entering the Starlight Fortress.

They had learned of the fortress's situation from the spies they had planted in Divine Tribe before the Starlight Fortress had opened to the public. They had no reason to enter the fortress to verify the reports. They'd only be handing over their hard-earned Coins by doing so.

MacAffrey felt frustrated as he watched so many players walk away from his position on the fortress's wall.

Those players were potential money and resources!

Shi Feng could've easily transformed the Starlight Fortress into a prosperous trade hub by lowering his prices, yet he had insisted on charging Magic Crystals for all basic services. That condition alone had deterred the majority of players from visiting the fortress.

While the various superpowers walked away from the Starlight Fortress, the Storm Heart adventurer team had made it inside.

"So, this is the Starlight Fortress? The Mana density is so high!"

"It's no wonder why the entrance fee is so exorbitant. This environment is certainly worth the price."

Storm Heart's members were mesmerized when they sensed the ambient Mana within the Starlight Fortress.

They were not members of the various superpowers, just independent players. Even if they were a part of a top adventurer team, they could only get their hands on limited resources. The resources Storm Heart possessed couldn't even compare to that of first-rate Guilds. Needless to say, they didn't have access to Mana-abundant locations, either. They had to rely on their exceptional talent and hard work to develop slowly.

"We'll only be able to rest here from time to time. We can't afford to go bankrupt," the ruthless man beside Krow said as he glanced at the pricing boards outside the nearby hotels.

Even in NPC kingdoms and empires' capital cities, the most expensive, luxurious hotel room only cost 10 Silver per night.

However, not only were the hotel rooms in the Starlight Fortress small, but they were also astonishingly expensive.

A room actually cost one Magic Crystal per night!

Their team currently had 500 players. If they rented hotel rooms for the night, they'd have to pay a total of 500 Magic Crystals...

The rest of Storm Heart's members could only nod in agreement.

Not even first-rate Guilds could afford such a costly expenditure, let alone Storm Heart. Only superpowers would have the funds to rent these hotel rooms.

“Wait. The Mana here is different somehow,” a Tier 3 female Elementalist suddenly spoke up.

“Different?” Curious, the ruthless man began to pay more attention to the Mana around him, but he failed to find anything unusual about it. “How is it different?”

“No! She’s right!” Krow exclaimed. “To be precise, this area has different types of Elemental Mana.”

“Mhm. I can sense the Three Supreme Elements, and the Mana is growing even denser,” the female Elementalist explained.

Ordinary Tier 3 experts would likely struggle to sense the differences in the ambient Mana, but she had a special Mana Legacy, which allowed her to notice the minute oddity.

“The Three Supreme Elements?” The ruthless man was stunned. Excitedly, he asked, “Doesn’t that mean that this fortress’s environment is similar to the environment of ancient times?”

Experts constantly researched and tried to understand more about God’s Domain’s current affairs and history every day. The information hid many opportunities, and for independent players and adventurer teams, who lacked resources, this was one of the few reliable ways to encounter fortuitous opportunities.

Naturally, Storm Heart and its members were no exception. In fact, their knowledge of God's Domain was vast, especially regarding the ancient area when Gods had still roamed the land.

The ancient era had been the peak of God's Domain. Humankind had been far more powerful then. Ancient human civilizations had developed their individual strength and technology to unbelievable levels.

In comparison, current humans hit their limit after reaching Tier 5. Moreover, most Tier 5 powerhouses nowadays were far weaker than those of the past.

The biggest difference between the past and the present was the composition of ambient Mana.

During ancient times, ambient Mana had been composed of all seven elements, but now, it only included the Four Major Elements. The remaining Three Supreme Elements could only be found in certain locations and in almost negligible amounts.

This was why God's Domain's creatures couldn't fully comprehend and control Mana, which made it harder to reach new tiers.

And yet, within the Starlight Fortress, the Three Supreme Elements had gathered, creating an environment reminiscent of ancient times. This was a heaven-defying opportunity!

Chapter 2483 – Hidden Madness

As soon as the ruthless man finished speaking, excitement flashed in his Tier 3 comrades' eyes.

If the Starlight Fortress's environment were reminiscent of ancient times, consisting of all seven elements, it would be a true paradise for players. Not only would players have a much easier time controlling Mana in such an environment, but it would also help them unlock their Mana Bodies.

After giving the matter some thought, Krow turned to the Tier 3 female Elementalist beside him and said, "Rose, return to headquarters and gather all of the Magic Crystals we have. Send someone to ask around about renting a hotel here, as well. We'll be using it as Storm Heart's temporary base. From now on, Storm Heart's Tier 3 members will develop out of the Starlight Fortress!"

Although living in the Starlight Fortress was costly, if the benefits allowed one to improve their Mana control and unlock their Mana Body's potential with ease, it was worth the price. It would even be worthwhile if the adventurer team had to invest every Magic Crystal it had earned thus far and would earn in the future.

Levels weren't the top priority for Tier 3 players right now. Rather, unlocking their Mana Bodies' full potential was far more important. A Tier 3 player could only exhibit the true strength of Tier 3 once they did so.

Residing in the Starlight Fortress would accelerate the process of unlocking their Mana Bodies, which was a unique, massive benefit.

The rest of God's Domain's players hadn't realized this yet, which gave Storm Heart the opportunity to establish a base in the fortress. If they waited until the various Guilds noticed, finding a place and developing in the Starlight Fortress would become far more difficult for the adventurer team. In terms of money and resources, Storm Heart wasn't even a match for first-rate Guilds, much less superpowers.

"Understood! I'll have someone look into it immediately!" the female Elementalist in blue, Ice Rose, replied before breaking away from the rest of the group.

While Storm Heart secretly took action, other Tier 3 independent players, who had entered the fortress and were particularly sensitive to Mana, did the same.

For a time, something strange took place within the nearly empty Starlight Fortress. Despite barely any players visiting the fortress, its hotels were booked, one after another. Moreover, all of the rooms were rented long-term, stunning the ignorant visiting players and MacAffrey.

Players could earn a 10% discount when renting hotel rooms long-term, but they'd have to reserve the room for a minimum of 10 days. This meant that players had to pay 9 Magic Crystals per room, with each day normally costing 1 Magic Crystal. Including the fact that all of the fortress's basic amenities cost Magic Crystals, the cost was even extravagant to Tier 3 experts. Regardless, nearly 100 players had rented rooms in the Starlight Fortress long-term.

Some players had even rented out an entire hotel.

As a result, the fortress had earned nearly 5,000 Magic Crystals in less than an hour after its grand opening, and the crystals continued to roll in...

Meanwhile, inside the Star Tomb...

Shi Feng and his team ventured farther into the Star Tomb, and the Hell Legion faced one bitter battle after another.

Even Tier 3 experts struggled to move within the Regional Dungeon, their mobility reduced to that of Tier 1 players. Fortunately, their Basic Attributes hadn't been affected.

The reduced mobility had, however, considerably limited everyone's individual combat power.

In the outside world, every member of the Hell Legion could solo a Level 105 Great Lord, but in the Star Tomb, they could barely defeat a Level 105 High Lord.

The Earthen Giants in the Regional Dungeon's outer region typically moved in groups consisting of several hundred, with each having at least 100 Great Lords. These small armies were an extraordinary challenge for the Hell Legion. Every time they encountered a group of monsters, the legion spent over an hour to defeat them, and once the battle was over, they had to retrieve their Tents to recover their lost Stamina. If they didn't take the time to rest, their chances of defeating the next monster army would plummet. Naturally, this slowed their leveling speed to a crawl.

However, the Hell Legion members had to admit that the God Mode Regional Dungeon was a wonderful location.

Not only was the monsters' drop-rate impressive, but the loot they acquired was top-quality as well.

One would have to slay Grand Lords for the slightest chance of obtaining Secret-Silver Weapons and Equipment in the outside world, but in the Star Tomb, they could slay Great Lords to acquire the same ranked items. Furthermore, the Dungeon's Great Lords had a chance of dropping Level 105 Secret-Silver Set Equipment.

After over 20 hours of battle in the Star Tomb, the Hell Legion had completed two Secret Blue Sets and one Thorn Set. The Secret Blue Set was a set equipment for magical classes, while the Thorn Set catered to plate armor classes. Although both were only six-piece, Level 105 Secret-Silver Set Equipment, they were definitely considered top-tier in an era when most Guild experts hadn't yet reached Level 105-

Even the Hell Legion's members coveted the set equipment. Although the weakest piece of equipment among them was Level 105 Secret-Silver rank, with a few players having Level 105 Fine-Gold and Dark-Gold equipment, the benefits of a complete Secret-Silver Set Equipment were slightly greater than the items they currently wore. If they were willing to part with the set equipment, they could easily demand astronomical prices.

Star Tomb's monsters also dropped plenty of Magic Crystals and Mana Stones. The legion had even acquired three combat techniques and Tier 2 Skill Books.

Unfortunately, the Hell Legion had entered an agreement with Shi Feng before they had entered the Regional Dungeon. Since Shi Feng had employed the legion for this expedition, all loot they acquired would belong to him. The Hell Legion would only gain EXP within the Dungeon.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, we've found the path to the Star Tomb's second floor ahead," Hell Rush reported, gesturing to a massive tunnel not far from the team. "The monsters in the area are too concentrated, however, and there are a few Grand Lords in the mix. Pushing past them is impossible. I'm afraid we'll be limited to this area."

The Star Tomb's interior had a similar structure to a tower, separated into multiple floors. Each floor was the size of a Level 15 map in the outside world was more difficult to clear than the last. As players ascended, they'd also be subjected to higher gravitational force.

None of the various superpowers had made it past the central area of the Star Tomb's first floor, near the passage to the second. Reaching the second floor proved almost impossible for current players.

To make matters worse, players couldn't use summoning tools or war weapons in the Star Tomb. They couldn't even activate their Berserk Skills.

Combined with the intense gravitational force, the Hell Legion was limited to taking on a few dozen Great Lords and a Grand Lord at a time. If the legion tried to take on three or four Grand Lords at once, they'd be eliminated. They wouldn't even have the chance to flee. With their suppressed Movement Speed, they were considerably slower than the Earthen Giants. Their only option for survival was to slay the monsters.

"That won't do. Our goal is on the Star Tomb's second floor," Shi Feng said, shaking his head.

The Star Tomb had a total of 11 floors, and the first couldn't even be considered the outer region's outer area. They'd barely make it to the Dungeon's outer region once they made it to the second floor, and they'd only have a chance of securing a Star of Light by slaying the monsters in that area.

"It's not that we don't want to reach the second floor, Guild Leader Black Flame; we just can't make it that far. If we start a fight near the tunnel, we'll attract all of the Earthen Giants in the area. Not only will we have to face nearly 1,000 Earthen Giants, but there are also five Grand Lords. We're no match for them with our current combat power," Hell Rush explained.

The various superpowers had tried to reach the second floor as well, but even after trying various methods, none had succeeded. The five Grand Lords were especially challenging. Even a 1,000-man, Tier 3 team would struggle to defeat them, much less 300 Tier 3 experts.

"Rest assured, Commander Rush. I can't make any promises regarding the rest of the Earthen Giants, but you can leave the Grand Lords to us," Shi Feng said, chuckling as he gave the eight-meter-tall Earthen Giants an anticipatory look.

"You'll deal with them?" Hell Rush swept his gaze across Shi Feng and his companions. Their team only included 10 of Zero Wing's members, and although he hadn't seen these players fight yet, he recognized that they all had extraordinary combat power. If these 10 players worked together, they might be able to take on a Grand Lord ranked Earthen Giant by themselves.

Unfortunately, five Grand Lords guarded the passage ahead. No matter how Hell Rush thought about the idea, it seemed like a joke.

“That’s right. Do you think you and your legion can take out the rest of the monsters?” Shi Feng asked, nodding.

“If you can stop the Grand Lords, the rest won’t be a problem,” Hell Rush said, flashing a confident grin. “But, are you sure that you can defeat the five Grand Lords?”

“Don’t worry about them.” Shi Feng then turned to Yan Tianxing and the others and asked, “You guys can deal with the Grand Lords, right?”

“No problem. Leave it to us. After watching the Hell Legion, we’ve been itching for a fight,” Yan Tianxing replied with a wide smile.

“Alright, let’s lure the five monsters away from the rest of the group first, then,” Shi Feng decided.

Five of his companions then walked away before charging at the five Grand Lords guarding the tunnel.

They’re just going to do it? Are they insane? Watching Yan Tianxing and the others rush ahead without waiting for the Hell Legion, Hell Rush was dumbfounded.

Hell Rush wasn't the only one dumbfounded. The rest of Hell Legion's resting members were stunned as they watched the five Zero Wing members charge toward the Grand Lords.

There were nearly 1,000 Earthen Giants near the passage, and the weakest was a Level 109 High Lord. There were over a 100 Great Lords, as well, and if they surrounded a 100-man, Tier 3 team, the players would be done for.

The Earthen Giants weren't affected by the Star Tomb's gravitational force, and thus, both their Movement and Attack Speeds were higher than Tier 3 players'. As a result, players had to rely on their Basic Attributes to block the Earthen Giant's attacks and their techniques to minimize the damage.

The Hell Legion could only take on three or four Earthen Giants at one time. Even if they had superior combat standards, they wouldn't be able to face a larger group and emerge from the battle unscathed.

Yet, Yan Tianxing and his four comrades charged toward so many of these monsters with no hesitation...

Just as Hell Rush came to his senses and turned to tell Shi Feng to stop his players, what he saw next left him flabbergasted.

Yan Tianxing, Fire Dance, Aqua Rose, Violet Cloud, and Yi Luofei were simply too fast.

Despite the Star Tomb's painful gravitational force, those five players closed the distance of several hundred yards in five seconds, reaching the monsters guarding the tunnel...

"Impossible!"

“How are they so fast?!”

“Did they find a bug?”

All of the Hell Legion’s members were surprised and confused by Yan Tianxing and his party’s Movement Speed.

Even with superior Basic Attributes, attaining such speed in this environment should be impossible. The increased gravitational force had a massive impact on players’ speed. Even if a Tier 2 player had double or triple their Basic Attributes, the Star Tomb’s gravitational force wasn’t something that could simply be overcome.

The Hell Legion’s members even suspected that reaching Tier 4 would only boost their speed to the Tier 2 standard.

And yet, Yan Tianxing’s group moved as easily as they did outside of the Regional Dungeon.

It was unbelievable!

Wait, why is the Mana around them so dense? Hell Rush watched Yan Tianxing’s group carefully for a moment, and a thought popped in his mind. Could they have already unlocked their Mana Bodies?

Even as he wondered if it were possible, he found the idea laughable.

Most of the various superpowers' experts hadn't even begun to unlock their Mana Bodies, much less to their full potential.

The Hell Legion member who had progressed the furthest had only unlocked 20% of their Mana Body; they still had a long road ahead to reach 100%. They'd likely need one or two, perhaps even four or five, months to accomplish the task.

One couldn't simply unlock their Mana Body's full potential overnight. Players would have to continuously try to understand and control their Mana Bodies, starting the process from the very beginning. Hence, it was a long and arduous process.

However, the Mana surrounding Yan Tianxing's group was so strong that it puzzled Hell Rush.

Thus far, Yan Tianxing and the others hadn't participated in any of their battles, so Hell Rush hadn't noticed anything different about the Mana around them. He had assumed that they used some special weapon or equipment piece that made the Mana around them so dense.

Now that these players were on the move, however, the Mana around them grew denser, and it wasn't a result of attracting ambient Mana. Rather, this Mana felt as if it originated from the players.

Before Hell Rush could shake the thought, however, Yan Tianxing and his companions reached their targets.

[Earthen Chieftain] (Elemental Creature, Grand Lord) Level 112

HP 330,000,000/330,000,000

An Earthen Chieftain was already an incredibly tough monster in the outside world. Elemental Creatures had high Magic Resistance, after all, and the Earthen Chieftain's body was composed of solid stone, which gave it a Defense that could rival Inferior Dragons'. There was also the fact that the Earthen Chieftains' HPs were so high.

A 100-man team with 30 Tier 3 players would struggle to raid an Earthen Chieftain in the outside world at this stage of the game, and every team of that caliber was considered first-rate in God's Domain. Ordinary powers didn't even have enough experts to form such a team.

The instant Fire Dance reached her Earthen Chieftain, the Grand Lord, which had long since detected the Assassin, raised its fist and slammed it down on her.

The Earthen Chieftain was eight meters tall, and its fists were as massive as boulders. Watching its fist descend toward Fire Dance was like watching a small mountain fall on her. There was no way she could dodge the attack; she'd have to block it.

"Finally, I can test my Mana Body's strength properly."

A hint of excitement flashed in Fire Dance's eyes as the Grand Lord's fist fell. She immediately unsheathed Thousand Transformations, countering the Earthen Chieftain's attack with a normal strike.

When she had emerged from the Legacy Gate, she had only been a small step away from unlocking her Mana Body's full potential, and after using the Legacy Room, she had resolved that issue. She had spent some time experimenting with her Mana Body, finally unlocking its potential to 100% a day ago.

However, she had been busy with the Starlight Fortress's matters and hadn't had time to test out her Mana Body.

Now that she had the perfect opportunity to so, she wouldn't waste it by relying on her more powerful Skills.

"Is she insane? She's only an Assassin, yet she's trying to tough it out?"

The Hell Legion's members thought Fire Dance was overestimating her strength when she hadn't used a Skill to dodge the Grand Lord's attack. With her speed, evading the blow shouldn't be hard. She was a Void Realm expert, after all. She should've recognized the Earthen Chieftain's attack trajectory immediately.

And yet, the Assassin was trying to counter the Earthen Chieftain's blow. She had to be suicidal.

Boom!

The sound of an explosion echoed throughout the area, and the ground trembled. The impact's shockwave threw dust into the air.

Once the dust settled, the scene before the Hell Legion's members stunned them.

She blocked it!

An Assassin, a class known for its speed, had successfully blocked the Earthen Chieftain's attack!

"Crap! She actually blocked it?!"

"Is she really an Assassin?"

The Hell Legion members felt their world view crumble when Fire Dance had emerged from the exchange without injury.

Not even Thunder Beast, who had the highest Strength of any Hell Legion member, would be a match for a monster like the Earthen Chieftain. He'd have to rely on the legion's healers to tank the Grand Lord.

And yet, Fire Dance had countered the attack without taking any damage...

Sure enough, an unlocked Peak Gold Mana Body is amazing. Even a normal attack is so powerful. If she can learn a Mana Technique, she'll likely be able to solo Mythics. When Shi Feng saw Fire Dance dominate the Earthen Chieftain, he couldn't help his desire to unlock his own Mana Body.

God's Domain's players would only be considered true experts once they had unlocked their Mana Bodies' full potential. If they didn't, they'd only be considered pseudo-experts, even after reaching Tier 4.

Take the Star Tomb, for example. If players entered the Dungeon without fully unlocking their Mana Bodies, they'd struggle against the Regional Dungeon's suppression.

Hence, the first thing all experts needed to do upon reaching Tier 3 was unlock their Mana Bodies. Levels and tiers had to be set aside. Until they succeeded, they wouldn't even qualify to explore God's Domain.

While Shi Feng admired Fire Dance's display, the Assassin used Shadow Steps to appear behind the Earthen Chieftain. "It's my turn!" Fire Dance raised Thousand Transformations, aiming for the back of the Grand Lord's head.

Absolute Strike!

Darkness immediately surrounded Fire Dance.

-424,538!

A damage of over -400,000 appeared above the Earthen Chieftain's head, and silence fell over the Hell Legion.

Chapter 2485 – Inhuman Battle

"Over 400,000 damage?! Is she even human?!"

Every member of the Hell Legion wondered if they were hallucinating when they saw the bright-red numbers above the Earthen Chieftain's head. For a moment, they even wondered if Fire Dance was an NPC disguised as a player.

Even they, experts who stood at the pinnacle of God's Domain, could barely cause over -70,000 damage to the Earthen Giants with Tier 3 Skills and Spells. Hell Rush, one of the legion's strongest players, could only deal around -150,000. These monsters' ridiculously high Defense and Magic Resistance could practically rival Archaic Species' of the same rank.

And yet, they had just watched a Tier 3 Assassin deal over -400,000 damage to the Grand Lord ranked Earthen Chieftain, and she had only used a Tier 2 Skill.

Even at Tier 3, Assassins didn't have many options for raising their attacks' power. Most of their Skills focused on speed, increasing their total DPS.

But Fire Dance had obliterated what they had known about the class. How could she even be considered an Assassin with that kind of raw power? She was even more of a Berserker than actual Berserkers...

Before the Hell Legion members could recover from their shock, Yan Tianxing and the other three Zero Wing experts started their battles with their own Earthen Chieftains.

Yan Tianxing effortlessly evaded his Grand Lord's straightforward attack, circling to the Grand Lord's back. He then brandished his daggers and sent several beautiful, silver arcs slicing into the Earthen Chieftain's back.

-134,324!

-274,543!

-133,645!

A series of damages appeared above the Earthen Chieftain's head, and although each of his hits didn't deal as much damage as Fire Dance's, the total amount was frightening.

Meanwhile, Aqua Rose, Violet Cloud, and Yi Luofei, all magical class players, caused an even greater commotion.

As soon as Aqua Rose finished her Spell's incantation, a towering tidal wave manifested before her, devouring the Earthen Chieftain and several dozen Earthen Giants nearby.

In one move, Aqua Rose heavily injured the Earthen Giants and Earthen Chieftain, which boasted high Magic Resistance. She also dealt over a million damage to each of them.

Meanwhile, Yi Luofei summoned five flaming meteors, casting them down on her Earthen Chieftain.

One... Two... Three meteors...

As each meteor struck the ground, the Dungeon's first floor trembled violently. By the time all five had landed, they had created a crater that was over 100 meters wide and 10 meters deep around the Grand Lord.

Of the three Earthen Chieftains that faced these magical class players, however, Violet Cloud's target was in the worst state.

Three hundred shadow blades danced around the Grand Lord, each with enough force to make the monster stumble. When all 300 attacked as one, the outcome could only be described as a tragedy...

"How does Zero Wing have so many monstrous players?"

At this point, every member of the Hell Legion believed that Yan Tianxing's party could slay the five Earthen Chieftains, let alone keep them distracted. They only might need some time to defeat the monsters.

Even so, their combat power was astonishing.

The five Zero Wing experts single-handedly suppressed the Star Tomb's grand lords, and not one of them was an MT.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, have they...fully unlocked their Mana Bodies?" Hell Rush could not help but ask as he watched Fire Dance and the others fight.

He couldn't think of any other reason that would allow those five players to display such incredible speed and power.

Not even the various Super Guilds' experts had unlocked their Mana Bodies' full potential. All of them were still exploring. It hadn't been long since these experts had reached Tier 3, after all.

“They have. All five have reached 100% of their Mana Bodies’ potential,” Shi Feng confirmed with a nod. He had no intention of hiding the fact, nor could he.

He couldn’t explain away the strength Yan Tianxing and the other four displayed as higher Basic Attributes. Even if they had double or triple their Basic Attributes, they wouldn’t exhibit such impressive combat power. Players could only accomplish this feat by unlocking their Mana Body’s full potential.

It was a pity that Shadow Sword, Cola, Turtledove, and Alluring Summer hadn’t progressed this far yet. Even Alluring Summer had only unlocked 98% of her potential. If she had been able to bridge that final gap, their team would’ve had a much easier time exploring the Star Tomb.

“All five of them have fully unlocked their Mana Bodies?”

Hell Rush and the vice commanders around him gasped when they heard Shi Feng’s answer. They had suspected this might be the case, but they couldn’t help their astonishment when Shi Feng had confirmed it.

Even the strongest player in Netherworld Empire had only unlocked 20% of their Mana Body’s potential; they’d still need another month or two to reach 100%. They would still need at least one or two months to reach 100% potential.

Yet, Zero Wing, a Guild that had started from nothing in God’s Domain and wasn’t supported by any major corporation, had nurtured five experts with fully unlocked Mana Bodies. It was unbelievable!

“Would you be willing to offer some guidance regarding Mana Bodies, Guild Leader Black Flame? If you are, I can represent my Guild in offering to garrison 50,000 experts in the Starlight Fortress long-term. Netherworld Empire will also supply Zero Wing with various rare materials from the western continent,” Hell Rush proposed, trying to contain his excitement.

Everyone's Mana Body was different, and players would gain very little from others' experiences, but the fact that Zero Wing had nurtured five experts with fully unlocked Mana Bodies proved that it could help players accomplish the feat. Anyone that said otherwise was either lying or a fool.

Players would see huge differences in their accomplishments, depending on how soon they unlocked their Mana Bodies' potential. The difference between the combat power Zero Wing's members displayed and that of the Hell Legion made that much obvious.

After Hell Rush presented his offer and request, the rest of his comrades grew restless, watching Shi Feng. They all wanted to hear his answer.

Before this, they hadn't realized how effective a fully unlocked Mana Body would be on one's combat power, but after seeing Yan Tianxing and his companions' performance, they were sure of one thing.

Tier 3 players that hadn't unlocked their Mana Bodies were pests in comparison!

Many of the Hell Legion's members had just as high combat standards as Fire Dance and the others, but if they had to fight any of those five players, they'd refuse. The difference between their overall combat power was like the difference between heaven and earth.

They even suspected that Fire Dance and her party could take on 30 Hell Legion members simultaneously.

The more Hell Legion's experts thought about it, the more restless they became. Rather than their earlier prideful attitude, they all watched Shi Feng with anticipation and hunger.

Weapons and equipment were secondary concerns for experts like them. Their individual strength was far more important. In fact, they had joined their Guild in the pursuit of greater strength.

“Don’t worry about the 50,000 experts,” Shi Feng dismissed the offer. He could not help but shake his head and chuckle when he saw everyone’s eager looks. “Offering guidance for unlocking your Mana Bodies isn’t necessarily impossible, but in exchange, I’d like Netherworld Empire to help me with another matter. In exchange, I will offer some advice. Although I cannot help all of you unlock your Mana Bodies’ full potential in a short time, I can help you complete the task with a little more speed.”

Hell Rush had to calm his heart again when Shi Feng had agreed. He responded immediately, “Guild Leader Black Flame, please, state your demands! If I have the authority to agree to them, I can do so on my Guild’s behalf!”

“It’s very simple. I need one month. I want Hell Legion under my command for one full month!” Shi Feng raised a finger and swept his gaze across the Hell Legion members.

Chapter 2486 – Earthen Chieftains’ Loo

When Shi Feng finished speaking, Hell Rush and the others revealed astonished expressions on their faces.

“You want to employ us for a month?” Hell Rush could not help hesitating upon hearing Shi Feng’s demand. Had the Swordsman asked for financial assistance, he could’ve easily approved the request with his authority. However, hiring the entire Hell Legion for one whole month was a different story.

The Hell Legion was one of Netherworld Empire's trump card legions. The legion's first priority was the improvement of its members' strength and level, which was why the Guild would invest tons of resources in the legion.

It might be fine if Shi Feng wished to employ the Hell Legion for one or two days, but an employment period of one whole month was something else altogether. A month might not be particularly long, but it wasn't particularly short, either.

Netherworld Empire might be willing to use money and resources to exchange for the improvement of its members' combat power, but not a large amount of its trump card legion's time. After all, the reason behind Netherworld's considerable investment of resources in the development of its members was to buy time for itself. To be precise, it was to save time and gain an advantage over their competitors. Selling the time of one of its trump card legions would be akin to putting the cart before the horse.

Moreover, the Hell Legion had plenty of tasks it needed to handle. If it operated under Shi Feng for a month, these tasks would have to be set aside.

You can rest assured that during this one month, your level won't fall behind others in the slightest. In fact, your equipment standard won't fall behind, either. You'll also be free to do whatever you want for most of this one month. I will only need your help during certain times," Shi Feng said, chuckling when he saw the hesitation on Hell Rush's face. "Most importantly, you will get to receive guidance on how to unlock your Mana Bodies ahead of everyone else. I can guarantee that all of you will unlock your Mana Bodies within this one month."

Shi Feng understood Hell Rush's concerns. After all, the Hell Legion was Netherworld Empire's strongest trump card legion. Although the Great Super Guild invested the best resources it had in the legion, that did not mean the legion would automatically grow stronger. The legion still had to cherish every second available to improve itself so that it could compete and surpass the teams and legions of other superpowers.

No Guild would be willing to let its strongest legion waste one whole month working for someone else, even in exchange for the method to accelerate the process of unlocking one's Mana Body.

I'm afraid I don't have the authority to decide on this matter. I need to report this to my superiors first and leave the decision to them," Hell Rush said. Although Shi Feng's words were tempting, he still shook his head and did not give a definitive answer.

The Hell Legion was Netherworld Empire's trump card legion. The resources Netherworld Empire could obtain and invest in the Hell Legion were not something Shi Feng could possibly get his hands on.

Moreover, Netherworld Empire might not have any methods to accelerate the unlocking process of a player's Mana Body now, but that might not be the case a few days later. If the Great Super Guild happened to come across such a method soon after signing a contract with Shi Feng, the Hell Legion would waste one month of its time for nothing. With the Hell Legion's capabilities, the opportunities it stood to lose out on from one month's idleness were massive.

"Alright. I'm not in a hurry to settle this deal. You can think it over once you return," Shi Feng said, not the slightest bit surprised by Hell Rush's reply. After all, this was no longer a decision Hell Rush could make as the Hell Legion's commander; only Netherworld Empire's Guild Leader and Grand Elders could.

Thank you for your understanding, Guild Leader Black Flame. We will give you a reply as soon as possible," Hell Rush said, nodding. Inwardly, though, he felt that the likelihood of his higher-ups approving this transaction was minimal. After all, a month was simply too long, especially with the number of Tier 3 players in God's Domain rapidly increasing.

Meanwhile, Cola, who had overheard the conversation, looked at Shi Feng in confusion.

“Guild Leader, are you really planning to let them enter the Legacy Gate?” Cola asked in a quiet tone, a pained expression appearing on his face.

Cola had personally experienced the Legacy Gate’s benefits. It was undoubtedly the best place to improve one’s Mana Body. However, the number of slots to enter the Legacy Gate each month were limited. Zero Wing barely had enough for itself. He felt that giving the slots to Netherworld Empire would be a huge waste. After all, a Tier 3 expert with a fully unlocked Mana Body brought plenty of advantages. Moreover, letting the Hell Legion use the Legacy Gate would expose the Starlight Fortress’s true value.

Although the Hell Legion indeed possessed a lot of Tier 3 experts, Zero Wing wasn’t weak, either. Zero Wing might not be capable of producing 300 Tier 3 experts in the next 10 or 15 days, but producing up to 200 Tier 3 experts should be no problem. By then, Zero Wing should also have a few more experts that had fully unlocked their Mana Bodies.

“Mhm. I have an important use for the Hell Legion’s experts,” Shi Feng said, nodding.

“An important use?” Shi Feng’s words confused Cola. He simply couldn’t understand what Shi Feng would need the Hell Legion for. In terms of combat power, the Hell Legion’s experts were far inferior to Fire Dance’s group of five; in fact, the five could beat up the entire Hell Legion handily. At best, the Hell Legion would be useful for raiding Dungeons.

“Fire Dance and the others are indeed very strong after unlocking their Mana Bodies, but there are many things that cannot be solved with just a handful of players,” Shi Feng said, chuckling at the look of disdain Cola was giving the Hell Legion.

Fire Dance’s group of five might be capable of suppressing the Hell Legion now, but once the Hell Legion’s members fully unlocked their Mana Bodies as well, Fire Dance’s five wouldn’t even be able to flee for their lives. Moreover, the Hell Legion’s Tier 3 experts’ fully unlocking their Mana Bodies was only a matter of time.

Meanwhile, what Shi Feng needed was the Hell Legion with its members' Mana Bodies fully unlocked.

Although the Silver Divine Dragon was already his companion, that was only temporary. He still had to complete Auerbeck's trial within four months to make the contract permanent. Auerbeck's trial was no trivial matter. He needed to raise his strength as quickly as possible in order to clear it.

Meanwhile, of the methods he could think of to boost his strength, the best one was to complete Solomon's Sword.

However, the locations of the remaining fragments of Solomon's Sword were simply too dangerous. The risk of failure was incredibly high if he went to these locations by himself, and even if Fire Dance and the others accompanied him. Hence, he needed the help of the Hell Legion.

Moreover, after obtaining the Hell Legion's help, Zero Wing would no longer have to fear the various superpowers on the eastern continent. It could clash with them head-on and contest for the truly important resource points. Zero Wing would not have to rely on just a handful of Guild Towns and Cities to secure resources, which would, in turn, prevent the superpowers from easily suppressing its resource income.

Currently, the main source of weapons and equipment was still monsters. However, this would shift to Lifestyle players as players reached ever-higher levels.

If Zero Wing did not secure the necessary resource points early on, with the Guild's current scale of development, the various superpowers would eventually rip it to shreds.

By the time Shi Feng and Cola's conversation was over, Fire Dance and the others had lured the five Earthen Chieftains away from the main group of monsters. Upon seeing this, Hell Rush immediately led his team into action and started clearing out the weaker Earthen Giants.

As the Earthen Chieftains were gone, the strongest monsters before the tunnel were merely Level 112 Great Lords. For the Hell Legion members, whose Basic Attributes rivaled those of Great Lords and even Grand Lords of the same level, these monsters were a piece of cake. The only inconvenience was their reduced mobility, which slowed their clearing speed by a significant margin.

However, with Fire Dance and the others occupying the Earthen Chieftains, the Hell Legion did not face much pressure during battle. The legion systematically defeated the Earthen Giants, chipping away at their numbers.

Roughly two hours later, all of the Earthen Giants blocking the tunnel had fallen. Only the five Earthen Chieftains remained standing. At this moment, however, each of the Earthen Giants had less than 70% of their HPs remaining.

The Hell Legion members could not help but gulp audibly at the sight. Although they knew that Fire Dance and the others could solo the Earthen Giants, they still could not believe their eyes when they saw that each of the Earthen Giants had lost so much HP already.

"Alright, quickly get rid of these Earthen Giants!" Shi Feng commanded when he noticed the Hell Legion members staring dazedly at Fire Dance's group.

Others might not be aware of the condition of Fire Dance's group, but Shi Feng was. Fire Dance and the others might've burned a considerable portion of the Earthen Chieftains' HP already, but they had also expended a significant amount of Stamina. With their remaining Stamina, finishing off the Earthen Giants all by themselves would be impossible. Ultimately, a group was still necessary to defeat monsters like the Earthen Giants. Otherwise, he wouldn't have bothered hiring the Hell Legion at all.

Shi Feng's command promptly snapped everyone from the Hell Legion out of their daze, and they sprang to assist Fire Dance's group with the five Earthen Chieftains.

Fire Dance's group of five tanked the five Earthen Chieftains while the Hell Legion members helped deal damage from the sidelines. With the participation of the Hell Legion, the Earthen Giants lost HP rapidly. In the end, all five Earthen Giants fell within 30 minutes. The Hell Legion members had a much easier time with the Grand Lord ranked Earthen Chieftains than with the Great Lord ranked Earthen Giants.

When all five Earthen Giants collapsed simultaneously, the players' experience bars started filling up rapidly. The amount of EXP the Earthen Giants awarded was much more bountiful than that of Grand Lords of the same level in the outside world.

In just three seconds, their experience bars had increased by 15%—far more EXP than they normally would gain after grinding for half a day.

Moreover, after the five Earthen Chieftains died, they had dropped several dozen items. The abundance of their loot surpassed even that of Mythic monsters in the outside world. For a moment, everyone from the Hell Legion was stupefied by this scene.

Chapter 2487 – Flaming Steel Se

“The Earthen Chieftains' loot is actually so abundant?”

“The number of items they dropped is at least triple that of the Grand Lords in the outside world!”

The Hell Legion members' eyes glowed when they saw the five Earthen Chieftains' loot.

There were plenty of Level 100-plus Grand Lords in the outside world, including Star Valley. Killing just one would net players a significant profit. If players were lucky, they might even obtain a piece of Dark-Gold Equipment.

At this stage of the game, Level 105 Dark-Gold Equipment was considered one of the best equipment available even to the various superpowers' experts.

As for Level 100-plus Epic Weapons and Equipment, they were things that could be obtained only by killing Level 100-plus Mythics—an incredibly difficult feat. Moreover, the drop-rate wasn't 100%, either. Usually, all Level 100-plus Epic items a Guild obtained would be allocated to the Guild's Elders. Even the Guild's peak experts would not get any. Hence, for most experts right now, Level 105 Dark-Gold Equipment was the best equipment available.

Now, the five Earthen Chieftains had dropped loot equivalent to that of 15 Grand Lords in the outside world. This was simply a jackpot. Moreover, the Earthen Chieftains also granted much more EXP, equivalent to that of a Mythic monster in the outside world.

While the Hell Legion members were quietly discussing this matter among themselves, Aqua Rose and the others quickly collected the Earthen Chieftains' loot.

"Guild Leader, we're quite lucky this time. These five Earthen Chieftains dropped a total of 7 pieces of Level 110 Fine-Gold Equipment and 12 pieces of Level 110 Secret-Silver Equipment. Among the Secret-Silver Equipment is a pair of plate armor gloves that belongs to an eight-piece, Level 110 Secret-Silver Set Equipment," Aqua Rose joyfully reported to Shi Feng after organizing the loot.

In regard to this situation, Shi Feng wasn't surprised in the slightest.

Although they were currently on the Star Tomb's first floor, this place was still a God Mode Regional Dungeon. Such loot was very normal. Moreover, nobody had defeated these Earthen Chieftains before. The fact that these Grand Lords dropped Level 110 Fine-Gold Equipment and Level 110 Secret-Silver Set Equipment was nothing special at all.

"Level 110 Fine-Gold Equipment and Level 110 Secret-Silver Set Equipment?" Hell Rush was astonished when he overheard Aqua Rose's report, because the weapons and equipment the Earthen Chieftains dropped were slightly better than even some of the items he had equipped.

His equipment already ranked among the best available in the entire Netherworld Empire; only a select few in the Guild had better. Moreover, if not for the several pieces of Level 100-plus Epic items on him, then his equipment might have gotten surpassed altogether.

"Mhm. Here, take a look," Aqua Rose said, smiling as she shared the Attribute Panels of the equipment they obtained with Hell Rush, not bothering to hide the items' Attributes. After all, everyone from Zero Wing had much better equipment.

"Isn't this Flaming Steel Set a little too powerful? If one of our MTs were to equip it, they could most likely tank an Earthen Chieftain all by themselves!" Hell Rush exclaimed, a passionate flame burning in his eyes as he stared at a pair of plate armor gloves.

Although the current Hell Legion's MTs were already well equipped, with some even possessing two pieces of Level 100-plus Epic Equipment, the overall standard of their equipment would still be inferior by a large margin when compared to the Flaming Steel Set.

Just the bonuses from the set's five-piece and eight-piece set effects alone could already rival those from being fully geared in Level 110 Fine-Gold Equipment.

The five-piece set effect increased not only the user's Defense Skill by three levels but also the user's Defense Attribute by 25%, while the eight-piece set effect increased the user's HP and physique by 25%. These bonuses allowed MTs to become sturdier with much greater mobility. An MT geared in the Flaming Steel Set would have no problems tanking Level 110 Mythic monsters in the outside world.

Upon thinking up to this point, Hell Rush had the urge to have the Hell Legion continue grinding in the Star Tomb even after working for Shi Feng. After all, if the Hell Legion secured a complete Flaming Steel Set, it would have a much easier time raiding Level 100 super-large-scale Team Dungeons.

However, Hell Rush soon shook his head and smiled bitterly.

Although the temptation was strong, nobody in the Hell Legion was capable of tanking the Earthen Chieftains right now. If not for Aqua Rose and the others keeping the Grand Lords in check, the Hell Legion would've been helpless against the monsters.

"If Commander Rush likes this Flaming Steel Set, once we collect a full set, I don't mind selling it to you," Shi Feng said, smiling when he saw Hell Rush fall silent after seeing the Flaming Steel Set's Attributes.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, are you serious?" Hell Rush reflexively sought confirmation.

The Flaming Steel Set was top-tier set equipment for MTs, which definitely could not be bought in the outside world.

In fact, even the various Super Guilds did not possess such excellent set equipment right now. Moreover, one could use the Flaming Steel Set up to Level 115. Actually, although the set could grow only up to Level 115, with how excellent

its Attributes were, players should still be able to use it even after reaching Level 120. Only Epic Equipment could surpass the Flaming Steel Set.

“Of course. I never joke. In fact, if the Hell Legion accepts my condition, let alone one Flaming Steel Set, even obtaining 20 or 30 sets of set equipment on par with the Flaming Steel Set wouldn’t be a problem,” Shi Feng said, nodding.

The Flaming Steel Set was indeed excellent for current Tier 3 players. However, as more players fully unlocked their Mana Bodies, such set equipment would become very common. Not to mention, after a certain point, experts should only be geared in Dark-Gold Equipment or Set Equipment at the very minimum because past Level 100, only Dark- Gold Equipment or better could adapt to players’ Mana Bodies.

If players with fully unlocked Mana Bodies fought using equipment at the Fine-Gold rank or below, they would rapidly deplete the durability of their equipment. In fact, after reaching Tier 4, players couldn’t even consider using Secret- Silver weapons and equipment since such low-caliber weapons and equipment couldn’t endure the power of a Tier 4 Mana Body, becoming useless after the execution of one Skill or Spell.

This was the eternal pain that all expert players that had fully unlocked their Mana Bodies faced. Only, very few players in God’s Domain had fully unlocked their Mana Bodies, so players were still unaware that having an overly powerful body was also a problem.

“Thirty sets?” Hell Rush could not help being tempted.

Previously, he had felt that the one-month employment period Shi Feng proposed was too long. However, he started wavering after hearing that the Hell Legion could get its hands on 30 sets of set equipment that was on par with the Flaming Steel Set Equipment.

After all, even if the Hell Legion desperately grinded for one month, few of its members could reach Level 120 in that period. Meanwhile, the Flaming Steel Set Equipment was top-tier set equipment that could still be used even after players reached Level 120. In other words, even after working for Shi Feng for a month, the Hell Legion would retain an edge over the teams of other superpowers when it came to equipment standards.

Now, he felt that he needed to have a proper discussion with his superiors in the Guild.

“Since we’ve taken care of the monsters already, we should head to the second floor. If we continue resting here, the monsters might respawn,” Shi Feng said after seeing that everyone was sufficiently rested.

Everyone promptly stood up from the ground and entered the tunnel leading to the Star Tomb’s second floor.

The tunnel was long and narrow. Not only did it not have any monsters, but the ambient Mana inside was also incredibly dense. This situation allowed everyone to relax their mental states considerably.

Meanwhile, after walking for around five minutes, the team arrived on the Star Tomb’s second floor, where a strong pressure greeted everyone.

“Why is the gravity here so much higher than on the first floor?” Aqua Rose immediately felt uncomfortable when she stepped onto the second floor.

On the first floor, she had barely felt the effects of the increased gravitational force. Now, however, she could actually feel her body growing significantly heavier. Even her mobility was negatively affected.

“The gravity here is twice as strong as that of the first floor. It seems this floor will be our limit.” When Shi Feng sensed the gravitational force on the second floor, he, too, felt a little surprised. He never thought that the gravity here would be so powerful.

From what he knew, the gravitational force players experienced inside the Star Tomb would grow ever-higher with each floor they climbed. Hence, ascending the Star Tomb was incredibly difficult. After reaching the fourth floor, even Tier 3 players that had their Mana Bodies fully unlocked would be incapable of combat without anti-gravity equipment.

However, anti-gravity equipment had always been considered incredibly rare in God’s Domain. In fact, Lifestyle players couldn’t produce it, as its creation involved ancient technology.

Following which, Shi Feng and the others started clearing out the monsters outside the tunnel’s exit.

Although the gravitational force on the second floor had doubled, the monsters’ strength and levels had barely increased. The only obvious difference was the larger number of Great Lord ranked Earthen Giants in each group of monsters. However, this change did not affect Shi Feng and the others at all.

Moreover, to everyone’s surprise, the monsters here granted at least three times more EXP than the monsters found on the first floor. As a result, everyone’s leveling speed was now at least 50% faster than if they grinded in the outside world. In addition, the loot the monsters dropped was also much better. Even the Great Lord ranked Earthen Giants occasionally dropped Level 110 Fine-Gold Equipment.

Aside from having better loot, the Star Tomb’s second floor had much thinner Mana than the first floor. Hence, everyone could actually improve their control over the Mana inside their Mana Bodies as they fought, which inspired everyone to fight much more fervently.

In such a way, the team grinded on the second floor for two whole days, moving from the outer area to the inner area. Many players on the team leveled up from the abundant EXP.

Unfortunately for Shi Feng, as he had reached Level 111 already, the amount of EXP he received from the second floor's monsters wasn't particularly abundant. Hence, he did not manage to level up. As if to rub salt in the wound, despite killing numerous Grand Lords, he still didn't obtain a Star of Light during the past two days of grinding, contrary to his expectations.

"Guild Leader, I discovered an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest over here!" Fire Dance, who was scouting ahead of the team, reported excitedly through the team chat.

An Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest? Shi Feng was stunned when he heard Fire Dance's words. How is this possible?

According to his memories, the Star Tomb shouldn't possess a single treasure chest, much less an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest.

Chapter 2488 – Demon God's Temptation

Could it be a pioneering benefit?

After giving the matter some thought, this was the only possibility Shi Feng could think of.

In his previous life, there was never any news of anybody discovering a treasure chest in the Star Tomb despite the many teams grinding there back then. Any treasure chest opened in the Star Tomb would definitely have caught the attention of others. However, nobody had ever seen any signs of a treasure chest being opened in the Star Tomb.

Hence, everyone had always believed that this Regional Dungeon did not spawn treasure chests and that players could only obtain resources and treasures from killing Bosses there.

However, Shi Feng did not put too much thought into the matter. After all, that was an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest they were talking about, an opportunity that was incredibly difficult to come by. He immediately led Cola and the others toward Fire Dance's location.

At the same time, Fire Dance's report in the team chat had set the team abuzz.

"Crap! There's actually an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest here!?"

"Zero Wing has struck gold this time! It might even get a Fragmented Legendary item!"

"Only our Guild Leader has a Fragmented Legendary item currently. Zero Wing is truly lucky."

The several vice commanders of the Hell Legion grew incredibly envious upon hearing about the discovery of an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest. If not for Zero Wing being their ally, they would've most likely done everything they could to contest for it.

Currently, in the opinion of most experts, Epic Weapons and Equipment were the highest-ranked items available in God's Domain, while Fragmented Legendary items and the like were mere rumors. After all, items of such caliber had yet to appear on the market. In fact, the majority of the various superpowers still didn't have any concrete information relating to Fragmented Legendary items.

According to Netherworld Empire's investigations, there shouldn't be more than 10 Fragmented Legendary items in the hands of players right now. Moreover, only a few in the Guild's upper echelon knew about this information.

As for the strength of Fragmented Legendary items, the Guild upper echelon, like themselves, had personally witnessed it before. It was not something Epic Weapons and Equipment could hope to match. Fragmented Legendary items allowed players to undergo a qualitative transformation.

If they could obtain just one Fragmented Legendary item, they would instantly soar to the apex of God's Domain.

Most importantly, Fragmented Legendary items could be used forever, continuously growing stronger as players reached higher levels, and would never fall behind the times.

Hence, Netherworld Empire had always been frantically searching for clues to Fragmented Legendary items and would go all-out in following any clues it found. In fact, the Guild wouldn't even mind letting the entire Hell Legion suffer annihilation if it meant obtaining a Fragmented Legendary item.

However, according to Netherworld Empire's research, the chances of getting a Fragmented Legendary item from Epic Treasure Chests were minimal. Only Inferior Legendary Treasure Chests had a significant chance of awarding such an item.

The Star Tomb's pioneering benefits are this excellent? Hell Rush also could not help growing envious in this situation. It seems we'll really need to go all-out in exploring the Star Tomb after this job.

Although he knew that the Star Tomb definitely contained bountiful resources and treasures as a God Mode Regional Dungeon, he never imagined that it would be to such an extent. They were only on the Star Tomb's second floor, yet they had already come across an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest. If even the second floor had such amazing treasures, he simply could not fathom how amazing the treasures on the higher floors would be.

After the Hell Legion's members discussed this matter briefly among themselves, they quickly followed Shi Feng toward Fire Dance's location.

The environment of the Star Tomb's second floor was a tropical rainforest. However, unlike the rainforests in the real world, the rainforest here was home to colossal trees. Entering this place felt like entering a land for Giants. Ordinary humans would look incredibly small here.

After traveling through the forest for around 20 minutes, the team arrived before a barren hill, which actually had an ancient temple erected on it. A dark fog enveloped this shrine, evoking an indescribably gloomy sensation.

Through the open gates, one could see a gigantic treasure chest sitting in the middle of the shrine. This treasure chest gave off the distinctive orange-red glow of an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest.

"Guild Leader, we've struck the jackpot this time! It really is an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest!" Cola said, excitement surfacing on his face when he spotted the gigantic treasure chest.

This was no longer Cola's first time seeing an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest. Although he didn't think that Fire Dance would make a mistake, after verifying Fire Dance's claim with his own eyes, he still could not help his surprise. After all, he had personally experienced the strength of a Fragmented Legendary item before.

At this moment, aside from Cola, Aqua Rose and the other Zero Wing members present also revealed excited expressions on their faces. After all, so long as they managed to obtain a Fragmented Legendary item from the treasure chest, Zero Wing would have another apex expert, something the Guild lacked the most right now.

However, unlike the Zero Wing experts, the members of the Hell Legion did not reveal any joy or envy upon seeing the Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest. On the contrary, they even started shaking their heads in disappointment.

“What a pity. It’s actually a Demon God’s Temptation,” Hell Rush sighed as he gazed at the gloomy temple.

After calming herself, Aqua Rose turned to Hell Rush and asked curiously, “Demon God’s Temptation? What do you mean, Commander Rush?”

Previously, she had clearly sensed Hell Rush and the others’ passionate response to the discovery of the Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest. Now, however, after seeing the treasure chest itself, they were suddenly indifferent toward it. This was truly strange.

You arrived on the western continent not long ago, so you might not know about this, but strange temples randomly appear in some of the dangerous locations on the western continent. Not only are these strange temples filled with dense dark energy, but these temples also house incredibly precious treasures,” Hell Rush explained. “However, these temples are merely traps set up by Demon Gods. If players fail to resist the temptation and get lured into these temples, they are forced to undergo a trial and challenge the phantom of the Demon God that set up the trial. Meanwhile, these trials are simply impossible to complete.

“To make matters worse, if players don’t complete the trial, they not only fail to obtain the treasure but even have their level returned to zero and half their soul devoured, which would place them in a weakened state for a very long period. At which point, players have no choice but to remake their accounts. Hence, we have labeled these temples as the Demon God’s Temptation.”

As Hell Rush finished speaking, many of the Hell Legion’s members revealed grim expressions. This was because several of the Hell Legion’s members had fallen for these traps and were forced to remake their accounts, an irrecoverable blow.

Moreover, Netherworld Empire wasn’t the only Guild that had fallen for these Demon God’s Temptations; many other superpowers had too. Many famous experts had disappeared from God’s Domain, victims of these traps. Hence, whenever the Demon God’s Temptation was mentioned, the various superpowers’ experts would turn pale with fright.

“So, that means we came here for nothing?” Aqua Rose grew dejected upon hearing Hell Rush’s words.

Although she still had the urge to challenge the Demon God’s Temptation even after hearing Hell Rush’s explanation, reason stopped her. Her current combat power might be far superior to Hell Rush’s and the others’, but some trials in God’s Domain did not just test players’ combat power but also their combat standards. Players would need to meet the requirements for both to pass those trials.

Meanwhile, when it came to combat standards, Hell Rush was leaps and bounds above her, and considerably superior even to Yan Tianxing, who was a Domain Realm expert.

If even an expert of Hell Rush’s caliber had given up on the Demon God’s Temptation without hesitation, how could someone like herself possibly succeed?

“Don’t even think about it. The greater the treasure stored inside a Demon God’s Temptation, the more difficult the trial would be. Previously, a trial that housed an Epic Treasure Chest already forced players to go up against a Demon God’s phantom of the same level and tier. With the reward being an Inferior

Legendary Treasure Chest right now, I'm afraid the phantom summoned will be at least one tier higher than the challenger," Hell Rush advised.

He, too, was tempted by the prospects of obtaining an Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest. If there were even the slightest possibility of success, he would most likely give the trial a try. However, that was not the case for the trial before him. Challenging it would be akin to making a bet guaranteed to lose. After all, the opponent summoned would be a Tier 4 phantom of a God.

The other members of the Hell Legion also agreed with Hell Rush's words. With their current strength, they could only admire the Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest from afar. They had to be tired of living to try to obtain it.

"No, we're not completely without options," Shi Feng suddenly said.

Chapter 2489 – Circumventing the Rules?

Hell Rush and the Hell Legion's other members gave Shi Feng a strange look after he spoke up. They had already explained the Demon God's Temptation to the eastern players. They hadn't expected that Shi Feng would still aim to claim the Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest. Trying to take that chest would be the equivalent of trading one's life for wealth.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, you won't be able to use your Berserk Skills or any magic tools once inside the temple.

You'd have to face the Demon God's phantom by relying on your own power. Although the phantom isn't a true Demon God, a Demon God did create it. It's far stronger than a Hero of the same level and tier," Hell Rush explained. "If you fail, you'll have to remake your account."

Hell Rush could sympathize with Shi Feng's desire. An Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest was just that tempting. That treasure chest had a very high chance of bestowing a Fragmented Legendary item to whoever opened it.

But, Shi Feng didn't know how powerful a Demon God's phantom was.

Hell Rush might have considered the task of obtaining the chest, too, if he hadn't seen a Demon God's phantom for himself, but he had.

The Hell Legion's members nodded in agreement with their commander. They acknowledged Shi Feng for his strength, but the man wasn't powerful enough to challenge a Demon God's phantom and survive.

"Guild Leader?"

Shi Feng's statement even made Aqua Rose a little nervous. He hadn't even unlocked his Mana Body's full potential, and in the Star Tomb, he had slightly less combat power than she did. If Shi Feng failed the trial, he'd take Zero Wing down with him. The man was the symbol of Zero Wing, and if he were forced to remake his account, the Guild would quickly crumble.

"You misunderstand. I have no intention of challenging the Demon God's phantom directly," Shi Feng explained, noticing his comrades' anxious expressions. "I'm just saying that obtaining that treasure chest is possible."

“Obtaining the treasure chest without challenging the Demon God’s phantom?” Hell Rush gave Shi Feng a confused look. He thought the man must be joking. Once players entered the temple, they couldn’t leave until the trial until they completed it. If Shi Feng didn’t defeat the Demon God’s phantom, how would he claim the treasure chest?

Yes, though it will be somewhat difficult,” Shi Feng answered, nodding. He then turned to Aqua Rose and said, “Set up a Starlight Gathering Magic Array around the temple. Then, I want you to stand guard and prevent any monsters from approaching.”

Shi Feng knew far more about the Ancient Gods and their phantoms than anyone in God’s Domain. Not even a Dragon of the same tier would approach an area guarded by an Ancient God’s phantom. The phantom’s strength was on par with that of a Divine Dragon. As he was now, he wouldn’t last three or four hits against a Demon God’s phantom of the same tier, much less against a phantom that was one tier higher.

While he might not be able to defeat a Demon God’s phantom, however, obtaining that treasure chest was a different story.

Many confident experts had challenged Demon God’s Temptations during his previous life, but they had all been forced to set up new accounts. Not even apex experts had succeeded.

However, one independent player had secured the treasure within a Demon God’s Temptation at some point, and that independent expert had posted about his victory on the forums. The incident had shaken God’s Domain to its core, inspiring curiosity in every player. The various superpowers had even tried to recruit this independent player, offering an Elder position, even a Grand Elder position, within their Guilds.

When the superpowers had finally located the player, however, what they had found had left them dumbfounded.

That independent player had only been an ordinary expert. He hadn't even reached the Refinement Realm at that point...

No one had expected the outcome. So many experts, including Domain Realm experts wielding Fragmented Legendary items, had tried to clear Demon God's Temptations, yet none had lasted more than 10 seconds against the Demon God's phantom. Naturally, they hadn't secured the treasure, either.

After detailed interviews, the various superpowers had learned that the independent player hadn't actually challenged the Demon God's Temptation. Rather, he had found the treasure hidden within the temple.

To claim the treasure for himself, he had merely decoded the magic arrays that had protected the temple.

Once a player decoded the magic arrays, they could use magic tools within the temple. This made it possible to pin down the Demon God's Temple long enough to flee with the treasure.

Astounded, none of the various superpowers had considered that there was a way to bypass the system's rules. Every player in God's Domain had long since memorized the Main God System's various rules and determined that players simply couldn't challenge these rules. However, the Main God System had never indicated that challenging existing rules was impossible. Players had simply convinced themselves that the concept was fact.

Of course, the method the independent player had employed wasn't easy.

Decoding the temple's magic arrays required a lot of time, and Demon God's Temptations didn't exist for long, with most only lasting two days.

Although the independent player hadn't been an amazing expert, he had been an Advanced Master Magician, only one step away from Grandmaster rank. Hence, he had been able to decode the magic arrays within the time limit, obtaining the treasure.

Unfortunately, of the many powers that had attempted to use the same method, very few had succeeded.

Demon God's Temptations appeared at random, and even if players found one, challenging it would be pointless if they couldn't decode the magic arrays before the temple vanished. Even if they succeeded, they'd still have to escape the Demon God's phantom. If they couldn't last 20 or 30 seconds, escaping with the treasure would be impossible.

Now that Shi Feng was a Master Magician, albeit only at Basic rank, he had a chance of decoding the temple's magic arrays. The time limit was the only problem.

But Shi Feng couldn't care less. Since he had stumbled across a Demon God's Temptation, giving up without trying would be a waste.

Meanwhile, confused, Aqua Rose and her companions did as they were told, setting up a Starlight Gathering Magic Array around the temple. As they did, the magic arrays concentrated the ambient Mana, which skyrocketed around the temple.

Now that the Mana density is higher, I should be able to decode the arrays faster. Next, I'll have to race against time. Sensing the gathering Mana, Shi Feng took a deep breath and approached the stone pillars around the temple. He then began to decode the magic arrays that protected the temple.

The several ancient pillars suppressed space around and inside the temple. Essentially, they were the core magic arrays that sealed the temple. If he could decode them, he could enter and leave the temple freely until the magic array's auto-repair completed. He would not have to worry about being trapped or not having access to magic tools within the temple.

"Commander, Black Flame has gone insane. Those are the system's magic arrays, yet he's trying to decode them..." Thunder Beast was stunned as he watched Shi Feng approach one of the stone pillars and get to work.

"I don't know," Hell Rush said, shaking his head. "However, he hired us. Since he wants to try decoding the magic arrays, we can only comply with his wishes. In any case, we can use this opportunity to get some rest."

Hell Rush assumed Shi Feng had already submitted to the temptation and become obsessed with the Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest, but Shi Feng must realize that defeating a Demon God's phantom was impossible, coming up with another method to tackle the Demon God's Temptation. Although Hell Rush thought the Swordsman's idea was even less feasible than confronting the phantom directly, he had no reason to stop the man since this method wasn't dangerous.

The Hell Legion began to relax as they kept an eye on the surrounding monsters.

Meanwhile, excitement welled within Shi Feng as he examined the temple's magic arrays. It turned out that they weren't as powerful as he had assumed, only somewhat complex, consisting of a series of linked Master Magic Arrays. These weren't nearly as formidable as the magic arrays that had entrapped the Silver Divine Dragon.

Given enough time, decoding these arrays wouldn't be a problem.

Shi Feng frantically decoded the core magic arrays engraved on the ancient stone pillars as time flew by.

Three hours... Six hours... Twelve hours...

The harder Shi Feng tried to decode the magic arrays, the more impressed he became. These arrays offered a lot of insight into magic arrays' structure and manipulations.

Unfortunately, the more magic arrays Shi Feng decoded, the slower his progress became. Not only were the engraved arrays more complex than the last, but they also required more Mana and more precise Mana control.

In the end, Shi Feng had only decoded half of the magic arrays after more than a day had passed. He began to feel a little dejected.

It's no wonder why only a few powers had ever successfully obtained the treasures, even after learning how to secure them without facing the phantom. The last magic arrays aren't testing players' knowledge of magic arrays, but their Mana control. Shi Feng gave the next magic array a bitter smile. It seems that I won't be able to claim the treasure chest after all.

"Guild Leader, your Mana control is too rough. Like combat techniques, Mana operates within certain rules. It's easier to control if you work within those rules," Aqua Rose, interrupted, watching Shi Feng work while staying out of his way.

Combat technique? Shi Feng's eyes glowed as he suddenly realized something. That's right!

He then gritted his teeth and retrieved the Memory Crystal that contained the Heavenly Blue Saint's Mana Technique.

He had wanted to save it until he had unlocked his Mana Body's full potential. Wielding the technique would involve his Mana Body, after all, but a Mana Technique was, at its core, a way to use Mana. Even if he couldn't execute Eliadi's Mana Technique just yet, learning it should grant him a boost to his Mana control.

I can only try it!

Shi Feng then squeezed the Memory Crystal until it shattered, and a stream of purple-gold light flowed into his head, forming a virtual space within his mind.

Chapter 2490 – Mana Technique Legacy

So, this is a Mana Technique Legacy?

Shi Feng was shocked when a virtual space manifested within his mindscape.

Within the virtual space, his body performed the three sword strikes Eliadi had used against him in the Legacy Trial. It almost felt as if someone were controlling him, yet he could feel the flow of movement and Mana inside him. He could also sense how his body and Mana were controlled.

This simulation was far more effective than watching someone else perform the technique.

It's no wonder why so few people learned Mana Techniques in the past. This isn't something you can learn by watching someone else.

Not only did one have to master the Four Major Elements to use a Mana Technique, but they'd also have to master the Three Supreme Elements.

Even Master Magicians struggled to create magic arrays that manipulated all of the Four Major Elements. One would have to familiarize themselves with each of the four Mana types' movement patterns and create an array based on these patterns.

The Heavenly Blue Saint's Mana Technique, however, was even more complex, requiring one to understand all seven elements. Moreover, one would also need to guide all seven through their Mana Body to execute the technique...

Executing the Mana Technique, Holy Annihilation, was many times more difficult than performing the Bronze Combat Technique, Lightning Flash.

Executing Lightning Flash relied on physical movement, an action that players could become intimately familiar with. Physical control was natural, both in the real world and in the virtual world, but controlling Mana and one's Mana Body was a different story. Both were foreign sensations. Becoming comfortable with one and gaining rudimentary control was already an incredible challenge. Trying to understand them completely and gaining precise control was even more difficult.

Fortunately, this Memory Crystal has recorded some basic information on how to manipulate the seven elements. Even if I knew how to execute Holy Annihilation, it'd be useless without these details. After watching himself complete Lightshadow and his breakdown analysis of the Mana conduction, he breathed a sigh of relief.

He didn't allow himself to relax, however. Rather, he started to focus on learning Mana's basic patterns.

The Memory Crystal's simulation wouldn't last long, usually only three to four hours, while some didn't even last that long. One would be dreaming if they thought they could study within the simulation for a full day.

Players could only try to learn as much as possible during the limited duration. The Memory Crystal didn't care how successful a player was.

Time passed quickly while Shi Feng immersed himself in his own mindscape.

One hour... Two hours...

From an outsider's point of view, Shi Feng had sat by one of the ancient pillars to rest. He wasn't doing anything interesting.

"How much more time is Black Flame planning to waste, Commander? We've been in the Star Tomb for four days now. Are we really going to let him continue to waste our time, as well?" Thunder Beast asked Hell Rush, glancing at Shi Feng's motionless form by the pillar.

At least they had been able to grind monsters when they had first arrived. Although they hadn't obtained any loot, the monsters had awarded an abundance of EXP. They had gained a bit more Mana control during their fights on the second floor. Fortunately, helping Shi Feng hadn't been a complete waste.

But now?

They had spent over a day in this area already, just resting. Aside from killing the occasional group of Earthen Giants that had wandered too close to the Demon God's Temptation, they hadn't done a thing.

All of the various superpowers' experts were frantically grinding and leveling right now, yet the Hell Legion was stuck here, doing nothing.

"Let's wait a little longer. We agreed to accompany Black Flame into the Star Tomb for five or six days, whether or not he finds what he's looking for. The fifth day isn't over quite yet. After the agreed-upon time, if he wants to remain, we'll retreat," Hell Rush said. He wasn't pleased about the situation, either.

If the Hell Legion were one of Netherworld's ordinary expert legions, this wouldn't have been a major issue, but that wasn't the case. The Hell Legion was Netherworld Empire's strongest trump card legion. Every member was an expert among experts. They did not have a ton of time to waste with Shi Feng.

"Black Flame is stubborn. Not even the various superpowers have found success in a Demon God's Temptation. What can he possibly accomplish by himself?" Thunder Beast grumbled, glaring at Shi Feng.

When the two had finished speaking, Shi Feng's eyes fluttered open, and he returned his attention to decoding the magic arrays engraved on the stone pillar before him.

This time, the magic arrays were much easier to decode, and the surrounding Mana began to gather around Shi Feng. "What did he do?" Thunder Beast was shocked to feel more and more Mana gather around Shi Feng. The Mana became so dense that it actually became visible!

The layer of mist that had formed around Shi Feng was incredibly thin, and one could miss it if they weren't paying attention, but there were so few locations in God's Domain that had dense enough Mana for it to condense in such a way. Naturally, the various superpowers coveted every one of these locations.

"His Mana control has improved!" Hell Rush couldn't believe his eyes. "And it's improved quite a bit!"

"You can actually attract so much Mana with better Mana control?" Thunder Beast gave his commander a skeptical look.

"With enough control, it is possible. I've met a Tier 4 magical class NPC that gathered a ridiculous amount of Mana just by manipulating the Mana around him. He hadn't even used any Skills or Spells," the female Elementalist beside Hell Rush contributed.

"Black Flame is just a Swordsman; how can he have so much control over Mana?" Thunder Beast glanced at Shi Feng again, astonished.

Matching a Tier 4 magical class NPC's Mana control should be impossible for players at this stage of the game, yet not only had Shi Feng accomplished the feat as a Tier 3 player, but he had done so as a non-magical melee class, as well.

"Is this why he's so confident that he can help others unlock their Mana Bodies' potential?" Hell Rush wondered, recalling Shi Feng's previous declaration.

Although Hell Rush had seen that Aqua Rose and her companions had unlocked their Mana Bodies' full potential, he had assumed it was a result of some means Zero Wing had to accelerate the process. He had had his doubts about whether this method could help the Hell Legion's several hundred members do the same within one month. Every player had a different Mana Body, and unlocking their potential would differ as well.

Seeing Shi Feng with Mana control to rival that of a Tier 4 magical class NPC, however, the Swordsman's claim seemed more plausible.

A player's Mana control played a huge part in unlocking their Mana Body, which was why magical class players found the task much easier than physical class players.

And yet, even Zero Wing's members, especially Aqua Rose and the other magical class players, stared at Shi Feng, dumbfounded. Their Mana control had been much greater than Shi Feng's, especially after they had unlocked their Mana Bodies' full potential.

After resting for three short hours, however, Shi Feng had gained far more control, pulling leagues ahead of them.

Just what was going on?

But before anyone could regain their senses, the glow from the magic arrays on the stone pillar began to fade. As it did, the faint layer of black fog around the temple began to dissipate, and the gloomy atmosphere vanished completely...