

Chapter 2591 – Zero Wing’s New Residence

Shi Feng could not believe his eyes as he gazed at the elderly man in gray before him. Tier 4!

This was a bona fide powerhouse, an individual that stood at the apex of God’s Domain!

Noticing Shi Feng’s shock, Aqua Rose’s attention drifted to the Tier 4 Great Wizard. At first, she had been surprised, but disappointment quickly followed.

She had just noticed the elderly man’s Growth Potential.

“What a pity,” Aqua Rose said, sighing. “Tier 4 is amazing, but his Secret-Silver ranked Growth Potential will hold him back.”

Normally, Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Guards hit their limit at Tier 3. While Secret-Silver Guards were stronger than Bronze and Mysterious-Iron rank, they would hit a wall at Tier 4, with minuscule chances of making it to Tier 5.

More of God’s Domain’s players hit Tier 3 every day, and it wouldn’t be long before the various superpowers’ peak experts began to challenge their Tier 4 Promotion Quests. Once they completed those quests, Tier 4 NPCs’ power would become quite limited, especially that of Tier 4 Secret-Silver guards. A Tier 4 Secret-Silver Guard’s combat power was only on par with a Tier 4 peak expert in full, top-tier equipment. They might be strong, but they weren’t invincible.

“A pity?” Shi Feng shook his head and laughed, but he didn’t bother to say more.

“We’ve gotten so lucky this time, Guild Leader. We now have two more Dark-Gold Guards: a Guardian Knight and an Oracle. If your two Guards participate, you could form a well-rounded raid party to take down high-ranked Field Bosses,” Aqua Rose delightedly reported.

Shi Feng was one of White River City’s Counts, so he had the authority to recruit four Personal Guards. If he accepted these new Dark-Gold Guards, he could use his four guard slots to their maximum efficiency. Dark-Gold Guards were incredibly rare. Most, if not all, superpowers didn’t even have one.

“I’ll pass on these two Dark-Gold Guards. You and Snow will each nurture one. Both of you are Counts, too, so you should have some extra slots,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. “I’ll take this gray-clad elder.”

Dark-Gold Guards were extremely useful, especially when players wouldn’t have to worry about dying. Forming a standard, four-man raiding party with only Dark-Gold or better Guards would be a dream.

However, he almost always operated alone. Rather than take the two Dark-Gold Guards for himself, Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose could make better use of them. The two women frequently led grinding teams and Dungeon raids. A Dark- Gold Guard would greatly enhance their respective teams’ strength.

“But, Guild Leader, that elder is only a Secret-Silver Guard...” Shi Feng’s decision surprised Aqua Rose.

Shi Feng was Zero Wing’s Guild Leader, role model, and face. Even if he didn’t want the two Dark-Gold Guards, he should, at least, take a Fine-Gold Guard. Picking a Secret-Silver Guard, even a Tier 4 Great Wizard, would make him a laughingstock.

“A Secret-Silver Guard is quite powerful,” Shi Feng said, chuckling. “He is also a Tier 4 Great Wizard. He could serve as a Magistrate in a major city in any kingdom or empire. He is a true powerhouse in God’s Domain.”

Aqua Rose only saw Secret-Silver Guards as worthless due to the fact that Zero Wing had more than 30 Fine-Gold Guards, but even the various superpowers wouldn’t have more than 2 or 3 Fine-Gold Guards at this stage of the game. Some had even fewer than that.

Normally, the various superpowers treated Secret-Silver Guards like their own children, not to mention a Guard that had already reached Tier 4.

It should be known that Secret-Silver Guards only had a chance of reaching Tier 4; their success wasn’t guaranteed. Tier 4 wasn’t just a major turning point for players, but for NPCs, as well. Reaching Tier 4 was an incredible feat for all in God’s Domain.

Not even Fine-Gold Guards were guaranteed to reach Tier 4. They merely had a higher chance.

Based on past players’ collected statistics, Fine-Gold Guards only had a 30% chance of completing their Tier 4 Promotion Quest. Dark-Gold Guards’ chances were roughly around 40%. Of course, even if a Personal Guard failed their Tier 4 Promotion quest, they could challenge it again. Players would only have to invest more resources to boost their strength.

However, challenging the Tier 4 Promotion Quests was a time-consuming process for both players and NPCs. Personal Guards would have to wait a full month before they could challenge the quest after failing it. Hence, it was easy to imagine how much time it would take to nurture a Tier 4 NPC.

As for recruiting a Tier 4 NPC as one’s Personal Guard, that was simply unheard of. Shi Feng hadn’t heard of a single player recruiting a Tier 4 NPC. At best, some had recruited Tier 3 NPCs.

If he revealed this elderly man's information, the various superpowers would likely die with envy.

While the gray-clothed Wizard's Growth Potential was somewhat lacking compared to Dark-Gold Guards, Shi Feng wasn't concerned. He had plenty of items that could raise an NPC's Growth Potential, and this old man's was on the high end for Secret-Silver Guards. With a little effort, upgrading him to Fine-Gold rank was entirely possible.

Following which, Shi Feng recruited the elderly man as one of his Personal Guards.

[Versailles] (Ye Feng's Personal Guard)

Gender: Male

Age: 76

Loyalty: 75

Growth Potential: 74

Level 112

Class: Tier 4 Great Wizard

When she saw Versailles's statistics, Aqua Rose was speechless. After recovering, the other Tier 3 NPCs had climbed to, on average, Level 120. The Dark-Gold ranked Guardian Knight she had recruited was even Level 121, yet Versailles was only 112?

Versailles hadn't even reached the level required to challenge the Tier 4 Promotion Quest. He was also a much lower level than mainstream Personal Guards.

"It's almost time. The Lost Town's transfer should be complete by now. Gather the main force members immediately, as well as all of the potential newcomers and core members, who have signed our confidentiality contract. From now on, the lost Town will be our developmental headquarters," Shi Feng said as he glanced at the time.

"Is that all, Guild Leader? What about the Lost Town's security?" Aqua Rose asked worriedly.

The Demonwolf Mountain Range was a far more dangerous place than Cold Spring Forest, so defending a stronghold there would be a much greater challenge. Moreover, the Lost Town wasn't a Basic City, only a Basic Town.

Yet, Shi Feng only wanted to station the Guild's contracted recruits and core members. Even with the Guild's main force, the town would only have around 5,000 players.

It was far more than what they had stationed in the Lost Town before this, but the town had only occupied a pre-Level 100 neutral map. The small number of high-level NPCs and players had been more than enough to deal with the occasional monster tide. However, they wouldn't have a level advantage in the Demonwolf Mountain Range.

“Normally, security might have been a problem with so few members, but we have time now,” Shi Feng consoled his companion as he gestured to Versailles. “With him there, we won’t have to worry about security.”

“But, he’s only Level 112 and a Secret-Silver Guard...” Aqua Rose argued.

“Relax. He’ll be more than enough,” Shi Feng said, not bothering to explain. Definitively, he continued, “Just relay the message.”

“Alright, then. I’ll go notify them...” Aqua Rose despondently agreed, leaving to notify the Guild members Shi Feng had requested. Since he was so confident, insisting would be inappropriate.

Before half an hour had passed, all of Zero Wing’s contracted recruits and core members used the Guild Transfer Scroll Shi Feng had provided and arrived in the Lost Town, which had transformed into a wintery wonderland.

Chapter 2592 – Natural Training Ground

As Zero Wing’s members teleported to the Lost Town’s Residence, the Residence’s plaza quickly became crowded. “What is this place? Why do I feel like a foreign energy is trying to invade my body?”

“My senses feel so dull, and I’m suddenly starving. Didn’t the higher-ups say they were bringing us to a sacred training and leveling ground? What’s going on here?”

“My friends were still jealous that I got chosen to join the Guild’s special training, and they didn’t, but why does this place feel lesser than Stone Forest City?”

Upon their arrival to the Lost Town, Zero Wing’s new recruits and core members, all of whom had high potential, were curious about the situation, falling into heated discussions. The recruits were especially confused. They knew nothing about the Lost Town, and now, they had been thrown into such a harsh environment. They couldn’t bring themselves to believe this was a sacred training ground. Just surviving in this town long-term would be a problem.

The situation began to worry Aqua Rosen. The town’s new location was nothing like what she had imagined. Even Tier 3 players like herself would struggle to survive here, much less the Guild’s latest trainees, who hadn’t yet reached Tier 3.

Needless to say, training and fighting the random monster tides would be nearly impossible. Players would be fortunate to exhibit their normal combat standards in such a severe area, much less improve their combat standards.

During her previous visit to the Demonwolf Mountain Range, she had stayed in the neutral map’s outer region, where the environment hadn’t been particularly harsh, but now that she stood in the inner region, she felt sluggish, and her senses had considerably dulled. The constant hunger assaulting her mind and body was also quite uncomfortable.

Most importantly, the Mana here felt like an icy hell. Violent, ice-type Mana filled the area, and Aqua Rose could sense scant amounts of other elements. Manipulating Mana in this zone would be almost impossible.

When players couldn’t manipulate Mana, how were they supposed to improve?

“Guild Leader, you don’t intend these Tier 2 members to remain here for their training, do you?” Blue Frost anxiously asked Shi Feng.

Blue Frost recognized the area as the Demonwolf Mountain Range's inner region and knew that the lowest-leveled monster was Level 120. This would be an amazing area to level and train for players of his tier and level, but Zero Wing's new recruits and Tier 2 members would only waste their time here.

These members were Zero Wing's future. Sending them to such a place to waste their time would cost the Guild.

"Remain here for their training?" Shaking his head, Shi Feng said, "Such a wonderful thing isn't possible."

Shi Feng's reply confused Blue Frost. He couldn't understand what was so wonderful about this frozen hellscape.

Shi Feng didn't explain his statement, however. Instead, he met with the Adventurer's Association's NPCs to complete the handover procedures. Once complete, the NPCs promptly left the Lost Town, making the already desolate town even more lonely.

At that point, the sound of a system announcement rang in everyone's ears.

Lost Town Region System Announcement: The town's new location is subject to a mysterious curse. Wraiths will absorb the excess Mana players radiate, transforming into monsters. Please be wary of these monsters' attacks.

Shortly after the system announcement ended and before Zero Wing's members could digest the information, translucent, humanoid ghosts started to manifest around some of Zero Wing's members.

These humanoid ghosts appeared to be clones of the players they stood by. They even had the same levels as their human counterparts. The moment their forms were complete, these ghosts attacked the players.

Not understanding what was happening, everyone was stunned.

Fortunately, they were all Zero Wing experts, and although their levels and tiers weren't up to standard, they commanded expert combat standards. Even the weakest player there could reach the Trial Tower's fifth floor. They had no trouble responding to the ghosts' attacks appropriately. Meanwhile, the players who hadn't been attacked joined the fray, targeting the ghosts near them.

After a moment, however, something else surprising occurred.

The ghostly clones had the same combat standards as their human counterparts. Moreover, other players' attacks proved utterly ineffective.

Your official training begins now! Be careful of the ghosts that will appear beside you! No one, other than the player the ghosts copy, can do anything to them! If these ghosts kill you, not only will you lose a level, but you won't be able to log in for a day!" Shi Feng warned as he watched Zero Wing's members fight these phantom monsters.

The Demonwolf Mountain Range was no ordinary location. The map's inner region was actually considered a forbidden land.

Every forbidden land in God's Domain has some mechanic that made survival particularly difficult. The Demonwolf Mountain Range's inner region had this curse.

Shi Feng neither knew exactly what this curse was, nor did he know who was responsible for it, but he knew that an endless stream of ghosts would appear to attack and harass any player resting within a town or city established in this area, preventing anyone from remaining in the region long-term.

Zero Wing's many members gasped when they heard Shi Feng's warning.

How was this 'training?'

This was simply an execution!

They had now fought these ghosts, so they knew the spirits had the same combat standards as the players they cloned. Unlike players, however, the ghosts weren't affected by the harsh environment. Hence, the monsters commanded their players' peak combat power. In other words, the ghosts were stronger than the cloned players.

To make matters worse, they would lose a full level and be banned from the game for a full day if they died. Just how were they supposed to catch up with mainstream experts in this situation?

While many of his Guildmates complained to themselves, Blue Frost, who was engaged in a bitter battle with his ghost, realized something, and excitement flashed in his eyes.

Players were at a disadvantage against these ghosts, and they couldn't even manipulate the ambient Mana due to its violent, biased nature. The only option they had left was to find a way to manipulate and use the Mana within them to defeat the phantom clones.

Since these ghosts mimicked both the players' behavior and combat standards, players could also predict their opponent's moves in certain situations.

With this thought in mind, Blue Frost found his ghost counterpart much easier to fight. He also discovered many of his own flaws, killing two birds with one stone.

Unfortunately, these fights wouldn't benefit Tier 2 players as much as it did Tier 3 players like himself. However, Tier 2 players could still use their Skills and Spells in this harsh environment, where Tier 3 players struggled. As long as Tier 2 players steadily trained their combat standards and Skill and Spell Completion Rates, they were more than capable of defeating their ghosts.

Not only weren't these ghosts the problem they had all assumed, but they were also the perfect training partners for experts like them. Only, this kind of training was a little too risky.

It wasn't long before the rest of Zero Wing's members realized the same, and many stopped complaining, fully immersing themselves in battle.

"Guild Leader, this place is amazing! It is like a natural training ground! Although using it is costly, everyone's training efficiency will be several times greater than normal. The Tier 3 experts who haven't unlocked their Mana Bodies' full potential will likely do so after spending a month here," Aqua Rose said, her eyes glowing brightly as she watched the Zero Wing members before her grow steadily stronger.

Zero Wing's main force members had already unlocked a sizable fraction of their Mana Bodies. If they trained here, they'd complete the task in no more than 10 days. Once they did, the Guild would have over a hundred Tier 3 experts with 100% of their Mana Bodies under their command!

Just thinking about this elated Aqua Rose.

Training here was brutal and dangerous, but compared to its benefits, the cost wasn't overly high. Even if players died, they'd only lose a level and some time. Zero Wing's main force members were already much higher levels than the various superpowers' peak experts, so the loss wouldn't be a problem. Moreover, the Lost Town now occupied a Level 120 neutral map. Grinding for levels would be easy here, and trading levels for progress in unlocking their Mana Bodies was certainly a worthwhile exchange for Zero Wing.

While Zero Wing's members worked hard to improve, Shi Feng made his way to the Extraordinary Tower. He didn't pay everyone's battles much mind.

The mysterious curse was only an additional benefit for relocating the Lost Town to the Demonwolf Mountain Range. The Extraordinary Tower was still the town's most valuable aspect.

The Extraordinary Tower had always been the best location for players to grasp the Realm of Truth's principles. Training in this tower could shuttle players from the Truth Realm all the way to the Transcendental Realm. However, Shi Feng had only been able to unlock the tower's second floor, which offered guidance for reaching the Ascension Realm, due to a lack of Magic Crystals. As a result, he hadn't gained any guidance or clues about progressing to the next realm.

Now, however, Zero Wing's Magic Crystal income had skyrocketed due to Stone Forest City's popularity and the Dark World's Teleportation Gate. After the past few days, the two sources had provided more than 300,000 Magic Crystals, utterly surpassing Shi Feng's expectations.

And this now allowed Shi Feng to unlock the Extraordinary Tower's third floor.

Once he reached the tower, Shi Feng called up the tower's interface and unlocked the third floor. As he did, he heard the sound of a system notification.

System: The Extraordinary Tower's first two floors have already been unlocked. Do you wish to pay 1,000,000 Magic Crystals to unlock the third floor?

"Unlock it!"

Chapter 2593 – Extraordinary Tower's Third Floor Unlocked

The instant Shi Feng chose to unlock the Extraordinary Tower's third floor, 1,000,000 Magic Crystals disintegrated inside his bag, transforming into a stream of Mana that flowed into the tower itself.

As the torrent of Mana flowed into the Extraordinary Tower, the carved divine runes on the inner walls lit up and repaired themselves.

While the divine runes became more complete, the tower's exterior changed significantly.

With the Extraordinary Tower in the center, the violent Mana that filled the Lost Town began to obey. The Mana around the tower became denser, and the tower itself released an old, sacred aura that spread throughout the town, instilling anyone it touched with serenity.

"What an amazing aura! My hunger's even disappeared!"

"That's not all. My mind feels much clearer, and my Stamina and Concentration have begun to recover, as well. I feel like I can fight these ghosts for an entire day without rest."

As the sacred aura filled the town, Zero Wing's fighting members rejoiced.

They had been at an absolute disadvantage against their ghost counterparts, and they had known death was only a matter of time. The foreign energy was corroding their bodies too quickly. However, the situation had changed. Although their surroundings still lacked any elemental Mana other than ice, this sacred aura had cleansed the area of foreign energy. As a result, their minds had cleared during their fight, which would prolong their survival.

Meanwhile, every ghost had spawned with a Mana Life buff, which indicated their remaining lifespan and only had a 6-hour duration. If they could last against these phantoms for more than 6 hours, the ghosts would automatically disappear, even if they couldn't defeat them. In addition, Shi Feng had informed them that these ghosts only appeared for each player once a day. If they held on for the full six hours, they could spend the rest of their day resting easy in the Lost Town.

Of course, players who wanted to dedicate themselves to growing stronger, especially those with high combat standards, wouldn't be satisfied with six hours of training. As a result, these players cherished their six-hour combat session even more than the rest.

Moreover, ghosts wouldn't appear for everyone. At the end of the day, these ghosts' appearances were the result of a curse. The stronger a player was, the less effective the curse would be. Ghosts might not even appear for the stronger players and would almost never appear for players who had already unlocked their Mana Bodies' full potential.

While everyone was surprised and elated about the new changes to the Lost Town, the Extraordinary Tower's sacred aura had finally filled the town. At the same time, a translucent barrier formed around the Lost Town, isolating it completely. This barrier also calmed the violent, ice-type Mana in the town, creating a stable Mana environment. The Mana wasn't very dense, but it was enough to clear the players' minds of unhelpful thoughts.

“What did the Guild Leader do?” Aqua Rose was shocked when she sensed the changes. She had felt this strange sensation before. To be precise, she had experimented with it during her travels within the Starlight Fortress’s Legacy Gate!

The only difference was the town’s much lower Mana density, which resulted in a much smaller boost to her mental capacity. Overall, the Lost Town’s training efficiency was barely one-third of the Legacy Gate’s.

Even so, that was astounding!

The Lost Town could accommodate far more players than the Legacy Gate, and while it wouldn’t be quite as helpful, it was an ideal training ground for Tier 3 players as they tried to unlock their Mana Bodies.

Moreover, the magic barrier substantially increased the town’s defenses. With the barrier in place, defeating the monster tides would be far easier.

While Aqua Rose and Zero Wing’s other members fortunate enough to enter the Legacy Gate were shocked over the Lost Town’s transformation, something else within the Extraordinary Tower had shocked Shi Feng.

This is the result of unlocking the Extraordinary Tower’s third floor? He was at a loss as he sensed the ancient aura filling the hall.

Normally, only in ancient fortresses could contain all seven Mana elements, yet the Extraordinary Tower brimmed with all of them. Moreover, the Mana here was even denser than in the Starlight Fortress...

If Tier 3 players trained here, breaking past the 100% threshold would no longer be just a dream, not to mention fully unlocking their Mana Bodies.

He had been worried about crossing that threshold himself, but the tower's new environment had just increased his chances by 10%. If his chances had only increased by 10%, others would have an even greater boost.

If players who hadn't yet unlocked their Mana Bodies' full potential trained in the Extraordinary Tower, they could definitely accomplish the task in a short time. In fact, their training efficiency here might be twice as high as it was against the humanoid ghosts. Fighting in an area with all seven Mana elements would yield completely different results than fighting in an area with almost none of them. Players would have a much easier time recognizing and controlling the flow of Mana in the former.

Unfortunately, while this environment was idyllic, there was a limit to the number of players who could take advantage of it.

This Mana was contained in the Extraordinary Tower's training grounds. The first floor could only accommodate 100 people at a time, while 50 could fit on the second floor, and only 10 would fit on the third. In total, only 160 people could use the Extraordinary Tower at the same time.

That was only under ideal circumstances. In reality, far fewer players could train in the Extraordinary Tower at a time.

If players wanted to use the second or third floors, they'd have to clear the previous floors first.

Shi Feng didn't give the matter much thought before he instructed Zero Wing's main force members to train in the tower during their free time and to ignore level grinding and raiding monster dens.

Unlocking their Mana Bodies was far more important than raiding monster dens and level grinding. Furthermore, they had unlocked a considerable percentage of their Mana Bodies after consuming the Exotic Legacy Potions they had obtained from Poison City. Normally, unlocking their Mana Bodies would require, at most, two full weeks, but with the tower's third floor unlocked, they could accomplish the feat in even less time.

Once all of Zero Wing's main force members unlocked their Mana Bodies' full potential, the team's grinding efficiency would improve. Securing the Demonwolf den that housed the medium teleportation point would also become easier.

With his Guildmates desperately training, Shi Feng made his way to the tower's second floor to begin his ascent.

He had reached his limit during his last visit to the Extraordinary Tower's second floor, unable to improve further regardless of how hard he had tried. Even after creating Sword's Transmigration, he hadn't been able to reach the top of the second floor's staircase and had been thrown after reaching the 30th step.

Now, however, he had fully unlocked his Mana Body and gained a newfound understanding of Mana. He had even learned a Mana Technique, and he was ready to challenge the second floor again to push himself through that final barrier.

Neither his Tier 4 Promotion Quest nor the Divine Dragon's trial would be easy to complete. If he failed, he would suffer unimaginable consequences. Fortunately, both trials focused on testing players' individual strength.

Advancing through the Realms of Truth would undoubtedly provide immense help in both upcoming trials. This was why he had decided to activate the Extraordinary Tower's third floor now.

Controlling his emotions, Shi Feng climbed the first step on the second floor's staircase. Two silver-armored Swordsmen then appeared, charging at him with the intent to kill.

As Shi Feng made his way to the Extraordinary Tower's third floor, a group of Level 110 experts arrived before Stone Forest City's gates, causing a commotion at the city's main entrance.

"So, this is Zero Wing's Stone Forest City?" an elegant, middle-aged man amidst the group commented as he gazed at the magnificent city before him. With a surprised tone, he continued, "It is truly extraordinary. With such dense Mana and natural terrain advantage, Wonder should've grown much stronger here."

"Don't forget our orders, Elder Hermit. We are not here to sightsee," a bald, middle-aged man in black robes scolded, rolling his eyes. "No matter how much stronger she's grown, Wonder must return with us. The time for her willful rebellion has come to an end!"

"I know. Isn't that why I tagged along in the first place?" Hermit replied. Instead of getting upset at the bald man's comment, he breathed a deep sigh as he led his team into Stone Forest City.

Chapter 2594 – Half-step Grandmaster Stone Forest City, Candlelight Trading Firm:

Following the NPC, Hermit and the bald man arrived at one of the Basic Meditation Rooms on the trading firm's top floor. They were greeted by the sight of a woman in luxurious, dark blue robes and

enveloped in a faint layer of Mana. The woman was steadfastly focused on brewing a potion, her every action smooth and dexterous.

A short moment later, the woman lifted her hand, holding a potion that radiated dense Mana.

“She can brew the Master ranked Advanced Magic Resistance Potion so easily?”

“She must not be far from becoming a Grandmaster Alchemist.”

The scene had astonished Hermit and his companion.

Master ranked Magic Resistance Potions were quite rare and costly on the market. They could, after all, enable Tier 3 players to roam Level 100-plus maps with harsh environments. However, Master ranked Advanced Magic Resistance Potions were even stronger. Not only could they help Tier 2 players survive in the severe environments in Level 100- plus maps, but the potion’s effects would also last 24 full hours.

Level 100-plus maps had abundant resources, particularly those Level 110 and above, but their environments were severe and dangerous. Only Tier 3 players could survive in these maps without aid. Unfortunately, the various powers had too few Tier 3 experts at this stage of the game, and they had to rely on their Tier 2 members to gather resources for their development. Hence, the demand for Master ranked Advanced Magic Resistance Potions was incredibly high.

However, crafting Master ranked Advanced Magic Resistance Potions wasn’t easy. Even a Master Alchemist wouldn’t have more than a 30% success rate, and the potions took a long time to brew. Including the current rarity of Master Alchemists, there wasn’t enough supply of these potions to meet demand.

Silent Wonder, on the other hand, could effortlessly brew these potions. Moreover, she had completed her last potion with astounding speed. She was efficient enough to take on the work of three or four Master Alchemists. With those skills, she was likely on the brink of becoming a Grandmaster Alchemist.

Rather than Silent Wonder's alchemy standards, Hermit and the bald man were far more surprised to see that she had reached Level 111. She was actually one level higher than they were...

"It seems the rumors calling Stone Forest City a sacred leveling ground were true, after all," Hermit muttered, staring at the level displayed above Silent Wonder's head in shock.

Silent Wonder wasn't a pure combat player. Although players could gain EXP through their subclasses, they didn't earn nearly as much as combat players, who relentlessly grinded monsters in the fields.

Despite that, Silent Wonder had still surpassed both of them. This fact alone made it clear how extraordinary a Guild Zero Wing was.

"Fifth Uncle, Elder Hermit, isn't there still some time before the family competition begins? What's with the sudden visit?" Silent Wonder asked, curious to see the two people enter the room.

The Azure Chamber of Commerce held a competition between its main shareholder families once a year on the same date. The next competition would begin in six days. Even if her family intended to escort her to the western continent, she had expected they'd only show up the day before. She had no clue why they'd show up so early without prior notice. Moreover, Hermit, the man responsible for Demonstone Town's safety, had come to see her. These two didn't seem like they were simply here to escort her.

There is indeed still some time before the competition, but that's not the only reason we've come," the middle-aged man informed her. "I'm sure you are aware that the Zeus Corporation's support is a large part of the reason Azure enjoys its current success."

"Has something happened with the Zeus Corporation?" Silent Wonder asked.

The Zeus Corporation was one of the top ten corporations in the world. The corporation's support was also a large part of the reason that the Azure Chamber of Commerce had grown over the years and achieved its current status in God's Domain. Moreover, the Zeus Corporation had a considerable portion of the Super Guild, Violet Sword's shares.

Violet Sword was relatively ancient, with over a century of history. It was one of the oldest Super Guilds to rise in the virtual gaming world. Its long history was only second to the Five Great Super Guilds, and the Guild's relationship with the Zeus Corporation was why Azure had developed so smoothly on the western continent.

"That's right. Violet Sword urgently needs Lifestyle Masters, so Zeus has decided that Azure will offer support. Since you are the greatest talent among our family's younger generation, you cannot avoid developing in Violet Sword. We have come to escort you to the Guild's headquarters," the bald, middle-aged man explained, nodding.

"Develop in Violet Sword? But..." Silent Wonder was stunned.

"I know you wish to remain in Zero Wing, seeing as it has helped you so much." Helplessly, the bald man continued, "However, you know how much the Zeus Corporation has helped Azure. Zeus's help is the very reason that Azure maintains its hold on a Grade 1 ore vein. You are one of the Lifestyle Masters the corporation handpicked. If you don't go, not only will our family lose Zeus's support, but we might also lose our hold on that vein, which Azure relies on to survive!"

The Zeus Corporation was rich and powerful. It also commanded considerable strength and influence in the west. One word from the corporation is all it would take to throw the Azure Chamber of Commerce to the wolves.

“Can you give me some time to think, Fifth Uncle?” Silent Wonder hesitantly requested.

“We might have allowed you to do as you wish until now, but this concerns the family’s future! We cannot allow you to continue this willful behavior anymore!” the bald man snapped. “Once the family competition has ended, you will travel to Violet Sword to continue your development! Take this time to prepare. You don’t need to worry about your situation with Zero Wing. We will help you settle it.”

With that, the bald man and Hermit turned and left the room, leaving Silent Wonder stupefied.

After leaving the Candlelight Trading Firm, the two men headed straight for Zero Wing’s Residence.

“Don’t you think you’re being a little too impatient, Wushang? We should’ve given Wonder some time to accept the situation,” Hermit commented, sending a sidelong glance at his companion.

“Accept it? Do you assume I don’t want to?” the bald man, Long Wushang, solemnly replied, offering a bitter smile. The Zeus Corporation has given us an ultimatum. In fact, the corporation has already delivered the other families’ younger members to train with Violet Sword as a means to harass the Long Family.”

“Even so, I’m afraid Wonder will not go obediently,” Hermit said.

“With as stubborn as she is, persuading her will be difficult. That’s why we’re going to meet with Zero Wing. As long as Zero Wing willingly lets her go, she’ll be easier to convince” Long Wushang said.

“What if Zero Wing refuses? You must realize that the Guild is not to be trifled with,” Hermit worriedly countered.

“Isn’t that why you’re here?” Long Wushang replied, rolling his eyes. He shifted his gaze toward the nearby Guild Residence, sneering as he continued, “Zero Wing doesn’t have a choice. If Zero Wing refuses to let Wonder go, it will suffer the Zeus Corporation’s wrath!”

Chapter 2595 – True Ascension Realm

Lost Town, Extraordinary Tower’s second floor:

As Shi Feng ascended the staircase to the third floor, more and stronger Swordsmen continued to appear. On the 1st step, he had only faced two Silver Swordsmen. When he reached the 89th step, his opponents were four Golden Swordsmen.

Not only had all of these Golden Swordsmen commanded combat standards nearly on par with the Refinement Realm, but all four had reached the Truth Realm, as well. Combining both aspects, their combat power was far stronger than ordinary Refinement Realm experts. Moreover, the four Golden Swordsmen’s coordination was as seamless as if they shared one mind. There were no gaps in their offense or defense, and they all possessed incredible Basic Attributes. Even Shi Feng struggled to cope with the Golden Swordsmen’s assault.

If he hadn’t had Sword’s Transmigration to defend himself, these Golden Swordsmen would’ve long since thrown him back down the staircase.

I can easily handle these Swordsmen one-on-one, but avoiding their coordinated attacks with the physique of a Tier 1 player is impossible. It seems my only option is to force my way through!

After three minutes of fighting these four Golden Swordsmen, Shi Feng realized that continuing this battle was a waste of time. He couldn't find any weaknesses to take advantage of. The only method he could think of to reach the next step was to force his way past these Swordsmen.

Following which, Shi Feng stepped forward and sucked in a deep breath. He then raised the Abyssal Blade above his head, gathering Mana around the weapon.

A phantom of a gigantic greatsword immediately appeared above him. Although the Extraordinary Tower suppressed his physique to that of Tier 1, it did nothing to hamper his Mana Body. He could easily command his own Mana in combat.

In retaliation, the four Golden Swordsmen launched a joint attack, aiming for 16 of Shi Feng's weak points. Before they had a chance to strike, Shi Feng swung down the Abyssal Blade.

Lightshadow!

Boom!

After the phantom greatsword's descent, all four Golden Swordsmen stumbled back several steps, falling out of formation. Taking advantage of the opportunity, Shi Feng charged at the nearest opponent.

His target reacted quickly. Although the Golden Swordsman hadn't regained its posture, it used a horizontal slash in an attempt to stop Shi Feng's charge.

However, Shi Feng didn't give the Golden Swordsman a chance to defend itself as his Sacred Sword transformed into a streak of light, deflecting the horizontal slash. He then thrust the Abyssal Blade at the Golden Swordsman's chest.

Peng!

Sparks flew as the Fragmented Legendary Weapon collided with the Golden Swordsman's armor, shoving it back a few more steps before it fell. Finally, Shi Feng tore a hole in the four Golden Swordsmen's formation.

Now!

With his target on the ground, Shi Feng used Void Steps to confuse the three remaining Golden Swordsman and escape their encirclement. He then leaped onto the 90th step.

The moment Shi Feng landed on the 90th step, a Swordsman in black robes appeared before him. This Black Swordsman then thrust his weapon at Shi Feng.

The thrust was surprisingly powerful, and the instant the Black Swordsman's blade shot forward, it transformed into numerous particles of light that shot toward Shi Feng. It was impossible to tell which attack was real and which was fake.

An Advanced Combat Technique? Shi Feng's expression darkened when he recognized the move as a combat technique.

This Black Swordsman's Basic Attributes and combat standards were even higher than the Golden Swordsmen Shi Feng had just faced. In fact, the Black Swordsman was on the cusp of reaching the Flowing Water Realm. Combined with its Advanced Combat Technique, Shi Feng was no match for this opponent with just a Tier 1 physique.

Of course, this disadvantage wasn't enough to make Shi Feng give up. Instead, he brandished Killing Ray in response.

Sword's Transmigration!

The instant the two weapons met, a deafening boom echoed throughout the second floor. The impact was so powerful that Shi Feng stumbled back down to the 89th step. He hadn't had time to readjust his posture, and the four Golden Swordsmen he had left behind subsequently threw him back down to the base of the second floor's staircase.

The 90th step's Black Swordsman is amazing. I saw no excess movements, and it perfectly integrated an Advanced Combat Technique. Not even Domain Realm experts could find any opening to take advantage of and would be forced to face its attacks head-on.

Shi Feng wasn't disappointed about returning to square one. Actually, he seemed rather excited. The Black Swordsman had highlighted some of his own flaws.

He had reached the Realm of Truth's Ascension Realm, and his every action resembled a combat technique, but they weren't. His movements lacked the power of combat techniques; they only possessed the deception of true combat techniques.

To put it simply, he hadn't made much progress in the Ascension Realm, and his foundations were unsteady. He had only grasped the vague concept of the realm, lacking its crucial concepts.

The Black Swordsman, on the other hand, stood firmly in the Ascension Realm.

Because of this, Shi Feng couldn't yet ascend to the Extraordinary Tower's third floor, despite having reached the Ascension Realm.

If he could gain even a portion of the Black Swordsman's mastery over the Ascension Realm and perfectly integrate Basic Combat Techniques with his every action, his combat power would definitely rise by a large margin.

Meanwhile, during the time Shi Feng was reflecting on his own flaws, a few other Zero Wing members were sent flying down the second floor's staircase as well.

"I did it! I finally did it!" Shadow Sword shouted ecstatically as he looked at the dense Mana his body radiated.

Turtledove, Alluring Summer, and the others who had fallen down the stairs similarly radiated dense Mana. They had obviously unlocked their Mana Bodies' full potential.

Moreover, Blue Frost, Flying Shadow, Stubborn Bone, and a few other Zero Wing members, who had only begun to unlock their mana Bodies, revealed excited expressions. They had made significant progress during their climb on the Extraordinary Tower's second-floor staircase.

Training in the Extraordinary Tower is really this effective? Shi Feng looked at the players around him, astonished.

While the Extraordinary Tower's Mana provided quite a bit of help to players developing their Mana control, Shi Feng didn't think it'd be such an effective tool in helping them unlock their Mana Bodies. Learning the rules and how to manipulate Mana wasn't an easy task, not to mention adapting those methods to one's Mana Body.

Shi Feng estimated that although Shadow Sword and the rest had been close to unlocking all of their Mana Bodies' potential, they should've still needed three to five days to reach 100%.

And yet, they had succeeded in less than half a day...

If every one of Zero Wing's main force members could make this much progress, every one of them would fully unlock their Mana Bodies in less than 10 days, becoming true powerhouses in God's Domain.

Just as Shi Feng turned his attention back to the second floor's staircase, however, he received a call from Melancholic Smile.

"Guild Leader, Azure's representatives have come to our Residence. They wish to speak with you about taking Wonder to develop in the west's Violet Sword. They're hoping we won't 'hinder her future' and just let her go. They visited Wonder before coming here, too, but it seems Wonder's reaction wasn't positive," Melancholic Smile reported.

Violet Sword, huh?" Shi Feng could not contain his smile. "Azure is certainly crafty."

“Will you meet with them?” Melancholic Smile asked.

“That won’t be necessary. Have Hell Rush send them away. Also, have him convey a message; I’ll personally take Wonder to visit Violet Sword after the family competition to have a proper conversation with the Super Guild’s people, so they don’t need to bother!” Shi Feng calmly stated.

Chapter 2596 – Mighty Zero Wing, Times Have Changed Stone Forest City, Zero Wing’s Residence:

Long Wushang and Hermit sat by the French window, clearly unhappy, in Zero Wing’s large, luxurious reception room.

“So you’re saying that Guild Leader Black Flame has no intention of meeting us, Commander Rush?” Long Wushang demanded, glaring at Hell Rush, who had just notified them of Shi Feng’s reply.

“That’s right. He knows what you wish to discuss and requested that I relay a message. Once the family competition is over, he will personally take Silent Wonder to visit Violet Sword, so you don’t have to bother,” Hell Rush coolly informed the two men, nodding.

The message stunned both of them, particularly Long Wushang.

Long Wushang had considered many possible outcomes before visiting Zero Wing’s Residence, and had prepared a variety of arguments to persuade Shi Feng to let Silent Wonder go. However, he never considered that Shi Feng would simply refuse to meet with them, turning them away...

However, what truly surprised the bald man was the fact that Hell Rush had followed Shi Feng's instructions, conveying the message personally.

The alliance between Netherworld Empire and Zero Wing was no longer a secret among the various superpowers, especially after the battle at the Dark World's Teleportation Gate. That battle had exposed the relationship between the two Guilds.

Hell Rush, however, was a famous Slaughtering God on the western continent. He even commanded Netherworld Empire's strongest trump legion. Even Violet Sword's Guild Leader would have to take him seriously, yet, he obediently played the role of Shi Feng's messenger...

"Good! Since Guild Leader Black Flame understands the situation, we won't overstay our welcome!" Long Wushang decided after calming himself. He then stood to leave the room with Hermit.

After they left Zero Wing's Residence, the air around Long Wushang dropped a few degrees, becoming so cold that nearby players shivered. Even the Azure experts that had tagged along shuddered as Long Wushang's frosty aura swept over them

"To think that even the famous Hell Rush would obey Black Flame.... I hadn't expected Zero Wing to have such a close relationship with Netherworld Empire. Violet Sword might make concessions if they find out about this," Hermit surmised, glancing at the twisted expression his comrade was making.

"Concessions?" Long Wushang laughed. "I admit that Zero Wing is clearly close with Netherworld Empire, but after all is said and done, they are only allies. Zero Wing has barely any power in the west, while Violet Sword is a titan. It is obvious who holds the advantage on the western continent. How much help would Netherworld Empire possibly be willing to offer Zero Wing?"

“Moreover, this matter involves Violet Sword’s future and prestige. The Guild won’t budge just because of Netherworld Empire’s interference. Violet Sword aims to join the Five Great Super Guilds, after all. So what if Zero Wing and Netherworld Empire are close allies?”

“And as for Black Flame’s plan to negotiate with Violet Sword personally, that’s nothing more than fool’s talk!”

“Regardless, we have, more or less, completed our goals here. Will you return now?” Hermit asked.

“Of course, I am returning,” Long Wushang growled, sneering at Zero Wing’s Residence. “Violet Sword has already warned the Long Family. Since Black Flame wants to be stubborn, he can’t blame me for passing his message on to Violet Sword. I can’t wait to see his confidence vanish!”

Long Wushang then left Stone Forest City and promptly returned to the western continent. He planned to inform the rest of his family and Violet Sword of everything that had happened.

Shortly after Long Wushang’s group left, Silent Wonder received news of Shi Feng’s reply.

“You’re not really planning to visit Violet Sword, are you, Guild Leader?” Silent Wonder asked as she watched Shi Feng’s image on the screen before her.

Refusing to meet with her fifth uncle might have been fine, but Shi Feng was playing with fire by declaring that he’d resolve the matter personally.

Zero Wing had become a titan in the east, but its roots were still weak on the western continent. Trying to convince the Zeus Corporation and Violet Sword to abandon their plans would be impossible with the power Zero Wing currently commanded.

If this matter weren't handled carefully, Zero Wing could become the Zeus Corporation's enemy, which wouldn't be good news for the Guild.

"I've already committed to it, so naturally, I'll pay Violet Sword a visit," Shi Feng declared. "And we'll be going in style!"

"Going in style?" Silent Wonder could not help but wonder if Shi Feng had finally gone mad.

They were talking about Violet Sword, and the meeting venue would be in the west. Once the Super Guild learned about today's events, whether or not they reached Violet Sword's headquarters alive would be a problem, not to mention arriving in style.

"I've heard that Azure's younger generation has been invited to train with Violet Sword? Since that is the case, you should take a break from potion making and focus on training in the Lost Town," Shi Feng said, paying Silent Wonder's exasperated expression no mind. "We'll show your family and Violet Sword Zero Wing's strength!"

"But there are only a few days left before the family competition. I'm afraid it's too late to start training now..." Silent Wonder complained.

Her trust in Shi Feng's abilities, particularly his ability to help players level up, was unwavering. He had proven this with Dark Rhapsody and Deity Society's main force members.

However, the upcoming competition wouldn't be in the form of a standard duel between players. Rather, it would be a competition of combat standards and techniques.

The Azure Chamber of Commerce considered weapons and equipment to be external strength. The chamber was powerful enough that acquiring the best items was only a matter of time. Hence, Azure didn't need its younger members to rely on items, but their potential.

However, one couldn't just improve their combat standards and combat techniques in a short time. They would have to train arduously for long periods.

Now, there were only six days left until the family competition. Seeking a qualitative transformation within such a short time was simply unrealistic.

Moreover, while her combat talent was outstanding among Azure's younger generation, she was nowhere close to a match for the top geniuses that devoted themselves to combat.

From what she had learned during the previous competition in Demonstone Town, two of the younger generation were already close to the Domain Realm. One individual had already reached the Domain Realm. In contrast, she had only reached the Half-step Void Realm standard. There was no way she could defeat those geniuses.

"I know, but beggars can't be choosers. Besides, combat comes in various forms," Shi Feng said, realizing Silent Wonder's concerns. "In any case, just make your way here. I've already given you access to the Lost Town. You can head to the Residence to purchase a Transfer Scroll."

"Alright, I'll leave immediately," Silent Wonder agreed. Since Shi Feng was so confident, she had no choice but to follow his wishes. She had grown massively during her stay with Zero Wing, and she

couldn't possibly sully the Guild's name. Following which, she left the Candlelight Trading Firm and made her way to Zero Wing's Residence.

Chapter 2597 – Changes to the Lost Town Lost Town, Zero Wing's Residence:

With a flash of light, Silent Wonder arrived in the Residence's plaza, looking worried.

She was already at the Half-step Void Realm standard, and crossing that barrier soon was entirely possible. A single flash of inspiration is all she would need, especially in her current state. She had already refined her control and pushed her five senses to their limits. Making a breakthrough in a single battle was likely.

Even if she did, however, she'd, at most, reach the Void Realm before the family competition began. Her combat standards still wouldn't compare to Azure's combat geniuses. Thus, she struggled to understand why Shi Feng suddenly wanted her to train in the Lost Town.

This wasn't her first visit to the town, and she was aware of the Extraordinary Tower's astounding effects. The tower was the very reason she had reached the Truth Realm, although reaching the Ascension Realm was still a major challenge for her. In fact, reaching the Ascension Realm would be much harder than reaching the Void Realm.

"Huh? This place..."

Before she had even exited the teleportation array, however, the scenery dumbfounded Silent Wonder.

Many of Zero Wing's members fought translucent phantom clones both within and outside of the Residence. Their battles were fierce, and some even met their demise. Meanwhile, the Zero Wing members watching from the side seemed envious...

However, what truly surprised Silent Wonder was the incredibly low Mana density within the Lost Town. She couldn't even sense the flow of Mana around her. Conversely, the Mana within her felt far more apparent than usual. She also found it easier to manipulate. Moreover, her mind didn't feel clogged in the Lost Town like it did in most Mana deficient environments.

She knew exactly how valuable such an environment was.

The various powers' Tier 3 experts were all busy, desperately hunting for methods to unlock their Mana Bodies effectively, but perceiving the Mana within their bodies was incredibly difficult, let alone manipulate it.

The Lost Town's environment made it easier for players to notice their own Mana. Naturally, this would be immensely helpful as they worked to unlock their Mana Bodies' potential.

Even so, Silent Wonder shook her head, returning to her prior thoughts.

While the Lost Town's training environment had improved, she still only had six days left. Since travel to the western continent would require a full day, she only had five days to train. Even in such a useful environment, trying to unlock her Mana Body in five days was asking for the impossible.

When Silent Wonder entered the Extraordinary Tower, however, she was shocked again.

If the Lost Town were a precious training ground, the Extraordinary Tower was sacred, especially to players trying to increase their Mana control. In the tower, she could sense the various Mana elements around her and their movement patterns. It felt like nowhere else in God's Domain.

"What do you think? Do you think you can unlock your Mana Body's full potential before the family competition now?" Shi Feng asked as he approached Silent Wonder, smiling when he saw her dazed expression.

God's Domain offered a variety of ways to increase one's combat power, particularly after players reached Tier 3. The benefits Tier 3 players could gain by improving their Mana Control were in no way lesser than what they could gain by training their combat standards.

"I can train here regularly?" Silent Wonder asked.

This wasn't the first time she had stood in the tower, but it had changed drastically. She found it truly hard to believe that she could spend all her time training in such a sacred place. This environment was astonishing, and it had to come at a high price.

"Of course," Shi Feng confirmed, nodding.

He understood Silent Wonder's concerns, and maintaining the Extraordinary Tower was costly. After activating the Extraordinary Tower's third floor, he had to spend 20,000 Magic Crystals per day to keep the third floor's divine runes active. No first-rate Guild could afford the expense, but it wouldn't be a problem for Zero Wing. Zero Wing was more than capable of keeping the Extraordinary Tower running at full power every day.

"Although I can't make any promises, I should have a high chance of succeeding before the competition," Silent Wonder said after giving the matter some thought. "However, are you sure you won't reconsider visiting Violet Sword, Guild Leader? Violet Sword is the only one harassing my family

on the surface, but it's backed by the Zeus Corporation in this. If the situation isn't handled carefully, our Guild might not be allowed on the western continent anymore..."

Thanks to her experiments and the ancient potion Shi Feng had given her, she had unlocked over 30% of her Mana Body. If she focused on training in the Extraordinary Tower, reaching 100% within five days was definitely plausible.

However, the family competition was a small matter. The Zeus Corporation was the real problem.

The west's Guilds under the Zeus Corporation's control weren't limited to the Azure Chamber of Commerce and Violet Sword. The corporation had significant shares in a few adventurer alliances, as well. Even without Violet Sword's strength, Zeus could easily destroy a superpower in the west by simply issuing a bounty.

Meanwhile, most of Zero Wing's power lay in Cold Spring Forest. The Guild had far less influence outside of the neutral map. There were also quite a few superpowers targeting Zero Wing in the east, not to mention the west.

"As long as you can do it, it's fine. Don't worry about the Zeus Corporation. If they really want a fight in the end, I don't mind giving them one," Shi Feng said, brimming with confidence in his Guild.

"That's right! If the Zeus Corporation goes too far, we'll prove that Zero Wing isn't to be trifled with!" Aqua Rose commented as she approached. "That's why you don't have to worry about anything, Wonder. Just focus on unlocking your Mana Body. You mustn't let those bastards look down on Zero Wing."

Silent Wonder was touched by her companion's assurances, although their comments still rendered her speechless.

It was enough of a problem that Shi Feng, Zero Wing's Guild Leader, liked to cause trouble, but now, Aqua Rose had picked up the habit. They were talking about one of the top 10 corporations in the entire world, not an opponent to be casually provoked.

After Shi Feng gave Silent Wonder some tips to unlock her Mana Body, he sent Aqua Rose and the other Guild members with fully unlocked Mana Bodies to Zero Wing's Residence. He then began to plan the raid on the Demonwolf Den that housed the medium teleportation gate. Once they secured it, Zero Wing would have another open path to travel between the two main continents.

Some time later, 12 players gathered in the Residence's spacious plaza. Although there weren't many of them, the collective Mana they radiated substantially increased the Mana density in the plaza.

"Guild Leader, everyone's here, but I'm afraid that raiding the Demonwolf den you mentioned will be difficult with just 12 of us and those Personal Guards..." Aqua Rose said.

For the various superpowers, having 12 Tier 3 experts with fully unlocked Mana Bodies and several dozen Tier 3 Personal Guards was definitely something to be proud of. God's Domain's powers would even consider the force nearly invincible, but they were about to face the monsters in the Demonwolf den Shi Feng targeted.

According to Fire Dance's scouting reports, the Demonwolf den was home to more than 50,000 monsters, with Level 120 Lords being the weakest among them. Many of these monsters were even ordinary Grand Lords and Grand Lords with special Bloodlines. Moreover, the den had a particularly severe environment. Even Fire Dance, who had already unlocked her Mana Body's full potential, had nearly lost her life during her scouting mission.

"It would agree with you, but don't we still have a Tier 4 Personal Guard?" Shi Feng countered, chuckling as he gestured to the fully armed Versailles behind him.

“Him? But his level...” Aqua Rose only felt concern when she looked at the elderly NPC. Versailles might have an imposing aura, but she couldn’t help the feeling that he would be unreliable.

While Tier 4 NPCs were very powerful, Versailles was only a Secret-Silver Guard. At best, he could hold his ground against an ordinary Mythic monster of the same level, but the old man was only Level 112, which was even lower than the gathered players. How was he supposed to help them fight Level 120-plus Mythic monsters or Grand Lord ranked Mutated Demonwolves that rivaled Mythic monsters?

The rest of the team worried, as well. They could now afford to risk their Personal Guards’ lives, but resurrecting a fallen guard would still require the precious Water of Life. It wouldn’t be a laughing matter if all of these Personal Guards fell in battle.

“Let’s go. You’ll understand when the time comes,” Shi Feng dismissed the matter, still chuckling. He then led the team to the Demonwolf Den.

Meanwhile, on the western continent, Long Wushang had returned to the Azure Chamber of Commerce’s Residence and relayed Shi Feng’s message to his family’s Elders and Grand Elders.

Chapter 2598 – Clever Use of Personal Guards?

Winter Empire, Winter City, Azure Chamber of Commerce’s Residence:

The Long Family's Elders and Grand Elders sat within a luxurious, top-floor meeting room, all wearing solemn expressions. If a Tier 3 player entered the room, they'd shudder with fear upon sensing these individuals' chilly auras.

"What arrogance! Zero Wing is too full of itself!"

"That's right! It is simply responsible for a few achievements in the east, yet it assumes it can stand on the same level as Violet Sword in the west! It's ridiculous!"

"Zero Wing wants to negotiate with Violet Sword? Does the Guild think it rules the western continent?"

The Long Family's Elders and Grand Elders were furious when they heard Long Wushang's report.

They might've understood if Zero Wing had only refused to let Silent Wonder go. They all knew that the Guild must have invested a lot of resources in the girl's development, and according to Long Wushang's report, she was very close to becoming a Grandmaster Alchemist.

The importance of a Grandmaster Alchemist to a Guild went without saying. A single Grandmaster could be responsible for an entire Guild's prosperity.

The best potions currently on the market were Master rank. Obtaining a Grandmaster Potion was unthinkable at this stage of the game. Any random Grandmaster Potion would be immensely useful, and if a Guild could mass-produce such potions, that Guild would have an unimaginable advantage. Hence, they would've understood if Zero Wing had tried to fight for her.

However, Shi Feng hadn't stopped with a refusal to hand Silent Wonder over. He had also declared that Zero Wing would handle the situation, cutting Azure out. It was no more than calling them all incompetent!

"Since Zero Wing has had made the promise, we'll wash our hands of this matter for now. Once Zero Wing embarrasses itself, it will learn when to take a step back," the keen-witted, middle-aged man in the seat of honor said. "But what are Wonder's thoughts on this, Old Five?"

"Wonder is quite hesitant, Big Bro, but once Zero Wing embarrasses itself, I doubt she'll sit by and watch her Guild and family fall into ruin. I am sure she'll head to Violet Sword to continue her development," Long Wushang surmised after giving the matter some thought.

"That makes things simple. All we need to do is let things progress. While Zero Wing might be powerful enough to cause waves on the eastern continent, it can do nothing in the west. I realize that we don't wish to tie our family's elites to the Zeus Corporation, the company has chosen to use us as an example to unify the powers under its command. We have no way out of this mess," the clever man said, sighing.

The Elders and Grand Elders in the room fell silent.

The Long Family had become Azure's leading family and enjoyed untold glory on the surface, but in truth, it faced increasing pressure. If the Long Family could not continue to grow stronger, only an endless abyss would await them in the end. After all, the Zeus Corporation only supported the Azure Chamber of Commerce; it didn't care who was in charge.

As the clever man had said, Zero Wing couldn't accomplish anything on the western continent. All the Long Family needed to do was sit back and watch the show.

While the Long Family's Elders met, Shi Feng and his party finally reached the dangerous canyon within the east's Demonwolf Mountain Range after some time traveling on their Flying Mounts.

The canyon was full of Level 120-plus Demonwolves. Quite a few Grand Lord ranked Mutated Crimson Demonwolves and Three-headed Demonwolves rested on the canyon's broken cliffs, and two twenty-meter-tall, Mythic ranked Three-eyed Ice Demonwolves rested before a cave entrance, both radiating powerful, frosty auras.

[Ice Demonwolf] (Demonic Creature, High Lord)

Level 123

HP 63,000,000/63,000,000

[Three-headed Demonwolf] (Demonic Creature, Grand Lord) Level 124

HP 540,000,000/540,000,000

[Mutated Crimson Demonwolf] (Demonic Creature, Grand Lord) Level 125

HP 1,200,000,000/1,200,000,000

[Three-eyed Ice Demonwolf] (Demonic Creature, Mythic)

Level 127

HP 3,100,000,000/3,100,000,000

When they saw the countless monsters, Zero Wing's members gasped.

They had already learned about the incredible number of extremely powerful Demonwolves in the canyon from Fire Dance's report. Still, they couldn't help but shudder upon seeing the monsters for themselves. This looked like more of a Demonwolf city than a canyon.

Even a team with over 5,000 Level 120, Tier 3 players would struggle to raid this Demonwolf den, much less their team of 12 and several dozen Tier 3 Personal Guards.

With just a glance, they counted more than 300 Three-headed Demonwolves and Mutated Crimson Demonwolves, and the Grand Lords guarded every entrance into the canyon. Two Three-headed Ice Demonwolves also stood guard at the mouth of the cave.

The ice-type Mana the two Level 126 Mythic monsters radiated was no laughing matter, and since all of the team's players had fully unlocked their Mana Bodies, they could sense how much Mana the two monsters radiated. They felt as if they were staring at two gigantic mountains, not just Mythic monsters.

Enveloped in such overwhelming ice-type Mana, manipulating the ambient Mana would be impossible. Although they could use their own Mana in combat, their Mana would be suppressed, and they wouldn't be able to exhibit their Skills and Spells' full power.

“Guild Leader, must we really clear out these Demonwolves?” Cola asked. He had wanted to test his new equipment, but he couldn’t help his nervous gulp when he saw the Demonwolves here. “Even if we rely on the Personal Guards during the fight, I doubt we’ll have an easy time...”

“These Demonwolves must be dealt with, but we’re not relying on the Personal Guards. We’ll be doing the cleaning ourselves,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head.

“We will?” His Guild Leader’s plan surprised Cola.

Even working with their Personal Guards, they’d still have a difficult time defeating these Demonwolves, yet Shi Feng informed them that they’d take out the monsters on their own. This had to be a joke.

“Mhm. The Demonwolves here are special. Not only are there so many, and they’re strong, but they also have high combat standards. Moreover, this environment’s Mana suppression is quite powerful, which makes using Skills and Spells incredibly difficult. Players will have to rely on their combat techniques here. Consider this another training ground. From today on, we’ll train here,” Shi Feng said, nodding. “Once you run out of Stamina and Concentration, return to training in the Extraordinary Tower and recuperate. When you’ve rested, return here. Clearing this area will be our main task for the next few days.”

He had wanted to activate the medium teleportation point, boosting Zero Wing’s development speed, as soon as possible.

However, Shi Feng’s most recent battle on the Extraordinary Tower’s second floor had made one thing clear; the Realms of Truth weren’t as simple as he had initially assumed.

He had thought he had mastered a considerable portion of the Realms of Truth's principles, but in reality, he only knew the tip of the iceberg. He had never once truly exhibited the Realms of Truth's full potential during combat.

Meanwhile, Tier 3 was only a transition period for true powerhouses. The difference between their strength and that of ordinary experts would become more prominent as players reached Level 120 and began to challenge their Tier 4 Promotion Quests.

While Zero Wing had plenty of expert players, very few qualified to be called peak experts, and even fewer were apex experts that had reached the Domain Realm.

Although powerful weapons, equipment, and Bloodlines would be quite helpful during players' Tier 4 Promotion quests, their combat standards would be the deciding factor between completing the quest or not. This would be particularly true of players who challenged their Tier 4 Promotion Quests at a low level. They'd face much higher combat standard requirements than if they waited.

Since the Zeus Corporation was taking measures to consolidate its power, it was obvious that the various superpowers and major corporations had realized the significance of Tier 4. As a result, they were pooling their resources to nurture their peak and apex experts in preparation for their Tier 4 Promotion Quests.

In the past, the various superpowers had only realized how important Tier 4 was after a few apex experts had completed their Promotion Quests. However, due to the butterfly effect Shi Feng had caused, the superpowers now focused on training their high-tiered experts, rather than rely on zerg tactics as they had in his past life.

Hence, improving Zero Wing members' combat standards was of the utmost importance. If the various superpowers really were preparing their experts for the Tier 4 Promotion Quests, Zero Wing would be overpowered if it remained passive.

Aside from normal training, life-or-death battles with monsters was an absolute must if players wanted to grow stronger. Only by risking their lives in battle could players unlock more of their potential.

Now that Zero Wing had the Extraordinary Tower and the Demonwolf Mountain Range's special region in its grasp, he had to take advantage of these benefits.

"In that case, Guild Leader, why did we bring all of these Personal Guards?" Aqua Rose asked, confused.

It had taken a lot of manpower to secure so many powerful Personal Guards, yet Shi Feng didn't intend to use them in the fight. She didn't understand what he was trying to accomplish.

"They're here to watch us fight and help during crucial moments, saving our lives," Shi Feng seriously explained.

His statement left the rest of his team speechless. Was this the right way to use Personal Guards?

These Demonwolves were so powerful. Even if they fought alongside their Personal Guards, victory wasn't guaranteed, so how were these NPCs supposed to protect them?

"Since there are no more questions, let's begin our training!" Shi Feng declared, slashing Killing Ray through the empty air before him and sending a lightning bolt at a group of a dozen or so Demonwolves.

The attack startled over a thousand nearby monsters, and the Demonwolves turned to glare at Shi Feng's group, the rage in their eyes making Cola and the others shiver. Before the team could react, the thousand or so monsters charged toward them...

Chapter 2599 – True Tier 4

Cola and the others grew nervous as the Demonwolves swarmed. Most of the monsters were only High Lord ranked Ice Demonwolves, but with their high levels, their Basic Attributes could rival that of Level 115 Great Lords. In other words, they had to face more than 1,000 Great Lords of the same level simultaneously, and every one of these monsters had the combat standards to reach the Trial Tower's third floor.

Moreover, quite a few Three-headed Demonwolves ran with this pack. These monsters moved like a powerful tsunami that could wipe out anything in its path.

As the Demonwolves moved closer, and Zero Wing's members prepared for battle, the pack split into two and surrounded the team.

Completing the encirclement, the Ice Demonwolves opened a path for their Grand Lord ranked brethren, allowing the Three-headed Demonwolves to move to the front.

"How intelligent are these monsters?!" Cola's eyes nearly fell from their sockets.

These Demonwolves moved more like a well-trained army than a bunch of Demonic Creatures, and this army had been specifically trained to target players.

Before Cola and the others could react, one of the Three-headed Demonwolves charged forth. Over a hundred Ice Demonwolves followed the Grand Lord, providing cover.

Cola immediately responded by charging forward and using Justice Roar on the Three-headed Demonwolf.

Just as the blinding light radiated from Cola, before he could land an attack, however, a playful look flashed in the Grand Lord's eyes, confusing the Guardian Knight.

Two Ice Demonwolves then appeared from behind the Grand Lord, ramming their heads into Cola.

Peng!

The Ice Demonwolves bounced off Cola's armor, flying back, and the MT's assault came to a grinding halt. Before Cola could regain his stance, the Three-headed Demonwolf's paw descended toward him, enveloped in an ink-black glow.

"Don't you dare think I'm that easy to kill!" Cola roared, reacting quickly and raising his shield to block the attack.

The instant he raised his shield, however, he was dumbfounded.

This time, three more Ice Demonwolves appeared from the Grand Lord's sides...

A two-pronged assault!

Despite the fact that Demonic Creatures shouldn't possess much intellect, these Demonwolves knew how to work together to launch complicated assaults. Moreover, their coordination was simply perfect.

They had executed their strategy with flawless timing. Not even players could pull off such a tactic. It was as if these Demonwolves had practiced relentlessly to deal with him specifically.

Just as Cola thought all hope was lost, an Ice Wall rose up around him.

Boom!

The wall shook violently when the Three-headed Demonwolf and three Ice Demonwolves collided with it, but it held steady.

Stunned, Aqua Rose and the others glanced toward the origin of the Ice Wall's Mana.

None of them had been able to react to the Demonwolves' attacks in time to save Cola, but someone had cast Ice Wall around the MT just before the four monsters' attack landed. The Ice Wall was only a Tier 2 Spell, yet it had even stopped the Grand Lord ranked Three-headed Demonwolf. It was unbelievable!

Locating the caster, the team stared at Versailles, the elderly man behind Shi Feng.

However, to their surprise, there wasn't a magic array around the NPC or the crystalline staff he wielded, yet he had created the Ice Wall.

When players cast Spells, they first needed to form the necessary magic array. Even Instantaneous Spells required arrays to cast, and all magic arrays took time to form. Although Instantaneous Spells' arrays manifested much faster, time was still needed for their completion.

Versailles, however, had cast the Tier 2 Ice Wall without any magic arrays as if the Spell had taken shape with a thought. Moreover, his Ice Wall was astonishingly powerful.

Enraged, the Three-headed Demonwolf glared at Versailles. All three of the Grand Lord's heads opened their maws, and a twofold magic array began to form beneath the monster's feet.

After a brief pause, the three wolf heads spat a frightening storm, resembling a hurricane, which threatened to devour everyone in the area. No one had any time to dodge the attack.

In response, Versailles lifted his free hand and summoned a rock wall, isolating them from the Three-headed Demonwolf.

The powerful storm attack didn't even shake the rock wall. Even after exhausting its energy, the storm only cleaned the wall of loose dirt...

Cola and the others were flabbergasted.

That attack had undoubtedly been a Tier 3 Curse. Including the fact that the Three-headed Demonwolf was a Level 124 Grand Lord, the attack rivaled a full-powered hit from a Level 120 Mythic monster, yet Versailles had effortlessly blocked it...

Meanwhile, the Tier 4 NPC summoned stone spikes beneath the other two Three-headed Demonwolves, who were preparing a long-range ambush, and broke the other Grand Lords' concentration.

A Tier 4 NPC is actually this strong? Aqua Rose was utterly baffled as she watched.

She had thought Shi Feng was overestimating Versailles, who was only a Level 112 Secret-Silver Guard. He might be a Tier 4 NPC, but fighting this formidable Demonwolf army should still give him some trouble.

But after witnessing Versailles's performance, she understood why Shi Feng thought so highly of the elderly NPC.

Versailles had instantly cast three Spells to interrupt the three Grand Lords' attacks. In other words, he could triple instant-cast. Moreover, all three of his Spells were incredibly powerful, despite their low tier. Versailles was on a completely different level than the Tier 4 NPCs she had encountered before.

"Everyone, be more careful. Although we have Versailles' protection, it isn't foolproof. These Demonwolves are extraordinary. Not only are they incomparably cunning, but they also know how to take advantage of all sorts of opportunities. You need to be vigilant at all times," Shi Feng warned, chuckling when he saw his teammates' surprise.

Any NPC that could reach Tier 4 was a dragon among men. These individuals could protect entire cities without help. How could any of them possibly be weak?

Moreover, humans at Tier 4 were completely different from monsters at the same tier.

Humans needed to rely on techniques and Mana control to complete their Tier 4 Promotion Quests, but monsters could reach the tier as long as they and their Bloodline were sufficiently powerful. Hence, even if a Tier 4 human NPC was slightly lower-leveled than a Tier 4 monster, they could rely on their superior techniques to fill the gap. Furthermore, a Tier 4 Secret-Silver Guard's growth rate was by no means lacking.

Shi Feng's warning snapped everyone from their stupor, and a passionate flame began to burn in their eyes.

The Demonwolves before them were indeed extraordinary. That was clear after witnessing Cola's brief battle. Not only could these monsters chain their attacks, but they also knew how to target players' weak points. Most importantly, this wasn't a training session, but a life-threatening battle where they could exhibit their full potential.

This was a battlefield that all expert players dreamed of!

The 11 team members immediately cleared their minds and focused on the fight before them. Although their attention was on the Demonwolves in front of them, they kept an eye on the monsters around them, as well.

Shi Feng wasn't idle, either. He immediately charged at two of the Three-headed Demonwolves in the distance, trying to integrate his Basic Combat Techniques in his every movement.

Trying to use combat techniques with every action was incredibly difficult. When he had fought the Swordsmen on the Extraordinary Tower's second-floor staircase, he hadn't spared any attention or time for conducting such experiments. The tower had reduced his physique to that of a Tier 1 player, and he had barely been able to keep up with the second floor's Swordsmen as it was. If he had tried to combine combat techniques with his movements, his efforts would've yielded the opposite effect.

Fortunately, these Demonwolves were the perfect practice targets. Not only did they target players' weak points, but he could also maintain his Tier 3 physique during the fight. He would have more than enough energy to spare for practicing his combat technique integration.

Shi Feng proceeded to engage in a bitter battle with the two Three-headed Demonwolves and several hundred nearby Ice Demonwolves. Whenever he focused his attacks on the Grand Lords, the Ice Demonwolves pounced to intercept him. Some of the High Lords even used the chance to launch surprise attacks, preventing Shi Feng from using any of his Skills or Spells. He could only rely on combat techniques, which were faster, to defend himself.

As the battle progressed, Shi Feng grew increasingly familiar with using Basic Combat Techniques in combat.

Initially, he had only been able to execute a Basic Combat Technique perfectly once every dozen or so moves, but he gradually reduced that to five or six moves. As he did, his fight against the Three-headed Demonwolves became easier. Now, even his normal attacks were stronger than the Level 124 Grand Lords'. In fact, Shi Feng began to gain the advantage against the two Three-headed Demonwolves and several hundred Ice Demonwolves as the battle continued.

Aqua Rose and the others also improved with flying speed. At first, their fight with the Demonwolves had been arduous, and Versailles had had to rescue them from time to time. However, they began to learn how to use their environment, and now, all of their movements resembled combat techniques.

The team continued to train for five consecutive days. During that time, they traveled between the Demonwolf den and the Extraordinary Tower. Not only had all of the team members reached the Ascension Realm standard in the end, but Fire Dance, Violet Cloud, and Aqua Rose had also created customized Bronze Combat Techniques.

Everyone had also leveled with astonishing speed.

The Demonwolf den's monsters didn't drop loot, but they did grant abundant EXP. In addition, Shi Feng had sent the Personal Guards to clear out a portion of the den while everyone trained. As a result, the team members had leveled twice during the past five days. Unfortunately, due to the Demon God, Atlock's Soul Curse, Shi Feng had lost one of the two levels he had earned. Hence, he had only reached Level 118.

Sure enough, my combat power has risen considerably after integrating Basic Combat Techniques with my movements. Overall, both my offense and defense have improved. If I can do the same with Advanced Combat Techniques, I might be able to transcend tiers, Shi Feng thought as he fought three Three-headed Demonwolves simultaneously.

After five days of frantic training, he had finally merged Basic Combat Techniques with his movements. Now, he could effortlessly execute a Basic Combat Technique with every action. As a result, his strength had undergone a qualitative transformation, and he could now pass the 90th step on the Extraordinary Tower's second-floor staircase.

However, he still hit a roadblock on the 96th step during his fight with three Black Swordsmen. If he wished to defeat them, he'd have to become as powerful as the Black Swordsmen, integrating Advanced Combat Techniques in his movements.

Unfortunately, the feat was too difficult to accomplish as he was. Advanced Combat Techniques consumed a lot more Stamina and Concentration than Basic Combat Techniques. They were also far more complex. Executing an Advanced Combat Technique normally was already a challenge. Trying to use one with every action was beyond Shi Feng right now.

"Guild Leader, we're almost out of time. If we don't hurry to the western continent now, Wonder won't make it for the family competition," Aqua Rose announced when she realized Shi Feng was engrossed in his fight.

"It's already time?" Shi Feng felt as if time had passed too quickly. "Alright, let's get ready to return, then!"

Chapter 2600 – Monstrous Upstarts West Continent, Frost Hills, Azure City:

As a Guild City in a Level 90 neutral map, Azure City played a transitional role for many of the Winter Empire's players as they prepared to travel to Level 100-plus maps. Including the fact that the city's ruling Guild, the Azure Chamber of Commerce, was one of trade and business, the city had become the largest trade hub in the empire. Many players and powers traveled to Azure City on business, and the city enjoyed easily over five million visitors per day.

A long line of players had formed at the city gates, waiting to enter, and from time to time, they saw gigantic Flying Mounts pass overhead, making the ordinary players in line jealous.

"Azure City is amazing. I've never seen Flying Mounts in other Guild Cities, yet so many have passed by while I've been in line!" an independent, Level 103 Berserker exclaimed as he watched a Two-headed Vulture soar past.

"There are usually quite a few Flying Mounts coming and going from Azure City every day, but there seem to be far more today. I've heard that Azure is hosting the competition for its younger generation and has invited several powers to watch. I assume those Flying Mounts belong to the invited powers' upper echelons," a Level 108 youth wearing a Guild Emblem explained.

"A competition among Azure's younger generation?" The comment confused the Berserker. "What's so great about that? Isn't it just a PvP tournament between a bunch of unknown upstarts? It's not even a competition between peak experts, yet all of these powers are attending with such fanfare."

"I take it you don't know much about Azure. Azure is a veteran Guild run by multiple families. It's main shareholders make their living through virtual reality games. Unlike the various superpowers' experts, who generally start training only after turning 15 or 16, Azure's younger generation start their training during childhood. They're all astonishingly strong, far stronger than the various superpowers' ordinary experts. Some of them are even stronger than the superpowers' peak experts," the Elementalist youth explained, rolling his eyes. "Moreover, this competition revolves around combat standards and techniques. You can learn plenty just by watching the fight. Why else would Azure's partnered powers bother showing up? I bet most of them have brought their younger talents to watch, as well."

"I heard that this year is going to be extraordinary. Many of Azure's younger members have been training with Violet Sword. A few days ago, Violet Sword even announced that someone from Azure's younger generation fought Wildfighter, one of the vice commanders for the chamber's strongest trump card, to a standstill. Violet Sword's upper echelons were stunned," a Level 110, Tier 3 Swordsman wearing a Guild Emblem similar to the Elementalist youth's said.

"Fought Wildfighter to a standstill? Who are you trying to fool? Wildfighter is one of the top 30 players on the God's Domain Experts List!" the independent Berserker protested, skeptical. "Wildfighter has been famous for over a decade and is a publicly acknowledged monster. I've heard that Wildfighter can hold his ground against a Level 110 Mythic monster by himself. How could one of Azure's youngsters possibly fight him to a standstill?"

Almost every Berserker player on the western continent knew about Wildfighter. For many Berserkers, he was a goal and idol. Naturally, this Level 103 Berserker was no exception.

"This is insider information. One of my friends is a core member in Violet Sword," the Level 110 Swordsman argued. "I wish I could watch the competition, too. Who knows? It might give me an idea of how to grow stronger."

One-on-one duels between peak experts were rare, and even when they happened, the various superpowers kept a tight lid on the matter. Ordinary players only got to watch peak experts in action when the various major powers or superpowers waged war against each other. However, large-scale battles weren't as useful when trying to improve one's combat standards.

Peak experts typically relied on their incredibly high Basic Attributes to overwhelm their opponents. They rarely used complex techniques in battle. When peak experts met on the battlefield, their fights were rarely one-on-one.

To put it simply, opportunities to watch two peak experts rely on techniques in a duel were invaluable. Many players spent big bucks to spectate.

While these several players chatted amongst themselves, a sharp cry rang through the air, echoing throughout the area.

Everyone turned to find the source of this cry, spotting a giant eagle with a wingspan of over twenty meters. The bird of prey was shrouded in a black fog as it drew closer to Azure City.

“Crap! That’s Violet Sword’s Netherflame Eagle! Violet Sword is attending the competition, too?”

“What a powerful aura! That eagle is nearly as strong as a Grand Lord!”

“Nearly? I’ve heard that the Netherflame Eagle can take down Grand Lords of the same level. Very few Flying Mounts in the east are as powerful.”

Awe flashed in everyone’s eyes as they spoke about the Flying Mount above.

A Flying Mount that rivaled Grand Lords of the same level was incredibly useful. As long as players had high enough DPS and that Flying Mount, killing Grand Lords in the fields with a small team was entirely possible. Furthermore, the Netherflame Eagle was fast enough to save players plenty of travel time.

As everyone discussed the Flying Mount, the Netherflame Eagle blurred as it flew to Azure’s Residence within the city.

When the massive Flying Mount landed, over a dozen people jumped off its back. They were all Level 111, except for the white-haired old man that remained seated; he had already reached Level 112.

“Violet Sword has taught you everything you need to know. I hope you won’t disgrace the Guild’s good name. If you fail, you’d better not mention that I taught you. You won’t get a second chance to train with Violet Sword, either!” the white-haired elder indifferently warned his travel companions.

“Don’t worry, Instructor Torre. We’ll show the Long Family how foolish they’ve been to decline your training,” a silvery-eyed, blue-haired youth with a greatsword slung across his back respectfully promised.

“Good. I will be waiting in Holy Flame City. Do not disappoint your elders or me!” the white-haired elder said, nodding. His gaze held a hint of warmth as he looked down at the blue-haired boy.

Atop his Netherflame Eagle, the white-haired elder left the city. Meanwhile, the blue-haired youth’s group immediately attracted the attention of Azure’s members and upper echelons.

“Fifth Uncle, they’ve clearly grown a lot stronger during their training, especially Solitary Frost. I still can’t believe he fought Wildfighter to a standstill. I’ve also heard that he has a favorable view of Yan Xiaoqian, and she has made great progress with her training. They won’t be easy opponents,” Burning Owl cautioned, astonished as he watched the group of youths in the middle of the plaza.

Burning Owl had thought he had a chance of securing one of the top three positions in the upcoming competition, but after seeing the other families’ experts return from their training with Violet Sword, his confidence started to waver.

“Let’s hope Silk Moon has improved as well. Otherwise, our family might struggle to rank among the top three,” Long Wushang agreed, frowning.

The Long Family didn't expect to earn first place in this competition. The gap between their younger members' strength and the other families' participants was simply too large. Solitary Frost, in particular, was on an entirely different level, and many of the others had already reached the Void Realm.

Silk Moon, the Long Family's most talented combat player among the Long Family's younger generation, was the family's last hope.

Just as Solitary Frost's group was about to leave the plaza, and the crowd was about to disperse, everyone heard a loud humming from above the city, causing quite the commotion.

"What's that sound?"

"Is some kind of special event about to happen in Azure City?"

Everyone was curious about the humming sound, with many players emerging from hotels and bars to get a better look at its source.

When everyone found the sound's origin, however, they were all dumbfounded. A hundred-meter-long, steel behemoth flew toward the city as they watched.

"What's going on!? Is that a Flying Ship?!"