

Chapter 2701 – Era of Hegemony Begins

Silverwing City, Zero Wing's Residence:

Along with a flash of brilliance in the underground secret room, Shi Feng's figure gradually appeared. Unlike the previous times he had logged into God's Domain, Shi Feng now felt a little dizzy, the dizziness lasting for several seconds. And when he recovered, he found that everything in front of him seemed completely different.

If the previous God's Domain looked like an extremely high-definition image in Shi Feng's eyes, then the current God's Domain looked like the real thing. In other words, the sense of reality he got from the game was on a completely different level.

This kind of realism is so nostalgic. A smile appeared on Shi Feng's face when he perceived his current situation. Most players wouldn't notice any significant changes in the game's realism after the major update. However, for Shi Feng, who had fought in God's Domain for ten years in his previous life, the changes were distinct. Previously, he constantly felt as if there was a barrier between his body and brain. He couldn't control his virtual body as easily as he did his real body no matter what. However, this barrier was now gone. It was like the difference between 99% and 100%.

This kind of change might not mean anything to ordinary players, but the difference was massive for expert players.

Take humans and gorillas, for example. Despite there being only a 1% genetic difference, the two were worlds apart.

Combat in God's Domain was different from combat in the real world. Due to physical limitations, there were many techniques the human body could not exhibit in the real world. Take a child trying to lift a one-tonne sword, for example. With how tiny the child's physique was, such a feat would be impossible.

However, what if the child's physique allowed him to swing the sword easily? One could easily imagine how terrifying the child's destructive power would be. After adjusting to the changes, Shi Feng left the secret room, heading to his office to sort out the information on the major update.

When Shi Feng walked out of the secret room, the Tier 3 NPC guard stationed at its entrance panicked. Like a frightened rabbit, the guard hurriedly straightened his back and put on a respectful look.

"Good morning, Milord!" the Tier 3 NPC respectfully saluted Shi Feng.

"Good morning." Shi Feng nodded and smiled at the NPC named Flett. It's finally here. I wonder how chaotic God's Domain's major forces will become?

In reality, the biggest change brought about by God's Domain's first major update wasn't in the realism but the NPCs and monsters.

Both NPCs and monsters gained their own thoughts after the major update.

Yes, thoughts! Not intelligence! The so-called AI that powered the NPCs and monsters before was merely a well-designed program that could react to players' words and actions to a reasonable extent. Most of the NPCs and monsters in the game couldn't actually think for themselves. Generally, only NPCs at Tier 5 and above had such an ability.

But now, no matter how weak the monster or NPC was, they would all have their own thoughts. This would bring about a great change to God's Domain.

After all, from a certain perspective, NPCs and monsters were no longer different from real humans. With this change, fights with monsters and NPCs would feel no different from PvP fights.

No!

To be precise, fights against monsters and NPCs would become even more troublesome than PvP fights. Unlike players, monsters and NPCs were accustomed to fighting in God's Domain. Some monsters and individual NPCs had started fighting at birth and accumulated ten, twenty, thirty years or more of experience. Their combat experience far exceeded that of ordinary players that had been in God's Domain for only one or two years. However, this still wasn't the greatest impact on God's Domain's players.

What would really affect players were the changes in the behavior of NPCs and monsters. From now on, NPCs would not only actively hunt monsters but also compete with players for various quests and resources at the Adventurer's Association. They would even contest for the precious resources and opportunities needed for class promotions.

When the first major update hit God's Domain in the past, this change had given the various powers a huge headache. After all, not only had they lost their monopoly on resources, but NPCs and monsters had even stolen a significant portion of these resources.

Of course, this change came with its benefits, as well.

For example, players unaffiliated with any powers could choose to join NPC teams to do quests. This option instantly increased the survivability of independent players. It also allowed independent players to get their hands on resources and equipment that were previously unattainable.

Meanwhile, after Shi Feng left the underground hall, the NPC named Frett breathed out a deep sigh of relief.

The Lord seems strange today. He normally doesn't talk to us guards, yet he actually said good morning to me today, Frett, who was clad in silver mail armor, thought in confusion as he looked at Shi Feng's departing back. Did the Lord notice me slacking, so he greeted me as a warning?

Thinking up to this point, Frett shivered involuntarily. This won't do. I mustn't slack off anymore. Such a good job is hard to find in the entire Star-Moon Kingdom. If I lose it, those former colleagues of mine will definitely treat me as a joke. Frett raised his vigilance and straightened his posture even further.

Meanwhile, when the other NPC guards in the underground hall saw Shi Feng, they also started secretly discussing Shi Feng's peculiar behavior today.

Shi Feng was someone standing in a lofty position. In the past, he normally wouldn't even say a word to them. He was basically the representation of coldness and ruthlessness. Yet, Shi Feng gave off the feeling of a spring breeze today.

This sudden transformation made the guards in the underground hall uneasy for some time. At this time, these NPCs weren't the only ones feeling doubtful and insecure. The players throughout God's Domain also felt surprised and confused by the changes to the game. The forums of God's Domain were also burning with discussions.

"Why do those NPCs feel like living people? They're even discussing us players in private. What is going on here?"

“You think that’s strange? My Personal Guard actually asked for a day off to take care of his injured wife.”

“You guys probably haven’t been to the Adventurer’s Association yet, right? Right now, NPCs are taking on the quests posted there. One NPC even seduced the beauty in my party to go questing with him.”

For a while, the players of God’s Domain were bewildered by these changes to the NPCs. Some found the changes novel, while others found them flabbergasting. However, most players rejoiced at these changes.

Such sentient NPCs were simply unheard-of. The players felt as if they had actually come to another world. This was especially true when they heard these NPCs discussing them. The NPCs would even rave about the experts among players.

Some well-known expert players even had fans among the NPCs, a situation ordinary players couldn’t help envying.

However, unlike ordinary players, God’s Domain’s various major powers were far less delighted at these changes. In fact, these sudden changes were practically fatal to some of the smaller Guilds.

This was because the major update didn’t just grant NPCs their own thoughts. The monsters out in the fields had also become much more troublesome to handle. This was especially true for monsters at the Lord rank or above. The wealth of combat experience they possessed made them even stronger than experts in terms of combat standards.

A Lord ranked monster could easily pummel a Tier 2 expert of the same level. Some Great Lords could even contend against Tier 3 experts.

However, this still wasn't the worst part. The truly terrible change the major update brought was the removal of fixed Dungeons.

Dungeons were a stable source of equipment and materials for the various major powers in God's Domain. Quite a number of Guilds would grind low-level Dungeons for all sorts of materials rather than raid high-level Dungeons.

In fact, small Guilds weren't the only ones to use this approach to secure materials. Even the various superpowers did so. After all, with the difficulty of high-level Dungeons, raiding them would definitely result in casualties, which would, in turn, cause the players in the team to regress. Hence, the various superpowers took the more conservative approach to obtain materials. They would have only one vanguard team for raiding high-difficulty Dungeons. That way, they could ensure that they possessed the latest and best equipment and materials available while simultaneously having a large amount of basic materials to supply the vanguard team. However, that all changed with the game's major update.

After the update, all the fixed Dungeons had disappeared. Now, only Dungeons that appeared at random were available. Meanwhile, some of these Dungeons were challenging, while some were a walk in the park. Moreover, every one of these Dungeons could be raided only once before they disappeared. If one didn't raid the Dungeon upon discovering it, there was a high chance someone else would raid it first.

This change dumbfounded not only the various small Guilds but even the superpowers.

With this situation, how were they supposed to develop their Guilds from now on?

Similarly, the various adventurer teams in God's Domain also started growing uneasy. Not only did resources grow scarcer, but NPCs had even emerged as competitors. One could easily imagine how

intense the fight for resources would become in the future. The various superpowers might even remove their disguises and start fighting and competing for real.

Silverwing City, Zero Wing's Residence, Guild Leader's Office:

"Guild Leader, everyone's arrived," Liang Jing reported as she looked at Shi Feng, who was arranging the latest information on God's Domain.

"Are Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow also here?" Shi Feng asked.

Although Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow had already exited the space-time maze, as they were transported to a special location, they couldn't contact others through the game at all. They could only contact others through the real world.

"They're here, but..." Hesitation appeared on Liang Jing's face.

Puzzled, Shi Feng asked, "But what?"

Tentatively, Liang Jing whispered, "I might be mistaken, but when I saw them just now, they felt alien."

Chapter 2702 – Silence

“Alien?”

Shi Feng failed to comprehend Liang Jing’s words for a moment.

As his assistant, Liang Jing didn’t just take care of affairs in Zero Wing’s headquarters. Normally, she would also help Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose with tasks in God’s Domain. Hence, she had frequent contact with the two Vice Guild Leaders. In fact, Liang Jing should be even more familiar with them than he was.

Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose had been absent from the Guild for only some weeks. No matter how he looked at it, Liang Jing shouldn’t have a reason to describe them as alien.

“Are you saying that their temperament has changed?” Shi Feng asked after giving the matter some thought. A person’s temperament would change along with the improvement of their knowledge and mental state, especially after a breakthrough in the limit of their brain activity. Shi Feng was a perfect example of this.

“No.” Shaking her head, Liang Jing whispered in a somewhat uncomfortable voice, “That kind of...feeling... It’s like looking at complete strangers wearing their faces...”

“Wearing their faces?” Liang Jing’s words surprised Shi Feng. “Are you sure?” “Mhm, I’m very sure!” Liang Jing said earnestly.

“Okay.” Shi Feng nodded solemnly. “This matter ends here. Just treat them like you normally do.”

“Guild Leader, are the Vice Guild Leaders alright?” Liang Jing asked worriedly.

No matter how she looked at it, this change simply wasn't normal. If Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose really had a problem, Zero Wing would be in great danger. After all, the two Vice Guild Leaders were responsible for most of the Guild's daily activities, whereas Shi Feng was mainly a figurehead.

"I'm not sure yet." Shi Feng shook his head. "I'm afraid I'll know what's going on only after I meet with them in person."

Space-time mazes were very special existences in God's Domain. Only an extremely small number of players would encounter a space-time maze when traveling through space-time passages. An even smaller number of players would encounter a mysterious space after leaving the space-time maze.

This mysterious space was unresolvable; many people attributed its appearance to a bug in the game.

Every player that entered this mysterious space would end up in a very special world. Nobody knew what kind of world it was, and only one thing existed in this world.

Slaughter!

One would either be hunted down endlessly!

Or hunt others endlessly!

Or fight on an endless battlefield!

It was as if the fragments of countless memories in God's Domain were collected in this special world.

Even when players were killed in this world, they wouldn't truly die. They would only go from one dream to another after their deaths, and this cycle would loop endlessly. Moreover, the pain players felt in this world wasn't mitigated in the slightest.

The concept of time in this world was supposedly blurred.

The time players experienced inside this world was something only their minds perceived, with no effect on their real bodies. Hence, even when a player spent one or five years inside this special world, only hours or days might have passed in the real world.

However, time was the scariest thing in existence. After all, time could wear down everything, let alone humans.

If Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose really came out from this mysterious space, a lot of time must've passed for them already, so much so that even their memories had blurred. Hence, it was only normal for them to change.

The only thing Shi Feng didn't know was how many years Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose had spent in that mysterious space.

Meanwhile, according to the statistics from his previous life, the longer the time one spent in that special world, the greater the influence on one's mentality.

Zero Wing Residence's top-floor conference room:

Zero Wing's upper echelon and core team leaders were currently seated inside this magnificent conference room. Of these people, even the weakest was a Level 116, Tier 3 player, while the strongest were Violet Cloud and Fire Dance, who had both reached Level 121 already. However, there was still a significant gap between them and Shi Feng, who was Level 125.

Fire Dance had already replaced her old gear with a set of dark-red leather armor. Based on the magic patterns etched into her armor, the armor was a set. Moreover, it even gave off the glow effect unique to Epic items. Fire Dance also had her hair tied up with a ribbon that resembled the starry sky. The ribbon gave her an indescribable sense of fierceness as if she were the empress of the night sky.

It seems Fire Dance also reaped a considerable harvest in the space-time maze. Shi Feng was slightly surprised at the dagger hanging by Fire Dance's waist.

Not only did the dagger exude a faint sense of hostility, but it even roiled the ambient Mana. If this dagger were unsheathed, he couldn't even begin to imagine the impact it would have on the environment.

Even Fragmented Legendary items paled in comparison to this dagger.

However, when Shi Feng swept his gaze across Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose, who sat on both sides of the conference table, he was taken aback.

How can this be? Shi Feng was rendered speechless.

After what Liang Jing had said, he had already mentally prepared himself for the worst.

However, now that he saw them in person, he realized that the two's situation exceeded his worst expectations.

Gentle Snow's and Aqua Rose's weapons and equipment remained the same as when they left the western continent. Even their levels were still at Level 117. However, the feeling the two gave off was utterly different.

Gentle Snow had been rather aloof in the past but still relatively sociable. On the other hand, Aqua Rose had been a cheerful and assertive woman, and her eyes had always sparkled with wisdom and ambition.

Now, however, the two of them could no longer be considered human. Neither of them exuded the slightest hint of emotion as if they were plants; they did not appear happy or sad. Although they were currently communicating with the others around them, their voices did not fluctuate with any emotion whatsoever.

The only thing Shi Feng could sense from the two was a deathly silence, although the feeling of silence each gave off was slightly different.

In the case of Gentle Snow, her silence resembled bones piled atop a battlefield. In the case of Aqua Rose, her silence was like a candle flame in the dark, carrying both death and hope.

Besides Shi Feng, everyone else inside the room also sensed the changes in Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose. If not for the Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose they retained in their memories, everyone might've even had the urge to flee the scene immediately.

“Guild Leader, did something happen to the two Vice Guild Leaders?” Youlan asked Shi Feng through a whisper.

The change to Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose might not be noteworthy for those unfamiliar with them. But for those who were, this change was simply terrifying and creepy.

“Given how they are now, it seems something must’ve happened,” Shi Feng answered, not hiding the truth. After all, this was obvious to everyone present. During the time Zero Wing’s members were secretly discussing Gentle Snow’s and Aqua Rose’s changes, Shi Feng also shifted his gaze to the two of them.

“How long did you two live in that world?” Shi Feng asked them through a whisper.

Chapter 2703 – Eighty Years

Shi Feng’s words were like a drop of water falling into a silent ocean. Although it couldn’t kick up any huge waves, it still caused ripples that spread out endlessly.

As soon as Shi Feng finished voicing his inquiry, a hint of surprise flashed across Gentle Snow’s and Aqua Rose’s calm eyes.

This surprise contained neither excitement nor joy. They didn’t feel as if they found someone that understood them, either.

They simply felt a little surprised.

They wondered why Shi Feng would know of this matter.

However, their surprise soon disappeared, and darkness and calmness returned to their eyes.

Afterward, Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow exchanged glances. Aqua Rose then turned to Shi Feng, an indifferent smile forming on her beautiful face.

“Sure enough, nothing can get past you, Guild Leader. We aren’t sure how long we lived in that world.

“However, according to our calculations, it should be 80 years.”

“Eighty years?”

Shi Feng couldn’t help but gasp. Even his mind had gone slightly numb. He had thought of the possibility of Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow living in that special world for a considerable period. He had even considered the possibility of them living there for a decade or two.

But 80 years...

Many people lived only 80 years in their lifetimes. Meanwhile, Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow had spent 80 years fighting ceaselessly every day. The mere thought was chilling.

To spend 80 years alone... Just the loneliness alone was already unimaginable. Any normal person would've most likely gone crazy already.

However, Aqua Rose's voice was incomparably calm, so calm that it was like she was talking about someone else's problem.

"Eighty years..." Complex emotions filled Shi Feng's eyes as he quietly observed Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow. "It's no wonder you two feel like monsters."

The moment he laid eyes on Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow, he could already tell that the two of them were no longer human.

After listening to Aqua Rose's explanation, he understood everything.

If the two of them had spent 80 years in endless slaughter and combat, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that they were the strongest in the world in combat experience. Compared to them, the ten years of combat experience he had in God's Domain was nothing. Not to mention, both of them were combat geniuses.

At this time, in terms of combat power, he was most likely a baby in front of Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow.

A baby trying to see through the thoughts and standards of an adult was simply a joke. Not to mention, Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow would be adults even among grandmaster martial artists.

This situation placed Shi Feng at a loss. He didn't know whether he should feel happy or helpless.

“Guild Leader, Frost Heaven’s Muxin just contacted us.” While Shi Feng was in a daze, Liang Jing, who stood beside him, suddenly spoke up. “Muxin wants Zero Wing to gather at the Fire Dragon Empire’s imperial capital. She says we are allowed to bring at most 20 people.”

“It seems they’re finally ready to act.” Shi Feng didn’t feel particularly surprised at this piece of news. After all, Duan Hanshan had already said that Frost Heaven would soon take action. “Did she tell you their plan?”

“She did.” Liang Jing nodded with a slightly gloomy face. “Guild Leader, are we really going to participate in Frost Heaven’s operation this time?”

“If possible, I wouldn’t want to, either. However, Frost Heaven’s offer is too tempting to refuse,” Shi Feng said with a bitter smile.

Three reserved slots for the Upper Zone. This wasn’t an opportunity one could come across every day. Even the various superpowers would pounce on it.

Not to mention, the Upper Zone had an important benefit he needed.

While Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose might’ve gained 80 years of combat experience in that special world and achieved inhuman levels of combat standards, these benefits came with a huge drawback.

On the surface, it would seem as if the two had lived in that special world for 80 years. However, only weeks had gone by in the real world.

The instant the two left that special world, it would be as if 80 years of memories had been downloaded into their brains—placing an unimaginable burden on both their brains and bodies.

During his previous life, the players that lived in that special world for two or three years had gradually had problems with their bodies after they returned. Eventually, they became paralyzed and had to be hospitalized for a month before they recovered. After all, digesting all these memories had consumed a lot of their mental strength, which definitely wasn't a good thing.

Meanwhile, both Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose had lived in that special world for 80 years. Shi Feng didn't dare imagine how massive a backlash they would suffer.

For the two's safety, he had to bring them to the Upper Zone.

Although the S-rank Nutrient Fluid had great recovery effects on the human body, it only helped a little in healing a person's brain and spirit. Only medicines for brain and spirit recovery could resolve this problem.

Of all the medicines Shi Feng knew, even the Life Potion wasn't particularly effective in spirit recovery. The most the Life Potion could do was restore ordinary depletions of mental strength. It was utterly ineffective against a brain overload like this.

The only solution he could think of now was the Upper Zone.

The Upper Zone was a special region the Green God Company constructed. There were plenty of unknowns inside. In fact, the precious S-rank Nutrient Fluids and Life Potions circulating in the market were merely obsolete medicine the Green God Company produced.

“Guild Leader, Frost Heaven is too ambitious,” Liang Jing commented despite herself. “If we’re not careful, Zero Wing might very well perish.”

“What are they planning to do?” Shi Feng asked curiously.

“Their goal this time is to become one of the Twelve Great Guilds of God’s Domain!” Liang Jing said.

The Twelve Great Guilds wasn’t a random title made up by players.

Instead, this was a title given to the 12 strongest Guilds recognized by the War God’s Temple!

The Player Guilds that become God’s Domain’s Twelve Great Guilds would enjoy numerous benefits across the main continent. They could even garrison an empire and be worshiped by the said empire.

An empire’s worship!

Just this point alone was more than enough to allow a Guild to pull ahead of the other superpowers. One could say that the position of the Twelve Great Guilds was something all superpowers had to compete for.

However, competing for this position wasn’t an easy task. A Guild had to satisfy a series of conditions to qualify.

Firstly, Guilds had to become one of the Top Ten Rookie Guilds. After that, they had to compete for the 12 reserve seats of the Twelve Great Guilds. However, this was going to be God's Domain's first competition for the reserve seats; the War God's Temple had announced that six were empty this year.

Hence, for this year only, Player Guilds could compete for the six empty reserve seats so long as they met the conditions for participation in the competition.

Due to Zero Wing's poor foundation, Shi Feng never even considered participating in the competition.

There were four conditions for participation.

One: Submit 2,000 units of Seven Luminaries Crystal to the War God's Temple

Two: Have a Guild Residence in the capital cities of 50 kingdoms and 12 empires. Simultaneously, the registering Guild must also have the status of a 4-star Guild.

Three: Have over 1,000 Tier 3 players in the Guild.

Four: Have 30 Guild Cities under the Guild's name.

These four basic conditions were extremely harsh. Ordinary Guilds shouldn't even dream of participating in the competition. In fact, even ordinary superpowers wouldn't qualify. Only the exceptionally strong superpowers could just barely meet the conditions.

According to the information Zero Wing obtained from the Secret Pavilion, close to 20 super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds would participate in the competition for the reserve seats, every one of them a titan in the virtual gaming industry. One could easily imagine how intense the competition would be.

“No wonder Frost Heaven made such a lucrative offer.” Realization also dawned upon Shi Feng.

In his previous life, Frost Heaven had first entered the ranks of Top Ten Rookie Guilds and eventually became one of the 12 reserve Guilds before slowly climbing up to join the Twelve Great Guilds.

However, Frost Heaven was not fully developed at this time. Trying to compete for one of the reserve seats so soon would most likely result in failure. Frost Heaven had to know this as well but was still grasping at a strand of hope. “Guild Leader, if we become Frost Heaven’s foreign aid, any Guild Frost Heaven confronts will probably treat us as a mortal enemy,” Liang Jing explained. The position of the 12 reserve seats was a throne built atop countless bones!

At present, Zero Wing was in a very terrible situation already.

On one side, there was Starlink. On the other side, there were the newly developed superpowers. There was even the extremely dangerous Saint’s Hand in the Orc Empire.

If they offended a few more superpowers now, Zero Wing would no longer have a future in God’s Domain.

“Although it is very dangerous, this is also a chance for Zero Wing. It would be a shame to let it go,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. “Fire Dance and the others should get ready. We’ll set out immediately!”

While contesting for the 12 reserve seats was indeed dangerous, if they succeeded, even as foreign aid, Zero Wing would receive the War God's Temple's recognition as well as some basic privileges.

For example, city garrison rights and worship rights!

While getting an entire country to worship Zero Wing was impossible, getting one city to do so was still possible. This was also why many Guilds had fought to become foreign aid for the participating Guilds in the past.

Chapter 2704 – Maddening Start Fire Dragon Empire, Flame Dragon City

Groups of players in Black Cloaks walked through the crowded commercial district of the imperial capital.

“What’s going on? Why are there so many cloaked players on the streets today? Moreover, every one of them is so strong!” a Level 56, Tier 1 player, who came to the commercial district to upgrade his equipment, exclaimed in surprise when he saw the procession of cloaked players.

Although Flame Dragon City was normally crowded with players, today’s foot traffic was much more exaggerated than usual. Moreover, not only was the foot traffic triple the regular volume, but many of these new arrivals also gave off a strange vibe.

In fact, players weren’t the only ones wearing Black Cloaks. There were plenty of cloaked NPCs walking through the city as well, and every one of them radiated a terrifying aura. Although the city’s resident

NPCs were holding private discussions over this change, now that NPCs could think for themselves, they were deliberately avoiding players while discussing.

“This is normal. You’ve just started playing

5 Domain recently, so you might not know this, but today is the competition for the reserve seats of God’s Domain’s Twelve Great Guilds,” a Level 109, Tier 3 man explained to the newcomer of his Guild.

“God’s Domain’s Twelve Great Guilds?” The rookie Shield Warrior was surprised at his senior’s words. “Isn’t that something determined by the Virtual Gaming Association?”

In the real world, the Virtual Gaming Association determined the publicly recognized Super Guilds annually. These positions were mostly fixed; very few changes would occur every year. “No! This event is hosted by the War God’s Temple to determine God’s Domain’s 12 strongest Guilds. It isn’t a competition hosted in the real world,” the Tier 3 man explained, chuckling. “Does our Guild have a chance to participate too?” the rookie Shield Warrior asked, a hint of fighting spirit surfacing in his eyes. He had never heard of such a huge event happening in God’s Domain before. Moreover, with God’s Domain’s current popularity, it wouldn’t be an exaggeration to call it the world’s biggest competition. If he could stand out in this competition, he would definitely rise to prominence.

Currently, the various major corporations were offering unprecedented prices to recruit experts in God’s Domain. In fact, the top 50 experts on the God’s Domain’s Experts List made even more money than A-list celebrities.

“We want to join, but the entry threshold is just too high. Even first-rate Guilds aren’t qualified.” The Tier 3 man smiled bitterly.

Nowadays, the various powers of God’s Domain were all talking about the reserve seat competition. Even NPCs were discussing it. The competition’s influence was unprecedented.

In such a major competition, let alone securing one of the reserve seats, just being able to participate would already serve as proof of a Guild's strength.

"In that case, is everyone here to participate in the competition today?" the rookie Shield Warrior asked.

"The cloaked people are most likely participants. As for everyone else, they should be here to spectate," the Tier 3 man explained.

"Spectate? Can we go watch, as well?" the rookie asked eagerly.

"This... I'm afraid that's not possible..." the Tier 3 man replied with some embarrassment. "The entry fee alone is 300 Gold, while the VIP rooms cost 5,000 Gold and 20 units of Seven Luminaries Crystal. Moreover, there are only 1,000 VIP rooms available." Three hundred Gold was a huge sum, even for current Tier 3 players. In fact, most Tier 3 players didn't have 300 Gold in their pockets. After all, with how high a Tier 3 player's daily expenses were, saving a lot of money was simply impossible. As for the VIP rooms, they were for the exclusive use of large Guilds; individuals simply couldn't afford them.

The 5,000 Gold aside, just the 20 units of Seven Luminaries Crystal was already more than enough to distress first-rate Guilds, what more second- and third-rate Guilds. At this moment, the Tier 3 man wasn't the only person feeling embarrassed over this situation. Most of the other Tier 3 experts on the street also sighed. "Spectating such a major competition would most likely yield a lot of benefits."

"I know, right? I heard that nearly 30 superpowers would participate in the competition, nearly one-third of them Super Guilds. Moreover, these superpowers are all sending their best. This is going to be the battle of a lifetime."

“I heard that too. Right now, everyone’s going crazy over the VIP rooms. Some second- and third-rate Guilds are even offering to pay double the price to get a room.”

Upon overhearing the discussions of other players on the street, the players who couldn’t afford an entrance ticket yearned for one.

God’s Domain’s various superpowers rarely waged war. They generally only fought in small skirmishes. However, the superpowers were now going all out. One could easily imagine how intense the competition would be.

Meanwhile, such a major competition was held only once a year.

Flame Dragon City, War God’s Temple: At this time, the various superpowers’ members had already thronged the majestic headquarters of the Fire Dragon Empire’s War God’s Temple, numbering in the tens of thousands. Even the War God’s Temple had no choice but to dispatch Level 180 guards to maintain order.

Meanwhile, on the top floor of a high-class restaurant near the War God’s Temple...

“These superpowers are really being careful. Every one of their participating members has hidden their statistics and strength with Black Cloaks,” Mu Lingsha said, her lips curled in disappointment as she looked at the crowd outside. “That’s normal. This competition is going to determine which superpower will hold hegemonic rights over God’s Domain. It is only natural for them to try to hide as much information as possible. Anyone who exposes their cards now will only make easy targets of themselves,” Unyielding Heart, who sat beside Mu Lingsha, said, chuckling. “However, I didn’t expect for so many superpowers to apply for the competition in the Fire Dragon Empire.”

“Although there are many empires in God’s Domain, only four of them are ancient nations. Any confident superpower wouldn’t let go of these four nations. While Guilds can register for the competition at any empire’s capital, the Guild that wins a reserve seat in their registered empire will receive additional benefits from the empire.” Sighing, Mu Lingsha continued, “It’s a pity Unyielding Soul lacks accumulations. Otherwise, we could’ve come here to try our luck too.”

“I wonder who will secure the six reserve seats?” When Unyielding Heart spoke of the reserve seats, a hint of yearning appeared in his eyes.

“We can probably already determine who will get five out of the six seats. The last is the important one. I’m afraid those Guilds are going to have a bloody battle,” Mu Lingsha said gloatingly. The competition for the reserve seats was most likely going to be extremely intense. After all, if nothing unexpected happened, five of the six available seats would go to the Five Great Super Guilds. This left the other superpowers to compete over just one seat. The mere thought of the competition’s intensity scared her.

“Look! Mythology’s people are here,” Mu Lingsha said as she looked at a group of undisguised players walking down the distant street. At the head of this team was none other than Cold Shadow.

Mythology’s arrival instantly cast a grim shadow over the plaza in front of the War God’s Temple.

Setting aside the fact that Mythology was one of the virtual gaming industry’s publicly acknowledged Five Great Super Guilds, just the fact that Mythology’s members were doing nothing to hide their strength already proved how confident Mythology was in its strength.

Although this team from Mythology wasn’t the main force that would participate in the competition, even the weakest in the team of several hundred was a Level 116, Tier 3 player. Moreover, the base equipment standard of these people was Level 115 Fine-Gold Set Equipment.

“So, this is Mythology’s strength?”

“As expected of one of the Five Great Super Guilds. Even the team they sent to register is already so powerful. I really wonder how strong Mythology’s representative team on the western continent is.”

The spectators from the various superpowers and large Guilds couldn’t help growing fearful when they looked at Mythology’s team.

Meanwhile, as Mythology’s members submitted their registration to the War God’s Temple, a round of exclamations suddenly rose from the plaza’s edge.

After Mythology’s team, another team of players actually arrived uncloaked. Moreover, this team only had a little over a dozen players in it.

“Are they insane?”

Mu Lingsha froze in the middle of sipping her black tea when she saw this small team.

After all, this team belonged to none other than the currently famous Zero Wing!

Chapter 2705 – We Have Our Way “They are as bold as ever.”

Cold Shadow, who was registering Mythology for the competition before the War God's Temple, was slightly surprised to see Shi Feng and the others among the crowd.

"They're tired of living!" a nearly three-meter-tall, heavily armored man standing beside Cold Shadow said disdainfully. "Previously, they rejected your kindness and missed out on a great opportunity. Now, they actually dare take part in this event, even exposing their own data. They shouldn't think of getting through the foreign aid's selection at this rate."

The various superpowers had all recruited foreign aid for this competition. However, due to the rules, they could recruit only 100 outside helpers, at most. Moreover, each helper cost 30 units of Seven Luminaries Crystal to register a huge burden on the various superpowers' finances.

To make matters worse, recruiting foreign aid was one thing. Whether the recruited foreign aid could pass the preliminary selection and earn points for the Guild they supported was another thing altogether. If the recruited foreign aid didn't pass the preliminary selection, then all the Seven Luminaries Crystals spent would go down the drain.

Due to these reasons, the various superpowers wouldn't let go of even the slightest chance to defeat their opponents, let alone give away advantageous information to their opponents.

With the classes in God's Domain countering each other, even peak experts would have trouble when going up against opponents that countered their class. In a situation where one side thoroughly understood their opponents' Basic Attributes and equipment, that side could accurately arrange the appropriate manpower to suppress their opponents.

Now that Zero Wing had leaked all this information, its members would be hard-pressed not to get targeted

"What is that Black Flame thinking?"

“Did nobody tell them that this operation requires concealment?”

The eyes of a group of cloaked players standing at the edge of the plaza nearly fell out of their sockets when Zero Wing’s members came into sight.

The competition for the Twelve Great Guilds’ reserve seats was an event of utmost importance. The various superpowers had spent a lot of effort just to hide their strength. Some superpowers had even purchased camouflage items for some of their ace members for fear that these members would get perfectly countered.

However, Zero Wing had done none of that and boldly displayed its information to the various superpowers.

“Hong Xinyuan, are these the trump cards you spent three reserve slots to recruit? You’ve truly opened this old man’s eyes!” an elderly man with graying hair said as he looked at Hong Xinyuan standing beside him. The wrath in his voice made even Muxin and the other Vice Guild Leaders nearby shudder.

“Great Elder Blue, this should be...an accident...” Muxin hurriedly explained to the blue-robed old man named Brilliant Blue.

Brilliant Blue was one of Frost Heaven’s Five Frost Pillars. Previously, Brilliant Blue had nearly flipped over Frost Heaven because of Hong Xinyuan’s decision to give away three Upper Zone reserve slots to Zero Wing.

In the past, the Boulder Corporation had rejected Brilliant Blue’s request for a reserve slot for his grandson. However, he had eventually dropped the matter. After all, the reserve slots were extremely

precious, and the Green God Company wouldn't necessarily gift the Boulder Corporation with slots every year.

Now, however, Hong Xinyuan had decided to give away three of these precious slots to a bunch of outsiders without even consulting with anyone. There was no way Brilliant Blue wouldn't get angry over this matter, especially with Zero Wing having made such a huge blunder now. "An accident?" Brilliant Blue laughed when he heard this. "That's right. This is indeed an accident. An accident on a scale this old man has never seen before!"

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Having no excuses for this situation, Hong Xinyuan said apologetically, "Some problems have indeed occurred this time, but Zero Wing's members are undoubtedly strong."

"They are indeed pretty good. Of the 17 of them, even the lowest-leveled person is Level 117, while the highest has even reached Level 121. Each of them also has six pieces of Epic Equipment on average. This is a rare sight even among the various superpowers' main force teams," Brilliant Blue said. He then turned to the other Elders present and continued, "However, they have exposed all their data now. It will be child's play for the other superpowers to counter them! "Frost Heaven's Seven Luminaries Crystals aren't easy to come by. Every piece is exchanged using the Guild members' blood and sweat. I don't want to see those crystals wasted. I suggest removing Zero Wing now and having my grandson's subordinates fill up the remaining slots."

When Brilliant Blue finished speaking, the Guild Elders present fell silent for a while.

"I think what Great Elder Blue said is logical. Now that Zero Wing has made such a blunder, we do need to replace them," one of the Vice Guild Leaders standing behind Brilliant Blue said and nodded.

“Blue’s words aren’t unreasonable. I also think that it is necessary to replace them,” a white-haired Grand Elder said. “The dispute over the reserve seats will greatly impact God’s Domain’s future. It might even determine Frost Heaven’s life and death. We cannot afford to be sloppy in this matter. We don’t have to take such a risk, either.”

“That’s right.” “There is indeed no need for us to take this risk.”

After the white-haired Grand Elder spoke up, the other Guild Elders present also started voicing their agreement with Brilliant Blue’s suggestion. As for the matter of finding new foreign aid to replace Zero Wing’s members, nobody present was concerned about that. The various superpowers had prepared plenty of substitutes for today’s event. Naturally, Frost Heaven wasn’t an exception.

Not to mention, Brilliant Blue’s grandson wasn’t some simpleton, either. In fact, he had gained the title of Sloth in the Flower of Seven Sins. If not for his having joined the Flower of Seven Sins, he would’ve already become a Vice Guild Leader in Frost Heaven.

Meanwhile, the Flower of Seven Sins was an organization proficient at assassination. Its members were natural killers. There was no superpower more adept at dealing with players than the Flower of Seven Sins, not even Super Guilds.

Brilliant Blue’s grandson was one of Frost Heaven’s trump cards in this competition. Having the Flower of Seven Sins’s peak experts replace Zero Wing’s members wouldn’t be a problem at all.

Of course, Brilliant Blue’s selfishness also played a role in his decision. The three reserve slots Hong Xinyuan offered to Zero Wing were actually his personal property; they didn’t belong to the Guild or the Boulder Corporation. Brilliant Blue couldn’t force Hong Xinyuan to give them to him. However, if Zero Wing got removed and Brilliant Blue’s grandson helped Frost Heaven secure a reserve seat...

Hong Xinyuan would have to give those three Upper Zone reserve slots to Brilliant Blue’s grandson to preserve his reputation.

Just as the various Elders present were about to reach a consensus, someone interrupted them. “Dear Elders, don’t you think you’re going a little too far?” Muxin said.

“Muxin, where do you think we’ve gone too far? Do you find my words unreasonable?” Brilliant Blue asked in dissatisfaction.

“What you said indeed makes sense, Great Elder Blue.” Muxin nodded. “However, Uncle Hong contributed nearly half of the Seven Luminaries Crystals we used to recruit foreign aid this time. If not for his contribution, Frost Heaven would’ve had difficulty collecting so many crystals. Now, Uncle Hong is only taking 17 slots for his own use, yet you are arbitrarily deciding to replace Zero Wing already. Isn’t that a bit much? At least let Uncle Hong decide this matter himself.”

At Muxin’s words, the Grand Elders and Elders present fell silent.

What Muxin said was the truth. Without the Seven Luminaries Crystals Hong Xinyuan contributed, they really wouldn’t have been able to register so many outside helpers for the competition. Now, Hong Xinyuan wasn’t even using one-fifth of the total slots. They indeed didn’t have the right to reject or help Hong Xinyuan decide.

“What you say is correct, but we are also doing this in consideration of the Guild’s future,” Brilliant Blue said righteously. “Old Hong, didn’t you contribute those crystals for the sake of the Guild, as well?”

Just when Brilliant Blue wanted to say something more, a dignified, middle-aged man in the team suddenly spoke up.

“Stop arguing! “Do you plan to make fools of yourselves in front of the other superpowers?!”

As soon as this middle-aged man spoke up, everyone present fell silent. Respect also appeared in everyone’s eyes as they looked at this man.

However, Brilliant Blue still refused to budge. “Guild Leader, we cannot afford to be careless in this matter.”

Others might be afraid of Seven Wonders, the Guild Leader of Frost Heaven, but not Brilliant Blue. Not only was Brilliant Blue one of the Five Frost Pillars, but he was also one generation older than Seven Wonders. Hence, Seven Wonders still had to take his words seriously.

“Enough!” Seven Wonders frowned. “This matter ends here! We will not remove Zero Wing! However, what Great Elder Blue said is reasonable, as well. Notify Zero Wing that we won’t help them during the preliminary selection. This is their problem, so they have to solve it themselves. Frost Heaven does not have any excess combat power to spare!”

“Guild Leader!” Muxin was startled. She never thought that Seven Wonders would make such a decision. This was equivalent to abandoning Zero Wing.

Hong Xinyuan also frowned at this decision. Without Frost Heaven’s assistance, Zero Wing would most likely have difficulty getting through the preliminaries. And even if Zero Wing passed, not many of them should remain. “Enough! Get it done!” Seven Wonders said resolutely. “Understood,” Muxin sighed.

Muxin was powerless to change Seven Wonders’ decision. She immediately relayed the news to Shi Feng. As for how far Zero Wing could reach, that would depend entirely on Zero Wing itself. “Guild Leader, Frost Heaven is having us fend for ourselves,” Yan Tianxing said, startled by the message Shi Feng shared with the team.

Yan Tianxing had advised Shi Feng to conceal their information. However, Shi Feng had rejected his suggestion.

Now, look what happened?

“What do you guys think?” Shi Feng asked Fire Dance and the others, chuckling.

“Let them. We have our way of doing things. Why should we play by their rules?” Fire Dance said nonchalantly.

“Big Sis Fire is right. I’ve also been itching for a good fight lately,” Violet Cloud said, a hint of excitement flashing in her eyes.

Similarly, Cola and the others also expressed their eagerness for a good fight.

“Since that’s the case, let’s go get registered.”

Chapter 2706 – Selection Battle

Inside a high-class bar near the War God’s Temple’s plaza...

A feminine man in a light-gray cloak appeared silently beside a handsome young man drinking red wine inside the bar. As if the feminine man did not exist, none of the bar's other occupants noticed his arrival.

"Young Master, it'll be difficult to get those reserve slots. Seven Wonders did not remove Zero Wing. He only decided to let Zero Wing fend for itself," the feminine man whispered. "Zero Wing's members have registered already. Now, all they have to do is wait three hours for the preliminary selection to begin."

"Zero Wing sure is lucky not to get removed even after making such a blunder." The handsome young man named Sorrowful Heaven frowned slightly, then said coldly, "However, Zero Wing shouldn't even think of getting its hands on even one of those reserve slots!"

"Sorrow, how about I attack them directly afterward?" a girl with disheveled hair sitting beside Sorrowful Heaven suggested, excitement sparkling in her eyes. The woman had the Flower of Seven Sins's symbol imprinted on her arm.

As soon as this small and delicate girl spoke up, everyone inside the bar shook visibly as they reluctantly recalled a scene in the past.

"Haze, you have to abide by the rules this time. Otherwise, I won't bring you out anymore," Sorrowful Heaven said. A hint of fear had also surfaced in his eyes when he looked at this harmless-looking girl.

Even after becoming one of the Seven Sins, Sorrowful Heaven still dared not act carelessly around this girl.

After all, death was the best relief when one went against this harmless girl. Even the Flower of Seven Sins's mysterious leader got a headache when dealing with her. If they did not manage her properly, she

would easily trigger a catastrophe. “Don’t worry. I’ll definitely listen to you during this mission. I won’t recklessly do anything to those people.” The girl named Imperial Haze nodded obediently and giggled.

“That’s good.” Sorrowful Heaven breathed out a sigh of relief. He then said slowly, “We don’t have to worry about Zero Wing this time. Now that Zero Wing has exposed all its data, the other superpowers’ foreign aid will target them first. We won’t have to do anything to Zero Wing. On the contrary, while everyone else is focused on Zero Wing, we can search for the War God Orders.”

The selection match for foreign aid was straightforward.

All registered foreign aid would be teleported to a special space to search for the War God Orders scattered there. They would have five hours to do so, and once the time was up, all participants holding a War God Order would pass the selection.

However, the number of War God Orders was limited to 100. In other words, only 100 players, at most, could pass the selection. Compared to the number of foreign aid the various superpowers had recruited, the number of available slots was pitifully small.

According to the information they obtained, six super-first-rate Guilds and three Super Guilds had come to the Fire Dragon Empire to register for the competition. This meant that 900 players would participate in the preliminary selection, and only one-ninth of these participants could officially become foreign aid. Everyone else would just be wasting their Seven Luminaries Crystals.

Meanwhile, Zero Wing only had 17 members participating in the selection. Trying to secure War God Orders while going up against so many experts was simply a fool’s dream.

As Sorrowful Heaven was considering how he could capitalize on Zero Wing's predicament, Cold Shadow was resting inside one of the War God's Temple's lounges. When she received news of Zero Wing's situation, she revealed a satisfied smile.

"Vice Guild Leader, did you receive good news?" the female Guardian Knight White Feather asked in surprise. "Yes!" Cold Shadow replied. "Although I don't know which dumb Guild it was that invited Zero Wing, Zero Wing is dead for sure this time! None of Zero Wing's members should even dream of passing the selection!"

"Vice Guild Leader, Zero Wing's 17 members possess extraordinary strength. While not all of them can pass, there is still a chance that two or three of them will succeed," White Feather said, shaking her head in disagreement. "It might've been possible before, but I'm afraid it's not anymore," Cold Shadow said in a playful tone. "According to our spies, the Sky Dragon House and Pride Empire have come forward to work with Demon Palace and Miracle to annihilate Zero Wing!" "How is this possible?!" This revelation stunned White Feather.

The competition for the six reserve seats was incredibly intense, and every participating power was treating the others as mortal enemies. Two superpowers working together was already unbelievable. Now, four superpowers had actually banded together to target Zero Wing.

What exactly had Zero Wing done to anger all these Guilds?

"Nothing's impossible." Chuckling, Cold Shadow said, "Did you forget whom Zero Wing offended before?"

"Is this Saint's Hand's doing?" White Feather immediately thought of the incomparably mysterious Saint's Hand.

“That’s right. Saint’s Hand promised the four Guilds something, and the four Guilds agreed without hesitation.” Cold Shadow nodded. Smiling, she continued, “I doubt even Zero Wing would’ve expected that this preliminary selection would turn into their execution.”

“Zero Wing is truly finished this time.” White Feather sighed at this situation.

Nearly half of the 900 players entering the battlefield were going to target Zero Wing. None of Zero Wing’s members should even think of leaving the battlefield alive. After all, the preliminary selection’s battlefield was a special space that prohibited players from using Berserk Skills and tools and increased the consumption of Stamina and Concentration by tenfold.

Such rules would greatly restrict the participants’ combat power. Even powerful players would have difficulty fighting for a long time and would be vulnerable to zerg tactics.

Meanwhile, players who died within that special space would not only lose five levels but also be prevented from logging into the game for five natural days. This was the price for participating in the competition for the Twelve Great Guilds’ reserve seats.

Zero Wing had mobilized all its top combatants for the competition this time. If Zero Wing team-wiped, the Guild would undoubtedly suffer a devastating blow.

Following which, time passed quickly. Amid the various superpowers’ anticipation, the nine foreign aid teams arrived inside the War God’s Temple’s selection hall.

A total of 900 players stood on all sides of the hall. Some groups were large, while others were small. However, aside from Zero Wing’s members, everyone else present had concealed their information using Black Cloaks.

“Are they the targets?”

“What a pitiful bunch. They probably don’t know that our four forces have joined hands already. Once the competition begins, we’ll attack them together.”

“I wonder if they’ll get scared silly at that time?”

“How unfortunate! I wanted to challenge that Black Flame to check the results of my recent training. Now, this chance is gone.”

The helpers of the Sky Dragon Family, Pride Empire, Demon Palace, and Miracle conversed with each other through the team chat, their words filled with ridicule and sympathy for Shi Feng’s group.

“Sorrow, those teams are acting strangely. Every one of them is actually staring at Zero Wing’s members,” Imperial Haze stated as she looked at the four superpowers’ members.

“That’s not surprising. Who asked Zero Wing’s members to be so courageous?” Sorrowful Heaven retorted nonchalantly. “If I weren’t afraid of Hong Xinyuan holding me accountable and refusing to give me those reserve slots afterward, I would send Zero Wing’s members on their way even if the other superpowers didn’t target them.” “Is that so?” Imperial Haze still couldn’t help growing uncertain as she looked at the four superpowers’ foreign aid teams. “By the way, we’ll first pretend to move together with Zero Wing afterward. However, so long as we come across other teams during the operation, we’ll immediately split away from Zero Wing and let Zero Wing’s members tie down the enemy. Remember, you better not take action,” Sorrowful Heaven said sternly.

“I understand.” Imperial Haze nodded.

Shortly after Sorrowful Heaven finished speaking, everyone in the hall felt their vision blur momentarily. When they recovered, they discovered that they had already arrived inside a forested valley.

After scanning his surroundings, Sorrowful Heaven found that the various teams were situated relatively close to each other. If they abandoned Zero Wing too soon, they would most likely get caught by a different team during their retreat.

“We’ll move together with Zero Wing first,” Sorrowful Heaven said through the team chat.

However, even after Sorrowful Heaven gave this command, none of the Flower of Seven Sins’s members moved. Instead, they all stood still, looking dumbfounded.

This was because nearly half of the foreign aid teams present had started dashing in their direction like a bunch of madmen as Sorrowful Heaven issued his command.

“What’s going on?” Sorrowful Heaven was similarly stunned as he looked at the several hundred players charging at his team from all directions.

Chapter 2707 – Fire Dragon’s Six Absolutes

Upon seeing 400 people acting in unison, let alone Sorrowful Heaven, even the other foreign aid teams in the distance were dumbfounded by this situation.

“Are these people crazy?”

“Zero Wing has only exposed some weaknesses that can be exploited. Do these people really need to behave like this?”

“What kind of Guild is Zero Wing? Did it desecrate these people’s ancestral graves?”

In the preliminary selection, it wasn’t far-fetched to say that aside from the members of one’s team, everyone else was an enemy. There did not exist any possibility for cooperation.

Yet, four teams were now working together to annihilate Zero Wing’s members. Moreover, these teams had perfect coordination with each other. Nobody would believe it if someone said there was no hatred between Zero Wing and these teams.

“Boss Sorrow, these people should be aiming at Zero Wing,” a Level 117, Tier 3 Ranger from the Flower of Seven Sins reported to Sorrowful Heaven. When he observed the movements and goal of these four teams, he gulped nervously despite himself.

“What exactly did Zero Wing do to make four superpowers take such drastic action?”

At this moment, Sorrowful Heaven couldn’t help staring at Shi Feng’s group in shock.

Based on the four teams’ coordinated movements, it was clear they had discussed things beforehand. Otherwise, they wouldn’t have gone all out to annihilate Zero Wing’s members as soon as the selection began.

Zero Wing was merely an up-and-coming pseudo-superpower, yet it had actually provoked four superpowers into working together to deal with it. This was definitely a first in God's Domain. If word of this situation spread, Zero Wing would instantly become famous throughout God's Domain.

"Boss, what should we do?" the Tier 3 Ranger asked.

"Let's wait and see first before making a decision," Sorrowful Heaven commanded calmly and quickly.

Based on the four teams' killing intent, he could tell that they weren't targeting the Flower of Seven Sins. Even so, he still had to be careful.

After all, every one of these foreign aid teams had famous experts in them, and even the weakest of their members was a Flowing Water Realm expert. Many of them were even Void Realm experts, an existence that even the Guild Leaders of first-rate Guilds had to tread carefully around.

The four teams' coordinated charge was equivalent to 400 Guild Leaders or Vice Guild Leaders of first-rate Guilds charging together. Just the thought of it made Sorrowful Heaven's scalp prickle.

Less than ten seconds later, several dozen figures dashed past the Flower of Seven Sins members, their passage scattering the surrounding flowers and grass.

Meanwhile, the moment these people passed by, everyone from the Flower of Seven Sins, with the exception of Imperial Haze, felt a sense of relief.

“The pressure they gave off is too frightening. I think over 80% of these people are Void Realm experts,” a Level 117, Tier 3 Assassin exclaimed as he wiped the sweat off his forehead.

The other Flower of Seven Sins members also nodded in agreement with this Tier 3 Assassin’s assessment.

Although it was indeed true that even their weakest members were at the Flowing Water Realm, there were only five Void Realm experts on their team. While Sorrowful Heaven was a Domain Realm expert, in this special space, he would have difficulty going up against three Void Realm experts simultaneously. He might even get killed.

In other words, if they excluded the monstrous Imperial Haze, the overall strength of the several dozen players that had just passed by was still above them.

Meanwhile, this was only a small portion of the strength four foreign aid teams commanded.

“You think the strongest among these people are only at the Void Realm?” After calming himself, Sorrowful Heaven couldn’t help rolling his eyes at his subordinates.

“Boss Sorrow, are you saying there are peerless experts hidden among these people?” Everyone gasped reflexively when they heard Sorrowful Heaven’s words.

Peerless experts!

They were existences even Super Guilds had to be wary of, the important mainstays of the various superpowers.

“Otherwise, do you think those superpowers would spend so many Seven Luminaries Crystals to recruit foreign aid?” Glancing at the afterimage left behind by a muscular old man, Sorrowful Heaven took a deep breath and said, “I suspect that old man who rushed past us just now is Three Autumns, one of the Grand Elders that founded the Fire Dragon Adventurer Alliance.”

“Three Autumns? The person known as Skyshaker?”

The Flower of Seven Sins members shuddered at this name.

According to the rumors, Three Autumns was a phenomenal existence. Relying on his incredible Ghost Hammer Technique, he had not only defeated several apex experts from the Sky Dragon Family but also fought one of the Super Guild’s Dragon Heads to a standstill.

After that feat, Three Autumns had gained the title of Skyshaker in the Fire Dragon Empire. This, in turn, allowed the newly emerged and loosely organized Fire Dragon Adventurer Alliance to get a foothold in the Fire Dragon Empire.

“Three Autumns should be the trump card of one of the foreign aid teams. The other teams should have their own peerless experts, as well.” As Sorrowful Heaven watched the four teams close in on Shi Feng’s group, an indescribable sense of shock filled him. “These four superpowers really think highly of Zero Wing!”

Although the Flower of Seven Sins team had Imperial Haze as a trump card, if it had to go up against four peerless experts simultaneously, only death awaited its members. Aside from Imperial Haze, everyone else wouldn’t have any chance to survive.

Just what kind of ability did Zero Wing possess to warrant such a frightening lineup?

While Sorrowful Heaven was feeling stunned, the four foreign aid teams had arrived before Zero Wing's members. A total of 400 powerful experts were directing their killing intent at Shi Feng and his companions.

The killing intent radiated by any one of these experts was more than enough to turn ordinary players pale.

Now that all 400 of these people were releasing their killing intent simultaneously, the space around Shi Feng's group even started to darken. In fact, even from over a thousand yards away, the Flower of Seven Sins's members still felt a chill crawl down their backs, and they felt an urge to flee.

"Young man, don't blame us for bullying you with numbers. If you have to blame someone, blame yourself for behaving too arrogantly and offending people you shouldn't offend!" Three Autumns said, sighing as he looked at Shi Feng.

"What's the point of talking to them? The sooner we get rid of them, the sooner we can get down to business!" the one-eyed, young male Guardian Knight standing beside Three Autumns said.

"Red Rain, don't say that. At least let them die knowingly. That way, they can have a smoother path ahead of them," a beautiful woman with long elven ears and a graceful figure chided with a smile.

"Black Flame, I originally wanted to have a fair fight with you, but work comes first for me. Don't blame me for prioritizing victory over fairness!" a white-haired youth wielding a greatsword declared as he walked out of the crowd.

When these four people appeared, the crowd spectating in the distance couldn't help gaping and gasping in shock.

"Skyshaker, Red Rain, Elven Enchantress, and Mad Sword. Why are all these people here?"

At this moment, let alone the Flowing Water Realm experts, even a Domain Realm expert like Sorrowful Heaven spontaneously broke out in a cold sweat. He never thought that his guess was actually on the mark.

Four of the Fire Dragon Empire's Six Absolutes had actually gathered here!

If these four people worked together, they could move unhindered in the Fire Dragon Empire. Even the empire's Super Guilds wouldn't dare to offend them casually.

"Guild Leader, these four people aren't ordinary opponents. It'll be risky for us to clash with them," Yan Tianxing warned as he looked at the four smiling people.

The fame of the Fire Dragon Empire's Six Absolutes resounded even in the distant Star-Moon Kingdom.

This was because every one of these Six Absolutes had gained their fame through their astonishing battle records. They were different from experts whose reputations were due to the bragging of Guilds.

"It seems even the heavens want Zero Wing dead this time!"

Sorrowful Heaven couldn't help but lament over this situation.

However, despite his feelings over the matter, he still eagerly hoped for Zero Wing's demise. Otherwise, the Upper Zone would forever be beyond his reach.

"Black Flame, now that you're aware of the situation, if you want to hate someone, hate yourself for being too arrogant!"

As soon as the Level 119 Elven Enchantress said this, she retrieved the bow slung on her back and shot an arrow at Shi Feng.

Tier 3 Skill, Sky Piercer!

The next moment, a blue flash punctured a hole through space and crossed the 60-yard distance in the blink of an eye. The arrow's speed was so fast that even Sorrowful Heaven and the other spectators failed to react to it immediately. Moreover, the arrow carried so much power that the punctured space continued cracking even after the arrow had passed.

"I just didn't see you for a while, and your arrow's speed has actually become faster? I could barely perceive it at this close distance," Red Rain said as he looked at Elven Enchantress.

"Isn't it better to let him die without pain?" Elven Enchantress smiled faintly as she put her longbow away.

Elven Enchantress's gentle smile awoke a sense of dread in the other three Absolutes present. None of them objected to her words, though.

If Elven Enchantress launched her arrow within 100 yards, even Tier 3 Assassins would fall without knowing what hit them. Not to mention, Shi Feng was only a Swordsman.

However, as soon as Elven Enchantress finished speaking, a playful chuckle entered everyone's ears.

"Die? I'm afraid you're still not quite up to scratch for that."

The next moment, a person actually walked out of the shattered space, and this person was even toying with the blue arrow Elven Enchantress shot out just now.

Chapter 2708 – Transient Sword

Upon seeing Shi Feng walk out of the shattered space, everyone from the four hostile teams fell deathly silent, their eyes nearly falling out of their sockets. "He's fine?"

"He actually blocked it?"

Everyone felt like they were dreaming when they saw Shi Feng emerge from Elven Enchantress's attack unscathed. Many of the Flowing Water Realm experts even rubbed their eyes to verify that they weren't hallucinating.

That was one of Elven Enchantress's arrows they were talking about!

According to rumor, the longbow Elven Enchantress wielded was a Fragmented Legendary Weapon, and she could even repulse Mythic monsters of the same level with its help.

Moreover, Elven Enchantress hadn't launched just any ordinary arrow at Shi Feng, either; the arrow she used was made entirely of precious Mana Jadesteel. The arrow also had ancient magic runes carved on it. Even a Tier 3 player using an ordinary longbow could repel a Mythic monster of the same level with this arrow.

The combination of these two things was what made Elven Enchantress one of the Fire Dragon Empire's Six Absolutes. "He actually blocked such a fast arrow?" "Black Flame is even stronger than what we heard. It seems the rumors of him being a peerless expert are true."

The Flower of Seven Sins's Tier 3 members spectating in the distance couldn't help but marvel at this scene.

Previously, they had failed to respond to Elven Enchantress's arrow despite having a bird's eye view of the battlefield. If they were targeted by such an arrow from a distance of several dozen yards, they didn't dare imagine what would happen.

"He blocked it?" Sorrowful Heaven eyed his subordinates with contempt when he overheard their discussion. "You think he merely blocked it?"

Sorrowful Heaven's words only confused them. "Look carefully. What is he holding in his hand?" Sorrowful Heaven questioned angrily.

"He's holding an arrow?" Everyone grew even more confused.

“You bunch...are really stupid!” Sorrowful Heaven was momentarily rendered speechless by his subordinates. He then turned to look at Shi Feng in the distance, horror surfacing in his eyes. “Arrows are considered consumables in God’s Domain. So long as they hit something, they will disintegrate, even if they get blocked by a Skill or a weapon.” “Then... The arrow in Black Flame’s hand...” The Flower of Seven Sins members subconsciously turned to look at the blue arrow Shi Feng held. Immediately, a chill overwhelmed their entire bodies.

“That’s right. The arrow never hit him. Instead, he snatched the arrow out of the air.” When Sorrowful Heaven finished speaking, rank disbelief filled his eyes.

At this point, Sorrowful Heaven wasn’t the only person to notice the crux of the problem. The four foreign aid teams’ Domain Realm experts also noticed it, and their faces turned ashen.

“Guild Leader?” Yan Tianxing also stared at Shi Feng in surprise.

Elven Enchantress’s attack was most likely top-notch even among the peerless experts in the current God’s Domain.

Nonetheless, Shi Feng had caught the arrow. Was this really a feat players could accomplish?

However, compared to the apex experts present, Skyshaker, Red Rain, Elven Enchantress, and Mad Sword found this situation even more unbelievable.

“How did he do it?” Elven Enchantress’s expression turned solemn as she gazed at Shi

Feng.

She knew better than anyone just how fast her simple attack was. If she launched this arrow of hers within 100 yards of her target, she was confident that even the other five of the Six Absolutes wouldn't be able to block it. Even speed-type Mythic monsters would get struck.

"Everyone, Black Flame is much stronger than we expected. I'm afraid the four of us will have to work together to take him down," Three Autumns suggested with a grim expression.

"Okay, I have no opinion." Red Rain nodded.

"It seems we can only do that," Mad Sword answered through gritted teeth.

They had their pride as peerless experts, and they disdained ganging up on people. However, as experts, they could see the gap between themselves and Shi Feng after just a single exchange.

To complete the task the four superpowers entrusted them, they had no choice but to work together.

Moreover, there was another important point: the death penalty in the selection battle. Even peerless experts like themselves would suffer a tremendous setback if they died here. "Good! In that case, Red Rain and I will keep Black Flame busy. Mad Sword, you and Elven Enchantress support us from the sides. Red Rain and I will use everything we have to create an opening. Once you find a chance, don't hold back," Three Autumns commanded quietly. "Also, everyone else, once the four of us pin down Black Flame, use everything you have to get rid of Zero Wing's other members. Do not let them support Black Flame!"

“No problem. Leave it to me to block him once the battle begins.” Red Rain nodded confidently. He was a Guardian Knight, while Three Autumns was a Berserker. This was an excellent melee combination for dealing with stronger opponents and creating opportunities.

In addition, Mad Sword was a greatsword-wielding Swordsman, and Elven Enchantress was a Ranger. Their classes were adept at executing finishing blows and ambushes.

Black Flame! I truly underestimated you. It’s no wonder those four superpowers are willing to work together to eliminate you. Elven Enchantress also grew serious as she took in Shi Feng’s nonchalant attitude. She then responded quietly, “Although I don’t want to, I’ll do my best to support you this time.” As a Ranger, having her arrows caught barehanded was a huge humiliation. Playing a supporting role in a fight was also the last thing she wanted to do. However, she couldn’t care less about her pride right now. Completing the mission had priority.

“Vice Alliance Leader Autumns, leave Zero Wing’s other members to us. We won’t let any of them assist Black Flame.”

“That’s right. They’re but 16 people. It’ll only take us a few seconds to get rid of them.”

The other members of the four foreign aid teams also responded to Three Autumns’s command, all of them expressing their confidence in resolving this matter quickly.

“Good! In three seconds, we’ll take action together!”

Since nobody had any objections to his commands, Three Autumns nodded and focused his attention on Shi Feng, who stood 30 yards away.

As for everyone else, they promptly spread out, seeking the optimal position to coordinate with each other.

However, after the foreign aid teams' members got to position, an indifferent voice broke the silence and made everyone shudder involuntarily. "It seems you are finally ready. In that case, I can make my move now."

Shi Feng's voice was indescribably calm. However, the meaning behind his words couldn't be any more obvious. He was basically making fun of the four Absolutes' determination to work together.

"What arrogance!"

Furious at Shi Feng's words, Red Rain immediately activated the Tier 3 Justice Sprint and charged at the Swordsman with his shield raised. The space around Red Rain turned blurry and chaotic, making it difficult for others to time and dodge or block his attack. "Go!"

Upon seeing this situation, Three Autumns commanded everyone to take action before joining the charge himself.

However, before Three Autumns could even take a step forward, everyone present suddenly felt as if time had switched to slow-mo.

This illusion lasted for a moment; then, everyone gasped. Before they realized it, Shi Feng was already standing behind Red Rain. A longsword as dark as night had also pierced Red Rain's heart.

Immediately afterward, Shi Feng pulled the longsword from Red Rain's back, and the Guardian Knight's HP drained away until nothing remained. Red Rain then collapsed onto the soft grass, his eyes wide with horror and confusion.

Chapter 2709 – Difference in Strength

“Impossible!”

“What happened?” “I must be dreaming!”

Red Rain's sudden death paralyzed the foreign aid teams' members who were thinking of attacking Zero Wing's other members. Some of them fell into shock, and others were petrified. However, one thing was for certain. The sight of Red Rain collapsing had already been thoroughly imprinted in their minds. They would never forget this scene for the rest of their lives.

“Is he even human?”

Sorrowful Heaven, who was spectating from a distance, was stunned. As he stared at the dead Guardian Knight, the shock in his eyes compounded. For a moment, he wondered if he was hallucinating. However, Sorrowful Heaven knew that what he saw was no illusion. At this time, the frightening aura Red Rain exuded had vanished. Even the life aura and Mana fluctuations the Guardian Knight radiated were no more. Only, he was having a hard time accepting this scene, so his brain had dreamed up an acceptable alternative to deny the reality.

At this time, Sorrowful Heaven wasn't the only Domain Realm expert plagued with such a feeling. Every spectating Domain Realm expert was the same; Yan Tianxing was no exception.

A peerless expert!

This was an existence that represented the peak combat power of God's Domain, yet one such expert currently lay dead on the ground. Meanwhile, the whole battle...

No!

This shouldn't even be considered a battle. In fact, most of the people present didn't even understand how Red Rain had suffered an attack.

"Monster! He definitely isn't human! He must be one of God's Domain's monsters in human shape!"

"Yes! That must be it! There's no way such a huge gap can exist between players!"

The players spectating from a distance couldn't help but exclaim one after another as they gazed at Shi Feng.

"Yes! Everyone, be careful! He must be a transformed monster! He's not a player at all!" "To think that such a monster would actually appear in the selection! We must notify the War God's Temple about this immediately!"

The foreign aid players planning to target Zero Wing's members overheard the spectating players' exclamations and lost their cool. Simultaneously, they frantically considered ways to contact the War God's Temple to slay Shi Feng. Only by embracing this logic could they return to the world they recognized.

After all, even the NPCs in God's Domain were behaving like actual humans nowadays. It wouldn't be strange for monsters to transform into players, either. "A monster?" Shi Feng chuckled involuntarily when he saw his demented opponents. "Indeed, I would look like a monster in your eyes. However, aren't you monsters in the eyes of ordinary players?"

Ultimately, God's Domain was still a game. So long as players continuously leveled up and obtained better weapons, equipment, Basic Attributes, physiques, reaction speed, Mana control, etc., their combat power would also keep rising. In fact, even an ordinary player could gain strength that was unfathomable to the current great experts.

God's Domain was precisely such an unreasonable world!

If this battle had occurred before Shi Feng had reached Tier 4, even he would have had to rely on tricks to defeat a peerless expert like Red Rain. However, after he got promoted to Tier 4, Red Rain was no different from an ant to him.

Yes. The gap between Tier 3 and Tier 4 classes was that massive!

In the eyes of others, peerless experts were invincible existences. However, to the current Shi Feng, they were like ants that he could squish with a wave of his hand.

In fact, to kill Red Rain, Shi Feng had only used the Tier 2 Wind Blade.

Meanwhile, everyone present was momentarily rendered speechless by Shi Feng's rhetorical question. Just as Shi Feng had said, ordinary players were nothing in their eyes. If they got serious, they could even kill ordinary players before the latter knew they were under attack.

At this time, Three Autumns, the eldest and most experienced player of the four teams, suddenly stepped forward.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, we admit defeat. Can I ask you to let us go?"

Although Three Autumns didn't understand how Shi Feng had become so strong, they had no choice but to abandon the assault on Zero Wing, given the circumstances. Now, retaining their lives had greater priority. After all, they weren't the four superpowers' subordinates but partners.

"You admit defeat?" Shi Feng was slightly surprised by Three Autumns's words. However, he quickly understood the elderly man's reason for doing so.

The death penalty for this selection battle was exceptionally heavy. Let alone apex experts, even peerless experts like Three Autumns would suffer a major setback.

"Yes." Three Autumns nodded.

None of the four allied foreign aid teams' members objected to Three Autumns's decision, either. After all, they truly couldn't imagine what would happen if they fought against a monster like Shi Feng.

After scanning the silent crowd around him, Shi Feng said calmly, "Sure, but you need to sign a contract with me. Once you leave this place, each of you must kill five experts belonging to the superpowers backing you, and these experts must be of the same standard as yourselves."

As soon as Shi Feng finished speaking, the four teams' experts immediately clamored in protest. "Guild Leader Black Flame, aren't you going too far?" Elven Enchantress frowned, a glint of anger appearing in her eyes. "If we really do as you say, do you think those superpowers will let us off the hook?"

They would, at most, lose five levels if they died on this battlefield. However, if they offended the superpowers backing them, they wouldn't just lose five levels but would most likely get hounded out of God's Domain. After all, if these superpowers did nothing after getting stabbed in the back by their so-called partners, who would take them seriously in the future?

"Going too far?" Shi Feng chuckled. "I don't think so at all. From how I see it, you take Zero Wing for a pushover. If Zero Wing were one of the Five Great Super Guilds, would you still find this condition to be too much?"

"Guild Leader Black Flame, is there a need to make such assumptions?" Breathing out a deep sigh, Three Autumns added, "If Zero Wing really were one of the Five Great Super Guilds, we wouldn't have accepted this partnership, to begin with. So, your assumption simply isn't valid."

"Also, while we are indeed no match for you, if it really comes down to a fight, you won't come out unscathed, either, Guild Leader Black Flame. After all, our Stamina and Concentration consumption is drastically increased here. How many people can you possibly kill by yourself? And how many people would your team have left at the end of the battle?"

"Rather than suffer mutual destruction, isn't it better if we settle things in another manner?"

Three Autumns clearly stated the various possible scenarios and listed their respective pros and cons. At this moment, let alone Youlan, Gentle Snow, and Aqua Rose, even Sorrowful Heaven, who was also in a leadership position, felt that this was the best option. After all, both sides weren't mortal enemies. To ensure Zero Wing's continued development, it was in Shi Feng's best interests to avoid unnecessary losses.

However, defying everyone's expectations, Shi Feng shook his head.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, are you intent on mutual destruction?" Three Autumns's expression twisted slightly. As a peerless expert of God's Domain and a Vice Alliance Master of the Fire Dragon Adventurer Alliance, it was already unbelievable that he was taking the initiative to admit defeat. He never thought that Shi Feng was actually a lunatic.

Meanwhile, upon seeing that Shi Feng refused to back off, Elven Enchantress snarled, "Black Flame, you'd better not go too far. You should know that we also represent the superpowers backing us this time. If you annihilate our teams, those superpowers definitely won't let you off the hook. Zero Wing won't be able to bear the consequences!"

"What you say is correct." Shi Feng nodded. He then shifted his gaze to Elven Enchantress. "However, you've made one mistake."

"Mistake?" Shi Feng's words puzzled Three Autumns. He couldn't figure out how he had misspoken.

The next moment, Shi Feng unsheathed the Abyssal Blade. Immediately, the intensity of the aura he exuded increased severalfold. With him as the center, all Mana within a 1,000-yard radius started to roil, and even the air trembled.

"And that is...the difference in strength!"

Chapter 2710 – Selection Battle Ends

As soon as Shi Feng finished speaking, everyone present could clearly sense that the space around them had changed completely. To be precise, the surrounding space had become hostile to them.

The heavy pressure the surrounding space subjected their bodies to felt like they were standing in a super-gravity area. They even had trouble moving their bodies.

On the other hand, as the lord of this space, Shi Feng could exert boundless strength with every one of his movements. “Not good! A Domain! This is a Mana Domain!”

Many of the four opposing teams’ experts instantly realized what was going on when they experienced this feeling of having their lives in someone else’s hands. The expressions of Three Autumns, Elven Enchantress, and Mad Sword also turned unprecedentedly grim.

Any player who had been mingling in God’s Domain for some time would know what a Mana Domain was.

It also determined whether an NPC was a powerhouse.

Every NPC that wielded a Mana Domain was an existence that players had to be wary of. After all, many of these NPCs could turn Tier 3 players into dust just by relying on their Mana Domains. They wouldn’t even need to move their bodies. “Why does he have a Mana Domain? Shouldn’t that be something only

a small minority of Tier 4 NPCs possess?” Elven Enchantress panicked. Now, when she looked at Shi Feng, her eyes no longer contained any anger, only fear.

This was a Mana Domain they were talking about!

With the emergence of this Domain, Shi Feng had basically become the ruler of this space!

“How is this possible?” Three Autumns was stunned by this situation, his heart churning with confusion. “Is he really not a player but a transformed monster?”

It might be fine if Shi Feng only possessed absurd strength. At worst, they could use zerg tactics to overwhelm his Stamina and Concentration.

A Mana Domain, however, was a different story. A Mana Domain specifically countered zerg tactics. If an individual stepped into a hostile Mana Domain without sufficient strength, they would be no different from ants before the Domain’s owner. They might not even be able to display any combat power.

Moreover, the Mana Domain Shi Feng revealed was simply outrageous, covering a 1,000-yard radius. With such a range, they couldn’t flee even if they wanted to.

At this moment, let alone Three Autumns and the other hostile players, even Yan Tianxing and the other members of Zero Wing’s upper echelon were stunned.

“The Guild Leader’s strength has already reached such a height?” Yan Tianxing gawked at Shi Feng, who currently stood proudly among the crowd of great experts.

With such strength, it wouldn't matter even if the four opposing teams ganged up on Shi Feng simultaneously. He could quickly dispatch these people with a few swings of his sword.

Only peerless experts like Three Autumns, who possessed exceptional Basic Attributes, could put up some resistance—a very laughable resistance because Three Autumns and the others wouldn't even manage to match an ordinary Tier 3 expert inside Shi Feng's Mana Domain.

Meanwhile, with Shi Feng's strength, he could easily dispose of ordinary Tier 3 experts, even without his Mana Domain's strengthening properties.

At this time, the spectating foreign aid teams outside Shi Feng's Mana Domain also panicked.

“Those four teams are dead for sure. With such a vast Mana Domain, they can't escape,” Sorrowful Heaven said, his heart filled with complicated feelings as he looked at Three Autumns and the others.

A joint team made up of four peerless experts and several hundred Tier 3 great experts was an incredibly powerful force, even in the Fire Dragon Empire. Nobody would dare oppose it.

Now, however, such a team could only wait to die.

“Boss Sorrow, what should we do now?” a Level 117, Tier 3 Assassin asked helplessly. With just a thought, Zero Wing could decide the fate of the four foreign aid teams opposing it, what more the fate of their small team.

“Escape!” Sorrowful Heaven replied instinctively as he looked at the gray space ahead of him.

Although their team currently had no enmity with Zero Wing, the Flower of Seven Sins had come into conflict with Zero Wing several times in the past. If Shi Feng was in a bad mood, he might decide to take care of them in passing.

“Escape?” Looking at the special space around them, the Tier 3 Assassin asked anxiously, “But, Boss, where do we escape to? This area isn’t particularly big. It won’t take more than half an hour to run a lap here.”

The special space used to host the preliminary selections might be considered large for ordinary Tier 3 experts. However, it was essentially a small cage for Domain Realm experts. Shi Feng could easily reap the lives of the people in this cage at any time.

“Forfeit! Everyone forfeit immediately!” Sorrowful Heaven ordered, gnashing his teeth.

Players weren’t required to fight to the death in the selection battle. If a participant didn’t wish to die, they could take the initiative to forfeit. However, forfeiting had a one-minute channeling process. Moreover, so long as players forfeited during the selection, not only would they automatically lose a level, but they also couldn’t log into God’s Domain for one natural day.

Hence, unless absolutely necessary, nobody would choose to forfeit.

However, Sorrowful Heaven couldn’t care less about the penalty for forfeiting, under the circumstances. Compared to getting killed by Shi Feng and losing five levels and being forced to remain offline for several days, forfeiting was a much better option. At this time, besides the Flower of Seven Sins’s team, the other foreign aid teams that didn’t attack Zero Wing also promptly forfeited their participation rights.

For a time, hundreds of light pillars rose inside the special space, creating a magnificent spectacle as if heaven was descending to earth. Unfortunately, only a handful of people inside the special space were in the mood to admire this beautiful scene.

Flame Dragon City:

As the competition for the six reserve seats still hadn't officially begun, the plaza outside the War God's Temple was crowded with the various superpowers' experts. Many of these experts chatted quietly about the preliminary selection currently underway.

"I heard nine superpowers are participating in the foreign aid selection this time. I wonder which superpower will have the most players remaining? It would be great if our Guild can have more people passing the selection. That would significantly ease our burden afterward."

"I'm afraid not many of our helpers will pass the selection. I just heard that the Sky Dragon Family, Pride Empire, Demon Palace, and Miracle recruited four of the Fire Dragon Empire's Six Absolutes. With these peerless experts around, trying to hold on to a War God Order will be incredibly difficult."

"Aren't those four Guilds a little too strong? They actually managed to recruit four Absolutes? What kind of price did they pay?"

"Although foreign aid won't be particularly helpful in the official competition, each one can still secure half as many points as an official Guild member. The opportunity to recruit a peerless expert as a helper is worth any price. After all, that is equivalent to having an extra peerless expert in the Guild."

At the mention of peerless experts, many of the players in the plaza reflexively turned to look at the members of the Sky Dragon Family, Pride Empire, Demon Palace, and Miracle in envy. After all, a Guild's foundation largely depended on the number of apex experts and peerless experts they possessed. Moreover, in this competition for the reserve seats, having even one additional peerless expert would be of significant help.

At this time, the various superpowers' upper echelons resting inside the War God's Temple were also filled with envy and anger.

"How did they manage to recruit four of the Six Absolutes? We clearly offered them astronomical prices before, yet they still declined. I never thought they would agree to help those four Guilds. With this, we'll be placed in an even tighter spot for manpower." Muxin revealed an ugly expression when she read the report she just received.

The matter of Zero Wing's data getting exposed had already placed Frost Heaven in a disadvantageous position. Now, four Guilds had managed to recruit peerless experts to assist them. This was basically rubbing salt into an open wound. "It seems these four Guilds will be occupying most of the foreign aid slots this time. We'll definitely be in a very unfavorable position later on." Brilliant Blue also wore a somber expression on his face.

Frost Heaven was already inferior to the other superpowers in terms of the number of peak experts and apex experts, to begin with. Hence, they had placed their hopes on their foreign aid to make up for the difference. However, this hope was growing slimmer and slimmer.

Hong Xinyuan also remained silent. He never imagined that the preliminary selection would be so intense, with even four of the Fire Dragon Empire's Six Absolutes taking the stage.

"No matter what, let's look at the results before we make any adjustments," Seven Wonders said.

Aside from Frost Heaven, the other superpowers were also panicking. They never thought that the Sky Dragon Family, Pride Empire, Demon Palace, and Miracle would become the selection battle's biggest winners.

As for the four Guilds in question, they basked in a moment of delight, feeling that the price they paid to hire the four Absolutes was well worth it.

Now, all they had to do was wait for the selection battle to end and the results to be announced.

"Those four Guilds were really cautious in their actions. Even we have just received news that they invited four of the Six Absolutes. Vice Guild Leader, I'm afraid we might have to change our plans afterward," White Feather said with a frown as she read the latest report.

Although the addition of four peerless experts wouldn't affect Mythology's overall situation, she still disliked such variables. "The Fire Dragon Empire's Six Absolutes?" The corners of Cold Shadow's lips curved up when she heard this. "With this, even Black Flame will have trouble surviving."

Previously, when she heard of the four superpowers' plan to suppress Zero Wing, she still felt relatively uneasy. She had seen Shi Feng's strength and tricks before. Killing him would be incredibly difficult. However, with four peerless experts added to the equation, combined with the special space's restrictions, Shi Feng's death was just about guaranteed.

As the various superpowers' upper echelons were predicting the selection battle's results, a bell suddenly tolled, the sound echoing throughout the War God's Temple.

This bell represented the end of the selection battle.

“What’s going on? The selection battle is over? Didn’t it just start?”

“Did the War God’s Temple make a mistake?”

“That shouldn’t be the case. Let’s go take a look.”

The selection battle’s abrupt end confused the various superpowers’ upper echelons. They hastened to the War God’s Temple’s central hall to find out what had happened.

Chapter 2711 – Lucky Zero Wing?

War God’s Temple’s central hall:

In response to the bell signaling the preliminary selection’s end, the various superpowers’ upper echelons quickly gathered in the normally deserted central hall.

In just a few moments, players filled one-third of the hall, which was the size of half a football field.

“The selection battle began less than ten minutes ago, yet the ending bell already rang. Did the selection’s rules change?”

“That shouldn’t be the case. The rules were verified before the competition.”

“But it ended in less than ten minutes. I doubt anyone can do anything in such a short time, right?”

...

The various superpowers’ upper echelons curiously discussed the selection battle’s abrupt end. All of them wanted to know why the selection ended so soon.

Amid the various discussions, a huge teleportation array appeared in the middle of the hall. A moment later, a stone stele emerged from the magic array. The appearance of the stele instantly attracted the various superpowers’ attention. This was especially true for the nine superpowers that had recruited foreign aid.

This was because the nine superpowers’ names were gradually appearing on the stele. The announcement of the number of players that passed the selection for each Guild was evidently forthcoming.

“What?! The results are actually out so soon?!”

“I wonder which Guild will have the most helpers? If anyone can get over 20 official foreign aid slots, it would be of significant help in the official competition.”

“According to the information we received, Miracle should have the best odds. After all, they recruited Elven Enchantress. She’s top-notch when it comes to long-range sniping and sneak attacks. She can easily snipe the War God Order holders. Also, compared to the five other Absolutes, her attacks are the trickiest to block.”

The various superpowers' upper echelons excitedly made conjectures as they watched the words slowly appear on the stele.

On the other hand, Frost Heaven's members grew nervous. According to the intelligence they secretly acquired, Frost Heaven's overall strength could only be considered average. If they lacked sufficient foreign aid, they would most likely lose all hope of gaining one of the six reserve seats.

The official competition for the reserve seats would be a struggle for land and resources. The greater the number of powerful experts one had, the more advantageous one's position.

After a Guild occupied a Resource Node, it would acquire a Resource Emblem. And when a player wore the Resource Emblem, so long as they did not leave the Node's range, the Guild they belonged to would continually earn Guild Points. Hence, the player wearing the Resource Emblem had to be incredibly strong.

Otherwise, it would be very easy for other Guilds' experts to ambush and kill the emblem holder.

"Ten! Just ten people is fine!" Muxin prayed quietly as she looked at the monument. She didn't place much hope in having many of their helpers pass the preliminaries. She only hoped that Frost Heaven's foreign aid count did not lag behind the other superpowers'.

"Ten? She sure knows how to dream." Thousand Miles, a Vice Guild Leader of Miracle, sneered when he overheard Muxin's mutterings from nearby. "It's a pity she invited Zero Wing. This dream of hers will never come true."

“Miles, you’ve gone too far this time. I only told you to instruct Elven Enchantress and the other three Guilds to suppress Zero Wing. Yet, you actually told them to annihilate Frost Heaven’s other helpers after eliminating Zero Wing!” Shredded Soul, Miracle’s First Vice Guild Leader, berated while shaking his head. “If Frost Heaven’s people find out about this, they’ll definitely create a lot of trouble for us in the future.”

“We’re going to have to reduce the other Guilds’ foreign aid count anyway. It doesn’t matter even if we have Frost Heaven suffer slightly greater losses. It’s Frost Heaven’s fault for seeking Zero Wing’s help, to begin with,” Thousand Miles countered contemptuously.

He bore a massive grudge against Zero Wing.

It was all because of Zero Wing that his status in the Guild had repeatedly fallen. He naturally wouldn’t let go of an opportunity to take revenge. In fact, to deal with Zero Wing, he had taken the initiative to persuade the Guild to partner with Saint’s Hand and collaborate with the three other Guilds to take action together.

At this time, Cold Shadow couldn’t help looking at the distant Muxin with sympathy from a corner of the hall.

“If not for Zero Wing, Frost Heaven wouldn’t have fallen into such a passive state,” Cold Shadow sighed ruefully.

Under normal circumstances, Muxin’s decision to recruit Shi Feng as foreign aid would’ve been a good one. Unfortunately, aside from being strong, Shi Feng also didn’t know the immensity of heaven and earth. He had simply made far too many enemies. Otherwise, Miracle wouldn’t have decided to take action against Zero Wing so decisively, going as far as to ignore Frost Heaven’s influence.

While the various superpowers' members were discussing excitedly, several flashes of light appeared above the central teleportation array. In the blink of an eye, 17 figures appeared before everyone's eyes.

As the teleportation array's brilliance dissipated, the appearance of these 17 figures became clear for all to see. They were none other than Zero Wing's members, whom the various superpowers felt would fail the preliminary selection.

"How is this possible?"

"Aren't they way too lucky? Did they not encounter any other foreign aid teams inside?"

For a time, the hall was in an uproar. None of the various superpowers' members could believe their eyes. This was especially true for the Sky Dragon Family's, Pride Empire's, Demon Palace's, and Miracle's upper echelons. Every one of them gaped at this situation.

"Why are Zero Wing's members still alive?" Thousand Miles was bewildered when he saw Shi Feng's group walking out of the teleportation array.

At this moment, let alone Thousand Miles, even Shredded Soul and the distant Cold Shadow were puzzled by this situation. After all, nobody knew better than they did the situation inside the special space.

Those were 400 great experts they were talking about!

Of them, four were even peerless experts, and over a dozen were apex experts. With such a force, one could roam unhindered even in the Fire Dragon Empire. Taking care of Zero Wing should have been child's play. Yet, Zero Wing actually exited the battlefield with zero casualties. How could they possibly bring themselves to believe this situation?

“Did those four Absolutes not go after them?”

No matter how Cold Shadow racked her brain, this was the only possibility she could think of for Zero Wing emerging unscathed.

Frost Heaven's members were also surprised at this situation.

“They sure are lucky. They actually managed to come out unscathed even in such a situation.” When Brilliant Blue saw Shi Feng and the others, he shot a glance at Hong Xinyuan, then continued, “However, just returning alive is useless. In the end, it will still depend on whether they acquired any War God Orders!”

In Brilliant Blue's opinion, Shi Feng's group must've deliberately avoided the other foreign aid teams and did not fight any battles at all. Hence, they were able to return safely. Otherwise, with Zero Wing's exposed data, there was no way the other foreign aid teams wouldn't target Zero Wing's members.

In the end, the various participating superpowers present only treated the return of Zero Wing's members as a small interlude. What they were really concerned about was the issue of how many foreign aid slots each of them would receive.

Everyone returned their attention to the teleportation array in the middle of the hall, waiting for someone else to return, so that they could inquire about the War God Orders' distribution.

However, after Shi Feng's group left the teleportation array, the various superpowers' members were dumbfounded. The teleportation array that should've continued teleporting other people back to the War God's Temple actually started disappearing

"What's going on?"

"Why did the teleportation array stop teleporting people?"

"Could it be broken?"

Questions emerged in everyone's mind one after another. None of them could figure out what was going on. The hall devolved into pandemonium because of this situation.

However, after a short while, the entire central hall fell into a deathly silence.

The line of text that appeared at the top of the stele rendered everyone in the hall speechless with shock.

Preliminary Selection Participant Count: 900 ||| Passing Count: 17

Chapter 2712: Arrogant Person

“Only 17 people passed the selection?”

“Zero Wing’s team seems to have 17 people...”

“What exactly is going on here?”

After a brief silence, the various superpowers’ members turned their eyes toward Shi Feng’s group, the doubt in their hearts deepening.

There was indeed the possibility that the War God Orders had been well-hidden, and some might not be found even after the selection ended. This would result in less than 100 people passing the preliminary selection. However, even if that were the case, over 80 people should still have passed the selection.

However, only 17 people had passed the selection. This number was far below the various superpowers’ expectations.

The upper echelons of Sky Dragon Family, Pride Empire, Demon Palace, and Miracle, in particular, were dumbfounded by this situation. They couldn’t figure out what exactly had happened inside the selection battle.

Their four Guilds had paid an enormous price to recruit four of the Fire Dragon Empire’s Six Absolutes. They had been very confident of winning the preliminary selection, hands down. Now, however, let alone ranking within the top four, not even one of the foreign aid they recruited managed to pass the selection.

What was even more unbelievable was the fact that Zero Wing’s members had returned unscathed.

How could they possibly believe this?

“Investigate! Investigate what happened! I want to know what happened inside the selection battle!”

Almost immediately, the four Guilds’ upper echelons began frantically contacting their respective foreign aid team’s members.

...

“Vice Guild Leader, did something go wrong with the selection?” White Feather’s eyes brimmed with surprise and confusion as she looked at the central stele.

In response to White Feather’s question, Cold Shadow glanced at the distant Shi Feng before looking toward the four Guilds’ side. From the commotion at the four Guilds, it was evident that even the four Guilds’ people didn’t know what had just happened.

“Something must’ve gone wrong. Only, I don’t know what kind of trick Zero Wing pulled this time.” All Cold Shadow could think of now was that Zero Wing was related to this abnormal situation.

Out of the 900 players that entered the selection space, only 17 returned. Even if an intense battle occurred inside, there shouldn’t be so few players returning. Not to mention, all of these returnees were even Zero Wing’s members.

...

As the various superpowers were investigating this strange situation, Frost Heaven's side was similarly at a loss.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, what happened inside? Why are you the only ones to return?" Muxin couldn't help asking Shi Feng. Since Shi Feng was an insider in this situation, asking him would be much more efficient than asking around.

"Yes, what happened inside the selection battle?" Brilliant Blue questioned. "Where are Sorrowful Heaven and the others?"

If even Zero Wing's small team of 17 could return safely, there was no way the Flower of Seven Sins's team of 83 players couldn't. Not to mention, Sorrowful Rain was a Domain Realm expert.

Following Muxin's and Brilliant Blue's questions, everyone from Frost Heaven turned to look at Shi Feng, curious to find out what exactly happened inside.

However, Shi Feng directly ignored Brilliant Blue's question and turned to Muxin.

"Nothing special happened inside. We just conducted a normal team battle. As for the result, you saw it yourself," Shi Feng said calmly.

Shi Feng's words were clear and straightforward. His logic was also seamless. However, none of Frost Heaven's members believed him. Even Muxin felt that Shi Feng was joking with her.

“Black Flame, do you take this old man for a fool? Do you think I will believe such words?” Brilliant Blue was incensed. He already felt upset that Shi Feng ignored him. Now, Shi Feng was even insulting his intelligence by giving such a stupid answer.

The other Frost Heaven members agreed with Brilliant Blue’s words, and they started looking at Shi Feng with scorn.

Although Shi Feng’s answer sounded reasonable, it was also the least possible result.

They would be fools to believe him!

Nine hundred Tier 3 experts had participated in the preliminary selection, many of them peak experts and apex experts. No matter how fierce the battle, these experts shouldn’t have all gotten annihilated. After all, they could still flee if they couldn’t win in a fight.

Moreover, the selection battle was held in a special space that severely restricted a player’s Stamina and Concentration. The difficulty and risks involved in chasing a fleeing opponent in this space were incredibly high.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng’s team was not only the smallest out of the bunch but also the easiest to counter. If an intense battle occurred during the selection, Shi Feng’s team should have faced the greatest difficulty returning alive.

But what about now?

Not only did Zero Wing's team suffer zero casualties, but Zero Wing's members all wore incomparably relaxed expressions. They did not look like they had just survived an intense battle at all but gone on an outing.

"Whether you believe it or not is up to you," Shi Feng retorted nonchalantly. "The selection battle is over. If you don't have any other questions, we'll be heading back to rest."

After saying so, Shi Feng turned around and left the hall, unconcerned whether Frost Heaven's members believed him or not. His goal in coming here was only the three Upper Zone reserve slots.

Meanwhile, after glancing at the Frost Heaven contingent, Zero Wing's other members chuckled before following Shi Feng out of the hall.

The behavior of Zero Wing's team thoroughly dumbfounded Brilliant Blue.

He was one of Frost Heaven's dignified Frost Pillars as well as a Great Elder of the Guild. Yet, now, he was being ignored by the Guild Leader of a pseudo-superpower with no background whatsoever.

Brilliant Blue promptly glared at Hong Xinyuan and bellowed angrily, "Hong Xinyuan, take a good look! This is the trump card you recruited!"

However, Hong Xinyuan remained indifferent to Brilliant Blue's outburst. In fact, he was in a relatively good mood. After all, the return of Shi Feng's team meant that Frost Heaven had gained 17 foreign aid slots.

Failing to get a reaction out of Hong Xinyuan, Brilliant Blue turned to Seven Wonders and snapped, "Guild Leader, you've seen how Zero Wing's members behave. They are too arrogant. They aren't even

taking us seriously. If we let them participate in the official competition, the consequences will be disastrous.”

“Enough. Let’s take a look at the situation first,” Seven Wonders berated.

However, when Seven Wonders glanced at Zero Wing’s members’ departing figures, a hint of dissatisfaction also flashed in his eyes.

Meanwhile, although Shi Feng had spoken in a normal tone, everyone in the hall was a great expert. Even the weakest among them was at the Flowing Water Realm. Hence, they heard Shi Feng’s words loud and clear.

...

“Black Flame truly is arrogant to the extreme. He’s taking such an attitude even toward Frost Heaven. He’ll most likely have a difficult path ahead of him.” White Feather smirked when she saw the exchange between Shi Feng and Frost Heaven’s leadership. “However, Black Flame really knows how to spout nonsense. Does he think his team consists entirely of peerless experts?”

While Frost Heaven’s members might be unaware, she knew full well that nearly half of the 900 players who participated in the selection battle had set their sights on Zero Wing. Zero Wing shouldn’t have come out unscathed if a battle truly happened.

However, even after White Feather ridiculed Shi Feng a bunch, Cold Shadow remained surprisingly silent.

“Vice Guild Leader, is something wrong?” White Feather asked in confusion when she noticed Cold Shadow’s solemn expression.

“News just came from our insider.” Taking a deep breath, Cold Shadow said slowly, “All participating foreign aids were...annihilated!”

Chapter 2713 – Fame Spreads Across the Fire Dragon Empire

When White Feather heard Cold Shadow’s words, she was stunned, her brain seizing up momentarily.

“How is this possible?” White Feather exclaimed almost instinctively. “The selection lasted less than ten minutes! How could nearly 900 Tier 3 great experts slaughter each other so thoroughly within that time?” Without a large gap in strength, a fight between Tier 3 experts would take at least two to five minutes to finish.

This rule of thumb was already widely accepted in God’s Domain.

Upon reaching Tier 3, almost every player would have at least a few Lifesaving Skills. They could easily fight a battle of attrition. Hence, there was a popular saying that while Tier 3 experts could be defeated easily, killing them was challenging.

“No! They didn’t fight each other.” Cold Shadow shook her head. She then added calmly, “According to our insider, over half of the foreign aid teams chose to forfeit.” “Forfeit?”

White Feather grew even more confused at this revelation. She felt that the more she delved into this matter, the more incomprehensible it became.

Meanwhile, inside the gloomy hall, Thousand Miles and the upper echelons of the many superpowers present also received news on what happened during the selection battle. They were inevitably bewildered.

“Have they lost their minds?! Over half of them forfeited?!” Thousand Miles cursed out loud when he saw his subordinate’s report. “Investigate immediately! Anyone who chose to forfeit shouldn’t even think of receiving any of the promised benefits!”

With the huge numerical advantage they had, they could’ve annihilated Zero Wing’s members even if they had to throw bodies at them!

“Vice Guild Leader Miles.” The gray-robed Berserker standing before Thousand Miles shrank back slightly before saying quietly, “The ones that forfeited...aren’t our Guild’s foreign aid.”

“What happened to our foreign aid, then?” Thousand Miles asked in response.

“Our foreign aid?” After peeking at Thousand Miles, the gray-robed Berserker answered hesitantly, “Black Flame killed them all. Moreover, he didn’t kill just our foreign aid but also the other three Guilds’ foreign aid...”

“Are you sure Black Flame did it alone? Are they not messing with you?” Thousand Miles asked in disbelief.

“I’ve verified with them already.” The gray-robed Berserker nodded. “Black Flame indeed killed them by himself. Out of the 400 players that targeted Zero Wing, not a single one survived.”

“Alone? He annihilated all 400 Tier 3 great experts?” Thousand Miles suddenly felt a little dizzy.

This information was too much for his brain to process. He even felt that he was hallucinating right now.

“According to the foreign aid teams, Black Flame already possesses a Mana Domain. The range and strength of his Mana Domain are also unprecedented; Tier 3 experts can’t exert even 10% of their combat power while inside it. Just moving their bodies is a challenging task,” the Berserker reported after summoning up his courage.

Not only did a player obtain a Mana Domain, but said Mana Domain was even so powerful. If someone had told him such a thing before, even he would consider that person crazy. Either that or this person was a newcomer in God’s Domain and ignorant about Mana Domains.

“A Mana Domain?” Thousand Miles’s expression stiffened at this term. “How can he have a Mana Domain?”

At this time, Thousand Miles wasn’t the only person dumbfounded. The other superpowers’ upper echelons were similarly bewildered when they heard this piece of news. After all, it was far more unbelievable than Shi Feng’s feat of single-handedly annihilating four foreign aid teams.

In God’s Domain, the Mana Domain was the standard that determined whether an NPC was strong or weak. So long as an NPC had a Mana Domain, they would be considered a true powerhouse in the whole of God’s Domain!

After Frost Heaven's members received a detailed report of what happened during the selection battle, they, too, fell silent. Brilliant Blue, in particular, wore an extremely wrinkled and ugly look on his face.

Previously, no one from Frost Heaven believed what Shi Feng had said. In their opinion, Shi Feng was only talking big. Brilliant Blue had even mocked Shi Feng for his arrogance.

However, insiders were now telling them that everything was true. Moreover, the situation was far more terrifying than how Shi Feng described it.

"Old Hong, did you and Muxin know about this since the beginning?" Seven Wonders couldn't help asking Hong Xinyuan.

"We knew a little." Chuckling, Hong Xinyuan added, "However, for confidentiality's sake, we didn't tell anyone."

Muxin also nodded in agreement. Only, even she was surprised by such an excellent battle record. She never expected that Shi Feng's Mana Domain would be so powerful when released. It was at least ten times stronger than what she experienced.

"You two really know how to keep us in the dark." When Seven Wonders looked at Hong Xinyuan's indifferent expression and recalled the situation with Shi Feng before, he smiled bitterly. "In that case, I'll leave Zero Wing's matters to you in the future."

After glancing at the silent Brilliant Blue, Hong Xinyuan faintly smiled and said, "Guild Leader, please rest assured."

After the end of the selection battle, news about Zero Wing spread like the plague. This was especially true for the details regarding Black Flame. Many of the major powers that had come to spectate the competition were shocked.

Not only had Black Flame single-handedly dominated the preliminary selection, but he even possessed the rumored Mana Domain.

This battle record instantly made Black Flame the focus of discussion for many players all over the Fire Dragon Empire. Quite a number of the empire's players even sought to join the pseudo-superpower known as Zero Wing.

War God's Temple, Mythology's lounge:

"Vice Guild Leader, the situation has become somewhat troublesome now. Not only does that Black Flame possess a Mana Domain, but his fame has also spread throughout the Fire Dragon Empire. I'm afraid it'll become very difficult to realize our acquisition plan now," White Feather said anxiously when she saw that Black Flame's name was being mentioned everywhere in the Fire Dragon Empire's forums. "This situation might even affect Miracle's ranking."

Mythology had chosen to partner with Miracle for the competition this time. In terms of Guild foundations and strength, Miracle was above Frost Heaven. However, not only did Miracle lose all its foreign aid, but Frost Heaven even had Zero Wing supporting it. The gap in strength between the two Guilds had instantly narrowed by a large margin.

"Black Flame has indeed become a big variable now." Glancing at the battle report she received, Cold Shadow smiled and added, "However, at the end of the day, the struggle for the reserve seats isn't something that can be decided by one person. Not to mention, even with a Mana Domain, Black Flame

won't be able to survive for long in this competition. That great personage has already said he would personally take action against Black Flame!"

"That great personage is going to make a move?" This news surprised White Feather. "Mhm. Black Flame still thinks he is invincible just because he has a Mana Domain. He doesn't know that there is always someone stronger. Even a Mana Domain cannot save him now," Cold Shadow sneered as she read the detailed report on Shi Feng.

While a Mana Domain was indeed powerful, it was a negligible existence in front of absolute strength.

While the various superpowers were patiently waiting for the official competition to begin, Shi Feng secretly paid a visit to a bar called Moon Fire in Flame Dragon City's outskirts.

At this time, only one woman was sitting quietly at the bar counter.

This woman wore delicate, light-blue robes, and just the view of her back could mesmerize countless people. However, this woman's aura was as hot as flames, deterring people from summoning up the courage to approach her.

"You're here." When the woman saw Shi Feng enter the bar, she greeted him as though welcoming an old friend she hadn't seen for a long time.

Meanwhile, this woman was none other than the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's Phoenix Pavilion Master.

Demon Queen Phoenix Rain!

Chapter 2714 – Meeting Phoenix Rain Again

Accepting Phoenix Rain's invitation, Shi Feng walked over and sat beside her.

"In the time I haven't seen you, you've become a lot stronger again," Phoenix Rain praised as she scanned Shi Feng.

"Not too much." Going straight into the topic, Shi Feng asked, "Is everything alright on your side?"

He had suddenly visited the Moon Fire Bar because of a message from Phoenix Rain. Initially, he had been a little happy to receive the message. Since he had thought that Phoenix Rain would never appear before him again, he felt that the situation shouldn't be as terrible as Duan Hanshan made it out to be.

However, the moment he laid eyes on Phoenix Rain, he instantly understood.

The situation was much worse than he thought.

This was because the Phoenix Rain he saw couldn't be considered human. All her information was labeled as "Unknown" and couldn't be examined at all. Moreover, the feeling he got from her was as if she had wholly integrated her existence with the flowers and trees of God's Domain.

Shi Feng even got the impression that Phoenix Rain was native to God's Domain.

Meanwhile, at Shi Feng's question, a hint of surprise flashed in Phoenix Rain's eyes. She then smiled faintly and replied, "You can say that it's alright yet not alright at the same time."

"It seems the situation still isn't too terrible." Shi Feng nodded. He then asked another question, "Can you tell me what exactly happened, then?"

The disappearance of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's three Pavilion Masters had shaken the various superpowers of God's Domain. If not for the Pavilion having hidden this matter well, it would've long since made headlines in the real world.

"This, I cannot say." Phoenix Rain shook her head. "I went to great lengths to come here to tell you only two things."

Although Phoenix Rain's voice was calm, her eyes betrayed deep exhaustion.

"What is it?" Shi Feng didn't probe too much into her situation. He could feel that Phoenix Rain wasn't joking with him. In that case, there wouldn't be any meaning for him to continue probing. "The first is that I hope you can take care of my little sister," Phoenix Rain said, then took out an information card and handed it to Shi Feng. "Her information and address are recorded here. I am no longer by her side. Although she has great abilities, the people who are troubling her are difficult. If you have the chance, I hope you can help resolve her problems."

After glancing at the information card, Shi Feng was stunned. Phoenix Rain's little sister was residing in the Upper Zone.

“Aren’t you in the Upper Zone too?” Shi Feng asked in confusion.

“I’m in the Upper Zone?” Phoenix Rain was surprised by this piece of news. Afterward, as if reacting to something, she chuckled and said, “That’s right. I guess you can say that. However, I’m afraid it will be difficult for me to meet her right now. I can only hope you will help her. I can’t trust anyone else for this.”

“This shouldn’t be a problem. I’ll go take a look if I visit the Upper Zone in the future.” Shi Feng nodded in agreement. Phoenix Rain had helped both him and Zero Wing a lot thus far. He didn’t mind taking care of her little sister now.

“Thank you.” Phoenix Rain breathed out a sigh of relief when she heard Shi Feng’s answer. She then inhaled deeply before saying solemnly, “Next, the second matter will be my two pieces of advice to you.” “Advice?” Seeing Phoenix Rain’s serious expression, Shi Feng couldn’t help asking, “Is it Saint’s Hand?”

Based on the information from Duan Hanshan, the disappearance of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s leadership had something to do with Saint’s Hand. Moreover, the various superpowers also appeared to be fearful of the Guild.

“No.” Shaking her head, Phoenix Rain said, “My first advice is for you to be wary of three people.”

“Three people?” Shi Feng was somewhat confused.

He could understand if Phoenix Rain wanted him to be wary of some powerful organization, yet she told him to be wary of three individuals. If not for Phoenix Rain’s solemn expression and her lofty status, he would’ve most likely treated her words as a joke.

“Yes, three people.” Slowly, Phoenix Rain said, “I don’t know these three people’s names. They use various aliases, but not one of them is their real name. The only thing I can tell you is their characteristics.

“These three people are a madman, a girl, and a young, scholarly person. If you meet them, run as far as you can. Never approach them, or the consequences will be harsh. You must remember this point.”

“That’s all the information on these three people?” Shi Feng memorized Phoenix Rain’s words, but the information he had to work with was scanty and vague. “I only know this much.” Phoenix Rain shook her head and chuckled. She then continued, “The next piece of advice is simpler, and that is to stock up on as many Seven Luminaries Crystals as possible. This thing is incredibly valuable, and the more you have, the better.” “That’s a realistic piece of advice.” Shi Feng was startled to receive this advice.

Seven Luminaries Crystal was incredibly important during his previous life. Knowing this, he had tasked many Guild members with finding and collecting the crystal. However, due to its rarity, the amount they managed to collect wasn’t significant.

After Shi Feng finished speaking, Phoenix Rain suddenly stood up and tossed three Gold Coins onto the table. She then looked at Shi Feng and said earnestly, “I’ve said everything that can be said. How far you can progress will be up to you.”

“You’re leaving already?” Shi Feng was again startled when he saw Phoenix Rain preparing to leave. Their conversation lasted less than five minutes. He hadn’t even gotten to the other questions he wanted to ask. However, Phoenix Rain looked to be short on time.

“Oh, yes.” Suddenly, Phoenix Rain pulled out a black crystal from her pocket and tossed it to Shi Feng. “I have you to thank for being able to make this visit. I can’t use this thing at present, so I’ll give it to you.”

“What is this thing?” When Shi Feng looked at the unidentifiable black crystal, he felt a sudden urge to eat the crystal whole.

Upon noticing the hunger in Shi Feng’s eyes, Phoenix Rain chuckled. “You’d better not eat it. It’s not edible.”

Shi Feng felt slightly embarrassed by this situation. He never thought that the black crystal would be powerful enough to affect his mind.

“Don’t worry. I won’t eat it,” Shi Feng promised. “Before I go, I’ll tell you one more thing. Tier 4 is just the beginning. Your...time...”

However, before Phoenix Rain could finish speaking, she suddenly disappeared. It was as if she never existed in this place.

Now, only Shi Feng remained inside the spacious bar.

Forced teleportation? Surprise colored Shi Feng’s eyes as he looked at the space where Phoenix Rain had been. However, he quickly denied his conjecture. No. There were no spatial fluctuations. It shouldn’t be a forced teleport. Yet, if she logged off, it should’ve taken a while before she disappeared.

Despite pondering for some time, Shi Feng failed to figure out the mechanism behind Phoenix Rain’s sudden disappearance. In the end, he had to give up and shifted his attention to the black crystal in his hand. At least he now knew that Phoenix Rain was safe.

I got nothing from using an ordinary Identification Skill just now. It seems I can only try with Omniscient Eyes.

Taking a deep breath, Shi Feng gathered the surrounding Mana around his eyes and stared intently at the black crystal.

Omniscient Eyes!

Chapter 2715 – Eternal Item

As Shi Feng frantically gathered Mana inside the bar, the Mana around him started liquefying. The standard of his Mana was undoubtedly at Tier 4.

A moment later, twofold magic arrays appeared in his eyes. If a player were to meet his gaze right now, they would most likely shudder instinctively.

At this moment, Shi Feng's eyes seemed to be capable of penetrating all truths in the world. No secrets could exist before this pair of eyes.

Sure enough, Omniscient Eyes's effects have improved significantly now that my Mana has reached the Tier 4 standard. Shi Feng was delighted as he looked at the black crystal in his hand.

Previously, even when he used the Advanced Identification Skill, he couldn't appraise the black crystal at all. However, with Omniscient Eyes, a loading bar had appeared. It was as if the black crystal's outermost firewall had cracked, and the Skill was fervently exploiting this breach and trying to dig into the crystal's core.

Ten seconds... Twenty seconds... Forty seconds...

As the forces of the black crystal and Omniscient Eyes continued clashing, Shi Feng frowned.

Although Omniscient Eyes has the strength to contend against the black crystal, it apparently still isn't enough. Omniscient Eyes might be digging at the black crystal's firewalls, but the Skill had a limited duration of only one minute. If it failed to break through the black crystal's defenses during this time, he would have to try again ten minutes later.

Only, the result would most likely be the same.

Upon seeing Omniscient Eyes and the black crystal at a stalemate, Shi Feng started racking his brain on how he could break through the black crystal's power.

The biggest difference between Tier 3 and Tier 4 is in Mana. Since Omniscient Eyes has the strength to go up against the black crystal after being injected with Tier 4 Mana, the difference between the two is Mana.

As of now, Omniscient Eyes still has plentiful Mana. In other words, the amount of Mana isn't crucial for breaking through the black crystal's defenses. If the amount isn't the problem, then the only other possibility is the Mana's strength. However, after coming to this conclusion, Shi Feng did not smile in joy. On the contrary, he fell into even greater despair. After all, increasing the strength of Mana was easier said than done.

On the market, almost all items that improved their user's Mana only increased the volume of Mana their users held. Generally, if players wished to increase their Mana's quality, they would have to either improve their control over Mana or raise their tier.

In other words, if Shi Feng wanted to increase his Mana's strength right now, his only option was to raise his control over Mana to a higher realm.

No, that's not the only option! Shi Feng shook his head. An increase in the Mana's strength also represents an increase in the Skill's power. Increasing the Skill's power would be equivalent to improving the Mana's strength.

After Shi Feng thought up to this point, a glimmer of hope appeared in his eyes.

However, less than five seconds remained to Omniscient Eyes's duration.

I have no choice but to try!

Taking a deep breath, Shi Feng unsheathed the Abyssal Blade and promptly assumed the posture of using the Mana Technique Lightshadow.

The Mana swarming around Shi Feng instantly began condensing even further, taking on the shape of a greatsword. However, unlike when he used this Mana Technique at Tier 3, the phantom greatsword now looked much more tangible.

Meanwhile, after executing Lightshadow, Shi Feng could sense a change occurring in the magic arrays in his eyes. They showed faint signs of evolving into threefold magic arrays.

Good! It's effective! Shi Feng couldn't help growing excited.

However, the third layer's formation abruptly stopped.

The Mana still isn't strong enough? Shi Feng frowned. If I want to increase it even further, I'll have no choice but to use Holy Devour. Holy Devour was a move he dreaded to use.

Executing the complete Holy Devour was too taxing. It shouldn't be used frequently, even by Tier 4 classes. With the reserve seats' competition about to begin, he had to keep himself in his peak state. Although executing Holy Devour once wouldn't overwork his brain, it would still exhaust his Concentration.

However, after thinking for a second, Shi Feng gritted his teeth and threw caution to the wind.

"To hell with it!"

Although Phoenix Rain currently wasn't in a life-threatening situation, that was true only for now. There were far too many unknowns and secrets surrounding her. Saint's Hand's side was also filled with mysteries. There was no guarantee that he wouldn't meet a similar fate to Phoenix Rain in the future.

Hence, he needed to identify the black crystal. Only by doing so would he have a chance at finding some useful information.

Immediately, Shi Feng changed his stance once more, and the aura he exuded skyrocketed in intensity.

Holy Devour!

Boom!

Suddenly, ethereal flames enveloped the bar. The flames were so realistic that they triggered the magic arrays set up inside the bar. Some of these magic arrays even started cracking, evidently unable to withstand the powerful Mana Shi Feng condensed. Meanwhile, as if violently stimulated, the twofold magic arrays in Shi Feng's eyes completed their transformation into threefold magic arrays. Using Holy Devour directly elevated Omniscient Eyes's strength to a whole new level.

Crack!

Shi Feng suddenly heard a crack coming from the black crystal. However, half a second later, dizziness assaulted his brain. The horrific Mana condensed by Holy Devour also instantly dissipated, leaving behind a tattered bar. Several seconds later, his mind started to clear up. He immediately shifted his gaze to the black crystal in his hand. Did it succeed?

Shi Feng inspected the black crystal anxiously.

This time, the crystal didn't put up any resistance when he tried to read its information. Row after row of text appeared before his eyes.

Upon seeing this information, Shi Feng was stunned.

An Eternal Item? This is actually an Eternal Item? Shi Feng couldn't help doubting his eyes as he read the information before him.

(World Stone] (Eternal Item)

Effect 1: Stabilizes the principle of all things.

Effect 2: Unknown.

Effect 3: Indestructible object.

In God's Domain, so long as an item was related to eternity, it was an item of Gods. Eternal Items were legends among legends. According to rumor, even Gods had difficulty obtaining one, and some Gods would even fight frantically for one. There were various rumors as to the cause of the Great Ancient War, one of which attributed the war to a struggle for Eternal Items between Ancient Gods.

"It seems I still can't do anything about this situation." Shi Feng smiled bitterly as he looked at the World Stone.

He had fought for ten years in God's Domain in his previous life. However, he was well aware that he was still ignorant of plenty of secrets regarding God's Domain. God's Domain wasn't just a game like the general masses thought it to be. Otherwise, the various international corporations wouldn't go so crazy over it.

This Eternal Item told him that the problem Phoenix Rain faced was extraordinary. It wasn't something a Tier 4 Sword Emperor like himself could look into. After all, even the God-ranked experts in his previous life had great difficulty obtaining such an item. He would most likely have to wait until he reached Tier 5 or even Tier 6 before he could find out more about the situation.

Otherwise, he would share the fate of all those missing experts.

While Shi Feng was having goosebumps from thinking about the problem Phoenix Rain was involved in, Youlan suddenly contacted him.

“Where are you now, Guild Leader?” Youlan asked anxiously. “The various superpowers’ members have already started to gather.”

“Okay. I’ll head over now.” Shi Feng smiled and nodded.

He decided to shelve Phoenix Rain’s matter temporarily. Now, the only thing he needed to do was improve both his and his Guild’s strength as much as possible. Only by doing so would he have a better chance of handling the various crises plaguing him.

After ending the call, Shi Feng stored the World Stone and dropped a bag of Gold Coins on the table. He then left the Moon Fire Bar.

Chapter 2716 – God’s Domain’s Apex Battle

Flame Dragon City, War God’s Temple:

Despite being the size of three sports stadiums, the plaza outside the War God's Temple was currently crowded with players. Aside from the various participating superpowers' members, a large portion of these players was here as spectators. Everyone quietly waited for the official start of the competition.

"Quick, look! They're about to announce the battlefield!"

Suddenly, a huge holographic projection appeared in the sky above the War God's Temple. The projection was hundreds of meters wide, and the image displayed was visible even from several miles away.

Meanwhile, with the emergence of this holographic projection, excitement surged in both the players and NPCs in Flame Dragon City.

"It's finally starting!"

"This competition will determine the future direction of the entire God's Domain. Many of the various superpowers' hidden experts will reveal themselves. Once you guys enter the arena, make sure to record these experts' data. They're going to become the giants of God's Domain in the future. We must make sure we don't accidentally offend any of them."

"Newbies, listen up. The Guild spent a fortune to reserve a VIP viewing room to let you experience this competition as close as possible. Cherish this opportunity and learn as much as you can from those top talents!"

The various major powers here to spectate the competition spent time instructing their Guild talents and newcomers to cherish this viewing opportunity. After all, this was going to be the apex battle of God's Domain. "Talents? I want to see just how powerful they are."

“I heard many of the people on the God’s Domain’s Experts List would appear. I wonder if we’ll get a chance to see a showdown between these experts?”.

The various major powers’ talents and newcomers grew excited upon hearing their superiors’ words. They all wished they could take part in the competition themselves.

The players in Flame Dragon City weren’t the only ones paying attention to this competition. Players all over God’s Domain were also interested. Unfortunately, the people who could directly spectate the battle numbered very few, which had many players gnashing their teeth in frustration.

There were only 100 VIP viewing rooms, each capable of accommodating only 100 players. There were also only 10 million normal viewing seats available. Compared to God’s Domain’s player population, this number was insignificant.

However, this still wasn’t the most frustrating part. Instead, what frustrated players the most was that aside from players, even NPCs could purchase these viewing tickets.

According to the War God’s Temple’s statistics, 20% of the tickets were bought by NPCs, 60% by Guilds, and only 20% by independent players. Time passed quickly. Before anyone knew it, the holographic projection above the War God’s Temple revealed the battlefield for the upcoming competition. Displayed on the projection was an ocean with turbulent waves and dark thunderclouds. At a glance, it was evident this wasn’t a place players could enter casually. Strewn across this ocean were 18 islands of varying sizes. The small islands were roughly the size of small leveling maps, while the large islands were around three times the size of the small islands.

A considerable distance separated these islands. With calm seas, a Bronze Speedboat would take at least two hours to travel from one island to another. The appearance of waves and storms could double this travel time.

“What?! It’s going to be a naval battle?!”

“No, there are quite a few islands on the ocean.”

“Is it an island occupation battle?” The players outside the War God’s Temple were surprised by the unveiled battlefield, and heated discussions promptly broke out.

However, before anyone could reach a conclusion, the specific rules for the reserve seat competition were listed one after another.

Players will be teleported to a random island in teams. Each team must have at least 100 players and can have at most 1,000 players. Every island has between 12 to 30 Resource Nodes.

Different Resource Nodes will grant different amounts of Guild Points. Basic Resource Nodes will grant 10 Guild Points per hour; Intermediate Resource Nodes, 20 Guild Points per hour; Advanced Resource Nodes, 30 Guild Points per hour.

The competition will last 24 hours. The top six Guilds with the highest score will receive the reserve seats at the end of the competition.

The larger of the 18 islands will place greater restrictions on players’ Stamina and Concentration. Players cannot use any Berserk Skills or magic tools. The Guilds ranked within the top five of each island’s point ranking can travel to other islands. If players die during the competition, they will be automatically teleported out of the competition venue and lose two levels.

When the players in the plaza saw these rules, they gasped in shock. After all, this competition depended heavily on Guild foundations and leadership.

The use of individual strength would be greatly restricted in this competition. Moreover, if a Guild didn't handle its distribution of teams properly, it might suffer complete annihilation.

"The rules favor Guilds with greater numbers." Mu Lingsha frowned as she gazed at the rules displayed above the War God's Temple.

The minimum requirement for players in this competition was Tier 3. Even if most of the participating superpowers had roughly the same number of Guild members, there was a huge difference in the number of Tier 3 players.

Take Unyielding Soul, for example. The Guild had only 4,500 or so Tier 3 players. However, the Super Guild Sky Dragon Family had over 8,000.

Of course, the Guilds participating in this competition had 6,000 Tier 3 players on average, so the difference between the participating Guilds wasn't as significant.

Even so, this situation would still create a huge gap between the participating Guilds.

To begin with, each of the Five Great Super Guilds had over 20,000 Tier 3 players. This wasn't a number any of the other superpowers could hope to compete with. This was also why none of the other superpowers held any hopes of competing for the five other reserve seats.

With the revelation of these rules, the gap between the Five Great Super Guilds and the other participating superpowers became even more significant.

For example, the Five Great Super Guilds could form twenty 1,000-man teams each, whereas the other superpowers couldn't even form ten. And given the random assignment to the various islands, the number of islands the Five Great Super Guilds could occupy right off the bat would already be several times higher than what the other superpowers could hold.

To make matters worse, if a Guild couldn't even rank within the top five of an island's point ranking, it couldn't leave for other islands to seek greener pastures.

"These rules are excellent. Miracle's victory is basically sealed now," Cold Shadow said, smiling as she read the competition rules.

At this time, Miracle's upper echelon was also ecstatic.

After all, Miracle had over 13,000 members participating in the competition this time. As to why the Guild could have so many Tier 3 experts, it was thanks entirely to the special tools Mythology provided. These tools allowed Tier 2 experts that had trouble with their promotion to overcome the final hurdle. Although these artificially produced Tier 3 experts were lacking in combat standards compared to other Tier 3 experts, they were still bona fide Tier 3 players and much stronger than Tier 2 players. With the addition of these artificial Tier 3 experts, Miracle had the sixth-largest player count in this competition.

In contrast to Miracle's upper echelon, Seven Wonders and the rest of Frost Heaven's upper echelon currently looked pale. Frost Heaven had only a little over 7,500 members participating. The Guild was just barely ranked within the top 10. If not for the competition venue and rules, Frost Heaven could have easily fought for the sixth seat. Now, however, it was evident this wouldn't be possible.

"Our only choice is to take the risk and form more teams. Otherwise, we won't have a chance of securing a seat," Seven Wonders stated calmly to the Elders and Grand Elders present.

"That's the only thing we can do. Otherwise, we won't stand a chance against the Guilds with greater numbers," Hong Xinyuan said, nodding in agreement.

The Grand Elders and Elders present similarly agreed with Seven Wonders's opinion.

"Since that's the case, I'll start assigning the teams.

"Although we have to split our numbers into as many teams as possible, we also need to consider the balance of combat power and the struggle for Resource Nodes. The five Grand Elders and 12 Elders present will each lead a team of 300. Your goal is to secure a Basic Resource Node. If your combat power is lacking, you can merge with another team to secure a Resource Node. "Me, Old Hong, and Brilliant Blue will each lead a team of 500 and the Ten Swords. We'll do our best to secure an Intermediate Node each, or a Basic Node at the very minimum. The three Vice Guild Leaders will lead the remaining members together with Zero Wing to secure an Advanced Node or an Intermediate Node at minimum."

Seven Wonders's distribution was considerably conservative, ensuring the least number of problems for the Guild. Firstly, it ensured that the Guild had enough teams to provide sufficient coverage across the 18 islands. Secondly, every team would more or less have the strength for self-conservation, even if it came across a hostile 1,000-man team.

Of course, the chances of actually coming across a 1,000-man team were relatively low. Since each Guild only had so many players participating in the competition, using these limited players to form 1,000-man teams was a huge extravagance. To spread their influence as wide as possible, the various participating Guilds would naturally form as many teams as possible without compromising their overall combat power.

"What do you think?" Seven Wonders asked as he looked at the Guild upper echelon present.

In response, the Guild Elders exchanged looks with each other. However, none of them voiced any objections.

Seven Wonders nodded. "In that case—".

Just as he was about to finalize his decision, however, a low voice entered everyone's ears. "I object!"

Immediately, Frost Heaven's upper echelon turned to look at this voice's origin.

The owner of this voice was none other than Shi Feng, who had just arrived.

However, instead of getting upset at Shi Feng's interjection, Seven Wonders instead asked sincerely, "Guild Leader Black Flame, do you have any better suggestions?"

Following Seven Wonders's question, the Grand Elders and Elders present also turned to Shi Feng. Their actions showed that they were of the same mind as Seven Wonders, and they all looked forward to hearing Shi Feng's suggestion.

What happened to these people while I was gone? Shi Feng was a little surprised at Seven Wonders and the others' response.

Before he left, these people couldn't even be bothered to look at him. Now, not only did Seven Wonders's attitude change for the better, but even Frost Heaven's Grand Elders and Elders had become more amiable.

What Shi Feng didn't know was that news of his frightening battle had already spread. With such terrifying combat power, let alone Frost Heaven, even Super Guilds would treat him respectfully.

However, Shi Feng didn't dwell on the matter.

"I can't say it is a good suggestion." Calmly, Shi Feng added, "I just think that we should change the grouping slightly." "How do we change it?" Seven Wonders asked curiously.

Shi Feng then stretched out an open palm.

"Five!

"My suggestion is for Zero Wing to lead five separate 100-man teams, while your Vice Guild Leaders lead the remaining 500 players. This way, we can maximize our combat effectiveness."

Chapter 2717 – Gambit?

"Five separate teams?"

Frost Heaven's Elders gasped involuntarily when they heard Shi Feng's suggestion. They were at a disadvantage in numbers, and even the slightest mistake could put paid to securing the sixth reserve seat. Meanwhile, although Seven Wonders's distribution was conservative, it would allow Frost Heaven to avoid significant problems.

However, Shi Feng was now suggesting that they split their numbers into five additional teams—teams that met the bare minimum requirement of 100 players. This surpassed aggressive action and bordered on madness.

“Guild Leader Black Flame, isn’t this a little too aggressive a maneuver?” Muxin couldn’t help but worry.

At this point, everyone already knew that Shi Feng possessed frightening strength. Even if he led the smallest-sized team, he should still be able to handle most of the problems he encountered.

However, the four other teams wouldn’t have such an assurance. After all, no one else possessed the frightening combat power of Shi Feng. Among Zero Wing’s team, the second strongest person was Violet Cloud. And her control over Mana was far from comparable to Shi Feng’s. This was something Muxin had verified through Violet Cloud’s duel with Tian Cheng

As for Zero Wing’s other members, their average combat standards didn’t even reach the Void Realm. While they could still become useful combat power, they couldn’t change the tide of battle by themselves. In fact, even Domain Realm experts couldn’t do so. This was also why Seven Wonders had decided to have Frost Heaven’s Grand Elders and Elders lead 300-man teams at a minimum.

At this moment, Muxin wasn’t the only person puzzled by Shi Feng’s suggestion. Even Youlan and Yan Tianxing couldn’t help staring at Shi Feng in confusion.

Zero Wing had indeed made great progress recently. The Guild’s top combatants had even experienced continuous improvements. However, they had yet to reach the standard of peerless experts. Aside from Shi Feng, the only other person who could safely lead a team of 100 players in this situation was Violet Cloud.

If they split their forces across five teams of 100, a single mistake could lead to a team-wipe. After all, this competition wasn’t some children’s game, nor was it a struggle for just a small part of God’s Domain.

It was a competition for the Twelve Great Guilds' reserve seats!

None of the various superpowers would hold back this time. In fact, in this competition, even Void Realm experts would only be foot soldiers. Every participating team would most likely have several or even more than a dozen of such experts assigned to them.

And while Domain Realm experts could be considered high-end combatants, even they would have to flee if they went up against 100-man teams without sufficient support. In this competition, only peerless experts could possibly single-handedly turn the tide of a battle.

Not to mention, 100-man teams were only the bare minimum in this competition. If apex experts came across a 500-man team by themselves, even they would most likely suffer. And if they came across 1,000-man teams, only death awaited them. "It is indeed a little aggressive. However, this is also our only chance to secure a seat." Shi Feng did not refute Muxin's words. After all, what she said was true. "Otherwise, Frost Heaven won't have a single chance at victory. I'm sure you understand this, as well."

In the past, due to an inadequate foundation, Frost Heaven failed to secure a reserve seat during the first competition.

Meanwhile, the start of the island battle was incredibly important. If they couldn't spread their forces across as many islands as possible, they would basically have to write off the competition.

There were only six reserve seats up for grabs. Ignoring island sizes, they needed to occupy at least three islands' worth of Resource Nodes to have a considerable chance of winning. However, fully occupying three islands was easier said than done.

When Shi Feng finished speaking, Frost Heaven's upper echelon fell silent.

After some time had passed, Hong Xinyuan suddenly stepped forward and said, "I also agree with Guild Leader Black Flame's point of view. We are basically gambling on luck if we only have 21 teams. We might as well put up a fight, in that case."

"However, if luck doesn't favor us and one of our 100-man teams gets isolated, the team won't be able to do much, either," Brilliant Blue said, shaking his head.

A total of 30 Guilds were participating in the competition[1]. On average, there would be at least two Guilds on every island. If one of their 100-man teams had bad luck and got isolated on an island, the team definitely wouldn't have a good outcome.

At Brilliant Blue's words, Frost Heaven's members fell silent once more.

After giving the matter some thought, Seven Wonders looked at Shi Feng and said, "How about this? I'll agree to form five more 100-man teams. However, we will support these five teams with only ordinary Tier 3 experts. I'm afraid we cannot afford to assign any peak experts to you."

"Guild Leader?" Hong Xinyuan couldn't help but frown at Seven Wonders's words.

Although Seven Wonders had agreed to form five additional teams, if no peak experts supported these teams, Zero Wing's members would basically be walking a tightrope. It wouldn't even be far-fetched to say that Seven Wonders was treating these five teams as sacrificial pieces.

Of course, Hong Xinyuan could understand Seven Wonders's decision. These five teams were a last-ditch effort. They naturally couldn't invest too much combat power in these teams. However, in his opinion, since they were gambling anyway, they might as well add chips to the bet.

"Old Hong, don't try to persuade me. I've made my decision," Seven Wonders said firmly.

"I understand." Hong Xinyuan had no choice but to hold his tongue at these words. As Frost Heaven's Guild Leader, Seven Wonders was the Guild's authority. Since Seven Wonders had already decided, Hong Xinyuan would have no way of changing the decision.

"Guild Leader, Zero Wing's members aren't familiar with Frost Heaven's members. How about I join them? This way, Guild Leader Black Flame can command the teams better," Muxin suggested to Seven Wonders.

"Okay. You'll be the liaison with Zero Wing." Seven Wonders nodded in agreement. Just like Muxin had said, Shi Feng knew nothing about Frost Heaven's members. Without proper understanding, he wouldn't be able to make the best decisions. Meanwhile, as one of Frost Heaven's Vice Guild Leaders, Muxin's understanding of the Guild's members was excellent. She was indeed the best candidate for the liaison.

"Big Sis, are you crazy?" Kerui, who stood beside Muxin, stared at her incredulously. "You dare participate in such a gambit?"

Dying in this competition meant losing two levels. For players of their level, losing two levels was no laughing matter. After all, they were only one small step away from the crucial Level 120 threshold.

If they died in this competition, it would severely delay challenging their Tier 4 Promotion.

“Don’t worry, my dear little sister. I will follow Guild Leader Black Flame’s team. I believe there shouldn’t be any problems in that case,” Muxin said, chuckling.

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11

Kerui was momentarily rendered speechless by Muxin’s words.

Afterward, Frost Heaven’s members split up into different teams according to Seven Wonders’s arrangement. Simultaneously, 483 Frost Heaven members were assigned to Shi Feng. As for how Shi Feng would distribute these players, Seven Wonders stayed out of it.

“Guild Leader Black Flame, everyone has arrived,” Muxin stated after counting the Frost Heaven members on their side. She then asked curiously, “How do you plan on distributing them?”

“I’ve thought about it already.” Chuckling, Shi Feng said, “I’ll lead a team by myself. Afterward, Gentle Snow, Aqua Rose, Violet Cloud, and Fire Dance will each lead a team. The rest of Zero Wing’s members will follow Violet Cloud’s and Fire Dance’s teams.”

“This... Isn’t this...” Muxin was momentarily dumbfounded.

She had anticipated Violet Cloud leading a team by herself, while the rest of Zero Wing’s members would be split across the three remaining teams. After all, Violet Cloud also possessed a Mana Domain of her own.

Yet, Shi Feng was having Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose lead teams by themselves, instead?

At this moment, let alone Muxin, even Youlan, Yan Tianxing, Yi Luofei, Alluring Summer, Zhao Yueru, Cola, Shadow Sword, Silent Blade, Turtledove, Ye Wumian, Flying Shadow, and Rampant Blade were stunned.

Of the Zero Wing members present, the ones who needed support the most were the two Vice Guild Leaders. After all, the two of them hadn't improved their levels and equipment in the slightest over the past few weeks. Although Gentle Snow's and Aqua Rose's weapons and equipment were still far superior to those of the various superpowers' peak experts, the two of them were still slightly inferior to Violet Cloud and Fire Dance in combat standard.

Not giving them any support was akin to going all-in on a gamble. Ignoring everyone's doubts, Shi Feng turned to the two people in question and asked, "Snow, Aqua, are you fine with this arrangement?"

"No problem."

The two responded indifferently as if this matter had nothing to do with them.

"Good. That settles it, then." Shi Feng did not make any additional explanations.

Following this, the various superpowers waited for another hour or so until a loud bell tolled in the War God's Temple, the sound echoing throughout Flame Dragon City.

The competition for the Twelve Great Guilds' reserve seats officially began!

Immediately, the participants thronging the War God's Temple's plaza turned into streaks of light and vanished one after another.

TL Notes: [1]30 Guilds participating in the competition: To clarify, only nine Guilds chose to participate in the preliminary selection (for foreign aid) through the Fire Dragon Empire. However, the ...

Chapter 2718 – Team Distribution

“It's starting! It's finally starting!”

“Crap! So, this is the spectator stand? Awesome!”

When the spectating players arrived in their seats, they couldn't help marveling at their surroundings.

At this time, everyone was in the sky. More precisely, the spectators were seated in a colosseum-like structure that hovered above the 18 islands serving as the competition venue. The 18 islands were like chess boards, with the participants being the chess pieces.

Not only could the spectators freely choose which island to spectate, but they could also zoom in to observe specific battles. The only unfortunate part was that the zoom distance was limited. The closest those in the normal seats could get was 30 meters above the islands —too far for detailed observations.

Spectators in the VIP viewing rooms, however, could not only spectate the battles as if they were there in person but also have the VIP rooms notify them of any ongoing battles. This function allowed the room occupants to avoid missing out on any exciting battles.

As the spectators above the competition venue were screaming and exclaiming, the players randomly teleported onto the 18 islands were already taking action. “Whether our Guild can reach the top to become a giant in God’s Domain will depend on this battle. The Guild will put anyone who performs well in this competition under priority training.”

“Everyone, listen up! Our 1,000-man team has only two goals! The first is to occupy an Intermediate Resource Node or better as soon as possible! The second is to secure the node firmly!”

“We are fortunate. Our Guild has five 300-man teams on this island. The higher-ups have already stated that we must rank within the top five on this island. So long as we achieve this goal, everyone will receive 2,000 GCPs after the competition!”

The various participating Guilds frantically went on the offensive, the tense atmosphere building excitement among the spectators in the sky.

Meanwhile, inside a VIP viewing room...

“As expected of the Five Great Super Guilds. The depth of their foundations far surpasses the other Guilds,” Mu Lingsha sighed ruefully as she looked at the statistics of the 18 islands.

The Five Great Super Guilds had between 53 to 61 teams each, and every one of them had at least six 100-man teams. All of these small teams were led by legends in the virtual gaming industry. Each of the Five Great Super Guilds had teams on 11 to 13 of the 18 islands. In comparison, the other Guilds had

teams on only five or six islands on average, half of what the Five Great Super Guilds had. Right off the bat, it was already clear that the other Guilds stood no chance against the Five Great Super Guilds.

Of course, there were also some lucky Guilds that had teams on eight or nine islands. However, this couldn't be considered a fortunate matter either, as their numbers were spread so thinly that they could hardly preserve themselves, let alone occupy Resource Nodes.

On the other hand, the Five Great Super Guilds' personnel were divided relatively evenly. Each of them only had one or two islands with insufficient personnel, which wouldn't affect the overall situation, as more than half of the islands they occupied had a considerable number of personnel. They wouldn't have any problems ranking within the top five in Guild Points.

To put it simply, it was certain that the Five Great Super Guilds would secure a reserve seat for themselves.

"In terms of personnel distribution, Miracle and Sacred Temple have the best chance to secure the sixth seat. Both Guilds have teams on nine islands, and their personnel distribution is fairly even, as well. The other Guilds are evidently far behind these two Guilds," Unyielding Heart analyzed.

"No!" When Mu Lingsha took a look at Frost Heaven's statistics, she was slightly surprised. "Frost Heaven isn't doing too badly, either. It has teams on seven islands."

If comparing based on the number of islands occupied, Frost Heaven could rank twelfth out of the 30 participating superpowers. It was only two islands behind Miracle and Sacred Temple.

"No. Of the seven islands Frost Heaven has been allocated to, two islands don't even have 500 players on it. Moreover..." Unyielding Soul couldn't help shaking his head and sighing after carefully reading Frost Heaven's data.

While Mu Lingsha and Unyielding Heart were discussing Frost Heaven, many other powers in the VIP viewing rooms were doing the same. Some of these powers gloated over Frost Heaven's misfortune, while some sympathized with the Guild.

As to why everyone reacted in such a way, it was because Black Flame, who was considered Frost Heaven's saving grace, had actually been assigned to Island No. 3, a large island. And worse, Black Flame's team was merely a 100-man team.

He would be up against the teams of 16 superpowers on Island No. 3. Even the Five Great Super Guilds were present in full. The competition here was simply nightmarish in difficulty. It would be a fool's dream to try and secure a Resource Node with only a 100-man team.

In addition, Frost Heaven only had two teams on Island No. 7, a medium island. One of them was a 100-man team led by Aqua Rose, while the other was a 300-man team led by one of Frost Heaven's Elders. The two teams combined didn't even have 500 players. In comparison, the eight other Guilds on the island had between 1,000 to 2,000 players each.

To make matters worse, the teams led by Frost Heaven's Seven Wonders, Hong Xinyuan, and five Elders actually got assigned to Island No. 17. In total, the Guild had 2,500 players assigned to a measly small island.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, what should we do?" Muxin inevitably grew anxious after learning of the various islands' situations. "The Guild Leader's side won't have any problems, but we only have our team and Gentle Snow's 100-man team here."

This was undoubtedly the worst possible scenario for Frost Heaven.

Initially, they had been hoping for Shi Feng to be sent to a small island. And so long as the number of Guild members on that island reached 1,000, occupying two Resource Nodes on that island shouldn't be a problem. Two Resource Nodes' worth of Guild Points would be more than enough to propel Frost Heaven to the top five rankings of that island. After all, a small island only had 12 Resource Nodes. With so many Guilds competing for the nodes, there wouldn't be enough for each competing Guild to secure one.

Now, however, Shi Feng had ended up on a large island with only 200 friendly players. In this situation, the most he could do was occupy one Resource Node, which would basically be useless. Moreover, as Shi Feng was foreign aid, he would get only half the points official participants would get.

On the other hand, Seven Wonders's side should have no problem occupying two Resource Nodes. In fact, they had too many people for the task.

However, securing a third node on the small island would be difficult since a small island had only 12 Resource Nodes. If Frost Heaven occupied too many, the other superpowers would join hands to target Frost Heaven.

"This is still a relatively good start," Shi Feng said calmly as he inspected the distribution information. "Let's meet up with Snow's team for now."

"A good start?" Muxin fell speechless momentarily.

In the current situation, the chances of Frost Heaven securing the sixth reserve seat were incredibly slim.

However, what Muxin didn't know was that Shi Feng had hoped to be assigned to a medium or large island. After all, only medium and large islands had Advanced Resource Nodes.

As foreign aid, he would receive only half the points of official participants. Hence, securing an Advanced Node was a must if he wished to have an impact. His random assignment to a large island couldn't be considered bad luck. If he had gotten assigned to a small island, now that would be truly bad luck.

During the time Shi Feng's team was converging with Gentle Snow's team, a 1,000-man team was slowly traversing a dense forest on Island No. 3. Meanwhile, the cool-headed youth leading the team was currently staring at a 100-man team several hundred yards away, with scorching flames blazing in his eyes.

"Black Flame, it seems your luck has finally run out. If you have to blame someone, blame yourself for arranging your teams in such a way. Now, I will let you know the consequences of going against me." Excitement filled Thousand Miles's eyes as he looked at Gentle Snow and her team in the distance.

"Vice Guild Leader Miles, we have already scouted the vicinity. There are no other Guilds nearby," a Level 118, Tier 3 Ranger reported through the team chat. "Good!" Thousand Miles grew even more excited at this piece of news. He then announced through the team chat, "Since no other Guilds are nearby, we don't need to be polite. Everyone, charge! Let's kill this Vice Guild Leader of Zero Wing first and collect some interest!"

"Yes, sir!"

At Thousand Miles's command, Miracle's members, lurking excitedly in the forest, prepared to ambush Gentle Snow's team. They would make sure that her team had nowhere to run.

Above the competition venue, inside a VIP room...

“This is bad. Miracle’s Thousand Miles discovered Gentle Snow’s team,” Flourishing Willow said nervously as she stared at a dense forest on Island No. 3. “Gentle Snow will be in trouble. Thousand Miles’s team is a 1,000-man team.”

“The experts on Thousand Miles’s team are astonishing. I’m afraid there are at least a dozen peak experts and two apex experts.” Galaxy Past, the Star Alliance’s Guild Leader, also frowned when he saw this situation.

As a Guild of Star-Moon Kingdom, the Star Alliance had frequently clashed with Gentle Snow’s Ouroboros during the early stages of the game. In fact, Galaxy Past had even treated Gentle Snow as his rival. Hence, Galaxy Past paid close attention to Zero Wing in this competition.

This was especially so for his ex-rival, Gentle Snow. Galaxy Past had even set Gentle Snow as a priority target on the spectator’s interface. So long as she fought in a battle, he would be notified of it immediately.

“The gap between the two sides is too large.” Purple Eye, who was now a Level 117, Tier 3 Great Mage, shook her head and sighed, “If Gentle Snow were leading Zero Wing’s main force, she might still stand a chance. However, with her strength alone, there’s no way her team can win. Even escaping will be a problem.”

Although the Star Alliance had been in conflict with Ouroboros and even the current Zero Wing, as Guilds originating from Star-Moon Kingdom and peak experts from the same kingdom, Purple Eye still hoped to see Gentle Snow and Zero Wing perform well in this competition.

“Dammit. If only we could join the battle.”

The other Star Alliance upper echelon present also sighed and grumbled. They never thought that Gentle Snow’s team would be so unlucky as to encounter a 1,000-man team right off the bat.

“Miracle has started moving!” “Gentle Snow! Why haven’t you noticed them yet?!”

Flourishing Willow reflexively stood up in worry and pointed at Miracle’s members on the holographic projection.

A one-hundred-versus-one-thousand battle already placed Gentle Snow’s team in an overwhelming disadvantage. Moreover, Miracle’s team was even stuffed with experts, while Frost Heaven’s members were obviously no good. Even the strongest among them had reached only the Refinement Realm; most of them weren’t even at the Half-step Refinement Realm standard.

Let alone Miracle’s experts, even the Star Alliance’s main force could trounce these Tier 3 experts from Frost Heaven.

However, despite the Star Alliance’s members’ thoughts and shouts, Miracle’s experts had already sneaked within 100 yards of Gentle Snow’s team. For Tier 3 players, such a distance required only a few steps to cross. Gentle Snow’s team had no chance to flee now.

“Good! Magic team, start chanting!” Thousand Miles commanded after his team arrived within the critical range. He then turned to the two elderly men beside him and said, “Elder Roc, Elder Feather, I’ll leave Gentle Snow to you two. Do not let her get away.”

“Rest assured, Vice Guild Leader. Leave that young lady to these two old men,” Elder Roc, a white-bearded old man clad in black robes and armed with two pitch-black short swords, answered.

“If we take action, she won’t have a chance to escape,” Elder Feather, an old man with golden pupils, said, smiling. He wore dark-gray leather armor and carried a white-winged feather bow.

“I am naturally confident in your abilities. Both of you are our Guild’s top-ranking ambushers. However, Gentle Snow isn’t an easy target, either. In terms of combat power, she rivals Domain Realm experts already. Killing her will definitely deal a huge blow to Zero Wing,” Thousand Miles said, smiling.

Thousand Miles felt reassured that Elder Roc and Elder Feather were taking action. After all, the two Elders could hold their ground even against a peerless expert if they worked together. This was why the Guild had let these two Elders join a 1,000-man team.

However, he did not wish to repeat his mistakes. He would use everything he had, even to deal with a minor problem.

When Thousand Miles finished speaking, the magical-class players in the team had also completed the incantations for their Spells.

“Vice Guild Leader, all preparations are done. We can make them disappear from the island at your command,” a Level 118, Tier 3 Great Mage reported quietly.

“Good!”

Thousand Miles did not doubt his subordinate's words at all since the 20 magical-class players had jointly cast eight Destruction Spells. These powerful Spells would devastate even Level 120 Mythic monsters, let alone Tier 3 players.

The magical-class players on the team grew excited. After all, they rarely had an opportunity to use such high-caliber Spells. The Bosses in Dungeons normally wouldn't give them a chance to cast such Spells. Only during siege battles would they have such an opportunity.

Now that they could use Gentle Snow's team for target practice, they were naturally more than happy to do so.

Immediately, Thousand Miles turned to look at Gentle Snow's team. "Huh?"

However, the instant Thousand Miles turned around, his entire body shuddered.

Before anyone noticed, Gentle Snow had already appeared before his team's magical-class players. The Tier 3 Great Mage that reported to him was even laughing, wholly unaware of Gentle Snow's arrival.

"Not good! We got discovered!" Thousand Miles shouted instinctively.

At this moment, Thousand Miles wasn't the only person to have noticed Gentle Snow's sudden appearance. The other Miracle members noticed her too. Only, their minds failed to react to the situation.

Gentle Snow, who had used Instant Flash to arrive before her ambushers, had no intention of giving her opponents time to react. She immediately swung the Glorious Will replica, which had already been

upgraded to the Fragmented Legendary rank, at the Tier 3 Great Mage leading Miracle's magical-class players.

Gentle Snow's slash was straightforward, so fast that the Great Mage could only watch as her sword descended. He didn't even have time to dodge using Instantaneous Movement.

The next moment, the Great Mage was cleaved in half, and his HP plummeted straight to zero.

What a quick slash!

Thousand Miles couldn't help gasping when he saw his subordinate getting killed.

The Great Mage in question was a Void Realm expert. Normally, so long as his opponent made any movements, he would instantly sense his opponent's intentions and react appropriately. Moreover, all magical-class players possessed Skills or Spells like Instantaneous Movement.

Hence, in order to finish the Great Mage in one hit, even Domain Realm experts had to launch an attack without the Great Mage's awareness of the situation.

However, despite Gentle Snow executing an attack right before the Great Mage's eyes, the latter had actually failed to respond to it.

"Little girl, you are really courageous! Aren't you afraid of making a one-way trip?" Elder Feather sneered as he looked at Gentle Snow. However, despite his confident words, he still observed Gentle Snow cautiously. He then privately whispered to Elder Roc, "It seems this little girl is much stronger than we imagined, Old Roc! I'll try to create an opportunity for you in a moment!"

“Leave it to me.” The black-clad Elder Roc also understood that the woman before them shouldn’t be underestimated. Immediately, the short swords he held behind his back bloomed with a pitch-black brilliance. As soon as there was an opening, he would use his strongest move to finish off Gentle Snow.

However, before Elder Feather and Elder Roc could make their move, Gentle Snow seemed to see through their intentions already.

Before the two elderly men realized it, 16 swords of light were flying at them, the abrupt attack catching them off guard. To make matters worse, they actually couldn’t perceive the presence of these 16 light swords.

“Dammit!”

Immediately, both Elder Feather and Elder Roc used their Lifesaving Skills simultaneously.

The next moment, a storm brewed around Elder Feather, who was a Tier 3 Ranger, the storm deflecting all attacks around him. As for Elder Roc, who was a Tier 3 Assassin, he executed bewildering footwork and instantly split into six identical copies of himself. It was impossible to tell the real one from the fakes.

After Elder Feather and Elder Roc, Thousand Miles was the quickest to react among the Miracle members present. He raised his Divine Skeleton Shield and dark-red battle axe and charged at Gentle Snow, leaving behind an afterimage.

Tier 3 Skill, Triple Purgatory Flash!

The next moment, Thousand Miles brandished his axe and summoned three black crescents that attacked Gentle Snow from three different directions. The attack was so fast that even Domain Realm experts had to focus all their attention on it if they wished to dodge or block it.

However, Thousand Miles did not see Gentle Snow paying any attention to him. As if he were only an ant by the roadside, she completely ignored his existence.

“Die!”

Feeling extremely humiliated by Gentle Snow’s attitude, Thousand Miles bellowed in anger. Simultaneously, the three black crescents’ power also strengthened slightly, enough to shatter space itself.

However, Thousand Miles quickly felt despair overwhelm him.

Even now, Gentle Snow still ignored him. She merely swung her greatsword at the crescent approaching her from the front. Immediately afterward, the black crescent deflected along the greatsword’s trajectory and smashed into the two other black crescents.

To Thousand Miles’s surprise, after the latter two crescents got struck, their courses actually deviated toward himself. How is this possible?!

Thousand Miles was dumbfounded. Although he wanted to repulse these two black crescents, his body simply couldn’t react in time.

Boom! Boom!

Two dull sounds appeared, and Thousand Miles stumbled two consecutive steps backward. Each step was accompanied by a significant loss of HP. By the end of the attack, two deep cuts had appeared on his armor, and his HP had fallen below 50%.

Just when Thousand Miles thought he could catch a breather, he noticed that his surroundings were surprisingly quiet.

“You guys... What happened?”

Thousand Miles couldn't help his confusion when he saw his teammates' shocked expressions.

However, before Thousand Miles could take in the situation, another black crescent flew across his neck and left behind a black line in space and a flying head.

Chapter 2720 – Beyond the Domain Realm

When Thousand Miles's body collapsed to the ground, the Miracle members in the dense forest shuddered involuntarily. The Star Alliance's members spectating in their VIP viewing room also gaped in shock.

“How did she become so strong?” Purple Eye exclaimed in disbelief.

Not only did Gentle Snow slay a Tier 3 peak expert after going deep into Miracle's ranks, but she had also taken the initiative to attack two Domain Realm experts. While doing so, she had even casually killed the Purgatory Knight Thousand Miles.

The last part, where Gentle Snow faced Thousand Miles, was especially amazing. Thousand Miles should've generated those three black crescents using a Skill, yet Gentle Snow had made it look as if she was the one who summoned them. It was simply unbelievable.

Has the gap between us gotten so big already? Galaxy Past was at a loss for words as he stared at Gentle Snow's figure in the holographic projection.

They were both Star-Moon Kingdom's top-ranking experts, yet it was now obvious that the actual gap between them was massive. They were already in completely different worlds.

"Guild Leader, I plan to leave Star-Moon Kingdom temporarily after this competition. I want to explore other places," Flourishing Willow said. She was similarly shocked by Gentle Snow's strength and felt unreconciled.

The gap between them clearly hadn't been so massive before. Both of them were experts ranked in the God's Domain Experts List. Now, however, Flourishing Willow doubted she could survive even one move against Gentle Snow. How could she possibly accept this situation? "Sure." Galaxy Past did not question Flourishing Willow's decision. On the contrary, he turned to Purple Eye and asked, "How about you take a look outside, too? The Guild doesn't have many matters to deal with now, and I can handle them by myself."

"Thank you, Guild Leader." Purple Eye nodded while gritting her teeth. "I won't disappoint

you.”

Although the Star Alliance normally mingled in Star-Moon Kingdom’s neighboring countries as well, compared to Zero Wing, whose members fought all over God’s Domain, the Star Alliance’s chessboard was truly insignificant and laughable.

During the time the Star Alliance’s members were in shock, the members of Miracle inside the dense forest were likewise stunned. As if they had just encountered a ferocious monster, every one of them stood stock-still. One move! Gentle Snow had killed Thousand Miles in just one move!

With such strength, she already rivaled peerless experts.

Elder Roc and Elder Feather, who had successfully evaded Gentle Snow’s attack, were dazed, fear and confusion coloring their faces.

“Impossible! How can a little girl like you reach such a realm?!” Elder Roc couldn’t help doubting his eyes as he gazed at Gentle Snow.

“I never thought anyone could reach that realm at such a young age. Am I really getting too old?” Elder Feather also turned somewhat silly as he looked at Gentle Snow.

They hadn’t thought much of it when they saw Gentle Snow kill the Void Realm Great Mage.

However, after seeing Gentle Snow kill Thousand Miles, they finally understood what happened.

The woman before them wasn't some powerful expert rivaling Domain Realm experts. Instead, she was an existence that had transcended the Domain Realm.

When the two elderly men looked at the young lady before them, they suddenly felt they had lived their lives in vain.

After all, they had racked their brains just to reach the Domain Realm's upper stage, yet Gentle Snow was already beyond the Domain Realm. How could they not despair at this discovery?

Even in veteran Super Guilds, anyone capable of reaching the Domain Realm's upper stage was generally over 60 years old already. As for the existences that had transcended the Domain Realm and reached the Higher Domain Realm, they were true old monsters. These existences were the mainstays of the Five Great Super Guilds.

However, during the time Elder Roc and Elder Feather were in a daze, Miracle's other Tier 3 experts regained their senses and suddenly charged at Gentle Snow.

"Kill! This woman killed Vice Guild Leader Miles! We must not let her leave alive!"

"That's right! In this special space, even peerless experts can't afford to duke it out with us!"

The next moment, over a hundred Guardian Knights and Shield Warriors activated their Defensive Skills and closed in on Gentle Snow. Simultaneously, the magical-class players on the team started casting Combination Spells one after another.

“Old Roc, let’s leave! It’ll be too late, otherwise!” Elder Feather suggested as he glanced at Elder Roc. He then activated a Skill without hesitation and transformed into a gale. He crossed several dozen yards with every step he took, showing no intention of fighting whatsoever.

Snapping out of his daze, Elder Roc hurriedly used Wind Steps, which he had upgraded to Tier 3, and entered Stealth.

“Elders?”

Miracle’s members were stunned momentarily. What was up with this situation?

Despite being the two strongest combatants in their 1,000-man team, Elder Roc and Elder Feather had actually fled.

At this moment, let alone Miracle’s members, even the Star Alliance’s spectating members couldn’t help gaping in shock.

“What’s going on?”.

“Why are those two apex experts running away?”

Despite having entered the Flowing Water Realm already, Galaxy Past, Flourishing Willow, and Purple Eye were bewildered by Elder Roc and Elder Feather’s decision to flee.

Domain Realm experts were existences that even the various superpowers wouldn't want to offend casually. Not to mention, both Elder Roc and Elder Feather had clearly made significant progress in the Domain Realm already. The two of them working together could most likely go up against peerless experts.

Not to mention, they still had the 1,000-man team supporting them. Even a peerless expert wouldn't want to clash head-on with such a force.

Yet, the two apex experts had actually fled?

While everyone was bewildered by this situation, Gentle Snow executed a vertical leap, vanishing from sight.

When she reappeared, she was standing 50 yards away from her original position. The Glorious Will in her hands bloomed with dazzling brilliance.

Will of Light!

Instantly, 12 brilliant flashes streaked through the dense vegetation, brightly illuminating the entire forest.

"What is she doing?"

Frost Heaven's members, who were spectating the fight from a distance, were confused. Likewise, Miracle's members also found this situation odd. They couldn't help wondering why Gentle Snow would launch an attack at empty air. Who could she possibly hit?

However, this thought lasted for only half a second in everyone's mind.

Boom!

A deafening boom spread through the area. Immediately afterward, web-like cracks formed within the dense forest's space and spread up to 300 yards away from the explosion's epicenter.

Then, the entire region collapsed.

The cracked space transformed into a pitch-black area with space and time in disarray. A boundless spatial storm subsequently raged through the area, devouring all of Miracle's members. Even Elder Roc and Elder Feather, who had escaped beforehand, got swept up in this chaotic storm, their HPs draining like running water. Several seconds later, the shattered space started returning to normal. However, at this point, Miracle's 1,000-man team was nowhere in sight. And from above the island, it looked as if a huge meteorite had struck the dense forest, leaving behind only a huge impact crater.

"What exactly...did she...do?"