

Chapter 3021-Chapter 95 – Abyssal Star Ancient City

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TL Notes:

Town Rune Crystal -> Settlement Rune Crystal

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“Half?” Hidden Soul was a little surprised.

“I indeed plan to set up a settlement here, but other than a settlement, I also plan on establishing an outer mercenary organization for Zero Wing,” Shi Feng said. “Meanwhile, I plan on putting you in charge of this mercenary organization.”

There were all sorts of player forces in God’s Domain. Other than the mainstream forces like Guilds, adventurer teams, trading firms, and assassin organizations, there were also other forces such as mercenary organizations. In the case of mercenary organizations, they catered to independent experts that disliked being bound by restrictions, offering them tasks in exchange for Credits or resources in God’s Domain.

Meanwhile, there were many uses for a Guild to establish a mercenary organization. Among them, the biggest use was to recruit a large number of independent experts for the Guild’s use.

Currently, although Zero Wing already possessed a good foundation, it was still too weak compared to the various long-standing powers in God’s Domain. It simply lacked the strength to protect its interests in God’s Domain.

The best example would be the Ancient Demon Court. Had it not been for Shi Feng’s strength acting as a deterrent and the Ancient Demon Court’s unique characteristics, Zero Wing couldn’t have retained ownership over it at all.

Meanwhile, with Zero Wing’s current members, there was no way it would have enough strength to defend a Guild City. It was especially true if the various superpowers set their sights on it. Shi Feng still didn’t possess the strength to go up against multiple superpowers simultaneously.

Hence, the best solution was for Zero Wing to establish a mercenary organization based in Zero Wing’s settlement and quickly recruit the help of a large number of independent experts to assist the Guild. By doing so, Zero Wing could ensure its settlement’s security while acquiring a large amount of Coins and resources.

Meanwhile, who better to lead such an organization than Hidden Soul? As a former commander in the Flower of Seven Sins, she was undoubtedly acquainted with many peak and apex independent experts. She would have no trouble attracting these independent experts to work for Zero Wing.

“I refuse.” Hidden Soul shook her head, flatly refusing Shi Feng’s offer. “My goal is only that Holy Annihilation Mana Technique. I am not interested in anything else.”

Hidden Soul naturally understood Shi Feng’s intentions. He was most likely trying to use her as a cover against the various superpowers while he manipulated the situation in the dark. She’d be a fool if she agreed to his request.

“Don’t be so quick to refuse,” Shi Feng said, smiling. “I know this job comes with a lot of risks, but with high risks comes high rewards. If you can take on this job and safeguard Zero Wing’s settlement, I can give you a copy of the Mana Technique for free. Moreover, don’t you want to see what kind of settlement I’ll be establishing?”

Hidden Soul was a little tempted when she heard Shi Feng’s offer. However, she quickly shook her head after thinking it over. She’d be insane to go against the various superpowers for nothing more than a settlement.

However, before Hidden Soul could open her mouth to voice her refusal, Shi Feng took out the Settlement Rune Crystal from his bag and recited the incantation engraved on it.

Meanwhile, as soon as Shi Feng started reciting the incantation, an intense pillar of light suddenly emerged from the ground around Shi Feng and shot straight up into the sky.

“This Mana... How is this possible?!”

Hidden Soul was dumbfounded when she saw the light pillar that enveloped Shi Feng. This was because she could sense that the thing before her wasn’t a light pillar at all. Instead, it was a pillar of Mana so pure and intense that it was already comparable to the Mana of Tier 6 Gods.

Meanwhile, after this pillar of Mana extended a thousand meters into the air, it began spreading apart to form a magic array that covered nearly half of the entire Misty Canyon. Then, once this gigantic magic array had finished forming, an ancient and majestic settlement gradually emerged from it and descended on the forest Shi Feng designated.

When the settlement had flattened the forest and settled on the ground, Shi Feng promptly received a series of system notifications.

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System: Congratulations! You have successfully summoned the Abyssal Star Ancient City, one of the Nine Ancient Legacy Cities of the Second Sequence, and became the ancient city’s governor.

System: The Abyssal Star Ancient City will receive full protection for ten natural days. Please construct the city’s defenses during the protection period.

System: The Abyssal Star Ancient City will be fully opened after ten natural days. All cities in the surrounding region will be notified at that time.

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Is this the true foundation of an Ancient Demon Court found in the Miniature Ancient World? Shi Feng couldn't help but feel complicated when he read the system notifications. He didn't know whether he should laugh or cry about this situation.

One of the Nine Ancient Legacy Cities of the Second Sequence... I won't be able to maintain a low profile even if I want to now...

The Ancient Demon Courts were the Civilization Legacies left behind by the Ancient Demon Gods. Among the Legacies found in Ancient Demon Courts, the best Legacies would undoubtedly be the settlements the Ancient Demon Gods constructed.

Meanwhile, these ancient settlements could be categorized into three groups: the Three Holy Cities of the First Sequence, the Nine Ancient Legacy Cities of the Second Sequence, and the One Hundred Towns of the Third Sequence.

Although there was a significant disparity between the three groups, even the towns in the Third Sequence were incredibly powerful. Given enough time, a small Guild could easily grow into a superpower with the help of a Third Sequence Town. This was also why Shi Feng was confident he could persuade Hidden Soul to help him.

These Legacy Settlements functioned specifically to nurture players. Meanwhile, even Tier 6 God-ranked experts could receive some harvest from a Third Sequence Town, let alone players who hadn't reached Tier 6.

However, Shi Feng never imagined that the Settlement Rune Crystal he acquired would yield such an amazing result. He couldn't believe he had summoned the Abyssal Star Ancient City, one of the Nine Ancient Legacy Cities, just by spending 200,000 Magic Crystals...

It should be known that during his previous life, even with the almighty Zero Wing supporting him, he had relied heavily on luck to summon an ancient city. Meanwhile, thanks to this ancient city, Zero Wing was able to solidify its foundation and establish a foothold in the Greater God's Domain.

In contrast, the current Zero Wing had already gained an ancient city despite being a newly-established Guild. If the Greater God's Domain's various powers were to learn of this, they would probably mobilize the entirety of their respective worlds' power to steal this city...

Compared to Shi Feng, Hidden Soul had a much greater reaction when she saw the majestic city that had replaced the forest before her. With her eyes filled with shock and confusion, she yelled, "An ancient city?!"

Originally, she thought that Shi Feng was merely building a new town. She never expected Shi Feng to summon a city, much less an ancient city.

As a former commander of the Flower of Seven Sins, Hidden Soul was no stranger to ancient cities. This was because the Flower of Seven Sins also owned several ancient cities. Meanwhile, every ancient city was a treasure trove left behind by an ancient civilization, and it could provide immense help to both individuals and organizations.

“It’d be more appropriate to call this a primordial city than an ancient city,” Shi Feng said as he looked at Hidden Soul’s dazed expression. Then, he smiled and said, “Let’s go in and take a look.”

After saying so, Shi Feng began walking toward the Abyssal Star Ancient City. Meanwhile, Hidden Soul didn’t hesitate for long before she followed after him.

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TL Notes:

I mentioned it in a previous chapter, but I will be using “settlement” as a general term for towns and cities. When I use “settlement,” I could be referring to towns, cities, or both.

Unlike when I was translating the main story for RSSG, I don’t have many future chapters to use as reference for the side story, so forgive me if I keep making changes to certain terms.

I also plan to modify certain terms and capitalization to streamline things. To name a few examples:

1) NPC town/city -> NPC Town/City (capitalization change to match the capitalization of Guild Town/City)

2) Set Equipment -> Equipment Set (to make it easier to describe set equipment in plural. Equipment is a noun without a plural form, so I’d have to use a lengthy approach when talking about multiple sets. E.g. five sets of set equipment. With “equipment set,” I can just go for “five equipment sets” instead.)

Chapter 3022-Chapter 96 – Holy Land

The Abyssal Star Ancient City wasn’t very large, its size was only that of an Advanced Town. Unlike an Advanced Town, though, the ancient city was surrounded by a circle of tall walls.

The moment Shi Feng and Hidden Soul stepped into the city, they could instantly feel the mysterious energy in their bodies disappearing rapidly. The speed at which the mysterious energy dissipated here was more than double what they experienced when resting in the hotels of NPC Cities.

“How amazing. The core magic array still isn’t in operation, yet not only does it have Mana concentration rivaling NPC Cities, but it also has such a powerful cleansing effect. Is this the power of a primordial city?” Hidden Soul exclaimed when she noticed the changes to her body after entering a city.

There was a huge difference between a city with its core magic array activated and a city with its core magic array deactivated. Meanwhile, this was the first time she had seen a city with such powerful effects even with its core magic array deactivated.

Unlike Hidden Soul, Shi Feng took this situation calmly. As one of the nine ancient cities built by the Ancient Demon Gods, the functions Hidden Soul had stated were nothing but the tip of the iceberg. This was because every Ancient Legacy City of the Second Sequence would already possess environments rivaling the holy lands in God’s Domain in its initial stage.

Sometime later, Shi Feng arrived at the heart of Abyssal Star City with Hidden Soul.

Situated at the city's heart was an ancient tower that extended up to 500 meters into the air. Meanwhile, situated at the top of the tower was a dazzling rune, the rune acting like a lamp that illuminated the entire city.

However, this ancient tower wasn't just a simple lighthouse. Instead, the stronghold held the Abyssal Star Ancient City's secrets.

Of the nine Ancient Legacy Cities the Ancient Demon Gods left behind, every one of them possessed a different ability. As an example, the Legacy stored within the ancient city Zero Wing obtained during Shi Feng's previous life was related to Concentration, and it could help players improve their Concentration rapidly. Thanks to this Legacy, the number of Tier 5 and Tier 6 experts Zero Wing possessed far surpassed that of other Guilds.

Meanwhile, shortly after Shi Feng and Hidden Soul walked into the ancient tower, they were quickly dumbfounded by what they found.

When they entered the tower's first floor, the first thing that greeted them was a row of tightly shut stone doors, and every one of these doors had strange symbols engraved on them. Then, after opening a few of these doors, they found that beyond each of these stone doors was a miniature world.

Indeed!

A miniature world!

Every one of these miniature worlds had a unique environment. Or, more specifically, players could freely set the environment they desired in these rooms. They could set the room to become a world filled with only a specific type of Mana. They could also set it so that the Mana was excited or calm.

One could say that these rooms were the ideal training ground for players to improve their control over Mana!

Incredible... The Legacy in this city is truly terrifying. Shi Feng was shocked beyond words as he looked at the many stone doors on the tower's first floor.

The Mana in God's Domain was a composite of various types of Mana. It didn't consist of just one specific type of Mana. However, when players used Skills and Spells, they would often use only one specific type of Mana. Meanwhile, depending on how much Mana of that specific type they managed to accumulate, the speed of their spellcasting and the power of their Spells would be completely different.

If players stood in an environment that possessed only one type of Mana, the ambient Mana would greatly help them if they were to use Skills or Spells of the same type. It was especially true when it came to mastering the operating principles of that specific Mana type.

It should be known that after reaching Tier 5, players would need to understand the operating principles of the various types of Mana in order to construct their Divine Body and reach Tier 6. However, the process of learning these operating principles was incredibly challenging since players couldn't typically see or touch Mana. They could only rely on their other senses to perceive it. The fact that ambient Mana was a composite of various Mana types made things even more challenging.

However, the miniature worlds here provided the solution to this problem. By allowing players to filter the ambient Mana around them to just one specific type, these miniature worlds could reduce the difficulty players faced in understanding Mana by more than tenfold.

After calming his excited heart, Shi Feng couldn't help but turn toward Hidden Soul, who was still in a daze. Then, he smiled and asked, "Now that you've seen this city's abilities, what do you think of my proposal?"

"Are you sure you want to put me in charge of this city?" Hidden Soul asked after snapping out of her daze.

She'd be lying if she said she wasn't interested in the Abyssal Star Ancient City. To be precise, no player wouldn't be interested in this city.

What was her goal in obtaining the Holy Annihilation Mana Technique?

Wasn't it so that she could better understand and control Mana?

Meanwhile, the Abyssal Star Ancient City provided an unbelievable training environment to improve her learning efficiency by more than tenfold. How could she possibly refuse the chance to make use of this training environment?

"Since I am having you establish a mercenary organization with this city as its base, I will naturally leave this city's responsibility with you," Shi Feng said, nodding without hesitation.

Had he summoned only a Third Sequence Town, he might have had a way of letting Zero Wing defend it.

However, a Second Sequence City was no longer something the current Zero Wing could defend. After all, the existence of this city would be revealed to the entire Miniature Ancient World in ten days.

The only solution Shi Feng could think of to retain ownership over the city was having Hidden Soul step forward as its governor. After all, the Flower of Seven Sins was an existence no weaker than the Five Great Super Guilds.

Of course, Shi Feng also had other solutions to defend the Abyssal Star Ancient City if need be. However, not only would there be no benefits for him in doing so, but revealing these methods would also attract a bunch of trouble to him.

"I'll say it upfront. If all you want me to do is form a mercenary alliance to guard the Abyssal Star Ancient City, it won't be difficult to do so. I can even contact a group of powerful experts to help us right now," Hidden Soul said after pondering for some time. "But the real problem is those superpowers. If they learn of the benefits of this city, they might dispatch Tier 6 God-ranked experts here. In my current state, there is nothing I can do against them."

Previously, she had refused Shi Feng's offer because she thought that Shi Feng was merely establishing a Guild Town. If that were the case, the mercenary alliance she established wouldn't attract many independent experts to join. It was especially true for the independent experts she was acquainted with. Every one of them was incredibly prideful, and they showed no interest whatsoever even when the

various Super Guilds offered them an advisory position in their respective Guilds. There was no way they would help defend a measly Guild Town just for some meager leveling resources.

However, it was a different story if the target of defense was the Abyssal Star Ancient City. With what the city had to offer, she was confident she could persuade her acquaintances to join her. She could even use this chance to reclaim her position in the Flower of Seven Sins.

Unfortunately, with the standards of her and her acquaintances, there was nothing they could do if the various superpowers decided to dispatch Tier 6 God-ranked experts. It was especially so when they might have to face more than one Tier 6 God-ranked expert.

“Don’t worry about that. I’ll step forward if God-ranked experts come,” Shi Feng said, chuckling.

Chapter 3023-Chapter 97 – Arrival of New Era

“If you can hold back those God-ranked experts, there shouldn’t be any problems on my side,” Hidden Soul said, nodding. “I won’t even need ten days to get the mercenary alliance up and running. Also, my suggestion is that we grade the alliance’s members based on contribution. For now, the ranks I have in mind are Bronze, Silver, and Gold, and we will use these ranks to determine how long each member can spend inside these miniature worlds.”

There were a hundred stone doors on the ancient tower’s first floor, which translated to one hundred miniature worlds. That was by no means a large number. Moreover, although the ancient tower had two more floors, the second and third floors would only open when the city was promoted to a higher rank. Hence, there was no way to increase the number of miniature worlds inside the ancient tower within a short period.

However, considering they would be using these miniature worlds to advertise Zero Wing’s mercenary alliance, they needed to make it possible for as many people to experience the effects of these miniature worlds as possible. Otherwise, the number of players joining the mercenary alliance would decrease drastically. Meanwhile, the best way to do so was by limiting the amount of time each player could spend inside these miniature worlds.

“No problem.” Shi Feng nodded in agreement. “But in addition to making contributions, members must also pay a fee to use the miniature worlds. Bronze members will have to pay 200 Magic Crystals per hour, Silver members will get a 10% discount, and Gold members will get a 20% discount.”

The Abyssal Star Ancient City might be powerful, the miniature worlds cost a lot to operate. Each miniature world consumed 100 Magic Crystals per hour when in operation. If converted to Coins, that would be nearly 50 Gold Coins per hour. If Zero Wing tried to subsidize this cost, the Guild would go bankrupt in less than a day.

“My thoughts are similar. I’ll get the city’s management details sorted and send them to you afterward,” Hidden Soul said, having no objections about Shi Feng’s pricing.

In her opinion, there wouldn't be a problem even if they charged 500 Magic Crystals per hour to use the miniature worlds, let alone 200 Magic Crystals. After all, it was incredibly challenging to grasp the operating principles of Mana under normal circumstances. If her acquaintances were to find out that there was a way to reduce that difficulty by more than tenfold, they would probably beg her to let them stay in the miniature worlds for as long as possible.

Afterward, Shi Feng passed a portion of the Abyssal Star Ancient City's authority to Hidden Soul and 100,000 Magic Crystals for backup. Then, after making sure that everything was okay, he chose to go offline to rest.

As for the remaining matters relating to the city, he left all decision-making to Hidden Soul. It was without a doubt the best solution. After all, even he wasn't a match for Hidden Soul when it came to managing a mercenary organization.

Then, once Hidden Soul had stabilized the Abyssal Star Ancient City's operations, all he needed to do was have Zero Wing secretly garrison the city.

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Jin Hai City:

When Shi Feng logged out of God's Domain, the morning sun was already shining into his bedroom on the second floor. Normally, even if he had spent the entire night awake in God's Domain, he should wake up in a refreshed state. Now, though, he looked incredibly exhausted as he climbed out of his virtual gaming cabin.

Sure enough, the cabin's Nutrient Solution isn't enough to supplement the improvements I made this time.

When Shi Feng saw that the gaming cabin's Nutrient Solution tank was already empty, he quickly retrieved a bottle of A-rank Nutrient Fluid from the fridge. Then, as soon as he drank it, he could feel his exhausted mind recovering significantly.

Most people might be treating God's Domain as merely a virtual reality game, but Shi Feng was fully aware that God's Domain wasn't just a simple game. Instead, it was also a ladder of evolution.

While playing God's Domain, players would receive gradual improvements to their brains. Then, their bodies would also start to improve to keep up with their brains' increased activity.

However, these improvements came at the cost of a huge amount of energy. If players couldn't replenish the consumed energy in time, they might even end up burning their life energy.

Of course, ordinary Tier 3 players would probably never face a situation where they would burn their life energy. This was because this was a situation that would only occur when the brain had managed to surpass the limits of its mental capacity.

Meanwhile, after Shi Feng recovered from exhaustion, he clenched his fists and smiled.

Although I exhausted myself by using Lightshadow many times, I made a lot of improvements as a result. My physical fitness is probably on par with top-tier athletes now. At this rate, I'll only need to train in the Body Strengthening Technique for a few more days to reach the half-step master standard.

Although the half-step master standard was nowhere near the master standard, so long as he had the physical fitness of a half-step master, he wouldn't have to worry about facing hidden threats. He could even join the God's Domain Alliance and become an official member.

The God's Domain Alliance would, at most, provide basic support when it came to players who didn't qualify to become an official member. However, it was completely different once someone became an official member.

So long as someone managed to become an official member of the God's Domain Alliance, even the various corporations wouldn't dare to take any actions toward this person in the real world. Not on the surface, at least. Otherwise, it would be a direct provocation to the God's Domain Alliance, which was something not even international corporations could afford to do.

Because of this, powerful experts who had offended the various superpowers would never be afraid of suffering retaliation in the real world. They simply had to figure out how they could survive in God's Domain.

Meanwhile, after Shi Feng executed two repetitions of the Body Strengthening Technique, he washed up and got ready to head to the God's Domain Academy. However, just as he was about to leave his home, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Upon checking the front door's security camera through his watch, Shi Feng saw a middle-aged man and a young woman standing outside his house. To his surprise, his visitors were Qi Lianshan and Chen Ziyou.

"Instructor Qi? Aren't we about to head to the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters? Why did you suddenly come to my place?" Shi Feng asked, feeling a little surprised and confused as he looked at Qi Lianshan and Chen Ziyou.

Today was a big day for Jin Hai University's God's Domain Academy. After all, the visit to the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters was essentially a free training session for the Academy's students and instructors. Meanwhile, the opportunity to train at a transcendental power didn't come by easily.

"It is because of this that I hurried here to find you, Instructor Shi," Qi Lianshan said with a bitter smile.

"Did something happen?" Shi Feng asked curiously.

"The problem lies with me." After taking a look at Chen Ziyou, Qi Lianshan gritted his teeth and continued, "I hope that you can become Ziyou's instructor, Instructor Shi."

"Me? Become her instructor?" Shi Feng couldn't help but look at Chen Ziyou, who currently had her head lowered in silence.

Chen Ziyou was Instructor Qi's prized pupil. Shi Feng found it hard to imagine that Qi Lianshan would take the initiative to give Chen Ziyou to him. After all, it should be known that apprentice-teacher

relationships were given great importance in the current God's Domain. Otherwise, there wouldn't have been so many students trying to fight for Wu Lingling.

"That's right." Qi Lianshan nodded. Then, he said, "I wouldn't have wanted to do this, either, if I wasn't left with no better choice. However, Ziyou can successfully get into God's Domain's Talent Camp, this will all be worth it!"

"God's Domain's Talent Camp?" Shi Feng couldn't help but be confused. He had no idea what Qi Lianshan was talking about at all.

"This is a secret I found out only recently." Withholding no information, Qi Lianshan explained, "The visit to the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters today isn't just a simple tour or training camp. In reality, it is a selection meeting for all God's Domain Academies in the world. It isn't just the Secret Pavilion that is involved. Many Super Guilds are also holding tours today as a front for this selection meeting. Meanwhile, the organizer for this meeting is the God's Domain Alliance.

"It seems that the God's Domain Alliance is planning to go all-out and nurture a group of geniuses to combat the World Passage's opening. However, as most fourth-year students have already signed contracts with the various powers, the selection meeting this time is mainly targeted toward third-year students."

Chapter 3024-Chapter 98 – True Transcendental Power

"The God's Domain Alliance is going all-out to nurture geniuses?" Shi Feng was very surprised to hear this news.

The War of Worlds was no secret to him. Although there also existed an organization similar to the God's Domain Alliance during his previous life, this organization had only started nurturing talents of the new generation after the World Gate had fully opened.

Meanwhile, once the World Gate was fully opened, there wouldn't be just one World Passage connecting the two God's Domains. Instead, countless passages would randomly form, allowing the two God's Domains to compete and devour each other. However, as Tier 6 God-ranked experts were needed to safeguard key locations, the main fighting force of the two God's Domains in the War of Worlds would consist of Tier 4 and Tier 5 experts.

Originally, Shi Feng thought it would be much later before the God's Domain Alliance realized the need to nurture the new generation's talents. He didn't think the organization would notice it already.

"This is indeed outside of everyone's expectations," Qi Lianshan said, expressing his understanding when he saw the look of surprise on Shi Feng's face. "But I can confidently tell you that this information is true."

Originally, the God's Domain Alliance was merely a loose organization focused on hosting events in the real world. While it might be considered the biggest force in God's Domain, it had hardly any territory in

the game. So, nobody could've expected that the God's Domain Alliance would suddenly decide to nurture geniuses unaffiliated to it and spare no cost while doing so.

"But what does this have to do with Ziyou becoming my apprentice?" Shi Feng asked as he looked at Qi Lianshan in confusion.

"According to my sources, the selection this time requires students to be at the Half-step Refinement Realm standard at the very least. In addition, their instructors must be at the Flowing Water Realm or above. If a student can't meet these two conditions, they won't even qualify to participate in the selection," Qi Lianshan said, sighing. "We wouldn't have had to take such measures if I were still in my prime, but I'm afraid you are the only person who is in such a realm in our Academy right now, Instructor Shi."

"It seems the God's Domain Alliance has put a lot of considerations into this," Shi Feng said, realization dawning upon him.

The God's Domain Alliance indeed had access to an unimaginable amount of resources. However, players couldn't become powerful experts simply by having a lot of resources. They also needed capable teachers to offer them pointers. If a player had a Flowing Water Realm expert by their side constantly offering them guidance, they could improve their combat standards much more quickly.

Moreover, Flowing Water Realm experts were Tier 4 players on average, with some even being Tier 5 players. So, they could help their students level up very quickly as well.

In other words, while the God's Domain Alliance might be willing to offer students with resources, students would need to have their instructors resolve the problem of leveling up and improving their combat standards.

"I know you are very busy teaching Wu Lingling and the others, and you probably don't have a lot of free time to participate in the selection, Instructor Shi." Gritting his teeth, Qi Lianshan said, "But so long as you agree to participate in the selection this time, I will give you a bottle of S-rank Nutrient Fluid afterward."

S-rank Nutrient Fluids were incredibly precious to expert players. Even though Qi Lianshan was a senior instructor at Jin Hai University's God's Domain Academy, it had taken him great pains to exchange even one bottle.

Originally, he had planned to use this bottle to recover his mental state. However, compared to Chen Ziyou's future, the recovery of his mental state could wait.

"A bottle of S-rank Nutrient Fluid?" After pondering for some time, Shi Feng said, "Okay, I can agree to your offer, but I'm not taking responsibility for Ziyou's subsequent leveling up."

Shi Feng was currently an intermediate instructor already. Although he had the qualifications to exchange for S-rank Nutrient Fluids, it would take him a long time to accumulate one million Academy Points.

Most importantly, there was an exchange limit put on S-rank Nutrient Fluids. If he recalled correctly, intermediate instructors were only allowed to exchange one bottle a year. However, one bottle was nowhere near enough for him. After all, he was no longer young. He would need a lot of energy to recover his lifeforce, repair his body's damaged cells, and improve his physical fitness.

"You don't have to worry about this point, Instructor Shi. All you need to do is pass the selection's test," Qi Lianshan said, feeling a little excited when he heard Shi Feng's answer. Then, he quickly tapped on his quantum watch and transferred Chen Ziyou's instructor position to Shi Feng.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng promptly clicked "Agree" when he received the transfer prompt on his watch. With this, he became Chen Ziyou's instructor on paper.

After settling this matter, Qi Lianshan quickly led Shi Feng to his luxury sedan and drove him and Chen Ziyou to Jin Hai University to meet up with the other students and instructors.

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Liufeng City, Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters:

As a first-tier city, Liufeng City's population exceeded ten million. Meanwhile, the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters sat in the heart of the city, the headquarters' two towers having over two hundred floors and occupying an area of two sports stadiums. The twin towers were more than capable of accommodating tens of thousands of people to work and train inside.

"How spectacular! So, this is one of the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters?"

"As expected of a transcendental power in God's Domain. Just one of its branch headquarters already looks so amazing! It would be great if I could become an internal member of the Secret Pavilion."

"Quick, look! The Secret Pavilion's recruits are training over there!"

"It's true! The instructor teaching them seems to be Rainbow Chaser, one of the Secret Pavilion's newly promoted Tier 5 experts!"

When Jin Hai University's students looked out the windows of their bus and saw the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters, they couldn't help but marvel at the sight before them.

The state of the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters was on an entirely different level even when compared to the main headquarters of first-rate Guilds. Just the instructor responsible for guiding the recruits at the branch headquarters was already a Tier 5 expert. This was a luxury no first-rate Guild could afford for a branch headquarters.

Moreover, the one thousand recruits training on the field between the two towers were incredibly talented. Even though these recruits looked like they were only 14 or 15 years old, even the weakest among them was already at the Trial Tower's fifth-floor middle-stage standard. If put in Jin Hai University, they'd be regarded as geniuses among geniuses.

Yet, in the Secret Pavilion, these geniuses were nothing more than ordinary recruits, a fact proven by the emblems they wore on their shirts.

Before becoming official internal members, the Secret Pavilion's recruits would only receive a one-star light-blue emblem. Only after becoming an official internal member would they receive a two-star dark-blue emblem.

While Jin Hai University's students were in shock over the sight they just saw, a long line of buses started arriving at the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters one after another, their numbers exceeding 80. This meant that at least 80 God's Domain Academies had come to participate in the Secret Pavilion's tour this time. This number far exceeded their initial expectations. Moreover, out of these buses, there were even some that transported students from Advanced God's Domain Academies.

"What's going on? Why are students from Advanced Academies here as well?" Gu Tong couldn't help but be shocked when he looked at the students alighting from the various Advanced God's Domain Academies' buses.

Advanced God's Domain Academies!

To most students seeking to make a living from God's Domain, Advanced God's Domain Academies were schools they dreamed of entering.

Unlike the average God's Domain Academy, Advanced God's Domain Academies were true high-level education centers with several major corporations backing them. Some even had the support of international organizations. Meanwhile, with such ample funding, the instructors these Advanced Academies could recruit were also much superior in quality, with even the weakest instructor in these Academies being a Refinement Realm expert. Participants of God's Domain's A-League would also hold lectures in these Academies from time to time.

However, as with the quality of their instructors, these Advanced Academies also had a high entry requirement. If students wished to even participate in the enrollment test of these Advanced Academies, they'd need to be at the fifth-floor middle-stage standard, which was the official standard of ordinary experts, at the very least.

"What is the Secret Pavilion even thinking? I can't believe they invited a bunch of nobodies to the tour."

"That's right! The Secret Pavilion even wants us to spar with them! How are we supposed to improve by sparring with these country bumpkins? I think we might even regress if we fought them!"

When a group of freshmen alighted from an Advanced Academy's bus and saw the freshmen of the other Academies around them, a look of disdain appeared on their faces.

Meanwhile, the students from the other Academies naturally grew angry when they heard the words of this group of students. However, none of them dared to say anything since the other party consisted of experts at the Trial Tower's fifth-floor late-stage or above. These students were not people they could compete against.

Most importantly, the instructors following these students were not existences they could afford to offend since every one of them was a Flowing Water Realm expert. These experts were either Elders of first-rate Guilds or vice commanders of adventurer teams...

Meanwhile, after Jin Hai University's bus found a parking spot, Lin Yaoyue, the leader of the group, said, "Let's get off the bus as well."

Chapter 3025-Chapter 99 – Extraordinary Realm

When Lin Yaoyue alighted from the bus, the many students and instructors gathered on the field couldn't help but turn to look at her.

"Wow! What a pretty lady!"

"She's Clear Sky, one of Mysterious Moon's top two talents!"

"Jin Hai University's development is getting better and better. Previously, it was Wu Xiaoxiao. Now, I hear that even the geniuses of first-rate Guilds are enrolling there."

"I heard that another genius of Wu Xiaoxiao's caliber has appeared in Jin Hai University. I believe it is Wu Xiaoxiao's little sister, Wu Lingling. She reached the fifth floor's middle stage during her enrollment test. With Jin Hai University's current state, its Academy might rank within the top four of the province this year."

Many of the students and instructors on the field couldn't help but grow envious as they watched Jin Hai University's students getting off their bus. Getting on the provincial ranking list was of great importance even to Advanced God's Domain Academies, let alone ordinary God's Domain Academies.

By getting on the provincial ranking list, not only could an Academy attract more investments from corporations, but it could also recruit better quality students in the coming year. This, in turn, would create a positive cycle that would elevate the Academy's status.

Meanwhile, the elevation of an Academy's status was beneficial to both students and instructors. Not only would their status in the world increase, but the resources they received would also increase.

An Academy's status was especially important now that the various corporations were placing significant importance on the Miniature Ancient World. Their thirst for talents and the prices they were offering had already reached unprecedented levels.

However, while those from ordinary Academies talked about Jin Hai University in admiration, those from Advanced Academies also took notice of Jin Hai University's students and instructors. Specifically, a 20-year-old woman with long brown hair and a curvaceous body looked toward Wu Lingling and said, "Wu Xiaoxiao's little sister? It seems the freshman competition this time is going to be interesting."

"Aren't you overestimating Wu Lingling, Big Sis?" a 17-year-old boy with messy hair and a sleepy face said, sneering as he looked at Wu Lingling as well. "Wu Xiaoxiao might be able to call herself your opponent, but Wu Lingling's enrollment score is nothing special. The fifth-floor middle-stage standard might be extraordinary in ordinary Academies, but that is just the average in our Tianxing University. Not even those at the fifth-floor late-stage can rank within the top 20, let alone the fifth-floor middle-stage."

The dozen or so boys and girls standing around the lazy-looking youth nodded in agreement.

As an Advanced Academy, Tianxing University's God's Domain Academy required all applicants to reach the Trial Tower's fifth-floor middle-stage at the very least. Meanwhile, those qualified to participate in the Secret Pavilion's tour this time were either at the sixth floor's early-stage or those close to reaching it.

Hence, in their eyes, Wu Lingling's enrollment score was nothing noteworthy.

"Don't be careless, Xuanyi. Other than the freshmen from the various Academies, the Secret Pavilion's freshmen will also participate in the freshman competition this time. Those people are true geniuses. If you wish to receive priority training from the Secret Pavilion, you'll need to rank within the top 10 at the very least," the brown-haired woman said as she turned to look at the several dozen Secret Pavilion members walking toward the field.

"Don't worry, Big Sis. Aren't you aware of my strength? I can even get into the top 5 without any trouble, let alone the top 10," the young man named Liu Xuanyi said confidently.

None of the other students from Tianxing University voiced any objections when they heard Liu Xuanyi's arrogant words. This was because Liu Xuanyi was a true genius at Tianxing University, his talent surpassing even his elder sister, Liu Yanya. Meanwhile, Liu Yanya was one of the top two geniuses of their Advanced Academy.

When Liu Xuanyi enrolled in Tianxing University's God's Domain Academy, he was already at the sixth-floor middle-stage standard. After receiving guidance from the Academy's instructors, his strength had skyrocketed. Thus, he wouldn't have any trouble going up against the Secret Pavilion's top-tier geniuses.

While Liu Xuanyi and the others were talking, the Secret Pavilion's members had arrived at the center of the field.

Standing in the lead of these several dozen people was a woman in sportswear looking to be in her early twenties. Meanwhile, the moment everyone looked at this woman, silence instantly enveloped the entire field as excitement and confusion filled everyone.

"It's Empress Purple Jade!"

"What's going on? The Empress is actually hosting this tour?!"

At this moment, even the instructors of the various Academies were surprised to see the woman in sportswear, let alone the students.

Empress Purple Jade!

She had been one of the Secret Pavilion's top three geniuses when God's Domain first launched. Now, she had even become a Tier 6 Sword God, a legendary existence whom everybody in God's Domain knew.

Normally, one would have a better chance at winning the lottery than meeting Purple Jade in person. Yet, now, Purple Jade had actually appeared in one of the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters. Moreover, by the looks of it, she would be acting as the host for the tour this time. So, how could everyone not be shocked by this situation?

“Instructor Shi! My eyes aren’t playing tricks on me, right?! It’s actually Empress Purple Jade!” Wu Lingling exclaimed, her eyes filled with an indescribable sense of reverence as she looked at Purple Jade. “She’s so beautiful! She also looks much younger than in her combat videos!”

She’s at the Extraordinary Realm already? Shi Feng was also surprised when he saw Purple Jade.

Shi Feng was no stranger to Purple Jade. After all, he had partnered with the Secret Pavilion on many occasions during his previous life. However, unlike in his previous life, the Purple Jade in this life was completely different. Although she had similarly become a Tier 6 Sword God, she looked ridiculously young in this life.

It should be known that Purple Jade was only slightly younger than him. Yet, now, she looked no different than a 20-year-old. She even gave off an otherworldly feeling, and it felt like she was no longer mortal...

Meanwhile, the only explanation he could come up with for this situation was that Purple Jade’s life rating had already reached the Extraordinary Realm.

Meanwhile, the Extraordinary Realm was also known as the great grandmaster realm, and this was an evolution he had expended great effort to achieve. Moreover, this happened after he gained access to the Greater God’s Domain and acquired many fortuitous opportunities.

Yet, now, Purple Jade had already reached this realm even before their current sub-world had gained access to the Greater God’s Domain. Her talent was truly terrifying!

However, in response to everyone’s shock and confusion, Purple Jade simply scanned the crowd before her indifferently and said, “Welcome to the Secret Pavilion’s branch headquarters. I will be your host for today’s tour.”

...

TL Notes:

[1]life rating: This is unrelated to the “Life Rating” in God’s Domain. I couldn’t think of a better term to use here. I’ll be differentiating the two by capitalization. Lowercase(life rating) = real world

Uppercase(Life Rating) = God’s Domain

[2]great grandmaster realm: I’m assuming this refers to the realm above mental strength grandmaster.

Chapter 3026-Chapter 100 – Leaving Everyone in the Dust

After Purple Jade briefed everyone about the upcoming tour, she let the elite members behind her show their guests around the headquarters.

Meanwhile, when the various Academies’ students and instructors got to see and try out the top-tier training facilities available in the headquarters, they couldn’t help but be awed and drool in envy. According to what they experienced, they could tell that these training facilities could help an ordinary

expert become a Refinement Realm expert in just two or three years. The efficiency of these facilities was beyond anything their Academies had access to.

After touring the headquarters for several hours, the Secret Pavilion's elite members led everyone to the underground training field to begin today's main event.

The freshman competition!

The underground training field was much larger than the area the two headquarter buildings occupied on the surface, and it could easily fit four full-sized stadiums. With such a huge area, over ten thousand people could train here simultaneously. Currently, though, there were only a little over a thousand people gathered here, so the field looked empty.

"The freshman competition this time is going to be slightly different. We won't be holding one-on-one matches. Instead, we will have all participants attempt the Trial Tower," Purple Jade said as she scanned the crowd before her. "The Secret Pavilion will award the top ten participants of each Academy with one bottle of S-rank Nutrient Fluid, and those who rank within the top ten of the overall ranking list will receive an additional three bottles. In addition, those who manage to rank within the top five overall will also get to join the Secret Pavilion's genius training program."

As soon as Purple Jade finished speaking, the freshmen of the various Academies immediately grew excited. None of them thought that the Secret Pavilion would be so generous. Not only did they have an opportunity to acquire S-rank Nutrient Fluids to strengthen their bodies, but they even had a chance at becoming one of the Secret Pavilion's internal members and receiving the training of one.

I must get into the top ten! When Gu Tong heard Purple Jade's words, he couldn't help but look at Wu Lingling with eyes burning with fighting spirit. Just you wait! I'll make you understand who's the true number one genius in Jin Hai Academy!

Top five in the overall rankings? I'm getting in for sure! Over at Tianxing Academy's group, fighting spirit similarly filled Liu Xuanyi after he heard Purple Jade's words.

The top five will get to join the Secret Pavilion's genius training program? When Chen Ziyou watched as the various Academies' freshmen climbed into the prepared virtual gaming cabins one after another, a look of envy appeared on her face.

As a transcendental power in God's Domain, the Secret Pavilion was in no way inferior to the Five Great Super Guilds. Even a genius like Wu Xiaoxiao did not have the qualifications to join the Secret Pavilion and receive priority training.

Yet, now, the Secret Pavilion had loosened its requirements and allowed the various Academies' freshmen to fight for a spot in its training program. It was a much more extravagant reward than when she participated in the Secret Pavilion's tour.

"There's no point in envying the opportunities of others, Ziyou," Qi Lianshan said when he noticed the envy on Chen Ziyou's face. "What you need to do now is figure out how you can pass the God's Domain Association's selection. So long as you pass the selection, the training and resources you'll receive from the Association will not be inferior to what the Secret Pavilion can offer in any way."

“I understand.”

Chen Ziyou nodded, the fighting spirit in her eyes flaring up. Although she couldn't receive training from the Secret Pavilion, the God's Domain Association's training was equally good.

“I wonder how many of our Academies' students will get into the top five of the overall rankings?”

“Hard to say. I heard that the Secret Pavilion has many monstrously talented recruits this year. The only students I can think of who have a chance of getting in would be Tianxing Academy's Liu Xuanyi and Liufeng Academy's Xia Cheng.”

“Indeed. Liu Xuanyi is the apprentice of Soaring Snake, the leader of Ouroboros's Twelve Apostles. I heard that he has already learned two-thirds of Soaring Snake's skills.”

“Liufeng University's Xia Cheng isn't any worse, either. I heard that Liufeng University's dean is teaching her personally and that she has already mastered an Advanced Combat Technique.”

“I heard that Jin Hai Academy also has a shining star this year. I believe her name is Wu Lingling, and she is that Wu Xiaoxiao's younger sister. According to my sources, Wu Lingling is even more talented than Wu Xiaoxiao, and she has achieved rapid improvements after entering the Academy, so she should have a chance as well.”

“Impossible. Wu Lingling's teacher is incredibly weak. I heard that he used to be the Guild Leader of a second-rate Guild, but he ended up getting fired. There is no way the resources he has can compare to Liu Xuanyi's and Xia Cheng's instructors.”

“Indeed. I heard about Wu Lingling's situation as well. If she could find a good instructor, she might have stood a chance against those two little monsters and could have competed for the top five positions.”

While watching the freshmen getting into the virtual gaming cabins, the instructors from the various Academies discussed who could enter the overall rankings' top five.

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Although the Secret Pavilion's freshman competition wasn't an accurate representation of the overall strength of God's Domain's latest generation of players, those who could rank among the top of the overall rankings could still be regarded as one of the top talents in the country. In a situation where veteran powerhouses were reluctant to enter the Miniature Ancient World, the new generation's top talents would undoubtedly become the various powers' leaders in the Miniature Ancient World in the future.

Meanwhile, when Qi Lianshan and the other instructors from Jin Hai University heard the discussion of the other Academies' instructors, they couldn't help but sigh dejectedly.

Setting aside Shi Feng's teaching standards, just the resources he could offer to Wu Lingling would already put Wu Lingling in a significantly inferior position compared to the likes of Liu Xuanyi and Xia Chen. Unless Jin Hai Academy could attract the attention of international corporations or God's

Domain's various superpowers, there was no way Jin Hai Academy's resources could match the various Advanced Academies.

...

Inside the lounge of the underground training field...

"Why didn't you notify me that you would be visiting, Commander Zi Qiong? Also, isn't it only a freshman competition? You didn't have to come in person," a burly middle-aged man in his forties said tentatively as he looked at Purple Jade.

"I just thought of checking Lei Li's progress. You don't need to mind me," Purple Jade replied in a dull tone.

The middle-aged man couldn't help but be rendered speechless when he heard Purple Jade's words. Although he knew that Purple Jade had designated the girl named Lei Li as her apprentice, and she even pampered the girl quite a lot, he didn't think Purple Jade would prioritize the girl to such an extent. After all, a Tier 6 Sword God had much more important things to do than spectate a competition.

However, he also had to admit that Lei Li was incredibly talented. Despite starting as someone who knew hardly anything about God's Domain, Lei Li had already become the Secret Pavilion's number one rookie after undergoing just two months of training. Moreover, her position as number one was unshakable.

After all, in just two short months, Lei Li had gone from being just at the Trial Tower's first-floor standard to the Half-step Refinement Realm standard. Her talent surpassed even Purple Jade.

Most importantly, Lei Li was only 16 this year...

"Lei Li will definitely come in first place. There is simply too big of a gap between herself and the others," the middle-aged man said. "If nothing unexpected happens, she should be able to compete against the others in the genius training program after one more month of training."

"It seems she didn't slack off." Purple Jade nodded in relief.

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TL Notes:

[1]Jin Hai Academy: I will be using X Academy to reference X University's God's Domain Academy from now on to simplify things.

Chapter 3027-Chapter 101 – Hidden Class Magic Dragon Swordsman

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TL Notes:

20th-February-2022

Please go back and read Chapter 100.

I mistakenly separated the chapters and moved some of Chapter 100's content to Chapter 101.

I have already added the missing parts back to Chapter 100.

...

"Leili came in second?"

"Who's the person in first place?"

"Did something go wrong with the system? How could there be a freshman stronger than Leili?"

The Secret Pavilion's members were stunned when they saw the results displayed on the scoreboard. None of them could believe this was true.

This was Leili they were talking about!

Leili was the Secret Pavilion's most talented recruit this year, and she was a little monster whom Empress Purple Jade had taken the initiative to recruit as an apprentice. Yet, now, Leili had only come in second place.

Wu Lingling? How is this possible?! When Liu Xuanyi exited his gaming cabin and looked at the scoreboard, he couldn't help but doubt his eyes. Didn't they say that she was only at the fifth-floor middle-stage standard during her enrollment?!

At this time, Liu Xuanyi wasn't the only one with questions regarding Wu Lingling's performance. The various Academies' instructors and students were similarly shocked and confused by this outcome.

"Didn't they say that she only reached the fifth floor's middle stage during her enrollment test? Could there be a mistake in the information?"

"A monster! She's truly a monster!"

"She managed to reach the seventh floor's late stage at just 16! Moreover, she did it without the help of any superpower or powerful instructor! What kind of luck does Jin Hai Academy have?!"

Originally, everyone was already plenty shocked by the performance of the Secret Pavilion's recruits. However, Wu Lingling's performance brought their shock to unprecedented levels.

It was understandable for the Secret Pavilion's recruits to be amazing since they had access to resources outside the reach of most people.

However, what about Wu Lingling?

Not only was she a freshman in an ordinary God's Domain Academy, but she didn't even have a decent instructor. Yet, she had still managed to reach the Trial Tower's seventh-floor late-stage at the young age of 16. The degree of her talent could no longer be described with words alone. Even the various God-ranked experts in God's Domain were unlikely to be a match for Wu Lingling during their younger days.

If Wu Lingling could gain access to excellent resources, there was no doubt that she would become a bigshot in God's Domain in the future. She might even rank highly among Tier 6 God-ranked experts.

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At this time, it wasn't just the people from the other Academies that were stunned. Even those from Jin Hai Academy couldn't believe their eyes when they looked at the scoreboard. They also couldn't help but grow ecstatic over this situation.

Originally, they thought it'd be amazing if Wu Lingling could get within the top twenty of the overall rankings. After all, the resources Wu Lingling had access to were vastly inferior to the geniuses from Advanced Academies.

Yet, now, Wu Lingling had secured first place in the freshman competition, instantly becoming an existence that even the Secret Pavilion had to take seriously. Once news of Wu Lingling's performance got out, it probably wouldn't be long before Jin Hai Academy's name reached the various first-rate Guilds and superpowers of God's Domain.

Meanwhile, once Jin Hai Academy became famous, the various superpowers most likely start to send instructors to join the Academy. They might even invest capital into the Academy.

Impossible! I must be dreaming! Hasn't it only been a few days?! How did she become so strong already?! Gu Tong's eyes were filled with confusion as he watched Wu Lingling climbing out of her gaming cabin.

He might not have thought much about it if he hadn't known about Wu Lingling's standards when she first enrolled in the Academy. However, he had always treated Wu Lingling as his rival, so he had a very clear understanding of Wu Lingling's situation.

During the Academy's freshman tournament, he was certain that the gap between him and Wu Lingling wasn't significant. He had only lost to her because his footwork was inferior.

Yet, now?

The difference between them was like heaven and earth!

This situation simply didn't make sense!

It should be known that in the process of climbing to the Trial Tower's sixth floor, not only did he have to undergo intensive training from his cousin Gu Yiren, but he had come across a fortuitous opportunity shortly after the freshman tournament ended. Yet, despite having made such significant improvements, not only did the gap between him and Wu Lingling not shrink, but it had grown even wider instead...

However, unlike Gu Tong and most people in the underground training field, Qi Lianshan and Chen Ziyou did not focus their attention on Wu Lingling after learning her result. Instead, they turned toward Shi Feng.

This was because they understood that, contrary to what everyone believed, Wu Lingling didn't achieve her current performance simply because she possessed incredible talent. Instead, a large part of why she managed to achieve her current results was most likely because of Shi Feng's teachings.

Did she receive a Legacy? Shi Feng was also a little surprised when he saw the scoreboard.

The last time Shi Feng saw Wu Lingling was less than a day ago, and the girl was only able to reach the seventh floor's middle stage at the time. Moreover, based on her progress at the middle stage, it should've taken her at least a few days to reach the seventh floor's late stage. Yet, she had accomplished this feat in less than a day.

The only explanation Shi Feng could come up with for this situation was that Wu Lingling had obtained a Legacy of some sort before coming to the Secret Pavilion's headquarters. Hence, she managed to achieve a qualitative improvement in her combat standards.

Meanwhile, just like Shi Feng had guessed, Wu Lingling had indeed acquired a new Legacy. After fighting the spy trio from Nature Hall and Hundred Flower Palace and logging out of the game, Wu Lingling had contacted Soulfire and acquired a powerful Advanced Legacy from the adventurer team.

Advanced Hidden Class, Magic Dragon Swordsman!

Not only did this hidden class grant a huge boost to her physique, but it had also increased her affinity with Mana drastically, which allowed her to take notice of details she had previously failed to notice. In addition, the Completion Rate of her Skills had also received an improvement. After receiving all these improvements, her combat standard had naturally risen as well.

However, if Wu Lingling were to be honest, getting first place in this freshman competition was also outside her expectations. This was because Hidden Soul had constantly said that her talent and combat standard were subpar at best and that she was vastly inferior compared to the various superpowers' top-tier geniuses. Wu Lingling didn't doubt Hidden Soul's words, either, since she couldn't even survive one move against Hidden Soul...

Yet, now, she had come in first place in the freshman competition...

Could it be because the Secret Pavilion's recruits are much weaker than usual this year? Is the Secret Pavilion trying to attract new recruits using this competition? When Wu Lingling recalled the attractive rewards the Secret Pavilion offered for the competition this time, she felt as if realization had dawned upon her.

However, before Wu Lingling could think further into this matter, she had her attention drawn by the noise everyone suddenly made.

At this time, Purple Jade could be seen walking out of the lounge, and following behind her were several Secret Pavilion executives. Then, after leaving the lounge, Purple Jade walked straight toward Wu Lingling.

After approaching Wu Lingling and scrutinizing the girl for a moment, Purple Jade asked, "Are you interested in becoming my apprentice?"

Meanwhile, as soon as Purple Jade finished speaking, silence instantly enveloped the entire underground training field. Then, whether it was the various Academies' students or the Secret Pavilion's recruits, everyone couldn't help but look at Wu Lingling enviously.

It should be known that Purple Jade was a Tier 6 Sword God bearing the title of Empress. Not only did she possess top-tier strength among Tier 6 God-ranked experts, but she also held a vital position in the Secret Pavilion. So long as she gave the word, Wu Lingling could instantly become a core executive in the Secret Pavilion and receive whatever resources she wanted. At that time, she would become an existence that even the various international corporations would try to befriend.

Meanwhile, Wu Lingling couldn't help but grow ecstatic when she heard Purple Jade's question. This was because Purple Jade was her idol. It was also because of Purple Jade that she became a Swordsman. Now that her idol was extending an invitation to her, how could she not be excited?

However, after taking a deep breath, Wu Lingling shook her head and said, "Thank you for your kind intentions, Commander Ziqiong. However, I already have an instructor, so forgive me for not being able to become your apprentice."

Chapter 3028-Chapter 102 – Inhuman Precision

"Are my ears playing tricks on me?! Did Wu Lingling just reject the Empress's invitation!?"

"She must've lost her mind. I remember that her teacher is called Shi Feng, and he is only the former Guild Leader of a second-rate Guild. Even during his peak, he had only managed to stick around at the top of Tier 3."

"Tier 3? Doesn't that mean he's just an ordinary expert?"

"That's right. Any one of my Academy's instructors can beat him up."

"That guy sure is lucky. I can't believe he picked up such a peerless genius. He wouldn't have to worry about his future with such a student following him."

When the spectating crowd heard Wu Lingling rejecting Purple Jade's invitation, many of them couldn't help but grow confused. In addition, some of the instructors present who knew about Wu Lingling's background couldn't help but grow jealous of Shi Feng.

After all, even if they set aside the possibility that something might be wrong with Wu Lingling's brain, the girl could still easily reach Tier 5 with her monstrous talent. If given enough resources, she might even have a chance at reaching Tier 6. Yet, despite being only an ordinary expert, Shi Feng had actually found himself such a monstrously talented apprentice.

"She must be out of her mind! If she doesn't want that opportunity, she should've given it to me instead!" Liu Xuanyi cursed under his breath when he saw Wu Lingling rejecting Purple Jade's invitation. He was also a Swordsman. If he could have a Tier 6 Swordsman as his instructor, he would have a much easier time climbing to higher tiers in the future.

“Wu Xiaoxiao’s little sister sure is an interesting person. She’s even more stubborn than her elder sister,” Liu Yanya, who stood beside Liu Xuanyi, said as she looked at Wu Lingling. “I’m afraid she’s going to become your biggest rival in the future.”

“Rival?” Shaking his head, Liu Xuanyi said, “She is not worthy of being my rival now that she has rejected the Secret Pavilion’s invitation. With only a Tier 3 instructor and no Guild backing her, I’ll leave her in the dust the next time we meet in the Academy Competition.”

“I guess you’re right. She is the same as her elder sister in this regard,” Liu Yanya said, nodding.

Their instructor Soaring Snake had extended an invitation to Wu Xiaoxiao multiple times in the past. However, Wu Xiaoxiao had rejected his offer every time. Although Wu Xiaoxiao was already receiving from Crimson Emperor right now, the number of recruits Crimson Emperor needed to train was massive. Thus, even though Wu Xiaoxiao was currently training under a superpower, the resources she received wouldn’t be as significant as most people imagined.

Had Wu Xiaoxiao accepted their instructor’s invitation previously, she might even have had a chance to reach Tier 6. Now, though, she could, at most, linger around the Tier 5 threshold.

While the surrounding spectators were feeling surprised and confused over Wu Lingling’s decision, the burly man standing among the Secret Pavilion’s executives similarly couldn’t help but turn toward Jin Hai Academy’s group with a look of surprise on his face.

What’s going on with Jin Hai Academy’s people? Why aren’t any instructors coming forward to advise Wu Lingling?

Normally, an ordinary God’s Domain Academy would be over the moon if even an ordinary superpower tried to recruit one of their students, let alone a transcendental power like the Secret Pavilion. These Academies would’ve frantically accepted the offer on their students’ behalf.

Yet, Jin Hai Academy’s side was seemingly filled with “eccentric” people. Even after hearing Wu Lingling refuse Purple Jade’s invitation, nobody from Jin Hai University had stepped forward to persuade the girl. On the contrary, every one of them looked at this situation as if they had expected it to happen...

Meanwhile, when Jin Hai Academy’s instructors and Lin Yaoyue saw the Secret Pavilion’s executives looking toward them, they couldn’t help but reveal bitter smiles.

If it was possible to change Wu Lingling’s mind, they would’ve long since done so. Unfortunately, Shi Feng seemingly possessed some unknown charm that had thoroughly captivated the little girl’s heart.

At this point, they had long since given up on influencing Wu Lingling’s decisions, choosing to let the girl decide her own future instead. It wasn’t a particularly bad decision to do so, either, since Shi Feng wasn’t as weak as he seemed. Otherwise, a senior instructor like Qi Lianshan wouldn’t have treated Shi Feng with such respect.

“How unfortunate. If you come across any problems in your training in the future, feel free to contact me.”

Purple Jade did not get angry after having her invitation rejected. Instead, she handed Wu Lingling her business card, her action causing many of the Secret Pavilion's members present to grow envious. This was because they understood that Purple Jade wasn't putting on an act. Instead, she was sincerely interested in Wu Lingling. After all, only a few people in the Secret Pavilion had Purple Jade's contact method.

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"Should I go and talk with Jin Hai Academy's side, Commander? I believe that with the Secret Pavilion's influence, that Shi Feng wouldn't refuse our offer," the burly man whispered to Purple Jade when he saw that Purple Jade appeared very interested in Wu Lingling.

A talent capable of catching Purple Jade's eyes was incredibly hard to come by.

Although the Secret Pavilion's Guild Leader had tried to get Purple Jade to teach the Guild's geniuses in the past, Purple Jade showed no interest in those geniuses whatsoever. The Guild also couldn't force her to teach them since she was one of the Guild's Tier 6 God-ranked experts. It wasn't until recently that Leili had appeared and caught Purple Jade's attention.

Now that Purple Jade had shown interest in Wu Lingling as well, the Secret Pavilion naturally couldn't let this rare opportunity get away.

"No need," Purple Jade said, shaking her head. "Rather than that, I need you to look into Shi Feng. He definitely isn't as simple as everyone thinks."

"Huh?" The burly man couldn't help but grow confused. "I heard from the other Academies' instructors that Wu Lingling's instructor is only the former Guild Leader of Shadow, a second-rate Guild. In addition, he had never even managed to reach Tier 4 during his peak, which was why Shadow's Chairman had fired him."

Instead of answering the burly man's confusion, Purple Jade asked, "Do you think Wu Lingling is a fool?"

"How can that be? There's no way she could have reached the seventh floor's late stage at 16 if she were a fool," the burly man answered strangely.

"Doesn't that settle it, then?" After rolling her eyes at the burly man, Purple Jade put on a serious expression and said, "Moreover, there's one more important reason I said that Shi Feng isn't simple."

"An important reason? Could it be that there is something special about him?" the burly man asked.

"It's not him who's special, but Wu Lingling instead. Her foundation is simply too solid. It is so solid that I can't help but suspect that she isn't a little girl, but an old monster who has lived for dozens of years!" Purple Jade said as she recalled Wu Lingling's every action. "When I was talking to her just now, I noticed that she has incredibly precise control over her subtle movements. That kind of precision is something you would only find on someone who has already been at the Refinement Realm for over a dozen or several dozen years. Yet, despite having such precision control, the continuity of Wu Lingling's

movements was an utter mess, which is one of the main reasons recruits often have trouble entering the Refinement Realm.”

“Commander, are you saying that...” The burly man couldn’t help but shudder when the severity of Purple Jade’s words sank into his mind.

“That’s right. Either Wu Lingling has someone with godlike understanding over the Refinement Realm teaching her, or the girl is actually an old monster acting young before us,” Purple Jade calmly said.

“However, no matter how I look at it, Wu Lingling is a teenage girl through and through. There is also no point for her to trick us since we can easily discern her actual age and identity through public records. In that case, that leaves us with only one possibility: her instructor’s understanding has already reached a godlike standard.”

“I’ll look into him right away.”

After saying so, the burly man promptly left the underground training field, not daring to waste even a moment longer.

The Refinement Realm might not seem like anything special in the eyes of the various superpowers, which were capable of systematically nurturing their own Refinement Realm experts, but not all Refinement Realm experts were equal. Depending on how sturdy of a foundation a person built for themselves at the Refinement Realm, their future development would also change significantly. Only by having a sturdy foundation could one progress further and faster.

Unfortunately, helping players establish a sturdy foundation in the Refinement Realm was a challenge that troubled even the various superpowers. Even Domain Realm experts lacked the ability to help Refinement Realm experts develop their foundations.

This was because everyone had bad habits, and changing these habits was incredibly challenging. Moreover, even if a person managed to get out of a bad habit, parts of it would still linger in their subconscious. Meanwhile, the only known way to get rid of bad habits right now was to have players continuously train themselves to change and get used to the Refinement Realm over a long period. However, this process involved a lot of time, and time was money for the various superpowers.

Unfortunately, the only way they could streamline this process was if someone managed to achieve godlike understanding over the Refinement Realm and developed a perfect training system. If such a perfect system existed, new players could establish a solid foundation for themselves within a short period, saving them a lot of time in training and improving.

However, according to the Secret Pavilion’s knowledge, no Guild in God’s Domain possessed such a capability yet.

Indeed!

Not one Guild was capable of accomplishing such a feat! Even the Five Great Super Guilds were no exception!

Chapter 3029-Chapter 103 – Great Disturbance

After the freshman competition ended, the various Academies' instructors simultaneously received a message from God's Domain Association.

The message's content was simple. The Association was welcoming all students, who had reached the Half-step Refinement Realm standard, to head to the 175th floor of the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters with their instructors and apply to join the God's Domain Association's training camp.

However, the message also stated that the instructors would have to pass the Association's instructor qualification certification, and the Association's certification had three ranks: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Meanwhile, instructors would have to achieve the lowest Bronze certification at the very minimum before their students could apply for the Association's training camp.

Depending on an instructor's certification rank, their students would also have to participate in different selection competitions and face different opponents. Simply put, the students of Bronze Instructors would compete with the students of other Bronze Instructors, the students of Silver Instructors would compete with the students of other Silver Instructors, etc.

However, the lower the certification rank, the lower the number of instructors that could acquire said rank, and the lower the number of students each instructor could have.

Conversely, the higher the certification rank, the greater the number of instructors that could acquire said rank, and the higher the number of students each instructor could have.

In addition, the number of students that could pass the selection competitions of higher ranks would also be greater than the competitions of lower ranks. In other words, the lower an instructor's certification rank, the greater the competition they and their students would face.

Fortunately, the training camp wasn't a one-time thing. Instead, each training camp would last a month, and the Association would hold these certification competitions once a month. Thus, even if students failed to qualify for the training camp this time, so long as they managed to pass a selection before they graduated from their respective Academies, they could still qualify to attend the training camp.

Meanwhile, shortly after this announcement appeared, the underground training field instantly exploded into an uproar.

"How generous of the God's Domain Association!"

"Amazing! After this move from the Association, Refinement Realm experts will become even more common in God's Domain in the future!"

"This is madness! This won't just popularize Refinement Realm experts! This will reshuffle the status quo of the various God's Domain Academies! Even the various powers in God's Domain are probably going to be affected!"

Everyone was shocked and excited by this explosive news. It was especially true for the students and instructors of ordinary Academies.

Nowadays, the various superpowers have monopolized most of the Legacies available in God's Domain. If ordinary students wished to have a better future in God's Domain, their only choice was to join the various superpowers. Otherwise, they'd have to face much greater challenges to develop themselves.

Meanwhile, the various God's Domain Academies were also in a similar situation. Due to the lack of good resources, the instructors of ordinary Academies faced great difficulty in producing excellent students.

However, the move the God's Domain Association just made would undoubtedly liberate the students without resources, or more specifically, the younger generation, from the various superpowers' restrictions. So long as one was young and talented, one could acquire sufficient resources to develop themselves from the God's Domain Association. Young players would no longer have to rely on the various superpowers for resources.

After reading the God's Domain Association's, everyone quickly understood that it wouldn't be long before God's Domain would welcome a large batch of independent Refinement Realm experts. Meanwhile, the various superpowers would no longer be the only ones capable of reliably producing Refinement Realm experts.

At the same time, the status and value of instructors would also rise to unprecedented heights in God's Domain.

It seems I'll need to have Hidden Soul act quicker. Shi Feng also started planning for the future after receiving the God's Domain Association's message.

If many independent Refinement Realm experts suddenly appeared in God's Domain, the power that would benefit the most from this situation would undoubtedly be the various mercenary organizations.

During Shi Feng's previous life, after his sub-world gained access to the Greater God's Domain, the various powers had frantically nurtured players at all costs to cope with the impending danger. Ultimately, however, there were still many players who disliked being bound by Guilds. Yet, these players also wished to acquire precious resources and Credits, so mercenary organizations became their best option.

If Zero Wing's mercenary organization could take form before the new batch of independent Refinement Realm experts arrived and capitalize on this situation, the organization's growth could easily match that of the various superpowers.

Meanwhile, shortly after the God's Domain Association made its announcement, the various Academies' Half-step Refinement Realm students promptly made their way to the application site with their respective instructors.

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When Shi Feng and Chen Ziyou arrived on the 175th floor, the hall that was the size of half a football field was already crowded with students and instructors.

“So you’ve come as well, Ziyou.” When Liu Yanya saw Chen Ziyou walking into the hall, she smiled and approached her, asking, “Have you thought about my previous suggestion?”

“Thank you for your invitation, but I still don’t plan on joining Ouroboros,” Chen Ziyou earnestly said as she looked at the brown-haired girl before her.

As one of Jin Hai Academy’s few Half-step Refinement Realm experts, Chen Ziyou had received invitations from many Guilds. Among them, one came from her high school classmate Liu Yanya, who had acted as Ouroboros’s representative.

“Won’t you consider it again?” Liu Yanya frowned. However, she still chose to patiently persuade Chen Ziyou, saying, “Now that the God’s Domain Association has made such a huge move, it is a rare opportunity for you to improve your circumstances. According to my sources, instructors will need to be at the Flowing Water Realm at the very least to gain a Bronze certification. However, your instructor Qi Lianshan is, at best, at the Half-step Flowing Water Realm with his current mental state. There’s no way he can help you get into the selection competition.

“So long as you agree to join Ouroboros, you’ll get to become Instructor Soaring Snake’s apprentice straight away. Now that Instructor Soaring Snake is close to reaching the Domain Realm already, he’ll have no problems becoming a Silver Instructor. You’ll also be able to pass the selection without problems seeing as you are at the Refinement Realm already.”

However, even after hearing Liu Yanya’s advice, Chen Ziyou still shook her head and pointed toward Shi Feng, who was currently registering for the certification test, and said, “Thank you, but I have Instructor Shi with me. I should be able to get into a selection competition without trouble.”

“Instructor Shi?” Liu Yanya followed Chen Ziyou’s finger and looked at Shi Feng. Then, with confusion in her eyes, she asked, “Is he Wu Lingling’s instructor?”

“That’s right; it’s him.” Chen Ziyou nodded.

“You really love to waste time just like Wu Xiaoxiao, Ziyou.” After returning her gaze to Chen Ziyou, Liu Yanya contemptuously said, “He’s nothing but a former Guild Leader of a second-rate Guild. He couldn’t even reach Tier 4 during his peak. How can you hope for him to get you registered?”

“Instructor Shi is very strong, and even Instructor Qi admires him greatly. Instructor Qi also said that Instructor Shi might be at the Void Realm already,” Chen Ziyou said, a hint of reverence appearing in her eyes as she looked at Shi Feng.

“Void Realm?” Liu Yanya couldn’t help but take an extra glance at Shi Feng after hearing Chen Ziyou’s words. However, she suddenly laughed the next moment and said, “In that case, I look forward to his performance. Hopefully, you’ll qualify for a selection competition at the very least.”

After saying so, Liu Yanya turned around and walked away, choosing not to involve herself with Chen Ziyou’s foolishness any longer.

Meanwhile, on the other side, Shi Feng and many other instructors followed the instructions of the God’s Domain Association’s staff and put on their respective customized virtual gaming helmets. Then, they began their instructor certification tests.

Chapter 3030-Chapter 104 – Global Competition

A golden temple stood amidst an ancient forest. The temple had five floors in total, and it measured several hundred meters in height and occupied an area equivalent to six sports stadiums.

There was a massive stone tablet erected outside of every floor, and every tablet had a column of numbers going from 1 to 100 listed on it. Currently, though, the space next to these numbers was blank, and beneath these numbers was one line of text. Although the text on each tablet was similar, they weren't exactly the same.

The texts were simple to understand, and they represented the rewards one could obtain from challenging the temple's trials.

Simply put, the first 100 people to clear each floor would receive varying amounts of Association Points to be used with the God's Domain Association. Meanwhile, the first 100 to clear the first floor would receive 100 Association points.

The first 100 to clear the second floor would receive 1,000 Association points.

The first 100 to clear the third floor would receive 10,000 Association points.

The first 100 to clear the fourth floor would receive 100,000 Association points.

The first 100 to clear the fifth floor would receive 1,000,000 Association points.

How generous of the Association. Not only is it planning on uncovering more talented newcomers, but it's also offering such lucrative rewards to the instructors. Is the Association trying to get more experts to become instructors?

Shi Feng was a little surprised when he finished reading the rewards stated on the tablets.

The God's Domain Association's Association Points were an incredibly precious resource to the Association's internal members. Even through official channels, one Association Point could be traded for 10,000 Credits. Of course, only a fool would exchange it for such a low price.

The God's Domain Association had access to an ocean of resources, and even the various international corporations couldn't hope to compete against the Association in terms of wealth. Meanwhile, internal members of the Association could exchange for resources that one normally couldn't acquire through the public market.

So long as one had enough points, one could exchange for combat techniques, Legacies, and even S-rank Nutrient Fluids. Although the Association had put a price tag of 200 points per bottle on S-rank Nutrient Fluids, it was still a tempting opportunity for many people.

In addition, according to Shi Feng's research, the God's Domain Association even offered the incredibly rare Life Potions for exchange to internal members.

The Life Potion was an item that countless wealthy people sought after. Not only could it heal the wounds on the user's body, but it could also rejuvenate the life force of the user's body cells, extending their life expectancy and youthfulness.

However, the Green God Company only produced a very limited amount of Life Potion each year, and even the various international corporations had difficulty obtaining one per year. Yet, internal members of the God's Domain Association could exchange for it simply by accumulating enough points. The only problem was that the Life Potion cost a whopping 10,000 points to exchange.

Ten thousand points!

This was an amount that most of the Association's internal members would never acquire in their lifetimes.

However, the Association's instructor certification test offered participating instructors the opportunity to make the impossible possible.

While Shi Feng was feeling shocked over the God's Domain Association's generosity, the outside world was similarly shocked over this situation.

"What is the Association trying to do, Commander Ziqiong?! Once news of these rewards gets out, even the various powers' peak experts wouldn't be able to sit still!" the burly middle-aged man standing beside Purple Jade exclaimed when he read the report he just received.

Setting aside the various top-tier training resources the Association provided, just the S-rank Nutrient Fluid it offered was already a fatal temptation to many experts. It was especially true for Tier 4 and Tier 5 experts. After all, one's brain would have difficulty improving without a strong body to support it. Meanwhile, not only could the S-rank Nutrient Fluid repair the damage on one's body, but it could also strengthen the physical body. Now that the God's Domain Association was offering players the opportunity to acquire a large amount of Association Points, many experts would most likely be tempted to work as an instructor and take part in the Association's instructor certification test.

"I don't know what the Association is trying to do," Purple Jade said, shaking her head. Then, with a hint of fighting spirit in her eyes, she continued, "But once news of this gets out, most experts around the world will probably grow restless. We might even see a global struggle between experts. Even the various superpowers' old monsters and God-ranked experts might not mind revealing their cards if it means gaining access to such lucrative rewards. Register me for the test as well, Star."

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"You'll be participating as well, Commander Ziqiong?" the burly man with the pseudonym of Berserk Star asked in surprise.

Ever since Purple Jade reached tier 6, she had stopped participating in tests and competitions altogether. In fact, it had already been over a year since Berserk Star saw Purple Jade in action.

“Of course,” Purple Jade said with a light smile. “I’ve constantly been trying to find other God-ranked experts to fight previously, but those people are so secretive that it’s hard to find even one of them. This test is a good opportunity to compare myself with the others. While it might not be a frontal clash, it is still a good way to see how I match up with the others. So, how can I miss out on such an opportunity?”

There were only several dozen Tier 6 experts in God’s Domain. With the exception of a few newly-promoted Tier 6 experts, most veteran Tier 6 experts were incredibly secretive in their actions. Moreover, now that the various powers had already solidified their rule over their respective territories, there was almost no instance where Tier 6 combatants would appear on the battlefield. At most, clashes between powers would involve Tier 5 combatants.

Because of this, Purple Jade hardly had any chances to fight against other Tier 6 experts after reaching Tier 6 herself. She was especially curious to find out the gap between herself and the various first-place rankers on the God’s Domain Experts List that had disappeared over the years, the various old monsters, and those four people.

Now that the God’s Domain Association had provided the perfect place for her to test her standards, how could she miss out on this opportunity?

“Alright, I’ll get it done immediately.”

Immediately, Berserk Star stepped out of the lounge and contacted the God’s Domain Association’s staff to arrange for Purple Jade’s participation.

...

While Purple Jade was getting ready to take part in the test, the various superpowers’ Tier 6 experts also received news of the God’s Domain Association’s offer.

“Interesting! I’m going to try out this test!”

“Is the Association trying to come up with a global ranking list for experts?”

“I’ve hardly fought with other Tier 6 experts after reaching Tier 6 myself. This is a good chance to check out how strong the other Tier 6 experts are.”

Shortly after news of the God’s Domain Association’s test rewards got out, many Tier 5 and Tier 6 experts worldwide started applying for the Association’s test one after another.

For a time, the instructor’s test became the focus of the world’s peak experts and above. Many independent experts had even started broadcasting the status of the test’s stone tablets live.

...

Meanwhile, inside one of the test instances...

In the short time Shi Feng spent pondering over the Association’s actions, several dozen names had appeared on the first floor’s stone tablet. This meant that several dozen people had already cleared the first floor’s test.

So many got through already?

Shi Feng was a little surprised when he saw that the first floor's tablet list was nearly filled.

According to the information the Association provided, instructors would gain the Bronze certification so long as they cleared the temple's first floor. Meanwhile, one needed to be at the Flowing Water Realm at the very least to become a Bronze Instructor.

It had only been a few minutes since the test began, yet several dozen experts had already conquered the first floor's test. This just showed how high the number and quality of experts participating in the test were.

Immediately, Shi Feng also chose to enter the temple.

...

System: Registration is required to participate in the test. You may use your God's Domain ID or a new name to register.

...

"I can choose my own name?" Shi Feng was a little surprised by this situation. "In that case, I'll go with 'Asura' as my name."

Currently, Shi Feng still did not wish to expose his name of Black Flame. After all, both himself and Zero Wing were far too weak right now. So, it was good news that he could use a different pseudonym to challenge the test.

...

System: Naming successful. Player ID Asura registered. Please check in on the first floor.

...

Immediately, Shi Feng transformed into a streak of light that disappeared into the temple's first floor.

...

TL Notes:

200 Association Points = 2,000,000 Credits

Market value of S-rank Nutrient Fluid is 1,000,000 Credits.

Chapter 3031-Chapter 105 – Temple Trial

After arriving inside the temple's first floor, Shi Feng opened his eyes and found himself looking at a vast plain. There were also a hundred humanoid statues standing before him, and these statues wielded varying weapons such as bows, spears, swords, sabers, staffs, etc. At a glance, these statues looked like a small and well-organized army.

...

System: You have one hour to defeat the 100 monsters here. Your character will be fixed at Level 100, Tier 3. Your weapons and equipment will be fixed at the Level 100 Dark-Gold rank. Please select your class.

...

“Swordsman.”

Shi Feng was surprised when he inspected the humanoid statues' stats.

Each of these statues only had six million HP, which wasn't even at the standard of Level 100 Lords. It was just several times higher than the average HP of players. So, it wouldn't be much of a problem for a Level 100, Tier 3 Flowing Water Realm expert to defeat all of these monsters. In fact, even a Half-step Refinement Realm expert could defeat these monsters in under an hour.

However, Shi Feng quickly realized the problem shortly after choosing his class. Specifically, these humanoid statues suddenly exited their inanimate state and began moving their bodies nimbly like Tier 3 NPCs. Their nimble movements were completely different from what one would normally see from golems.

“Kill!”

Meanwhile, after these NPC-like golems saw Shi Feng, they revealed fierce expressions and charged him straight away.

In the blink of an eye, over 40 NPC monsters wielding longswords, sabers, spears, and shields moved within 20 yards of Shi Feng, their speed far superior to the average Tier 3 NPC.

While these melee NPCs were charging at Shi Feng, the ranged NPCs also began raining arrows and Tier 3 Spells at Shi Feng. Their Skill activation and spellcasting were incredibly fast, all of them achieving motionless activation and silent casting. Yet, despite the shortcuts they had taken, the might of their Skills and Spells was at least 50% stronger than normal...

What incredible technique standards!

However, Shi Feng did not rush to take action. Instead, he simply evaded the ranged attacks and blocked the melee attacks directed at him.

After several exchanges, Shi Feng made another shocking discovery—these NPCs were gradually improving their coordination.

It was especially so for the melee NPCs. After the distant Clerics and Oracles cast their magic shields on them, these melee NPCs would willingly get hit by their allies' ranged attacks to attack Shi Feng. Moreover, their attacks weren't frenzied and random. Instead, they executed their attacks one after another, creating a perfect chain of attacks that never ended.

If a lesser skilled player were to fight against these NPCs, they would be put into a passive state where they could only defend and not launch any effective attacks. When fighting these NPCs, Shi Feng felt as if he were a Boss monster getting raided by players.

Is this trial testing the participant's knowledge and application of the Realms of Truth? It seems this God's Domain Association is far stronger than I expected. Shi Feng couldn't help but grow excited as he looked at the Tier 3 NPCs trying to kill him. No wonder the rumors say that only players at the Flowing Water Realm can pass the test.

The Realms of Truth!

This was still a mastery system foreign to most players in the current God's Domain. The only mastery system most players knew was the Realms of Refinement, and most players treated the Realms of Refinement as a standard for technique mastery.

However, only a small minority of players knew that the Realms of Refinement wasn't a mastery system for technique mastery. Instead, it was a mastery system for a player's control over their body. Simply put, when a player made progress in the Realms of Refinement, the flexibility, reaction speed, perception, and other factors of their body would also improve. By making progress in the Realms of Refinement, players would become capable of accomplishing physical movements that they couldn't achieve previously. This, in turn, increased their combat standard.

In a sense, improvements made in the Realms of Refinement were similar to the improvement of a player's physique in God's Domain.

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On the other hand, the Realms of Truth was a true mastery system for technique standards. Unlike the Realms of Refinement, the Realms of Truth did not focus on the development of the physical body's potential. Instead, it focused on the usage of one's physical body. Thus, one could say that the two mastery systems complemented each other perfectly, and there was no harm in taking on both mastery systems.

Meanwhile, the temple's first-floor trial might seem like only players at the Flowing Water Realm could clear it, but that wasn't actually the case. Instead, players only needed to exhibit combat power at the Flowing Water Realm standard. If a challenger was only at the Refinement Realm, so long as they were also at the Truth Realm, the first realm in the Realms of Truth, they could similarly pass the first-floor trial.

Once a Refinement Realm expert reached the Truth Realm, they could exhibit the power of basic combat techniques with their every move. Combined with their Refinement-level control and reactions, it wouldn't be difficult for them to defeat the Tier 3 NPCs here. After all, the Basic Attributes of these NPCs were only slightly higher than the average Level 100, Tier 3 player.

Since I already know what the test is about, it's time for you things to disappear!

After sweeping a glance at the Tier 3 NPCs charging at him, Shi Feng brandished the two swords in his hands.

Sword's Transmigration!

Immediately, sword lights bloomed on the battlefield one after another, rapidly draining the lives of the melee NPCs. Although the healers standing in the back had tried to save their companions, every attack Shi Feng executed consisted of over a dozen sword lights merged into one. With only six million HP, the melee NPCs couldn't withstand even one attack, their HPs reaching zero instantly.

In less than three minutes, Shi Feng had wiped out all 100 Tier 3 NPCs.

...

System: Congratulations! You are the 100th participant to clear the first floor's trial. Rewarding 100 God's Domain Association Points. These points will be bound with your account. These points cannot be traded with others. These points can only be used to exchange with the God's Domain Association.

...

I'm 100th?

Shi Feng was a little surprised when he saw the system notification. Several dozen people had already cleared the first floor when he entered the temple. He had also taken his sweet time clearing the first-floor trial, so he never expected to score within the top 100 still.

However, Shi Feng quickly came to a realization.

Participants had to face 100 NPCs at the Half-step Refinement Realm standard. Moreover, these NPCs were capable of exhibiting power close to that of basic combat techniques with their every move. Not to mention, these NPCs had excellent coordination with each other, so they could more or less make up for each other's deficiencies. Even if a Flowing Water Realm expert fought against these NPCs, they wouldn't have much of an advantage against these NPCs.

Thus, not only would Flowing Water Realm experts require a significant amount of time to clear the first-floor trial, but there was even a chance that they might fail.

...

System: You have cleared the first floor. You are now officially a Bronze Instructor at the God's Domain Association. You will have one recommendation slot for every Talent Camp the Association hosts. Do you wish to proceed to the second floor and challenge the Silver Instructor's test?

...

"Proceed to the second floor."

Shi Feng chose to enter the second floor without hesitation.

Chapter 3032-Chapter 106 – Silver Rank?

The atmosphere inside the 175th floor of the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters was currently boisterous. Shortly after the instructor certification test's rewards were announced, many students paid close attention to the scoreboards situated around the hall.

At this time, there had long since been over a hundred participants who had cleared the first floor, so the scoreboard for the first-floor trial had already been filled. This situation proved that many extraordinary experts were participating in the certification test. Moreover, the names ranked on the list were all famous experts in God's Domain, many of them being Tier 5 experts.

However, none of the students in the hall were paying attention to the first-floor trial's scoreboard right now. Instead, all of them had their eyes glued to the second floor's scoreboard.

This was because the second-floor trial's first-place ranker had appeared not long ago, and this person was none other than Empress Purple Jade. Everyone couldn't help but be shocked by this situation as they didn't think a Tier 6 Sword God would participate in the God's Domain Association's instructor test.

Of course, everyone's surprise was only limited to Purple Jade's participation in the test. Nobody was surprised to see that Purple Jade had come in first place for the second-floor trial. After all, Purple Jade was a Tier 6 Sword God. How could Tier 4 and Tier 5 experts possibly compete against her?

However, when more names began appearing on the scoreboard, an uproar quickly exploded in the hall.

This was because every expert ranked within the top ten of the scoreboard was a well-known Tier 6 God-ranked expert in God's Domain.

...

2nd – Witch of the West Alice

3rd – Battle Wolf's Sirius

4th- Silver Ghost Prosciutto

5th – Thirteen Thrones' Guild Leader Melancholy

6th – Magic-eye Hunter Fithalia

...

10th – Azure Chamber of Commerce's Hermit

...

At this point, the instructor test was no longer a simple test for participating instructors. Instead, it had become a global ranking list for experts.

It should be known that Tier 6 God-ranked experts were all elusive existences. Meeting even one of these individuals was akin to winning the lottery, let alone getting the chance to see these God-ranked experts compete with each other.

Oftentimes, people would ask how strong Tier 6 God-ranked experts were and who was the strongest among Tier 6 God-ranked experts. Even though the Secret Pavilion had created a God's Domain Experts List, those recorded on the list were merely ranked based on their publicly available battle records. It couldn't be considered an accurate measure of strength at all. Not to mention, some God-ranked experts weren't even on the list. Thus, the Experts List could, at most, be used as a rough reference.

However, the God's Domain Association's instructor test was different.

Although the test did not show how players would perform against each other in a duel, it still showed the exact combat standards of participants. Through this, everyone could tell how strong the participating Tier 6 God-ranked experts were.

Currently, the various Academies' students weren't the only ones paying close attention to the scoreboard. The various powers of God's Domain were also looking at it with great interest.

...

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"The Association has really blown the test this time out of proportions, Senior Brother. I can't believe there are so many God-ranked experts participating. Even Teacher couldn't help himself from registering," Tao Yuwei, dressed in a lavender martial artist's robe, said as she looked at Gu Yiren. Then, she looked toward the scoreboard for the second-floor trial with an expectant gaze as she continued, "I wonder how Teacher will rank among the Tier 6 God-ranked experts?"

Their teacher was Thousand Swords, a legendary individual in World Domination. He was also the Guild's Great Elder. He had been a powerhouse in the virtual gaming industry since 20 years ago. He had even fought against the Five Great Super Guilds' old monsters and won some of these battles.

Although their teacher had hidden behind the scenes ever since God's Domain launched and mainly focused on guiding the younger generations, Tao Yuwei knew that their teacher was not the slightest bit weaker than the top ten rankers on the God's Domain Experts List.

"He should have no problem placing within the top five out of the God-ranked experts present," Gu Yiren answered as he looked at the scoreboard. "However, it'll be difficult to get within the top three. Setting aside the Witch of the West, even surpassing the Silver Ghost will be a great challenge. I heard that the Silver Ghost has already become the commander of Mythology's main force. This goes to show that his strength has already surpassed the previous commander. Aside from the Silver Ghost, Thirteen Thrones' Guild Leader and the Magic-eye Hunter are also experts who have reached the extremes of the Domain Realm. It won't be easy for Teacher to win against these people."

Tao Yuwei did not disagree with Gu Yiren's judgment. This was because the people Gu Yiren mentioned were indeed monsters. Even their teacher had very little chance of winning against these experts.

...

Is this going to be the era where Tier 6's compete?

Fighting spirit filled Lin Yaoyue's eyes as she looked at the display on the first-floor lobby of the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters. Originally, Tier 6 God-ranked experts were unreachable existences to her. However, that was no longer the case now. So long as she could successfully persuade her Big Sis and acquire Zero Wing's resources, she could secure herself a spot among Tier 6 God-ranked experts in the future.

...

"What's going on? Why hasn't Instructor Soaring Snake cleared the second floor yet?"

Back on the 175th floor, Liu Yanya couldn't help but grow confused as she watched more and more people clearing the second-floor trial.

It should be known that her instructor was the 41st participant to clear the first-floor trial. Currently, it had already been over half an hour since the instructor's test began, and over 70 people had already cleared the second-floor trial, yet her instructor's name still wasn't on the second floor's scoreboard.

"Sis, you don't have to be too worried. Instructor Soaring Snake is a Tier 5 expert, so he definitely won't have a problem in clearing the second-floor trial," Liu Xuanyi said. "The difficulty of the second-floor trial is probably a little harder than we thought. It's just like the first-floor trial. I heard that nearly half of the Flowing Water Realm instructors that participated failed to clear it, while the rest took a significant amount of time to pass. The second floor's difficulty is probably the same. Instructor Soaring Snake is at the Void Realm's peak, so he should have no problems clearing the second-floor trial. It'll just take a little more time."

"I understand." Lin Yanya nodded, feeling that her little brother's words made sense. Then, she shifted her gaze to another display that showed the student registration list.

The God's Domain Association's Talent Camp had three registration lists: the Bronze List, the Silver List, and the Gold List.

These lists corresponded to the rank of the applicant's instructor. Currently, her instructor was still a Bronze Instructor, so her name was placed on the Bronze List. The Bronze List was also the only list with the most applicants right now, the applicant count exceeding over a hundred already. However, out of all these applicants, the Association would only be allowing ten to pass.

It should be known that the Bronze List's applicant count was still growing as time passed. By the time the application period was over, it wouldn't be surprising to see five or six hundred people on the list.

Only by entering the Silver List would she face less competition. Although the Association would also only be choosing ten people from the Silver List, there were only ten applicants on the Silver List right now.

However, what Liu Yanya couldn't tolerate the most wasn't her slow entry into the Silver List. Instead, what she couldn't tolerate was the fact that Chen Ziyou's name was also on the Bronze List!

In other words, Chen Ziyou's instructor had also cleared the first-floor trial and qualified as a Bronze Instructor.

Liu Yanya couldn't help but be upset by this situation. After all, she had confidently extended an invitation to Chen Ziyou before and said that they could enter the Silver List together. Yet, now, she was still stuck in the Bronze List together with Chen Ziyou.

Meanwhile, during the time Liu Yanya shifted her attention to the student registration list, all 100 spots on the second-floor trial's scoreboard were also filled.

He still hasn't passed?

No matter how many times Liu Yanya looked at the scoreboard, she simply couldn't find Soaring Snake's name on it.

"Sis! Look over there!" Liu Xuanyi suddenly said as he pointed at the student registration list. "Is something wrong with the SilverList? Why is Chen Ziyou's name there?"

"Chen Ziyou?" Liu Yanya also quickly turned to look at the student registration list upon hearing her little brother's words. "This... How is this possible!?"

Liu Yanya couldn't help but be dumbfounded as she looked at the Silver List.

There were less than 25 people registered on the Silver List right now, and one of these people's names was Chen Ziyou. Moreover, the affiliated academy linked to this name was Jin Hai Academy, so there was no doubt that this Chen Ziyou was the same Chen Ziyou she knew...

Chapter 3032-Chapter 107 – Transcendental Realm

Silver rank?! Instructor Shi already cleared the second-floor trial?!

Chen Ziyou couldn't help but doubt her eyes as she looked at the notification she received on her quantum watch. She also made sure to look at the distant holographic display to ensure she wasn't dreaming or hallucinating.

She had long since known that Shi Feng wasn't an ordinary expert. After all, there was no way an ordinary expert could help her grow from the Half-step Refinement Realm to the Refinement Realm with just one short lesson. This was a feat that even Void Realm experts couldn't necessarily accomplish.

In fact, after attending just one of Shi Feng's lessons, Qi Lianshan had lauded Shi Feng's teaching abilities and estimated that Shi Feng's strength was at the Void Realm standard at the very least.

However, even after seeing the results on the second-floor trial's scoreboard and her entry into the Silver List, she still couldn't help but doubt this situation.

The Silver List!

After getting into the Silver List, it meant that she had a high chance of getting accepted into the God's Domain Association's Talent Camp. At the very least, she had a success rate of 20%. After all, at the current rate, the Silver List wouldn't have more than 50 applicants by the end of the application period.

Meanwhile, the Association would similarly accept ten applicants, so the competition she faced was much fewer than the Bronze List's applicants.

However, other than the surprised Chen Ziyou and shocked Liu Yanya, nobody was paying attention to Shi Feng. Instead, everyone had their attention focused on the third-floor trial's scoreboard.

"It's been nearly 30 minutes since Purple Jade cleared the second floor. Why hasn't she cleared the third floor yet?"

"The third floor's difficulty is probably significantly greater. I've seen many Void Realm experts failing the second-floor trial already. The third-floor trial is probably reserved exclusively for God-ranked experts."

"I guess that's good. Otherwise, it'd be tough for us to tell the actual difference between these God-ranked experts."

"Empress Purple Jade came in first on the second floor just now. I wonder who will complete the third floor first?"

"I'm putting my money on the Witch of the West. It's either going to be her or the Silver Ghost. These two people are ranked within the top ten of the God's Domain Experts List. Everyone else is a little inferior to them."

Everyone began hushed discussions among themselves when they saw that the third floor's scoreboard wasn't being updated even after a long time, and they couldn't help but wonder who would clear the third-floor trial first.

Tier 6 God-ranked experts rarely fought against each other, so there was no precise way to determine who was stronger and weaker in the past. However, now that so many God-ranked experts were participating in this test for combat standards, everyone could see the difference between these God-ranked experts at a glance.

Moreover, there was a slight difference in the scoreboards for the third floor and beyond.

Rather than ranking participants by the order in which they cleared the trial, the scoreboards for the third floor and beyond ranked participants based on the time they took to clear their respective trials instead. In other words, the quicker a participant's clear time, the higher their rank would be. This would also provide everyone with a much more accurate measure of the participants' combat standards.

Amidst everyone's discussions, the first name had also appeared on the third-floor trial's scoreboard.

...

1st (Current) – Magic-eye Hunter Fithalia – 21 minutes 17 seconds

...

"Fithalia actually came in first?"

"It seems the rumors about her strength being barely within the top ten of God-ranked experts is false."

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Everyone was surprised when they saw the Magic-eye Hunter Fithalia coming in first. They didn't think that the Witch of the West, who possessed extraordinary perception and control, and the Silver Ghost, who mastered several Bronze and Silver Combat Techniques, would actually lose to Fithalia. After all, the public's evaluation of the Magic-eye Hunter wasn't particularly high.

Meanwhile, shortly after Fithalia cleared the third-floor trial, the second and third place participants also appeared one after another.

...

2nd (Current) – Silver Ghost Prosciutto – 22 minutes 39 seconds

3rd (Current) – Witch of the West Alice – 22 minutes 52 seconds

4th (Current) – Thirteen Thrones' Guild Leader Melancholy – 24 minutes 26 seconds

5th (Current) – Purple Jade – 26 minutes 31 seconds

...

“Those two lost to Fithalia by over a minute?”

“Fithalia has really concealed her strength well! At this rate, unless the Five Great Super Guilds' old monsters and those four monsters make an appearance, she'll probably rank number one in the test this time!”

When everyone saw the time it took for the Silver Ghost and the Witch of the West to clear their respective trials, they could clearly tell that there was a significant difference between them and Fithalia.

However, just when everyone thought that the top ranks for the scoreboard were set, another name appeared on the third floor's scoreboard a few minutes later and pushed Melancholy out of fourth place.

...

4th (Current) – Thousand Swords – 23 minutes 28 seconds

...

“Crap! Who's this Thousand Swords?! He's actually behind the Silver Ghost and the Witch of the West by less than a minute!”

“I believe this person is World Domination's Great Elder. I remember that he challenged the Five Great Super Guilds' old monsters around 20 years ago, and his results were a mix of wins and losses. I didn't think he would still be so strong after such a long time.”

“As expected of a veteran Super Guild. World Domination has powerful foundations.”

Many people who recognized Thousand Swords' name couldn't help but be surprised to see him ranked so highly. After all, he had already reached his prime 20 years ago, yet he was still capable of matching the experts of younger generations.

"I knew it! Teacher really is amazing!" Tao Yuwei's eyes sparkled when she saw Thousand Swords' name appearing on the third floor's scoreboard. "Fourth! He actually came in fourth place! Moreover, he's only slightly behind the two in front! With this, everyone will know that World Domination is no weaker than the Five Great Super Guilds!"

"The other superpowers will probably shrink back a little when dealing with our Guild in the future," Gu Yiren said, a rare happy smile appearing on his face.

After all was said and done, God's Domain where strength spoke volumes. Although Tier 6 God-ranked experts rarely took action and typically served as only a deterrence, there was still a difference in the strength of a Guild's deterrence. Now that the various superpowers could see that World Domination possessed a high-ranking God-ranked expert, they would definitely think twice when challenging World Domination in the future.

...

Meanwhile, inside one of the many instances of the third-floor trial...

Shi Feng was currently facing against 100 Tier 3 NPCs at the Half-step Void Realm standard. Moreover, every one of these NPCs could exhibit the power of an advanced combat technique with their every move. When they combined their attacks, the power they could exhibit easily reached the standard of Mythic monsters. When 100 of such NPCs worked together, it'd be a child's play for them to defeat Domain Realm experts.

This temple truly is a wonderful place for training. Although it isn't as good as the ancient civilizations' Realms of Truth Legacies, it is still one of the few places to train in the Realms of Truth.

Shi Feng's eyes burned with passion and excitement as he looked at the Tier 3 NPCs attacking him.

The experience of facing these NPCs' fierce and unrelenting attacks was an experience that couldn't normally be found in the outside world. If he didn't maximize the use of his offensive power, defensive power, and speed, he wouldn't be able to defend against the fierce assault at all.

However, even though Shi Feng was continuously losing HP as time passed, his mind had achieved unprecedented levels of focus as he dodged and blocked the oncoming attacks. After sparring with these Tier 3 NPCs for some time, he could feel that he had finally returned to his prime in the Realms of Truth. Now, not only could he exhibit the power of a Bronze Combat Technique with his every move, but he could also execute every movement as naturally as flowing water. This meant that he had thoroughly mastered the third realm of the Realms of Truth.

The Transcendental Realm!

Combined with the fact that he had already reached the Domain Realm's second step, he could now combine even Bronze Combat Techniques with Skills and Spells. This meant that he could exhibit power

at the Tier 4 Intermediate standard with his Tier 3 Skills and Spells, and he would no longer have to rely on the effects of weapons and equipment to transcend tiers.

“Now that I’ve achieved perfect control already, the training session ends here!”

After saying so, Shi Feng immediately used the Tier 3 Legacy Skill for Swordsman, Consecutive Wind Blades!

Suddenly, wind blades that tore through space flew in multiple directions, catching the melee NPCs surrounding Shi Feng off guard and killing them instantly. Moreover, even after the wind blades had their power dampened by the corpses of the NPCs they killed, they still packed enough punch to cause the other melee NPCs in their path to stumble several steps backward.

Immediately afterward, Shi Feng followed up his attack using the Tier 3 Skill Storm Rush. There was no gap whatsoever between his Skill uses, so the melee NPCs that had been knocked out of their stances were utterly defenseless against Shi Feng’s flurry of slashes, their HPs decreasing by two to three million every attack. Before the rear line healers could even do anything, the melee NPCs in Shi Feng’s way had already died in the storm of blades...

Subsequently, after Shi Feng used a few more Tier 3 Skills, over half of the melee NPCs had died already, and the tides of battle changed to favor Shi Feng.

It’s a pity I don’t have many Tier 3 Skills and Spells. Otherwise, I could’ve gotten rid of all of these NPCs in one fell swoop.

Shi Feng sighed in pity as he looked at the remaining shield-wielding NPCs surrounding him. Because he had failed to kill all of the melee NPCs within two seconds, those surviving with less than half NPC instantly recovered all of their HP thanks to the rear line healers. They were no different than a group of cockroaches.

Unfortunately, now that he had already used up all of his Tier 3 Skills, he had no choice but to go on the defensive until they were ready again. After all, even if he could exhibit the power of a Bronze Combat Technique with his normal attacks, he couldn’t kill any of these NPCs within one or two seconds. So, he’d only be wasting his energy if he tried to fight them without Tier 3 Skills.

Finally, after fighting with these NPCs for several minutes, Shi Feng got rid of the last melee NPC protecting the rear line. Then, with his speed and power that rivaled Tier 4 players, he swiftly took care of the ranged NPCs.

...

System: You have cleared the third floor. Time spent: 9 minutes 23 seconds. You are now officially a Gold Instructor at the God’s Domain Association. You will have three recommendation slots for every Talent Camp the Association hosts. Do you wish to proceed to the fourth floor?

...

“The fourth floor?” After having experienced the third-floor trial, Shi Feng couldn’t help but wonder what challenges would await him on the temple’s fourth floor. “Proceed!”

Chapter 3033-Chapter 108 – Fourth Floor

In the blink of an eye, Shi Feng found himself appearing in a completely different location.

The setting of the third-floor trial was a stone forest. The fourth-floor trial, on the other hand, was an arena. Or, more specifically, a very modernized arena.

Not only could Shi Feng see all sorts of advanced technology around the arena, but there were also many flying disc-like objects hovering above the arena. Moreover, every one of these flying discs had luxuriously dressed people sitting on them, the flying discs granting these people an overlooking view of the arena.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng could visibly sense that these spectators were unlike any NPC he had seen before. Whether it was their clothing or behavior, none of these things looked like they belonged to the civilization he lived in. All of these people possessed their own unique cultural heritage.

Most importantly, Shi Feng could sense that all of these people were incredibly strong!

What is this place? Even the weakest person here is a great grandmaster at the Extraordinary Realm! Shi Feng was greatly shocked as he scanned the people on the flying discs.

Shi Feng could also sense that these people weren't NPCs in God's Domain. Instead, they gave off a feeling close to that of players. He could even hear the conversations they were having. Although he couldn't understand the languages they spoke, he could tell through their behaviors that they were laughing at him.

However, before Shi Feng could conduct a closer observation on these people, a hostile intent that made him shiver suddenly descended upon him, and he couldn't help but turn to look at the source of this hostility.

At this time, the arena's large gate that had originally been shut suddenly opened, and a valiant youth dressed like a Swordsman slowly walked out of it.

This valiant youth was indescribably handsome, and he would definitely attract a lot of attention from young women should he walk on a public street. Moreover, he also had pointed ears and turquoise eyes, proof of his elven descent.

However, as soon as Shi Feng saw this elven youth, he instantly felt an unprecedented pressure descending upon him.

Is he above the Extraordinary Realm?

Shi Feng couldn't help but have such a thought when he saw the elven youth. Although the elven youth was similarly at Tier 3, fully clad in Dark-Gold Equipment, and had similar HP as him, the pressure he felt from the youth was much more intense than even a Superior Mythic monster.

Meanwhile, after the elven youth stepped into the arena and looked at Shi Feng, he shook his head slightly, a flash of disappointment appearing in his eyes. Then, he took a step forward without even bothering to unsheath the greatsword he carried on his back.

In the blink of an eye, the elven youth crossed the distance of over a hundred yards and appeared in front of Shi Feng.

What speed!

Shi Feng was startled when he looked at the expressionless youth before him. The youth's speed was so fast that it had already surpassed the limits of his senses. By the time he picked up on the youth's presence, the other party had long since appeared before him.

Subsequently, the elven youth swung down an arm at Shi Feng as if he were swinging a sword, the youth's arm shattering the space in its path and leaving behind a trail of darkness.

I need to block it!

Almost instinctively, Shi Feng executed Sword's Transmigration.

Boom!

The Dark-Gold Swords Shi Feng wielded could cut and smash rocks apart. Yet, the instant his swords came into contact with the elven youth's arm, he felt as if he had just hit an impenetrable wall. Not only did his arms instantly go numb, but the recoil of his attack and the force exerted by the youth's arm had also sent him flying back several dozen yards.

When Shi Feng landed on the ground and looked at his longswords, he found that each of them had a deep groove on them.

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He can break Dark-Gold Weapons with his body?

After just a brief contact, each of the Dark-Gold Swords Shi Feng wielded had received a big dent, and their durability had also dropped by 30%. In other words, the elven youth would only need three more attacks to destroy his weapons...

However, before Shi Feng could figure out an appropriate countermeasure to this situation, the elven youth appeared before him again and executed another chopping attack.

This time, the youth's attack had bisected the entire arena's space, and even time had begun to slow down in the face of his attack. Faced with this situation, Shi Feng promptly made the decision to combine Sword's Transmigration with the Tier 3 Skill Thunder Tiger. Thunder Tiger was the fastest Offensive Skill available to a Tier 3 Swordsman, the Skill increasing the user's Attack Speed by 100% and Strength by 80% upon activation.

Clang!

Unfortunately, the instant the silver longswords came into contact with the elven youth's arm, they instantly shattered like glass. Then, an imperceptible black slit cut through Shi Feng's body, instantly dropping his HP to zero.

Is this the strength that lies beyond the Realms of Truth?

Shi Feng experienced an unprecedented degree of shock as he looked at the elven youth and his shattered longswords. He never thought there would be such a huge gap between the temple's fourth-floor and third-floor trials. The standard of the elven youth's combat proficiency was definitely the greatest he had ever seen in all three of his lives.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng's surroundings began blurring after he died, and a system notification appeared before him.

...

System: You have failed the fourth floor. Time spent: 5 seconds. If you wish to challenge the temple again, you will have to wait for one month.

...

Shortly after the system notification, Shi Feng felt a dizzy feeling assaulting his mind for a moment. Then, by the time his mind regained its clarity, he found himself back on the 175th floor of the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters.

At this time, several hundred people occupied the 175th floor's hall. However, the hall was indescribably quiet as everyone stared at the information displayed on the hall's central display.

...

Third-floor Trial's Scoreboard:

Chapter 3034-Chapter 109 – Strongest Tier 6 Player?

"Asura?"

"Who is this person?! Why haven't I heard of this name before?!"

"Isn't this guy a little too strong? Even Fithalia only managed 21 minutes 17 seconds, yet he managed 9 minutes 23 seconds! He's on an entirely different level!"

At this time, everyone paying attention to the God's Domain Association's instructor certification test couldn't help but doubt their eyes when they saw the rankings for the third-floor trial.

Setting aside the Magic-eye Hunter Fithalia, both the Silver Ghost and the Witch of the West were nigh-invincible existences among Tier 6 God-ranked experts. Even superpowers with Tier 6 God-ranked experts wouldn't dare offend these two people without a good reason.

This was because both of these two had a frightening record of single-handedly defeating at least two God-ranked experts several years ago. Now that some years had passed since they set these records, there was no doubt that they had grown stronger.

Meanwhile, although it was indeed surprising for Fithalia to come in first place previously, Fithalia wasn't some nameless nobody. She had also successfully killed a God-ranked expert by herself in the past. It was even rumored that she had acquired a God's Legacy. So, it wasn't unacceptable that she managed to surpass the Silver Ghost and the Witch of the West.

However, what was up with this Asura?

Not only was this person a new name among Tier 6 God-ranked experts, but he had even surpassed the other participating God-ranked experts by a huge margin. He had practically made a fool out of all the God-ranked experts that ranked beneath him.

"I've never heard of any God-ranked experts named Asura before. Could this guy be a newly-promoted God-ranked expert?"

"No such God-ranked expert exists among the various powers. He's probably a lone wolf."

"This guy's amazing! He actually overpowered so many legends as an independent player! With this, nobody will dare look down on us independent players anymore!"

"Investigate! We must get this person to join us! If we have such an expert in our Guild, even the Five Great Super Guilds won't dare to casually offend us!"

The various powers had varying thoughts when they saw Asura's score on the third-floor trial's scoreboard. Some admired him, some were surprised by his strength, and some were curious about his identity. After getting over their initial shock, though, these powers promptly thought of recruiting him. It was especially true for the various corporations that had received news of this matter.

The various superpowers had long since divided the current resources in God's Domain among themselves. It was especially true for the Seven Luminaries Crystals, the resource crucial for reaching Tier 6.

With the various superpowers' current monopoly, it was utterly impossible to snatch any of these crucial resources from them. Even a new Tier 6 God-ranked expert appearing outside the various superpowers wouldn't change this fact. After all, the various superpowers could produce God-ranked experts at a much higher rate.

However, that might change now that the God-ranked expert known as Asura had appeared.

Although there were still many God-ranked experts that hadn't taken part in the God's Domain Association's instructor certification test, the current participants were already more than enough to represent most of God's Domain's God-ranked experts. Meanwhile, with the exception of the Five Great Super Guilds' old monsters and those four monsters, it was unlikely that any other God-ranked expert could beat Asura's score. Hence, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Asura was the strongest Tier 6 God-ranked expert in God's Domain.

...

“Asura, is it?”

When Purple Jade, who was resting in the branch headquarters’ top-floor lounge, saw the results on the holographic screen before her, her eyes burned with fighting spirit.

Personally, Purple Jade felt that she had improved a lot since she reached Tier 6 several years ago. Right now, she felt that she could fight even Prosciutto and Alice and have a chance at winning. Other than those four peerless monsters and the Five Great Super Guilds’ mysterious old monsters, she doubted that any other God-ranked expert could achieve a decisive victory over her.

Now, though, a new target had appeared in Purple Jade’s mind, and this target was none other than Asura!

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In the past, unless God-ranked experts decided to fight each other, there was no way to tell the difference between God-ranked experts. However, there was a convenient way to do so now—the God’s Domain Association’s instructor certification test.

Anyone who had participated in the test, particularly the third-floor trial, would know how challenging it was to defeat all those NPCs. Every one of those NPCs could rival the average Domain Realm expert in strength. While defeating one of these NPCs might be simple for a Tier 6 God-ranked expert, defeating a large group of them was an entirely different story.

Despite how confident Purple Jade was in her strength, even she had taken 26 minutes to clear the third-floor trial. She couldn’t even begin to imagine what kind of strength, or, more specifically, what kind of combat standard, was necessary to defeat all those NPCs in just nine minutes.

...

“Interesting! I didn’t think that other than those old monsters and those four peerless monsters, there’d be another person who has managed to reach such a realm!” a 60-year-old man who looked like he was in his early forties said, a look of interest appearing on his face as he looked at the holographic scoreboard before him.

“Is this person really that strong, Great Elder? Can he really match those old monsters?” a burly middle-aged man asked as he looked at the lean old man standing beside him. It should be known that the lean old man was Thousand Swords, a legendary individual in World Domination. While he wasn’t trying to doubt Thousand Swords’ judgment, the Five Great Super Guilds’ old monsters were nigh-invincible existences. So, he found it hard to imagine that a God-ranked expert that had suddenly appeared out of nowhere could match those old monsters.

“I can only say that they are on the same level,” Thousand Swords said after giving the middle-aged man’s question some thought. “We will only know the exact difference if those old monsters decide to show themselves. After all, you’ve seen the fourth-floor trial for yourself. I don’t think anyone in our

current God's Domain can beat that person. That person on the fourth floor isn't just at the Beyond Domain Realm. He has similarly reached an incredible level in the Realms of Truth."

Others might not know how powerful the Five Great Super Guilds' old monsters were, but Thousand Swords had fought against some of those old monsters 20 years ago. Although he wasn't sure how strong those old monsters had become after entering God's Domain, he was certain that all of them were at the Beyond Domain Realm.

Indeed!

Every one of those old monsters had reached the Beyond Domain Realm!

This was also why even until now, none of the various superpowers' God-ranked experts had ever questioned the strength of those old monsters.

...

Meanwhile, back on the 175th floor of the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters...

While everyone was busy discussing Asura and wondering whether he could rival the Five Great Super Guilds' old monsters, Liu Yanya had her eyes focused on the student registration list, shock and confusion coloring her face.

Gold?! How did Chen Ziyou get into the Gold List?!

At this time, there were only a few names on the Gold List. However, one of them just so happened to be Chen Ziyou, a name that shouldn't be there logically.

This must be a mistake! How can her instructor be so strong?!

Liu Yanya shook her head, refusing to believe this situation to be true. It should be known that her instructor had taken a long time to complete even the second-floor trial and become a Silver Instructor. Yet, just when she thought she could stand on equal footing as Chen Ziyou afterward, Chen Ziyou's instructor had become a Gold Instructor. How could she possibly accept this situation?

In reality, Liu Yanya wasn't the only one in disbelief over this situation. Even Chen Ziyou herself wore a dumbfounded expression when she saw her name on the Gold List.

Instructor Shi? Asura?

Chapter 3035-Chapter 110 – Start of a New Era

The strongest Tier 6 God-ranked expert! So, this is the strength Instructor Shi has been hiding all along?

Chen Ziyou dared not believe the crazy thought she just had.

Asura!

The current number one God-ranked expert in the God's Domain Association's instructor certification test!

Just reaching Tier 6 was already an unachievable goal for most players in God's Domain, let alone becoming the strongest player among Tier 6 God-ranked experts.

With her meager talent and strength, Chen Ziyou had never once harbored any thoughts of having any interactions with such a player. Not to mention, Shi Feng was merely the former Guild Leader of Shadow, a second-rate Guild, in the past.

Although Chen Ziyou had long since known that Shi Feng couldn't possibly be just a Tier 3 expert with his combat standards, she had never thought that he would have anything to do with Tier 6 God-ranked experts.

However, Chen Ziyou had no choice but to have such thoughts in the current situation. Unlike everyone else, she possessed much more information about the participant named Asura. After all, Shi Feng was her registered instructor. So, the instant Shi Feng became a Gold Instructor, she would be entered into the Gold List as well.

Currently, there were already several dozen people registered on the third-floor trial's scoreboard. Among them, some were Tier 6 God-ranked experts, and some were apex existences among Tier 5 experts. After all, the trials only tested the participants' combat standards. The trials didn't consider the participants' tiers, equipment, Skills, Spells, Legacies, etc. So, it wasn't strange for Tier 5 experts to conquer the third-floor trial as well.

However, the instant Asura's name got registered on the third-floor trial's scoreboard, Chen Ziyou had also received a notification that she had qualified for the God's Domain Association's Gold List.

In Chen Ziyou's opinion, this definitely wasn't a coincidence.

After all, nobody else had gotten registered on the third floor's scoreboard around this time. So, this meant that Asura was Shi Feng, and Shi Feng was Asura.

While Chen Ziyou was feeling shocked over this situation, Shi Feng had also walked up to her and quietly said, "Don't tell my secret to anyone else for the moment. I still don't want too many people finding out about this. Such a situation wouldn't be beneficial to you or me."

Shi Feng wasn't surprised that Chen Ziyou had figured out that he was Asura. After all, he had registered her as his apprentice. So long as Chen Ziyou was paying attention, she could easily connect the dots.

"Mhm." Chen Ziyou nodded like a timid rabbit, her eyes filled with excitement and reverence as she looked at Shi Feng. After all, the strongest Tier 6 God-ranked expert in God's Domain was her instructor. There was no way she wouldn't be excited over this situation.

She also understood why Shi Feng had given her such a reminder.

Situations where destruction pursued the great happened frequently in God's Domain.

Now that Asura had already become known as the strongest God-ranked expert, the various superpowers were probably frantically looking into Asura's identity.

It might be fine if Asura belonged to the various superpowers. However, if Asura turned out to be an independent expert with no background, there would only be two possible actions the various superpowers would take: recruiting or disposing of the player known as Asura.

With the combat standards Shi Feng had currently displayed, it went without saying that the various superpowers would first try to recruit him at all costs. However, if they failed to get Shi Feng to join them, the subsequent actions they would take went without saying.

At that time, the various superpowers probably wouldn't stop at just targeting Shi Feng. Even the people around Shi Feng might not be spared.

Meanwhile, as Shi Feng's registered apprentice, Chen Ziyou would definitely be the first to suffer the various superpowers' wrath.

"You'll have to start working harder to improve yourself once we return," Shi Feng said as he looked at the names on the third-floor trial's scoreboard. "The resources the Association provides are quite tempting, so it won't be long before war breaks out among the various powers. If you don't have enough strength, you might even have difficulty leveling up."

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"The various powers are going to go to war?" Chen Ziyou was confused by Shi Feng's words.

The current situation in God's Domain could be described as a pool of dead water. At most, the various powers would engage in insignificant conflicts. Never would they start a full-blown war against one another. So, she found it hard to believe that a war would break out among the various powers.

"You'll know what I mean soon enough," Shi Feng said, not bothering to explain himself. Then, he turned around and left the 175th floor.

The reason the various powers could maintain a stable relationship with one another thus far was due to the vague gap in strength between experts, particularly Tier 5 experts. After all, nobody could tell how strong a Tier 5 expert was compared to other Tier 5 experts until they fought. Meanwhile, although fights between Tier 5 experts happened from time to time, they were still relatively rare. Because of this, most Tier 5 experts were unaware of how strong they were compared to their peers, and the only way to determine a power's overall strength was through the number of Tier 5 experts it had.

However, the advent of the God's Domain Association's instructor certification test had just removed this unknown variable and shattered the balance between the various powers.

Now, everyone was aware that not all Tier 5 experts were equal and that it was possible for one Tier 5 expert to defeat multiple Tier 5 experts.

In that case, how could the Guilds with fewer but stronger Tier 5 experts be willing to settle for fewer resources than Guilds with more but weaker Tier 5 experts?

God's Domain had already officially become a second world for humans. Every additional territory a power occupied could mean profits that could make even major corporations grow envious. Not to mention, now that God's Domain faced the threat of invasion by Outerworld forces, the various powers would need more resources to nurture more experts so that they could better defend their territories.

Hence, now that the unknown variable known as the strength of experts was out of the way, God's Domain's various powers might very well launch an all-out war against each other after today. Meanwhile, if these powers were willing to go to war with each other, it went without saying that they wouldn't hesitate to target independent players, either.

At this time, Shi Feng wasn't the only one who noticed this point. The many powers and experts paying attention to the instructor certification test also realized it.

...

Is this going to be the reshuffling for Tier 5 experts? Lin Yaoyue frowned as she looked at her quantum watch's holographic display.

It was a common opinion that Tier 5 experts were largely equal in strength to each other in the past. Even if there was a difference, it wouldn't be significant.

However, the scoreboards of the second- and third-floor trials proved otherwise.

Contrary to everyone's expectations, a massive gap in strength existed even among Tier 5 experts. It was especially true for the gap between the older generation and the newer generation Tier 5 experts. Unexpectedly, everyone had overestimated the older generation experts and underestimated the newer generation experts. This was because most of the Tier 5 experts who had conquered the third-floor trial were newer generation experts.

Seeing this situation, there was no way the various powers would remain quiet and settle for the current status quo in God's Domain.

Meanwhile, what caught Lin Yaoyue off guard the most was that neither her Guild's Guild Leader nor Great Elder Confused Heart had made it onto the third floor's scoreboard. This outcome would undoubtedly create a huge impact on Mysterious Moon's prestige.

In the past, other first-rate Guilds had believed that Mysterious Moon's Guild Leader and Confused Heart were nigh-invincible existences among Tier 5 experts. Adding on the fact that Mysterious Moon had many Tier 5 experts, the Guild became regarded as top-tier among first-rate Guilds.

Meanwhile, thanks to this status, Mysterious Moon was able to occupy crucial territories most other first-rate Guilds could never occupy. Other first-rate Guilds had even taken the initiative to surrender some of the Miniature Ancient World's resources to Mysterious Moon out of fear and respect.

However, now that both of these supposedly invincible individuals had failed to clear the third-floor trial, it meant that they were no different than the other Tier 5 experts that were stuck on the second-floor trial. This situation would put Mysterious Moon in an incredibly precarious situation...

...

On the other side, after the God's Domain Association's instructor certification test ended, Chen Ziyou got into the Association's Talent Camp without fail, and Shi Feng also received the bottle of S-rank Nutrient Fluid Qi Lanshan had promised him.

Chapter 3036-Chapter 111 – Ancient City Takes Shape

Jin Hai City, Qingzhu Villa District:

After spending the day at the Secret Pavilion's branch headquarters, Shi Feng hurriedly returned to his villa to rest.

In reality, those touring the branch headquarters could choose to spend the night there. However, when Shi Feng considered the bottle of S-rank Nutrient Fluid he got from Qi Lianshan and the 11,100 Association Points he earned from the instructor certification test, he didn't wish to waste even a moment longer there. Thus, he left the branch headquarters ahead of time.

One bottle of Life Potion and six bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluid. These supplements should be enough to heal my body's injuries and replenish my cells' vitality, Shi Feng thought expectantly as he looked at the seven bottles he had just placed into the refrigerator.

The God's Domain Association's points could be exchanged for resources at the Association branches located in the various cities. To avoid attracting trouble to himself, Shi Feng had chosen to conceal his identity and exchanged his points at Liufeng City's Association branch before returning to Jin Hai City. Meanwhile, he had spent all but 100 points to exchange for one bottle of Life Potion and five bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluid.

Fortunately, as Liufeng City was a first-tier city, the Association branch there had all the resources the Association offered. Moreover, the exchange system was operated by AI. So long as he had enough points to exchange for the items he selected, the AI would send fully automated robots to deliver the items to him. No human was involved in the entire process, so there was no need to worry that his identity would get exposed.

Meanwhile, with six bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluid and one bottle of Life Potion, he should be able to elevate his physical fitness to the standard of master martial artists. Most importantly, the Life Potion would rejuvenate his cells, returning him to his prime of youth. At that time, he would no longer have to worry about facing bottlenecks when developing his body.

While Shi Feng was conducting meditation training to put his mind and body into the perfect condition to consume and absorb the drugs, Blackie suddenly contacted him with an anxious expression on his face.

"Guild Leader, I just received news that the balance between the various powers has been broken because of the God's Domain Association. Now, the various powers have started competing for leveling spots in both the main continent and the Miniature Ancient World. Battles involving tens of thousands

of players have even taken place in a few places already,” Blackie said in a helpless tone. “Right now, the various first-rate Guilds and Guild alliances have already locked down all leveling maps under Level 110 in the Miniature Ancient World. They’re not letting any outsiders set foot into these maps. Qianliu’s side has even clashed with some teams already. Although they’ve won every fight so far, we’ve also suffered a lot of casualties...”

Currently, although Zero Wing’s internal members were ahead of the various Guilds in terms of levels, their optimum leveling spots were still Level 105 to Level 110 leveling maps due to the inconvenience of travel.

Originally, few Guilds would send their teams out to these maps, so Zero Wing’s internal members got to enjoy ample leveling resources. However, now that the various Guilds were laying claim over these maps, it became a lot more challenging for Zero Wing to monopolize these resources.

Although Zero Wing’s members could fend off those who tried to hinder them, most of the opponents they faced were experts from the various first-rate Guilds. Fighting against these experts while grinding would lower their grinding efficiency significantly.

Moreover, as a small Guild, the last thing Zero Wing wanted was to have a protracted fight with a large Guild. After all, a large Guild could afford to have a portion of their members keep Zero Wing busy while the rest of their members focused on leveling up rapidly.

“That is indeed a problem.” Shi Feng fell into thought for a moment when he heard Blackie’s report. Then, he said, “Have them switch to grinding in Level 110-plus maps for now. Although their leveling efficiency will still decrease, it will still be better than if they stayed and fought. Also, you don’t need to worry about recruiting new members. Just focus on leveling up for now.”

“Okay. I’ll notify Qianliu and the others,” Blackie said. After giving the matter some thought, he felt that this was the only solution they had right now.

After Blackie disconnected the call, Shi Feng also stopped meditating, took out a bottle of S-rank Nutrient Fluid from the refrigerator, and emptied it into his stomach.

It seems I’ll have to accelerate the Abyssal Star City’s construction.

Although Shi Feng had more or less expected the various powers to make a big move after the instructor certification test, he didn’t think they would act so quickly. He also didn’t expect the competition to reach the Miniature Ancient World as well.

After drinking the S-rank Nutrient Fluid and feeling a warm feeling spreading throughout his body, Shi Feng lied into his virtual gaming cabin and logged into God’s Domain.

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Misty Canyon, Abyssal Star Ancient City:

When Shi Feng logged back into the game, he found that the Abyssal Star City had undergone massive changes.

“This...”

(If you have problems with this website, please continue reading your novel on our new website myAllNovelFull.Com THANKS!)

Shi Feng was stunned when he saw the pedestrians walking along the city’s main street.

The once deserted ancient city had become populated by numerous NPCs in less than a day. Moreover, many of these NPCs were merchants and adventurers.

NPC merchants and NPC adventurers might be a common sight in towns and cities, but it was incredibly strange to see so many of these NPCs in a city that had been summoned only recently.

It should be known that NPC merchants and NPC adventurers were crucial for a city’s early-stage development. After all, a city could only rent its Shops out if there were NPC merchants seeking to rent them, and a city’s Shops would also only have products to sell if NPC merchants were renting them. Meanwhile, a city could only defend itself if there were NPC adventurers applying to become guards. If a city lacked sufficient NPC guards, it couldn’t even maintain basic public security. NPC guards were especially important for the Abyssal Star City since it sat in the monster-infested Misty Canyon.

Meanwhile, after seeing how rapidly the Abyssal Star Ancient City had developed, Shi Feng couldn’t help but admit that Hidden Soul was indeed a capable person.

...

System: Abyssal Star Ancient City has accumulated 2,000 Popularity Points and 500 city guards. Do you wish to spend 20,000 Magic Crystals to unlock the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop?

Chapter 3537 – Chapter 111 – Ancient City Takes Shape

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Chapter 3038-Chapter 112 – Ancient Workshop

An Advanced Workshop?

Shi Feng couldn't help but be surprised when he saw the system notification.

Shi Feng was no stranger to Workshops. Once a Guild City reached the Main City rank, players could construct a Workshop in the city simply by spending Coins and Magic Crystals.

Meanwhile, exactly as its name suggested, the Workshop was a place for the various Lifestyle classes to conduct their work. At the same time, it also possessed some of the Lifestyle Association's functions, such as issuing NPC commissions and trade offers. Not only could Lifestyle Players acquire rare resources through the Workshop, but they also had a certain chance to acquire designs and recipes from NPCs, thereby increasing their Lifestyle standards.

In addition, the Workshop would also sell materials needed by the various Lifestyle classes for crafting basic items. Sometimes, it would even sell rare materials cheaply.

However, while acquiring a Basic Workshop might be a straightforward process, acquiring an Advanced Workshop was a whole other story.

The Advanced Workshop was no longer something players could unlock simply by spending Coins and Magic Crystals. Instead, players needed to acquire the construction design for it.

Meanwhile, an Advanced Workshop was a qualitative leap from a Basic Workshop.

In the case of a Basic Workshop, it would, at most, have Basic, Advanced, and Special Workrooms. Although these workrooms could help increase players' production success rate, the increase was limited and would not exceed 10%.

However, it was an entirely different story for an Advanced Workshop. Even the most inferior workroom in an Advanced Workshop would be at the Special rank. Other than Special Workrooms, there were also Magic Workrooms that could increase players' production rate by 25%.

In God's Domain, many Master and Grandmaster Lifestyle Players would often defect to another power just so that they could have the privilege of using a Magic Workroom.

If news got out that the Abyssal Star Ancient City had unlocked an Advanced Workshop, the various superpowers would definitely lose their minds. After all, this was an Advanced Workshop inside the Miniature Ancient World.

"Unlock it!" Shi Feng chose to unlock the Advanced Workshop without hesitation.

Previously, he had already stocked up 100,000 Magic Crystals in Abyssal Star City. Although spending 20,000 Magic Crystals so quickly hurt his heart, it was a small price to pay for an Advanced Workshop.

Now that there was an Advanced Workshop in Abyssal Star City, it meant that Zero Wing would have no problem attracting Lifestyle Players to join.

The importance of Lifestyle Players was no less than combat players. This was because a considerable portion of God's Domain's Epic Weapons and Equipment came from the hands of Lifestyle Players. Some Lifestyle Players were even capable of crafting Fragmented Legendary items.

Moreover, compared to items obtained from loot, items created by players were a much better fit for players. It was especially true for Epic and Fragmented Legendary items. This was because items of such rank were typically made to fit the players who would use them.

Meanwhile, because these items were made to fit the user, the players using these custom-made items could exhibit close to 100% of these items' potential. In comparison, an ordinary expert would, at most, be able to exhibit 70% of a looted item's potential, while peak experts could exhibit only 90%.

In addition, when using a looted item, players would have to adapt their combat style to the item's characteristics instead of the other way around. Depending on how much change players had to make, it might lead to a further reduction in strength.

Hence, all experts at the Void Realm standard or above would almost always use custom-made items. It didn't matter even if acquiring these items cost them ten times more than what they would normally have to pay for an item of the same quality. The only times when experts of such caliber would use looted items were when the items in question possessed incredible Basic Attributes or effects.

Because of this, almost every Master and Grandmaster Lifestyle Players in God's Domain had a waiting list of several years. Moreover, if one was making a commission with a Lifestyle Player who wasn't affiliated to one's Guild, one would typically have to pay a much greater price for custom-made items.

However, now that Zero Wing had an Advanced Workshop, Zero Wing's members would no longer have to worry about custom-made weapons and equipment in the future.

Meanwhile, after Shi Feng chose to unlock the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop, a rather dilapidated five-story building along the city's main street suddenly took on a new and vibrant look.

Why does this Advanced Workshop occupy such a big area?

Shi Feng was a little surprised when he looked at the five-story Workshop. The Workshop's building matched the size of a sports stadium, and it was nearly twice as big as the Advanced Workshops Shi Feng had seen before.

However, Shi Feng didn't put too much thought into the matter. Immediately, he walked into the Workshop to inspect it.

It seems I have really underestimated the Abyssal Star Ancient City. With its abilities, it can probably rank among the top three even within the Second Sequence.

After Shi Feng was done inspecting the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop, he couldn't help but take in a deep breath as he tried to calm his restless heart.

If he were to describe the city's ancient tower as a holy land for players to develop their control over Mana, then the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop would be a holy land for Lifestyle Players.

Not only did the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop have 400 Special Workrooms, but it even had 60 Magic Workrooms. These numbers were more than double that of the average Advanced Workshop.

In addition, the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop also had nine incredibly special rooms that could be described as miniature worlds. Meanwhile, these workrooms were named the Sage's Room.

In these nine Sage's Rooms, players could simulate the production process of an item simply by spending some Magic Crystals. Without wasting precious materials, players could familiarize themselves with an item's production process, thereby increasing their production success rate. For Master and Grandmaster Lifestyle Players seeking to produce Epic and Fragmented Legendary items, the function of these Sage's Rooms was something they dreamed of having.

After all, the materials needed to produce Epic and Fragmented Legendary items were incredibly precious. Even the Five Great Super Guilds wouldn't dare let their Lifestyle Players practice with these materials. So, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the Sage's Room's simulation function was priceless.

Moreover, this simulation function wasn't everything the Sage's Room had to offer. The Sage's Room still had one more function, and it was even more amazing than the simulation function.

Legacy Guidance!

Indeed!

Legacy Guidance for Lifestyle Players!

In an era where almost all Lifestyle Legacies had vanished from God's Domain, the Sage's Room's ability to offer Legacy Guidances was utterly unimaginable.

However, it wasn't completely accurate to say that the Sage's Room provided players with Legacy Guidances. Rather than providing players with theoretical knowledge, the Sage's Room granted players a buff that increased their Lifestyle rank by one while inside the room. In addition, the Sage's Room would also provide players with a simulation of the best possible method to produce a designated item, allowing players to have a clear goal when producing the designated item.

Even so, this function would shake the entirety of God's Domain should it be made known to the public.

After all, in the current God's Domain, the only Legacies that Lifestyle Players had to go by were textual descriptions of production techniques. They were not given any clear requirements or goals they needed to achieve to learn these techniques.

This was why the development of Lifestyle Players was incapable of keeping up with the development of combat players, who possessed complete combat systems. Compared to sub-worlds with complete Lifestyle systems, the development of Lifestyle players in this sub-world was at a snail's pace.

Chapter 3039-Chapter 113 – Emerging Strength

This is going to be a headache... Shi Feng couldn't help but feel his head hurting when he finished looking through the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop's information.

If he was merely dealing with an ordinary Advanced Workshop, he could've recruited Lifestyle Players without worry. However, with the presence of the Sage's Rooms, he had to be extra careful when recruiting Lifestyle Players. If handled poorly, the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop might bring an end to the Abyssal Star Ancient City.

However, Shi Feng didn't mull over this matter for too long. Since he had already picked up this hot potato, there was nothing he could do but wait for Zero Wing's mercenary alliance to grow sufficiently strong.

Setting aside the Sage's Room, the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop had another amazing function. More specifically, all Advanced Workshops had this function—recruiting Lifestyle NPCs.

Depending on an Advanced Workshop's popularity, it could even recruit Master Lifestyle NPCs. Meanwhile, Master Lifestyle NPCs should be enough to cope with the demands of the current Miniature Ancient World.

After walking up to the Workshop's front desk, Shi Feng activated the Workshop's recruitment function. Then, in less than two hours, applications from NPCs began appearing before Shi Feng one after another.

Amazing! This Workshop has only opened recently, yet there are already Master Lifestyle NPCs applying to join!

Shi Feng couldn't help but be flabbergasted when he looked through the system message bar.

Normally, an Advanced Workshop would not attract any Master Lifestyle NPCs as soon as it opened. Applications from Master Lifestyle NPCs would only start appearing a few days after the Workshop's opening. Moreover, only one or two would appear.

Yet, now, in just two hours, the Abyssal Star Advanced Workshop had already received applications from more than ten Master Lifestyle NPCs. One of them was even a Master Forger. In addition, this Master Forger was only asking for 100 Gold per day, which was only half of the standard price on the main continent.

With this, I won't have to get Blackie to recruit Master Forgers and Alchemists.

After looking at the long list of applications, Shi Feng chose to hire all 15 of the Master Lifestyle NPCs that applied. Of these NPCs, 14 were Basic Masters, while one was an Advanced Master Forger.

Thankfully, I already have the designs ready. Otherwise, these NPCs are going to bankrupt Zero Wing.

Shi Feng couldn't help but sigh ruefully as he looked at the total cost of hiring these 15 NPCs. Each of the 14 Basic Masters cost 40 Gold per day to hire, while the Advanced Master cost 100 Gold. In total, it cost

660 Gold per day to hire these 15 NPCs. In the Miniature Ancient World, even third-rate Guilds would have difficulty supporting a daily expenditure of 660 Gold.

Firstly, unlike on the main continent, income sources were incredibly limited in the current Miniature Ancient World. Guilds did not have any Guild Towns or Cities to provide them with large amounts of Coins. Right now, the only way Guilds could earn Coins reliably was by selling equipment and having Guild members do quests.

Secondly, although the various Guilds had sent many players into the Miniature Ancient World, everyone was just starting out here. Thus, everyone had significant daily expenditures. If not for players being allowed to bring 1,000 Gold with them when they entered the Miniature Ancient World, the various Guilds would probably be dead-ass poor right now.

Meanwhile, after the NPCs Shi Feng hired arrived at the Workshop, Shi Feng approached a white-clad old man. Then, he took out the Ancient Mana Equipment Set Design he had obtained from the Ancient Demon Court and asked, "Master Horn, how likely are you to succeed in manufacturing this set?"

Horn Selent, an Advanced Master Forger. On the main continent, even the king of a kingdom would treat him with courtesy.

"A Mana Equipment Set?" Horn caressed his white beard and fell into thought as he looked at the design. Then, after some time had passed, he said, "Roughly 40%."

"Forty?" Shi Feng nodded in satisfaction when he heard the old man's answer. The Ancient Mana Equipment Set was extraordinary. If he had a player of the same rank produce it, their success rate would probably be under 30%. "I'll leave this design with you, then, Master Horn. I'll also have the other masters assist you as much as they can."

With the Sage's Room's effects, Horn's success rate should increase past 50%.

It cost 1,000 Magic Crystals and 100 Gold's worth of other materials to produce an Ancient Mana Equipment Set. If the production success rate was over 50%, each set should only cost 2,000 Magic Crystals and 200 Gold to produce. Even if this standardized Ancient Mana Equipment Set was slightly inferior to the sets obtained from the Ancient Demon Court, they were still far stronger than Dark-Gold Equipment Sets.

Currently, what Zero Wing lacked most were weapons and equipment. Although Su Qianliu's Thousand Flow adventurer team had brought in many Epic Weapons and Equipment from the main continent, there still wasn't enough to equip everyone in the Guild. After all, even top-tier first-rate Guilds could not fully equip all their experts in Epic Weapons and Equipment. They could only acquire enough to gear their main force members at most. Moreover, most of these Epic Weapons and Equipment were individual pieces rather than sets.

For the average expert in first-rate Guilds, they'd be fortunate to have two or three pieces of Epic Equipment.

Meanwhile, the eight-piece Dark-Gold ranked Ancient Mana Equipment Set was inferior only to eight-piece Epic Equipment Sets. In some cases, the Mana Equipment Set excelled even more than Epic

Equipment Sets. If he could equip every Zero Wing member with a set, Zero Wing's overall combat power would definitely skyrocket.

Afterward, Shi Feng joined Horn and the other masters in producing the Ancient Mana Equipment Set.

Shi Feng wasn't just a Tier 6 Sword God in the past. He was also a Grandmaster Forger. Although he was only a Basic Apprentice Forger with zero Lifestyle EXP right now, he still remembered all the forging techniques he had learned in the past.

While Shi Feng might not be able to produce the whole set by himself, he could still help in producing some parts of the set. It was especially true when it came to refining metals and Magic Crystals. These tasks didn't require Lifestyle Levels and relied entirely on technique.

Meanwhile, with the techniques Shi Feng had honed, he achieved a 60% success rate when refining, which was 10% higher than the NPC Masters. This, in turn, increased the overall production success rate of the Ancient Mana Equipment Set by a little.

In just two days, Shi Feng and the NPCs had successfully produced 50 Ancient Mana Equipment Sets. Shi Feng had also leveled up from 105 to 106 thanks to all the parts he had produced. His leveling speed was not at all inferior to players grinding out in the fields. In addition, he had leveled up twice in his forging standard, going from a Basic Apprentice Forger into an Advanced Apprentice Forger. Now, he was only missing a few more proficiency points to become a Basic Forger.

However, in producing all these Ancient Mana Equipment Sets, Shi Feng had also exhausted Zero Wing's stockpile of Magic Crystals. If not for the large number of NPC Merchants contributing 70,000 Magic Crystals and 20,000 Gold in rent these past two days, Zero Wing would've long since gone bankrupt.

Just when Shi Feng was about to continue crafting some parts to level up into a Basic Forger, he suddenly received a call notification. Meanwhile, the caller was none other than Mysterious Moon's Zhuo Yalin.

"Seeing as you are contacting me now, did something happen over at the Darkmoon Outpost, Miss Nightingale?" Shi Feng asked when he saw the tired look on Zhuo Yalin's face. According to his agreement with Zhuo Yalin, there should still be two days until the battle for the Darkmoon Outpost began.

"Something has indeed happened," Zhuo Yalin said with a bitter smile. "I'm afraid we will have to cancel our previous agreement, Mr. Black Flame. World Domination has just moved into Hundred Flow City and laid claim over every map that drops the tokens for the Darkmoon Outpost. First-rate Guilds like Mysterious Moon stand no chance against it..."

"Of course, Mysterious Moon will still compensate you with 10,000 Gold."

Ever since the God's Domain Association's temple trial, the entirety of God's Domain had undergone a massive change. Every leveling spot in the Miniature Ancient World had also transformed into a battlefield between the various powers.

Originally, Zhuo Yalin thought that Mysterious Moon stood a chance at securing the Darkmoon Outpost since only a few first-rate Guilds were competing for it. However, after World Domination moved into Hundred Flow City, all of her plans had become a joke.

Currently, although Mysterious Moon still retained its hold over some of its leveling spots, every map that dropped the Darkmoon Token had become a forbidden zone thanks to World Domination. Although Mysterious Moon had collected over 60 Darkmoon Tokens thus far, that wouldn't be enough to secure the Darkmoon Outpost. This was because the closer they got to the day of the competition, the higher the drop-rate for the Darkmoon Tokens would become. If World Domination monopolized all of the token maps for the next two days, it would have a huge advantage in numbers during the competition.

"World Domination has come to Hundred Flow City?" Shi Feng wasn't particularly surprised to learn about this news. The rewards the God's Domain Association offered were incredibly lucrative, so it wasn't strange for even the various superpowers to make a move. "Miss Nightingale, forget the compensation. How about making a deal with Zero Wing?"

"A deal?" Zhuo Yalin was a little confused as she looked at Shi Feng. "May I know what kind of deal, Mr. Black Flame?"

"It's a huge pity to just give up on the Darkmoon Outpost now. The Darkmoon Outpost is the nearest resting point for Level 110 maps. We'll need to wait one whole month if we give up on the competition this time. How about we work together to secure it?" Shi Feng asked. "Of course, once we secure the Darkmoon Outpost, I want half of the Shops, including the only Large Shop in the Outpost. I also want half of the Outpost's revenue. What do you think?"

Zhuo Yalin couldn't help but look at Shi Feng in disbelief when she heard his words. "Mr. Black Flame, don't tell me you...plan on attacking World Domination?"

Chapter 3040-Chapter 114 – Zero Wing's Strength

Zhuo Yalin was both shocked and frightened by Shi Feng's suggestion.

This was a Super Guild they were talking about!

Even if World Domination wasn't one of the Five Great Super Guilds, it was still a veteran Super Guild that had been publicly acknowledged as such since God's Domain's launch.

Although one could often see top-tier first-rate Guilds behaving fearlessly against a Super Guild, that was only on the surface. However, it was a completely different story when it came to attacking a Super Guild. Zhuo Yalin would be lying if she said she wasn't frightened by Shi Feng's suggestion.

As an executive of a first-rate Guild, Zhuo Yalin possessed a much greater understanding of Super Guilds than second- and third-rate Guilds in God's Domain. Or, more specifically, the stronger a power was in God's Domain, the more afraid they would be of Super Guilds. This was because Super Guilds were nowhere close to being as simple as they seemed on the surface.

Otherwise, instances of non-superpowers going up against Super Guilds and coming out on top wouldn't be regarded as legends.

"Are you not interested in the Darkmoon Outpost, Miss Nightingale?" Shi Feng asked with a smile.

"Of course not," Zhuo Yalin denied, shaking her head.

Once ahead, always ahead.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that Mana Outposts located close to NPC Cities were the most important economic resource for a power during the early stages of the Miniature Ancient World.

If a power failed to secure a Mana Outpost on this first round, even if it secured an Outpost a month later, the Coins and resources it could earn through the Outpost would be significantly lower than the income the Outpost generated on the first month. Not to mention, the difficulty of snatching an Outpost would rise exponentially after the first competition. After all, the powers that had occupied the Mana Outposts in the first month would've utilized the Outposts to generate a massive income, which, in turn, could be used to boost their development in the Miniature Ancient World.

Currently, what mattered the most to the various powers of God's Domain wasn't the resources available in the Miniature Ancient World. Instead, what mattered most to the various powers was to cross the Boundary River and reach the neutral zone as soon as possible. This was because whoever managed to take control of the neutral zone would become the leading force of the two God's Domains in the future.

Hence, the various powers were seeking to get their players to Level 120 and enter the neutral zone to make preparations to control it as soon as possible.

After taking a deep breath, Zhuo Yalin said, "World Domination is a Super Guild. Even if only a portion of its members is in Hundred Flow City, it still isn't an opponent we can go up against. After all, aside from its own members, World Domination still has many affiliated powers. Just in Hundred Flow City alone, there is one first-rate Guild and three second-rate Guilds affiliated to World Domination. The number of first-rate experts World Domination has far surpasses ours..."

Aside from having many powerful experts, Super Guilds also had many affiliated powers working for them. Otherwise, there was no way a Super Guild could control the massive territory they occupied.

Not to mention, they were currently in the early stages of the Miniature Ancient World. While the quality of experts still mattered to a certain extent, quantity played a much more important role now that everyone was at Tier 3. Meanwhile, World Domination had an overwhelming advantage over Mysterious Moon when it came to the quantity of experts they possessed.

Even if Mysterious Moon had a Tier 6 God-ranked expert on its side, it still couldn't go against World Domination.

The competition for the Darkmoon Outpost wasn't a simple clash between players.

Firstly, there were the Darkmoon Tokens needed to participate in the actual competition. The maps the Darkmoon Tokens dropped at were massive, and Tier 3 players would need around eight hours just to

run from one side to another. Even if Shi Feng decided to go after World Domination's players, he wouldn't be able to kill many of them. Thus, World Domination could still collect a large number of tokens before the competition began.

Secondly, the actual competition for the Outpost involved players killing monsters for resources and occupying resource nodes. Even if Shi Feng was powerful, there was a limit to what a single player could do.

If Mysterious Moon went along with Shi Feng's plans and attacked World Domination, not only would World Domination still secure the Darkmoon Outpost, but Mysterious Moon would also end up having to suffer World Domination's retaliation afterward.

"I know. If we are only talking about first-rate experts, Mysterious Moon naturally cannot beat World Domination," Shi Feng said, nodding. "But what if Mysterious Moon has more experts with Tier 4 combat power than World Domination?"

"Mysterious Moon having more Tier 4 combatants than World Domination? Impossible," Zhuo Yalin said as she looked at Shi Feng in confusion.

While Mysterious Moon had indeed dispatched a large number of experts to garrison Hundred Flow City, there were only three experts with Tier 4 combat power. Moreover, that was only because they had combat standards at the Flowing Water Realm and were geared with top-tier Epic Weapons that were close to rivaling Fragmented Legendary Weapons and Hall of Fame-level Epic Equipment Sets.

Compared to World Domination, the number of Tier 4 combatants Mysterious Moon possessed was nothing. Setting aside World Domination's affiliated powers, just World Domination itself probably had more than a dozen Tier 4 combatants in Hundred Flow City.

After all, Hall of Fame-level Equipment Sets might be difficult to acquire for first-rate Guilds, but crafting such sets would be no difficulty for World Domination, a Guild with plenty of Master and Grandmaster Lifestyle Players. It was even possible that every Flowing Water Realm expert or above in World Domination was geared with such a set. Although Epic Weapons that rivaled Fragmented Legendary Weapons might be rarer, these experts could simply make up the gap with their combat standards.

"Of course it wouldn't be possible if we rely only on your Guild. However, it is a different story if you have Zero Wing's assistance," Shi Feng said. However, instead of explaining his plans, he asked, "How many Refinement Realm experts does Mysterious Moon have right now?"

"There are 34 in Hundred Flow City and a few more in other NPC Cities. I should be able to gather 40 within a short period," Zhuo Yalin said, not bothering to withhold this information. It wasn't difficult for a first-rate power to find out how many Refinement Realm experts other first-rate powers had sent into the Miniature Ancient World, so there was no point in keeping this a secret from Shi Feng.

Forty? Shi Feng was a little surprised.

He had to admit that Mysterious Moon indeed deserved to be regarded as a top-tier first-rate Guild. The number of experts Mysterious Moon had dispatched to the Miniature Ancient World was only a small

portion of its members. After all, the Guild's main operations remained on the main continent. Yet, Mysterious Moon still had 40 Refinement Realm experts in the Miniature Ancient World.

In other words, Mysterious Moon should have at least 200 Refinement Realm experts in total...

That was an overwhelming difference compared to second- and third-rate Guilds with no Refinement Realm experts.

Seeing a lack of response from Shi Feng, Zhuo Yalin said, "This is already the limit. Although I can ask headquarters to send more people, it is a huge risk. Moreover..."

If they had a real chance at securing the Darkmoon Outpost, she could certainly try to persuade her superiors to send more experts into the Miniature Ancient World. However, the consequences of failure were not something Mysterious Moon could afford to bear.

"No need. This many is enough. Now, it just depends on whether Mysterious Moon decides to go along with this partnership or not," Shi Feng calmly said. "If your side doesn't have any problems, you can have these Refinement Realm experts gather in Hundred Flow City. Zero Wing will help you secure the Darkmoon Outpost!"

Despite Shi Feng's calm words, Zhuo Yalin still couldn't help but grow anxious. However, when she thought about how these words came from a power capable of sending a Tier 6 God-ranked expert into the Miniature Ancient World, she felt that Zero Wing must have its reasons for being so confident. So, after pondering for a moment, she gritted her teeth and said, "Okay. I'll contact them right away."

Afterward, Zhuo Yalin hung up the call and began contacting the Guild's core experts.