

Chapter 165 – Asura’s Strength

Frenzied Soul sighed in relief when he heard Hidden Soul’s decision.

Hidden Soul was the strongest among the former Flower of Seven Sins members that had joined Asura. If comparing purely in terms of techniques, some Tier 6 God-ranked experts weren’t even her match.

If it were on the main continent, Hidden Soul definitely couldn’t pose a threat to the Flower of Seven Sins since she never managed to reach Tier 6. However, it was a different story in the Miniature Ancient World. Now that everyone was still at Tier 3, Hidden Soul was undoubtedly one of the strongest experts in the Miniature Ancient World, and even the Flower of Seven Sins would have difficulty dealing with her.

Meanwhile, the benefits the Asura Mercenary Alliance offered were incredibly attractive to them, experts who couldn’t reach Tier 6. If they were to leave Asura now, it was almost impossible for them to find another holy land like Abyssal Star City’s primordial tower.

So, now that the Asura Mercenary Alliance was willing to shield them even at the risk of offending the Flower of Seven Sins, it’d be too much of a waste for them to give up without a fight.

“Guild Leader Black Flame, we might not have to worry about getting targeted since we have Abyssal Star City as our base, but if the Flower of Seven Sins decides to go after our customers, I’m afraid there is very little we can do about it. Many of the experts that have recently joined Asura might even decide to leave as a result...” Liu Wusheng suddenly said. “This is an especially worrisome problem considering many of our customers have been commissioning quests to acquire Mounts recently. This leaves the mercenary alliance’s experts with no choice but to head for the surrounding NPC Cities to raid Team Dungeons for the primordial secret land’s entry tokens. Meanwhile, this is the perfect opportunity for the Flower of Seven Sins to hinder our members from completing their quests.”

Whenever the Flower of Seven Sins decided to go after a power, it would typically go after the power’s core experts and executives. Either that, or it would target the power’s various income sources.

However, the Asura Mercenary Alliance’s main development area was centered around Abyssal Star City. Meanwhile, Abyssal Star City was a stronghold that the Five Great Super Guilds could not destroy even if all five of them worked together. Naturally, there was no way the Flower of Seven Sins could do anything about the city by itself.

Hence, it was obvious what method the Flower of Seven Sins would choose to target the Asura Mercenary Alliance. The Flower of Seven Sins would target Asura’s various businesses and crush the mercenary alliance using its vastly superior manpower and financial strength.

Currently, the Asura Mercenary Alliance relied mainly on commissions made by leisure players to earn Credits and sustain the livelihoods of the mercenary alliance’s independent experts.

The main goal of every independent expert in joining the Asura Mercenary Alliance was to earn Credits and resources in God's Domain. However, if these independent experts were prevented from completing their quests and could not earn any Credits, it was only natural that they would withdraw from the mercenary alliance. After all, these independent experts needed to live.

Meanwhile, if the customers who had commissioned the quests saw that their quests weren't being completed even after a long time, they would definitely choose to take their business elsewhere. If this situation persisted, the Asura Mercenary Alliance would eventually crumble due to a lack of customers.

Of course, there was also the option of Zero Wing and Witch's Sin sending their experts to complete these quests. However, the problem with this solution was that experts weren't cabbages. It might be fine to do so once or twice, but Zero Wing's and Witch's Sin's development would definitely be affected if this method was employed over a long period.

Fortunately, not all was lost. There was still one method Asura could employ to counteract the Flower of Seven Sins' obstruction: having stronger experts take on the quests. For example, they could have Refinement Realm experts take on a quest that normally needed only first-rate experts to complete.

The Flower of Seven Sins could also be regarded as an independent organization in a sense. Whenever the organization had its members do work for it, it would pay them according to the job's difficulty. Meanwhile, a simple obstruction job would naturally yield a small pay, and powerful experts naturally wouldn't be interested in taking on such jobs.

Hence, if Asura raised the overall strength of the experts taking on its quests, the experts the Flower of Seven Sins sent would naturally fail to obstruct Asura's experts.

However, if the Asura Mercenary Alliance chose to take this route, it would have to spend money and resources to subsidize the customers' quests. Only by doing so would stronger independent experts be interested in taking on these quests.

After all, the primordial tower's environment wasn't attractive to most independent experts. It was only attractive to Tier 5 experts who had trouble reaching Tier 6.

"As I thought, it's still going to come down to a competition of wealth, huh?" Hidden Soul understood what Liu Wusheng was trying to say. Immediately she said, "I can provide a billion Credits to the alliance to subsidize the customers' quests."

"Although I can't offer as much as Commander Soul, I can still provide roughly two hundred million Credits. If I get the others to contribute some, it shouldn't be difficult for us to get another one billion," Frenzied Smile said.

"Witch's Sin can provide five billion Credits, but I'm afraid that even this amount of Credits wouldn't last us very long," Liu Wusheng said, shaking his head. "Currently, our customers are only offering 100,000 Credits per Basic Mount, which is equivalent to 1,000 Gold. However, it takes at least a 100-man expert team to procure a Common Mount. Assuming they manage to complete the quest in a day, each player on the team will only receive 1,000 Credits. A daily salary of 1,000 Credits will only tempt first-rate experts."

“If we want to get the independent Refinement Realm experts interested, we’ll need to bump the daily salary up to 3,000 Credits. In other words, we’ll have to subsidize 200,000 Credits per Common Mount. I’m afraid it’s going to be even worse for higher-ranking Mounts. We’ll have to subsidize around one million Credits for each Bronze Mount and three million Credits for each Mysterious-Iron Mount.

Currently, we are receiving over 1,000 Common Mount quests, 70 Bronze Mount quests, and 30 Mysterious-Iron Mount quests per day. That’s around 400 million a day in subsidies. Moreover, this is only the initial estimate. If the Flower of Seven Sins also increases the rewards for its quests, we’ll probably have to spend even more money...”

Hidden Soul and Frenzied Smile felt a little stressed when they heard Liu Wusheng’s words.

Even a conservative estimate placed them at spending 400 million Credits a day. If the Flower of Seven Sins were to increase the rewards for its quests, Asura would also have to respond by further increasing its rewards.

This was already beyond the level of throwing money away.

It was true that Abyssal Star City was making a lot of money every day. Currently, the city was earning over 100,000 Gold per day in entry fees alone. If they included the income generated through the city’s Shops, the city should have no problem ensuring a daily income of 200,000 Gold.

However, that was before they included Abyssal Star City’s upkeep cost. Not to mention, the Asura Mercenary Alliance also needed to use a portion of its income to purchase Lands in NPC Cities to expand its sphere of influence. Simply put, Asura couldn’t afford to waste so many Credits every day, especially not over a long period.

Yet, a competition of financial strength with the Flower of Seven Sins was fated to be a long and arduous process.

“There’s no need to offer such a large subsidy,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. “Moreover, none of you need to contribute any Credits. We can simply use the alliance’s Contribution Points to replace the Credit subsidy. Since this is the alliance’s problem, it will naturally be up to the alliance to deal with it.”

“But the alliance’s Contribution Points have limited attraction over independent players. Most independent experts are only trying to acquire a Bronze membership to enter Abyssal Star City freely. They don’t have much interest in the primordial tower,” Liu Wusheng said with a bitter smile.

It would naturally be wonderful if they could use Contribution Points as a subsidy instead of Credits. After all, one Contribution Point was equivalent to 40 Silver Coins already. Moreover, Contribution Points could only be spent in the mercenary alliance.

So, by using Contribution Points as a subsidy, not only could they reduce the burden on the alliance’s finances, but they could minimize the actual outflow of funds. After all, purchasing a Bronze membership in the alliance cost 5,000 Contribution Points, while offering a Bronze membership cost the alliance next to nothing.

However, the freedom of entering Abyssal Star City wasn't particularly tempting to most independent experts right now. After all, most players couldn't really benefit from Abyssal Star City before reaching Level 110. Currently, the only players visiting the city were merchant players and the various powers' management personnel.

"No. These independent experts will soon become very interested in Asura's membership," Shi Feng said, smiling. Then, he took out a light-blue crystal from his bag and said, "Starting today, members who have reached Bronze status or above in the Asura Mercenary Alliance will be allowed to exchange for this item!"

Chapter 3092

Chapter 166 – Frightening Foundations

"A Lineage Crystal?"

Liu Wusheng and the others were stunned when they saw the light-blue crystal in Shi Feng's hand. Although they had never heard of the Lineage Crystal before, based on the information displayed before them, this Lineage Crystal was simply amazing!

With this Lineage Crystal, players only needed to spend some Magic Crystals to convert to another race. There was no need to go through the trouble of finding and completing rare conversion quests or changing factions.

Most importantly, the Lineage Crystal allowed players to convert to races available during primordial times rather than the descendants of those primordial races. This meant that players who converted their race using the Lineage Crystal would have a higher Life Rating than players who converted their race through completing quests.

In other words, besides allowing players to convert to another race easily, the Lineage Crystal also increased players' Life Ratings...

Compared to the miniature worlds inside the primordial tower, the Lineage Crystal would definitely be a hundred times more attractive to the majority of the experts in the Asura Mercenary Alliance.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, pardon me for asking this, but how many of these Lineage Crystals can the Asura Mercenary Alliance provide? Are there twenty? Or are there thirty?" Liu Wusheng asked in a slightly trembling voice. "Also, how many Contribution Points will it cost to exchange them? Is it two million? Or is it three million?"

Even by looking at the Lineage Crystal's description alone, Liu Wusheng could tell that this item would send the entire Miniature Ancient World into an uproar.

Setting aside the opportunity to gain the superior talents of other races, just the Lineage Crystal's ability to grant players a higher Life Rating was already more than enough to tempt everyone in the Miniature Ancient World.

An increase in Life Rating could bring improvements far more valuable than any piece of weapon or equipment could provide. For example, the higher a player's Life Rating in God's Domain, the stronger one's Basic Attributes and Physique would be compared to other players of the same tier and level. In addition, players would also have an easier time learning combat techniques with a higher Life Rating.

It was similar to how players of a higher tier would have an easier time learning combat techniques than players of a lower tier.

However, it was far too difficult to increase one's tier. Setting aside the barrier between Tier 5 and Tier 6, just the barrier between Tier 3 and Tier 4 was already more than enough to stump countless expert players.

If a player could grow stronger without having to increase their tier, it meant that this player could secure more opportunities than other players of the same tier. This, in turn, meant that this player would have a much greater chance of ascending to a higher tier. With the Miniature Ancient World being opened for less than a month, every combat player in the Miniature Ancient World would probably go crazy over the Lineage Crystal if they learned of its existence.

However, if the Asura Mercenary Alliance wanted to attract the attention of independent experts, having just one or two Lineage Crystals wouldn't do it. After all, any independent player with common sense would know that these one or two Lineage Crystals would end up in the hands of the various powers' experts. There was no way independent experts like themselves would get a turn.

However, if Asura offered twenty or thirty Lineage Crystals up for exchange, even independent players would have a chance at exchanging for a Lineage Crystal. Meanwhile, so long as a chance existed, the many independent players in the Miniature Ancient World would definitely try to earn the Asura Mercenary Alliance's Contribution Points as if their lives depended on it.

Of course, that was under the precondition that the Lineage Crystal wasn't priced too absurdly. While the Lineage Crystals might be more valuable than even Fragmented Legendary items, even Fragmented Legendary items were only valued at around 500,000 Gold. Although these Fragmented Legendary items were typically of the most inferior quality and only sold in special locations such as the Auction Houses of Dark NPC Cities, they were Fragmented Legendary items nonetheless. They could still provide players with a significant boost to combat power.

Even if Fragmented Legendary items were more valuable in the Miniature Ancient World, the most a bottom-tier Fragmented Legendary item could sell for was around one million Gold.

So, offering the Lineage Crystals for two million Contribution Points each was just about right. Any higher, and they would no longer be within reach of most independent players.

After hearing Liu Wusheng's questions, Hidden Soul and Frenzied Smile also turned to look at Shi Feng curiously. They, too, wondered how many Lineage Crystals Shi Feng could take out and how he planned on pricing them.

Inwardly, though, both Hidden Soul and Frenzied Smile were resolved to purchase a Lineage Crystal for themselves even if it cost five million Contribution Points.

"Two hundred crystals!" Shi Feng said with a faint smile. "Moreover, it won't cost too much to exchange for them. Anyone who is a Bronze member of the Asura Mercenary Alliance can exchange the Lineage Crystal for just one million Contribution Points. Silver and Gold members will even get 10% and 20% discounts. Of course, each member is only limited to one Lineage Crystal."

"Two hundred?! And at such a low price?!" Liu Wusheng felt his head growing faint when he heard Shi Feng's words. "Could you be joking, Guild Leader Black Flame?"

Although Lineage Crystals didn't provide as significant of an improvement to combat power as Fragmented Legendary items, the ability to reduce the difficulty of learning combat techniques, Skills, and Spells made the Lineage Crystals just as valuable as Fragmented Legendary items.

Yet, Shi Feng was offering the Lineage Crystals for only one million Contribution Points. Moreover, this price could even be discounted with higher-ranking memberships.

The various independent players would go crazy if they learned about this. After all, it went without saying that the various powers would also try to get their hands on the Lineage Crystals. Meanwhile, so long as an independent player managed to get their hands on a Lineage Crystal, they could immediately resell it for a huge sum of money. Setting aside the various superpowers, even the various first-rate Guilds would probably be willing to pay one million Gold for a Lineage Crystal.

Moreover, a supply of 200 Lineage Crystals was more than enough to give independent players a good chance at getting their hands on some. There was no need to worry that the various powers would empty Asura's shelves in the blink of an eye. It should also let Asura attract the attention of the various independent players for a long time.

When Shi Feng saw the dubious gazes everyone was giving him, he took out 200 Lineage Crystals from his bag and put them on the conference table. Then, he said, "I already told you not to underestimate Asura so much. The Flower of Seven Sins might be strong, but that doesn't make Asura weak."

The Lineage Crystals might be valuable, but that was only for now. Once players began entering the Boundary Mountain Range, they would realize that the Lineage Crystals weren't all that valuable after all. At most, its value rivaled a top-tier Epic Weapon.

The moment Shi Feng had gotten his hands on the Lineage Crystals, he had already decided to use them to increase the Asura Mercenary Alliance's fame. Otherwise, once Tier 4 experts started appearing among the various superpowers, there was no way Asura could withstand an assault from them with only the small number of independent experts they managed to attract thus far.

There really are two hundred crystals!

Am I dreaming?!

Liu Wusheng and Hidden Soul widened their eyes in shock when they saw the small pile of crystals on the table. These were two hundred Fragmented Legendary items they were talking about!

They could already imagine how much of a sensation these Lineage Crystals would cause once their existence was publicized.

“Do you believe in Asura’s strength now?” Shi Feng asked, smiling as he looked at Hidden Soul. “If there are no further problems, send a refusal notice to the Flower of Seven Sins. Tell them that they still do not have the qualifications to tell the Asura Mercenary Alliance how to do things. Also, inform all alliance members about the Lineage Crystals’ exchange.”

“Okay! I’ll get it done right away!” Hidden Soul said, a rare smile appearing on her face.

Chapter 3093

- Chapter 167 - Uproar in the Alliance

Miniature Ancient World, Southern Zone, Red Obsidian City:

As one of the Twelve Holy Cities in the Miniature Ancient World’s Four Major Zones, Red Obsidian City was only one sea away from the Boundary Mountain Range. It was the largest seaside city in the Miniature Ancient World’s Sea of Red Tears.

Due to Red Obsidian City being one of the few seaside cities that could conduct maritime trade with the Boundary Mountain Range, it became a highly contested location for the various powers. As evidence, there were at least seven superpowers known to be using Red Obsidian City as the location for their main headquarters. There were also over twenty first-rate powers ignoring the threat of these superpowers and establishing their base of operations in Red Obsidian City.

In less than a month since the Miniature Ancient World opened, Red Obsidian City’s player population had already exceeded eighty million. When it came to player population, it was a megacity that could rank within the top five out of the several hundred cities in the Miniature Ancient World.

However, what the various powers of Red Obsidian City weren’t aware of was that there was actually a transcendental power secretly operating within the gray areas of the city. Meanwhile, this power was none other than the Flower of Seven Sins.

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Inside a VIP room in Red Tears Bar, the best bar available in Red Obsidian City...

At this time, a masked young man clad in silvery-gray clothing walked into the VIP room. The young man had a relatively average stature, measuring 1.7 meters only. After entering the room, the young man

looked at the woman quietly sitting by the window and said, "A message came in from the Asura Mercenary Alliance, Big Sis Omen.

The woman in question wore a crimson one-piece dress, and she possessed an ethereal beauty that made her look like a beautiful doll carved by a masterful artisan. However, if one observed this woman closely, one would realize that the woman's appearance wasn't the only astonishing thing about her. In addition to her looks, her level of 107 was more than enough to take the breath of any ordinary expert. Moreover, her crimson dress wasn't simply a cosmetic item. Instead, it was a bona fide Fragmented Legendary item.

"What message?" the woman named Death Omen lazily asked as she glanced at the masked man.

"The message's sender is Big Sis Soul. She has turned down our suggestion on Asura's behalf. Moreover, Big Sis Soul has asked you to pass on a message to Commander Sky, saying that she will reclaim the position she lost!" the masked man said with a chuckle.

"What a fool," Death Omen said with contempt on her face. "It is precisely because she refused to submit to Lord sky that she has fallen to her current state. Had she chosen to go under Lord Sky's wing as I did, she would've long since reached Tier 6 by now and matched me in strength. It is also because of Lord Sky's kindness that she got away with only getting dismissed. Yet, as soon as she found herself an Outerworld backer, she thinks she can go against Lord Sky?"

"What should we do now? Should we take action against Asura?" the masked man asked.

"A mere Outerworld power dares interfere in the Flower of Seven Sins' affairs? Do they honestly think a measly Guild like World Dominators can represent all of the powers in our God's Domain? Since they refuse to obey, there's no need for them to continue existing in the Miniature Ancient World!" Death Omen said, a flash of cold light appearing in her eyes. "Pass down my words. From today onward, everyone who takes on the quest to obstruct the Asura Mercenary Alliance will not only receive rewards equivalent to Asura's quests, but they will also receive an additional 100% bonus paid in Contribution Points."

"A 100% bonus? Isn't that a little too much?" the masked man exclaimed. "Asura is mainly offering Mount quests right now, and even a Common Mount is worth 100,000 Credits. However, it will take, at most, 20 Half-step Refinement Realm experts to handle a team that is taking on such a quest. Just receiving an equivalent reward is already more than enough for them to make a significant profit. There's no need for us to subsidize an additional 100,000 Credits."

Essentially, they'd have to pay 200,000 Credits just to obstruct one of Asura's quests. Although they could offset half of that price using Contribution Points, these Contribution Points would eventually be used to exchange for the Flower of Seven Sins' resources. So, they'd still be paying out of their own pockets at the end of the day.

"The ones below will only be motivated to move if we offer more money. A reward of just 100,000 Credits can only tempt a limited number of experts. Not to mention, there are plenty of Half-step Refinement Realm experts and first-rate powers helping the Asura Mercenary Alliance. So, it's best to have the Refinement Realm experts on our side make a move," Death Omen calmly said. "Also, inform

the Executioners to move as well. I want you to destroy all of Asura's businesses as soon as possible. Then, we'll see how much more confidence Hidden Soul has in going against Lord Sky!"

Other powers in God's Domain were afraid of going against the Asura Mercenary Alliance because they operated in the light, which made them for easy targets.

However, the Flower of Seven Sins operated in the dark. There was no way Asura could target the Flower of Seven Sins if nobody even knew the whereabouts of the Flower of Seven Sins' members and base of operations.

"If the Executioners move as well, that will make things simple," the masked man said, excitement appearing in his eyes. This was the biggest operation the Flower of Seven Sins had carried out since he had entered the Miniature Ancient World.

The Executioners were a group of assassins the Flower of Seven Sins had nurtured internally, and even the weakest among them was a Refinement Realm expert. Meanwhile, the Executioners currently present in the Miniature Ancient World numbered 3,000.

If 3,000 Refinement Realm experts took covert actions as a group, even the various superpowers would suffer severe losses, let alone an Outerworld power.

...

While the Flower of Seven Sins was making its move, a huge announcement was made in the Asura Mercenary Alliance's main headquarters.

Lineage Crystals were officially available for exchange now!

"Are you kidding me?"

"Can we really exchange for such an item?"

"One million points?! Isn't the exchange price way too high?!"

"You think one million points is a lot? If you have a million points or a Lineage Crystal, I'd be willing to buy it off your hands for 500,000 Gold. How about it? One million Contribution Points will only get you 400,000 Gold. You'd be making an easy 100,000 Gold just by reselling the Lineage Crystal to me. That's basically enough money for a large villa."

"I'll pay 600,000 Gold! I can give you even more if you're willing to accept Credits! I'll even pay the full sum on the spot! Anyone interested?"

"You want to buy something that's as valuable as a Fragmented Legendary item for just 600,000 Gold? Did you forget to wake up today?"

Shortly after the exchange list over at the Asura Mercenary Alliance's warehouse got updated, a heated debate quickly ensued among the players that had flooded to the warehouse after reading the announcement, a flame of desire igniting in everyone's hearts.

In the current situation where players could not ascend to Tier 4, anyone who managed to convert to a powerful race would essentially gain a Fragmented Legendary item. They would instantly soar to become one of the strongest experts in the Miniature Ancient World. Moreover, there'd be no need to worry that others might steal this advantage away from them.

Not to mention, the benefits of having a stronger race could remain useful even after players reached Tier 4 and Tier 5. So, how could anyone resist the temptation of the Lineage Crystal?

"This won't do! I need to tell the commander about this quickly!"

"Have our brothers get ready to move right away! The alliance might run out of quests if we waste any more time!"

"Something big has happened, Guild Leader! The Asura Mercenary Alliance has lost its mind! It's offering an item that's as good as a Fragmented Legendary item for only one million Contribution Points!"

While the crowd in front of the warehouse talked about the Lineage Crystal, many of those present also started contacting their companions, subordinates, and superiors. For a time, everyone in the Asura Mercenary Alliance went into a frenzy.

Meanwhile, shortly after the Asura Mercenary Alliance pulled this stunt, news of the Lineage Crystal also reached the ears of the various powers.

Chapter 3094

- Chapter 168 - So, This is Asura?

Hundred Flow City, Soulfire adventurer team's gathering point:

"Stop hesitating, Captain. Many powers have already gathered at Asura's headquarters to register. If we don't hurry up and join as well, there won't be any Lineage Crystals left for us," Moon Rain said as she looked at Southern Tiger. "Your strength will rise to the next level so long as you can get your hands on a Lineage Crystal. We'll also have a much easier time exploring the Boundary Mountain Range in the future. We might even be able to get ahead of other powers and pioneer a path into the Boundary Mountain Range."

Many powers in the Miniature Ancient World had decided to take a wait-and-see approach when the Asura Mercenary Alliance started recruiting members. After all, while Abyssal Star City was located very close to the Boundary Mountain Range, mainstream players were nowhere near reaching Level 115.

Moreover, joining Asura would mean losing the ability to go against the mercenary alliance. In addition, members would also be responsible for protecting the mercenary alliance.

In a situation where the Five Great Super Guilds were targeting the Abyssal Star Primordial City, most people felt that the Asura Mercenary Alliance could, at most, survive until the various superpowers' experts reached Level 120 and got promoted to Tier 4.

Not to mention, the various superpowers might have long since established Guild Towns and Cities near the Boundary Mountain Range even before mainstream players reached Level 115. In that case, there'd be no benefit in joining the Asura Mercenary Alliance.

Most importantly, players could still enter Abyssal Star City even without joining the Asura Mercenary Alliance. At most, they'd have to stand in line for some time.

However, things were different now.

The Lineage Crystal that the Asura Mercenary Alliance had introduced into its exchange system recently was an item that rivaled Fragmented Legendary items in terms of usefulness. The various powers and independent expert teams might be able to ignore the benefit of having a slightly faster leveling speed. However, there was no way they could ignore something as valuable and useful as a Fragmented Legendary item.

After all, the Lineage Crystal was something that could help establish a powerful team, and having a powerful team meant being able to acquire more and better weapons and equipment.

Epic Weapons and Equipment might be powerful, but they were only a starting point for peak expert teams. What these teams aimed to acquire were Fragmented Legendary items, and they'd have to raid incredibly challenging Team Dungeons and secret lands to do so. Meanwhile, items such as the Lineage Crystal would be crucial in helping them accomplish this goal.

However, the problem was that only members of the Asura Mercenary Alliance could exchange the Lineage Crystal. Or, more specifically, members who had reached the Bronze rank or above.

"I'm not hesitating," Southern Tiger said with a bitter smile. "I already sent someone to apply to join Asura as soon as I received news of the Lineage Crystal. However, there are just too many people applying to join, and the guy I sent says that there are several tens of thousands of people waiting in line before him..."

"There are actually so many people waiting in line?" Moon Rain was a little stunned when she heard Southern Tiger's words. After all, it hadn't been more than fifteen minutes since news of the Lineage Crystal came out. Yet, there were already several tens of thousands of players waiting in line to join Asura over at the mercenary alliance's registration point in Hundred Flow City... The speed of everyone's reactions was even more exaggerated than when they were competing for Team Dungeons out in the fields.

"With so many people waiting in line, it'll take us at least a day before we can pick up a quest," Southern Tiger said, sighing. "The only thing we can do now is to try and collect some Contribution Points from Asura's members or find a trustworthy member of Asura and have them pick up a quest and turn it in on our behalf. But it won't be easy to find such a person."

“Asura’s regulations state that normal members are only allowed to accept basic quests. Only higher-ranking members are allowed to take on more difficult quests and acquire more Contribution Points. Although quests for Common Mounts are available in large numbers right now, members of Asura will first have to complete fifteen basic quests before they can accept a Common Mount quest. As for Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Mount quests, only Bronze members can accept those.

“Currently, there are only a very small number of players with Bronze membership in Asura, and every one of them is a target of competition for the various Guilds and adventurer teams. Although I’ve tried asking around, none of the people I know have a Bronze membership in Asura...”

“Someone with Bronze membership?” Moon Rain suddenly thought of someone when she heard Southern Tiger’s words. “Captain, do you still remember that Advanced Legacy we gave away some time ago?”

“You mean the one we gave to that girl from Zero Wing?” Southern Tiger said, similarly recalling Wu Lingling.

Originally, Southern Tiger was trying to get Shi Feng, a Tier 6 God-ranked expert, to owe Soulfire a favor by giving the other party one of Soulfire’s Gold Order. Unfortunately, Shi Feng refused to take the bait, so Southern Tiger settled with giving the Gold Order to Wu Lingling. Although Soulfire had technically formed a close relationship with Shi Feng through this action, in essence, Wu Lingling was the one who owed Soulfire a favor.

“You told me to maintain contact with her afterward, so I did exactly that, and I’ve been exchanging messages with her and offering her guidance all this time,” Moon Rain said, smiling. “Currently, not only has she become a Refinement Realm expert already, but she is also a Bronze member of Asura. We can totally partner with her. I believe she wouldn’t refuse our offer, either.”

“She’s a Bronze member in Asura?” Southern Tiger was momentarily stunned. He didn’t think that the little girl following Shi Feng would improve so rapidly, becoming not only a Refinement Realm expert but even a Bronze member in Asura in such a short time. This was absolutely astonishing.

“Should I contact her, Captain?” Moon Rain asked.

“Of course! Do it quickly before other powers take her away from us!” Southern Tiger hurriedly said.

...

While Asura’s member count was skyrocketing, a masked man, who had just arrived in Hundred Flow City with a team of 3,000 Refinement Realm experts, couldn’t help but be stunned by the sight before him.

“What’s going on here?”

The masked man blinked his eyes in disbelief as he looked at the crowded Teleportation Hall.

Setting aside how many people were inside Hundred Flow City’s Teleportation Hall right now, just the number of Refinement Realm experts he could sense exceeded 5,000 already. This was even more exaggerated than the situation in Red Obsidian City’s Teleportation Hall.

In addition, the total number of Flowing Water Realm experts and Void Realm experts in the Teleportation Hall easily exceeded 100. Since when did experts of such caliber become so common?

It should be known that Hundred Flow City was only a small city compared to the other NPC Cities in the Miniature Ancient World. Yet, the quality of its player population right now was superior to even Holy Cities.

What the masked man found most unbelievable was that these experts originating from various powers were all eagerly initiating conversations with players wearing the Asura Mercenary Alliance's Bronze Emblem. Meanwhile, every one of these experts sought to either befriend or form teams with these Bronze members of Asura...

Chapter 3095 - Chapter 169 – Madness VS Madness

"I'm afraid we'll have trouble taking action, Boss Wolf. Most of these expert teams trying to complete Asura's commissioned quests come from the various powers, and many of them have Refinement Realm experts among them," a masked girl with a short stature said as she approached a similarly masked man standing at a corner of Hundred Flow City's main street. "I've also found out why so many experts have gathered here. Asura has seemingly found some items that can allow players to convert their race, and it is currently offering these items up for exchange. Right now, the various powers and independent experts are all trying to earn the Contribution Points necessary to exchange for these items."

"Race conversion items?" The masked man was a little stunned by this news. "Asura is willing to go as far as to let the various powers freely exchange for such items?"

Race conversion was normally a very troublesome procedure. Even so, many players sought to convert their race. This was because converting to any other race would mean gaining greater combat power than what they would have as a human player.

Normally, if a power were to get its hands on a race conversion item, it would definitely use the item on its own members rather than let outsiders exchange for it. Even the Flower of Seven Sins was no exception.

"Should we proceed with our plans, Boss Wolf?" the masked girl asked.

The Flower of Seven Sins might be powerful, but it still wasn't an easy task to go up against the Refinement Realm experts of numerous powers.

"I'll report this to Commander Omen and seek her opinion," the masked man said after giving the matter some thought. "In the meantime, keep an eye on Asura's Bronze members."

"Understood!" the masked girl responded before swiftly disappearing.

After the masked girl left, the masked man promptly contacted Death Omen and informed her about the Asura Mercenary Alliance's latest development.

“It seems Asura has already prepared a countermeasure for us, Big Sis Omen. I’m afraid we’ll have to suffer much greater losses than anticipated if we choose to continue with our plan...” the masked man said in a low voice.

“It seems Hidden Soul has found a good backer,” Death Omen said, sneering. “However, this Asura Mercenary Alliance simply doesn’t know what kind of existence it has chosen to provoke.”

“Does that mean we will proceed with the plan, Big Sis Omen?” the masked man asked, a hint of excitement appearing in his eyes.

“Of course! Moreover, we’re going to make a big fanfare of it and let everyone know that it is the Flower of Seven Sins’ work!” Death Omen said with a somewhat frenzied smile. “We’ll have to let Hidden Soul know how laughable her backer is!”

“I’ll start making the preparations right away!” the masked man said excitedly. “I’ll let the various powers understand that it’s not in their best interests to accept Asura’s quests!”

“Go ahead. Make sure to let Hidden Soul know that all of her efforts are futile and that she will only be harming whichever power she relies on!” Death Omen said, nodding before hanging up the call.

...

Two hours after Death Omen ended her call with her subordinate, an event that shook the various powers occurred in the Miniature Ancient World.

After several years of silence, the Flower of Seven Sins had finally started to take action again!

The Flower of Seven Sins had dispatched several thousand Refinement Realm experts or above this time to disrupt those who had taken on the Asura Mercenary Alliance’s quests. Not only did these experts annihilate the expert teams of Zero Wing and Witch’s Sin, but they had also decimated over a hundred expert teams belonging to the various powers.

Everyone knew this was the Flower of Seven Sins’ doing because of the Convict Flower left behind on all of the battlefields.

The Convict Flower was a plant the Flower of Seven Sins nurtured. Members of the organization could only collect the Convict Flower when they were out doing a quest on the organization’s behalf. Meanwhile, after completing their quest, members of the organization were required to leave the Convict Flower behind to prove they were responsible for completing the quest.

However, the Flower of Seven Sins’ members typically wouldn’t leave a Convict Flower behind when dealing with normal quests. Typically, they would only do so when taking on high-profile quests.

It had already been several years since anyone had seen the Convict Flower appear.

The last time the Convict Flower appeared was when the Flower of Seven Sins had assassinated a Super Guild’s Great Elder. Meanwhile, the person responsible for carrying out the assassination was Death Omen, the current bearer of the title of Pride. Death Omen had instantly risen to fame after completing that assassination, and there was nothing the Super Guild in question could do to retaliate against her.

After all, Death Omen had already reached Tier 6 back then. Not to mention, the Flower of Seven Sins was an incredibly mysterious organization. Hence, the Super Guild had no choice but to swallow the loss.

Now, the Convict Flower had bloomed once again. It was also obvious who the Convict Flower had bloomed for.

Indeed! It was for the Asura Mercenary Alliance!

“Madness! This is madness! Who the heck is targeting the Asura Mercenary Alliance?!”

“Whoever it is, they must have paid an astronomical price to get the Flower of Seven Sins to make such a huge move.”

“Could it be World Dominators?”

“I doubt World Dominators can afford such a price. I heard that the Flower of Seven Sins had dispatched over 6,000 Refinement Realm experts for the operation this time. That’s probably more than half of the Refinement Realm experts the Flower of Seven Sins has sent to the Miniature Ancient World. How much would it take to get the Flower of Seven Sins to mobilize so many people?”

“I’m thinking that Asura should have long since known that the Flower of Seven Sins would target it. That would explain why Asura would suddenly offer something as tempting as the Lineage Crystal up for exchange.”

“Indeed. That’s the only way Asura can resist the Flower of Seven Sins. However, after this initial attack conducted by the Flower of Seven Sins, the various powers and independent experts will probably start to weigh their options since continuing to take on Asura’s quests would mean going against the Flower of Seven Sins.”

“The Flower of Seven Sins has never failed a job before. I guess Asura’s good days are coming to an end. Even if the mercenary alliance doesn’t face destruction, it will have no choice but to hide in Abyssal Star City.”

For a time, the Miniature Ancient World’s various powers and independent players fervently discussed the matter of the Flower of Seven Sins targeting the Asura Mercenary Alliance.

The scale of the Flower of Seven Sins’ operation this time ranked among the top out of all the operations it had carried out in the past. After all, the Flower of Seven Sins had mobilized over 6,000 Refinement Realm experts against the Asura Mercenary Alliance. Some of the weaker Super Guilds might not even have this many Refinement Realm experts in the Miniature Ancient World.

In other words, the Flower of Seven Sins had mobilized a Super Guild’s worth of Refinement Realm experts against the Asura Mercenary Alliance. The Asura Mercenary Alliance might have the Abyssal Star Primordial City serving as its foundation, but even an existence as powerful as Asura would probably be helpless against so many Refinement Realm experts.

...

Abyssal Star City, Asura Mercenary Alliance's headquarters:

Currently, four people sat inside the spacious conference room of the headquarters building. They were Hidden Soul, Liu Wusheng, Frenzied Smile, and Shi Feng. Apart from Shi Feng, the others in the room all wore gloomy expressions.

"Everyone, report your situations," Shi Feng suddenly said.

"According to Asura's statistics, we have suffered over 20,000 casualties thus far. Of them, over 5,000 are Refinement Realm experts," Hidden Soul said, gritting her teeth. "Although these members have not uttered any complaints about their deaths, their willingness to continue taking on commissions is very low..."

"It's not just low. Nobody is even willing to apply to join Asura right now. On the other hand, the number of people applying to withdraw from the alliance has increased significantly," Liu Wusheng said, shaking his head. "The scale of the Flower of Seven Sins' operation this time is simply too large. The difference in strength between both sides is also obvious. Moreover, in the case of partnered Guilds like us, the Flower of Seven Sins is even targeting members who aren't taking on the alliance's commissions. I'm afraid we'll have to limit our operations to just Abyssal Star City and its surroundings. We cannot continue operations in the various NPC Cities..."

Hidden Soul's expression grew even darker when she heard Liu Wusheng's words.

The scale of the Flower of Seven Sins' mobilization this time had thoroughly exceeded their expectations. The organization had mobilized at least 70% of its manpower in the Miniature Ancient World against the Asura Mercenary Alliance. The scale of this operation was so absurd that Hidden Soul couldn't help but wonder if the Flower of Seven Sins had gone crazy.

"What about the Flower of Seven Sins' losses?" Shi Feng asked.

"The Flower of Seven Sins' losses?" Frenzied Smile revealed a bitter smile when he heard Shi Feng's question. "The Flower of Seven Sins has made ample preparations this time. According to my insider information, they've suffered only a little over a thousand casualties."

Compared to the Asura Mercenary Alliance's losses, the Flower of Seven Sins' losses was nothing.

"Only a thousand? It seems the Flower of Seven Sins has made quite a profit this time," Shi Feng calmly stated. "Since the Flower of Seven Sins is willing to splurge to such an extent, we'll play along with it. Send a notice to everyone in the alliance. From now on, we will be awarding 10,000 Contribution Points to all Common Mount commissions. Rewards for Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Mount commissions will similarly be increased by five times. Let's see which one of us will last longer!"

So long as the reward was sufficient, there would always be brave people willing to take the risk. This was also the tactic the Greater God's Domain's various hegemonic powers had used to deal with him and Zero Wing during his previous life. Both he and Zero Wing had suffered a lot because of this tactic.

Now, Shi Feng didn't mind letting the Flower of Seven Sins have a taste of this tactic as well.

"Five times?" Hidden Soul couldn't help but look at Shi Feng as if he had gone crazy. "Guild Leader Black Flame, we'll run out of Lineage Crystals in no time if you do that!"

It only cost one million Contribution Points to exchange for a Lineage Crystal. However, the various expert teams weren't just obtaining one Common Mount a day. If an expert team was lucky, it was even possible for them to acquire ten Mounts or more. That would mean a daily income of over 100,000 Contribution Points per expert team. If an expert team got lucky and acquired two or three Bronze Mounts, which would be worth 50,000 Contribution Points after the reward increase, on top of the Common Mounts, it would earn two to three hundred thousand Contribution Points per day.

It should be known that this was only one expert team.

What if there were fifty or sixty of such expert teams?

In that case, Asura would be paying out over fifteen million Contribution Points per day. Moreover, that was before accounting for the other quests Asura offered.

At this rate, Asura would probably run out of Lineage Crystals before mainstream players could reach Level 115 and start making use of Abyssal Star City. At that time, Asura would no longer have any means of resisting the Flower of Seven Sins.

"Aside from that, I have another announcement to make. Asura will also place a bounty on the Flower of Seven Sins' members from today onward. Refinement Realm experts will be worth 300 points, Flowing Water Realm experts will be worth 1,000 points, Void Realm experts will be worth 3,000 points, and Domain Realm experts will be worth 10,000 points. We need to make the Flower of Seven Sins know that there is a price to pay for targeting us!"

Chapter 3096

Chapter 170 – Earth-Shattering

Silence enveloped the conference room after Shi Feng finished speaking.

Of the three other people in the room, Hidden Soul and Frenzied Smile looked at Shi Feng in shock and surprise, while Liu Wusheng looked at Shi Feng with unprecedented joy.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, if you really go through with this, the Asura Mercenary Alliance will be forming a never-ending grudge with the Flower of Seven Sins..." Frenzied Smile reminded Shi Feng in a low voice.

It was true that the Flower of Seven Sins targeting the Asura Mercenary Alliance's quest takers had affected the mercenary alliance's reputation and development to a significant extent. However, this was merely the Flower of Seven Sins warning and putting on a show of force for the Asura Mercenary Alliance.

If Asura was willing to give up on Hidden Soul and the other former members of the Flower of Seven Sins, the Flower of Seven Sins would most likely stop its actions against Asura. After all, sending such a

large number of experts against Asura was a significant expenditure even for the Flower of Seven Sins. Once the Flower of Seven Sins achieved its goal, there'd be no point continuing this expensive farce.

However, if Asura publicly placed a bounty on the Flower of Seven Sins, it would signal the start of an all-out war between Asura and the Flower of Seven Sins.

Apart from the Five Great Super Guilds, no other power had ever dared to openly place a bounty on the Flower of Seven Sins thus far. Setting aside the futility of putting a bounty on such a secretive organization, putting a bounty on the Flower of Seven Sins was essentially an act of provocation. Meanwhile, no sane person would want to provoke a transcendental power like the Flower of Seven Sins.

If Asura truly dared to place a bounty on the Flower of Seven Sins, it wouldn't matter even if Hidden Soul left the mercenary alliance later. The Flower of Seven Sins still wouldn't spare the mercenary alliance.

"What of it?" Shi Feng's voice suddenly turned cold. "The grudge between us has already been formed the moment the Flower of Seven Sins decided to act against us!"

Shi Feng had never harbored any good feelings toward assassination organizations like the Flower of Seven Sins.

He would have turned a blind eye to the Flower of Seven Sins' existence had it stayed out of his business. However, now that the Flower of Seven Sins was openly challenging him, he wouldn't mind giving it a fight. So what if the Flower of Seven Sins was a transcendental power? It was only powerful in this sub-world. He had clashed against many powers that were dozens of times stronger than the Flower of Seven Sins in the past. Compared to those powers, the Flower of Seven Sins was nothing.

The current Zero Wing might be incredibly weak, and the Asura Mercenary Alliance he had established was just starting to take shape, but that didn't mean he would just allow the Flower of Seven Sins to push him around.

Not to mention, he had already gained access to the Stratified Abyssal Realm. If they were competing solely in terms of resources, the Asura Mercenary Alliance was in no way inferior to the Flower of Seven Sins.

Hidden Soul felt touched and guilty when she heard Shi Feng's words.

Originally, Shi Feng had tasked her with establishing the Asura Mercenary Alliance so that the mercenary alliance could be of service to Zero Wing. Yet, now, not only did the mercenary alliance offer hardly any help to Zero Wing, but it had even ended up offending the Flower of Seven Sins because of her, which had, in turn, caused Zero Wing to suffer significant losses.

"Carry out the changes. It's about time we let the Flower of Seven Sins know the consequence of provoking the Asura Mercenary Alliance!" Shi Feng said firmly.

Afterward, everyone present followed Shi Feng's instructions and informed everyone in the Asura Mercenary Alliance of the changes to the quest rewards.

...

“A 500% increase?! Asura is amazing!”

“We can earn 10,000 Contribution Points from just one Common Mount and 50,000 Contribution Points from a Bronze Mount. If we’re lucky, we can get our hands on a Lineage Crystal in only four or five days. With this, even the various superpowers’ apex experts will probably be tempted to move.”

“The increase to quest rewards is nothing. Have you guys not seen the bounty? This is an open bounty placed on the Flower of Seven Sins!”

“The Flower of Seven Sins will probably go crazy once it learns about this bounty. The Flower of Seven Sins and Asura are definitely becoming mortal enemies now.”

“Unlike past bounties on the Flower of Seven Sins, Asura’s bounty is too tempting to resist. It’s also much easier to find the Flower of Seven Sins’ members now since they’re actively attacking those taking on Asura’s quests. Asura is paying 300 points per Refinement Realm expert, and the Flower of Seven Sins’ members typically move in 100-man teams. If we make ample preparations, that’s an easy 30,000 Contribution Points. That’s even more profitable than hunting for Mounts.”

Shortly after the Asura Mercenary Alliance’s announcement, an uproar erupted among the mercenary alliance’s members. It was especially true for the various powers’ expert teams considering withdrawing from the alliance. Now, none of them thought of withdrawing from the alliance.

The Flower of Seven Sins’ assassins might be very scary, but the rewards the Asura Mercenary Alliance offered were simply too much to resist. After all, not even the various superpowers offered the opportunity to exchange for a Fragmented Legendary item in just four or five days.

It might be difficult to beat the Flower of Seven Sins’ experts, but if they prepared some special tools and magic scrolls, it was entirely possible for them to turn the tables on those experts. Not to mention, it didn’t really matter even if they couldn’t complete their Mount quests since they could similarly earn a significant amount of Contribution Points so long as they killed the Flower of Seven Sins’ Refinement Realm experts.

...

Less than half a day after the Asura Mercenary Alliance announced the changes to its quest rewards, Hidden Soul hurriedly ran to the Guild Leader’s Office in Zero Wing’s Residence.

“You’ve really blown things out of proportion this time, Guild Leader Black Flame. Six Lineage Crystals have already been redeemed in just half a day. The various major powers’ expert teams are moving in full force. Even the various superpowers’ experts have taken action. At this rate, we will have to give away at least a dozen Lineage Crystal a day, and we’ll probably run out of Lineage Crystals in half a month,” Hidden Soul said, not knowing whether to laugh or cry about this situation. “The Flower of Seven Sins is mostly just sitting aside and observing the situation right now. By the looks of it, they plan to only go all-out once we run out of Lineage Crystals.”

Hidden Soul had to admit that the rewards Shi Feng offered were indeed effective in getting the various powers to move for Asura.

In just half a day, the Flower of Seven Sins’ plan to target Asura had become a joke. According to the insider information she received, the Flower of Seven Sins had even lost over 2,000 Refinement Realm

experts. This was a significant loss, and even the Flower of Seven Sins wouldn't be able to take it if it suffered such losses every day.

This was why the Flower of Seven Sins had become warier in letting its experts take action. Of course, to ensure that Asura maintained its high quest rewards, the Flower of Seven Sins would still have some of its members attack Asura's quest takers. The Flower of Seven Sins had even increased the rewards of its assassination quests to tempt some of its stronger members to take action.

Simply put, the Flower of Seven Sins was biding its time. Once Asura ran out of Lineage Crystals, the various powers' experts would naturally stop behaving so crazily. At that time, it would be the end for the Asura Mercenary Alliance.

"I'm afraid we will have to disappoint them. They will probably never see such a day arrive!" Shi Feng said, chuckling. Then, he took out a dark-gold crystal from his bag, handed it to Hidden Soul, and said, "Take this Advanced Lineage Crystal. Consider it an advance payment for what I need you to do next. Follow the instructions in the item description and absorb the crystal. Then, I'll need you to follow me somewhere."

The Stratified Abyssal Realm was a gathering place for the many worlds of God's Domain. Many powerful native players also inhabited it. So, it wasn't exaggerated to say that the place was infested with experts. It was on an entirely different level compared to the Miniature Ancient World.

Likewise, the Stratified Abyssal Realm also possessed bountiful resources. Moreover, every Stratified Abyssal Realm had its own local specialties that could be sold for astronomical prices even in the Greater God's Domain.

So long as he could form a stable trade route with the Stratified Abyssal Realm, Zero Wing would have no trouble asserting dominance over the various powers in the Boundary Mountain Range. At that time, even the Five Great Super Guilds would have a much bigger headache dealing with Zero Wing.

However, if Shi Feng wanted to establish a foothold in the Stratified Abyssal Realm, he couldn't do it by himself. He also needed third-floor experts like Hidden Soul.

However, not just any third-floor expert would do. After all, this was the Stratified Abyssal Realm they were talking about. Only a third-floor expert who had converted to a higher lifeform could be considered a truly powerful expert in the Stratified Abyssal Realm.

"An Advanced Lineage Crystal?"

Hidden Soul was greatly shocked when she looked at the dark-gold crystal in her hand. The normal Lineage Crystal was already plenty amazing of an item. She didn't think there'd be an even better version of it available. This situation led her to wonder how much more strength Zero Wing had kept hidden.

"We have limited time. Quickly go to the primordial tower and absorb the crystal. Whatever higher lifeform you manage to convert to will depend on your personal abilities," Shi Feng said, chuckling.

Currently, he only had five Advanced Lineage Crystals on hand. Originally, he had planned to let Su Qianliu and the other executives of Zero Wing use these crystals. However, he quickly abandoned this idea.

Advanced Lineage Crystals were different from the normal Lineage Crystals. The greater the control a player had over their body, the better the results they could yield from the Advanced Lineage Crystal.

Su Qianliu and the others might have grown a lot recently, but they were still far from having the ability to make full use of the Advanced Lineage Crystal. Meanwhile, each player could only use one Advanced Lineage Crystal in their life. So, it'd be a huge waste to let Su Qianliu and the others use an Advanced Lineage Crystal now.

Hidden Soul nodded to Shi Feng's urging. She understood that Shi Feng must have something very important he needed her help with. Without hesitation, she promptly left for the primordial tower with the Advanced Lineage Crystal in hand.

Meanwhile, after seeing Hidden Soul leave, Shi Feng carefully retrieved a dark crystal from his bag. This crystal was none other than the Primal Lineage Crystal he had obtained from the Dark Titan.

I wanted to wait a little longer before using it, but I have no other choice if I want to have an easier time in the Stratified Abyssal Realm.

After pondering for a moment, Shi Feng took out the 10,000 Mana Stones he had prepared beforehand and activated the Primal Lineage Crystal.

Chapter 3097

Chapter 171 – Primal Human

The Lineage Crystal was different from your average Race Conversion Quests. The races players could convert to using the Lineage Crystal wasn't fixed. Instead, the Lineage Crystal would provide players with a list of optimal races after scanning their current abilities and potential. Meanwhile, the Lineage Crystal identified players' potential through the degree of control they could exert over their bodies.

A player's potential was especially important when using an Advanced Lineage Crystal. Any expert beneath the Domain Realm would only get to choose from the most common higher lifeforms. In such cases, players would only have slightly stronger Physique and Basic Attributes than players who had used a normal Lineage Crystal.

Players could only utilize an Advanced Lineage Crystal to its full potential after reaching the Domain Realm. At that time, they'd have a chance of converting into powerful higher lifeforms such as Demidragons and High Elves and gaining strength that would allow them to look down on others of the same tier. They'd gain strength rivaling Archaic Species of the same tier.

Meanwhile, the requirements to use a Primal Lineage Crystal were even higher.

Not only did players have to reach the Domain Realm, but they'd also need to have considerable achievements in the Realms of Truth. At the very least, anyone thinking of using a Primal Lineage Crystal should be at the Transcendental Realm, the third level of the Realms of Truth, to make full use of the Primal Lineage Crystal.

Fortunately, Shi Feng had already mastered the Transcendental Realm.

After Shi Feng completed the dozen or so instructions listed on the Primal Lineage Crystal's description, three options appeared before him.

The first option was a Dragonoid. If he chose this option, he would gain a three-meter-tall body with a tail and arms covered in scales.

Dragonoids were different from Demidragons. They were one of the primal lifeforms in God's Domain. They were the result of Dragons abandoning their draconic form and taking on human-like bodies. While Dragonoids might not have the powerful bodies of Dragons, they retained the Dragon race's talent for magic.

The second option was an Ancient Elf. If he chose this option, he'd have a two-meter-tall body that was covered in magic runes.

Ancient Elves possessed Mana affinity far beyond that of Elves. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that they were Mana itself, and they could effortlessly master Super-Ancient Spells that modern Elves could not.

When Shi Feng saw the third option, he couldn't help but be stunned.

The sample image of the third option showed no changes to his current appearance. If he had to get into the specifics and point out a difference, it'd be his eyes. At first glance, his eyes in the image looked no different than his current eyes. However, when he took a closer look, he noticed tiny specks of starlight scattered across his eyes.

When Shi Feng saw this image, a name quickly popped into his mind.

Ancient Human!

Also known as a Primal Human!

Ancient Humans were humans that had existed since the birth of God's Domain. However, unlike modern humans, Ancient Humans possessed the Eyes of Reality that could see through all things.

In reality, the Identification Skills that exist in the current God's Domain were merely Skills created to imitate the Eyes of Reality of Ancient Humans. Even the War God's Temple's Eyes of Truth was no exception. Meanwhile, the reason these imitations were created was due to the decline of Ancient Humans.

God's Domain's environment had continuously declined as time passed, the Mana available in the environment growing thinner and thinner. Because of this changing environment, the quality of Ancient

Humans also continuously degraded generation after generation until they eventually became the humans of today.

Aside from the Eyes of Truth, Ancient Humans also possessed physical qualities far superior to modern humans.

The environment available in the early days of God's Domain was brimming with Mana. During that era, Ancient Humans had yet to make major advancements in any aspect. Yet, despite this situation, Ancient Humans still managed to survive in a world infested with Ferocious Beasts. That was because Ancient Humans possessed physical qualities that allowed them to trade blows with Ferocious Beasts.

Among modern humans, the only existences that could rival Ancient Humans were probably Heroes. Meanwhile, Heroes were existences who had been blessed by Gods and possessed the strength to fight against Dragons.

Becoming a Dragonoid or an Ancient Elf might provide me with stronger physical qualities, but the appearances of these two races aren't suitable for the current God's Domain. Moreover, both races tend toward magical classes. So, it seems becoming an Ancient Human is my only choice.

After pondering over the three races for some time, Shi Feng eventually settled on the third option— Ancient Human.

Both Dragonoids and Ancient Elves were races extremely proficient in magic.

However, Shi Feng was a Swordsman. While being good at manipulating Mana might give him an easier time ascending to higher tiers, a pair of eyes capable of seeing through everything was much more useful for a Swordsman.

After Shi Feng chose to become an Ancient Human, the Mana Stones he prepared promptly transformed into a huge stream of Mana that flowed into his body, the Mana continuously strengthening and altering his body. Meanwhile, this process continued for over an hour before ending.

So, this is an Ancient Human?

When Shi Feng opened his eyes and looked at the world around him, an indescribable sense of shock and joy filled him.

Setting aside his physical body that rivaled Archaic Species of the same tier, just the ability of his eyes to see how Mana operated was already more than enough to cause any magical class expert to lose their minds.

Normally, even perceiving Mana was already an incredibly difficult feat. This was because Mana typically couldn't be seen with the naked eye. Seeing mist-like Mana didn't constitute "seeing" Mana, either. This was because players couldn't actually see how Mana operated just by looking at its physical manifestation. They could only do so by feeling it with their various senses.

However, Shi Feng could currently see all of these things visually. Although the colors were faint and translucent, he could see all of the conversions taking place around him with perfect clarity. He could even see the Mana the mundane objects around him radiated.

The ability to see the conversion of Mana taking place around him was more than enough to elevate his combat standard to a whole new level.

With this ability alone, he could find the best entry point in the Mana around him to execute his Skills, Spells, or combat techniques, improving their raw power. He could also observe the change in his opponents' flow of Mana to determine their movements. This would be much more effective than observing the changes in his opponents' muscles.

In God's Domain, players had to move their physical bodies as they did with their bodies in the real world. It meant that players had to move several muscles in a series to execute a movement. While this process typically happened in the blink of an eye, it was still a process that involved several steps, and variables could occur at any of these steps. So, predicting a player's movements through observing their muscles wasn't 100% reliable.

However, it was a different story for Mana. Players only needed one thought to execute an adjustment to their Mana. If players decided to execute an action with their Mana, the changes would reflect on their Mana immediately. This meant that the changes they decided to make would also immediately become apparent to Shi Feng. While this still wasn't enough to tell him exactly what kind of action his opponent was planning to make, it could still let him make better predictions.

After spending some time getting used to his new body and talents, Shi Feng quickly contacted Su Qianliu, Blackie, Firecloud, Happy Snow, and Rampant Blade, having them gather at his office.

Aside from those five, Shi Feng also called Hidden Soul, Gentle Snow, and Lin Yaoyue over to his office under the excuse of doing a quest for Zero Wing.

Zero Wing might have nine entry slots for the Stratified Abyssal Realm, but he'd only be bringing baggage if he brought that lacked strength.

Shi Feng's goal was to establish a foothold in the Stratified Abyssal Realm so that Zero Wing could conduct long-term trade with a native power. That way, not only could he shrug off the losses he suffered from clashing with the Flower of Seven Sins, but he could also elevate Zero Wing and Asura into the hegemony of the Miniature Ancient World.

After all, the resources available in the Stratified Abyssal Realm were far beyond what was available in an isolated God's Domain. So long as he partnered with a relatively strong native power in the Stratified Abyssal Realm, acquiring items such as the Lineage Crystal in large quantities wasn't difficult. However, the precondition to partnering with a native power was to have sufficient money and strength.

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Meanwhile, the eight people Shi Feng had chosen were the best candidates he could think of. There was no need to worry about Zero Wing's management, either. Su Qianliu and the others could still manage the Guild's affairs via offline means. As for the Asura Mercenary Alliance, Shi Feng had left its management to Liu Wusheng and Frenzied Smile. Both of them were veterans when it came to managing large organizations. So long as there were enough Lineage Crystals, they should have no problems managing the mercenary alliance.

After Su Qianliu and the others gathered in Shi Feng's office, they couldn't help but be surprised when they saw that Hidden Soul had changed into a Demonkin. As for Shi Feng's changes, nobody present noticed a thing.

Even after everyone had gathered, Shi Feng briefly told them that they'd be heading to the Stratified Abyssal Realm, which was outside their God's Domain, and had all eight of them sign a confidentiality agreement. Then, he had everyone teleport to the Dragonfall Secret Land.

This situation excited Su Qianliu and the others. They didn't think they'd have a chance to travel outside their God's Domain.

Lin Yaoyue was particularly excited by this situation. As a first-rate Guild's executive member, she knew that this was an incredibly rare opportunity even for Tier 5 experts. Yet, Zero Wing did not hesitate to give an outer member like herself this opportunity. This situation caused her to further elevate her evaluation of Zero Wing.

Before teleporting to the secret land himself, Shi Feng had retrieved the two million Magic Crystals stored in Zero Wing's warehouse to use as trade currency. Then, after spending some time traveling through the Sealing Labyrinth with his team, they arrived at the Sealing Labyrinth's fifth-floor hall within the time he had agreed on with the Tower Alliance and Hundred Flower Palace.

When Shi Feng's team arrived, the Tower Alliance's and Hundred Flower Palace's members had long since been waiting for them. Evidently, the two sides were much more eager to enter the Stratified Abyssal Realm than Shi Feng.

"Since everyone's here, let's begin!" Blood Hammer said eagerly after glancing at Shi Feng's team.

"Okay, let's begin!" Crimson Heart nodded, a hint of anticipation in her eyes.

Subsequently, Blood Hammer and Crimson Heart each took out one-half of a key and began chanting an incantation hidden in their respective halves. Then, once the two were done chanting, a divine light enveloped everyone present and dragged them into the Gate of Crossing.

Chapter 3098

Chapter 172 – Stratified Abyssal Realm

When Shi Feng, Crimson Heart, Blood Hammer, and the others opened their eyes again, what entered their vision was a dark and moonless sky. The only thing they could see in the sky were floating landmasses.

Before Shi Feng and the others could get a good feel of their surroundings, a series of system notifications rang in their ears.

...

System: You have discovered the Stratified Abyssal Realm.

System: All communication with your homeworld has been severed.

System: Due to the influence of the Abyss's power, your Physique is reduced by 50%, and your five senses are weakened by 30%.

System: The gravity in the Stratified Abyssal Realm is five times greater than God's Domain. Your mobility is weakened drastically.

System: The Stratified Abyssal Realm's level limit is 120. You are unable to get promoted to Tier 4 while you remain here. This restriction will only be removed when you enter a higher world.

...

The system notifications stunned Shi Feng and the others.

They might not have lost any Basic Attributes after entering the Stratified Abyssal Realm, but their Physique and five senses were weakened significantly. The gravity acting on their bodies had also increased drastically. In a situation where all sorts of Level 105-plus Grand Lord ranked Abyssal Beasts surrounded them, receiving such penalties would put them through hell.

At this time, even Shi Feng had a headache over these penalties.

Everyone in their group might be above Level 105, but under the Stratified Abyssal Realm's suppression, they couldn't even exhibit half of their usual combat power.

In their current situation, the only ones who stood a chance against the Level 105-plus Grand Lords roaming around them were players who had converted to another race like himself, Hidden Soul, and the Tower Alliance's members. Even Domain Realm experts such as Crimson Heart and Cleansed Rue would have difficulty going up against a Level 105 Grand Lord by themselves. As for Su Qianliu and the others, they could just barely fight against a Great Lord of the same level.

When Gentle Snow tried using her Mana Domain, she couldn't help but exclaim, "The suppression here is absurd. Even though the Mana here is so dense, I can only extend my Mana Domain up to thirty yards away. That's only one-third of my usual range..."

"That's normal. Over 70% of the Mana here is of the dark element," Shi Feng explained as he scanned his surroundings. "Skills and Spells that aren't of the dark element will be drastically weakened here. Conversely, Dark Skills and Spells will be strengthened."

When observing his surroundings with the Eyes of Reality, Shi Feng could see everything for what it was. Particularly, his ability to see the composition of the Mana around him had reached an extreme extent. Meanwhile, the Stratified Abyssal Realm's Mana composition was so skewed that it surprised even him.

Even in special elemental worlds, the dominant element there wouldn't occupy more than 30% of the world's Mana. Yet, it was already more than enough to amplify the power of attacks of that element by 100% or more. Yet, the dark element occupied over 70% of the Stratified Abyssal Realm's Mana.

This situation was incredibly disadvantageous for players like themselves, who had spent most of their time living in God's Domain.

Fortunately for Shi Feng, he had the Abyssal Eye, and it could reduce all hostile dark-type effects by 50%. Meanwhile, this effect encompassed even the suppression coming from the Stratified Abyssal Realm. So, while he still couldn't exhibit 100% of his usual combat power, he could still exhibit 70% of it.

After a brief discussion between Shi Feng, Crimson Heart, and Blood Hammer, they decided to move as a team until they reached a settlement in the Stratified Abyssal Realm. After all, there were many Abyssal Beasts around them. It'd be more efficient if they broke through this area with more people.

Subsequently, after everyone decided on a general direction to move in, they began advancing and killing the Abyssal Beasts in their path.

The Abyssal Beasts came in all sorts of shapes and sizes—Three-Headed Wolves and Twin-Headed Lions, to name a few. Although their levels only ranged between Level 105 and Level 110, and the majority of them were at the Great Lord rank, the challenge difficulty of these monsters gave Crimson Heart and the others a scare.

"Why do these monsters have such quick reaction speeds?" Crimson Heart exclaimed as she fought against a Great Lord ranked Three-Headed Hellhound. She had thrust her spear at the Great Lord over a dozen times, yet only three of her attacks had landed.

There wasn't anything special about the Three-headed Hellhound's Basic Attributes. Each of her attacks caused over 600,000 damage to the Great Lord. Meanwhile, the Three-Headed Hellhound only had 50 million HP, so it wouldn't take her more than 100 attacks to take it down.

However, unlike the Great Lords she was used to fighting, the Three-Headed Hellhound's dodging capabilities practically rivaled Refinement Realm experts. Combined with the penalties she was currently suffering from, the Three-Headed Hellhound's challenge difficulty was greater than even Great Lords found in the Miniature Ancient World.

"These monsters aren't the only problem. Our Stamina is also depleting much more rapidly here than on our homeworld! The consumption rate has increased by at least five times! We have to end the fight and leave this place quickly!" Maria, the Demidragon woman from the Tower Alliance, said, a frown forming on her face as she fought against a Grand Lord ranked Abyssal Two-Headed Manticore.

It wouldn't have been a problem if the monsters here were merely more challenging than normal. However, the increase in Stamina consumption was a fatal problem.

Under normal circumstances, they could fight continuously for at least ten hours before having to rest. However, they could, at most, fight for two hours continuously while subjected to this penalty.

A Grand Lord here had upwards of 200 million. Even if all 20 of them attacked a Grand Lord together, they'd still need three to five minutes to take it down. In a situation where each monster group had six or seven Grand Lords and at least forty Great Lords, it would only take five or six monster groups to kill them from Stamina exhaustion...

Everyone nodded their heads when they heard Maria's words. Immediately, they started using stronger attacks to finish these Abyssal Beasts as quickly as possible. After all, it was common sense that the longer a fight dragged out, the higher the chances of the fight attracting other nearby monsters.

After fighting for nearly half an hour, Shi Feng and the others finally defeated the group of fifty or so Abyssal Beasts.

As these Abyssal Beasts died one after another, everyone noticed that the Stratified Abyssal Realm's monsters provided significantly less EXP than the monsters in God's Domain; it was only one-third of what they were used to receiving. Moreover, the items they dropped were unexpectedly few.

The 40-plus Great Lords they defeated had only dropped a bunch of beast materials and nothing else. Even the Grand Lords had only dropped a bunch of materials and six pitch-black ore pieces.

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"Isn't the Stratified Abyssal Realm supposed to be a land of riches? Why is the loot of these monsters so terrible?"

Blood Hammer was greatly confused as he looked at the loot they acquired. This situation was completely different from the information they had gathered on the Stratified Abyssal Realm.

It should be known that the beast materials were only good for making food and nothing else. As for the ore pieces, as far as he could tell, they did not contain an astonishing amount of energy within them. At best, this black metal could be considered a type of rare metal and nothing more. While it was still a good item, it didn't make sense that this was all of the loot six Grand Lords had to offer.

"No, this is indeed a land of riches," Shi Feng said, shaking his head as he looked at the black metal piece in his hand. "This dark ore isn't as simple as it looks. It might not contain an astonishing amount of energy, but you'll get the Black Iron that you're familiar with as long as you refine it. I'm sure I don't have to explain the effects of Black Iron to you, right?"

"Black Iron? This is the raw material of Black Iron?" Blood Hammer was filled with disbelief as he looked at the dark ore in his hand.

Chapter 3099

Chapter 173 – Immortal Weapon

"Is that true, Guild Leader Black Flame?"

Maria, who was resting nearby, couldn't help but stand up and look at Shi Feng with a fervent look on her face when she heard Shi Feng's words.

Weapons made using Black Iron were incredibly durable, and these weapons had gained themselves a nickname since primordial times.

Immortal Weapons!

Black Iron was an incredibly rare material used for weapon production in the Greater God's Domain. Demand for it was much greater than supply, and it was a resource frenziedly fought over by the various powers in the Greater God's Domain.

This was because only weapons made using Black Iron were tough enough to go up against Tier 4 Mythic monsters and above in the Greater God's Domain. If a weapon wasn't made using Black Iron, even an Epic Weapon would last no more than a fight when used against the Greater God's Domain's Mythic monsters. Afterward, it'd have to be repaired.

Naturally, Epic Weapons made without Black Iron would wear out even quicker when used against Superior Mythic monsters or above. Such Epic Weapons were almost certain to break in the middle of the raid. Meanwhile, the consequences of such a situation happening went without saying. Players would be fortunate if they could retain even 10% of their combat power if they tried to fight barehanded.

Because of this, weapons made using Black Iron were incredibly valuable in the Greater God's Domain. Even a Secret-Silver Weapon made using Black Iron would be worth dozens of times more than an Epic Weapon made without Black Iron. When teams were recruiting members to head out into the fields, players without Black Iron weapons would even be disqualified automatically...

To make matters worse, in addition to being incredibly rare, Black Iron was also incredibly challenging to process into weapons. Even a Grandmaster Forger could only achieve a 30% success rate when producing a Fine-Gold Weapon.

Moreover, this was only the success rate on paper. Any Lifestyle Player would know that the 30% success rate the system showed was a big fat lie. With a theoretical success rate of 30%, a Lifestyle Player would typically succeed only once out of ten tries; two out of ten tries if they were incredibly lucky.

As for Dark-Gold Weapons and above, the success rate of producing them was even lower.

Due to these factors, Black Iron was incredibly rare and precious in the Greater God's Domain. Currently, the market price for one piece of Black Iron was five units of Seven Luminaries Crystal.

It should be known that Seven Luminaries Crystals was necessary for players to reach Tier 6. Even in the Greater God's Domain, the supply of Seven Luminaries Crystals was very low. Any mine and Regional Dungeon that produced Seven Luminaries Crystals would become a target of competition for the Greater God's Domain's hegemonic powers.

Yet, one piece of Black Iron could easily fetch five units of Seven Luminaries Crystal. Even then, rarely anybody would trade their Black Iron away for Seven Luminaries Crystals.

Thus, Maria was greatly surprised to learn that the Grand Lords they had just killed had dropped the raw material for Black Iron. It should be known that there were numerous Grand Lords in this area, and every monster group had at least six or seven Grand Lords. If news of this matter spread to the Greater

God's Domain, the various hegemonic powers would definitely do everything they could to gain access to this place.

"Don't look at me like that. I am a forger, so I can still determine the materials necessary to make Black Iron," Shi Feng said, chuckling when he looked at Maria's excited expression.

Honestly, if he weren't a Grandmaster Forger during his previous life, he wouldn't have realized that the inconspicuous dark ore was the raw material needed to produce Black Iron. This was because even in the Greater God's Domain, most players only knew Black Iron for what it was. They thought that Black Iron was something that occurred naturally in nature. They didn't know that Black Iron was actually a man-made product.

There were many powers that weren't aware of this secret. Of course, that was only limited to the weaker powers. The various hegemonic powers naturally knew of this secret, and so did a small portion of peak powers. This information could be considered a secret that wasn't a secret among the Greater God's Domain's top circle.

However, Shi Feng didn't mind sharing this secret with Blood Hammer and Maria. After all, it didn't really matter even if they knew that Black Iron was a man-made product and what it was made from. Even if they managed to get their hands on Black Iron's raw material, they couldn't do anything with it without the design to craft Black Iron. It'd simply be an ordinary piece of ore.

Of course, Black Iron Ore could also be found in the Greater God's Domain. Only, the places that produced Black Iron Ore were thoroughly monopolized by the various peak and hegemonic powers. Other powers had no way of interjecting at all, and their only option was to find them in the various Stratified Abyssal Realms. In fact, according to Shi Feng's knowledge, the places that produced Black Iron Ore in the Greater God's Domain were actually Stratified Abyssal Realms that had broken their respective seals and were introduced into the Greater God's Domain.

Meanwhile, as soon as Shi Feng finished speaking, both Maria and Blood Hammer started looking at the Grand Lords around them in a different light.

As for Crimson Heart and the others, they couldn't help but be confused by Shi Feng's conversation with Maria. Even so, judging by Maria's reaction, it was obvious that the dark ore they acquired was incredibly valuable, so valuable that it could stir the desires of even suspected God-ranked experts like Maria and Blood Hammer.

"There isn't much time left before nightfall, so let's quickly leave this place. We'll most likely die if we have to face the increased number of monsters at night," Shi Feng said, giving Maria and Blood Hammer a reminder when he saw that the two were looking to hunt more Grand Lord ranked Two-Headed Manticores.

Maria and Blood Hammer promptly snapped back to their senses when they heard Shi Feng's words. Then, the team resumed advancing and searching for places with a water source.

No matter the world and regardless if it was for players or NPCs, the precondition to establishing a settlement was to build it near a water source.

The precondition for establishing a settlement was to build it near a water source. This condition held true for all worlds, players, and NPCs. Hence, if they managed to find a water source, there was a high chance they'd find an NPC settlement nearby.

After traveling in this wasteland covered in floating islands for around four hours, Shi Feng and the others arrived at a place with countless ancient trees and rocks that measured several hundred meters in height. As soon as they arrived here, they suddenly heard the sounds of battle. In addition, they also saw a towering pillar of fire rising in the distance, coupled with the sounds of thunder and glaring streaks of lightning coming down from the sky.

Immediately, Shi Feng and the others grew alert.

"That should be Shadow Thunder, a Tier 3 Curse," Cleansed Rue said as she looked at the dark-red lightning bolts in the distant sky. "Judging by its power, a player should have cast it, so there should be players fighting there. Moreover, it should be quite a big fight by the looks of it."

Shadow Thunder was a super-large-scale destruction Spell. So, one would typically only use it in a fight involving large numbers.

"Should we go and take a look, Guild Leader Black Flame?" Crimson Heart asked as she turned to Shi Feng.

Based on their journey thus far, Crimson Heart noticed that Shi Feng was much more knowledgeable about the Stratified Abyssal Realm than everyone else. Even Maria and Blood Hammer couldn't help but listen to Shi Feng's instructions.

Moreover, if she were to rank the three groups in their team based on combat power, Zero Wing's group would rank first, while the Tower Alliance's group would rank second, and Hundred Flower Palace's group would rank last. So, it was completely normal for her to seek Shi Feng's opinion on how they should proceed.

At this time, Maria and Blood Hammer had similarly turned to Shi Feng seeking his opinion.

"Of course we're going to take a look. This is our first encounter with other players. If we miss this opportunity, who knows when another one will appear? There's also only two hours left until nightfall," Shi Feng said, chuckling when he saw everyone turning their gazes to him. "But we have to be careful when approaching them. You mustn't underestimate the strength of the Stratified Abyssal Realm's players no matter what. If we create a misunderstanding, we will be the ones to suffer."

Everyone nodded their heads and put on their Black Cloaks to hide their information. Then, they followed Shi Feng toward the distant battlefield.

Although Hidden Soul, Gentle Snow, and the others from Zero Wing's group knew next to nothing about the Stratified Abyssal Realm, they knew that any player capable of living in the Stratified Abyssal Realm's environment would be far superior to the average player in God's Domain.

Not to mention, their Stamina consumption rate here was significantly greater than in the Miniature Ancient World. In such a situation, individual combat power would be severely restricted, and quantity would play a much more important role than quality.

If they accidentally provoked one of the major native powers, the fate that awaited them here would be even worse than if they provoked one of the Five Great Super Guilds in the Miniature Ancient World.

Chapter 3100

Chapter 174 – Nation of Ancient Gods

Over a thousand players were clashing by the river next to the forest of towering trees and rocks.

If one were to inspect these players with an Identification Skill, one would find that in addition to being at Level 110 or above, these players were all geared in Epic Weapons and Equipment. Quite a few of these players were even in possession of Fragmented Legendary items.

At a glance, it was obvious that these players were split into two opposing groups. Of the two groups, the first group was composed of around 400 players trying to defend a caravan, while the second group was composed of around 700 players trying to rob the caravan.

Even though this battle involved only around a thousand players, Crimson Heart, Lin Yaoyue, and the others, who were spectating the fight from over a thousand yards away, couldn't help but be shocked by what they saw. This was because even the weakest player involved in the fight was a Refinement Realm expert. Moreover, despite being only at the Refinement Realm standard, this expert managed to exhibit combat power rivaling the Void Realm experts, also known as peak experts.

It should be known that peak experts were rare existences in their God's Domain, so much so that they would be given an executive position in any superpower. In first-rate Guilds, Void Realm experts would even be granted positions that allowed them to influence the organization's decisions, their authority rivaling the Guild's Vice Guild Leaders.

Yet, the peak experts they came to know as being rare had seemingly become no different from cabbages that were readily available. After all, every player fighting on the battlefield by the river had strength rivaling or surpassing peak experts.

Meanwhile, the clash between the two groups of players ahead was even more shocking than an all-out war between two superpowers in their God's Domain. The battlefield's terrain had even undergone significant changes because of these players' battle.

"Isn't the development of magic technology a little too advanced in this world? Has their manufacturing capabilities become so developed that they can afford to use siege weapons for measly caravan escorts?" Blood Hammer couldn't help but doubt his eyes when he saw the dozen or so ten-meter-tall metal frames fighting on the battlefield.

Combat Puppets!

Combat Puppets could be regarded as weapons designed for the specific purpose of sieging cities. Even the weakest Basic Combat Puppet possessed strength at the Tier 3 Peak standard. In other words, even

a Tier 1 player could instantly gain raw strength at the Tier 3 Peak standard so long as they got inside a Basic Combat Puppet.

Moreover, depending on the user's ability to control a Combat Puppet, the Combat Puppet could also exhibit combat power far surpassing its strength level. It was akin to how ordinary experts and Refinement Realm experts could exhibit vastly different combat powers even when both of them possessed the same Basic Attributes.

However, Combat Puppets would typically only be used to siege or defend cities in the various worlds of God's Domain. It simply wasn't a resource that players could afford to waste on a simple caravan escort.

Yet, these players from the Stratified Abyssal Realm had not only dispatched multiple Combat Puppets for a caravan escort, but there was even an Advanced Combat Puppet among them.

Combat Puppets could be separated into different ranks. A few examples would be Basic Combat Puppets, Advanced Combat Puppets, Bronze Combat Puppets, and High Bronze Combat Puppets. Higher-ranking ones, such as Silver Combat Puppets, also existed, but they were extremely rare even in the Greater God's Domain.

In the case of Advanced Combat Puppets, they could exhibit strength nearing the Tier 4 standard. Including their defensive capabilities that surpassed Mythic monsters, an Advanced Combat Puppet could effortlessly clash against a Tier 4 Mythic monster if piloted by a Refinement Realm expert. Needless to say, an Advanced Combat Puppet would have a very easy time dealing with Tier 3 players.

However, the team trying to plunder the caravan similarly had an Advanced Combat Puppet. Moreover, the player piloting it appeared to be much more skilled, allowing the Advanced Combat Puppet to exhibit combat standards at the Void Realm standard.

Even though Blood Hammer was a God-ranked expert equipped with a Fragmented Legendary Weapon, if he had to go up against an Advanced Combat Puppet with such a high combat standard, the only thing he could do was run away. There was no way he stood a chance against such an opponent, not when he was suffering from such powerful penalties because of the Stratified Abyssal Realm's environment.

While Blood Hammer, Crimson Heart, and the others were awed by the Stratified Abyssal Realm's magic technology standard, Shi Feng had his eyes glued to a boy with golden markings in his eyes and a crimson-haired girl wielding a divine staff.

The boy looked like he was only around 17 or 18 years old. However, even when he was surrounded by a group of a dozen or so peak and apex experts, he still managed to freely dance around his opponents while swinging multiple longswords. If not for two Domain Realm experts, who were also third-floor experts, limiting his range of movement, the boy would have long since killed the other peak and apex experts surrounding him.

The girl wielding the divine staff wasn't an ordinary individual, either. Despite being an Oracle, she single-handedly stopped an attack of several hundred arrows and Spells with just a Contract Barrier, a Tier 3 Curse.

Thousand Sword Saint Wordless Ember and Dawn Saint Sleeping Quicksand! Why are these two people here? Could this be the nation of Ancient Gods?

When Shi Feng saw the boy and girl fighting against multiple opponents on the battlefield, the shock he felt was much greater than the shock Blood Hammer and the others felt when they saw the Combat Puppets.

During Shi Feng's previous life, Wordless Ember and Sleeping Quicksand were legendary individuals in the Greater God's Domain, and their titles of Thousand Sword Saint and Dawn Saint were known by all. Meanwhile, the Bloody Poem adventurer team they had established had caused many hegemonic powers to suffer major losses. Bloody Poem had even managed to defeat Heaven's Brilliance, a top-tier hegemonic power, in a frontal confrontation.

Bloody Poem only had 10,000 members fighting against Heaven's Brilliance's army of millions during that confrontation. Heaven's Brilliance had even sent as many as 100 Tier 6 God-ranked experts to deal with Bloody Poem. Yet, Bloody Poem had successfully defended its city and killed all 100 of Heaven's Brilliance's God-ranked experts. Because of this miraculous outcome, the battle was remembered as one of the legendary battles in the Greater God's Domain.

Meanwhile, a large part of Bloody Poem's success in that battle was due to Wordless Ember and Sleeping Quicksand. The two of them had stopped the majority of Heaven's Brilliance's God-ranked experts by themselves. Because of their outstanding performance, Wordless Ember became known as one of the Ten Great Sword Gods in the Greater God's Domain, while Sleeping Quicksand became known as one of the Ten Great Oracles. The Seven Luminaries Alliance, the oldest neutral power in the Greater God's Domain, had even conferred the title of "Saintess" to Sleeping Quicksand.

The Seven Luminaries Alliance was one of the strongest powers in the Greater God's Domain. Its hands reached across the entire Greater God's Domain, and the organization's main purpose was to evaluate Tier 6 God-ranked experts. Moreover, any Tier 6 God-ranked expert could join the organization, regardless of whether they were a member of another power or not. In addition to having no restrictions placed on them, Tier 6 God-ranked experts who joined the Seven Luminaries Alliance would also be given the position of Elder as soon as they joined.

The people who held the most authority in the Seven Luminaries Alliance were the Senate's Twelve Grand Elders and the Tier 6 God-ranked experts who had been conferred titles by the Seven Luminaries Alliance.

However, receiving a title from the Seven Luminaries Alliance was an incredibly challenging task, and the alliance had given out titles to no more than ten God-ranked experts in the last century.

Yet, Sleeping Quicksand managed to not only receive a title from the Seven Luminaries Alliance, but also became the youngest God-ranked expert to receive a title from the alliance.

After the rise of Wordless Ember and Sleeping Quicksand, others quickly found out that they originated from a Stratified Abyssal Realm. Meanwhile, after the various powers investigated this Stratified Abyssal Realm, they quickly discovered that it used to be a nation inhabited by Ancient Gods!

According to rumors, Sleeping Quicksand had acquired an incredibly powerful Ancient God's Legacy during her time in this Stratified Abyssal Realm. Hence, the Seven Luminaries Alliance had conferred her the title of "Saintess."

While Shi Feng and the others were spectating the battle, the two teams fighting in the distance quickly noticed their presence as well.

"Friends over there, do you mind lending us a hand? Our Purple Light Trading Firm will repay you generously afterward!" a middle-aged man defending the caravan shouted when he saw Shi Feng's team.

Meanwhile, as soon as the middle-aged man finished speaking, a fierce man from the team trying to plunder the caravan shouted, "A measly team of 20 dares spectate Death Curse's operation? You people must be tired of living!"

As soon as the fierce man finished speaking, the plundering side's Advanced Combat Puppet promptly turned toward Shi Feng's team and fired its magic cannon at them.

Immediately, a black beam of light tore through space and flew straight toward Shi Feng's team. The beam was so quick that it crossed the thousand-yard distance and enveloped Shi Feng's team in the blink of an eye ...