

Strongest

Chapter 1171 – Solomon’s Fragment

The words “one hundred and twenty thousand crystals” echoing throughout the quiet auction hall caused a sudden commotion.

“Just who is it that’s so rich?! You can buy several Epic items at that price!”

“This is crazy!”

“One hundred and twenty thousand crystals... That is already double our Guild’s stockpile...”

...

Everyone present was shocked by the price of the Magic Knight Legacy.

Meanwhile, Thousand Miles, who had placed the bid, sent an anxious glance at Hidden Soul’s room.

Now that I’ve raised it by 20,000, I refuse to believe you will dare to compete with me!

Initially, Thousand Miles expected to get the Legacy for only 90,000 Magic Crystals. Afterwards, he would still have a goodly amount of crystals to compete for the finale items. Now, however, his plans were disrupted.

In order to guarantee his purchase of the Legacy, he had no choice but to raise the price by 20,000 crystals to scare off any possible competitors.

However, after a moment of silence, Hidden Soul called out a new bid once again.

“One hundred and thirty thousand crystals!”

She did not have even a shred of hesitation when calling out this bid.

Sure enough, the Flower of Seven Sins really is wealthy. Shi Feng was astounded as he looked at the calm woman sitting close to him.

Unlike Super Guilds, the Flower of Seven Sins did not have countless players collecting Magic Crystals for them. When it came to Magic Crystal gathering speed, the organization should be no match for Super Guilds at all. Nevertheless, Hidden Soul still managed to take out 130,000 Magic Crystals with ease. One could tell just how powerful the assassin organization was.

“One hundred and thirty-five thousand crystals!” Thousand Miles bellowed.

This price was already nearing his acceptable limit.

“One hundred and forty thousand crystals!” Hidden Soul simply smiled as she placed an even higher bid.

This price already deterred everyone else in the auction hall from competing for the Legacy Shield.

“Damn it! Just who is trying to compete with me!?” Thousand Miles was burning with rage right now. The Magic Knight class was a hidden class perfectly suited to him. Yet, judging by the opponent’s reactions, they still possessed plenty of funds to spare. The other party also seemed adamant in obtaining the Magic Knight Legacy no matter what. “Since you wish to compete against me, I want to see just what kind of ability you have!

“One hundred and sixty thousand crystals!”

The instant he placed this bid, even the players occupying the second-floor rooms were taken aback.

Even Super Guilds would need a long time to accumulate that many Magic Crystals. Yet, now, all these resources were being spent on just an Advanced Legacy. Instead of doing so, getting oneself an entire set of Epic Equipment would be much better. The improvements such a set could bring would definitely be much more than what the Magic Knight class could.

Only when the auctioneer slammed his gavel for the first time did everyone wake up from their daze.

As expected from the Dark Auction. Hidden Soul could not help but shake her head helplessly, a smile appearing on her face as she turned to look at Thousand Miles’s room. *However, this is also a good outcome. At the very least, I’ll have one less competitor later on.*

Now that the Legacy Shield’s price had already reached this point, even she could no longer compete for it.

The reason was not a lack of Magic Crystals.

She had come here this time for two items, one of which was the Magic Knight Legacy that the Flower of Seven Sins had found out about in secret. However, the other item had a higher priority. If she bought the Magic Knight Legacy now, she definitely would not be able to obtain the other item.

When the auctioneer’s gavel descended for the second time, the entire auction hall was still silent. Seeing this situation, Thousand Miles involuntarily breathed out a sigh of relief.

He had permission to use only 140,000 of the Magic Crystals the Guild had prepared for this auction for himself. He had cleared out his own stockpile to cover the excess amount and had even borrowed a lot from Alice.

If someone called out a higher bid now, he really would have no choice but to give up on the Legacy.

Fortunately, however, he was finally able to achieve his goal by spending 160,000 Magic Crystals.

“One hundred and sixty-five thousand!”

Just as the auctioneer’s gavel was about to land for the third time, a new bid rang out again. Immediately, everyone turned to look at Hidden Soul’s room.

“Damn it! Didn’t he already give up?!” A cold glint flashed in Thousand Miles’s eyes.

Meanwhile, inside Hidden Soul’s room, Fallen Wind and Autumn Goose were staring at Shi Feng with dumbfounded expressions.

Why does he have so many Magic Crystals?

A bewildered Hidden Soul also stared at the calm Swordsman. She simply could not believe this situation was true.

If a superpower had offered that many Magic Crystals for the Magic Knight Legacy, she would, at most, feel a little frustrated at her loss. However, Shi Feng didn't belong to any superpower, yet he still managed come up with this many Magic Crystals; hence her extreme shock.

After all, a first-rate Guild's stockpile of Magic Crystals did not even amount to half of this price.

Meanwhile, Autumn Goose and Fallen Wind were similarly shocked.

Zero Wing was simply too wealthy!

Just as everyone thought that the price of the Magic Knight Legacy would continue increasing, contrary to expectations, Thousand Miles fell silent.

Although the price had increased by just an additional 5,000 Magic Crystals, this was an amount he could not come up with no matter what right now, unless he utilized the Guild's prepared Magic Crystals. However, this was obviously not a viable option. Hence, he had no choice but to watch the auctioneer knock his gavel again and again.

"Let us congratulate the guest in Room 017 for obtaining the Magic Knight Legacy!" At this moment, the auctioneer was thrilled. This was only the first auction item, yet it already sold at such a good price. The rest of the auction would no doubt be even livelier.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng also gritted his teeth as he paid 165,000 Magic Crystals to the auction house.

If not for the Seven Luminaries Crystals in the Tower of Time, he wouldn't spend 165,000 Magic Crystals for the Magic Knight Legacy no matter what.

Following which, auction items sold one after another.

However, rarely any of the subsequent items managed to attract the attention of the players in the second-floor rooms. Those who contested for these items were mainly players in the first-floor hall.

The prices of these items were naturally no match for the Magic Knight Legacy. However, they still sold for at least 200 Gold. There was even another hidden class; however, it was only a Basic Legacy. Eventually, the first-rate Guild Silver Knights purchased it for 18,000 Magic Crystals. Aside from that, a complete Level 40 Dark-Gold Set Equipment also went up for auction.

The various superpowers of God's Domain considered Level 40 Set Equipment among the best equipment currently available.

When the set equipment appeared, it immediately set off another bidding war in the auction hall.

Eventually, Nine Dragons Emperor bought the eight-piece Wild Claws Set Equipment for 4,450 Gold. At this price, one could already purchase an Epic item.

As the auction proceeded, the finale items of the day were finally ushered into the auction hall.

There were four finale items in total, every one of them posing a great temptation for Shi Feng.

One was an ancient book, one was an Epic Weapon, one was an Epic tool, and the last one was a Secret Technique Tablet.

When Shi Feng had seen the list of items for auction, he nearly had jumped up in fright.

He could not help but admit that the Dark Auction House was really powerful. Every one of these items could only be encountered by luck. Epic Weapons were much more valuable than Epic Equipment. After all, weapons were things that could significantly improve a player's damage output. Meanwhile, Epic tools were even rarer than Epic Weapons. Moreover, they would not occupy a player's equipment slots. Even an Epic tool of average Attributes would be far more valuable than an Epic Weapon. All four of the finale items were simply things that usually could not be bought even if one had the money to do so.

This was especially true for the Secret Technique Tablet.

This was something highly sought after by all the various superpowers.

As long as a Guild had a Secret Technique Tablet, they would be able to allow their experts to learn better and more powerful combat techniques. Although Shi Feng wanted to have his Guild members enter the Secret Technique Tablet he possessed, unfortunately, grasping how to produce Intermediate Magic Arrays was simply too difficult. Currently, aside from himself, only two other people had managed to do so. One of them was Violet Cloud, and the other was Alluring Summer. Sending only three people to use the Secret Technique Tablet would be a tremendous waste. Hence, Shi Feng had never bothered using it all this time.

If not for the host trying to increase the Dark Auction's fame, they definitely wouldn't sell such a precious item.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the next item up for bids will be the first finale item of today's auction! Without further ado, let me present to you the one-handed sword Netherworld Brilliance!"

Saying so, the auctioneer publicized Netherworld Brilliance's information.

Everyone's eyes glowed when they saw the weapon's Attributes, drool nearly flowing from their mouths.

As for Shi Feng, he grew even more shocked after reading the weapon's introduction.

Solomon's Fragment!

Chapter 1172 – Sword of Death

"The host is simply too generous! They're actually willing to sell even a Famed Sword!?"

"This weapon's Attributes are much stronger than those of ordinary Epic Weapons!"

"This is definitely the most amazing one-handed sword I've seen!"

...

Everyone gasped when they saw the Attributes of Netherworld Brilliance. Players that used one-handed swords could not help but wish they could grab the weapon and give it a few swings right this instant.

“They really are going all-out this time. There are only a total of 36 Famed Swords in God’s Domain. They are all unique Epic Weapons. Every one of them is a weapon that countless swordsmen experts dream of obtaining.” Yuan Tiexin, who was seated inside a second-floor room, was slightly astonished when he saw Netherworld Brilliance.

Practically everyone in the second-floor rooms came from one of God’s Domain’s superpowers. To them, Epic Weapons were indeed rare but not entirely out of their reach. Getting one of their own was only a matter of time. However, Famed Swords were a different story.

These were weapons adored by sword-wielding experts. If utilized properly, one could draw in those sword fanatics who were normally very difficult to recruit.

Among the Eight Sword Masters on the God’s Domain Experts List, three were independent players.

If the Secret Pavilion used a Famed Sword as bait, recruiting one of them might really be possible.

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[Netherworld Brilliance] (One-handed Sword, Epic Rank)

Level 40 – Level 110 (Level 40)

Equipment Requirement: Strength 700, Agility 400

Attack Power +1,340

Strength +101, Agility +72, Endurance +60

Attack Speed +15

When attacking:

20% chance to trigger Heavy Crash, increasing Strength by 30% and Attack Speed by 20%;

20% chance to trigger Blur, making the attack impossible to be parried or blocked;

30% chance to trigger Double Critical.

When equipped:

Strength increased by 10%;

Agility increased by 5%;

All sword-related Skills +3 Levels;

Ignore Levels +15;

All sword-related Skill Completion Rates increased by 2%.

Additional Passive Skill 1-

Death Devour: Any creature that dies within 200 yards will provide wielder with a Death Devour buff, increasing wielder’s Attack Speed by 1% and all sword-related Skill Completion Rates by 0.1% for 30 seconds. Buff can be stacked up to 30 times.

Additional Passive Skill 2-

Death’s Phantom: Wielder’s physique improves as HP decreases. Physique can improve up to a maximum of 20%.

A sword of death created by Famed Smith Jax using a piece of mysterious sword fragment, Netherworld Brilliance is one of the thirty-six Famed Swords of God's Domain, ranking 30th. Anyone that wields this sword will be enveloped in an aura of death, decreasing all their Attributes by 20% and doubling the death penalty they suffer. Can be evolved. Cannot be destroyed.

—

However, when everyone was finally done reading through the weapon's introduction, they all shook their heads and sighed.

Netherworld Brilliance was indeed an amazing weapon. This was especially true for the increase to sword-related Skill Completion Rates. Although it was only a meager 2%, boosting an 88% Completion Rate to 90% would allow a Skill to undergo a qualitative transformation. Unfortunately, not only did the weapon decrease its wielder's Basic Attributes by 20%, but it also doubled the death penalty they would suffer, which was something most people wanted to avoid.

Leveling up was extremely difficult in God's Domain. Although Netherworld Brilliance would boost one's combat power significantly, nobody could say with certainty that they would not die.

If one would originally lose one level when they died out in the fields, then they would lose two levels if they were wielding Netherworld Brilliance. Moreover, practically everyone present frequently raided large-scale Team Dungeons. Dying in such Dungeons was common. Normally, they would only lose 10% of their EXP when dying in Dungeons. If this penalty doubled to 20%...

Just thinking about it gave everyone chills.

At this moment, everyone finally understood the auction host's generosity in putting a Famed Sword up for auction. Most likely, nobody in the host's Guild wanted to be anywhere near the weapon at all. Hence, rather than let it sit in a warehouse and collect dust, the Guild opted to exchange it for resources.

Noticing the audience's lack of interest, the auctioneer chuckled and said, "Now that everyone has seen the weapon, I believe you all know the flaws of Netherworld Brilliance. However, at the end of the day, this is still an Epic Weapon. Moreover, this weapon can be evolved. If you manage to discover the method of evolution, this sword could become a godly weapon in the future. It might even become a Fragmented Legendary Weapon! The starting price for this weapon is 8,000 Gold! Each increment must not be lower than 200 Gold!"

Hearing the starting price of the weapon, everyone inwardly cursed the auction house for being fraudulent.

If not for the Famed Sword's flaws, not to mention 8,000 Gold, even spending 18,000 Gold to obtain it wouldn't be a problem. After all, it was an Epic Weapon that could be used all the way to Level 110. In addition, there was the possibility of evolving it.

"Alright, then. I'll get it as a collection item! I bid 8,000 Gold!"

"I can attract quite a number of people if I put it on display in my Guild. I'll bid 8,200 Gold!"

"Eight thousand four hundred Gold!"

...

The audience in the auction hall was not particularly active in bidding for Netherworld Brilliance. After a dozen or so bids, the price eventually stopped at 11,000 Gold.

Shi Feng's heart began beating madly as he looked at the weapon displayed on the stage.

To others, this weapon would indeed be of little value. To him, however, it was a priceless treasure.

Solomon's Sword had been broken into five fragments. Among them, three were in locations that current players could not reach. Meanwhile, of the two remaining, Shi Feng had already obtained one of them: the Sacred Sword Killing Ray. The last fragment was none other than this Netherworld Brilliance.

Originally, Shi Feng had planned on thinking of a way to obtain Netherworld Brilliance. However, he never imagined that the Dark Arena's host had actually gotten it already. Moreover, they even put it up for auction.

This was one of the Ten Great Legendary Weapons they were talking about!

As long as he could gather all five fragments, he could reproduce the God Sword of the past once again.

Just thinking about it excited Shi Feng.

"Twelve thousand Gold!"

Shi Feng raised the price slightly.

Obviously, no one was that interested in Netherworld Brilliance. However, as it was a Famed Sword and also had the potential to evolve, there were still some people who were willing to bet on that possibility. Hence, he would not raise the price by too much. If he suddenly raised it too high, people would no doubt become suspicious. Thus, when calling out his bid, he could not offer too high or too low.

"What rich people! I don't want it anymore."

"Amazing. Someone's actually betting 12,000 Gold on luck."

Just as the other bidders were giving up one after another, a voice suddenly resounded throughout the entire hall.

"Thirteen thousand Gold!"

Meanwhile, the person who had placed this bid was none other than Thousand Miles.

"You stole my Legacy away. Do you think I'll let you get that weapon so easily?" Thousand Miles sneered as he looked at the room Shi Feng occupied.

Although Thousand Miles did not know who was occupying the room, he could easily tell which room had placed the 12,000-Gold bid.

After noticing Shi Feng's interest in Netherworld Brilliance, he naturally could not allow him to have an easy time.

“The person in that room is really vengeful,” Autumn Goose growled as she looked at Thousand Miles’s room.

“Brother Ye Feng, if you don’t have enough money, just say the word. I can lend you all the money I have.” Fallen Wind also grew indignant at Thousand Miles’s behavior.

“Thanks. I’ll definitely borrow from you if I need to,” Shi Feng said. He then proceeded to place a new bid.

Twenty thousand Gold!

“This is madness. Even if that person is angry, there’s no need to waste so much money, right?”

“The rich are really willful!”

The new bid Shi Feng made stupefied everyone.

Everyone present was someone of high status and position. However, none of them would treat their money as lightly as Shi Feng did, raising the bid by an additional 7,000 Gold just to let off some steam. One could already buy another Epic Weapon with that kind of money.

“Wow! How rich! Alright, then. I’ll let you have it!” Thousand Miles laughed over this situation. However, he no longer dared to continue bidding as this might be a trap for him. He was already satisfied with getting Shi Feng to waste an additional 8,000 Gold.

Following which, the auctioneer knocked his gavel three times.

“Let us congratulate the guest from Room 017 for obtaining the Famed Sword Netherworld Brilliance!” At this moment, the auctioneer was close to laughing out loud in joy already. Originally, he thought that getting to sell the Famed Sword for 12,000 Gold was already plenty good. Now, he had actually sold it for 20,000 Gold.

On the other hand, after Shi Feng paid the 20,000 Gold and obtained Netherworld Brilliance, he too was inwardly jumping for joy. He couldn’t care less about what others thought of him.

He had just spent 20,000 Gold to purchase one of the five fragments of Solomon’s Sword—one of the Ten Great Legendary Weapons. This was an unimaginably low price. If the Dark Arena’s host knew what they had just done, they would surely faint from shock.

In the past, every fragment of Legendary items put up for auction, regardless of whether they were usable or not, had readily sold for at least 50,000 Gold, not to mention the fragment of one of the Ten Great Legendary Weapons!

The Epic tool subsequently auctioned was roughly the same as Netherworld Brilliance in that it was somewhat useless. However, it could still be used to brew Magic Wine, which provided effects similar to the high-density Mana environment in Stone Forest Town when consumed. However, the wine required rare materials for brewing. As a result, its production was fated to be low, only enough for the members of one’s own Guild, at most. However, for Guilds that did not possess the Magic Tower, the Magic Wine was undeniably an excellent way to improve the strength of their Guild members. In the end, Phoenix Rain bought the tool for 14,000 Magic Crystals.

As for the ancient book, Shi Feng spent 70,000 Magic Crystals to purchase it.

“Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that many among you have come here today for this last item. I won’t waste words giving you an introduction. The starting bid for the Secret Technique Tablet will be 200,000 Magic Crystals! Each increment must be at least 2,000 Magic Crystals! Let us begin!”

Chapter 1173 – Legacy of Ancient Gods

Two hundred thousand Magic Crystals for a stone tablet. The players in the first-floor hall clamored when they heard this.

“Two hundred thousand?! I didn’t mishear, right?!”

“What is this stone tablet?”

“This is a joke, right?!”

...

The majority of the players in the first-floor hall were curious about the Secret Technique Tablet.

The most expensive item sold in the auction thus far was the Magic Knight Legacy. Even then, it still sold for less than the minimum price of the Secret Technique Tablet. Everyone just could not figure out what kind of godly purpose the tablet served.

However, none of the players occupying the second-floor rooms was surprised by this price at all.

The matter regarding the Secret Technique Tablet was something the various superpowers had kept a tight lid on all this time. Even the first-rate Guilds that knew about this secret were extremely few, not to mention other Guilds.

Following which, the auctioneer revealed the appearance of the Secret Technique Tablet to everyone.

This Secret Technique Tablet had a bronze color and was named the Secret Spellcasting Technique.

[Secret Spellcasting Technique]

The pattern engraved on this tablet is too vague and incomplete, and no information can be deciphered. However, some kind of divine power hides within this pattern. If one gathers all of the stone tablets, this vague and incomplete pattern can be restored.

Current tablet count (1/12)

“I knew the host wouldn’t be that generous. Sure enough, they’re just selling a Bronze Tablet,” Thousand Miles said contemptuously.

Based on current information, Secret Technique Tablets could be categorized into three ranks: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

Among them, the Secret Techniques on Bronze Tablets were the weakest, while the Secret Techniques on Gold Tablets were the strongest.

“The fact that they’re even willing to sell one is already a miracle. After all, it is still a Secret Technique Tablet. Our Guild already has a tablet for the Secret Spellcasting Technique. If we obtain another piece, we’ll be able to learn a more completed version of the Spellcasting Technique.” Alice was elated at this situation.

At the end of the day, a Secret Technique Tablet was still a Secret Technique Tablet. Regardless of the tablet’s rank, the techniques stored inside would be of great help to magical class players like herself.

Part of the reason why she succeeded in grasping the double speed-casting technique was the Secret Spellcasting Technique.

If they could gather two tablets for the Secret Spellcasting Technique, she might even be able to improve her technique.

Just thinking about this filled Alice with anticipation.

“I guess you’re right. If not for them trying to popularize the Dark Auction, they really wouldn’t be willing to auction such an item,” Thousand Miles laughed. Regardless of the circumstances, he was going to obtain the Secret Spellcasting Technique no matter what.

...

“Big Sis Rain, look! That’s the Secret Spellcasting Technique! Our Guild doesn’t even have a tablet for it right now!” Blue Phoenix’s eyes glowed as she looked at the Bronze Tablet.

Although the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had obtained a few Secret Technique Tablets, they all catered to physical classes. Not one of them suited magical classes. Even so, she and Phoenix Rain had still managed to benefit a lot from them.

If Phoenix Rain could win the Secret Spellcasting Technique in this auction, both of them might be able to improve their combat standards. If that happened, they would have more cards to play on Thunder Island.

“We have to obtain the tablet this time.” At this moment, Phoenix Rain’s eyes also burned with passion as she looked at the tablet on the stage.

...

“A Bronze Tablet?” Purple Jade could not help but sigh. “I knew they wouldn’t be that generous.”

She had personally experienced the wonders of the Secret Technique Tablets before and was aware of the enormous difference between Bronze and Silver Tablets. Even if one entered a Bronze Tablet two or three times, the harvest wouldn’t be comparable to a single trip into a Silver Tablet.

Rumor had it that a Golden Tablet had once appeared in Blackwing City. However, an NPC stole it.

“What a pity! It’s actually a tablet meant for magical classes.” Yuan Tiexin was slightly disappointed when he looked at the tablet. “Never mind. Let’s bid for it first.”

...

Despite the Bronze Tablet's introduction, the players in the first-floor hall were still confused, not understanding what was so good about this Secret Spellcasting Technique. As a result, their interest remained lackluster. Even a fool could tell that the host had no intention of selling the Secret Technique Tablet at all. Otherwise, they wouldn't have put such a high price tag on it.

Even a Super Guild would be hard-pressed to pull out this many Magic Crystals at a time. Not to mention, this was only the starting price.

Just as the players on the first floor thought that the tablet would go unsold, someone from one of the second-floor rooms suddenly shouted out a bid.

"Two hundred and ten thousand crystals!" Nine Dragons Emperor stated calmly.

"This is insane! How rich is that guy?!"

"If he wants to buy it, then just do it. Is there a need to increase the price by an additional 10,000 crystals? Does he have too much money to waste?"

"As expected of a superpower. They really are wealthy."

...

Nine Dragons Emperor's bid shocked the players on the first floor. This amount of Magic Crystals was already more than three times what some first-rate Guilds possessed. Meanwhile, Nine Dragons Emperor was actually spending so many Magic Crystals just for one stone tablet.

Even Fragmented Legendary items wouldn't cost so much.

However, even before the auctioneer could knock his gavel for the first count, the occupants of the other second-floor rooms began calling out bids one after another.

"Two hundred and twenty thousand crystals!"

"Two hundred and thirty thousand crystals!"

"Two hundred and forty thousand crystals!"

...

At this moment, it was as if Magic Crystals were no different from Copper Coins.

"Big Sis Endless, have these Guilds gone insane? Isn't it just a stone tablet? Is there a need to spend so many Magic Crystals?" Cloud Yarn gaped in shock when she heard the bids.

In the past, she had considered the Midnight Tea Party plenty rich. After all, just the Magic Crystals they had stockpiled numbered over 20,000. Even if they splurged at the Divine Colosseum every day, they wouldn't be able to exhaust their stockpile within a short period.

However, after arriving at this Dark Auction, she suddenly felt that the Midnight Tea Party actually seemed beggarly.

“They’re not stupid. This isn’t just any ordinary stone tablet. Legend has it that these stone tablets are legacies left behind by ancient Gods. Even if you obtain just one complete set, you’ll have no problems establishing an empire in God’s Domain,” Endless Scars explained as she looked at the Secret Technique Tablet on the stage.

The Secret Technique Tablet was also something mentioned in the ancient book the Tea Party had. Although the information recorded about the tablets was sparse, it was enough to conclude that the tablets’ value was no less than that of Legendary items.

According to the information in the ancient book, the Fire Dragon Empire, one of God’s Domain’s Four Great Empires, had managed to rise to its position today precisely because the first ruler of the empire had managed to collect a complete set. One could see just how amazing Secret Technique Tablets were.

If possible, Endless Scars wanted to obtain a piece for herself as well. However, looking at its price, even if she mobilized the Blackwater Corporation’s power, it was unlikely she could get her hands on it. After all, the Blackwater Corporation’s roots in God’s Domain were still too shallow. It could not yet compete with the various superpowers of the virtual gaming world.

While Endless Scars was explaining the Secret Technique Tablet, the price of the Secret Spellcasting Technique had gone up to 296,000 Magic Crystals.

This was a price that even those occupying the second-floor rooms felt was a little excessive. As a result, instead of bidding in increments of 10,000 crystals, they now began raising their bids by 2,000.

“It seems the other Guilds haven’t prepared much at all.” Thousand Miles laughed disdainfully. “Three hundred and ten thousand crystals!”

The moment the bid of 310,000 Magic Crystals was placed, the entire auction hall fell silent. Even Phoenix Rain, who had earned quite a fortune from the competition before, was helpless about this price.

“It seems that Miracle has prepared plenty this time. Fortunately, the Guild Leader had anticipated this,” Yuan Tiexin said, chuckling. “Three hundred and thirty thousand crystals!”

If one were to say which Guild made the most money in the entire God’s Domain, then it would definitely have to be the Secret Pavilion.

When Shi Feng heard the bids everyone was calling out, he could not help but fall speechless.

Previously, he thought that after earning more than 400,000 Magic Crystals, nobody present could compete with his wealth. Now, however, it would seem that he had still underestimated the foundations of these superpowers. Had he not contested for the Magic Knight Legacy before, he might’ve been able to contend for this Secret Technique Tablet. Unfortunately, that was no longer possible.

“Three hundred and forty thousand crystals!”

Just as the Secret Spellcasting Technique was about to become the Secret Pavilion’s possession, Hidden Soul, who was seated not far from Shi Feng, suddenly placed a bid.

“Three hundred and fifty thousand crystals!” Thousand Miles shouted, gnashing his teeth.

Hearing the various Guilds occupying the second-floor rooms calling out bids in rapid succession paralyzed the players in the first-floor hall.

Meanwhile, at this time, Shi Feng suddenly contacted Phoenix Rain.

“Phoenix Pavilion Master, can you lend me 200,000 Magic Crystals right now? I’ll return 300,000 crystals to you in five days,” Shi Feng suggested as he looked at Phoenix Rain in the screen.

Chapter 1174 – Legacy Secured

Borrow 200,000 crystals and return 300,000?

Phoenix Rain wore a surprised expression as she stared at Shi Feng on the screen. She felt as if she were getting to know the man for the first time.

A first-rate Guild was already considered quite wealthy if they had a stockpile of 60,000 to 70,000 Magic Crystals.

Yet, Shi Feng wanted to borrow 200,000 Magic Crystals right off the bat. Moreover, he intended to return them with a 50% interest. This was twice as high as the market interest rate.

Magic Crystals were not Coins. It was impossible to purchase Magic Crystals in bulk on the market. Guilds could only purchase a small amount from Workshops or adventurer teams. Aside from that, Guilds had to rely on their own members to raid Dungeons and collect them gradually.

In Phoenix Rain’s opinion, although Zero Wing owned a goldmine like Stone Forest Town and business in the town’s Battle Arena was booming, it was impossible for Zero Wing to earn 300,000 Magic Crystals within five days, yet all she saw when she looked into Shi Feng’s eyes was confidence and serenity.

“Do you intend to bid for the Bronze Tablet?” Phoenix Rain could not help but ask.

“That’s right.” Shi Feng did not try hiding it. After all, it was easy to guess with a moment of thought.

Seeing Shi Feng’s serious expression, Phoenix Rain shook her head. Chuckling, she said, “I advise you to give that thought up. Even if I lend you 200,000 crystals, you won’t outcompete them.”

While 350,000 Magic Crystals was an astronomical sum to even the best first-rate Guild, the Super Guilds and super-first-rate Guilds that had come prepared had not yet reached their limit.

In her opinion, Zero Wing must’ve earned a lot of Magic Crystals in the earlier competition. With the Guild’s stockpile, they should roughly have around 180,000 or 190,000 Magic Crystals. Even if Shi Feng borrowed 200,000 crystals, he would only have 390,000 Magic Crystals or so. There was simply no way to compete against the other superpowers.

By her estimates, they would only have a chance of securing the Secret Spellcasting Technique if they had 420,000 Magic Crystals.

If possible, Phoenix Rain wanted to borrow 180,000 Magic Crystals from Shi Feng. After including her own 250,000 Magic Crystals, she might have a chance at competing against the other Guilds. However, she still needed to make preparations for Thunder Island, so if she did borrow the Magic Crystals, she wouldn't be able to return it within a short time.

"I still have 260,000 Magic Crystals. After including your 200,000, I think I'll have enough." Shi Feng understood what Phoenix Rain was trying to say. Smiling, he continued, "If it truly is impossible, I can only admit defeat."

Four hundred thousand Magic Crystals should be the various superpower's limit. Even if they had more, it wouldn't be too far from that number.

While a Bronze Tablet was inferior to a Silver Tablet, it had a much lower entry requirement.

Silver Tablets required players to be capable of drawing Intermediate Magic Arrays. Bronze Tablets only required players to be capable of drawing Basic Magic Arrays. As for Golden Tablets, Shi Feng assumed that players would be required to draw Advanced Magic Arrays to enter.

Even someone like himself, who was quite familiar with magic arrays, could not draw an Advanced Magic Array. Even if he obtained a Golden Tablet, it would be nothing more than a paperweight. On the other hand, if he had a Bronze Tablet, his Guild members could use it.

Hence, obtaining a Bronze Tablet was very important to Zero Wing right now. Even if he was not certain he could win the bid, he needed to try.

"Two hundred and sixty thousand? You have that many?" Phoenix Rain gasped. She never thought that Zero Wing would have even more Magic Crystals than her. Immediately, her lips curled into a smile as she said, "Let's do it like this: I'll lend you 250,000 crystals. I won't ask for any interest, either. Just pay me back in full in five days. However, I want ten slots to enter the Bronze Tablet. We'll split the slots into two months, with five people entering each session."

Secret Technique Tablets could only be used once a month. Even if she obtained one, she would only enter it once. A player would reap the most benefits from a Secret Technique Tablet during their first entry. Afterward, a player would gain less with each subsequent visit. The tablets' greatest advantage was that players could use it repeatedly.

She had bid for the Bronze Tablet mainly to improve her strength before the contest on Thunder Island began. She did not particularly care about the benefits she could obtain during subsequent entries.

"Deal." Shi Feng agreed without hesitation.

The Secret Spellcasting Technique was intended for magical class players. Throughout Zero Wing, there were only a few magical class experts qualified to enter the Bronze Tablet. Ten slots over two months would be enough.

Following which, both sides quickly signed a contract. Phoenix Rain then had Blue Phoenix deliver the Magic Crystals to Shi Feng.

While this was happening, the Secret Spellcasting Technique's price had risen to 394,000 Magic Crystals. The various large Guilds in the first-floor hall were astounded.

Although they had long since known that their Guilds were no match for super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds, they had not realized that the gap would be this massive.

“Damn it! Just who is competing against me!?” Thousand Miles bellowed as he glared at two other rooms.

Currently, the tablet’s price neared his limit, yet Hidden Soul and Yuan Tiexin showed no signs of giving up. Yet, Hidden Soul and Yuan Tiexin still showed no signs of giving up.

After taking a look at the Magic Crystals in his bag, Thousand Miles shouted, “Four hundred thousand crystals!”

“Four hundred and four thousand crystals!” Hidden Soul declared, maintaining her calm composure.

“Interesting.” At this moment, Yuan Tiexin laughed and yelled, “Four hundred and ten thousand crystals!”

Immediately, the auction hall became a battlefield for these three people, the atmosphere growing extraordinarily chilly.

“Four hundred and forty thousand crystals!”

Thousand Miles no longer planned on holding back as he directly raised the price by 30,000 Magic Crystals. He hoped to scare Hidden Soul and Yuan Tiexin off.

“Uncle Yuan, the price is already at 440,000 crystals. This is far above the tablet’s actual value,” Purple Jade said.

The Secret Technique Tablet would massively benefit players. However, the Secret Spellcasting Technique was only Bronze rank. In reality, a tablet for that technique should only be worth around 300,000 Magic Crystals. It was simply not worth 440,000 Magic Crystals.

“I understand,” Yuan Tiexin said. He had simply bid 410,000 to probe his opponents’ limits.

In another room, Hidden Soul frowned.

Let’s give it another try. If it really isn’t possible, I can only give up. Hidden Soul also felt that the price was a little too high. Immediately, she shouted, “Four hundred and forty-four thousand crystals!”

“Damn it! Damn it all! Why hasn’t he given up?! We are already at 440,000!” Thousand Miles burned with rage.

If not for Miracle already having a tablet for the Secret Spellcasting Technique, he wouldn’t be willing to pay the astronomical price of 440,000 Magic Crystals. However, the Guild Leader had told him to go all-out for the Secret Spellcasting Technique. Hence, he had no choice; he even had to bleed his own stash.

“This must be that guy’s limit. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have risen the price by just 4,000 crystals.” Even the Witch of the West herself was slightly anxious.

“Four hundred and fifty thousand crystals!” Thousand Miles decided to give it one last try. This was also his limit.

The moment Thousand Miles called out his bid, the venue fell deathly silent.

“Just when is he going to reach his limit?! Are Magic Crystals really that easy to obtain?!” The various Guild upper echelons in the first-floor hall lost their minds over this situation. Was such desperation really necessary for this stone tablet?

Hah... It seems I can only give up. Hidden Soul smiled bitterly as she shook her head. She had never imagined that, despite bringing so many Magic Crystals with her, she would walk away empty-handed at the end of the day. If she had known this would happen, she would've purchased the Magic Knight Legacy.

Seconds ticked by. The auctioneer grew nervous on the stage. However, even after a long moment, no word came from Hidden Soul's room.

“Four hundred and fifty-four thousand crystals!”

However, just as Thousand Miles thought that his opponent had given up, a new bid echoed from Hidden Soul's room.

“How is this possible?!” Thousand Miles bellowed.

He simply could not believe this. Hidden Soul had been silent for so long, yet she had placed a new bid?

However, Thousand Miles had nothing more to bet. He had no choice but to watch as the auctioneer's gavel descended again and again.

As the gavel descended for the third time...

The auction hall exploded with noise!

Chapter 1175 – Preparations to Construct a City

How does he have so many Magic Crystals? Hidden Soul began to size the nearby Shi Feng up seriously.

The man had already surprised her by buying the Magic Knight Legacy.

Now, he had spent another 450,000 Magic Crystals to buy the Bronze Tablet...

Shi Feng had spent over 600,000 Magic Crystals in total. Even the Flower of Seven Sins needed time to prepare so much wealth.

It seems that we will need to investigate this Zero Wing.

Hidden Soul suspected that the Guild known as Zero Wing wasn't as simple as Autumn Goose had described.

Meanwhile, after winning the Bronze Tablet, Shi Feng quietly rejoiced.

Although he had spent a lot of Magic Crystals, the Secret Spellcasting Technique was akin to the gospel for the Guild's magical class experts.

At the end of the day, he was only a Swordsman, a physical melee class. He could only offer general spellcasting technique advice. He could not guide them as thoroughly as he could the melee classes.

As a result, the physical classes' technique standards were higher than the magical classes' in Zero Wing.

Now that he had obtained the Bronze Tablet, as long as Aqua Rose, Violet Cloud, Alluring Summer, and the other magical class experts improved their technique standards, they could guide the other magical classes in the Guild.

...

Inside Thousand Miles's room...

The tension in the room was almost solid.

"Starstreak, find out who is in Room 017 right this instant!" Thousand Miles ordered in a chilly tone.

Not only had he failed to obtain the Magic Knight Legacy, but he had also failed to obtain the Bronze Tablet. He would definitely have a hard time explaining himself when he returned to headquarters.

"Understood." Starstreak nodded. Immediately, he left to surveil Room 017.

Although the rooms in the Dark Auction protected their occupants' privacy and prevented others from spying, the people inside the rooms had to come out sooner or later. At that time, they would discover who occupied Room 017.

...

Meanwhile, as the Dark Auction's first segment came to an end, the popular second segment began.

All players in the auction hall could offer their items for trade during the second segment. This bartering session was the main reason behind the various large Guilds' visit to this auction.

Normally, when the various large Guilds obtained a rare material, they wouldn't trade it even if they had no need for it. However, oftentimes, other Guilds desperately needed these 'useless' items. Hence, these Guilds could use this auction to barter their unnecessary rare materials for things they actually needed.

"Trading three single-target, attack-type Magic Scrolls for one set of Basic Magic Arrays!"

"Trading one stack of Mana Cloth for one stack of Flaming Ice Crystals!"

"Trading one Stoneskin Potion Recipe for one Flame Protection Potion Recipe!"

...

Message after message appeared on the large screen above the stage. None of the auction house's patrons had any complaints about the exorbitant processing fee. After all, even the cheapest items they listed were worth 50 Gold or more, with some worth several hundred Gold.

Just looking at the exchange messages on the screen made everyone a little jealous of the host.

The minimum processing fee was 10 Gold Coins. If the host processed 100 items, they would earn 1,000 Gold. In an auction with over 10,000 people, if every person placed an item up for trade, the host would instantly receive 100,000 Gold. Furthermore, why would any of these players have come here to trade a single item?

One had to admit that holding an auction like this was way more profitable than banditry.

This was also inspiration for how Shi Feng could operate auctions in the Candlelight Trading Firm in the future. He might not be able to invite as many large Guilds and superpowers as the Dark Auction House had, but he could lower the standards of his auction slightly, not only allowing large Guilds to bid, but independent players as well.

Suddenly, Shi Feng had an idea; he could establish a bartering site that enabled trade between players.

In God's Domain, aside from Auction Houses and Underground Arenas, player-constructed cities could offer players trading locations.

Players could not purchase locations such as Auction Houses and Underground Arenas in NPC cities. However, as long as players had their own cities, they could construct their own bartering sites. The city could then allow bartering through the system.

In the past, there were no such specialized bartering sites in God's Domain.

This was due to the various large Guilds. When independent players obtained rare items, if they wanted to trade them for good items, their best option was to go to a large Guild. After all, independent players were not necessarily well-connected. With this, the various large Guilds could buy rare items at a cheaper price.

If a specialized trading post were constructed, however, the various large Guilds would have a hard time obtaining rare items cheaply.

The lack of such locations had also been due to how rarely independent players got their hands on valuable items. In addition, due to geographical restrictions, players generally only traded in their own country. As a result, there were even less rare items available for exchange.

Hence, even after the various large Guilds had established their own cities during the mid-late stages of the game, they had not bothered to construct these locations.

Even if a Guild established a trading post in their city, other Guilds wouldn't prosper overmuch. The amount of money one could earn from such a bartering location would be so pitiful that they would be better off trading with independent players privately.

However, Shi Feng's situation was slightly different.

God's Domain was still in its early stages. The various large Guilds were having a headache just trying to develop their own towns, not to mention constructing a city.

Meanwhile, he had a City Building Order. This gave him with a massive advantage.

If he constructed his city now, he wouldn't have a single competitor. He could be the first one to expand the market, establishing a firm reputation like the Dark Arena. In the future, when players from other

kingdoms and empires thought about trading their rare items, they would come running to his city to do so. The other Guilds would be helpless to do anything about it.

Even after other Guilds established their own cities, his trading post would have grown to a considerable scale. He would have a steady supply of rare items. At that time, it would be near-impossible for newly established trading posts to compete with his.

Although the large Guilds obtained plenty of rare items, the majority of God's Domain's player-base would forever be independent players. If these independent players gathered, they could obtain far more rare items than any Super Guild.

Due to the difficulty of private trades, it was practically impossible for independent players to exchange their items with each other. Hence, they sought large Guilds to barter with.

If a specialized bartering center were available, however, independent players would only need to consign their items. Other players could then purchase those items. They wouldn't need to idiotically contact one person after another. Not only could they save a lot of time and trouble, but they could also obtain the items they wanted.

Even if the teleportation fees were expensive, most likely, many independent players would make the trip to visit the trading post.

Shi Feng could not help his growing excitement.

However, to construct his city, he first needed to obtain a sufficient number of Seven Luminaries Crystals. Otherwise, without the Four Towers of Elements' protection, defending the city would be too difficult.

It seems that I need to put the plan into action now. After pondering over the matter, Shi Feng decided to begin collecting Seven Luminaries Crystals.

While Seven Luminaries Crystals were incomparably rare and precious, there were a few locations that had them.

Unfortunately, these locations were extremely dangerous, and he would need to prepare.

The easiest place to obtain Seven Luminaries Crystals Shi Feng could think of was the Sea of Death's Demon Island. Only, the journey was particularly dangerous. Demon Island was also a forbidden land for the living. Without sufficiently high Darkness Resistance, survival was impossible.

Shi Feng immediately began to browse the auction house's rare items, searching for items that increased Darkness Resistance.

After searching for some time, Shi Feng finally found two good items on the list the system had provided. Both could significantly increase a player's Darkness Resistance. One of them was a Master Darkness Resistance Potion, while the other was a Light Cloak.

However, before Shi Feng could celebrate, he saw the items' prices, and his expression darkened.

"Is this person insane?! Who would use Shadow Gold and Ancient Wood to purchase these items?!"

Just as Shi Feng was about to curse again, he was stunned by the trader's name.

The same person had placed these two items up for trade.

Silent Wonder!

One of God's Domain's Ten Great Grandmaster Alchemists!

Chapter 1176 – Ten Great Grandmaster Alchemists

“Why is she here?”

Even after staring at the trader's name for a long time, Shi Feng still could not believe his eyes.

That was the Ten Great Grandmaster Alchemists they were talking about!

These existences stood at the peak of all Alchemist players. Even Super Guilds had to treat them respectfully. One could say that all of God's Domain's Guilds and players tried to suck up to such individuals.

After all, the further one proceeded into the game, the more powerful the monsters became. If players wanted to defeat these monsters, they needed more than just personal strength. They also needed external items. For example, when facing fire-type Bosses, a team would burn to death without high Fire Resistance, regardless of how strong the team was overall. If every member in the team possessed a Grandmaster Fire Resistance Potion, however, they would easily defeat said fire-type Boss.

Another example was Shi Feng's new destination, Demon Island.

Demon Island was already very dangerous. However, with the ever-present dark miasma, players couldn't set foot on the island without Darkness Resistance.

Aside from that, the Tower of Time similarly required high Magic Resistance. A team would need a large number of Magic Resistance Potions. However, not just any Magic Resistance Potion would do. They would, at the very least, need Advanced rank potions, or better yet, Master rank.

The Guild with the most Magic Resistance Potions would obtain more Seven Luminaries Crystals.

Moreover, this was only one of the many benefits of an Alchemist. There were simply too many dangerous locations in God's Domain that required these external items. Hence, the various large Guilds normally treated Master Alchemists and Grandmaster Alchemists very respectfully.

Among the Ten Great Grandmaster Alchemists, Silent Wonder firmly ranked within the top three. Even the Guild Leaders of first-rate Guilds would have a hard time arranging a meeting with Silent Wonder, and even if Silent Wonder agreed to meet, they would still have to queue up and wait for their turn.

“Shadow Gold and Ancient Wood?” Shi Feng fell into deep thought as he looked at the two items Silent Wonder wanted in exchange.

Shadow Gold was an Epic ranked material. If one added a piece of it when crafting weapons and equipment, the weapons produced would deal additional darkness damage, while equipment would provide additional Darkness Resistance. It was an exceptional material specifically used for producing Darkness Resistance equipment.

In the past, one ingot of Shadow Gold had easily sold for 300 Gold. However, players rarely sold the material. They were normally pieces of Lifestyle players' private collections.

As for Ancient Wood, its price was even higher. A single log could sell for 500 Gold. It was also an excellent Epic material used to produce staves, ships, carriages, furniture, and other wooden products.

The total value of these two materials greatly exceeded that of a Master Darkness Resistance Potion and a Light Cloak.

"Why does an Alchemist like her want these items?"

Shi Feng was incredibly curious.

Neither Shadow Gold nor Ancient Wood was used in alchemy.

However, Shi Feng did not think too much on the matter. Immediately, he sent Silent Wonder a message.

His message was very brief: I have clues regarding the whereabouts of these two items.

Current players couldn't get their hands on Shadow Gold or Ancient Wood. Even if one reached the required level, it would still be a difficult task. Otherwise, they wouldn't be considered rare materials.

However, Shi Feng urgently needed items with Darkness Resistance. A Master Darkness Resistance Potion and Light Cloak could not be more perfect. The Light Cloak, in particular, significantly increased a player's Darkness Resistance.

As long as he equipped the Light Cloak and consumed an Intermediate Darkness Resistance Potion when he reached Demon Island, he could roam the island with ease.

Shortly after Shi Feng sent his message, he received a friend invite from Silent Wonder. Shi Feng then agreed to the friend request. This way, they could discuss the matter through a video call.

"Do you really have the clues leading to Shadow Gold and Ancient Wood?"

Silent Wonder did not appear very old. She looked like a woman in her mid-twenties. She had an oval face and large, golden eyes. She also gave off an indescribably cold and strict feeling.

"Shadow Gold can be used to craft Darkness Resistance equipment, and Ancient Wood can be used to produce a staff that possesses the power of the ancients, which amplifies the effects of the wielder's Spells. Am I correct?" Shi Feng said, smiling.

Hearing this, joy illuminated Silent Wonder's golden eyes.

Both Shadow Gold and Ancient Wood were extremely rare Epic materials. Even she had spent a long time researching to find any information about them. Now that Shi Feng had casually mentioned the materials' functions, he proved how familiar he was with the items.

“Come out with it. What must I do for you to tell me the clues?” Silent Wonder asked straightforwardly.

She had spent a lot of effort in her search for these materials. She had used every connection she had, yet she hadn’t learned anything that would lead to their locations. She had simply come to the Dark Auction to try her luck.

She hadn’t expected anyone to know anything about these two items.

“You’re an alchemist, right?” Shi Feng responded to her question with a question of his own.

“How do you know? Did you investigate me?” Silent Wonder was slightly surprised, and she could not help but grow cautious.

“Why would I need to investigate you?” Shi Feng laughed as he shook his head. “Don’t you realize that you’re wearing the Advanced Alchemist’s Insignia?”

Different subclasses had different insignias, and each provided certain benefits to their respective classes.

The screen showed that Silent Wonder currently wore an Advanced Alchemist’s Insignia. This showed that Silent Wonder had already become an Advanced Alchemist.

Shi Feng had to admit that Silent Wonder was truly impressive.

Despite being an independent player, she had grown into an Advanced Alchemist so quickly.

The various large Guilds had to spend a ton of resources to nurture an Advanced Lifestyle player. Even then, very few Lifestyle players actually reached the Advanced rank, yet Silent Wonder had done so without help. One could just imagine how talented she was in alchemy.

Moreover, Silent Wonder had been more than just a Grandmaster Alchemist; she had also been a Tier 5 class.

“I completely forgot about that.” Silent Wonder could not help but laugh awkwardly as she looked at the insignia on her chest. “That’s right; I’m an Advanced Alchemist. Is there a problem with that?”

“Of course, there isn’t a problem,” Shi Feng said, chuckling. “You want the clues for those two materials, right? My conditions are very simple. Give me the Master Darkness Resistance Potion and Light Cloak and craft potions for me for one month. I’ll provide the raw materials.”

“Are you kidding me?” Silent Wonder rolled her eyes.

It would’ve been fine if Shi Feng had only wanted the two items. However, he also wanted her to work for free for a month. He must be crazy if he thought she would agree to such conditions.

“I never joke around.” Shi Feng understood what was going through Silent Wonder’s mind. Immediately, he sent Silent Wonder a message and said, “Take a look at this. If you still think my asking price is too high, you can reject it.”

“Are you that confident?” Silent Wonder felt as if she had just encountered a lunatic. First, the man wanted her items. Next, he wanted her to work for free for a month. Did he really think he could get her to agree by sending a single message?

Following which, Silent Wonder impatiently opened Shi Feng's message and read it.

However, only after reading a few words, her expression tensed.

"Why do you have such an item?" Silent Wonder felt as if she were dreaming.

Shi Feng had sent to her none other than the Records of Potions, which he had obtained shortly after joining God's Domain.

All alchemists dreamed of owning this treasure.

Yet, now, it had been placed before her.

The Records of Potions even tempted the brilliantly talented Silent Wonder.

Chapter 1177 – Reconstructing a Town

"This is still only a part of it. How about it? Interested in my offer now?"

Shi Feng smiled calmly as he quietly looked at Silent Wonder's joyful expression.

Like the Book of Forging, the Records of Potions was a treasure that could improve one's alchemy success rate. Moreover, it contained basic information about potion crafting. With the Records of Potions, players would not have to explore basic alchemy techniques blindly; it could pave the way for becoming a Master Alchemist.

As for whether one actually became a Master Alchemist, however, that depended on the player's talent.

Silent Wonder did not have the support of a Guild. According to Shi Feng's memory, in the past, Silent Wonder had obtained practically all of her alchemy materials by herself. Also, unlike Guild alchemists, who could confide in each other regarding alchemy techniques and improve together, Silent Wonder had gained her alchemy techniques without any assistance.

Moreover, ordinary NPC cities also did not possess facilities like Special Workshops. Needless to say, the various large Guilds didn't allow non-Guild members to use their limited Special Workshops. After all, they didn't even have enough to nurture their own Lifestyle players.

Furthermore, independent players had no access to NPC cities with Special Workshops. Take the Holy City of Titan for example. Without sufficient strength and luck, reaching the city was simply impossible for an independent player like Silent Wonder.

"I'll say this first. Once I've fulfilled my one-month contract, I'll leave immediately," Silent Wonder stated.

With her alchemy skills, she could easily join any large Guild. Even Super Guilds would willingly accept her. However, she hated the various restrictions that came with joining a Guild and disliked doing work that didn't interest her. Hence, she had opted not to join a Guild.

“You’re overthinking things. It isn’t even certain if you are capable of remaining in my employment after a month,” Shi Feng said, chuckling as he shook his head.

Hearing Shi Feng saying so, Silent Wonder frowned.

This was her first time being underestimated like this.

She was a bona fide Advanced Alchemist. She would be an important member of any Guild she joined. In fact, she had gained an invitation to the Dark Auction, to begin with, because a large Guild wanted to recruit her.

In her opinion, Shi Feng was trying to use reverse psychology. However, such means were useless against her.

Once the month was over, she would definitely leave.

Following which, Shi Feng and Silent Wonder signed a contract. The contents were very simple. Silent Wonder would hand over the Master Darkness Resistance Potion and Light Cloak. Afterwards, she would work at the Candlelight Trading Firm for a month. In return, Shi Feng would share the clues leading to the Shadow Gold and Ancient Wood with Silent Wonder.

After Silent Wonder confirmed that there were no problems with the contract Shi Feng had sent her, she signed it.

“You can tell me the clues leading to the materials now, right?” Silent Wonder asked coldly.

If not for the Records of Potions, she wouldn’t have made such an unworthwhile trade. After all, the Master Darkness Resistance Potion and Light Cloak were both precious items she had obtained after completing a difficult quest. Trading these two items for two clues was a loss.

“Only Level 70 and above Darkness-type Bosses have a chance of dropping Shadow Gold. Moreover, the Bosses must be Grand Lord rank or above. Ancient Wood can be found near the lake in the deepest parts of the neutral map Stuyak. That area is home to Elves. They aren’t fond of humans, so it won’t be easy to get past them.” Shi Feng revealed the information.

The two locations he mentioned were the easiest places to obtain Shadow Gold and Ancient Wood. The other places he knew about were far more dangerous, and even if Silent Wonder was quite strong, she couldn’t obtain the materials by herself.

“Stuyak?” Silent Wonder checked the system map. When she found Stuyak, she was speechless.

Stuyak was an ancient forest located north of the Frostwolf Empire. The forest had always been the biggest threat to the empire. You had to be at least Level 80 to enter... Moreover, the neutral map’s size rivaled that of a medium-sized kingdom.

She simply did not know what to say about this.

With her current strength, it was impossible for her to act on any of the information she had just received.

“I’ve already told you the clues. You are to report for duty at Star-Moon Kingdom’s Candlelight Trading Firm by tomorrow night at the latest,” after Shi Feng was done speaking, he immediately disconnected the call.

Shadow Gold and Ancient Wood were both Epic ranked rare materials. If Silent Wonder wished to obtain them, she needed to reach Level 80 at the very minimum. Particularly, Ancient Wood was highly sought after by even Super Guilds. If Silent Wonder wished to procure some all by herself, she could not even consider doing so before reaching Level 100 and class-changing to her Tier 3 class.

Hence, Shi Feng had not spoken in detail when he mentioned the clues to Silent Wonder. If he told the woman the minimum strength required to obtain these materials, she would most likely lose her mind.

Afterward, Shi Feng received the Master Darkness Resistance Potion and Light Cloak, delivered to him by a staff member. Without waiting for the Dark Auction to end, he said his goodbyes to Fallen Wind and Autumn Goose before returning to White River City.

Although there were many rare items up for trade in the Dark Auction, there wasn’t anything that Shi Feng was particularly interested in. So, there was no need for him to stay behind.

Shortly after Shi Feng exited the room, Starstreak, who had been in a Stealth state this whole time, appeared a short distance away from Room 017.

“Why is it him?” Starstreak found it somewhat unbelievable when he saw Shi Feng coming out of Room 017.

In his opinion, anyone capable of spending over 600,000 Magic Crystals within a short period of time must be an upper echelon of a major power. Yet, the buyer of both the Magic Knight legacy and Bronze Tablet was actually Zero Wing.

However, Starstreak did not ponder too much on the matter. Immediately, he forwarded the information to Thousand Miles.

“What?! Zero Wing was the one who bought those two items?!” Starstreak was given a fright by this message. However, he quickly revealed the sneer on his face as he said, “Good! Very good! Starstreak, go and make some preparations! Get Cleansed Maple to assist you in leading the Departed Legion, and kill Zero Wing’s experts! Make sure to steal that Magic Knight Legacy, as well as those Epic Weapons and Equipment from them!”

Any large Guild that obtained a Bronze Tablet would definitely store it in their Guild Warehouse. Unless they burnt down the Guild Residence storing the Bronze Tablet, it would be impossible for them to obtain it. However, it was a different story for the Magic Knight Legacy Item, and Epic Weapons and Equipment.

If one wanted to obtain the Magic Knight Legacy, they would have to complete the Legacy Quest.

As long as Zero Wing’s experts left their Guild Residence, there would be plenty of chance to strike at them.

Starstreak was momentarily stunned by Thousand Miles’s words. Very quickly, however, he nodded and said, “Understood.”

The Departed Legion was Miracle's assassination legion. It was a legion specifically formed to target the upper echelons of the various superpowers. In Starstreak's opinion, they were simply making a mountain out of a molehill by mobilizing the legion against Zero Wing.

...

Meanwhile, in Star-Moon Kingdom's White River City, Shi Feng had also stealthily arrived at the Adventurer's Association. Without hesitation, he paid 30,000 Gold to the Association to have them begin reconstructing Stone Forest Town.

The moment Shi Feng handed over the 30,000 Gold Coins, the sound of a system notification entered his ears.

—

System: Congratulations! As Zero Wing is the first Guild in God's Domain to have reconstructed an Intermediate Town, Guild Popularity increased by 200,000 points. You will also receive one Bronze Guild Residence Promotion Order.

Chapter 1178 – Promotion to a 3-star Guild

The sudden system notification put Shi Feng into a daze for a long time.

He had merely reconstructed an Intermediate Town, yet Zero Wing's Guild Popularity had instantly soared by 200,000 points.

It should be known that a 1-star Guild only needed 30,000 Popularity to promote to a 2-star Guild, while a 2-star Guild needed 100,000 Popularity to promote to a 3-star Guild.

The further one progressed into the game, the more difficult it was to obtain Guild Popularity.

When a Guild was still at the 1-star standard, Guild members could earn quite a lot of Guild Popularity just by completing ordinary Guild Quests. With how many players there were in a large Guild, the number of Guild Quests completed each day was plenty. It would take no time for a Guild to accumulate 30,000 Popularity. The truly difficult aspect of promoting a Guild to 2-stars lay in obtaining the Guild Residence Promotion Order.

However, after a Guild reached 2-stars, Guild members would no longer obtain Guild Popularity through completing ordinary Guild Quests. They could only do so by completing advanced Guild Quests. However, advanced Guild Quests were very rare and limited in number. So, it would take a significantly longer time for a 2-star Guild to accumulate 100,000 Guild Popularity.

Even Super Guilds would need a long time to do so.

Meanwhile, due to various factors, Zero Wing's Popularity accumulation rate was currently on par with Super Guilds. According to Shi Feng's estimates, it would take another month or so for Zero Wing to accumulate 100,000 Popularity.

However, now that Zero Wing had received an additional 200,000 Popularity, it had fulfilled the condition to promote to a 3-star Guild.

“A Bronze Guild Residence Promotion Order?” Shi Feng looked at the bronze, diamond-shaped token that had suddenly appeared in his bag. The token was emitting a faint, golden glow. It was much more powerful than the silver Guild Residence Promotion Order he had obtained before.

—

[Bronze Guild Residence Promotion Order]

Promotes the star ranking of a Guild Residence that fulfills the required Popularity by one star. Can be promoted up to a 4-star Guild.

—

“What a powerful Guild Residence Promotion Order!” Shi Feng was astonished.

As far as Shi Feng knew, Guild Residence Promotion Orders were all graded. Meanwhile, different ranking Promotion Orders could be used on Guilds of different star rankings. For example, in order to promote a 1-star Guild into a 2-star Guild, a 2-star Promotion Order would be required, while promotion to a 3-star Guild would require a 3-star Promotion Order. However, the Bronze Guild Residence Promotion Order was actually capable of promoting any Guild between 1-star to 3-star status by one rank. There would be no need to search for Promotion Orders of specific rankings.

Looking at the Bronze Guild Residence Promotion Order, Shi Feng considered saving it for when Zero Wing was upgrading its Residence from 3-star to 4-star status.

In God’s Domain, Guild Residence Promotion Orders were not easy to obtain. Aside from a rare few that could be obtained through adventuring out in the fields or opening Treasure Chests, the normal method of obtaining Guild Residence Promotion Orders was through raiding certain large-scale Team Dungeons. However, only by procuring the First Clear of such Dungeons would one have a 100% chance of receiving a Guild Residence Promotion Order. Afterward, the cleared Dungeon would have less than a 1% chance of dropping the Promotion Order...

This was also one of the reasons why the various large Guilds were adamant about competing for the First Clear of large-scale Team Dungeons.

Aside from being able to raise their own Guild’s fame and influence, they could also quickly raise their Guild’s star ranking by obtaining First Clear. If the First Clear was taken away by another Guild, it would become significantly more difficult to obtain a Guild Residence Promotion Order.

This was especially true for the 3-star Guild Residence Promotion Order.

This was something that only dropped in the Hell Mode of Level 50 large-scale Team Dungeons. Moreover, such large-scale Team Dungeons were different from the Dungeons that dropped 2-star Promotion Orders. In the latter’s case, every major city would have one of them. For 3-star and above, however, there would only be one such large-scale Team Dungeon in every few, or even more than a dozen, major cities. If the First Clear of such a Dungeon was secured by a Guild, other Guilds would have no choice but to continuously raid said large-scale Team Dungeon for their own Promotion Orders...

Thus, the 3-star Guild Residence Promotion Order would cause the competition between Guilds to become even more intense. In the future, Guilds would have to struggle with not just other Guilds in the same city, but Guilds from other cities as well.

As for the 4-star Guild Residence Promotion Order, competition for it would become even more frightening as each kingdom would only have one or two large-scale Team Dungeons that dropped it. While empires had a little more, these Dungeons were still extremely limited.

“Excuse me, I want to promote the Zero Wing Guild.” After giving the matter some thought, Shi Feng immediately took out the Bronze Guild Residence Promotion Order and handed it over to the NPC administrator.

The reason why players even bothered joining Guilds was because Guilds provided benefits that could help their members level up and improve their strength much more quickly. Hence, the faster a Guild was promoted, the better it would be for the Guild’s future development.

“Lord Protector, may I know which Guild Residence you wish to promote to a 3-star Residence?” the administrator asked after receiving the Promotion Order.

“The Guild Residence in White River City,” Shi Feng said in a straightforward manner.

White River City was Zero Wing’s base camp. It was also extremely safe, as it was located in a major NPC city. Moreover, it wouldn’t be long before White River City would be promoted to the next rank and bring many benefits to the players inhabiting it. Naturally, he had to prioritize promoting the Residence there. As for the Residences in Stone Forest Town and Lake Heart City, those would have to wait for another chance to appear in the future.

“Alright. Promoting a 2-star Guild Residence into a 3-star Guild Residence will require a 5,000-Gold reconstruction fee,” the administrator said. “However, as a City Protector, our association will offer you a 20% discount, so Lord Protector only needs to pay 4,000 Gold.”

Shi Feng took out another 4,000 Gold without hesitation.

After the handsome administrator confirmed that there were no problems, a series of system announcements rang out in Shi Feng’s ears.

—

Star-Moon Kingdom System Announcement: Congratulations to Zero Wing for becoming the first Guild in Star-Moon Kingdom to own a 3-star Guild Residence! Guild Emblem upgraded to Bronze rank. Rewarding Guild with one set of Basic Defensive Magic Array, 1,500 Gold in Guild funds, and one Employment Center Building Order.

White River City System Announcement: Congratulations to Zero Wing for becoming the first Guild in White River City to own a 3-star Guild Residence! Rewarding Guild with one Training Room Promotion Order.

—

The system announcement repeated three times, echoing loudly in everyone’s ears.

“What?”

“A 3-star Residence?”

“That’s impossible, right? Most Guilds are just beginning to promote their Residences to 2-star. How does Zero Wing already have a 3-star Residence?”

“Zero Wing is too amazing! As expected of Star-Moon Kingdom’s number one Guild! I must join Zero Wing, no matter what! The benefits of a 3-star Residence will definitely be spectacular!”

...

The players throughout Star-Moon Kingdom were stunned by the rewards stated in the system announcement. This was especially true for the members of the various large Guilds. They were all greatly envious of Zero Wing.

Zero Wing’s Guild Emblem was directly upgraded to Bronze rank!

A Guild Emblem wasn’t just the symbol of a Guild. Similar to the insignia of Lifestyle classes, the Guild Emblem also possessed some functions. A Common Guild Emblem did not carry with it any functions at all. However, once a Guild Emblem reached Bronze rank, it came prepared with some functions.

A Bronze Guild Emblem had two functions:

The first function was a teleport ability. Even without a Guild Transfer Scroll, Guild members could directly teleport to any Guild Residence. There was no need to buy the Guild Transfer Scroll of a specific Guild Residence. Not to mention, players could only carry one Guild Transfer Scroll at a time, making it very inconvenient.

The second function increased the Attributes of Guild members. As long as there were over 20 Guild members within a 100-yard radius, the Guild Emblem would increase the wearer’s maximum HP by 3% and Attack Power by 1%.

Although the increase seemed minor, once players reached higher levels, even 1% could make a huge difference. This was especially true when players were raiding Team Dungeons.

Less than a minute after the system announcement ended, news of Zero Wing obtaining a 3-star Guild Residence began spreading like wildfire. In just a short ten minutes, whether it were the Guilds in Star-Moon Kingdom or the Guilds in the neighboring kingdoms and empires, they all held an emergency Guild meeting.

At the same time, the various large Guilds currently bartering for rare items in the Dark Auction also received news about this situation.

What?! Zero Wing has just obtained a 3-star Guild Residence?! Phoenix Rain’s eyes widened in shock as she read the message she just received. She simply could not believe this to be true. How could this be possible?!

Chapter 1179 – General Trend

“Big Sis Rain, what happened?” Blue Phoenix asked when she noticed the strange expression on Phoenix Rain’s face.

“I just received news stating that Zero Wing already has a 3-star Guild Residence now,” Phoenix Rain said enviously. “With this, Zero Wing is now the undisputed number one Guild of Star-Moon Kingdom.”

Blue Phoenix was momentarily stunned when she heard this. Quickly, she reacted and said, “How is this possible?! Didn’t they say that 3-star Guild Residence Promotion Orders can only be obtained from the Hell Mode of Level 50 large-scale Team Dungeons?”

Although there was only a single rank separating a 3-star Guild Residence and a 2-star Guild Residence, there was a qualitative difference between the two. It was similar to Shops that were promoted from 2-star to 3-star status. For 3-star Shops, aside from having more Special Workshops, they also had the Basic Meditation Rooms that were very beneficial towards the development of subclasses. In the case of a 3-star Guild Residence, the Guild would receive a qualitative improvement on all its existing benefits. A 3-star Guild Residence would also be capable of constructing buildings that were not available to 2-star Guild Residences.

Among them, there were two buildings of particularly significant importance.

One of them was the Employment Center.

Originally, the local NPCs would post quests in the quest area of the Guild Hall, and Guild players were free to pick up any of them.

Meanwhile, once a Guild established its own Employment Center, all quests commissioned to the Guild in the future would be placed in the Employment Center instead. In addition, the Guild Quests in the Employment Center weren’t only limited to the local area. Certain quests would even involve other NPC cities, which would give rise to the number of advanced Guild Quests.

However, these were still not the most important matters.

Once a Guild possessed its own Employment Center, it would also unlock large-scale Guild Quests such as a crusade against Orcs, or assisting nearby kingdoms in battles against foreign races. The amount of EXP and Coins one could gain from these quests was extraordinary. In addition, one could also obtain plenty of rare tools, weapons, and equipment.

The other building was the Training Room.

Unlike the Divine Colosseum’s Trial Tower, which required players to blindly discover and learn combat techniques, the Training Room allowed players to receive the system’s basic combat training from NPCs. This allowed players that had just joined the Guild to grasp basic combat techniques, as well as Skill-utilization techniques, within a shorter period of time. Thus allowing them to quickly go from being a new member to an elite member more quickly.

It should be known that Zero Wing was a Guild that walked the path of the elite. Currently, the Guild only had around 100,000 elite members. Over half of its members had yet to reach the elite standard. However, once Zero Wing possessed the Training Room, the remaining members would be able to

promptly become elites. It wouldn't be long before Zero Wing would have more than 200,000 elite members.

With so many elite players, even first-rate Guilds would barely be a match for Zero Wing.

Meanwhile, this was under the assumption that Zero Wing did not expand and recruit new members. If the Guild did a mass-recruitment, Phoenix Rain did not dare to imagine how frightening the Guild would become.

However, unlike Phoenix Rain, who was feeling envious of Zero Wing, the large Guilds in Star-Moon Kingdom and the neighboring kingdoms were currently dying from anxiety.

Previously, although Zero Wing was known as the number one Guild of Star-Moon Kingdom, that was only a title. Rather than Zero Wing, these large Guilds feared first-rate Guilds even more. This was because with the number of elite and ordinary members Zero Wing possessed the Guild would only be able to occupy a limited number of locations in the kingdom. Now, however, things were different. Now that the Guild had obtained a 3-star Guild Residence, whether it was the Guild's elite member count or total member count, both would see an explosive increase soon. By then, Zero Wing would have enough manpower to occupy other NPC cities and capture more towns. Eventually, it would become a first-rate Guild in the truest sense.

"Damn it! How did this happen?!"

"Why did Zero Wing suddenly obtain a 3-star Residence?!"

...

The various large Guilds in Star-Moon Kingdom were each suffering from a huge headache over this matter.

Previously, they had been celebrating over the fact that Zero Wing had defeated the Blackwater Guild. After all, with Blackwater having suffered such severe losses, it was unable to expand its influence and control over the various major cities at all. Meanwhile, in Zero Wing's case, the Guild did not have the required manpower to dominate and manage other NPC cities. This had given them an opportunity to take advantage of the situation.

Ever since the war between Blackwater and Zero Wing, various locations in Star-Moon Kingdom had become war zones, as the various large Guilds all vied to take control of their own NPC city.

However, the current situation had greatly exceeded the numerous large Guilds' expectations.

...

Inside Overwhelming Smile's Residence in Maple City...

Due to Zero Wing obtaining a 3-star Guild Residence, Overwhelming Smile was forced to hold an emergency meeting.

"Youlan, are you trying to betray Overwhelming Smile?" Feng Xuanyang screamed angrily as he smacked his desk.

Just now, Youlan had actually had his subordinates transfer from Gale City and Twin Lion City to a border city on Star-Moon Kingdom's western area. He had gone to great lengths in order to get Gale City and Twin Lion City up and running. Yet, shortly after he had built up some of his own foundations, without any warnings, Youlan had suddenly come and told him to go to a border city. Moreover, the city was a small one with a player population of around only 300,000. This was no different than stabbing a knife into his heart.

"This can't be helped. I believe you should have a greater understanding than I do on what kind of functions a 3-star Residence possesses. Gale City and Twin Lion City are simply too close to White River City. Rather than waste time fighting against Zero Wing, it will be much better for you to focus your strength in a place that you can take complete control over.

"Furthermore, it is simply impossible to stop Zero Wing's rise now. The higher-ups have already agreed on this point. Hence, they are having you go to a city on the western border. That place is very close to the Bloodhoof Empire. Currently, we have already taken control of over half of the empire. In the future, when players reach higher levels, we'll be able to open a trade route between the Bloodhoof Empire and Star-Moon Kingdom.

Youlan was not affected by Feng Xuanyang's angry bellows at all. In reality, she even secretly felt gratitude towards Zero Wing.

Due to Zero Wing's Residence getting promoted to 3-star status this time, Underworld had finally decided to give up on taking control of Star-Moon Kingdom and instead shifted to secretly developing its economy. Meanwhile, Youlan herself was transferred to Underworld's true headquarters, the Templar Empire, and was tasked with managing Underworld's trading firm. She could be considered to have truly set foot into Underworld's upper echelon now.

When Feng Xuanyang heard that this was an arrangement made by the higher-ups, his whole person seemed to age several years.

It was obvious that Underworld no longer wished to waste time attempting to take control of Star-Moon Kingdom.

Meanwhile, aside from Overwhelming Smile, the various large Guilds based in the eastern region of Star-Moon Kingdom had also made similar arrangements. They all planned on shifting their focus towards the western region of the kingdom. As for the eastern region, they were naturally going to let Zero Wing develop it.

...

"Hahaha! The Guild Leader is simply too amazing! He's actually managed to have the various Guilds in Star-Moon Kingdom shift their focus towards the western region in just a short moment's time. With this, Zero Wing will have a much easier time taking control of the cities in the eastern region!"

Aqua Rose, who had just exited the Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest, was greatly excited when she received news of the latest developments.

Originally, she had planned for Zero Wing to gradually whittle away at the various large Guilds based in the eastern region of Star-Moon Kingdom before eventually taking control of the cities here.

However, the instant Shi Feng revealed the 3-star Guild Residence, these various large Guilds all took the initiative to withdraw their forces without putting up a fight.

...

Inside an NPC town within the vicinity of Star-Moon City...

Currently, this town had already been occupied by Evil Beasts. The town's surroundings were filled with Level 60-plus Evil Beasts. Among them, there was no lack of Chieftain and Lord ranked monsters. Meanwhile, the town itself was also enveloped by a massive magic array, which gave off a frightening pressure. If Shi Feng was here right now, he would definitely find this pressure very familiar. This was due to the pressure being emitted by the magic array having a strand of Divine Might mixed into it.

Meanwhile, two players suddenly appeared outside this town. These two people were none other than Abandoned Wave and Laughing Drunkard.

"Zero Wing, enjoy your fun while you can."

When Abandoned Wave received the report regarding Zero Wing, a cold smile appeared on his face. He then walked into the town enveloped by the massive magic array.

Chapter 1180 – Prototype Sacred Land

White River City, Adventurer's Association:

When Shi Feng, who hid under a Black Cloak, descended the stairs from the second floor, he was greeted by a sea of players crowding the first floors. The majority of these players shared one similarity; they were all Guild players. Moreover, these Guild were all high-leveled with good equipment.

"What are these people trying to do?" a newcomer, who had just reached Level 10 and had come to report to the Adventurer's Association, asked.

"Is there even a need to ask? They're all here to withdraw from their Guilds," a Level 30-plus Shield Warrior explained from his seat near the entrance.

"Why?" The explanation only increased the new player's curiosity.

While it wasn't unusual to see players withdraw from their Guilds, this was the first time he had seen so many people from different Guilds at the same time.

"You're new, so it's expected that you don't know. They're leaving their original Guilds to join Zero Wing," the Shield Warrior said enviously as he watched the various Guild players. "Zero Wing is on a roll. Its Residence already has 3-star Private Rooms. If you rest in one of those rooms for 24 hours, you'll accumulate 30% of Double EXP buff. Moreover, it has the Employment Center now. I heard that Zero Wing went all out, making sure it'll be stylish. The building has two floors. On the first, players can pick up ordinary and advanced Guild Quests, and the second floor allows players to pick up large-scale Guild Quests. The large-scale Guild Quests award far more than the advanced Quests.

"Even elite members have a hard time picking up an advanced Guild Quest in other Guilds. In Zero Wing, however, even ordinary members can pick one up. Once you become one of Zero Wing's elites, you can

even pick up large-scale Guild Quests. As long as Guild members have sufficient Contribution Points, they can also upgrade their Guild Emblem to Bronze rank and get some bonus Attributes.

“You’re a newcomer, right? Now is the best time for you to join Zero Wing. I heard that as long as Guild members are willing to spend some Contribution Points, you can receive guidance from NPCs in their new Training Room and learn basic combat techniques and Skill-utilization techniques. Those will help you become an expert quickly.”

The Shield Warrior’s words immediately caught the attention of the various newcomers within the Adventurer’s Association.

They were all new to God’s Domain, and they were completely new to the game’s combat styles. As a result, they had a lot of trouble against monsters. Moreover, they had to learn the combat techniques on their own. When they saw players easily solo two or three Common monsters simultaneously, they were jealous. Naturally, a location where they could improve their combat techniques would be tempting.

“May I know where I can apply to join Zero Wing?” a beautiful, charming Level 10 female Cleric excitedly asked the Shield Warrior.

In response, the Shield Warrior smiled as he pointed at a group of players that had just withdrawn from their old Guilds and said, “That’s simple. Just follow the players that just left their old Guilds. They’re all going to apply as well.”

When the several newcomers heard this, they immediately followed after the players that had just withdraw from their Guilds and left the Adventurer’s Association.

Shi Feng could not help his shock.

He had never imagined that a 3-star Guild Residence would be such a powerful influence.

It had only been a short time since he had upgraded Zero Wing’s Residence, yet so many elite players were leaving their old Guilds to join his.

What Shi Feng didn’t know was that a long line had already formed outside of Zero Wing’s Residence. These players were all there to apply for the recruitment test. Quite a few were even Guild players from other cities.

The crowd made it difficult for Zero Wing’s members to enter and leave the Residence. Moreover, this situation wasn’t isolated to White River City; the same was happening in Stone Forest Town. Only, unlike the players in White River City, the majority of those applying to join Zero Wing in Stone Forest Town were independent players.

These players weren’t just applying to Zero Wing because the Guild now had a 3-star Residence. They were even more inspired by Stone Forest Town’s massive transformation.

Aside from the town's amazing Mana Density, Stone Forest Town had recently undergone major reconstruction. Far more merchant NPCs now visited the town. There was also the newly-reopened Battle Arena. The town was simply too tempting.

As long as they joined Zero Wing, even as an ordinary member, they could easily travel back to Stone Forest Town. Their leveling spots would no longer be limited to the Stoneclaw Mountains. Moreover, they would have a shorter waiting time when entering the Battle Arena. To players that loved adventure and improving their combat techniques, becoming a member of Zero Wing was ideal.

While Shi Feng had been in the Adventurer's Association, he had also implemented a new option for Stone Forest Town—the sale of Private Houses!

When Stone Forest Town had been a Basic Town, it had simply been too small. Zero Wing barely had enough space for its own development, let alone selling precious land. However, things had changed. After its promotion to an Intermediate Town, Stone Forest Town grew to occupy several times more land than before. As part of his plan for the town's development, Shi Feng had used some space to construct Private Housing.

He would sell a small portion of these Private Houses to the public, while the remainder would be reserved for Guild members. It was a kind of Guild benefit. As long as one became an elite member, they would qualify to purchase a Private House of their own. Only, they would have to do so with Guild Contribution Points. Fortunately, they would enjoy lower prices than the houses sold to the public.

Many of God's Domain's players dreamed of owning a Private House, not to mention living in a Mana-dense environment like Stone Forest Town.

The Private Houses had already become a hot topic among Stone Forest Town's players.

"Zero Wing is so stingy! They're only selling a hundred houses to the public! There are so many independent players in this town. How is this supposed to be enough for all of us?!"

"I don't know if there's going to be enough to go around, but what I do know is that Zero Wing is too fraudulent! Even the cheapest house costs 400 Gold! This price is almost as much as an outer-area Shop in a minor NPC city! Even independent experts are lucky if they have 100 Gold on hand. How could anyone afford such expensive houses?!"

"I know, right? However, our adventurer team is prepared to pool our funds to purchase one. This way, our Guild will have a gathering point. We won't have to waste our time on hotels anymore."

"Your team is going to have an awesome time, then. As long as you become 2-star adventurers, you can purchase a Fixed Teleportation Array and set it up in the house. You'll be able to transfer directly to your house. That's way better than joining Zero Wing!"

"However, I'm betting that the large Guilds are going to purchase most of these houses."

"That shouldn't be possible. Zero Wing has already stated that other Guilds are not allowed to purchase houses. Moreover, the buyers to sign a contract with Zero Wing. Even if people from the various large Guilds try to buy a house, they can't."

...

As Shi Feng relaxed in an advanced carriage, heading to the Candlelight Trading Firm to store the Bronze Tablet in the warehouse, he received a call from Aqua Rose.

“Guild Leader, Twilight Echo contacted me stating that they have something to discuss with you,” Aqua Rose joyfully announced.

“Don’t tell me Glorious Echo is looking for me?” Shi Feng frowned.

He did not have a particularly good impression of Glorious Echo. However, he was rather grateful because, if not for him, Aqua Rose wouldn’t have joined Zero Wing.

“No. The Elders have already sacked Glorious Echo. One of my uncles is managing the Guild temporarily,” Aqua Rose said, shaking her head.

“Alright, then. I still have some matters to deal with, so have him wait in the Residence for a while.”