

Strongest

Chapter 1201 – Tier 2 Class

Initially, the Flower of Seven Sins members were about to blow up in rage at Shi Feng for looking down on them.

However, when they saw Angry Tyrant's Attributes, they were all stupefied.

"How is this possible?!"

"Aren't these Attributes too overpowered!?"

Everyone present was surprised by Angry Tyrant's Attributes. Although the bracers did not possess any Active Skills, their two Passive Skills were practically tailored for Berserkers. An increase of 20% in Strength and 30% in Attack Speed when the wearer's HP was below 50%... Just thinking about this gave everyone the shivers. Not to mention, there was also a certain chance for the wearer's Strength to double when attacking.

It was practically impossible for any other Epic Equipment to surpass the Angry Tyrant bracers. Angry Tyrant was definitely the best among Epic Equipment. Only equipment at the Fragmented Legendary rank and above would be better.

When Brute Spear saw the bracers' Attributes, he could no longer hide the greed in his eyes.

He was a Berserker. Moreover, he preferred Strength-oriented equipment. In fact, every piece of equipment below Epic rank that he had equipped right now focused on Strength.

Strength-oriented Epic Equipment was something he always dreamed of obtaining.

However, just being able to obtain Epic Equipment was already plenty difficult. Wanting to get Epic Equipment that perfectly suited him was practically a dream.

How could such excellent equipment for Berserkers possibly fall into the hands of a Swordsman!? I must obtain it!

Unfortunately for Brute Spear, although he wanted Angry Tyrant, just like Shi Feng said, he indeed could not produce any top-tier Epic Equipment that was equal or superior to the bracers.

No matter how he thought about it, he had only two items on hand that were worth more than Angry Tyrant.

One was an item that the Flower of Seven Sins wanted, while the other was the Epic-rank tool Soul Orb.

Eventually, Brute Spear gnashed his teeth as he said, "Do you think I can't take out something of even higher value? I have an Epic tool here. It is definitely more valuable than your Angry Tyrant bracers. If you can defeat me, I wouldn't mind gifting this Epic tool to you."

Epic tools were generally more valuable than Epic Weapons and Equipment because Epic tools did not take up a player's equipment slots. Players could use an Epic tool even if it was in their bag space. Hence, the price of Epic tools was generally double that of Epic Equipment, more if it was an Epic tool with good Attributes.

"An Epic tool?" Shi Feng feigned hesitation as he said so. Inwardly, however, he was extremely excited. "Alright, let's sign a contract!"

He had deliberately exposed Angry Tyrant's Attributes precisely to bait Brute Spear.

Now, he had succeeded.

As for whether the tool Brute Spear would wager was the Soul Orb or not, Shi Feng was 100% sure that it was.

Epic Equipment was already quite rare. The chances of Brute Spear obtaining two Epic tools at this stage of the game were lower than winning the lottery.

"Brother Ye Feng, is there really a need to do this?" Passing Monarch was bewildered as he watched Shi Feng sign a contract with Brute Spear.

Originally, if their whole group fought against Brute Spear, they'd had over a 70% chance of winning. Now, however, Shi Feng was going up against Brute Spear in a one-on-one. Even if Shi Feng was very powerful, in Passing Monarch's opinion, Shi Feng would be lucky to have even a 30% chance of victory. After all, Shi Feng had already used his Berserk Skill.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng was actually gambling Epic Equipment on such low odds. This was simply insane!

"Hahaha! That fool really signed a contract! Boss Brute sure is lucky! Not only did he obtain an Epic tool from completing the quest this time, but he is even going to get a pair of excellent bracers for Berserkers!"

"That's right! I wonder what kind of expression that person will reveal when they see the strength Boss Brute reveals."

"With the addition of these Epic bracers, Boss Brute will have three pieces of Epic Equipment in total. He will definitely become our Sin of Pride's number one Berserker with this!"

...

Brute Spear's several companions began a hushed discussion among themselves as they looked at Shi Feng. They all considered Shi Feng extremely foolish to gift away such excellent equipment.

As a peak expert, Shi Feng indeed possessed the qualifications to be prideful. However, Brute Spear was similarly a peak expert.

In their opinion, if it were before Brute Spear had completed his quest, he would have had roughly a 60% chance of winning. The reason for this bullish evaluation was Brute Spear having been a High Demon. After he transformed, both his Main Attribute and physique would receive a 20% improvement.

If both sides were almost equal in Attributes and combat standards, a 20% improvement to physique would allow Brute Spear to achieve an overwhelming victory. The only way Shi Feng could make up for this difference was through activating a Berserk Skill. However, as far as they knew, Shi Feng had already used his Berserk Skill and wouldn't be able to use it again within a short period. This doomed Shi Feng to a lower chance of winning.

Meanwhile, now that Brute Spear had completed his quest, his strength had received another considerable improvement.

Even if Shi Feng's combat standard was above Brute Spear's, Brute Spear still had a 90% chance of victory.

...

With the contract signed, both sides distanced themselves and provided Shi Feng and Brute Spear with sufficient space for a duel.

As the duel timer began counting down, Brute Spear retrieved the crimson spear slung on his back and slammed the spear's butt on the ground, causing an earth tremor.

"As thanks for gifting me the Angry Tyrant bracers, I'll let you have the honor of witnessing my full strength," Brute Spear sneered. "Originally, I intended to reserve this strength for competing against Bart for the position of number one Berserker in the group."

Saying so, Brute Spear let out a low shout as his entire body began releasing scorching-hot, pitch-black smoke.

This pitch-black smoke quickly wrapped around Brute Spear's entire body. In the next moment, the Berserker began transforming. In the blink of an eye, he had become a Demon.

However, unlike the black-clad Ranger from before, Brute Spear's Demon form had three sets of wings. The aura he radiated was also much stronger than the black-clad Ranger's. There was absolutely no comparison.

"We're doomed..." After seeing Brute Spear's Demon form, the last strand of hope Passing Monarch clung to vanished entirely.

At this moment, Brute Spear's companions likewise had shocked expressions on their faces, having all received a fright from Brute Spear's transformation.

"This is an ennobled Demon?"

"Amazing! High Demons simply cannot compare!"

"With this transformation, Boss Brute will no doubt become the number one Berserker in our Sin of Pride in the future!"

After Demon players transformed into Demons, they would still have ranks, which was also the reason why Demon players were half a tier stronger than ordinary players.

When players first Demonized, they would start out as Low Demons. Afterwards, they could promote to High Demons through hunting for a large number of player souls. However, further promotions after reaching the High Demon rank depended on more than just harvesting sufficient souls. One also needed to possess the corresponding status; in other words, attaining nobility.

Meanwhile, after Brute Spear completed his quest on Demon Island, he had gotten promoted from a High Demon directly to a Baron. As a result, his strength had also undergone a qualitative improvement.

“Hahaha! So this is the power of a Baron Demon? Truly amazing!” At this moment, Brute Spear could not help but revel in this newfound power of his.

Baron ranked Demon players received a 30% increase to both their Attributes and physique when transformed. Currently, both his Attributes and his body’s physique were already at the Tier 2 standard. The only thing he lacked now was Tier 2 Skills. Aside from that, he could already be considered a Tier 2 player.

The disparity between Tier 2 and Tier 1 classes was much greater than that between Tier 1 and Tier 0 classes. If a Tier 2 class fought against a Tier 1 class, even without using any Skills and under a situation where both sides were at the same level, the Tier 1 class would be powerless to resist.

After Brute Spear stretched his body a little, his blood-red eyes shifted to the Swordsman before him.

“Alright, I’ll let you have a taste of despair now!”

Chapter 1202 – Hidden Ability

When the duel timer came to an end, Brute Spear walked at a measured pace towards Shi Feng. It was as if he was strolling casually through a park right now. He did not take this duel seriously whatsoever.

As expected of a quest that could prompt the Demon God to emerge, it instantly promoted a High Demon to the Baron rank. Shi Feng unsheathed the Abyssal Blade and Killing Ray, his expression turning serious as he looked at the approaching Berserker.

Even after ten years had passed, Demon players that managed to reach the Baron rank had still been uncommon, with the majority stuck at the High Demon rank. If one wanted to get promoted further, they needed to get the acknowledgment of the Demon God or upper-class Demons and have them willingly share a portion of their power.

However, upper-class Demons and the Demon God were allowed to bestow their power on only a limited number of people. As a result, the number of Demon players that could become nobility was extremely low.

Currently, Brute Spear, who was Level 45, already possessed 240,000 HP. On the other hand, even after reaching Level 50, Shi Feng’s HP was just slightly over 42,000. The disparity was nearly sixfold.

Moreover, Baron Demons possessed much higher Defense and Magic Resistance than High Demons. Even ordinary Tier 2 expert players would find it hard to kill the current Brute Spear, not to mention that there was not a single Tier 2 player in God’s Domain yet.

When Brute Spear was only 12 yards away, Shi Feng abruptly stomped on the ground, leaving behind an afterimage in his original position as he dashed straight at the Berserker.

“So fast!”

The five Flower of Seven Sins members spectating from the side were astonished when they saw Shi Feng appearing before Brute Spear in the blink of an eye.

Shi Feng was definitely the fastest Swordsman they had ever seen. If it were them fighting against Shi Feng right now, they would be caught off guard if they were not careful.

Moreover, Shi Feng’s movements and judgment were also considerably acute.

Unlike Berserkers that used greatswords or battle axes, Berserkers that used spears had a longer attack range. Their spears could reach roughly two yards farther than the other weapons. The optimum attack range for a spear-wielding Berserker was between four and eight yards. Meanwhile, a Swordsman that used a longsword had an optimum attack range between one and three yards. Although their sword auras could reach up to five yards, enemies that were standing within four to five yards could easily dodge such an attack by retreating one or two yards.

If a longsword-wielding Swordsman wanted to suppress a spear-wielding Berserker, the best way to do so was to close in and move within one to three yards of the latter. This way, the Berserker could not utilize the spear to its fullest potential.

Conversely, if Shi Feng allowed Brute Spear to gradually approach him, then before he even reached his attack range, Brute Spear would’ve already begun attacking—a considerably disadvantageous situation to Shi Feng.

Hence, taking the initiative to attack to launch a fast attack was an extremely wise decision.

“You have quick reactions; I’ll give you that. Unfortunately, you met me!”

Brute Spear was indeed surprised by Shi Feng’s speed and judgment. However, while others might have difficulty keeping up with Shi Feng’s speed, he could see the Swordsman’s movements perfectly. Moreover, due to his improved physique, he had a much clearer grasp of his surroundings. Right now, he could perceive everything within a 20-yard radius. In fact, the instant Shi Feng prepared to take action, he already knew what Shi Feng would do.

Whirlwind Slash!

Having long since anticipated Shi Feng’s attack, Brute Spear swept the spear in his hands horizontally, his move capable of dealing a serious blow to all enemies within a 10-yard radius.

An explosion rang out in the air as he swung the crimson spear, the spear moving so fast that it became invisible to the naked eye. Meanwhile, Shi Feng was currently still six yards away from Brute Spear. By the time he could start attacking Brute Spear, the Berserker’s spear would’ve long since landed on him.

Although the spear was weaker than the greatsword and battle axe when it came to raw power, it was superior in terms of speed.

Peng!

Spear and sword collided, the impact forcing Shi Feng to take a few steps back.

What a high Skill Completion Rate! Shi Feng was slightly astonished as he looked at Brute Spear, who remained unaffected by the impact.

If speaking purely in terms of the Strength Attribute, he should surpass Brute Spear even after the latter transformed. After all, there was a five-level gap between them. Moreover, the quality of his weapons and equipment was also far superior to that of Brute Spear's. Nonetheless, he still got repulsed in the end.

The only explanation for such a situation occurring was Brute Spear's Skill Completion Rate. When a player's Skill Completion Rate reached a certain percentage, the Skills they used would generate some additional effects.

For example, when the Berserker class's Whirlwind Slash achieved a Completion Rate of 99% or above, aside from having greater destructive power, the Skill would also come with a knockback effect.

A Skill Completion Rate of 99%!

This was a Completion Rate that Shi Feng could only occasionally achieve when both his body and mind were in an excellent state.

Despite that, the Berserker before him was able to achieve this feat casually.

Is this a hidden ability of a Demon noble?

Shi Feng did not believe that Brute Spear himself was capable of achieving such a high Completion Rate. After all, the Berserker had just been promoted to a Baron Demon. After transforming, the bonus Attributes he received should be much higher than when he was just a High Demon. He should have great difficulty properly controlling this newfound strength immediately. He would need some time to adapt. Hence, the only explanation was that this high Completion Rate was a hidden ability of a Demon noble.

In the past, Shi Feng had never gotten the opportunity to fight against a Demon noble. Or to put it in another way, he had not possessed the qualifications to do so. As a result, he had only a little information on Demon players. As for the hidden abilities of Demon nobles, there hadn't been any fools that revealed such a secret.

"No wonder Chen Xu said that you're powerful. Your Strength Attribute is actually so high." Looking at his still-trembling spear, Brute Spear could not help but turn to look at Shi Feng. After this brief exchange, he grew even more fond of the bracers on Shi Feng's arms.

Even after transforming into a Demon, he was still weaker than Shi Feng in terms of Strength. If he were fighting against any other Swordsman right now, such a situation would have been impossible. The only explanation for this was Shi Feng's weapons and equipment.

After saying so, Brute Spear directly used Charge at Shi Feng, the spear in his hands stabbing at Shi Feng's heart.

When Brute Spear used Charge, he became like a shooting star. He was not only extremely fast but also exerted powerful pressure on Shi Feng.

However, this pressure didn't come from Brute Spear himself. Instead, it was a deterrent effect that appeared when Charge's Completion Rate reached 99% or above. This hidden effect reduced his opponent's reaction speed by 20% and Movement Speed and Attack Speed by 40% for one second.

When Brute Spear got to within six yards of Shi Feng, the crimson spear in his hands suddenly transformed into a streak of red light.

"Boss Brute is finally using his trademark move," an Assassin familiar with Brute Spear said, chuckling.

This was a combination technique Brute Spear used to gain fame for himself in the Flower of Seven Sins, merging a combat technique with a system Skill to exert even more power.

Lightning Speed!

Originally, Charge had already allowed Brute Spear's crimson spear to move at a frighteningly fast speed. Then, during the time he was using Charge, he would transfer the power of his entire body to his spear, applying additional acceleration the instant it was about to reach its target. This speed made the attack practically impossible to dodge or block.

Peng!

At the critical moment, Shi Feng activated Parry.

When the crimson spear came into contact with his swords, Shi Feng instantly felt both his arms go numb. His entire person also was forced to retreat six steps before he managed to stabilize himself.

He blocked it? Brute Spear was astounded right now. Just how high is his Agility?

The Lightning Speed he executed this time was the most perfect one so far. Logically, after including the suppression effect of his Charge, Shi Feng should not have been capable of executing Parry at all.

"Since it is so, let's see if your reaction speed or my Attack Speed is faster!"

Saying so, Brute Spear flapped the wings on his back and began hovering in midair. His body then split into three, and all three attacked Shi Feng simultaneously from different directions.

The Skill he had used was called Demon Flash, something he had learned after becoming a Baron Demon. It allowed him to attack his opponent from three directions, and each clone mirrored his original body perfectly. There was also no need for him to control his mirror images as they would carry out the same actions as he did. During the attack, he and his clones would also gain an enormous Movement Speed boost. Overall, it was a Skill many times more powerful than Charge.

Chapter 1203 – Difference between Trump Cards

After Brute Spear used Demon Flash, he and his mirror images moved faster than when he used Charge. The surrounding spectators could barely see the three Berserkers' afterimages, much less their real bodies.

Is this his true strength? Passing Monarch was deeply shocked when he saw this scene.

It was no wonder Brute Spear was so confident before.

With that kind of speed and destructive power, even if all of them went at him together, they would be fortunate to land an attack on him, much less shave away one-fifth of his HP.

So fast!

Although Shi Feng's physique had improved a lot after reaching Level 50, in the end, he had yet to obtain his Tier 2 class, which would provide a massive boost to his physique. At this moment, his eyes could no longer keep up with Brute Spear's speed. He could only rely on the changes in his surroundings to determine Brute Spear's movements.

"You should consider yourself fortunate to fall to this move of mine!" Brute Spear executed Lightning Speed on Shi Feng once more.

Compared to the time he attacked with Charge, the speed of his spear this time had increased by a large margin. Moreover, his two clones had also attacked using the same Strength and speed. If attacked at such a speed and from three different angles, even a Domain Realm Assassin expert would not be able to evade properly.

Dang! Dang! Dang!

However, just as the three crimson spears were about to reach Shi Feng, they abruptly stopped in their paths, unable to proceed even an inch farther due to Shi Feng activating the Swordsman class's strongest Lifesaving Skill, Defensive Blade.

Brute Spear was not particularly surprised by this situation. After all, the Swordsman class's Lifesaving Skills were only second to the Assassin class's. Now that he had forced Shi Feng to use both Lifesaving Skills consecutively, he would have a much easier time dealing with the Swordsman.

"So what if you blocked them?" Brute Spear sneered. In a single breath, he rapidly jabbed five times with his spear, targeting Shi Feng's blind spots. Meanwhile, his two mirror images had also launched identical attacks. Demon Flash did not just allow him to launch a charging attack on his target. The clones conjured lasted five seconds, during which, they would carry out the same actions as the main body. Moreover, they also possessed the exact same Attributes as the main body. Overall, Demon Flash was a Skill meant to counter Defensive Skills that could block multiple attacks.

As a result, a total of fifteen spears struck at Shi Feng from three different directions—and extremely fast. Even Shi Feng failed to keep up with all fifteen spears.

Meanwhile, these fifteen spear attacks had already exceeded the number of attacks Defensive Blade could block.

Sure enough, a Baron Demon really is difficult to handle. Shi Feng finally understood why Demon nobles were so difficult to kill.

In the past, when he saw certain experts on the God's Domain Experts List successfully killing a Demon noble, he had thought nothing of it. Now, however, it would seem that killing a Demon noble of the same tier was a very difficult task.

Shi Feng immediately activated Killing Ray's Additional Skill, Summon Lightning.

Boom!

In the next moment, arcs of blue lightning shot down from the sky one after another.

Not only did these lightning arcs deal 400% lightning damage to all enemies within a 15-yard radius to Shi Feng, but they could also inflict a Numb effect for 5 seconds on the targets struck. Afterwards, his attack range would even increase by 20 yards for 30 seconds.

However, Brute Spear simply sneered at this attack. He did not bother dodging the lightning arcs at all as he abruptly stabbed his spear at Shi Feng. He intended to compete and see who could deal more damage.

While the fifteen spears struck at Shi Feng, the lightning arcs also bombarded Brute Spear's body.

The block count of Shi Feng's Defensive Blade was instantly exhausted. As for the several spear strikes that got through, Shi Feng used his swords to deflect them, so he did not receive any substantial damage.

In contrast, Brute Spear had over -13,000 damage from the lightning strikes.

What high Magic Resistance! Envy sprouted in Shi Feng's heart when he saw this damage.

If a normal Level 45 player received this move of his, they would either die instantly or have very little HP remaining.

However, a Baron Demon's high Magic Resistance had greatly reduced the damage Brute Spear received.

Brute Spear had over 240,000 HP. By relying on battle recovery alone, he could recover over 2,400 HP every five seconds. In addition, Summon Lightning's Numb effect was ineffective against the Berserker.

As Summon Lightning ended, Brute Spear launched five spear strikes once more.

This time, however, Shi Feng no longer possessed Defensive Blade to protect himself.

"What a pitiful bastard. He actually dared to challenge Boss Brute to a duel. He might have had a fighting chance if he had his Berserk Skill. Unfortunately, he's already used it against Chen Xu."

"However, Boss Brute is also amazing. I feel that the Skills he used all have very high Completion Rates."

When the five Flower of Seven Sins members saw this scene, they all knew that this fight was as good as over.

Originally, Brute Spear already possessed a huge advantage in HP and Defense. Now, he was even using an attack method that trumped all defenses. If Shi Feng wished to deal damage to Brute Spear, he would have no choice but to clash head-on as well. However, Brute Spear still had two clones assisting him. It was simply impossible for a melee player like Shi Feng to stop Brute Spear.

From this scene, Shi Feng also understood what was going through Brute Spear's mind. However, he also had to admit that this was a good plan, as he really did not possess any method of coping with it.

Shi Feng used Silent Steps right away and appeared behind Brute Spear. He then pointed the Abyssal Blade at the Berserker.

Abyssal Bind!

Immediately, black chains materialized in empty space one after another, every one of them shooting straight at Brute Spear.

Seeing this, Brute Spear sneered as he activated a Control Removal Skill without hesitation, causing Abyssal Bind to lose effect. He then charged at Shi Feng and launched another barrage of attacks together with his mirror images.

"You want to compete using HP?" Shi Feng smiled. "Come, then!"

Saying so, Shi Feng activated Phantom Kill and Nine Dragon Slash.

Although his doppelganger only possessed 80% of his Basic Attributes, which made it slightly weaker than Brute Spear, it should have no problems holding off one of the Berserker's mirror images. Meanwhile, the twelve Abyssal Blade phantoms summoned by Nine Dragons Slash could also easily stop the other mirror image. This way, the duel would revert to a one-on-one fight.

At this time, Shi Feng activated Thunder God's Descent, increasing his Movement Speed and Attack Speed by 150%, damage by 50%, and decreasing the damage he received by 50% for 30 seconds.

Without hesitation, he charged straight at Brute Spear and executed Sword's Orbit.

Starlight suddenly filled Shi Feng's surroundings. However, Brute Spear paid no attention to this phenomenon whatsoever as he used all his strength to send out multiple spear strikes.

Immediately, both sides' HP began falling continuously, the rate of decline giving the surrounding spectators a fright.

"How is this possible?!" The five Flower of Seven Sins members were dumbfounded as they looked at Brute Spear's plummeting HP.

At this moment, Brute Spear was losing over 10,000 HP with each attack he received, 20,000 HP with a critical hit. On the other hand, although Shi Feng was similarly losing HP, he was only losing around 3,000 HP with each attack he received. Moreover, the rate at which his HP fell was much slower than Brute Spear's. For each time Shi Feng's HP fell, Brute Spear's HP would fall two or three times.

After just two seconds of exchanging hits, Brute Spear had less than 70,000 HP remaining—down to less than one-third of his HP. On the other hand, although they could not see the exact value of Shi Feng's HP due to him having hidden it with his Black Cloak, the HP bar revealed above his head showed that he had lost only one-third of his total HP so far. The difference between the two sides was obvious at a glance.

However, despite this situation, Brute Spear himself remained unfazed.

Just when Brute Spear's HP fell below the 30,000 threshold, a sinister smile appeared on his face.

"Backtrack!" Brute Spear roared. Immediately, a blood-red magic array appeared in the air. A red light then shone out of the magic array, enveloping a radius of 30 yards around Brute Spear.

This was the strongest Skill Brute Spear obtained after becoming a Baron Demon.

Blood Backtrack!

As long as he was not dead, the Skill would allow him to regain the HP he had six seconds before.

This was the reason why he dared to exchange damage with Shi Feng.

In the next moment, Brute Spear's HP directly recovered to full. In contrast, Shi Feng had less than half of his HP right now.

"Despicable! He can actually recover his HP!" Passing Monarch could not help but curse out loud when he saw this scene.

Brute Spear simply sent a contemptuous glance at Passing Monarch.

Sure enough, he really does have a trump card hidden. Shi Feng was not particularly surprised by this scene.

In reality, he also knew about Blood Backtrack. This was a move that all Demon nobles knew. Even monsters like Great Demons had used it frequently since it was a Skill specifically used to trap others.

Hence, he also held back a trump card.

Suddenly, the two swords in Shi Feng's hands released a blinding light.

Flame Burst!

Sword's Orbit!

One sword light after another flew at Brute Spear.

"A Sure-kill Skill?" Remaining unfazed, Brute Spear activated the Additional Skill of his Epic Equipment, Magic Shield, which reduced the damage he received by 30% for ten seconds.

He promptly brandished his spear to deflect the oncoming sword lights.

Although Brute Spear failed to deflect all the attacks, with his body's extraordinary physique, he still managed to deflect the majority of them. In the end, he got struck only three times. However, these

three hits shocked him as each one actually took over 60,000 HP from him. In just three blows, he had lost over 180,000 HP.

When Flame Burst ended and Brute Spear was preparing to counterattack, Shi Feng activated Dragon Breath.

Dragon Breath was an AOE Skill that was impossible to block. Moreover, it dealt much more damage than even Flame Burst.

Instantly, Dragon Breath devoured Brute Spear's remaining HP.

At the same time, Shi Feng emerged the victor of this duel!

Chapter 1204 – Treasure Secured

After the duel was over, Brute Spear had a look of horror on his face as he looked at Shi Feng.

How could he have such a high explosive power?!

Brute Spear could not at all believe that he had just lost.

He was a Baron Demon. He also had two pieces of Epic Equipment equipped. He himself was a peak expert in God's Domain. With his 240,000-plus HP, even if he just stood still and did nothing, it would take a Berserker of the same level quite some time to kill him, yet he had been killed almost instantly.

How could he possibly accept this loss?

Nonetheless, there was no way the duel result announced by the system could be fake. It was also an inescapable fact that he only had one HP remaining right now.

Unlike the duels in arenas, the system would leave players with one HP when they were defeated in a duel held in the fields, preventing them from dying.

"The match is over. You can hand over that Epic item of yours now," Shi Feng said as he looked at Brute Spear, who currently had a dazed expression on his face.

Although Brute Spear possessed the transformation bonuses of a Baron Demon, the difference in levels and equipment between the two of them was simply too massive. It was not something a single Demon transformation could offset.

Powerful weapons and equipment not only improved a player's Basic Attributes but also strengthened a player's Skills.

"Just who are you?" Brute Spear asked after taking a deep breath. "Anyone capable of steamrolling right over me can't be someone unknown."

In terms of HP and Defense, he indeed possessed an absolute advantage. However, Shi Feng was leaps and bounds above him in Skills and other Basic Attributes. Meanwhile, needless to say, the reason for Shi Feng's advantage in Attributes was definitely the Swordsman's weapons and equipment.

Any player that could surpass a player like himself in terms of weapons and equipment could not be an ordinary expert. Most likely, Shi Feng was a peak expert from a superpower. Moreover, far from just any ordinary peak expert, Shi Feng was no doubt a peak expert heavily nurtured by his Guild.

"What? Want to take revenge on me? Not willing to accept defeat?" Shi Feng asked.

"That's only one part of the reason." Brute Spear nodded in acknowledgment. "The other part is that I don't want to lose without even knowing whom I lost to."

He had indeed thought of taking revenge on Shi Feng. After all, the reason he lost this time was not due to techniques, but rather weapons, equipment, and Skills. This result greatly frustrated him.

He was actually killed instantly by two Sure-kill Skills.

If news about this spread, he would definitely become a laughingstock.

After giving the matter some thought, Shi Feng walked up to Brute Spear and said quietly, "Fine, I can give you a chance. You can call me Frost Eye. In any case, this is a name others have given me. If you wish to have a rematch, then you must wager Epic Equipment at the very least, just like this time. As for the venue of the match, let's set it at the imperial capital of the Fire Dragon Empire. Once you're ready, you just need to spread the message in the Fire Dragon Empire. When the time comes, I'll naturally find out."

"You're Frost Eye? The number one person on the Bounty List?" Brute Spear's heart began racing when he heard this and stared incredulously at Shi Feng.

Frost Eye was very famous in God's Domain.

After all, Frost Eye had managed to enter the main headquarters of the Super Guild King's Return and kill Hell Fiend all by himself—then escape with his life. This incident had long since become a legend in God's Domain.

Even now, King's Return was still hunting Frost Eye. Moreover, the bounty the Guild had placed on Frost Eye had increased from the initial 20,000 Gold to the current 50,000 Gold. King's Return was even offering a reward of several hundred Gold to anyone that could provide some clues leading to Frost Eye.

This incident had also prompted the various superpowers in God's Domain to search for Frost Eye, because of Frost Eye's ability to enter places with heavy security like the Divine Colosseum and pull off an assassination. Since Frost Eye had killed an expert like Hell Fiend, he was naturally capable of killing other Guild upper echelons as well, perhaps even the Guild Leaders of superpowers. A Guild Leader's assassination would deal a massive blow to the Guild's reputation.

Hence, the various superpowers in God's Domain were searching for Frost Eye. The Flower of Seven Sins was no exception.

As an organization that dealt in assassination work, if the Flower of Seven Sins could recruit such an expert, its fame would undoubtedly rise significantly.

“Mhm, that’s right. Since you already have the answer to your question, you can give me my item now, right?” Shi Feng nodded.

“It seems I have not lost in vain.” At this moment, a trace of admiration flashed across Brute Spear’s eyes as he looked at Shi Feng. He then took out the Soul Orb from his bag and passed it to him.

In reality, Brute Spear did not place any particular importance on the Soul Orb.

After all, Epic items like the Soul Orb were not particularly rare. Practically every superpower possessed one or two of such items. Take the Epic tool the Dark Arena had auctioned for example. The tool could be used to brew Magic Wine that had a calming effect when consumed. The calming effect was similar to when a player was in a high Mana density environment.

The Soul Orb was similar to that Epic tool. However, unlike the Magic Wine, which required rare materials to brew, the Soul Orb needed players to willingly offer up a portion of their souls to produce Soul Water. Moreover, the souls of 100 players were needed to produce one drop of Soul Water. Rather than doing something as tedious as collecting souls, gathering raw materials would be much faster. Hence, Brute Spear felt that the Soul Orb was somewhat useless; otherwise, he wouldn’t have used it as a wager.

—

[Soul Orb] (Epic Rank Item)

An orb crafted by Demon God Paimon using the fragments of a destroyed powerful soul treasure.

Additional Active Skill-

Soul Water: Creates Soul Water from the souls willingly contributed by players. No Cooldown. (Every 100 souls of players absorbed will produce one drop of Soul Water.)

Currently, this item has been sealed by Demon God Paimon. Item will drop upon death. Those without the power of Demons are unable to use this item.

—

“If you’re not interested in this Epic item, I can use 7,000 Gold to buy it back,” Brute Spear said, grinning as he looked at Shi Feng.

Although items like the Soul Orb were indeed rare in God’s Domain, there were still a few of them, which usually sold for around 20,000 to 30,000 Gold. However, since only Demon players could use the Soul Orb, its value was much lower.

For someone like Shi Feng, who was not a Demon player, even if he obtained the Soul Orb, he would not be able to use it. In other words, it was no different from a piece of junk.

“At the end of the day, it is still an Epic item. Keeping it as a decoration isn’t a bad idea, either.”

Although a surprised expression had indeed appeared on Shi Feng’s face after he read the Soul Orb’s Attributes, he still stored the item away. He then turned around and left.

The corners of Brute Spear’s mouth twitched involuntarily when he heard Shi Feng’s words.

Most likely, only the number one person on the Bounty List could say something like using an Epic item as decoration.

As for preventing Shi Feng and the others from leaving, Brute Spear did not think he and his companions had this ability.

If Shi Feng was capable of leaving King's Return's main headquarters unscathed back then, it would be child's play to get away from the six of them.

Following which, Shi Feng led Passing Monarch and the others away from Demon Island.

Brute Spear and the others had failed to notice that the reason for Shi Feng's surprised expression was not the fact that only Demon players could use the Soul Orb. After all, this was something Shi Feng had long since known.

Instead, he was surprised because the instant he touched the Soul Orb, the Golden Stigmata on him had reacted.

Chapter 1205 – Kingdom Transformation

The Golden Stigmata was originally a tool for Shi Feng to search for the Seven Treasures.

Previously, when he went to Lake Heart City, a clue relating to one of the Seven Treasures had appeared. However, the signal had been brief, disappearing after a moment. Fortunately, he had already gotten a lock on the NPC wielding that treasure.

Only, as Countess Katie Green was too powerful for Shi Feng right now, he did not want to alert the NPC any more than he already had.

Since entering God's Domain, Shi Feng had already been to quite a few places. However, he had managed to find only one clue relating to the Seven Treasures so far. Despite that, the instant he touched the Soul Orb, it had actually triggered a reaction from the Golden Stigmata. How could he not get excited over this?

This was also the reason behind Shi Feng's decision to give up on entering Demon Island for now and return to White River City first.

After all, the Soul Orb was an item that dropped upon death. The ancient ruins on Demon Island were extremely dangerous. With the Demon God's aura causing the monsters on the island to go berserk, the risk of death was simply too high right now. It was much better if he returned to White River City for the time being.

Following which, Shi Feng said his goodbyes to Passing Monarch and agreed to meet up with him tomorrow at the Sea's End.

...

Meanwhile, on Demon Island, the black-clad Ranger Chen Xu, who had just met up with Brute Spear's group, nearly had his eyes fall out of their sockets when he saw Brute Spear sending off Shi Feng and the others.

"Boss Brute, are you letting them go, just like that?" Chen Xu could not believe this was true. "We lost a lot of men to them."

As Demons, they lost three levels each time they died. Just the number of Flower of Seven Sins members killed by Shi Feng alone numbered over 70. If their superiors were to find out about this, they would no doubt receive severe punishment. After all, turning ordinary players into Demons was not an easy task.

"We can only consider ourselves unlucky this time," Brute Spear replied.

"Boss Brute, even you weren't able to defeat them?!" Chen Xu asked in shock.

Brute Spear was a peak expert in the Flower of Seven Sins. Moreover, every one of the five others in the Berserker's party was stronger than Chen Xu. They should be more than capable of dealing with Shi Feng, whose Berserk Skill was on Cooldown. Moreover, Brute Spear had already been ennobled into a Baron Demon. In terms of overall strength, he could already be considered a Tier 2 player. How could he possibly not be a match for Shi Feng?

Brute Spear turned around and asked, "Do you know who that peak expert is?"

Chen Xu shook his head in response. Shi Feng had been wearing a Black Cloak the entire time. Hence, Chen Xu had failed to discern any information about the Swordsman. Pinpointing his identity through his class was also impossible. After all, there were just too many Swordsman experts in God's Domain. Not to mention, many of the Swordsman experts that entered God's Domain were not that famous.

"He is Frost Eye!" Brute Spear smiled bitterly.

"What?! That's the guy the higher-ups have been searching for all this time?!" Chen Xu could not help his surprise.

Ordinary players might not be familiar with Frost Eye, but he was a famous existence among the superpowers of God's Domain. Even the old monsters of the Flower of Seven Sins had praised him endlessly, wishing to recruit him into the organization.

"No wonder he was so strong!"

When Chen Xu recalled the scene where Shi Feng had instantly killed Hammer and the others, he found the idea plausible. After all, Frost Eye was someone capable of assassinating the upper echelon of a Super Guild right in the middle of the Guild's main headquarters and even getting away safely. It would be a piece of cake for someone like that to kill experts of Hammer's standards.

"Alright, go inform the higher-ups. Tell them that I already have a way to make contact with Frost Eye. Also, send in a detailed report regarding the previous battle. As for the matter regarding Demon Island, the rest of us will handle it," Brute Spear commanded.

...

Star-Moon Kingdom, White River City:

After returning, Shi Feng immediately noticed that the atmosphere within the city had become slightly tense.

“Those Red Players are simply too arrogant! They actually dare take action within NPC towns now! Thanks to that, the loot my team got from the Boss we killed is all gone!”

“Your team is simply too careless. However, after the new expansion pack was implemented, the Dark Guilds and Red Players have indeed become more proactive. Several other teams have likewise gotten ambushed and suffered severe losses.”

“I wonder which bastard triggered this expansion pack. I heard that the other kingdoms and empires are in similar situations. New dark towns and cities have also been popping up one after another throughout God’s Domain, allowing Red Players to exchange for many nice items there.”

“Exchange items?”

“That’s right. Although the exchange rates are very fraudulent, requiring three Secret-Silver Weapons to exchange for one Secret-Silver Weapon or Equipment of the same level, the exchanged weapons and equipment are more suited to oneself. Some normal players have even begun commissioning Dark Guilds and Red Players to help exchange items for them now.”

“Isn’t that awesome? Our team has many weapons and equipment we can’t use. Rather than sell them for money, it will be much better to exchange for items that are more appropriate for us.”

“Do you really think it’s that easy? So far, the only place that has such an exchange center in Star-Moon Kingdom is Evernight City as the only dark NPC city within the kingdom. Those who aren’t Red or Dark Players are prohibited entry. Moreover, if you want to exchange for high-ranking weapons and equipment, you’ll need to have enough Reputation with the city as well as fulfill certain conditions. Ordinary Red Players can exchange for Bronze Weapons and Equipment at best. I heard that only Dark Players can exchange for Secret-Silver Weapons and Equipment.”

“It seems we’ll have to be more careful in the future. Now that these Dark Guilds and Red Players have such a convenient source for items, they will surely become more proactive in the future.”

“That’s right. Currently, some NPC towns are no longer safe from Red Players. I don’t know what kind of item those Red Players have managed to get, but they’re actually able to evade detection by NPC guards for a short time. Unless they’re standing very near an NPC guard, the latter won’t sense them at all.”

...

Many independent teams and players were discussing the recent expansion pack and its consequences in the open-air bar of White River City’s Teleportation Hall, and they were unanimous in hating the new expansion pack.

Initially, the range of activity of Dark Players was not particularly large. After the implementation of the new expansion pack, however, new dark towns appeared in the vicinity of the various NPC cities. Moreover, these dark towns were all very powerful. The NPCs ruling them were usually above Level

100—existences that current players couldn't go up against. As a result, this situation immediately expanded the range of activities of Dark Players significantly.

They've begun moving already? Shi Feng had never imagined that these Dark Players would take action so quickly.

While the Demon God's Disturbance expansion pack was indeed a blessing to Dark Players and somewhat of a disadvantage to ordinary adventurer players, it wasn't as though the expansion pack was a pure liability to adventurer players. Adventurer players similarly had a way to benefit from this expansion pack: crusades!

Along with the rise of the dark forces, many Dark NPCs that had previously hidden themselves would become active. As these NPCs were considered enemies of normal players, normal players could kill them without suffering any repercussions.

As long as players managed to kill these NPCs, aside from being able to obtain weapons and equipment just like the loot from a Boss, there was also a certain chance for these NPCs to drop Seven Luminaries Crystals, an extremely valuable item to both players and NPCs. Unlike Field Bosses, some powerful NPCs would collect Seven Luminaries Crystals.

This source of Seven Luminaries Crystals could also be considered the greatest reward to normal players from this new expansion pack.

After Shi Feng was done eavesdropping on the conversations of other players, he returned to the Candlelight Trading Firm and entered a Special Forging Room before carefully taking out the Soul Orb.

"Please don't disappoint me." Shi Feng then activated Omniscient Eyes on the Soul Orb. Omniscient Eyes was one of the two Active Skills of the Golden Stigmata, and it allowed one to see through everything and discover certain things that were not visible on the surface.

Chapter 1206 – Treasure Fragment

Star-Moon City:

Due to the Demon God's Disturbance, Star-Moon City's player population exploded. The majority of these newcomers were former inhabitants of the nearby towns.

With the rise of the dark forces, the surrounding NPC towns were no longer safe. The safest locations right now for normal players were NPC cities.

This development also prompted many adventurer teams, which were originally active in NPC towns, to move their main base of operations to NPC cities. Consequently, the prices of Land in NPC cities also increased as a result of competition among many adventurer teams. This was especially true for Land in the outskirts of Star-Moon City.

Although the Land of a capital city was much more expensive than the Land of other cities, the capital city was also much safer and more convenient.

Moreover, Star-Moon City was the closest NPC city to Evernight City, the sole city controlled by the dark forces in Star-Moon Kingdom. This proximity also drew many hidden Dark Players to Star-Moon City.

Players couldn't teleport to Evernight City; Dark Players were no exception to this. If players wished to visit the city, they could only do so on foot. Meanwhile, Star-Moon City was undeniably the best place to stay for convenience in exchanging for items.

For a time, the situation within Star-Moon City became very complicated.

Meanwhile, inside Heaven's Burial's Residence, a meeting of the highest order was currently being held.

"Fog, how are the contacts on your side?" Singular Burial asked as he looked at the female Elementalist standing beside him.

"Those Dark Guilds have already agreed to our conditions. When the time comes, we just need to exchange some of the weapons and equipment we don't need for those rare tools in Evernight City. At the same time, they've also agreed to secretly kill the players that visit Stone Forest Town," Daybreak Fog said, giggling softly.

Although the new expansion pack had driven the rise of the dark forces, only minor powers like small Guilds, adventurer teams, and independent players were actually affected. Large Guilds like Heaven's Burial were entirely unaffected by this situation.

After all, if the various Dark Guilds wished to thrive in Star-Moon City, they would have to gain the permission of Heaven's Burial.

"Excellent. Now that we have the support of these Dark Guilds, we'll have a much easier time hindering Stone Forest Town's development. Fog, you'll be responsible for handling our relationship with the Dark Guilds in the future," Singular Burial said with a nod. He then turned to look at the Cleric Flame Blood and asked, "How are preparations coming along on Abandoned Wave's side?"

"Guild Leader, rest assured, I've already covertly leaked information that a secret land has been discovered over at *that* place. Many strong adventurer teams and small Guilds have already begun taking action. Afterwards, if we release additional fake news about finding treasure there, even more players should head over to their deaths. It won't be long before we hit the number Abandoned Wave needs. Moreover, due to this new expansion pack, the dark forces have already killed a large number of players. Thus, we won't attract any suspicions even if many players die," Flame Blood explained. "However, if we supply so many players to Abandoned Wave, what if he turns his sword against us, once he is done dealing with Zero Wing?"

"You don't have to worry about this point. We've already signed a contract. He won't dare go back on his word. Besides, the more sacrifices we supply Abandoned Wave, the more returns we'll obtain from Evernight City. As long as we help Abandoned Wave achieve his target requirement, Heaven's Burial will become the first Guild to reside in Evernight City. By then, we'll be unstoppable." Singular Burial laughed nonchalantly at Flame Blood's worries.

He was helping Abandoned Wave because he stood to kill two birds with one stone.

The first was weakening Zero Wing. Once Abandoned Wave was done dealing with Zero Wing, even if Heaven's Burial could not become Star-Moon Kingdom's number one Guild, it could still occupy half of the entire kingdom.

The second was the position in Evernight City.

As the only city belonging to the dark forces in Star-Moon Kingdom, Evernight City offered simply too many benefits. Heaven's Burial could already make a hefty profit just by reselling the items bought or exchanged for there.

Currently, the majority of the players in God's Domain were under the impression that only Dark Players could enter Evernight City. In reality, though, that was not true.

As long as one attained a certain status within the city, they could even purchase Land to construct a Guild Residence in Evernight City. Only, achieving this status was tough. However, Abandoned Wave just so happened to provide the Guild with a good way to do so. Once Heaven's Burial entered Evernight City, they could begin reselling the city's rarities.

Meanwhile, although the various Dark Guilds could also exchange for plenty of rare items, at the end of the day, Dark Guilds were shady existences that few ordinary people wished to do business with. Not to mention, Dark Guilds thrived on killing players. If one did not possess a certain degree of strength, who would dare to trade with Dark Players? As a result, the number of channels they could sell their rare items through was limited.

However, Heaven's Burial was different. Needless to say, players would prefer to trade with Heaven's Burial over the various Dark Guilds. In addition, Dark Guilds were usually of relatively small size, so how could they possibly compete with Heaven's Burial?

As for the threat of the Blackwater Guild, there was no need to worry about that. The Guild had already officially withdrawn from Star-Moon Kingdom not long ago and diverted its attention towards the various empires of God's Domain. After all, the Blackwater Corporation was extremely ambitious. Abandoned Wave was but one of the corporation's many pawns.

Abandoned Wave's current actions were simply his final struggle. If he succeeded, he might regain the Blackwater Corporation's trust and be put to use elsewhere. If he failed, he would definitely be discarded. In either case, the outcome would not affect Heaven's Burial.

Hence, Heaven's Burial's operation this time would only reap benefits.

...

At the same time as Heaven's Burial was holding a meeting, an earth-shattering incident was also taking place in the distant White River City's Candlelight Trading Firm.

What a powerful aura! Shi Feng had a look of astonishment on his face as he looked at the floating Soul Orb.

Currently, the Soul Orb was emitting frightening pressure. This aura was similar to what he felt from Demon God Paimon on Demon Island. However, while the aura Demon God Paimon released back then had indeed been frightening, it had also been calm.

On the other hand, the aura released by the Soul Orb was berserk, as the Soul Orb contained a holy aura aside from Demon God Paimon's aura. Meanwhile, these two auras were currently in conflict, making it seem as if two Gods were fighting each other right now.

At this moment, the entire Special Forging Room was already a mess. Even the magically strengthened walls cracked at the might of the two divine auras.

The strength of these two auras exceeded the Special Forging Room's suppressive ability. As a result, the auras had leaked outside, paralyzing everyone within the Candlelight Trading Firm.

"What's going on?!"

"Why can't I move?!"

"This aura... Could there be a monster inside the trading firm!?"

...

The Lifestyle players that had been toiling in their respective workshops were all frightened. This was definitely their first time to encounter such a situation. Just sensing the two divine auras made their souls shudder in fear.

Shi Feng did not doubt that the clash between these two auras would have caused a tremendous commotion in White River City if not for Candlelight Trading Firm being a 3-star Shop. This was also the reason why he had chosen to appraise the Soul Orb there.

After a short moment, the two clashing auras finally weakened and eventually reached a balance.

As a result, half of the Soul Orb turned black and the other half, white. Meanwhile, the Divine Might the orb was exuding right now gave even Shi Feng, who was Level 50, difficulty in moving his body.

"Wonderful! It really is a treasure fragment!"

Shi Feng revealed a look of ecstasy when he took a look at the Soul Orb's Attributes once again.

Chapter 1207 – Treasure of Illusion

An indescribable excitement filled Shi Feng as he held the Soul Orb.

The Seven Treasures were bona fide Godly Relics.

Mere Legendary items could not compare to these. Not even Ancient Gods would necessarily possess a Godly Relic, much less mortal humans.

In the past, Shi Feng had never even heard of a player owning a Godly Relic.

Of course, it was possible that someone had obtained a Godly Relic but had hidden the fact. After all, news of something like this would cause a huge commotion throughout the game if it got out.

Hence, in the eyes of God-ranked experts, Legendary items were already considered Godly Relics.

After all, Legendary items were already capable of enabling players to challenge opponents of a higher tier. If a God-ranked expert really got their hands on a Godly Relic, the outcome would be simply mind-boggling.

Although the Seven Treasures were neither weapons nor equipment, they were still powerful enough to suppress Dark Abyss.

However, now that Shi Feng thought about it, he found the idea reasonable.

The Soul Water the Soul Orb produced helped players reach an unprecedented serenity and mental clarity. This was no longer something achievable by simply raising an area's Mana density. How could an Epic item possibly possess such an amazing ability?

Only a Godly Relic could produce something so unbelievable.

—

[Soul Orb] (Epic Rank Item)

Originally a fragment of the Treasure of Illusion. However, due to being refined by Demon God Paimon, the fragment's true power has been sealed.

Additional Active Skill-

Soul Water: Creates Soul Water from the souls willingly contributed by players. No Cooldown. (Every 100 souls of players absorbed will produce 1 drop of Soul Water.)

Additional Active Skill 2-

Divine Power Absorption: Absorb divine power to recover the Soul Orb itself. (There are a total of three seals. The removal of the first seal requires 10 God Crystals. Current absorbed number: 0)

Currently, although the Soul Orb has been sealed by Demon God Paimon, it has been awakened by the Golden Stigmata. The seal can be removed by absorbing divine power. Item will drop upon death. Demonic power will devour non-Stigmata Bearers.

—

Not long after Shi Feng began to celebrate, the sound of a system notification reached his ears.

—

System: Demon God Paimon has discovered the Soul Orb's awakening and has issued a recovery order to all dark force players. If more than three yards separate the Soul Orb and the Stigmata, it will be teleported back to Paimon's hands.

—

Must the system be so serious? Shi Feng was speechless when he heard the system notification.

This system announcement had declared that the Soul Orb could not leave his person; he had to carry it with him constantly. However, the Soul Orb dropped upon death. If he died, the orb would return to Demon God Paimon. The recovery order was also a vicious threat.

Since it was a recovery order, Dark Players would definitely be given a special method to find the Soul Orb. In other words, as long as he was outside of an NPC city, his chances of encountering a Dark Player ambush were quite high.

He was at a huge disadvantage.

He had prioritized secrecy when moving about to prevent others from discovering his intentions. Unfortunately, the Soul Orb was a beacon for trouble, yet if he didn't hold on to it, he would lose the treasure fragment.

"Do I really have to head to the War God's Temple?" Shi Feng felt a headache brewing.

The War God's Temple had tasked him with collecting the Seven Treasures. While he might be able to complete his quest by handing them over, he would lose the ability to use the treasures for himself.

Those were the Seven Treasures they were talking about!

Although they were neither weapons nor equipment, they possessed abilities that no Epic or Legendary item could compete with. Simply handing the treasures over after obtaining them wouldn't be worth his time.

As Shi Feng tried to plan his next move, Aqua Rose contacted him.

"Guild Leader, Phoenix Rain has arrived with her people. She hopes to use the Secret Tablet right now," Aqua Rose said anxiously. "However, we haven't decided who to send yet. Should we have them wait for a little bit longer?"

She's here already? Shi Feng could not help his surprise. The Dark Auction had only ended a short time ago, yet Phoenix Rain was already here. "Tell her that I have some issues to deal with for now and that I'll need to have her wait three hours. Also, gather Summer, Violet, Rain, and Yueru. You five will enter the tablet first."

The Secret Spellcasting Technique was a massive boost to magical class players. Although Zero Wing had quite a few magical class experts, people with great potential like Aqua Rose would have priority for learning the technique.

Only, before these five entered the tablet, he needed to prepare.

Now that the Soul Orb had changed, he had to put it to good use, stockpiling as much Soul Water as possible, before handing it over to the War God's Temple.

"Understood."

Aqua Rose nodded happily when she heard that she had received a slot as well. If she entered the tablet, she might be able to join the ranks of Zero Wing's Refinement Realm experts.

After Aqua Rose disconnected the call, Shi Feng considered contacting Melancholic Smile to gather a group of the Candlelight Trading Firm's ordinary Lifestyle players, particularly the firm's reserve members. As long as these players were willing to part with a fraction of their souls, they would receive an official member's benefits for five days.

The Candlelight Trading Firm was the number one trading firm in Star-Moon Kingdom. The benefits one could enjoy in Candlelight could not be found in any other trading firm in the kingdom. Hence, a large number of players wanted to join Candlelight every day. However, not everyone could become an official member. Only those with potential could become reserve members. After becoming a reserve member, players still needed to pass Candlelight's test to become an official member.

Meanwhile, reserve members did not receive any particularly valuable benefits. They were only slightly better off than certain independent Lifestyle players.

Even so, droves of Lifestyle players wanted to join.

Furthermore, EXP was secondary to Lifestyle players. Not being able to kill monsters wouldn't affect them in any way, and the Weakened state only lasted four or five days. There should be plenty of reserve members who were willing to accept his offer.

"How could I have forgotten about Sharlyn?" Shi Feng suddenly remembered the Tier 5 Red Official Sharlyn.

Sherlyn had both extraordinary strength and status. She had even scared away the mysterious youth that had used a Super Spell.

That mysterious youth had dared to steal the golden tablet right in the middle of Blackwing City. Even Tier 5 players were likely no match for him. Moreover, Sharlyn knew a lot about God's Domain. She might have some method to help him keep the Soul Orb.

Let's give it a try. If it isn't possible, it won't be too late to trade it for a reward in the War God's Temple after I've stockpiled some Soul Water.

Thinking up to this point, Shi Feng contacted Melancholic Smile and had her collect the required members. This way, once he returned from the library, she should have gathered enough people.

Although Shi Feng wanted more sacrifices, the Flower of Seven Sins already knew about his acquisition of the Soul Orb. If he tempted fate, the Flower of Seven Sins would connect him with Frost Eye.

In other words, they would learn that Frost Eye was a member of Zero Wing.

If this news reached King's Return, the consequences would be unimaginable.

If that happened, King's Return would do everything in its power to annihilate Zero Wing. After all, the Guild's reputation was at stake.

Hence, he needed to maintain a low-profile while collecting souls. Moreover, he needed to do it quickly.

The longer he held the Soul Orb, the closer the Flower of Seven Sins would come to discovering his identity. After all, the Demon God Paimon had already issued a recovery order for the orb. If it were discovered on one of Zero Wing's members, the result would still be the same.

Following which, Shi Feng snuck out of the Candlelight Trading Firm and rode an advanced carriage to the library.

Chapter 1208 – Dark Sanctuary

On the foggy Demon Island, Brute Spear directed the Flower of Seven Sins members to carry away blood-red broken pillars secretly. These broken stone pillars radiated a faint Divine Might, and aside from the Mana directly around the pillars, they attracted all nearby Mana, increasing the density significantly.

The smaller stone pillars were roughly three meters long; a single Berserker could barely carry one. The larger pillars were seven to eight meters high, and transporting one required several players.

These blood-red pillars littered the Demon Altar.

“Hurry up! We need to move these before the other powers discover this place!” Brute Spear commanded.

If Shi Feng were present, he would instantly recognize these blood-red pillars.

In the past, these pillars had been used to form the magic array that had protected the Flower of Seven Sins’ city.

This magic array was known as the Dark Sanctuary.

Under the cover of the Dark Sanctuary, the Mana density within the enveloped area would reach heights that even the Tower of Four Elements could not compete with. However, this wasn’t the Dark Sanctuary’s greatest purpose. Rather, it was its ability to help players grow.

Players could fight system-generated copies of themselves in the Dark Sanctuary’s core as long as they spent enough Magic Crystals. Moreover, their copies could execute Skills at 100% Completion Rate. Fighting such an opponent would help players realize their flaws and improve rapidly within a short period.

Due to this magic array, countless experts had tried to join the Flower of Seven Sins.

Only, the magic array Brute Spear and the others had just secured was damaged. It could not be used right away. Even so, just by gathering the blood-red pillars in a location, they could increase the area’s Mana density.

As Brute Spear and the others transported the stone pillars, the Flower of Seven Sins’ members received a system notification.

–

System: Demon God Paimon has issued a recovery order for the Soul Orb. Anyone who kills the Soul Orb’s wielder will receive a bountiful reward from Demon God Paimon. You will need to pay 500 Magic

Crystals to accept this quest. Do you wish to accept this quest? This quest is valid long-term. It can be accepted at any time and does not have a time limit.

—

The Soul Orb? Brute Spear was shocked when he heard this system notification. *Isn't that the item Frost Eye took from me?*

The Demon God Paimon had bestowed the Soul Orb to him as a treasure. Brute Spear had never thought that this treasure would be this important.

Brute Spear suddenly regretted his decision to wager the orb.

"Boss Brute, doesn't Frost Eye have the Soul Orb?"

"This is interesting. The Demon God's reward will certainly be impressive. Many players will accept this quest. Frost Eye is in for a lot of trouble now."

"That's not possible, right? After all, that's Frost Eye we're talking about. Killing him is easier said than done."

"Boss Brute, should we accept this quest?"

"We know that Frost Eye has the Soul Orb. We have an advantage over the other groups."

"That's right. Even if we can't get it, those from the Sin of Wrath and Sin of Greed will try for it. After all, there are a few among them who are close to becoming Baron Demons."

...

The Demon God's "bountiful reward" sorely tempted the Flower of Seven Sins' members. They might get ennobled after completing the quest. Even if they didn't, they would still gain a significant amount of Reputation, allowing them to reach the Baron rank more easily. This was a very rare opportunity for Demon players.

"Let's not accept the quest for now. We should tell Big Sis about this first. We'll let her decide what we should do," Brute Spear said after giving the matter some thought.

The others nodded in agreement.

At the same time, the various dark forces in God's Domain began to take action.

"A bountiful reward from the Demon God?"

"Just who is the unlucky fellow that provoked the Demon God? Anyways, this is good news to us."

Both the various Dark Guilds and the independent Dark Players accepted the Demon God Paimon's quest without hesitation.

Dark Players had access to fewer quests than normal players. As a result, it was extremely difficult for Dark Players to raise their Reputation with the dark forces. They would likely earn a ton of Reputation Points by completing this quest, let alone the potential reward from the Demon God.

...

Elsewhere, Shi Feng arrived at the library of White River City.

More players crowded the building than during his previous visits. Many magical class players were practicing their Spells in the main hall, and some were even learning from the NPC instructors to improve their spellcasting accuracy.

Unlike physical classes, magical class players needed a considerable amount of training to hit monsters with their Spells. This was especially true after so many God's Domain evolutions. Players that had recently joined God's Domain would have a very difficult time fighting even Common monsters. Hence, they needed to practice a lot more to improve themselves.

Although the various starting towns had their own combat instructor NPCs, the combat basics these NPCs taught were only useful to newcomers. If one wanted to grow more powerful, they had to enter a city. Physical class players could find their instructors in the War God's Temple. As for magical class players, their combat instructors were in the city's library.

These locations were the easiest places for ordinary players to enter and train. After all, locations such as the Divine Colosseum cost Magic Crystals. This was a price that ordinary players could not afford. This was especially true for players that had just joined God's Domain.

Hence, ordinary players often visited both the War God's Temple and the library.

If players wished to receive guidance from a senior instructor, they had to pay 1 Silver per hour, whereas a junior instructor only cost 30 Copper per hour. Even ordinary players could afford this. Hence, most ordinary players came here to train at night while spending the day in the fields engaged in battle. By doing so, they could grow stronger faster than simply fighting monsters all day.

Zero Wing's members were far better off. As Zero Wing now had a 3-star Guild Residence, it had its own Training Room. Not only could the training room teach players to utilize their Skills and Spells, but it also taught players basic combat techniques. Neither the library nor the War God's Temple offered as much.

After entering the library, Shi Feng headed to the top floor.

The guards have grown stronger again? Shi Feng was slightly surprised when he saw the two black armored Knights guarding the Star-Moon Hall's entrance.

Every time he visited the Star-Moon Hall, the Knights were stronger than before.

Originally, the guards had only been Level 180, Tier 3 Knights. Now, they were Level 210, Tier 3 Knights. Even Level 180, Tier 4 NPCs would have trouble dealing with these Knights. After all, the higher one's level was, the more Attributes one received with each level up. A gap of 30 Levels at such a high level was no trivial matter.

These two Tier 3 Knights did not block Shi Feng's path into the Star-Moon Hall. Rather, they opened the doors when Shi Feng came within 10 yards as if they had been instructed to do so.

Seated on the throne in the middle of the hall was a golden-haired, saint-like woman. When this saintly woman saw Shi Feng, the corners of her lips curled up slightly.

"After some time apart, you seem to have collected a lot more treasures and Coins."

Chapter 1209 – Promotion Quest

Currently, Sharlyn wore a set of exquisite, red-white robes. Although Shi Feng did not know exactly what rank the robes were, they added a hint of divinity and charm to her appearance. They also exuded a fierce Divine Might.

Divine Might!

Not just any random weapon or piece of equipment possessed this kind of power. It needed to be an item once worn by a God. Moreover, the item must have absorbed some of said God's power to radiate Divine Might.

Legendary mage robes? Shi Feng guessed.

Take the Seven Treasures for example. As Gods had created these items personally, they exuded Divine Might.

The fact that Sharlyn's robes radiated Divine Might proved that they were extraordinary.

Most Legendary items in God's Domain did not exude Divine Might.

However, when Shi Feng saw the faint smile on Sharlyn's face after hearing her comment, he shuddered involuntarily.

Only now did he recall that Sharlyn possessed a very high-rank Identification Skill that could even observe the contents of a player's bag space. He currently had more than 10,000 Gold on him...

"Why are you giving me that look? Do you think I covet your 15,739 Gold Coins?" Contempt laced Sharlyn's words as she spoke. "After so much time, you sure have a lot more secrets. You've even gotten your hands on a treasure fragment. I wonder how angry Demon God Paimon is right now. After all, he spent hundreds of years to seal that orb."

Shi Feng's heart began to pound.

The War God's Temple had been searching for the Seven Treasures constantly, yet based on Sharlyn's tone, it seemed as if she had known the Treasure of Illusion's whereabouts all along.

"Do you think I'm working for the War God's Temple?" Sharlyn said as if she had read Shi Feng's thoughts. Chuckling, she said, "You've sought me out to find a way to prevent Paimon from taking the treasure fragment back, right? Unfortunately, I have no way of shielding the fragment from Paimon's detection."

"Is there really no way?" Shi Feng sighed dejectedly.

If he couldn't hide the Soul Orb from Demon God Paimon, then he would have no choice but to hand the item over to the War God's Temple. Even a Demon God couldn't reach the orb inside the War God's Temple. However, simply handing the orb over would be a huge waste.

"I never said there wasn't a way. If the treasure absorbs a sufficient amount of divine power, you can remove Paimon's seal. Even Paimon won't be able to do anything about it. If you wish to keep the treasure fragment, you should find more God Crystals quickly. There is nothing else anyone can do to help you. After all, we are only mortal. We have no hope of resisting Gods," Sharlyn explained.

"God Crystals?" Shi Feng smiled bitterly.

He wanted to obtain a lot of God Crystals. After all, he had many items that needed divine power to evolve. However, God Crystals were extremely rare, even rarer Epic items. Obtaining a single God Crystal was extremely difficult, yet removing the first seal on the Soul Orb required ten crystals. Where was he supposed to find so many God Crystals?

As if she had predicted Shi Feng's concerns, Sharlyn giggled and said, "Others might have a hard time finding God Crystals, but for you, it shouldn't be a difficult task."

"Not difficult for me? Why?" Shi Feng asked curiously.

"Five thousand Gold consultation fee," Sharlyn demanded, smiling as she stretched out her hand.

Shi Feng rolled his eyes at the woman, inwardly cursing her for being black-hearted. However, he still handed over the 5,000-Gold consultation fee.

God Crystals were of utmost importance. Unfortunately, he had yet to discover any clues about their whereabouts.

After receiving the 5,000 Gold, Sharlyn's smile became all the more charming.

"It's very simple, actually. Don't you have that Ancient Document[1] on you? As long as you ask the Ancient Document, you'll find clues regarding God Crystals." Sharlyn waved her hand, and in the next instant, the Ancient Document in Shi Feng's bag appeared before him. "Of course, this is only one of the clues you can use to find God Crystals. The other one is the most important.

"Now that you've reached Level 50, you can consider your Tier 2 promotion quest. I suggest you complete it as soon as possible as you don't have much time left."

Initially, Shi Feng wanted to curse at the woman. Of course, he knew that the Ancient Document possessed such an ability. After all, he had bought it from the Dark Auction. However, the Ancient Document would only provide a clue to one God Crystal. He needed ten for the Soul Orb. Moreover, he had a greater purpose for the Ancient Document. It would be wasteful to use it to find God Crystals.

"What does my Tier 2 promotion have to do with God Crystals?" Shi Feng asked.

He simply needed to complete a quest for his Tier 2 promotion. Meanwhile, the Gods themselves had used God Crystals. The two were not related in the least.

"Have you forgotten that you own one of the Ten Great Saint Legacies?" Sharlyn smiled as she took out an ancient book. She then explained, "This ancient book contains records of the Ten Great Saint

Legacies. Every time you complete a promotion quest, you'll be sent into a different space. The Ancient Gods had left these spaces behind. Gods would have certainly stored items there. Hence, for you, it isn't a particularly difficult task to obtain God Crystals."

Hearing Sharlyn saying so, Shi Feng thought back to the Eternal Courtyard he had visited in the Origin Sword Domain. An Ancient God had indeed once lived there. Moreover, he had discovered the Holy Grail in that space.

However, as his strength had been limited then, he had been restricted to certain areas. Just surviving and completing his quest had been extremely difficult. He had only obtained the God Crystal due to luck.

As Sharlyn had said, the sooner he completed his Tier 2 promotion, the better. This way, he would have more time to focus on other things. Once he had his Tier 2 class, he could explore new areas and find new treasures.

"Lady Sharlyn, may I know how I should go about completing my promotion?" Shi Feng asked.

Previously, he had completed his class-change with the assistance of a Legacy item. However, his Legacy item had disappeared. If he had a normal class, he could simply go to the library or War God's Temple and seek out a high-tiered instructor for his Tier 2 promotion. However, hidden classes didn't have that option. They needed Legacy items to show the way.

"I can send you there. I charged you a friendship price the last time. This time, it will cost you 10,000 Gold and an additional 188 Mana Stones," Sharlyn said, stretching out her hand as she revealed an expression that stated, "You should be thankful I am offering such a low price."

When Shi Feng heard this, he very much wished to say, "Why don't you go rob a bank or something!?"

Others only needed to pay 50 Gold for their Tier 2 promotion, yet his required 10,000 Gold and 188 Mana Stones. Even if he had the Philosopher's Stone, he still needed 9,400 Magic Crystals to synthesize that many Mana Stones.

If it an independent player stood in his place, they wouldn't even be able to afford their Tier 2 promotion after reaching Level 100.

"I am giving you a great deal here. If you went to find someone else to assist you, they'll have to be a Tier 5 magical class, and you'd need three of them. Hiring three such existences will cost you a fortune. On the other hand, I'm only charging 10,000 Gold," Sharlyn explained.

"Alright, then. However, I don't have that many Mana Stones on hand right now, and I need to prepare." When Shi Feng heard that he needed three Tier 5 magical class NPCs to help him, he understood that this promotion quest of his was nothing ordinary. Most likely, only an NPC like Sharlyn could help him. Any other NPC with the required strength would be incredibly rare.

Following which, Shi Feng left the library, rushing back to the Candlelight Trading Firm.

On his way, Melancholic Smile contacted him, an excited expression on her face as she said, "Guild Leader, good news! Abyss has successfully constructed the first Advanced Transport Carriage!"

TL Notes:

[1]Ancient Document: In Chapter 1171, ancient book -> Ancient Document.

Chapter 1210 – Modified Advanced Transport Carriage

“He’s done already?”

Shi Feng grew ecstatic when he heard Melancholic Smile’s report.

Advanced Transport Carriages were not that easy to construct. Even with all the required materials, it was possible that certain parts wouldn’t meet the system’s standards, which would result in failure during the final assembly. These faulty parts would need to be remade, and the carriage would have to be reassembled. These various processes were extremely taxing in both time and energy.

However, as long as the Advanced Transport Carriages were complete, they would massively assist Stone Forest Town’s development.

Stone Forest Town’s reconstruction was already complete. However, the Transport Carriages, the key to unlocking the Intermediate Town’s true potential, were still missing.

Although it was possible to rent ordinary carriages from NPCs, those carriages could hold up to four players at a time. Moreover, the rental price was relatively high. The amount of time one could save with these carriages was also minimal as their speed was on par with Common Mounts. If ordinary players were asked to spend 40 Copper just to save five hours, they would likely choose to walk the entire way. Hence, for the moment, Shi Feng had set the fee for using the rented carriages at 30 Copper per player. With this, he may not make a profit, but he wouldn’t lose money, either.

If they could have a fleet of Advanced Transport Carriages now, they could solve many problems. First, the speed of an Advanced Transport Carriage was on par with a Mysterious-Iron Mount. Second, it was capable of carrying up to twenty players at a time. With these two factors, they would make quite an income by just offering players transportation. Furthermore, Advance Transport Carriages could carry cargo.

An Advanced Transport Carriage could carry up to 60 non-bag space items.

In player towns, a wandering NPC merchant’s stock depended on the town’s transportation services. This was because the majority of a wandering merchant’s goods were non-bag space items.

The more non-bag space items a town could transport, the more rare items wandering merchants would bring to said town. Moreover, more wandering merchants would visit. This was considered a hidden benefit.

This hidden benefit had only been discovered after many Guilds had established their own Advanced Towns or Basic Cities in the past. When the news spread, the various Guilds regretted not establishing a transportation system early on. Otherwise, they would’ve attracted far more players with the wandering NPC merchants.

Moreover, as a town or city attracted more wandering merchants, it would unlock another hidden benefit—a Mystery Shop!

The Mystery Shop mainly sold Mystery Treasure Chests. As its name suggested, one had a random chance of obtaining all sorts of items from the Mystery Treasure Chest such as potions, weapons, equipment, Magic Scrolls, food, beverages, and far more. If one were lucky, they could even obtain Dark-Gold Weapons and Equipment. It had been very popular among players. However, while the Mystery Shop had an unlimited number of Mystery Treasure Chests in stock, players could only purchase five Mystery Treasure Chests per day at most. Each treasure chest sold for two Silver Coins.

After players purchased a certain number of Mystery Treasure Chests from the Mystery Shop, they could become members of the shop. By then, players could enter the shop's second floor, competing for a limited number of up-to-date and rare weapons, equipment, and tools. Even the most inferior among these items was Secret-Silver rank, and players had often found Fine-Gold items. While very rare, Dark-Gold items would also appear from time to time.

After reaching Level 50, it would become very difficult to obtain high-quality weapons and equipment. Obtaining Level 50-plus Secret-Silver Equipment would be as challenging as finding current Dark-Gold Equipment. Hence, getting to compete for up-to-date Fine-Gold Weapons and Equipment every day was a huge opportunity for most players.

This opportunity did not require players to have superb combat techniques. As long as one had enough Coins, they could purchase the items they desired.

Players had swarmed to any town or city with Mystery Shop. Back then, even merchant players had used these Mystery Shops to make a fortune, traveling to the various towns and cities to compete for these items, then reselling them elsewhere for a profit. After all, players rarely sold their Level 50-plus Fine-Gold Weapons and Equipment.

Upon arriving at the Candlelight Trading Firm, Shi Feng hurried to Burning Abyss's workshop.

"Guild Leader, what do you think of this Advanced Transport Carriage?" Melancholic Smile asked as she gestured to the exquisite carriage in the workshop's center.

Unlike the horse carriages gliding down cities' streets, the Advanced Transport Carriage was not pulled by a horse. Rather, it resembled the Bronze Engineering Locomotive, a completely mechanized mode of transportation. Players could operate it simply by purchasing fuel from NPC shops. It was similar to taming Mounts. Living Mounts needed to be fed during fixed times. The higher a Mount's rank was, the more expensive its food needed to be.

"Is this a modified version?" After examining the Transport Carriage, he noticed that it was slightly different from the original design.

"Mhm, Burning is an engineering genius. He modified it slightly using his research from Titan City, enhancing its performance slightly," Melancholic Smile explained.

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[Advanced Transport Carriage] (Common Rank)
A creation of Master Engineer Burning Abyss.

Maximum capacity: 20 people

Durability 200/200

Item storage when liberated: 8,000 bag space slots and 60 non-bag space slots.

Additional Skill-

Mana Combustion: Increase Movement Speed by 15% by absorbing the Mana of player. Each minute consumes 1,500 Mana. No Cooldown.

—

“Amazing!” Shi Feng said, surprised.

He had seen the Mana Combustion Skill before. However, this Skill generally only manifested on Bronze rank or higher mechanical carriages or Mounts. This was his first time seeing the Skill on a Common Advanced Horse Carriage.

With this 15% Movement Speed increase, the Transport Carriage would rival Secret-Silver Mounts.

However, when Shi Feng looked at this Advanced Transport Carriage, he felt a little helpless.

With the materials they had at hand, they could produce at most two Advanced Transport Carriages. If they could mass-produce the Transport Carriage, the Mystery Shop might open in Stone Forest Town before it even became an Advanced Town.

It would be great if we could find some replacement materials. Shi Feng thought.

Green Ebony was even rarer than Diamond Wood. Moreover, it could only be found in extremely dangerous maps. Procuring a large quantity would be very difficult.

Right! Green Ebony only grows where normal Ebony grows, and only a small minority of Ebony in high Mana density environments grow into the tougher, harder, and more Mana-conductive Green Ebony. What if I use the Philosopher’s Stone’s Elemental Strengthening on normal Ebony? Shi Feng suddenly remembered the Philosopher’s Stone.

Aside from concocting potions, alchemy could convert and strengthen items.

Green Ebony was born from Ebony. It was definitely worth giving the Philosopher’s Stone a try.

Ebony was not a particularly rare material in God’s Domain. One could even say that it was a very common type of wood. If he could transform Ebony into Green Ebony, he could save himself plenty of trouble.

Mass-producing the Advanced Transport Carriage would no longer be a challenge.

Thinking up to this point, Shi Feng had Melancholic Smile retrieve some Ebony from the Candlelight Trading Firm’s warehouse while he retrieved the Philosopher’s Stone from his Personal Warehouse.