

Strongest

Chapter 1211 – Soul Water

In the first-floor hall of the Candlelight Trading Firm...

Due to the Exotic Stamina Potion's recent launch, not only had the Candlelight Trading firm become the most popular place in White River City, but it had also become a holy land for Lifestyle players.

Every day, a large number of Lifestyle players visited the Candlelight Trading Firm to take its entry test.

Among the kingdom's trading firms, the Candlelight Trading Firm employed the most Lifestyle players. In addition, it was the only place that had the Basic Meditation Room.

Everyone had thought little of the Basic Meditation Room when it had first appeared. However, shortly after, a large group of Advanced Lifestyle players had suddenly emerged in the Candlelight Trading Firm. Even if they didn't acknowledge that the Basic Meditation Room had anything to do with it, it was difficult to deny the truth. How else would they explain the sudden addition of so many Advanced Lifestyle players in the Candlelight Trading Firm?

Lifestyle players' status rose with each passing day. Advanced Lifestyle players, in particular, enjoyed generous benefits. As long as one worked hard, their income could even rival that of expert players. They could easily live without having to worry about food and clothing. If they reached the Master rank, even owning a mansion and luxury cars were within reach.

To become Master Lifestyle players, joining the Candlelight Trading Firm was undeniably the best option.

"So, this is the Candlelight Trading Firm? Seems like a pretty nice place."

As a large group of independent Lifestyle players lined up by the first-floor hall's staircase, awaiting their turn to be tested, a female player in dark gray robes entered the trading firm and nonchalantly commented.

This female player was none other than Silent Wonder, whom Shi Feng had invited to work for the Candlelight Trading Firm.

Silent Wonder's comment instantly attracted many Lifestyle players' attention as they all turned to look at her.

Very quickly, they noticed the Advanced Alchemist's Insignia on Silent Wonder's chest. Moreover, her level was frighteningly high, at Level 42. Not even many experts had such a high level.

However, despite her level and alchemist rank, the waiting Lifestyle players glared at her contemptuously.

At this moment, an Advanced Enchanter close to Silent Wonder said, "You must have come here from another kingdom, right? If you wish to join the Candlelight Trading Firm, you need to queue up for the test."

"Even Advanced classes need to take the test to join this place?" Silent Wonder asked the Advanced Enchanter standing in the long queue.

The various Guilds were all in desperate need of Advanced Lifestyle players. Practically every Guild treated their Advanced Lifestyle players like their own children.

If an Advanced lifestyle player stated their intention to join a Guild, plenty of Guilds would welcome them with open arms, not force them to take a test.

"Of course. There are at least five Advanced Lifestyle players ahead of me right now," the Advanced Enchanter said as he rolled his eyes. "This is the Candlelight Trading Firm. It isn't like your average Guild. From I've heard, several Advanced Lifestyle players had failed Candlelight's test and had to retake it three times before they managed to pass."

"How is this possible!?" For a moment, Silent Wonder thought she had heard wrong. She suspected that the Advanced Enchanter before her was a prop the Candlelight Trading Firm had placed here to fool people. "Those are Advanced Lifestyle players we're talking about!"

If even Advanced Lifestyle players needed to retake the test several times, how were Basic and Intermediate Lifestyle players supposed to pass?

"It's true. This is already my second time taking the test. Candlelight's testing is different from other Guilds. They set different requirements depending on your rank. Only by achieving their requirement are you allowed to join. The only advantage Advanced Lifestyle players have is that we don't need to become reserve members. As long as we pass the test, we'll be accepted as official members instantly," the Advanced Enchanter explained.

Silent Wonder fell silent for a moment.

She could not understand what was going through these Advanced Lifestyle players' minds.

If an Advanced Lifestyle player joined any other Guild, becoming a core member would be trivial, yet based on the Advanced Enchanter's explanation, one would be lucky to become an official member of the Candlelight Trading Firm...

Were all of these Advanced Lifestyle players somehow tricked to come here? Silent Wonder wondered about her agreement with Shi Feng.

"Have you come all the way here without knowing anything?" the Advanced Enchanter asked, surprised by Silent Wonder's behavior.

In response, Silent Wonder nodded.

"No wonder. In Star-Moon Kingdom and our several neighboring counties, the Candlelight Trading Firm is second to none in terms of the treatment and benefits it provides. Aside from its large number of Special Workshops, there are also the Basic Meditation Rooms that can help Advanced Lifestyle players like us reach the Master rank. I heard that Candlelight already has a Master Engineer. As long as we

become Candlelight core members, we can seek guidance from that Master Engineer,” the Advanced Enchanter explained.

“A Master?! How is this possible?!” Silent Wonder was stunned. She could not believe her ears.

That was a Master Lifestyle player they were talking about!

Even God’s Domain’s empires didn’t have a Master rank Lifestyle player yet, much less a small kingdom like Star-Moon Kingdom. After all, crossing that final threshold was not a simple thing.

Yet, not only did the Candlelight Trading Firm have an excellent resource like the Basic Meditation Room, but it also possessed a bona fide Master leading it. Any Advanced Lifestyle player seeking to become a Master would be more than eager to learn about a Master’s experience.

So, he really wasn’t lying.

Silent Wonder suddenly thought back to Shi Feng’s words mentioning how her stay in the Candlelight Trading Firm after fulfilling her contract was an unknown. She had assumed that Shi Feng wanted to provoke her. Now, however, it would seem that he had told the truth. After all, with the presence of a Master Lifestyle player and so many Advanced Lifestyle players seeking said Master’s guidance, the competition within the trading firm would be intense.

Hmph! So what?! I refuse to submit! At the end of the month, you’ll be begging me to stay! Silent Wonder’s fighting spirit flared.

She had relied on herself to grow from an Apprentice into an Advanced Alchemist. She believed that, as long as she remained in Candlelight Trading Firm, it would be a trivial task to become the trading firm’s Chief Alchemist.

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As Silent Wonder joined the queue to take the test, a large number of reserve members gathered in the fourth-floor hall. There were over 600 players present. Among these people, even the weakest were Advanced Apprentices, with the majority of them being Basic or Intermediate Lifestyle players. In any other large Guild, they would be official members at the very least. In the Candlelight Trading Firm, however, they were only reserve members.

However, these reserve members were all very excited. As long as they signed a contract, they would become official members for five days. During these five days, not only could they receive guidance, but they could also utilize the trading firm’s Special Workshops.

“Guild Leader, due to time constraints, I have only gathered this many people for now. It will take some more time to gather the remaining players,” Melancholic Smile said.

“This should be barely enough. If you have the time, try to expand the firm a little more. In any case, Candlelight will have to expand later on. Doing it a little early would be just as beneficial,” Shi Feng said as he glanced at the reserve members in the hall. The number of people here barely met his requirement.

Currently, there wasn’t enough Ebony in White River City’s Candlelight Trading Firm’s warehouse; there were only 30 logs or so. It was hardly enough for his needs. They still needed to transfer their stockpile

from the other Shops. It just so happened that he could use this time to obtain some Soul Water. After all, Phoenix Rain was in quite a hurry, and it would not help him to delay them.

Following which, Shi Feng began absorbing the reserve members' souls.

The absorption process was very simple. He didn't even need to take out the Soul Orb itself. A simple handshake and an agreement from the contributing party would do.

One reserve member after another clicked "Agree" when a window appeared, asking them to contribute a fraction of their souls.

When the Soul Orb eventually gathered 100 souls, a drop of dazzling, red water formed within.

After a short moment, the Soul Orb absorbed 624 souls and formed six drops of Soul Water.

Alright. It's about time I meet Phoenix Rain. Shi Feng smiled in satisfaction as he stored the six drops of Soul Water in six small bottles.

Chapter 1212 – Respective Preparations

In the Candlelight Trading Firm's seventh-floor meeting room...

As soon as Shi Feng entered the meeting room, several gazes landed on him. The origin of these gazes was none other than Phoenix Rain's group, who had waited for quite some time now.

This time, aside from Blue Phoenix, Phoenix Rain had brought three cloaked men.

These men hid their levels, equipment, and in-game name. Although Shi Feng could not see any information about these men, the fact that Phoenix Rain had chosen them to enter the Secret Technique tablet proved that their combat standards were extraordinary. Otherwise, Phoenix Rain wouldn't have wasted these precious legacy slots on them.

So, these are Phoenix Rain's hidden cards. The Phoenix Pavilion sure has a powerful foundation. Shi Feng was slightly surprised when he saw the three men.

He was surprised due to the men's calm auras. They felt more like plants than humans. Moreover, under his observation and perception, he couldn't find any holes in their defenses.

This was rare. After all, he could even spot three weak points on an expert like Blue Phoenix.

There were only two kinds of people that could hide their weak points from him. The first was those who possessed a higher combat standard than he did, while the second was those who had experienced countless battles and had long since hammered out their weaknesses.

Regardless of which type these three men were, they were extremely powerful experts.

As Shi Feng observed these three men, these men observed him. Once they completed their evaluation, they were astonished.

“Is he that Ye Feng that Rain mentioned?”

“He is even more powerful than Rain said. I never expected an upstart Guild to possess such a young expert.”

“Truly amazing. It’s been a long time since I’ve seen a kid that felt dangerous.”

...

The three men chatted quietly as they looked at Shi Feng.

As they conversed, Blue Phoenix, who noticed this, smiled and said, “Big Sis Rain, Ye Feng seems to have shocked the Elders.”

These men were not actually members of the Phoenix Pavilion. Instead, they were Elders on the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s Board of Elders. Normally, they only listened to the Great Pavilion Master.

Aside from extensive contributions to the Guild, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion required sufficient strength to join the Board of Elders. Otherwise, their subordinates wouldn’t submit.

However, although the Guild Elders only listened to the Great Pavilion Master, the Great Pavilion Master didn’t have any right to manage their free time.

Phoenix Rain had secured these three men’s help for Thunder Island.

Of course, the condition for their help was a slot to the Secret Spellcasting Technique.

Phoenix Rain simply smiled in response to the Elders’ reactions to Shi Feng.

While part of the reason she had brought these three Elders here was to learn the Secret Spellcasting Technique, another part was to rope them into her faction. After all, the contest over Thunder Island wasn’t limited to a single event. The contest would repeat in the future, yet these men had only agreed to help once.

In terms of overall strength, the Phoenix Pavilion and Heavenly Dragon Pavilion were about equal. Hence, both sides’ chances of becoming the Great Pavilion Master were fifty-fifty.

As a result, the Elders, who maintained a neutral stance in the Guild, became prime recruitment targets. Not only did they possess great individual strength, but they also had significant influence within the Guild. Every Elder would massively boost their respective factions.

Naturally, these Elders understood that the future Great Pavilion Master would be one of the two current Pavilion Masters. However, while it was important to pick a side as soon as possible, it was also important that they chose the strongest.

Strength came in many forms. For starters, there was the strength of collaborators. The stronger collaborators a side possessed, the more help these collaborators could be.

Many elders had criticized Phoenix Rain for partnering with Zero Wing. However, after Blackwater's defeat and the Evil Dragon Battle Team's annihilation, some of these Elders had begun to see her in a new light.

"Sorry for making you wait. I had some preparations to see to. Now that we're here, let's begin," Shi Feng said as he approached the meeting table. He then took the Bronze Tablet from his bag.

The instant the Bronze Tablet appeared, the three Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion Elders' eyes shone, their yearning for the Bronze Tablet overflowing.

Although the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had several Secret Technique Tablets of their own, none were for magical classes. While they could not deny the usefulness of those Secret Techniques, in terms of benefits to magical class players such as themselves, those techniques paled in comparison to the Secret Spellcasting Technique.

"Team Leader Ye Feng, I believe you know about the Secret Technique tablets. If you want the best effect from the legacy, it is best if you prepare tools that can assist players in increasing their focus. This way, you can earn twice the reward with half the effort," Phoenix Rain suggested. "If your side hasn't prepared, I have a few bottles of Magic Wine that I can share. When consumed, one experiences similar effects to being in the Trial Tower, and each bottle has a duration of 30 minutes."

As Phoenix Rain said so, she removed several bottles from her bag.

She had produced these bottles of Magic Wine with the Epic tool she had won in the Dark Auction.

"I didn't expect Rain to be so generous. The materials needed to brew the Magic Wine are very rare, and she has only brewed a small number. If she gives away some of her own share, she'll miss plenty of opportunities later inside the Secret Technique space."

"This can't be helped. Tools capable of increasing a player's focus are simply too rare. At the end of the day, Zero Wing is still an upstart Guild with weak foundations. I have heard that Zero Wing intends to participate in the contest for Thunder Island. Now that Rain is helping them, they will be more useful on Thunder Island."

"Previously, I heard that Pantheon's people had sought Rain out to discuss a partnership. If that child had agreed, she wouldn't have to sacrifice her own resources like this."

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The three Elders discussed Phoenix Rain's actions.

The Secret Spellcasting Technique was the only reason they had agreed to help Phoenix Rain on Thunder Island. Otherwise, they wouldn't have poked their noses into such a troublesome matter.

Phoenix Rain and Nine Dragons Emperor were equally powerful. However, the difference between their collaborators was obvious at a glance. While they did not mean to belittle Zero Wing, Nine Dragons Emperor had partnered with the Super Guild King's Return. Moreover, recently, Miracle had also agreed to a non-aggression pact with Nine Dragons Emperor for the contest on Thunder Island. Nine Dragons Emperor's advantages far outstripped Phoenix Rain's.

Just as Phoenix Rain was about to reveal another bottle of Magic Wine, Shi Feng shook his head and said, "Thank you for your goodwill, but we have come prepared."

"You already have them?" Phoenix Rain could not help her astonishment. She hadn't expected Zero Wing to have such a foundation.

Before she had won the Epic tool that produced Magic Wine, the Phoenix Pavilion had only had a few tools that improved a player's concentration.

Meanwhile, Aqua Rose and the others, who stood by the side, weren't surprised in the least.

If one wanted to discuss tools that improved focus, nothing throughout Star-Moon Kingdom and its several neighboring kingdoms and empires could compare to the Hundred Berry Wine.

The Hundred Berry Wine's effects were simply wondrous. Unfortunately, the supply was limited. To improve their efficiency with learning the Secret Spellcasting Technique, Shi Feng had given each of them five bottles.

"Aqua, you guys take these. Each person only gets one bottle," Shi Feng said before revealing five bottles of Soul Water.

The crimson droplet within the glass bottles immediately attracted everyone's attention.

The instant Shi Feng took out these glass bottles, everyone present thirsted for the Soul Water.

Even a fool could tell how amazing the Soul Water was.

When Aqua Rose and the others held the Soul Water, they could not help but take a deep gulp, their minds practically shouting at them to consume the Soul Water.

"How could such a frightening tool actually exist?"

The three Elders were dumbfounded as they stared at the Soul Water in wonder.

Chapter 1213 – Super-sensitive State

Phoenix Rain was similarly shocked when she saw the Soul Water.

There were plenty of delicacies in God's Domain. However, those were only attractive in terms of taste and smell. However, the Soul Water was different. It emanated a powerfully attractive aura.

"It seems that I really have underestimated you." Phoenix Rain chuckled as she shook her head.

Previously, she worried that Zero Wing's five members would waste the legacy slots. However, that concern seemed unfounded.

Following which, Shi Feng activated the Bronze Tablet for the Secret Spellcasting Technique while everyone else began to draw a copy of the magic array that had appeared on the tablet.

As the Basic Magic Arrays began taking form, they resonated with the array on the Bronze Tablet. A black hole then formed on the tablet, pulling everyone but Shi Feng into it.

In the blink of an eye, Shi Feng was alone in the meeting room.

I've done all I can. How much you grow will depend on you now. Shi Feng glanced at the now empty space where Aqua Rose and the others had stood before turning and leaving the room.

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Elsewhere, after being pulled into the black hole, Aqua Rose and the others were transported to the entrance of a nine-story-tall, golden temple.

The temple was nearly 600 meters tall, looming like a large mountain. Its appearance alone shocked Aqua Rose and the others. This temple also radiated a suffocating pressure, making everyone's movements extraordinarily sluggish.

"So, this is the Secret Technique space?" Aqua Rose and the others looked around curiously.

The pair of bronze doors before them was tightly shut, and it did not seem as if they could enter the temple at the moment. Two, large words had been carved into the doors.

Bronze Temple!

Suddenly, the figure of an old man with a hunched back appeared before the doors. This old man wore a kind expression. However, as these players inspected the man carefully, they discovered that, despite only being a phantom, he was incredibly strong.

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[Bronze Temple Guardian (Phantom)] (Grand Wizard)

Level ???

HP ??????/? ??????

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A Grand Wizard was the Tier 5 class of an Elementalist. Even in empires, a Grand Wizard was an apex existence. Even emperors had to treat these powerhouses with respect. Although the Grand Wizard before them was only a phantom, he was still an invincible existence compared to Tier 1 players like Aqua Rose and the others.

"Heaven-blessed individuals, welcome to the Bronze Temple. You are only allocated six hours of legacy time. However, you can extend this legacy time with your performance. The Bronze Temple has a total of nine floors, and each floor has numerous sets of Secret Techniques. You are only allowed to pick one set from each floor each time you enter the Bronze Temple. However, as you have come to this place through an incomplete tablet, there is only one complete set available inside the Bronze Temple. The rest are incomplete.

"Of the temple's nine floors, you have one chance to learn one aspect of the complete legacy from each floor. Although you may acquire the complete legacy on the first floor for free, you will have to defeat a predetermined opponent to obtain the complete legacies on the remaining floors. The more floors you clear, the longer you may visit the Bronze Temple.

“When you pass the second floor, you will gain one extra hour inside, two hours for passing the third floor, four hours for the fourth floor, and so on. You only have one chance to learn from each floor. Regardless of how many times you return here in the future, if you cannot pass the last floor you reached, you cannot obtain more legacies. Please keep this in mind.”

When the Bronze Temple Guardian finished speaking, he vanished. Following which, the bronze gates slowly opened.

“So, this is how it works.” Realization dawned on Aqua Rose.

It was no wonder why it was mentioned that the first entry into a Secret Technique Tablet was the most effective, while subsequent entries would be less so. After all, the higher a player’s skill level, the more difficult it would be to improve. This was similar to Skill Completion Rates. The closer one was to reaching 100% Completion Rate, the more difficult it would be to raise it.

If a player reached the fourth floor on their first attempt, but couldn’t reach the fifth floor during their second attempt, then they wouldn’t obtain any legacies. They would’ve wasted a trip.

Aqua Rose and Phoenix Rain’s group of ten entered the Bronze Temple.

The Bronze Temple’s first floor had a similar setup to a football stadium. A massive, magic water ball dominated the center of this stadium. It was obvious that the players were supposed to receive their legacies from this liquid orb.

As this wasn’t the first time Phoenix Rain’s group had entered a Secret Technique space, they habitually retrieved their Magic Wine from their bags and drank it. Without hesitation, they approached the water ball in the center.

In the next moment, Phoenix Rain’s group of five entered the water ball and disappeared as if they had been transported to a different space.

“Big Sis Aqua, let’s go, too,” Violet Cloud said excitedly.

The Secret Spellcasting Technique was a combat technique tailored for magical classes. If she could grasp it, she could definitely improve her techniques.

“Mhm, let’s enter as well.” Aqua Rose nodded. She then took out the Soul Water from her bag and drank it.

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[Soul Water]

When consumed, increases player’s focus for two hours.

Cooldown: 10 hours

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The instant Aqua Rose drank the Soul Water, she felt as if she had somehow left her body.

Her mind experienced a calm like never before, and she felt physically stronger and more agile than ever. When she tried to recall the Void Steps she had previously learned, countless thoughts and inspiration bombarded her mind.

Aqua Rose hadn't been aware that consuming the Soul Water placed one in a super-sensitive state. This state was far beyond what players experienced even in absurdly high Mana dense environments.

"The Guild Leader really is impressive. This Soul Water is at least ten times stronger than the Hundred Berry Wine," Alluring Summer commented in astonishment.

When she had first joined Zero Wing, she had been thoroughly impressed by the Hundred Berry Wine. The beverage had helped her improve significantly within a short time, allowing her Skill Completion Rate to rise from 80% to 82%, yet after so long in Zero Wing, she had only reached an 85% Skill Completion Rate. Although this increase seemed minute, in reality, her Spells had undergone a qualitative transformation.

As for Zhao Yueru, she was at a loss for words.

The more she knew about Shi Feng, the more mysterious he seemed. Shi Feng was a Pandora's Box, hiding countless secrets.

When she had discovered that Ye Feng and Black Flame were actually the same person, she had been shocked. After all, she had understood what kind of background Ye Feng had started with. He had nothing to lean on, yet now, he was the Guild Leader of Star-Moon Kingdom's number one Guild.

Once Aqua Rose's team had familiarized themselves with the super-sensitive state, they entered the magic water ball.

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Inside one of the Candlelight Trading Firm's Special Forging Rooms, Melancholic Smile walked in with over 2,000 logs of Ebony. Each Ebony stack contained 20 logs. Although the Special Forging Room was quite spacious, it was not enough room to store so many logs. Shi Feng had no choice but to store them in his bag space for now, leaving 300 logs out to experiment on later.

"Why isn't it succeeding?" Shi Feng wore a confused expression as he held the crimson Philosopher's Stone and stared at the pile of ash on the floor. "Is it really impossible to transmute Ebony into Green Ebony?"

So far, he had performed Elemental Strengthening on more than 200 logs of Ebony. However, every attempt either did nothing or turned the wood to ash.

If others knew that Shi Feng had wasted over 200 logs of Ebony, they would have fainted from anger.

Although Ebony was not a rare wood, it wasn't available in large quantities. Each log could sell for 20 Silver on the market, only slightly cheaper than a Magic Crystal. One could purchase a Common Mount for the price of 200-plus logs...

Following which, Shi Feng tried using the Philosopher's Stone's three other Skills—Alchemical Conversion, Elemental Refinement, and Alchemical Synthesis. However, the results were the same. Though, surprisingly, when Shi Feng used Alchemical Synthesis on 50 logs, he obtained Purple Origin Wood rather than Green Ebony.

Purple Origin Wood was a rare wood. Similar to Diamond Wood, it was an excellent component for crafting ships. However, using 50 logs of Ebony to obtain one log of Purple Origin Wood was obviously

not worthwhile. Each log was only worth 6 to 7 Gold, yet synthesizing it from Ebony would cost 10 Gold per log.

“No, it must be that my approach is wrong.” Shi Feng suddenly thought of something after seeing his repeated failures.

The reason Ebony could become Green Ebony was its Mana density. Green Ebony only manifested where the Mana density was quite high. This was also why Green Ebony was so rare.

“If there isn’t enough Mana, I’ll have to supply it.” Shi Feng smiled. He then took a large pile of Magic Crystals from his bag and used them to fuel Elemental Strengthening.

On his first try, he used one Magic Crystal. Although the strengthening failed, the Ebony remained intact.

On his second try, he used two crystals; the results were the same.

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It’s no good even with 29 Magic Crystals?!

Shi Feng was speechless. However, he had no choice but to grit his teeth and continue trying. He then used 30 Magic Crystals to strengthen the log of Ebony before him.

As the Magic Crystals began to disintegrate, the Mana within them surged into the log of Ebony. Immediately, the sound of a system notification reached Shi Feng’s ears.

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System: Congratulations! Strengthening successful. You have obtained Green Ebony.

Chapter 1214 – Raising Fame

“Finally.”

Shi Feng released a sigh of relief when he saw the Green Ebony log on the stone table before him, a hint of excitement flashing across his eyes.

Although the Magic Crystal cost had been high, strengthening Ebony into Green Ebony would save him a lot of time. His only other option would be harvesting Green Ebony, and he had no idea where to find the large quantity he needed.

A single Advanced Transport Carriage required 15 logs of Green Ebony. Even if he sent Blackie and the others to grind Trolls in the Crying Ghost Ridge, they’d be lucky to obtain eight or nine logs per day. Furthermore, the Crying Ghost Ridge was currently home to the ancient abyssal monsters. The risk was simply too high. A single mistake could claim Blackie and the others’ lives.

In Shi Feng’s opinion, trading 30 Magic Crystals and one log of normal Ebony for a log of Green Ebony was worthwhile.

However, Magic Crystals are going to be a problem. I can’t mass-produce Green Ebony just yet. Shi Feng looked at the Magic Crystals in his bag and felt a headache brewing.

Currently, with the 40,000-plus Magic Crystals left in his bag, he could create plenty of Green Ebony.

However, if a Guild wished to develop, it needed to invest resources in various aspects. If he wanted Zero Wing to advance by leaps and bounds within a short time, he needed to invest even more. This was especially true for the Guild's elite members. Their training in the Divine Colosseum could not be forsaken. Considering this, Shi Feng somewhat lacked Magic Crystals.

Although he had made a fortune in the Dark Arena, he had already spent his earnings. Moreover, he owed Phoenix Rain a monstrous debt of 250,000 Magic Crystals, which he needed to pay off within the next five days...

The majority of his earnings from the Dark Arena consisted of weapons and equipment. If he traded these excellent items for Coins and Magic Crystals, he could pay back the Magic Crystals he owed Phoenix Rain with a sizable stock to spare, enough to begin his city's construction.

However, Zero Wing was expanding rapidly and in urgent need of excellent weapons and equipment. Unless he had truly run out of options, Shi Feng wanted to avoid selling those items.

It seems that I'll have to increase Stone Forest Town's fame, Shi Feng pondered.

Currently, Stone Forest Town was an Intermediate Town. Not only did it occupy a massive area, but it also had three Magic Towers, increasing the town's Mana density significantly. Although the town had only reopened shortly after the war, far more players now occupied the town.

However, if he wanted to earn a fortune from Stone Forest Town, attracting Star-Moon Kingdom's players wasn't enough.

After all, there was a limit to how many players in Star-Moon Kingdom could afford a membership for the Battle Arena. However, there were plenty of players available in the neighboring kingdoms and empires. Unfortunately, these players either didn't know about Stone Forest Town, or it wasn't an attractive enough reason to make the journey.

Considering his options, Shi Feng began to strengthen the Ebony he had.

If he wanted Stone Forest Town's fame to reach more players, he needed a convenient transportation system. Mass-producing Burning Abyss's modified Advanced Transport Carriage would solve that problem.

The nearest teleportation point to Stone Forest Town was roughly ten hours away on foot. If one used a Common Mount, they could reach the town in half the time. Even so, five hours was still a very long time.

The Advanced Transport Carriage increased a player's Movement Speed by 150%. It was similar to a Mysterious-Iron Mount. However, with Mana Combustion, the Transport Carriage's Movement Speed could be increased by another 15%. Moreover, this 15% increase was based on the 150% base

Movement Speed. In other words, the Advanced Transport Carriage would increase a player's Movement Speed by a total of 172.5% when using Mana Combustion. That speed could already rival a Secret-Silver Mount.

A journey that originally took ten hours on foot would now be complete in a little over three hours.

To high-level players, who frequently traveled for five or six hours to reach their grinding spots, three hours of travel was acceptable.

Moreover, Shi Feng intended to offer even more bountiful rewards for the Battle Arena.

Top-tier weapons and equipment were not particularly attractive to powerful independent experts. Hence, if he wished to attract more people, he needed to offer items that those independent experts wanted.

He might not have previously had such items, but now he did.

As long as independent experts wanted them, they were fully capable of obtaining top-tier weapons and equipment. However, combat techniques were a different story.

Originally, Shi Feng had thought of offering the Secret Sword Technique's slots as a reward. However, now that he had the Secret Spellcasting Technique, he could offer those. Although he would lose two slots as a result, this reward would definitely drive God's Domain's independent experts crazy.

Time passed quickly. Before Shi Feng had realized it, he had spent the entire night creating Green Ebony.

After the long night of work, he had produced 600 logs of Green Ebony. Unfortunately, Elemental Strengthening's success rate wasn't 100%; he had spent over 20,000 Magic Crystals to obtain these 600 logs.

Fortunately, with 600 logs of Green Ebony, they could manufacture 40 Advanced Transport Carriages for transporting goods and players too and from Stone Forest Town. With a large number of rental carriages as well, they would have more than enough carriages to meet the town's needs. Now, he just needed to manufacture the Advanced Transport Carriages.

Manufacturing the Advanced Transport Carriage was incredibly tedious. Fortunately, he had employed the help of the NPC Master Engineer Rodney. With Burning Abyss and Rodney working together, they could craft the Advanced Transport Carriage relatively quickly. As for the advanced speedboats, he would have to set that aside for now. After all, they hadn't even dealt with the Diamond Wood issue yet. How could they possibly begin building ships?

Shi Feng had also produced plenty of Magic Array Scrolls and Advanced Mana Armor Kits.

Shi Feng now had two more sets of Double Protection Barrier Magic Array Scrolls and two sets of Divine Beast's Descent Magic Array Scrolls. If not for his limited materials, he could've produced even more.

As for the Advanced Mana Armor Kit, Shi Feng had forged over 600. Aside from a fraction reserved for Guild members, he intended to use the remainder to lure customers to the Candlelight Trading Firm and as daily rewards for the Battle Arena's tournament.

“Time sure flies by. However, these Advanced Mana Armor Kits should last us for quite some time. Now, I just need to inform players in other countries,” Shi Feng said as he smiled in satisfaction.

The Advanced Mana Armor Kit was exclusive to Zero Wing and the Candlelight Trading Firm. It was also one of the best available armor kits currently. With the addition of the Secret Spellcasting Technique, he could already imagine the commotion Stone Forest Town would cause.

Neither the Advanced Mana Armor Kits nor the Secret Spellcasting Technique could be purchased with Coins. Most likely, even independent experts would not be able to hold themselves back from joining the Battle Arena’s tournament.

As Shi Feng was about to write a post on the official forums, Melancholic Smile contacted him.

“Guild Leader, the Phoenix Pavilion Master has emerged from the Secret Technique space and said she wishes to discuss something with you. She is waiting in the top-floor meeting room.”

“She’s out already?” Shi Feng could not help his surprise.

From what she had heard from Phoenix Rain, even a powerful expert could easily remain in a Bronze Secret Technique space for over 12 hours, much less an expert like Phoenix Rain, yet only ten hours had passed. Logically, she should not be out so soon.

Chapter 1215 – Super-large-scale Team Dungeon

The Candlelight Trading Firm’s top-floor meeting room:

As soon as Shi Feng entered the room, he noticed the change in Phoenix Rain, who was currently sat beside a french window.

If Phoenix Rain had radiated a calm, collected feeling with the aura of a superior, she now felt free and natural.

Although there was only a slight change to her temperament, Shi Feng could tell that Phoenix Rain’s harvest from the Secret Technique space had been significant.

No wonder why the various superpowers are desperate for Secret Technique tablets. Their effects are truly extraordinary. Shi Feng was inwardly surprised.

If a Bronze Tablet was already so effective, Shi Feng found it hard to imagine what kind of effects the Golden Tablet, which the mysterious NPC youth had stolen, would have.

“Phoenix Pavilion Master, you sure are early. I had assumed you would be in there for at least 30 hours,” Shi Feng said as he sat down. “May I know what urgent matter you wish to discuss?”

“Although this might sound a little blunt, I need to know. Do you have any of that Soul Water left?” Phoenix Rain asked, her expression stern as she looked at Shi Feng. A faint hint of anticipation glittered in her eyes. “If you still have some, I am willing to purchase it for 50 Gold per bottle or Magic Crystals of equivalent value.”

Shi Feng was, more or less, surprised to hear Phoenix Rain's question.

Even the most expensive consumable item that could improve a player's focus did not exceed 20 Gold. In Zero Wing, Guild members could purchase the Hundred Berry Wine from the Dark Den for around 8 or 9 Gold.

Yet, Phoenix Rain had offered to buy Soul Water for 50 Gold per bottle without hesitation.

"Phoenix Pavilion Master, why are you suddenly so interested in the Soul Water?" Shi Feng asked curiously.

It was impossible to determine the Soul Water's effects based on its description. Only by testing it personally would one understand its benefits.

He had obtained a total of six drops of Soul Water and had stored them in six separate glass bottles, five of which he had already given to Aqua Rose and the others. He had saved the last bottle for himself in case he needed its effects. Logically, Phoenix Rain shouldn't have any way of knowing the Soul Water's true value.

"It's difficult not to notice the Soul Water's effects even if I don't want to. Team Leader Ye Feng, you've never entered a Secret Technique space; so you might not fully understand the situation. Inside a Bronze-rank Secret Technique space, anybody capable of reaching the fourth floor in six hours on their first attempt should be able to comprehend the legacy they chose easily. Those with talent might even be able to reach the fourth floor in less than six hours. As for reaching the sixth floor in six hours, extremely few geniuses have ever managed the feat." Revealing a bitter smile, Phoenix Rain continued, "However, among Aqua Rose's group, even the weakest one among them reached the sixth floor within six hours, while the other four reached the seventh floor..."

Although she acknowledged that Aqua Rose and the others were quite talented, the fact that the weakest among them had reached the sixth floor within six hours was something she could not accept.

Throughout the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, the number of people that had managed to reach the sixth floor in a Bronze Secret Technique space in six hours could be counted on one hand. Every one of these people was a monster that had already reached the Domain Realm. But what of Aqua Rose and the others?

Even the strongest among them had only reached the Refinement Realm and wasn't even close to the Flowing Water Realm, much less grasping a Domain.

Yet, Aqua Rose and the others' performance was astonishing.

She would never believe that someone could rely on their own abilities to achieve such a result.

The only possibility Phoenix Rain could think of was the Soul Water Shi Feng had given the girls before they entered.

"So, that's the issue." Realization dawned on Shi Feng. "I do still have some Soul Water. However, it's far too valuable. I don't have a lot on hand right now. If you would like some, I can trade them to you, but I want neither Coins nor Magic Crystals. Rather, I would like to borrow the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's

strength to help me with something. Once the task had been completed, I'll give you ten bottles of Soul Water."

Selling the Soul Water was the most foolish thing he could do.

He wouldn't even sell the liquid if someone offered him 300 Gold per bottle, not to mention 50 Gold. One hundred souls were required to make a single drop of Soul Water. This limited the Soul Water's production. He didn't even have enough for his own Guild members, not to mention selling it to others. Moreover, if he mass-produced the Soul Water, the Soul Orb would be exposed.

"Ten bottles?" Phoenix Rain pondered.

Ten bottles of Soul Water wasn't nearly enough. She wouldn't even be able to supply her direct subordinates.

However, after giving the matter some thought, she found it reasonable. The Soul Water could enhance a player's comprehension and allow them to reach the seventh floor of a Bronze Temple within six hours. How could such a treasure be available in large quantities?

Although a Bronze Secret Technique was the easiest Secret Technique to learn, it was still extremely difficult to complete all nine floors. Not one player throughout the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had comprehended an entire set of Bronze-rank Combat Techniques.

If she could get her hands on the Soul Water, however, someone in the Guild might.

Comprehending a combat technique to the seventh floor would already massive boost one's combat power. If one fully comprehended a complete Bronze Combat Technique, their combat power would soar.

"May I know what you wish to use the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's strength for?" Phoenix Rain asked.

"It's very simple. You just need to help me raid a Dungeon," Shi Feng said, chuckling.

"Raid a Dungeon?" Phoenix Rain asked, confused, "Zero Wing already has so many experts. Are they not enough?"

Zero Wing indeed had a vast collection of experts. Raiding a Level 45, 100-man Team Dungeon shouldn't be an issue. While Hell Mode might be challenging, once the team reached Level 45, even that shouldn't pose as a problem for Zero Wing.

"No, they are not enough. I want to borrow at least 100 people," Shi Feng said after considering the matter.

"One hundred!? Are you trying to raid..." Phoenix Rain suddenly recalled a specific Dungeon.

"That's right! The Level 50, super-large-scale Team Dungeon, Flaming Ruins!" Shi Feng nodded.

In God's Domain, the largest Team Dungeons before Level 50 were 100-man Team Dungeons. However, after Level 50, super-large-scale Team Dungeons would unlock. The minimum number of players required to enter these super-large-scale Dungeons was 200, while the maximum was 500. There was only one Level 50, super-large-scale Team Dungeon throughout Star-Moon Kingdom—the Flaming Ruins.

If he wanted to turn Stone Forest Town into a holy land for players, obtaining the First Clear of the Flaming Ruins was of the utmost importance.

The various large Guilds in God's Domain were also preparing for such Dungeons.

If one could obtain the First Clear of a Level 50, 100-man Hell Mode Team Dungeon, they would obtain a 3-star Guild Residence Promotion Order. If one managed to obtain the First Clear of a Level 50, super-large-scale Hell Mode Team Dungeon, they could obtain a Town Relocation Order.

The Town Relocation Order was even more valuable than a Town Building Order. It allowed players to move a town they owned to any location they desired.

Chapter 1216 – Stone Forest Town's Shocking Transformation

"The Flaming Ruins?" Phoenix Rain fell into deep thought as she looked at Shi Feng. A short moment later, she said, "Alright, I promise you. Notify me in advance when you're going to raid the Flaming Ruins. When the time comes, I'll ready the necessary manpower."

"However, I'll say this first. You should know that the death penalty of a super-large-scale Team Dungeon is greater than that of a large-scale Team Dungeon. If we suffer three team-wipes, I'll withdraw my men. I also won't return the ten bottles of Soul Water."

The difficulty of a super-large-scale Normal Mode Team Dungeon could rival that of a 100-man Hell Mode Team dungeon. While she wasn't trying to belittle Zero Wing, she believed that even if Zero Wing sent a 100-man team consisting entirely of Level 50, Tier 2 players, it would be impossible for them to obtain the First Clear of a Level 50, 100-man Hell Mode Team Dungeon.

She also had no intention of sending her own experts to their deaths.

"That won't be a problem," Shi Feng replied without hesitation.

In the past, the various large Guilds had not placed much importance on super-large-scale Team Dungeons, because the items dropped in these Dungeons were basically the same as the ones obtained in 100-man large-scale Team Dungeons.

Rather than waste time raiding the more difficult super-large-scale Team Dungeons, raiding several large-scale Team Dungeons was much more efficient.

However, there were bound to be some players and teams that loved to challenge their limits.

Eventually, after continuous efforts, a team had managed to obtain the First Clear of a super-large-scale Team Dungeon.

Back then, many people had expressed their contempt for these people. After all, while these people were busy suppressing their levels and raiding a Level 50 super-large-scale Team Dungeon, mainstream players had long since exceeded them by over 20 levels. Even if they managed to obtain top-tier

equipment from the Dungeon, such an enormous gap in levels would render the advantage of having such equipment meaningless. Only Epic items would be of any value, yet Epic items rarely dropped even in super-large-scale Team Dungeons. Hence, raiding such a Dungeon was simply not worth the effort.

However, nobody could've ever imagined that one could actually obtain a Town Relocation Order from these seemingly worthless super-large-scale Team Dungeons.

It was common knowledge that the NPC towns players captured had their locations fixed. Meanwhile, if one wished to upgrade a Basic Town into an actual city, they would have to invest an astronomical amount of resources as well as plenty of time and effort.

If developing even one town was already so tedious, one could just imagine how troublesome it would be to develop multiple towns.

Not to mention, the NPC towns captured would eventually become outdated. Take Stone Forest Town for example. Due to the town's location next to a Regional Dungeon like the Stoneclaw Mountains, it became a travel destination for both players and Guilds.

However, once mainstream players went past Level 50, they would no longer be able to enter the Regional Dungeon. One could just imagine the outcome of such a situation. At that time, the town would definitely lose its popularity, and its development would stagnate.

Even with the support of the Battle Arena, it would be very difficult to keep the town alive. After all, the Magic Tower wasn't something unique. As players reached higher levels, the various large Guilds would also be able to obtain its design. By then, Stone Forest Town's high Mana density would no longer stand out.

Moreover, after their NPC towns became outdated, Guilds would also have to capture a new NPC town and start the development cycle all over again, investing another considerable chunk of manpower, resources, time, money, and so on.

Hence, the advantage of a Town Relocation Order immediately became apparent. With a Town Relocation Order, players could transfer a town to anywhere within the same country, allowing Guilds to retain their hard work and pool all their resources into developing a few select towns.

However, the Town Relocation Order was a unique reward for obtaining the First Clear of a super-large-scale Team Dungeon. Once a super-large-scale Team Dungeon was cleared, no matter how many times it got raided later on, it would no longer drop a Town Relocation Order.

Currently, mainstream players were approaching Level 50. Even if independent players of other kingdoms and empires found out about Stone Forest Town's existence, they would take this aspect into account when considering whether they should migrate over or not.

This was also the reason why, despite the various superpowers being greatly envious of the profits Stone Forest Town was raking in, they did not make any actual moves to take it.

However, if Stone Forest Town could relocate to a map that was even more suitable for current independent players, its attraction would definitely increase exponentially. Moreover, once players found out that Stone Forest Town was capable of continuously relocating according to players' level, this aspect would become a fatal attraction for many independent experts.

At that time, just the amount of Magic Crystals Stone Forest Town could rake in through the Battle Arena would be astronomical.

Hence, Shi Feng had to obtain the Town Relocation Order no matter the cost.

Following which, Shi Feng and Phoenix Rain signed a contract. He used a bottle of Soul Water as the deposit with the delivery of the remaining nine bottles pending the contract's completion.

Phoenix Rain did not particularly mind this condition. After all, the Soul Water did not have a particular effectivity period; it could be used at any time. Moreover, the Spellcasting Secret Technique tablet had been used once already, so she would have to wait for a month before she could send anyone else in. By then, the ten bottles of Soul Water would've long since entered her hands.

...

Inside the dense forest a short distance away from Stone Forest Town...

Due to the opening of the traffic route to Stone Forest Town, as well as the hiring of the temporary carriages, the number of players and NPC merchants going to Stone Forest Town had increased significantly. Right now, the traffic route itself was already a part of the Stoneclaw Mountains' scenery.

At this moment, over a hundred carriages were traveling through the dense forest. There were even advanced carriages among them, which were completely different from the temporary ones hired by Zero Wing. Meanwhile, their passengers were all very high-leveled, with even the lowest among them at Level 40. If placed in a large Guild, they all would be elites at the very least.

"Vice Commander, these people are too strong. We should wait for the next batch," a Level 41 gray-clad Assassin hidden in the dense forest quietly suggested to the Level 42 Ranger carrying a Dark-Gold longbow, standing before him.

"Damn it! How many groups has it been already?!" the resolute man carrying the longbow exclaimed in frustration. "If I had known something like this would happen, I would've swapped hunting areas with the Demon Soul Guild! We'll lose out on making a fortune at this rate!"

The various Dark Guilds mingling in Star-Moon City had already signed a contract with Heaven's Burial, stating that they would dispatch their members to kill the players operating around Stone Forest Town, using this as an opportunity to strike down Stone Forest Town's development.

Originally, this should have been a good deal for them. After all, plenty of independent players and teams were traveling to and from Stone Forest Town. They did not lack prey at all.

However, just an hour ago, Stone Forest Town had suddenly made an announcement that directly disrupted their Guild's business.

Stone Forest Town had revealed that it was going to replace its carriages with better ones as well as increase the rewards for the tournament held at the Battle Arena.

For the mini tournaments held every day, anyone that managed to become the champion of the said tournament would obtain not only top-tier weapons and equipment as a reward but also Magic Crystals and Advanced Mana Armor Kits. The top three players would receive similar rewards except for the

Advanced Mana Armor Kit. Most importantly, however, players that became champions of the mini tournament would get to live in a private suite on the Battle Arena's seventh floor for ten days.

The Battle Arena would also hold a large tournament once every fifteen days, and the rewards for the champion were even more terrific. Aside from being able to obtain weapons, equipment, and Advanced Mana Armor Kits, the champion would have the opportunity to inherit a combat technique as well as live in a private suite on the eighth floor, which was also the top floor of the Battle Arena, for a month. Meanwhile, the top five players would also get to live on the eighth floor for a month; the quality of weapons and equipment awarded, as well as the quantity of Advanced Mana Armor Kits, would vary depending on their rank.

In addition, those that received a private suite would have complete management over their own suites. As long as they had the money, they could spend some Coins at the Adventurer's Association and have the association construct a magic array in their suite to allow them to use Return Scrolls to teleport back to their room. This was an entirely new benefit. In the past, the rooms were only loaned to players temporarily. Now, however, players would become the contracted owners of the private suites for the entire duration of their stay.

Due to the introduction of these several factors, a large number of powerful independent experts who were initially only a little interested in moving to Stone Forest Town took action right away.

This development became the misfortune of Dark Players.

After all, among the several groups of players that had entered Stone Forest Town so far, not a single one of them should be provoked.

Chapter 1217 – Naval State

Star-Moon City:

Due to the appearance of Evernight City, Star-Moon City had been undergoing transformations practically every day for the past few days. The capital had become so prosperous that one could easily spot Level 40-plus players roaming its main streets. Now, however, the city bustled even more than before.

Only, the players coming to Star-Moon City now were not here for Evernight City but for Stone Forest Town.

While excellent weapons and equipment were indeed tempting, the allure of combat techniques was much greater.

The God's Domain Experts List had no lack of experts that possessed combat techniques. The list even had introductions on the combat techniques of certain experts. Hence, combat techniques were not foreign to independent players and were something many independent experts very much wished to learn.

However, combat techniques were different from system-made Skills, which were readily obtainable as quest rewards or monster drops. Players needed to learn the techniques by themselves. Moreover, combat techniques were not easily learned. Unless one was the core member of a large Guild that possessed the legacy of a combat technique, the Guild would not be willing to teach them at all.

Although one could also mimic the combat techniques of true experts from watching the latter's combat videos, ultimately, it was just a poor imitation. Without understanding the true meaning of a combat technique's movements, one would not be able to unlock the true potential of the said technique. And the more powerful a combat technique was, the more difficult it would be to understand it fully.

As for creating their own combat technique, that was easier said than done.

Even if a person had someone teaching them the legacy of a combat technique, learning it completely was not guaranteed. Meanwhile, creating an entirely new combat technique was something only geniuses among geniuses could accomplish.

Hence, now that Zero Wing had publicly announced that it was using the legacy of a combat technique as the reward for the Battle Arena's tournament, how could independent players not be tempted?

Not to mention, one could also get their very own house, aside from the combat technique, through the tournament. As long as they set up a magic array in their own houses, they could easily teleport back to Stone Forest Town, forgoing many wasted hours traveling to the town. With this, even if they were leveling up in an entirely different country, their leveling speed would not be affected whatsoever. On the contrary, they could even improve their strength through the Battle Arena, killing two birds with one stone. With such excellent benefits, even players operating in another country would find it worthwhile to visit Stone Forest Town.

Meanwhile, at the second-floor bar of Star-Moon City's Teleportation Hall, several cloaked players were currently observing the situation inside the establishment.

"Zero Wing sure is capable. They've even managed to come up with such a method, generously letting outsiders learn combat techniques. Leader, if we continue letting Zero Wing develop like this, we'll be disobeying the commander's orders. Should we take action now?" an elegant, cloaked female Assassin asked, smiling as she looked at the refined-looking male Elementalist before her.

If Shi Feng were present, he would definitely find this Elementalist very familiar, as this Elementalist was none other than Cleansed Maple, one of Miracle's peak experts.

"It is indeed about time for us to take action. Those useless Dark Players don't pose any threat to Zero Wing whatsoever. Since we can't locate Zero Wing's upper echelon right now, let's strike at their elite teams instead. However, Stone Forest Town is still a big problem for us, so let's have the others disguise as Dark Players and hunt the players operating around the town. When the time comes, those hidden Zero Wing experts will have no choice but to reveal themselves," Cleansed Maple said slowly.

"What about the Super Guilds that are paying attention to Zero Wing?" the female Assassin asked as she sent a glance at several cloaked players present in the first-floor hall.

Zero Wing's performance at the Dark Arena had simply been too eye-catching. This was especially true for the weapons and equipment the Guild possessed. Hence, the superpowers targeting the items Zero

Wing's experts were definitely weren't limited to Miracle alone. So far, they had already discovered three superpowers, in addition to many first-rate Guilds, targeting Zero Wing. To Miracle, though, their only opponents were still the three superpowers, as first-rate Guilds were no different from ants to them.

"Don't worry about them. The more, the merrier. When the time comes, leak some information to them. In any case, we aren't aiming for weapons and equipment. We only want the disbandment of Zero Wing." Cleansed Maple laughed nonchalantly.

Thousand Miles had already clearly stated that what he wanted were the talents of Zero Wing, not the items they wore. Of course, it would be good if they could obtain those as well.

"Understood. I'll have the others take action right away." The female Assassin nodded before activating Stealth and disappearing from the bar.

"What a pity. An upstart Guild that has managed to climb up to this point will have to disappear just like that. However, if you have to blame someone, blame yourselves for being too conspicuous." A hint of pity flashed across Cleansed Maple's eyes as he studied the reports on Zero Wing in his hands.

The various superpowers in God's Domain never really had any interest in small Guilds. They rarely even paid attention to first-rate Guilds. After all, these Guilds were negligible existences to them. It was also nearly unheard-of for a superpower to use assassination tactics to deal with such Guilds. Normally, they reserved such methods for other superpowers.

However, Zero Wing had truly angered Miracle this time.

Since Zero Wing had ignored their goodwill, they had no choice but to eliminate it from God's Domain.

...

Just as the matter regarding Stone Forest Town was causing a commotion in Star-Moon Kingdom as well as its neighbors, Shi Feng himself had stealthily arrived at the Sea's End.

The Sea's End was like an independent empire. It had very little contact with the kingdoms and empires on the main continent.

The first reason for this situation was the long distance separating them. Just teleporting from the mainland to the Sea's End cost 5 Gold, 20 Silver per person. Hence, Shi Feng was surprised when he encountered the Freedom Alliance at the Sea of Death. Of course, there was another travel method that was cheaper, but more time-consuming, than teleportation, which was riding a Flying Ship. One would pay only 5 Silver per person to get from the Sea's End to the NPC island closest to the Sea of Death in a little over 30 hours. However, many people disliked wasting so much time on travel.

The second reason was the different attitude each region had towards the various forces in God's Domain. On land, the various kingdoms and empires were absolutely hostile towards the dark forces. The Sea's End, on the other hand, maintained a neutral stance in this regard. Hence, Dark Players and ordinary players were treated equally in the NPC cities located in the Sea's End. Red Players and Dark Players would not be barred entry into NPC cities or captured by NPCs—so long as they did not cause trouble within the cities. One could say that the Sea's End was a paradise for Dark Players.

The third reason was the different lifestyles players adopted. Players that were born at the Sea's End had fought naval battles ever since they started out in the game. If they were abruptly sent to fight land-based monsters, they would have great difficulty adapting. Likewise, the opposite was also true for land-based players. Hence, players of both sides rarely associated with each other. Only after mainstream players reached Level 100 would interaction between these two sides of players begin to increase.

Meanwhile, the city Shi Feng had teleported to this time was called Blue Jade City, one of the twelve major cities located within the Sea's End. It was also one of the cities under the rule of the Freedom Alliance.

The management style at the Sea's End was different from that of the main continent. There was no concept of a country here, or rather it leaned more towards city-states. Every city was its own kingdom, and every kingdom managed a large sea zone. Moreover, unlike on the main continent, where players could not take control of an NPC city, no matter how much effort they put in, players could take over an NPC city here at the Sea's End.

In other words, players could become a city lord at the Sea's End—far more convenient than on the mainland, where players had to establish their own towns and cities if they wished to become a lord.

Chapter 1218 – Sea God's Blessing

As soon as Shi Feng exited the Teleportation Hall, the sight of an azure sky greeted him. Beneath the hill that the Teleportation Hall sat on, he could see various ships docked around the island. There were also a large number of players at the port, shouting for parties.

“Team looking for Level 40-plus players to hunt Giant Armored Beasts for a quest! We already have four advanced speedboats prepared! Veterans only! Noobs, stand aside!”

“Forming a party to Red Reef Bay to farm Red Corals! Level 39 and below, do not disturb!”

“Level 41 Shield Warrior looking for a party for the Underwater Temple! I own an advanced speedboat!”

“Fleet heading to Black Mist Sea to grind for Magic Crystals! We have a Bronze Speedboat leading the fleet! We're currently still missing two advanced speedboats! Those with advanced speedboats, come apply quickly!”

...

Over 4,000 players crowded the port, looking to form parties. The scene resembled a lively market. Moreover, unlike land-based players, the players here put more importance on levels and the quality of the speedboats they possessed rather than combat standards when forming parties.

As long as a player owned an advanced speedboat, they would be highly sought after by parties. Advanced-speedboat owners here were the equivalent of expert players on land. If one possessed a Bronze Speedboat, they would be the equivalent of a famous celebrity and become the center of attention.

There sure are a lot of players who own advanced speedboats here. With a glance, Shi Feng discovered that roughly 10% of the ships docked at the port consisted of advanced speedboats. In contrast, one could rarely see even ordinary speedboats over at the Apocalypse Empire, much less advanced speedboats.

Moreover, aside from the much-higher standards of the ships here, the players were also considerably high-leveled. Shi Feng could spot plenty of Level 40-plus players roaming the streets. At such a level, players would already be considered an expert in Star-Moon Kingdom. Here, however, they were only average.

However, although the players here were very high-leveled, the local businesses were not very developed. As Shi Feng walked through the streets of the city, he did not spot many Shops operated by players. There were even fewer items produced by players. Instead, he saw many players setting up stalls along the streets. The situation here was completely different from the NPC cities on the main continent, which barred players from randomly setting up stalls on the streets. On the main continent, if players wished to sell the items they had, they could only do so by shouting out the name of their products. Stalls, on the other hand, did not require players to do so, as they allowed customers to view the vendor's products.

After taking a look at several dozen stalls, Shi Feng noticed that the merchandise were either items dropped by monsters or harvested materials. There was not a single item made by Lifestyle players at all.

Sure enough, the development of subclasses for maritime players is much slower. Shi Feng smiled faintly.

In the past, he had practically spent his entire career in God's Domain playing on land. Hence, he was not particularly familiar with the situation at the Sea's End. His knowledge consisted of general information.

Moreover, in the past, by the time he arrived at the island cities of the Sea's End, many of these island cities had already been developed. The island cities back then were completely different from the current impoverished state before him. After all, there were much more resources available out at sea than on land, as well as plenty of unique resources. Hence, the NPC island cities in the past had all flourished magnificently, and one could see all sorts of naval merchant fleets and luxurious Shops.

However, after giving the matter some thought, he found the situation reasonable. In reality, the development of subclasses of naval players was not slower than those on land. It was just that, due to the butterfly effect from his having developed the subclasses in his Guild early on, the players on the main continent started shifting their focus towards subclasses a lot sooner than the maritime players.

While Shi Feng was investigating the prices of products in Blue Jade City, a large crowd suddenly formed in the business district. Many players who saw this scene revealed excited expressions on their faces before promptly rushing into the crowd as well.

Shi Feng grew curious at this situation.

"Buying Runic Fragments in bulk today! Buying each stack for 6 Silver! First come, first served!"

In the next moment, a slightly chubby, middle-aged man with a small mustache on his face walked out of a three-story Shop, a smile on his face as he shouted a series of words.

Immediately, the surrounding players flooded into the Shop.

“Damn it! We’re too late again!”

“There are just too many competitors here. Can’t the House of Seas buy a little more Runic Fragments each day? I’ve already been waiting here for an entire day now, yet I still haven’t managed to sell my stockpile.”

“There’s no helping this. Only the House of Seas is willing to buy those fragments at a high price. If we sell the fragments to NPC merchants, we’ll only get 40 Copper per stack.”

“I already have 20 stacks collected. If I can sell them all, I can get 1 Gold, 20 Silver. With that money, I can buy myself a nice set of equipment.”

...

After a short moment passed, the crowd of players that flooded into the Shop called House of Seas came out, the majority of them with disappointed expressions on their faces, having apparently failed to sell their Runic Fragments.

Runic Fragments? Shi Feng could not help but recall matters regarding the Runic Fragment. *I remember that it should be an item dropped by sea monsters. On its own, it isn’t of any particular value. The only use it has is the synthesis of Runic Crystals. However, the synthesis rate is considerably low. Even Master Alchemists would have a success rate of only 10%. Could the House of Seas be trying to synthesize Runic Crystals?*

The Runic Crystal was an item unique to the sea. It was categorized as an energy crystal and was roughly similar to the Magic Crystal. Only, the amounts of Mana stored in the two types of crystal were different.

The amount of Mana contained within a Magic Crystal was a lot higher. A Runic Crystal contained roughly two-thirds the amount of Mana of a Magic Crystal. However, a Runic Crystal wasn’t even worth half of a Magic Crystal. Currently, Runic Crystals should sell for 10 Silver each.

The reason for this was the Runic Crystal’s much fewer uses. For example, Runic Crystals could not be used in the Divine Colosseum.

If one had to point out its utility, then it would have to be in exchanges and the production of items.

Out at sea, Runic Crystals could be used to exchange for many items at the Sea God’s Temple. However, as the Sea God’s Temple restocked only once a week, the number of items one could get using Runic Crystals was limited. Even so, what was available for exchange in the Sea God’s Temple was of high quality. Occasionally, there would even be Epic items up for exchange, although it was currently too early in the game for Epic items to appear in the temple.

Aside from Epic items, the next best thing up for exchange in the Sea God’s Temple was a potion named Sea God’s Blessing.

Five Runic Crystals were needed to exchange for one bottle, which put the potion's price at 50 Silver.

In the past, not to mention naval players, even land-based players were very fond of the Sea God's Blessing. The reason for this was because consumption of the potion increased not only all of a player's Basic Attributes by 10% but also all resistances by 100 points for 12 hours. Moreover, the potion did not have a Cooldown, and its effects could be stacked once.

When a player consumed two Sea God's Blessings, all their Basic Attributes would increase by 15% and resistances, by 150 points for 15 hours.

The further one progressed into the game, the more important environmental factors would become. Certain maps required players to possess a specific resistance for survival. The system would prevent players with insufficient resistances from visiting many special leveling maps. A potion that was capable of increasing all resistances by 100 points could allow players to visit the majority of the locations in God's Domain freely without having to worry about environmental factors.

However, as only a limited amount of Sea God's Blessing was put up for exchange each week, its actual value on the market was a lot higher. In the past, each bottle had sold for roughly two Gold. Moreover, this was only the price at sea. On land, each bottle had easily sold for three Gold.

That's right! Why didn't I think of this? I can use this opportunity to make a fortune! Shi Feng suddenly thought of the Philosopher's Stone.

Others might need to waste a lot of effort into synthesizing Runic Crystals, but he had the Philosopher's Stone. His synthesis success rate was much higher than even that of Grandmaster Alchemists.

Chapter 1219 – Gathering of Warlords

Although Shi Feng had such thoughts, he did not hurry to collect Runic Fragments.

The Runic Fragment was a common drop at sea; hence, purchasing a large amount from players would be straightforward. Besides, his primary objective in visiting the Sea's End this time was not to collect Runic Crystals but the Legacy of the Sea.

Following which, Shi Feng hurried towards the meeting place he had arranged with Passing Monarch.

...

At this moment, hundreds of players geared in Fine-Gold Weapons and Equipment stood guard in front of the most luxurious high-class restaurant in Blue Jade City. These players were all at least Level 42, and just by standing there, they put extremely heavy pressure on others. The passersby only sent a few glances at these players before scurrying away, nobody daring to enter this restaurant.

These players standing guard at the entrance were none other than the members of the Freedom Alliance, the absolute overlord of Blue Jade City. In this city, nobody dared oppose the members of the Freedom Alliance. After all, if they provoked the Freedom Alliance, they would no longer be able to stay in Blue Jade City.

Meanwhile, on the twenty-second floor, which was also the top floor, of Blue Jade Restaurant, every member of the Freedom Alliance's upper echelon was present. Even the commanders of the Alliance's eleven fleets were here today.

At this moment, a beautiful woman dressed in luxurious, red mage robes walked up to Passing Monarch and said in a quiet tone, "Commander Monarch, our independent fleets will be depending on you this month. If we let those Guild-formed fleets surpass us, our fleets' standings in the Alliance will definitely suffer."

Although this woman's appearance was not as flawless as Gentle Snow's, she was the only female commander within the entire Freedom Alliance, Hundred Leaves.

In response, Passing Monarch simply nodded silently.

In reality, he did not fully believe Hundred Leaves's words.

Those capable of becoming the commander of a fleet within the Freedom Alliance definitely shouldn't be underestimated. Not to mention, the rise of Hundred Leaves's fleet had been rapid. Initially, she and her fleet had joined the Freedom Alliance as the Eleventh Fleet. Now, her fleet was already the Eighth Fleet. Her fleet's improvement speed was simply staggering.

Most likely, her fleet would reach the rank of Fifth Fleet or even Fourth Fleet before long, perhaps even surpassing his Third Fleet one day.

However, Hundred Leaves's words were also partially correct. If their fleets, which were formed by independent teams, did not perform well and failed to obtain any legacies, their standings in the Alliance would no doubt suffer tremendously.

The power structure of the Freedom Alliance was very complex. Although it was an alliance, it comprised eleven groups that fell into two main camps: the fleets formed by independent adventurer teams, and the fleets of small Guilds.

Normally, the two camps would compete for the resources obtained by the Freedom Alliance as a whole.

However, due to the small-Guild camp managing to acquire a legacy in their previous joint expedition while the independent camp failed to get any, the independent camp's situation deteriorated significantly. If the independent fleets could not reduce the disparity during this expedition, their position would definitely worsen in the next distribution of profits.

"I heard that the Second Fleet and Fourth Fleet have joined forces and even managed to recruit the help of quite a few powerful experts. Once we enter the secret land, you'll have to help out the Eighth Fleet, Commander Monarch," Hundred Leaves said as she sent a glance at several people seated across her. These people were none other than the commanders of the Second and Fourth Fleet and the experts they had hired to assist them this time. However, as these experts were wearing Black Cloaks, she couldn't determine their identities.

"Commander Leaves, you jest. Once we enter the secret land, I'm afraid that it'll be us who will be relying on you for help. I've heard that Commander Leaves has managed to employ the help of the

Super Guild Sacred Temple this time. I expect that even if we united the strength of the entire Freedom Alliance, we wouldn't stand a chance against the Sacred Temple," Passing Monarch said, his gaze shifting to the woman standing beside Hundred Leaves. Although the woman had hidden her identity using a Black Cloak, the aura she exuded was no laughing matter.

He had only ever felt such an aura on Demon Island.

Moreover, his recent trip to the Sea of Death had enlightened him about many things—the fact that God's Domain was massive, and that the various superpowers of God's Domain were extremely powerful. They were far more powerful than he had previously imagined them to be. He had realized this just by watching the battle on Demon Island. When he and his companions went up against the Flower of Seven Sins members, they had been utterly powerless to retaliate.

Yet, now, through some unknown means, Hundred Leaves had actually managed to get help from the Super Guild Sacred Temple. In the next fleet ranking, the fleet Hundred Leaves commanded would most likely rank second out of the eleven fleets in the Freedom Alliance.

As for getting first place, that was unlikely to happen.

The reason for this was the commander of the First Fleet, who was the man that personally formed the Freedom Alliance. The First Fleet was also the first one to obtain the Legacy of the Sea. Even now, Passing Monarch had yet to uncover the identity of the mysterious supporter backing the First Fleet.

Just as Passing Monarch and Hundred Leaves were conversing with each other, the Second Fleet's commander, Identical Summer, and the Fourth Fleet's commander, Heavenly Spider, were likewise chatting together but with sneers on their faces.

"Hahaha! Monarch, that fool! He actually went to the Sea of Death and got all four of his Bronze Speedboats heavily damaged! Even now, the speedboats have yet to be fully repaired. With this, Third Fleet no longer poses a threat to us. The only problem left is First Fleet and Eighth Fleet," Identical Summer laughed as he looked at Passing Monarch.

"The Sacred Temple will be a troublesome foe. Not only is it a Super Guild, but unlike the other Super Guilds, the Sacred Temple also began developing its naval forces very early on. When it comes to the Guild's naval strength, even our entire Freedom Alliance added together won't be a match," Heavenly Spider said, shaking his head.

In response, Identical Summer sent a glance at the woman seated beside Hundred Leaves and said dismissively, "What are you afraid of? Although Hundred Leaves has managed to recruit the help of the Sacred Temple, it is impossible for the Sacred Temple to lend her all of its strength. At most, she'll get only a small portion. With the cards we have prepared, we'll be able to deal with Eighth Fleet easily. Afterwards, our two fleets will definitely secure the position of First and Second Fleet and rule Heavenly Ocean City."

The Freedom Alliance occupied a total of three major NPC cities in the Sea's End: Blue Jade City, White Howl City, and Heavenly Ocean City. As for Sea Dragon City, it was not considered a major city, only a minor city located on a certain island. It was valuable merely because it provided access to a secret land that contained Legacies. In terms of overall value, Sea Dragon City was worth much less than the three major cities.

Moreover, every one of the three major cities had a player population of over eight million. Among them, Heavenly Ocean City's population was the highest, with over twelve million players based there. It could already rival the capital of an ordinary empire.

If their two fleets could obtain Heavenly Ocean City, the wealth they could amass would greatly surpass that of the large Guilds occupying empires on land. After all, unlike the Guilds on land, which only got to live in NPC cities, naval players like them got to control their cities completely.

Chapter 1220 – Discovered

Inside the elegant hall, the Freedom Alliance's various commanders all had their own plans. They were all brimming with confidence about obtaining the Legacy of the Sea this time.

Just as the various commanders were conversing with each other, the female Elementalist Blue Joy led Shi Feng into the hall.

Although Shi Feng's appearance was not particularly conspicuous, as he looked just like the many other cloaked players within the hall, he still attracted everyone's attention.

"This person came in with Blue Joy. He should be the expert Monarch recruited to help, right?"

"Sure enough, Monarch really did come prepared."

"But why is there only one person?"

The various fleet commanders began quietly discussing Shi Feng as they looked at the Swordsman walking towards Monarch.

The fact that Passing Monarch managed to become the commander of the Freedom Alliance's Third Fleet showed that his individual strength was extraordinary. Otherwise, the other fleets would've long since overtaken his fleet.

However, seeing that Passing Monarch had invited only one helper confused everyone.

"It seems Monarch has really miscalculated this time."

Unlike the previous time, when the various fleet commanders had not invited even a single outsider to help out, they had all recruited plenty of helpers for the expedition this time. Even the lowest ranked among them had invited over ten people, while some had actually invited over forty people.

"Brother Ye Feng, did you come alone this time?" Passing Monarch asked quietly, feeling greatly perplexed as he looked at Shi Feng walking over to him.

Although he had invited Shi Feng, he never said that only Shi Feng alone could join. After all, the more people taking control of a speedboat, the more power it could display. A speedboat's ability to endure

attacks from monsters would also improve with more players on board. Hence, in God's Domain, the more players a ship could accommodate, the stronger it would be.

In fact, he had even reserved 30 slots specifically for Shi Feng. Despite that, Shi Feng had come by himself.

"The others are all busy, so I didn't bother bringing them over," Shi Feng explained.

Currently, the majority of Zero Wing's experts were still stuck in combat inside the Inferior Legendary Treasure Chest. Only a portion of them had come out so far, and those who had were busy leading expert teams to grind for weapons and equipment. After all, Zero Wing was currently mass-recruiting new members and was in dire need of weapons and equipment. Meanwhile, Aqua Rose and the others were inside the Secret Technique space and would not be coming out anytime soon.

Rather than bring a group of elite members with him, it was much better to let Passing Monarch's other companions, who were much more accustomed to naval warfare, enter the ruins.

Passing Monarch could not help falling speechless at Shi Feng's words. He felt that Shi Feng was underestimating the Legacy competition.

Although he could have his own subordinates take up the missing slots, their coordination with Shi Feng would not be particularly good since neither side had a great understanding of each other.

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Meanwhile, at the same time as Passing Monarch was conversing with Shi Feng, Hundred Leaves, who sat a short distance away, had her gaze fixed on Shi Feng, shock surfacing on her flawless, white face. However, Hundred Leaves very quickly hid this reaction of hers.

"Leaves, is there something strange about that person?" the cloaked woman seated beside Hundred Leaves asked quietly.

"He is the person I'm looking for," Hundred Leaves said, a hint of excitement surfacing in her eyes as her lips curled up slightly.

At Hundred Leaves's words, the cloaked woman turned to look at Shi Feng despite herself and exclaimed in surprise, "How can this be? The Demon God sent the recovery order to every Dark Player in God's Domain. How could the person holding the Soul Orb possibly appear before us so easily?"

"I can't believe it, either. However, the Detection Crystal I spent 3,000 Magic Crystals to buy cannot be mistaken. As long as the Soul Orb is within 30 yards of me, the Detection Crystal will automatically sense it. Moreover, I've already used Detection on him and have already confirmed that the Soul Orb is indeed on that person's body." Hundred Leaves chuckled. "I never thought that I would be able to encounter the person holding the Soul Orb so quickly. My luck really is too good."

"Then, when are we going to make a move?" the cloaked woman asked.

"No need to rush. We'll have plenty of opportunities once we enter the secret land," Hundred Leaves said as she waved her hand. "Have Scorpion secretly keep an eye on them."

Once players entered the secret land, they would not be able to leave for a certain period. At that time, there would be no escape for Shi Feng.

“Alright, I’ll notify Scorpion right away.” The cloaked woman nodded.

If Passing Monarch heard the conversation between Hundred Leaves and the cloaked woman right now, he would definitely be shocked. After all, based on the way the two were speaking with each other, the cloaked woman from the Sacred Temple seemed more like Hundred Leaves’s subordinate rather than a collaborator.

However, shortly after everyone began talking about Shi Feng, the entire hall fell silent once again as it was nearly time for them to set out for Sea Dragon City.

At this moment, a refined middle-aged man dressed in white robes entered the hall. Walking behind him were two robust men—a Level 43 Ranger with a dark gray longbow slung over his shoulder and a Level 43 Guardian Knight with a massive, white bone shield on his back.

The two could easily rank near the top of the Ranking List of any empire in God’s Domain. Not to mention, both the bow and the shield these two men carried were currently radiating the Epic glow effect. The two men looked extremely conspicuous as they entered the hall.

“Since everyone has already gathered, let us begin, then,” the refined middle-aged man said unhurriedly after taking a glance at everyone in the hall. “As is traditional, my First Fleet will dispatch 100 members while the other fleets will dispatch 90 members each for a total of 1,000 members. If there are no objections, we’ll start right away.”

Although the man’s voice sounded mild, nobody present dared to look down on him.

After all, this refined man was none other than the founder of the Freedom Alliance. He was also the commander of the current First Fleet, Silent Entropy.

None of the commanders present said anything in response. Instead, they each took out a tablet fragment while Silent Entropy took out two tablet fragments.

When everyone present combined their tablet fragments, the fragments formed a complete circular tablet with an ancient magic array carved on it, and the instant the tablet was assembled, a spatial portal gradually appeared in midair.

When Silent Entropy saw that the spatial portal had stabilized, he took back his two fragments and said, “Alright, everyone, enter according to fleet ranks now.”

Following which, the other commanders also stored their tablet fragments and entered the spatial portal together with their own fleets in an orderly procession.

The first ones to enter were the First Fleet’s 100 members, followed by the Second Fleet’s 90 members and so on. After the 1,000th player walked into the spatial portal, the portal vanished from the hall.

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The instant Shi Feng entered the secret land, before he could even see where he had been transported to, the sound of a system notification reached his ears.

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System: You have entered the secret land beneath Sea Dragon City. You are not allowed to leave before six hours have passed. After ten hours have passed, you will be automatically transferred out of the secret land.

—

When the system notification came to an end, Shi Feng was finally able to see his surroundings clearly.

He was currently standing in the middle of a massive cavern with an ink-black lake encircling his location. Moreover, fog hovered above the lake. He could barely make out passages at the far end of the cavern.

While Shi Feng was busy observing his surroundings, the members of the Freedom Alliance began releasing their ships onto the lake in an orderly manner.

Even the weakest ship released was an advanced speedboat. There were also plenty of Bronze Speedboats, which were originally very rare in the outside world. It was an amazing sight to behold.

The secret land did not place any restriction on the number of ships that could be brought in. However, the appearance of over 120 ships on the lake would immediately trigger a massive monster attack. Only after these monsters had destroyed the excess ships would they leave. Hence, the various fleets of the Freedom Alliance had agreed that each fleet could bring a maximum of ten ships each. Any fleet caught bringing more than the agreed number of ships would have their right to enter the secret land in the future taken away. Moreover, as everyone had signed a contract agreeing to this point, there was no escaping the penalty if they broke their word.

At this moment, the cloaked woman, who stood beside Hundred Leaves, covertly observed the distant Shi Feng as she quietly asked, “Leaves, should we take action now?”