

Strongest

Chapter 1281 – Exploring the Herb Garden

In God's Domain, the Moonlight Fruit was one of the very few treasures that could permanently improve a player's physique.

Although each fruit could only improve a player's physique by 2%, it was exceedingly valuable. Moreover, each player could consume a maximum of five fruits. In other words, players could improve their physiques by up to 10%.

While 10% might not seem like much, the boost to a player's combat power would be astounding.

There were two main reasons for the massive gap between Tier 1 and Tier 2 players. The first reason was the tier of Skills they could learn. The other reason was the difference in physique. Tier 2 players' physique was 40% stronger than Tier 1 players. Although physique would not increase a player's damage or Basic Attributes, it could enhance a player's five senses and improve their body's flexibility. Players would be able to predict attacks that were originally impossible to spot and perform actions that were normally impossible to execute.

This was why Tier 2 players could easily defeat Tier 1 players even if both sides possessed the same Attributes and combat standards.

In the past, a Moonlight Fruit easily sold for 3,000 Gold. Regardless, countless experts had fought over it.

As Shi Feng stared at the large, silver tree, a massive figure beneath the tree stirred.

The figure was an eight-meter-tall bear with thick, snow-white fur. Its claws were razor sharp, and a silver horn grew from atop its head. Currently, the bear slept peacefully beneath the tree. Occasionally, it would rub its back against the silver tree.

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[Silvermoon Bear] (Demonic Beast, Great Lord)

Level 65

HP 74,000,000/74,000,000

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Shi Feng spotted a total of six Silvermoon Bears resting beneath the tree. He also saw a large number, easily over a thousand, Silvermoon Rats roaming the garden. Moreover, these monsters moved relatively close to each other.

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[Silvermoon Rat] (Demonic Beast, Lord)

Level 62

HP 18,000,000/18,000,000

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It doesn't seem possible to sneak my way there. Shi Feng observed his surroundings, but he couldn't find an opportunity to get past the monsters to take the Moonlight Fruit. *I guess that I'll have to clear out the area, taking the monsters down slowly. If I obtain the Moonlight Fruits, it'll help Fire Dance and the others get through their promotion quests.*

With Fire Dance and the others' strength, they would likely clear their Hard Mode Promotion Quests. However, the likelihood of them clearing Hell Mode was relatively low. Although there was only a one-grade difference between the two, the rewards would impact their development.

However, if he could improve their physiques, then they could clear the Hell Mode Promotion Quest more easily.

Moreover, he had another reason to eliminate the Demonic Beasts in the garden. He needed to reach the courtyard's inner area safely. On the off chance he caused a commotion and were surrounded, he would undoubtedly die.

Thinking up to this point, Shi Feng quickly went into action.

As a preventive measure, let's summon a Demon. Thinking so, Shi Feng took the Bible of Darkness from his bag.

Although he was confident in defeating these Lord ranked Silvermoon Rats, it would take too much time and energy by himself. He needed some help. Originally, Shi Feng had considered summoning his Personal Guards. However, as this was a special space, he would die from regret if they couldn't be unsummoned and died here.

Unlike Mounts and pets, Personal Guards could not be easily resurrected. Oftentimes, players chose to search for new Personal Guards rather than resurrecting their guards after death. Resurrection was simply too expensive. It cost even more than Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Guards.

Even Shi Feng couldn't afford to resurrect a dead Personal Guard.

Hence, unless absolutely necessary, he would not dispatch his Personal Guards.

On the other hand, he would not mind even if the Demons he summoned died. In any case, they would disappear after five hours.

Following which, Shi Feng summoned a Level 60, Tier 2 Tomahawk Demon. The Demon could be both a meat shield and DPS.

Almost... After waiting for some time, the five Silvermoon Rats standing around the herb garden's outer edge finally moved away. Immediately, Shi Feng drank two bottles of Sea God's Blessing, increasing his Basic Attributes by 15% and all Resistances by 150 points for 15 hours. Afterward, he activated an Isolation Scroll to reduce the chances of detection. He then executed Void Steps and quickly reached an ancient tree near the outer edge. With a light jump, he made it to the top of the tree, over 70 yards away from the five Demonic Beasts.

At this distance, due to the Isolation Scroll, these Level 62 Demonic Beasts couldn't detect Shi Feng. As for the Tomahawk Demon, due to it being Level 60, it would not be detected easily even if it stood only 60 yards away from the Demonic Beasts.

When Shi Feng noticed the Silvermoon Rats turning around again, he took out Blazing Meteor and attacked a rock near the Demonic Beasts.

The throwing weapon shattered the rock instantly. The scattered rubble just so happen to collide with one of the wandering Silvermoon Rats.

Although the rubble hadn't caused any damage, the Silvermoon Rat was enraged. Looking around furiously, its round, beady eyes quickly locked onto the shattered rock. The rat then carefully walked over. Seeing one of its companions wander off, another nearby Silvermoon Rat followed curiously.

Demonic Beasts were slightly smarter than ordinary monsters. However, they had less intelligence than humanoid monsters. If something suddenly changed, they'd react instinctively. In the case of humanoid monsters, they'd likely gather a group of five or so before investigating the shattered rock. Shi Feng simply took advantage of this.

Very quickly, the two Silvermoon Rats arrived beside the shattered rock. As soon as they did, however, they sensed the Tomahawk Demon standing in the nearby tree.

Sensing outsiders, the two Silvermoon Rats charged towards the Tomahawk Demon without hesitation. The other three Silvermoon Rats were over 15 yards away, and they did not react at all as they continued their mindless wandering. They did not even notice that two of their companions had left them.

Good! Shi Feng released a sigh of relief.

He had only found this advantageous terrain after observing the herb garden for a long time. If he accidentally attracted all five Silvermoon Rats, he would be finished.

However, despite seeing the two Demonic Beasts inch closer, Shi Feng did not have the Tomahawk Demon attack them. Instead, he had the Demon retreat.

There were too many Silvermoon Rats throughout the herb garden. Many among them wandered randomly. If he fought inside the herb garden, the battle would easily attract the other rats.

After luring the two rats roughly 50 yards away from the herb garden, Shi Feng controlled the Tomahawk Demon to use the Tier 2 Skill Flying Death Axe.

Immediately, the Tomahawk Demon threw the massive battle axe in its hands, the weapon transforming into a streak of black light as it flew towards the two Silvermoon Rats.

-61,845!

-62,078!

The attack ripped an ear-piercing screech from the Silvermoon Rats. Their screeching could be heard clearly from 50 yards away.

In a panic, Shi Feng turned his gaze back to the herb garden. Immediately, he noticed another Silvermoon Rat charging out of the herb garden. Shi Feng suddenly felt a brewing headache.

However, after another moment, no other rats charged out of the herb garden.

That was close. This chain reaction is dangerous. Fortunately, none of the other Silvermoon Rats were alerted. Sighing, Shi Feng shifted his gaze back to the approaching Silvermoon Rat. He decided to lure the three Demonic Beasts further away from the herb garden.

Only after they were 100 yards away from the herb garden did Shi Feng allow the Tomahawk Demon to fight the Demonic Beasts again.

Although the Tomahawk Demon only had 13,000,000 HP, which was less than what the Silvermoon Rats possessed, in terms of combat techniques, the Tomahawk Demon was stronger than the Demonic Beasts. If the Tomahawk Demon focused on defense, it would take a long time for the three Silvermoon Rats to kill it.

After the Tomahawk Demon stabilized its aggro, Shi Feng used Skywheel Sword to seal the area followed by Firestorm.

The raging inferno immediately caused the three rats to screech in pain, their HPs falling by around 90,000 every second. Occasionally, they would even receive a frightening damage of around -180,000. By the time Firestorm ended, the Silvermoon Rats had each lost over 700,000 HP.

The Tomahawk Demon used the Tier 2 Skill Demon's Voice, forcing every enemy to focus on the Tomahawk Demon. At the same time, the Tomahawk Demon's Defense and Attack Speed increased by 40% for 30 seconds.

With the Tomahawk Demon as an MT, Shi Feng activated Phantom Kill, Nine Dragons Slash, and the Ice-Blue Devil Flame and launched a rampant assault.

Both Shi Feng and his doppelganger dealt around -4,000 damage with their normal attacks, while their Skills dealt anywhere from -10,000 to -20,000 damage. When the Tomahawk Demon was close to death, Shi Feng immediately switched to the Aura of Water and used Life Bloom on it, healing it back to full HP.

After fighting for nearly 20 minutes, the three Silvermoon Rats collapsed. However, aside from gaining some Skill Proficiency, Shi Feng did not receive any EXP from the Demonic Beasts. Suddenly, Shi Feng felt that the system was very black-hearted.

He had just killed three Level 60 Lords for crying out loud!

In the outside world, it would take a party of Level 60 players to take down such a monster, yet the three Lords' deaths hadn't yielded any EXP or equipment...

"Huh?" Suddenly, Shi Feng noticed a translucent, nail-sized grain beside one of the Silvermoon Rats. He picked it up and took a closer look.

Seven Luminaries Shard!

"What?! These monsters drop Seven Luminaries Shards?!" Shi Feng could not help his surprise as he stared at the translucent grain in his hand.

Chapter 1282 – Growth-type Set Equipment

As expected of a God's home. This place is even more amazing than the Tower of Time. Shi Feng shifted his gaze towards the Demonic Beasts in the herb garden as he held the Seven Luminaries Shard tightly.

The Tower of Time was one of the two most famous towers in the Twin Towers Kingdom as it was an Asura Mode Regional Dungeon.

Although the Dungeon was a similar rank to the Stoneclaw Mountains, there was a huge difference between the two. The Tower of Time's Bosses dropped Seven Luminaries Crystals.

However, the Moonlight Courtyard was even more astounding. He had a chance to obtain Seven Luminaries Shards by killing the numerous Silvermoon Rats here.

On their own, Seven Luminaries Shards weren't particularly useful. However, they could be sold to NPCs for a high price. NPC merchants would be more than willing to purchase each shard for 1 Gold.

However, players weren't likely to sell their Seven Luminaries Shards to NPCs.

Players could synthesize Seven Luminaries Crystals from the shards. However, this task required a Master Alchemist at the very least. A Master Alchemist's synthesis success rate was roughly 30%; it was neither high nor low. Even independent players would attempt to synthesize their shards rather than sell them.

After all, Seven Luminaries Crystals could upgrade a player's Mind Space. Nobody would foolishly sell such an important resource and give up on constructing their own private space for rest and entertainment.

Thinking up to this point, Shi Feng was suddenly motivated to wipe out the Demonic Beasts in the herb garden.

He wouldn't find an opportunity like this elsewhere. Normally, one had to venture to extremely dangerous secret lands and kill the area's Bosses to obtain Seven Luminaries Shards or Crystals. Now, however, he only needed to kill Tier 2 Lords. This was like a bargain bin for Seven Luminaries Shards.

After a short rest, Shi Feng began to lure the Silvermoon Rats once again.

His second attempt was much easier than his first. Moreover, he only lured two rats this time. Although he could take on three at once, fighting so many placed a heavy burden on the Tomahawk Demon. He needed to use Life Bloom constantly to keep the Tomahawk Demon alive.

By fighting two at a time, however, the Tomahawk Demon did not need to defend itself constantly and could launch counterattacks from time to time. This increased the total DPS.

Shi Feng attacked the Silvermoon Rats' weak points relentlessly. Like before, he healed the Tomahawk Demon with Life Bloom when its HP was low.

Like this, Shi Feng cleared out wave after wave of Silvermoon Rats, each wave taking over a dozen minutes to defeat.

Shi Feng cleared out over twenty waves without rest. Although the repetition was boring, the more Shi Feng fought, the more smoothly he defeated the Silvermoon Rats as he became increasingly familiar with the Demonic Beasts' attack patterns and weak points. As a result, he needed less time to defeat the rats each time he lured a wave over.

Moreover, his harvest was considerable.

After killing 47 Silvermoon Rats, he had obtained 21 Seven Luminaries Shards. The shards' drop-rate was much higher than he had initially expected.

Others' synthesis success rate was only 30%. However, Shi Feng had the Philosopher's Stone. As long as he collected 50 Seven Luminaries Shards, he could synthesize a Seven Luminaries Crystal with a 100% success rate.

If he continued to grind the Demonic Beasts here, he might collect all of the Seven Luminaries Crystals he needed to construct the Four Towers of Elements.

Why is combat here so taxing on Stamina? After killing another wave of Silvermoon Rats, Shi Feng felt a little tired.

In God's Domain, when a player's Stamina had decreased to a certain point, they would start feeling tired, affecting their combat power. If they continued to consume Stamina, their combat power would continuously decrease. By the time players exhausted their Stamina, they would not be able to move a single finger.

Hence, when players fought in the fields, they would take breaks after fighting for a certain time. One of the reasons for doing so was to maintain their strength. Another reason was to avoid having insufficient Stamina should they encounter anything unexpected.

Shi Feng had considered this before he had started fighting. Hence, he had been using the Basic Tyrant title. Not only did the title provide him with 30 Fortitude, but it also increased his maximum Stamina by 20%, yet even after fighting around two dozen battles, his Stamina had fallen to a critical level. He hadn't expected his Stamina consumption to be this high.

I've only killed forty-seven Silvermoon Rats after such a long time. This promotion quest is extraordinarily difficult. After consuming a drop of Life Essence, Shi Feng turned to the distant Silvermoon Rats, a bitter smile appearing on his face. It seems I've miscalculated. Fortunately, the promotion quest doesn't have a time limit.

It would take a long time just to clear a path to the courtyard's inner area, not to mention killing every Demonic Beast here.

Thinking about time, Shi Feng glanced at the system clock displaying the time in the real world. He felt that it should be about time to log out and rest. After all, he had been playing for quite some time. This would not benefit his real body.

"What's going on here?" Shi Feng couldn't help his surprise when he saw the time.

After some quick calculations, it should be around half past seven in the morning.

Yet, the system clock told him that it wasn't even six a.m. in the real world.

"This can't be right. I remember entering this place at roughly five in the morning. I've been grinding the rats for five hours now, so two and a half hours should've passed in the real world. Even if my calculations are slightly off, it should still be past seven o'clock," Shi Feng muttered in confusion.

Following which, Shi Feng looked at the system clock displaying the in-game time. As he thought, he had been grinding for over five hours.

Could the flow of time here be different from God's Domain? Shi Feng suddenly thought of a possibility. In fact, this wasn't something new in the game.

Although rare, when one entered certain secret lands, the flow of time was different.

Following which, Shi Feng started comparing the time flow in the Dark Canyon and the real world.

The moment he did, however, he was shocked.

Time in the Dark Canyon flowed ten times faster than in the real world!

Shi Feng was stunned. After all, he had only ever heard about a one-to-ten time dilation in the past. He had never experienced it before. The greatest time dilation he had experienced was a one-to-six ratio; one hour in the real world had been six hours in the game. On the continent of God's Domain, the time dilation was only double that in the real world. Now, however, he experienced a one-to-ten time dilation.

Shi Feng finally understood why, after coming here, the system prevented access to the communication system and Return Scrolls.

Contacting the outside world while experiencing such a high time dilation would be an impressive feat.

This is wonderful! I won't have to worry about spending too much time in here! Shi Feng was ecstatic.

However, although he was not in a hurry, he couldn't spend too much time on his promotion quest. After all, the contest on Thunder Island was rapidly approaching. He needed to prepare. He also needed

to search for sufficiently powerful Mysterious Flames to extend the time he had left before he became a puppet.

After Shi Feng rested, he grinded the Silvermoon Rats once again.

With the Life Essence's Stamina recovery, his Stamina consumption rate decreased to one-third of its original. He could now fight for much longer.

While he fought the Silvermoon Rats, Shi Feng summoned his second Tier 2 Demon.

Hidden Thorn Demon!

This type of Demon was similar to an Assassin. It possessed explosive power and control capabilities. This made killing the Silvermoon Rats much easier for Shi Feng. Now, he could defeat two Silvermoon Rats in eight minutes.

As Shi Feng grinded Silvermoon Rats, he also discovered that, aside from dropping Seven Luminaries Shards, the Silvermoon Rats dropped equipment, though at a very low probability. However, the low drop-rate was justified as the Demonic Beasts dropped Growth-type Set Equipment for Level 50 to Level 60 players. The set equipment could be upgraded from Bronze to Dark-Gold rank. These items were far more valuable than ordinary Level 60 Dark-Gold Set Equipment.

The Silvermoon Rats dropped two variants of Growth-type Set Equipment. One was the Magic Moon Set Equipment, meant for magical classes, while the other was the Shadowmoon Set Equipment for physical classes. Both were seven-piece sets.

After grinding for over a dozen hours, Shi Feng had only obtained three set pieces; two for the Magic Moon Set and one piece of the Shadowmoon Set. Meanwhile, he had collected 91 Seven Luminaries Shards.

As Shi Feng was about to enter the herb garden and lure more monsters, every one of the Silvermoon Rats in the garden started to tremble.

Shortly after these Silvermoon Rats started trembling, the Mana in the herb garden was pulled to a single point. Immediately, Shi Feng turned to the epicenter of this phenomenon.

“An evolution?” Shi Feng’s jaw dropped in astonishment.

A Silvermoon Rat, significantly larger than its counterparts, stood in the center of this phenomenon. The Silvermoon Rat’s eyes had turned blood-red, and all of its fur stood on end. The Silvermoon Rat’s body also released a faint red glow, making it extremely eye-catching.

Chapter 1283 – Bloodline Evolution

The glowing Silvermoon Rat screeched in agony. The other Silvermoon Rats stared at the evolving rat as if it were a king as they trembled and distanced themselves. They were deeply afraid of angering their king and dying under its claws.

In fact, over a dozen rat corpses surrounded the evolving Silvermoon Rat.

Impossible! It’s undergoing a Bloodline Evolution?! Shi Feng had a bad feeling about this.

Like players, monsters could reach higher tiers. Only, in the case of monsters, the upgrade was known as evolution.

God's Domain's Field Bosses didn't come from nowhere. Instead, when a Field Boss was killed, the land it had governed would be left without a ruler. In such a situation, the region's monsters would engage in an intense battle, constantly evolving. Only after a new ruler emerged would these monsters cease their fighting.

Hence, every time a new Boss appeared in a region, the region's monsters would grow more powerful due to their evolutions during the intense competition.

The Silvermoon Rat before him was similarly evolving. Only, its evolution was somewhat different, known as a Bloodline Evolution.

Many Demonic Beasts were members of powerful monster bloodlines from ancient times.

Hence, when they evolved, they had a chance of triggering their bloodline. If that happened, not only would their tier improve, but their Life Ratings would also rise.

In the past, Shi Feng had encountered Demonic Beasts that undergone Bloodline Evolution. A particular Demonic Beast had evolved from Tier 4 to Tier 5 and successfully triggered its bloodline. As a result, it had evolved into an incomparably powerful Tier 5 Archaic Species, transforming its governed area into a forbidden land for players. Only after a long time had a Super Guild manage to kill this Tier 5 Archaic Species.

The Silvermoon Rat was currently a Tier 2 Lord. If it evolved normally, it would only become a Tier 3 Great Lord. If it triggered its bloodline, however, it would become a Tier 3 Archaic Species. At that point, escape would be impossible, much less victory.

Even if Shi Feng could run away, with a Tier 3 Archaic Species guarding the herb garden, he wouldn't be able to get in.

I have to give it a try. Shi Feng gritted his teeth and retrieved his only Tier 3, large-scale destruction Magic Scroll and Tier 3 Summoning Scroll. He activated them immediately.

A monster's evolution wasn't instantaneous. They needed time to absorb enough Mana. Moreover, the more powerful the evolution, the more time it would take. The Silvermoon Rat's Bloodline Evolution had just begun. It was the perfect time to strike.

Suddenly, a massive, blue magic array appeared above the evolving Silvermoon Rat. This array absorbed a large portion of the Mana the Silvermoon Rat had gathered. Snowflakes started to descend from the magic array, and anything they touched froze instantly. In the blink of an eye, a radius of 50 yards had transformed into a winter wonderland.

Tier 3 large-scale destruction Spell, Frosty Day!

Not only could the Spell cause a lot of damage, but it could also freeze all targets within the affected area for ten seconds. Even if the freezing effect were negated, enemies would receive a debuff which reduced their Movement Speed and Attack Speed 50% and double their Stamina consumption rate for ten minutes.

This one move had frozen all of the rats around the evolving Silvermoon Rat. As for the Silvermoon Rats that were outside of Frosty Day's range, due to the Silvermoon Rat that was undergoing its Bloodline

Evolution, they didn't dare approach the area. Instead, they turned tail, and fled for their lives, giving Shi Feng an opportunity to attack the evolving Silvermoon Rat.

As for the evolving Silvermoon Rat itself, the Spell had taken over 1,000,000 of its HP. Although its HP had only decreased slightly, it was severely injured, and as a result, its Mana absorption rate had decreased significantly.

“Roar!”

The evolving Silvermoon Rat bellowed and glared at Shi Feng, killing intent radiating from its eyes. It then charged at Shi Feng.

“Good!” Shi Feng smiled. Immediately, he activated Windwalk before he turned and fled.

It was too risky to fight the rat in the herb garden. Had the Silvermoon Rat continued to absorb Mana to evolve even after the initial attack, he would have been helpless. The fact that it had given chase couldn't be a better outcome.

However, although the Silvermoon Rat had yet to complete its evolution, its Movement Speed was still higher than Shi Feng's even after he activated the Aura of Wind and Windwalk.

Bloodline Evolutions are terrifying. Shi Feng was inwardly shocked as he turned to look at the Silvermoon Rat chasing him.

Originally, over 70 yards had separated him and the Silvermoon Rat. Now, the distance had shortened to 50 yards. Moreover, as the Silvermoon Rat ran after him, it absorbed Mana and continued its evolution. Fortunately, it wasn't evolving as fast as it had been.

This was the outcome Shi Feng had hoped for. As long as the Silvermoon Rat continued to evolve, the other Silvermoon Rats would not approach it. If the other Silvermoon Rats tagged along, he really would die here.

Following which, Shi Feng dashed out of the herb garden, only stopping when the Silvermoon Rat caught up to him.

After catching up to Shi Feng, the Silvermoon Rat slashed its razor-sharp claws at Shi Feng's back. Not daring to be careless, Shi Feng spun around and used Parry, blocking the attack.

Peng!

The single attack threw Shi Feng over twenty yards away. Although Shi Feng had been sent flying because he had used the impact to put some distance between him and his adversary, the fact that he had been thrown so far told him that the Shadowmoon Rat now had the strength of a Level 62 Great Lord.

Shi Feng refused to imagine how terrifying the Silvermoon Rat's Strength and speed would be once it completed its evolution.

This should be far enough. Shi Feng glanced at the distant herb garden. He then controlled his Tier 3 summoned creature and two Tier 2 Demons to attack the Silvermoon Rat.

Dragon Breath!

Suddenly, a beam of white light shot towards the Silvermoon Rat. Seeing this, the Silvermoon Rat revealed a humanlike sneer. It turned sharply, dodging Dragon Breath.

Its intellect has improved by so much? Shi Feng frowned. Although a Bloodline Evolution would improve a Demonic Beast's intellect, he hadn't expected this level of intelligence from the Silvermoon Rat. The Silvermoon Rat's combat standards already rivaled that of an elite player.

As the Silvermoon Rat gleefully charged at Shi Feng, the two Tier 2 Demons had circled to its sides, and each launched an attack at its blind spots.

Arrogance flashed in the Silvermoon Rat's beady eyes. It then backflipped, dodging the Demons' attacks.

The outcome didn't particularly surprise Shi Feng as he maintained a calm expression.

Meanwhile, the Silvermoon Rat, which was still in the midst its backflip, discovered an eight-meter tall, Level 65, Tier 3 Shadow Lion behind it. The Shadow Lion brandished its claws at the rat.

Boom!

The lion slapped the Silvermoon Rat to the ground, the impact ripping an agonized screech from the Demonic Beast. Its HP decreased by over 700,000.

This move was none other than the Shadow Lion's Tier 3 Skill, Shadow Assault.

This move was similar to the combination of the Assassin class's Shadow Steps and Ambush. Moreover, it was an AOE attack, so it was impossible to dodge at a close range.

By using Dragon Breath, Shi Feng had determined the Silvermoon Rat's combat standards. After determining its combat standards, he used the two Demons to launch a feint, leaving room for the Silvermoon Rat to dodge. He responded by directing the Shadow Lion to injure the rat.

After his plan succeeded, Shi Feng switched to the Aura of Fire and activated Firestorm.

As the Silvermoon Rat's body had been embedded in the ground, it couldn't dodge the raging inferno in time.

The Silvermoon Rat screeched again as the scorching flames engulfed it, its HP decreasing rapidly. Suddenly, its blood-red eyes turned pitch-black. Despite the raging inferno, the surrounding temperature dropped.

"Roar!"

The Silvermoon Rat suddenly released a deafening roar. It began to transform. Not only did it grow larger, but its dark-gray fur had also turned silvery-white. Its single tail split into three, and it now had four front legs rather than two. A pitch-black horn protruded from its forehead.

This is insane! It's forcing its evolution?! Shi Feng frowned.

Chapter 1284 – Solong an Archaic Species

After completing its evolution, the Silvermoon Rat had more than doubled in size. Now, it was six meters tall and loomed like a two-story house. Its aura had also grown more intense, making it difficult for Shi Feng to breathe.

Meanwhile, its statistics had undergone an earth-shattering transformation.

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[Silvermoon Rat King (Weakened)] (Archaic Species, Great Lord)

Level 64

HP 90,000,000/90,000,000

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As Shi Feng stared at the information, the Silvermoon Rat King vanished.

In the blink of an eye, the Rat King appeared before Shi Feng, its four front paws transforming into streaks of light as they slashed at Shi Feng.

So fast!

Shi Feng believed that in terms of speed, no player was his match in God's Domain. However, compared to the Silvermoon Rat King, he was slow. Not to mention, the Rat King attacked with four limbs. Even if he could move faster, he couldn't dodge all four attacks.

Defensive Blade!

Peng... Peng... Peng...

Over a dozen streaks of light slashed at Shi Feng again and again. In the blink of an eye, Shi Feng heard his defensive barrier shatter.

In a single round of attacks, the Silvermoon Rat King had exhausted Defensive Blade's block counts.

As soon as the Silvermoon Rat King ended its first barrage, it launched another. However, black mist now extended from its paws, forming four shadow whips that lashed at the Swordsman. As if the Rat King were an expert with the weapon, the four shadow whips sealed off every one of Shi Feng's paths of retreat, preventing him from dodging the attacks.

It clearly forced its evolution, but why has its intellect improved by so much? Shi Feng's expression darkened when he saw the four incoming whips.

If a monster tried to force its evolution, not only would it receive a backlash, but it would also suffer a Weakened state for some time, their Attributes decreasing significantly in all aspects. Naturally, its intellect would be affected. Only after its Weakened state faded would it recover to its peak.

Although Shi Feng's exchange with the Silvermoon Rat King had been brief, he could tell that the Rat King had the combat standards of a player that had reached the Trial Tower's fourth floor. Shi Feng found this truly inconceivable. If the Silvermoon Rat King had evolved normally, what kind of combat standards would it have had?

The Trial Tower's fifth floor? Or the sixth floor?

With such high Attributes and superb combat standards, the Silvermoon Rat King would be an utter nightmare.

Not even an entire team of experts would be a match for the Silvermoon Rat King, much less a 100-man team of Level 60, Tier 2 players. It was much different than the Tier 5 Archaic Species Shi Feng had faced in the past. Due to the lack of weaknesses, players had been forced to take the Tier 5 Archaic Species head-on. In the end, the Tier 5 Archaic Species had only died after a Super Guild had dispatched a team led by a Tier 6 God-ranked player.

Against the Silvermoon Rat King's Skill attack, Shi Feng activated Divine Steps without hesitation.

Immediately, ten doppelgangers appeared around him.

The instant the shadow whips descended, Shi Feng switched places with one of the distant doppelgangers.

In the end, the four shadow whips passed through Shi Feng's doppelganger unhindered and struck the ground, slicing the packed dirt apart as if it were a cake. The grooves were roughly six-yards deep and extended up to 50 yards. The attacks' range and power rendered Shi Feng speechless.

After the Skill ended, Shi Feng swapped positions with another doppelganger and appeared beside the Silvermoon Rat King, the Abyssal Blade descending on the Great Lord.

Chop!

-16,748!

The Silvermoon Rat King reacted as it turned and snapped two shadow whips at Shi Feng. Shi Feng once more switched positions with a doppelganger on the other side of the Rat King and quickly followed up with Thundering Flash. Four arcs of blue lightning passed through the Silvermoon Rat King's body.

-7,950!

-10,748!

-29,601!

-20,007!

Although the Rat King's Defense hadn't risen by much, it had 90,000,000 HP. Shi Feng's damage was nothing. Fortunately, while Weakened, the Silvermoon Rat King couldn't use its combat recovery. Hence, any lost HP was permanent.

By constantly switching positions with his doppelgangers, Shi Feng suppressed the Rat King for a moment.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng controlled the Shadow Lion and two Tier 2 Demons to join the battle.

However, the Silvermoon Rat King promptly responded when it noticed the Shadow Lion and Demons approach by lashing its four shadow whips. It aimed two for the Tier 3 Shadow Lion while the other two dealt with the Tier 2 Demons. The Rat King's attacks were extremely accurate, forcing the Shadow Lion and Demons to defend themselves.

However, the shadow whips' Attack Speed was quite high. Before Shi Feng could direct his creatures to dodge, the whips struck. The Shadow Lion was knocked back by over ten yards, two damages of over - 170,000 appearing above its head. Each of the Tier 2 Demons had lost over 300,000 HP and been thrown over 30 yards...

What high Strength! Shi Feng was surprised.

The Silvermoon Rat King's Strength could rival a Grand Lord of the same level.

Fortunately, he had avoided the Rat King's attacks, using Divine Steps to defend himself. Otherwise, if he had failed to block the four shadow whips and were struck, he would have died instantly. Even if he blocked all four whips, he would have very little HP remaining.

Once Shi Feng understood how powerful the Silvermoon Rat King was, he changed his attack methods.

Now, instead of issuing the Shadow Lion vague commands, he chose to control it himself. He directed the two Demons to attack from the sides.

Like the Silvermoon Rat King, the Shadow Lion was a Tier 3 monster. Although the Shadow Lion's Strength was no match for the Silvermoon Rat King, its speed should be on par. With Shi Feng's control, it would not be difficult to block the Rat King's attacks with the Shadow Lion. After all, the Silvermoon Rat King only had combat standards at the Trial Tower's fourth floor.

To ordinary and elite players, this combat standard might be considered very high. To him, however, it was not even passable. Even if he had to split his attention between controlling his body and the Shadow Lion, he could exhibit combat standards at the Half-step Refinement Realm with the Shadow Lion.

Once the Shadow Lion was under Shi Feng's complete control, it easily dodged three of the Silvermoon Rat King's shadow whips. The Shadow Lion countered the last whip with a swipe of its claws, negating the attack. It then used its other paw to cast the Tier 2 Skill, Shadow Claw, raking four bloody slashes across the Silvermoon Rat King's face. The impact slammed the Rat King's head into the ground.

-438,749!

The Shadow Lion's attack dazed the Silvermoon Rat King. The rat stared at the lion in confusion.

It had sent the stupid lion flying earlier, yet now the beast had dodged its attacks and slashed its face.

The Silvermoon Rat King pushed Shi Feng to the back of its mind and focused its attention on the monstrous cat, lashing one whip after another at the Shadow Lion. Against this furious assault, Shi Feng directed the lion to defend itself.

Although the Shadow Lion couldn't damage the Rat King, Shi Feng and his two Demons could attack the Great Lord from its blind spots, taking tens of thousands of the Rat King's HP every now and then.

For a time, they fought a battle of attrition.

The Silvermoon Rat King's HP decreased slowly. Only after a long time did its HP fall by 1%. As for the Shadow Lion, it lost HP at roughly the same rate.

Thank goodness for its Weakened state. After getting a general grasp of the situation, Shi Feng breathed a sigh of relief.

If the battle continued like this, he could kill the Silvermoon Rat King before the Shadow Lion's duration ran out. If the Silvermoon Rat King weren't in a Weakened state, however, he wouldn't be able to kill it, even if he had days, due to its battle recovery.

In fact, the reason that most experts in God's Domain couldn't solo powerful Bosses wasn't due to weak combat standards. Rather, they couldn't deal enough damage to overcome the Boss's battle recovery.

Without battle recovery, the Silvermoon Rat King's HP steadily decreased.

95%... 90%... 80%...

After fighting for nearly an hour, the Silvermoon Rat King's HP finally fell to 10%. Fortunately, the Shadow Lion still had 60% of its HP. Throughout the battle, whenever the Shadow Lion's HP fell to a critical level, Shi Feng had cast Life Bloom on it. As a result, the Silvermoon Rat King watched helplessly as the Shadow Lion recovered to full HP.

"Roar!"

The Silvermoon Rat King finally went berserk. Black magic arrays suddenly appeared before its four paws, rampantly gathering the surrounding Mana. The Rat King then slammed its paws on the ground, and streaks of black light shot from the ground in a 100-yard radius.

When the Tier 2 Tomahawk Demon accidentally stumbled into one of the streaks of light, it instantly lost over 600,000 HP. As the seconds ticked by, more streaks of light broke through the dirt.

As this attack continued, even Shi Feng had no choice but to use Defensive Blade and Absolute Defense to defend himself.

By the time these streaks of black light finally stopped, the two Tier 2 Demons had less than 30% of their HP remaining. As for the Shadow Lion, it only had 40% HP remaining...

As expected, an Archaic Species won't go down so easily after all. Even in a Weakened state, this Skill is more than enough to annihilate an expert team multiple times. Shi Feng was greatly shocked as he stared at the exhausted Silvermoon Rat King.

If the Rat King were at its peak, only death would await him. There was no other outcome. After all, despite the Rat King's current Weakened state, Shi Feng hadn't found a single weakness. If he wanted to defeat it, he had to face it head-on. If the Rat King were at its peak, he wouldn't have any hope of victory

without several Tier 3 tanks or Summoning Scrolls and an Intermediate Magic Array to suppress the Demonic Beast.

The Silvermoon Rat King was exhausted after using such a powerful Skill. It couldn't even move a muscle. Seeing this, Shi Feng activated Heavenly Dragon's Power, Phantom Kill, and Nine Dragon Slash and started a merciless assault.

If he waited for the Silvermoon Rat King to recover and use that powerful AOE Skill again, he would die.

9%...

7%...

5%...

1%...

When the Silvermoon Rat King only had around 100,000 HP remaining, Shi Feng activated Divine Providence and Flame Burst.

In the blink of an eye, the Silvermoon Rat King's HP hit rock bottom, its body collapsing to the ground.

"Success, finally!" Shi Feng fell flat on his back in exhaustion, taking one deep breath after another.

He had focused on controlling the Shadow Lion while assisting the battle from the side. The fight had been both mentally and physically exhausting. Had the battle gone on any longer, Shi Feng might have collapsed before killing the Silvermoon Rat King.

Suddenly, Shi Feng realized that his previously stagnant experience bar, which hadn't moved when he killed the other Shadowmoon Rats, was rising. Moreover, it rose at a rate visible to the naked eye.

10%... 20%... 30%...

Only after reaching 69% of Level 50 did his experience bar finally stop.

Meanwhile, upon its death, the Silvermoon Rat King had dropped a mound of shiny items.

Chapter 1285 – Upgrading the Demonic Tiger

The Silvermoon Rat King's loot was astounding. It had even dropped 16 Seven Luminaries Shards.

It had also dropped five pieces of equipment. The Magic Moon Robes, the most important part of the Magic Moon Set Equipment, lay among them. There were also two pieces of the Shadowmoon Set Equipment: the chest piece and bracers. If he could complete the seven-piece sets, they would be the best set equipment available in God's Domain right now. Besides that, the Silvermoon Rat King had dropped the Level 60 Fine-Gold Moonlight Shield and Level 50 Dark-Gold necklace, Shadow Talisman.

Any of the various large Guilds would drool over the items.

Quite a few tools had dropped as well. These tools included a Tier 3 Domain Scroll and Tier 3 Defensive Scroll. Shi Feng considered these items compensation for the Tier 3 large-scale destruction Magic Scroll and Summoning Scroll he had used. Shi Feng had also obtained seven Tier 3 Attribute Gemstones.

“Hm? What’s this?”

Shi Feng had thought that he had collected all of the loot, but he suddenly noticed a nearly transparent stone beside the Silvermoon Rat King’s corpse. Although this stone rested there quietly, the surrounding Mana surged towards it.

Curious, Shi Feng picked up the stone and examined it. However, he discovered that he couldn’t see its information. This left him with no choice but to use Omniscient Eyes.

I struck gold this time. After the ten-second appraisal process completed, Shi Feng revealed an excited expression as he read the item’s description.

—

[Bloodline Essence] (Dark-Gold Rank Item)

This item contains a trace of a Ferocious Beast’s bloodline. It can give a Mount a trace of the Ferocious Beast’s bloodline.

—

Although specific items could upgrade Guild Mounts, there were very few items in God's Domain that could upgrade a Mount's strength.

A Mount's strength was not static. It could be improved. However, upgrading a Mount was far more difficult than nurturing Personal Guards.

Shi Feng had never thought he would be so lucky as to obtain a Dark-Gold strengthening tool for Mounts.

Although his Demonic Flame Tiger was a Dark-Gold Mount, it was only as strong as a Chieftain of the same level. It was not even a match for a Tier 2 Lord. Against experts of his level, the Demonic Flame Tiger wouldn't be of much use. At most, it could cast a few buffs.

If he could upgrade the Demonic Flame Tiger to the standard of a Lord, however, the Mount would be of significant help.

After all, a Lord was the equivalent of a Tier 2 player. Moreover, unlike Personal Guards, Shi Feng did not have to worry about the Demonic Flame Tiger dying as it was much cheaper to resurrect. The only downside was that, after its resurrection, the Demonic Flame Tiger would enter a Weakened state for a certain period.

Following which, Shi Feng summoned the Demonic Flame Tiger.

When the tall, mighty Demonic Flame Tiger manifested, it obediently lay down beside Shi Feng and rubbed its furry head against his arm.

“How much strength you get from this depends on you now.” Shi Feng then placed the Bloodline Essence before the Demonic Flame Tiger’s mouth. Seeing the translucent stone, the Demonic Flame Tiger’s shone with hunger like a cat staring at a fish. Without hesitation, it licked the Bloodline Essence off of Shi Feng’s hand and gulped it down.

When the Bloodline Essence entered the Demonic Flame Tiger’s stomach, blood-red patterns began to appear across the feline’s body. The surrounding Mana surged into the Demonic Flame Tiger.

The flood of Mana wasn’t one bit inferior to the Silvermoon Rat King’s evolution.

As it succumbed to the change, the Demonic Flame Tiger wailed in agony.

Following which, the blood patterns released a brilliant glow as they devoured the tiger’s body. As the surrounding Mana density reached its peak, the Demonic Flame Tiger’s form began to change.

The Demonic Flame Tiger had stood five meters tall. Now, however, its body shrank, reducing to three meters. A pitch-black horn grew from its forehead, and arcs of silver electricity crackled around its four paws as black flames licked up its legs. The Demonic Flame Tiger appeared more ferocious and majestic than before. Its aura, in particular, had undergone an earth-shattering change.

So strong. The Bloodline Essence’s effect is impressive. Shi Feng could not help his surprise when he checked the Demonic Flame Tiger’s Attributes.

Despite its current, Lord rank standard, its Basic Attributes were much higher than a Lord of the same level. It could nearly rival a High Lord.

A Mount that was almost as strong as a High Lord...

Just thinking about it excited Shi Feng.

The strongest Mount he had seen in the past had been on par with a Great Lord. It had belonged to a superpower's upper echelon and had been carefully nurtured. Countless resources had been spent on the Mount's growth. Shi Feng had been jealous. After all, that player who had owned the Mount had only been as strong as he had been, yet that player had such an impressive mode of transportation...

Now that the Demonic Flame Tiger was as strong as a High Lord, as long as he nurtured it properly, it might become as strong as a Great Lord by the time he reached Tier 3. It would be a powerful ally. After all, his tiger now had a strand of a Ferocious Beast's bloodline. It was much stronger than monsters of the same rank.

"It's about time to log off and get some rest." Taking a look at the real-world clock, Shi Feng thought that this would be a good time to take a break.

Following which, Shi Feng called up the system interface and logged out.

As soon as Shi Feng exited God's Domain, a series of notifications bombarded his virtual gaming cabin.

"Why are there so many messages?" Shi Feng was slightly surprised. As his virtual gaming cabin had an anti-disturb mode, the system would temporarily block any messages from the real world. Only after he logged out of God's Domain and woke from his slumber would the messages reach him.

He had only been in God's Domain for three days, yet he had over a dozen messages waiting for him. Some were from his assistant, Liang Jing, and some were from Big Dipper Group's Chairman, Xiao Yu. He had also received an invitation from the White Tiger Dojo.

Shi Feng glanced through one message after another.

He quickly discovered that these messages focused on a single matter, the friendly competition that the White Tiger Dojo intended to host tomorrow. Xiao Yu's messages inquired about the participants' conditions, while Liang Jing's messages talked about the White Tiger Dojo's friendly competition.

The White Tiger Dojo has splurged on the event. Shi Feng was slightly astonished as he read the competition's announcement.

Not only had the various dojos and training centers in Jin Hai City been invited to the competition, but the White Tiger Dojo had also involved five other nearby cities. Anybody could apply to join the competition; the participants weren't limited to the invited dojos and training centers. As long as one passed the qualifiers, they could take part. As a result, this competition was even more ambitious than Jin Hai City's annual fighting competition. In addition, the White Tiger Dojo had changed the competition's rewards.

Now, anyone who placed within the top five would receive prize money; first place would receive five million Credits; even fifth place would receive 500,000 Credits. To the various dojos and training centers, this prize money was negligible. Rather, these organizations had their sights set on the Green God Company's invitation card. To the majority of the participants, however, the reward money was considerable. According to Liang Jing's report, there were already more than ten thousand applicants.

While Shi Feng was stretched, Xiao Yu called him, anxious.

Chapter 1286 – Competition Preparations

Big Dipper Tower's fifty-first floor, Chairman's Office:

Currently, two people sat in a large office by the french windows. Upon closer inspection, one would discover that these two people looked somewhat similar. Only, their auras were different. One radiated the energy that was unique to a martial artist, while the other's aura spoke of a high societal position.

These two were none other than the Big Dipper Group's Xiao brothers.

"Big Brother, I've looked it up already. To attract enough attention, the White Tiger Dojo has dispatched three experts from its main branch to participate in the competition. Are you sure we won't have any issues?" Xiao Yan asked worriedly.

The White Tiger Dojo was a titan in the fighting industry. The main branch's talents were all rising stars.

Take Gan Xingteng, who had defeated Chen Wu, for example. Despite being one of the White Tiger Dojo's advanced disciples, he didn't even qualify for the main branch's nurturing. It was clear how impressive the main branch's experts were.

Moreover, the competition had an age restriction that barred those over 20, cutting out organizations such as the Big Dipper Dojo. He wouldn't have been worried if the age restriction had been set to 25. After all, Shi Feng would be able to participate if that were the case. Moreover, they had Fire Dance, who had defeated Gan Xingteng in a single move. With those two, the Big Dipper Dojo could easily secure first place, yet neither could participate this time.

Xiao Yan was very familiar with the Big Dipper Dojo's members. Only a few among them could be professional fighters. Moreover, even if they participated in the city's annual fighting competition, they wouldn't rank within the top 100. How could these members possibly contend with the White Tiger Dojo's elites?

To put it crudely, even in a three-on-one fight, their opponent would win in three moves or less.

If they signed their members up for the competition, it wouldn't be a matter of winning or losing. It would be a matter of how badly they were humiliated. If they embarrassed themselves during such a grand event, it would impact the Big Dipper Dojo's future.

"Shi Feng's people have assured me that everything is in order. I've tried to ask the person himself, but he is still in the game, and it wouldn't be wise to interrupt him. After all, he has already guaranteed success," Xiao Yu responded with a concerned expression.

Big Dipper's future was at stake. He had tried to ask Liang Jing, but she had no information on these matters...

"Big Brother, I think we should try to get an answer from him. The competition is tomorrow. If we can't win, I'd rather be absent than humiliate ourselves. If that happens, we won't have any chance against the White Tiger Dojo," Xiao Yan said.

"Alright. Once Shi Feng leaves the game, I'll ask him." Xiao Yu agreed with his brother's logic.

The White Tiger Dojo was obviously serious about branching out to Jin Hai City and the several neighboring cities. Otherwise, it wouldn't have dispatched its elites to take part in the competition. After all, the qualifiers for national fighting competition would begin soon. Its elites should be either resting or preparing for that event. Taking part in this sudden competition would affect them.

As Xiao Yu and Xiao Yan chatted, Xiao Yu noticed that the do-not-disturb mode on Shi Feng's communication system had been removed. Immediately, he called the man.

"Chairman Xiao, what's with the early call? Has something urgent come up?" Shi Feng asked curiously when he saw Xiao Yu's nervous expression on his quantum watch's display.

"The White Tiger Dojo's friendly competition is tomorrow. May I inquire about Instructor Shi's preparations? If you need any help, just say the word. We will do our best to assist you," Xiao Yu said. Currently, his gaze was fixed on Shi Feng, hoping to determine the young man's confidence of winning the competition by his expression and tone. He had been a part of the business world for some time, so he could easily read the truth and lies on a person's face.

If Shi Feng didn't have the confidence, Xiao Yu would give up on the competition. After all, the dojo's honor was at stake. If others learned that the White Tiger Dojo's disciples defeated theirs in a single move, the Big Dipper Dojo would go of business.

After giving the matter some thought, Shi Feng replied, "Thank you for your concern, Chairman Xiao. Since you've offered, I could use your help with something.

The answer disappointed Xiao Yu.

However, after considering the matter, he found it to be reasonable. After all, just how long had the Big Dipper Dojo been in operation?

Even if they invested a ton of resources in their members, they wouldn't see the results for a long time. How could a few days of training possibly transform their members?

“Can you think of a way to obtain a few more bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluid? I’m willing to purchase them for a high price,” Shi Feng asked, somewhat embarrassed.

He had already troubled Xiao Yu for ten bottles. However, he had given all ten to Shadow Sword and Turtledove. He had nothing left for Fire Dance, Cola, Ye Wumian, Flying Shadow, or the other core members.

The Guild’s main force members were nearly ready to challenge their Tier 2 promotion. However, challenging their Hell Mode Promotion Quests would be very difficult unless they improved their combat standards.

If he could get his hands on more S-rank Nutrient Fluids, he could help the others grow stronger.

“This...” Xiao Yu was speechless. Obtaining the previous ten bottles had taken a lot of effort, yet Shi Feng wanted more. Shi Feng was practically treating the S-rank Nutrient Fluid as if it were water. “Instructor Shi, I’ve already used my connections to obtain the previous bottles. I cannot get any more.”

“I see...” After giving the matter some thought, Shi Feng understood. If that were the case, he had no choice but to look for other methods to help his companions grow stronger. “Then, Chairman Xiao, I still have matters I need to deal with. I’ll speak with you later.”

“Wait...” Although Xiao Yu still had something to say, Shi Feng had already disconnected the call.

“Big Brother, how was it?” Xiao Yan asked.

“I don’t know,” Xiao Yu said, smiling bitterly. “Shi Feng is quite mysterious. If not for him being Ruoxi’s classmate, I might even suspect him to be an old man that has lived through countless trials and tribulations. Despite his hundreds of weak points, I can’t seem to find a way to strike.”

“What? Even you couldn’t see through him?” Xiao Yan asked in shock.

Xiao Yu had experienced countless battles in the business world while developing the Big Dipper Group. Many knew him to be a sly old fox. His ability to see through a facade was top-class, yet he couldn’t see through Shi Feng. How could this not be shocking?

“Forget it. We’ll participate in the competition tomorrow. If we don’t, the White Tiger Dojo will have an excuse to slander our names. We just need to avoid losing too badly. In any case, we can redeem ourselves during the city’s annual competition,” Xiao Yu said after giving the matter some thought.

“The city competition?” Xiao Yan nodded in agreement.

There was no doubt that the White Tiger Dojo would win in the friendly competition. However, it was a different story for the city’s annual competition as they would have the assistance of a great expert like Shi Feng.

...

Meanwhile, back in the Greenwater Villa, Shi Feng’s basic training, he logged back into God’s Domain.

It would take a lot of effort to clear the Silvermoon Rats from the herb garden. The sooner he completed this task, the better. He couldn’t predict when the other Silvermoon rats would evolve.

Compared to his prior grind, Shi Feng had an easier time killing the Demonic Beasts with the help of the Lord ranked Demonic Flame Tiger. Now, not only did he and his summoned Demons receive the tiger's buffs, but the Demonic Flame Tiger's own combat power was even greater than the Tier 2 Demons'.

Fortunately, the Dark Canyon's monsters did not respawn.

After grinding away half a day, Shi Feng finally cleared out the Silvermoon Rats.

Although the grind was boring, he had collected a total of 714 Seven Luminaries Shards. If he used the Philosopher's Stone, he could synthesize 14 Seven Luminaries Crystals. He was now much closer to his goal of obtaining 40 units of Seven Luminaries Crystal.

He also had five unique pieces of the Magic Moon Set Equipment. He had four duplicates as well. As for the Shadowmoon Set Equipment, he had collected six unique pieces with two duplicates; he only needed the belt now.

As Shi Feng set his sights on the Silvermoon Bears, several figures flew down from the distant tower.

As these several figures grew closer to the herb garden, the Demonic Beasts in the Moonlight Courtyard panicked. Even the Great Lord ranked Silvermoon Bears covered their heads with their paws and shuddered in fear, not even daring to glance at the distant figures.

This is insane! Why are Magic Light Dragonlings here!?

Shi Feng was astonished when he saw the three massive figures fly over him.

Chapter 1287 – Dark Shaman King

The Magic Light Dragonlings' were pitch-black and shrouded in a layer of black mist. Their skin sparkled faintly from time to time, resembling the night sky. The Dragonlings' wingspan stretched over twenty meters, and a single flap was enough to create a strong gust of wind, the whistle echoing throughout the courtyard.

Seeing the Magic Light Dragonlings rapidly approach the garden, Shi Feng turned and fled.

The Magic Light Dragonlings were bona fide Dragons. Although they were infants and only at the Tier 3 standard, they were much stronger than an Archaic Species of the same tier. And three of these Level 65 Magic Light Dragonlings were flying towards him.

If they discovered him, his fate would be sealed.

Fortunately, the Dragonlings were quite far away, so Shi Feng had more than enough time to get out of the herb garden.

Shi Feng wasn't the only one trying to leave the herb garden. The Silvermoon Bears lazing around the Moonlight Fruit did not dare linger either.

It wasn't long before the three Magic Light Dragonlings landed in the center of the herb garden. As soon as they landed, three figures jumped off of their backs. Among them, two were Level 70, Tier 3 Demons wearing exquisite armor, and one was a black-robed elder wielding a crimson staff.

Although this black-robed elder did not exude any kind of aura, Shi Feng, who watched from a distance, did not even dare to move a single muscle, deeply afraid of attracting this elder's attention.

This elderly man was far more terrifying than the Magic Light Dragonlings. Shi Feng had heard this man's name before.

Dark Wizard Raymond was a legendary Tier 5 Grand Wizard. He had been a marshal that commanded the Apocalypse Empire's Mage Corps. However, to pursue the essence of magic, he had betrayed the human race and dealt a severe blow to the empire. Now, he was a wanted man in God's Domain.

In Shi Feng's previous life, Raymond had been the Final Boss of the "Dark Shaman King" expansion pack.

Back then, the various superpowers had suffered countless casualties to exterminate the Dark Wizard Raymond. In the end, it had taken two Super Guilds working together to take him down.

Shi Feng had never expected his promotion quest to lead him to such a terrifying Boss. It was no wonder why the Magic Light Dragonlings were treated like Mounts. Only a legendary Grand Wizard like Raymond could accomplish such a feat.

This promotion quest really is deadly. Shi Feng was at a loss for words as he quietly watched Raymond.

If he were discovered, he would die here. There was no way for he could escape a Tier 5 Grand Wizard.

If Raymond guarded the herb garden, Shi Feng's promotion quest was as good as over.

After Raymond dismounted, he began to collect herbs in silence. Meanwhile, the two Tier 3 Demons stood guard.

Seeing this, Shi Feng breathed a sigh of relief.

Raymond was also a Grandmaster Alchemist. He had most likely come to the garden to collect herbs for his research.

As Raymond harvested the plants, Shi Feng hid in a bush and remained motionless. A Tier 5 NPC's perception was incredibly powerful. Even though he was 500 yards away from Raymond, there was no guarantee that the NPC wouldn't detect his movements. He could only wait until Raymond left the herb garden.

Time passed quickly.

After harvesting herbs for nearly ten minutes, Raymond finally stood and prepared to leave. Suddenly, however, Raymond retrieved a fist-sized, seven-colored rock from his bag and started chanting an incantation.

What?! The Seven Luminaries Source Stone is in Raymond's hands?! When Shi Feng saw the seven-colored rock, he suddenly felt as the system had conned him.

His quest was to seal a Demon King. Normally, this would be impossible for him at this stage of the game. Hence, the system had given him a hint to use the Seven Luminaries Source Stone to suppress the Demon King before sealing it.

Yet, now, it was revealed that Raymond possessed the Seven Luminaries Source Stone, and the Grand Wizard was most likely stronger than a Tier 5 Demon King...

As Shi Feng agonized over how he would obtain the Seven Luminaries Source Stone, a magic barrier formed around the herb garden. In the next moment, Shi Feng saw Raymond retrieve some seeds from his bag and plant them in the garden.

In the blink of an eye, these seeds started to sprout. Their growth rate was astonishing. Moreover, the herbs were extraordinary. They were all Soul Flowers, which were no less valuable than the Flowers of Life.

Soul Flowers were so valuable because they could reduce the system's penalty when players died.

The death penalty was a massive headache for all of God's Domain's players. If they died in the fields, they would lose one level. However, if they were resurrected with the Basic Resurrection Potion, crafted with the Soul Flower, their death penalties would be reduced by 80%. The potion could also substitute for a team's lack of healers. However, the Basic Resurrection Potion was only effective on Level 70 and below players; it was ineffective on those who were above Level 70. Moreover, the potion had a long, one-day Cooldown. Regardless of these flaws, the Basic Resurrection Potion was undoubtedly a miracle.

Unfortunately, while the recipe was very easy to obtain, the Soul Flower, the potion's main material, was extremely rare. Normally, the various large Guilds kept the Resurrection Potions they crafted for their own use. Very few were willing to sell the potion. If any did show up in the Auction House, even if they were only Basic rank, they could easily sell for 500 Gold a piece.

Aside from being used in Resurrection Potions, the Soul Flower was one of the materials required to resurrect NPCs.

If players wished to resurrect their Personal Guards, they needed four things: Soul Flower, Flower of Life, Water of Life, and 3,000 Gold.

Because of this, players were rarely willing to resurrect Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Personal Guards. The Soul Flower, Flower of Life, and Water of Life were all extremely rare; they were impossible to obtain even if one had the money. This was also the reason why Shi Feng avoided summoning his Personal Guards if he could help it.

Shi Feng hadn't expected Raymond to have Soul Flower seeds. He certainly hadn't expected the man to have so many. If he could obtain these Soul Flowers, he could make a fortune.

Following which, Shi Feng watched Raymond instruct the two Level 70, Tier 3 Demons before climbing back onto the Magic Light Dragonling. All three Dragonlings then flew back to the tower. The two Tier 3 Demons remained behind. They were obviously tasked to guard the Soul Flowers and prevent the nearby Demonic Beasts from eating them.

Two Level 70, Tier 3 Demons? Shi Feng smiled.

If Raymond had tasked the Magic Light Dragonlings to guard the Soul Flowers, Shi Feng wouldn't have had any hope. However, it was a different story if he only had to take out two Tier 3 Demons.

Following which, Shi Feng summoned his Personal Guards.

He hadn't done so early because he had worried that wouldn't be able to unsummon them. Their deaths would cause him a lot of trouble. However, the situation had changed.

Even if they couldn't be unsummoned and died here, obtaining the Soul Flowers and Flowers of Life would be a profitable trade.

Some time after the two summoning magic arrays appeared, Anna and Kite emerged.

The two NPCs were an even higher level than their last summoning.

Anna was already Level 72, while Kite had reached Level 70. Their weapons and equipment had also transformed. Without Shi Feng's knowledge, Anna had gained an additional Fragmented Legendary headpiece, while Kite had obtained a Fragmented Legendary one-handed sword. Shi Feng was pretty jealous.

He had to admit that dumping Coins into their high-ranking quests had been a worthwhile investment.

"Go!"

Although both of his Personal Guards were only Tier 2, Shi Feng didn't hesitate to send them to deal with the two Level 70, Tier 3 Demons.

Chapter 1288 – Overwhelming Tier 3 Demons

After hearing Shi Feng's command, both Anna and Kite set their sights on the Demonic Hunters guarding the herb garden.

—

[Demonic Hunter] (Dark Creature, Demon)

Level 70

HP 35,000,000/35,000,000

—

Compared to monsters, Demons had less HP. In return, though, their intellect was much higher. In addition, they had many Skills at their disposal. If given the choice, players would rather fight dumb monsters than Demons of the same tier.

The instant Anna and Kite set foot into the herb garden, they attracted the Demonic Hunters' attention.

"Intruders, you dare set trespass into Lord Raymond's territory! You shall pay with your lives!" the two Demonic Hunters bellowed as they promptly retrieved the greatswords from their backs. They both charged at Anna, the Summoner.

Not only were the Demonic Hunters faster than the Silvermoon Rat King, but their combat standards were also higher. Moreover, they knew how to coordinate as each of them activated Demonic Charge from two different directions, their Movement Speed increasing instantly.

When the two Demonic Hunters were only 30 yards away, Anna slammed the butt of her staff on the ground and pointed a finger towards the sky. As she did so, she finished chanting her incantation's final verse.

Suddenly, a massive, golden magic array appeared before her. Silver magic arrays also appeared around Anna, one after another, surrounding the summoner.

When the two Demonic Hunters were only 15 yards away, a Golden Giant emerged from the golden magic array. The Golden Giant served as a gatekeeper as it stood in the Demon Hunters' path.

This move was the Tier 2 Curse Anna had learned, Song of Summoning. It allowed her to summon a Tier 3 Golden Giant to aid her.

Ten Tier 2 Rock Guardians also appeared from the silver magic arrays around Anna. In the blink of an eye, Anna had summoned a monster army.

—

[Golden Giant] (Elemental Being, Great Lord)

Level 72

HP 77,000,000/77,000,000

[Rock Guardian] (Elemental Being, Lord)

Level 72

HP 31,000,000/31,000,000

—

Although the two Demonic Hunters tried to circle the summoned creatures and attack Anna directly, the Summoner had prepared for this. With a light wave of her staff, she fired several Elemental Bullets at the Demonic Hunters.

Dang! Dang! Dang!

The two Demonic Hunters responded quickly by blocking the bullets with their greatswords.

However, the Golden Giant appeared behind the two Demonic Hunters, its fists descending on their heads.

Boom!

-415,797!

-420,187!

The impact blasted a large hole in the ground.

At this point, Anna had finished writing another set of runes. She then flicked her finger at these runes.

Immediately, these runes embedded themselves into the ten Rock Guardians' bodies, who had already surrounded the two Demonic Hunters. As these runes merged with the Rock Guardians, a golden magic array formed around the two Demonic Hunters. Although the Demonic Hunters attacked the barrier, it remained intact as the Rock Guardians split the damage equally.

Moreover, this magic array granted the Rock Guardians a 10% increase to their Basic Attributes and reduced the Demonic Hunters' Basic Attributes by 15%. With this, it became even more difficult for the Demonic Hunters to kill the Rock Guardians and break free from the magic barrier.

So strong! Shi Feng was quite impressed.

Although he had long since known that an Epic Personal Guard had extraordinary potential, he never imagined that Anna would grow to the point of being capable of suppressing two Tier 3 Demons all by herself.

If a player of the same tier fought Anna, she would overwhelm them until their death. Not to mention, Anna still had her Epic ranked Legacy Skill, Angel Summoning. Whether in a one-on-one fight or a group fight, Anna had no weaknesses.

Suddenly, the Sword Master Kite charged into the magic array and slashed his Fragmented Legendary sword at one of the Demonic Hunters. The targeted Demonic Hunter responded quickly, slashing its greatsword horizontally and easily deflecting this attack.

However, the instant the Demonic Hunter blocked the attack, it was forced to retreat by half a step. Immediately after, over a dozen wind blades struck the Demonic Hunter from multiple directions.

-44,671!

-44,598!

-45,102!

...

In the blink of an eye, the Demonic Hunter lost over 500,000 HP. Kite was clearly superior in both Strength and speed.

After watching his Personal Guards' performance for a short moment, Shi Feng joined the battle.

Although both Kite and Anna could overwhelm the Tier 3 Demons, the Demons were different from the Silvermoon Rat King. Both had battle recovery, which allowed them to recover 350,000 HP every five seconds. It would take quite some time to kill them.

After Shi Feng, the Demonic Flame Tiger, and the two Tier 2 Demons joined the battle, their overall damage skyrocketed.

When any of his allies began to run low on HP, Shi Feng switched to the Aura of Water and cast Life Bloom.

In less than half an hour, both Level 70, Tier 3 Demons fell. Once they died, Shi Feng's experience bar had risen to 82% of Level 50.

Sure enough, only Great Lords grant EXP here. Glancing at his experience bar, Shi Feng gained a general understanding on some of the Dark Canyon's rules. He then shifted his gaze to the loot dropped the two Demonic Hunters had dropped.

Due to Divine Providence, the Demonic Hunters had dropped a total of nine Seven Luminaries Shards and two pieces of Level 60 Fine-Gold Equipment. They had also dropped two small pouches.

Opening the pouches, Shi Feng discovered that they actually contained seeds. The two pouches combined contained a total of 27 seeds.

The monsters here drop seeds? Shi Feng was somewhat confused.

This was the first time he had obtained seeds after killing a monster. Normally, one could only obtain seeds from NPC merchants or opening Treasure Chests.

Following which, Shi Feng curiously checked the seeds' Attribute Panel.

—

[Mutated Rainbow Tree Seeds]

Survival rate increased by 20%. Amount of Rainbow Fruit produced during each maturity cycle increased by 30%. There is a chance to produce Mutated Rainbow Fruit.

—

What?! These are Rainbow Tree seeds?! Shi Feng was momentarily stunned.

Fruit trees in God's Domain were different from herbs. They would not disappear once harvested. Instead, the tree would continue to bear fruit as long as one nurtured it properly. Only, the fruit's maturity cycle was a little longer than herbs.

One could easily purchase an ordinary fruit tree's seeds from NPC merchants for relatively cheap.

However, rare trees' seeds were much more expensive, not to mention the Rainbow Tree's seeds. In the past, one such seed easily sold for 400 Gold. Unfortunately, Rainbow Trees had a very low survival rate

of roughly 20%. Hence, if one wished to their own, it would cost around 2,000 Gold. If one were unlucky, the seeds might cost them as much as 4,000 Gold.

The Rainbow Tree seeds were so expensive because Rainbow Fruits could produce Rainbow Wine. Not only was the wine delicious, but its effects could also rival the Hundred Berry Wine. Moreover, the Rainbow Wine's effects lasted much longer.

The Mutated Rainbow Tree seeds, however, likely cost several times more than ordinary Rainbow Tree seeds. After all, the seeds boasted such a high survival rate. These trees would also produce more fruit than usual. Most importantly, they had a chance of growing Mutated Rainbow Fruit.

After Shi Feng collected the loot, he chose to unsummon his Personal Guards, letting Anna and Kite return to their original locations.

However, despite numerous attempts, the system notified him that he had failed to unsummon the NPCs.

Sure enough, I can't send them back. It seems that I'll have to unsummon them after completing the quest. Shi Feng could not help but sigh. However, when he shifted his gaze to the Soul Flowers and rare herbs that filled the herb garden, his mood instantly lifted. There was even a large number of Moonlight Fruit waiting to be harvested.

He had to admit that an Asura Mode Promotion Quest was wonderful.

Shi Feng collected the rare herbs and Moonlight Fruits frantically while waiting for the Soul Flowers to mature.

Normally, Soul Flowers needed three to four days to reach maturity. However, due to Raymond's magic array, these only needed around six hours.

Time passed very quickly. By the time Shi Feng collected the Soul Flowers, his bag space was nearly full.

It's about time for me to log off, Shi Feng thought as he looked at the real-world clock. It was almost time for the White Tiger Dojo's friendly competition. As the Big Dipper's Head Instructor, he couldn't be absent from the event.

He then chose to log out and disappeared from the herb garden.

[1]Rainbow Fruit:

Rainbow Fruit in Chapter 1005 changed to Seven-colored Fruit.

Chapter 1289 – Difference Caused Due to Time

Jin Hai City, City Center Sports Arena:

The sun shone brightly in the midday sky. At this moment, however, the glaring, scorching sun couldn't stop the enthusiasm of the crowd gathered in front of the sports arena. A sea of people waited outside the arena, which could accommodate 50,000 people.

The White River Dojo had been advertising the friendly competition for some time. Advertisements decorated the city streets. Including Jin Hai City, a total of six cities planned to participate. It was the grandest competition so far this year.

In an era where everyone valued physical fitness, nothing was more popular than a fighting competition.

Today was also a Saturday, and everyone had the free time to watch the competition.

After all, this competition involved fighting experts from six cities. It could be considered a contest between these cities. Many had come to support their own local fighters. In order to spread the news thoroughly, the White Tiger Dojo had specifically invited many of these cities' important fighters to spectate.

Seeing luxury hover cars arrive before the VIP entrance, one after another, the people lined up in front of the normal entrance gasped. Every individual that alighted from these vehicles were even more extraordinary.

"Look! Isn't that Elder Xu?! He's attending this event as well?!"

"Huh?! Isn't that Master Chen Wu?!"

...

While the crowd watched in rapture, influential people entered the arena.

Shi Feng had also just arrived at the sports arena by car. As he had been occupied with gathering herbs, Xiao Yu and the others, finding it inappropriate to disturb him, had decided to head to the venue first. Hence, Shi Feng had arrived alone.

As soon as Shi Feng emerged from the car, he was surprised. However, his surprise wasn't due to the number of spectators. Rather, he was surprised to see so many contestants. A line of people had queued up at the Contestant entrance. There were at least 300 people in line at the moment. It was already enough to rival a provincial-level fighting competition.

As Shi Feng waited for Liang Jing to retrieve him, he noticed quite a few familiar faces in front of spectator entrance No. 5. They were none other than Zhou Yuhu and his previous classmates.

"Brother Hu, you really are impressive. You even got your hands on entrance tickets. When I showed off my ticket, my classmates were so jealous," a robust youth with a long nose and beady eyes praised Zhou Yuhu.

"That's nothing to Brother Hu. Brother Hu is famous at our school. Not only did he pass the professional fighter's test and officially become a reserve professional fighter, but he is also one of the few Shadow Guild experts in our school. It is a piece of cake for him to get a few tickets to this competition!" a youth wearing a T-shirt proudly proclaimed.

"Amazing! Brother Hu has become a reserve professional fighter?! In that case, won't he become an actual professional fighter in one or two years?!" At this moment, several tall, beautiful female students gazed at Qin Shuyu, who stood beside Zhou Yuhu, in envy and admiration. "Senior Shuyu, you really are blessed! You actually nabbed Brother Hu for yourself."

It was extremely difficult to become a professional fighter. One needed talent. Becoming a professional fighter also meant earning a high income. If one became one of the top ten fighters in the city, living in a high-end residence and owning a luxury car would be possible. If one became a champion, they would gain a lot of influence and wouldn't have to worry about money for the rest of their life.

“What are you girls talking about?” Qin Shuyu, who wore a blue blouse and short skirt, pretended to get angry. However, her eyes contained a faint trace of pride.

As the group chatted merrily, Zhou Yuhu noticed Shi Feng, who waited in the distance.

“Huh? Isn’t that Shi Feng?”

Hearing Zhou Yuhu’s words, everyone turned to look.

These people more or less knew about the history between Shi Feng and Zhou Yuhu. Shi Feng had defeated Zhou Yuhu in a single move, instantly becoming famous in the university.

However, it had been quite some time since they had seen Shi Feng as, shortly after his fight with Zhou Yuhu, he had vanished.

Shi Feng wore a dark blue tracksuit. Compared to several months ago, he had built up quite a bit of muscle. He gave off an indescribable sense of familiarity.

“Why is he here?” Qin Shuyu watched Shi Feng in confusion.

After the Fellowship Party, Shi Feng had cut off all connections with his classmates.

After graduating from university, she had heard that Shi Feng had joined a considerably powerful Gaming Workshop and was doing fairly well.

“I suppose he’s here to watch the competition.”

“Watch the competition? I doubt that. If that was the case, he should be in line for one of the spectator entrances rather than relaxing on a bench.”

“He graduated already, yet he’s still going around wearing a tracksuit. I guess he hasn’t done that well. Sure enough, those rumors about him becoming powerful were lies.”

“Senior Shuyu, it seems your decision back then had been a wise one. I wish my eyes were as keen as yours.”

The group praised Zhou Yuhu, one after another. After all, the difference between Zhou Yuhu and Shi Feng was obvious.

One was a nobody, working for some Gaming Workshop, while the other was an upper echelon in the well-known Shadow Workshop. Moreover, not only was Zhou Yuhu the envy of white-collar workers, but he was also a reserve professional fighter. As long as he could pass the city’s qualifiers within three years, he would officially become a professional fighter. Every dojo and training center in the city would offer high pay to recruit him.

“Senior Shuyu, why don’t we invite him to join us? We have an extra ticket. Letting it go to waste would be a pity.”

“That’s right. There are people willing to buy back-row tickets for 1,500 Credits. It would be a loss to hold onto it. In any case, he must want one. We can sell it to him for 1,200 Credits. Consider it doing him a favor.”

Zhou Yuhu and Qin Shuyu agreed with the suggestion.

Obtaining these tickets hadn’t been cheap. Even back-row tickets cost 500 Credits through official channels. Originally, they had bought just enough tickets, but one of their party wasn’t able to attend due to some urgent matter. If they did nothing with the ticket, they would have thrown away 500 Credits. By selling it to Shi Feng, they could earn a quick buck and ridicule their old classmate.

“Alright, then. In any case, holding onto it would be a waste. Since we are old classmates, and we haven’t seen him for some time, we can use this opportunity to catch up.” Qin Shuyu nodded.

However, after taking a few steps forward, Qin Shuyu noticed a gorgeous beauty with four black-clad bodyguards in tow approach Shi Feng gracefully.

This woman, wearing an exquisite business suit, even made Qin Shuyu feel ugly. She was none other than Liang Jing.

“Head Instructor Shi, you finally decided to show up. Let’s hurry inside. Chairman Xiao and the others are already waiting anxiously for you. Had you been any later, they would’ve fetched your gaming cabin with you inside,” Liang Jing grumbled when she saw Shi Feng’s leisurely behavior.

“Aren’t I here now?” Shi Feng chuckled. “Let’s go.”

Hearing Shi Feng's words, Liang Jing led him through the VIP entrance. Although the several security guards at the entrance wanted to verify their identities, when they saw Liang Jing produce a gold-plated VIP invitation card, they halted their steps and stood aside respectfully.

"Crap, who are those people? They have a gold invitation card! I thought the White Tiger Dojo had only given out twenty of those." As Shi Feng and Liang Jing entered the building, the security guards stared after them in surprise.

If the twenty golden invitation cards were split evenly among the six cities invited, each city would only get three or four cards. Only those whom the White Tiger Dojo valued would receive one.

Meanwhile, Zhou Yuhu and the others, who waited in front of the spectator's entrance, were dumbfounded, their eyes nearly falling out of their sockets.

Chapter 1290 – Display of Strength

How is this possible?! Doesn't he work for a Gaming Workshop?!

Qin Shuyu stared at Shi Feng incredulously as the latter entered the VIP entrance. She couldn't believe her eyes.

Every person she had watched go in through that entrance was an influential fighter in Jin Hai City, yet Shi Feng boldly walked through the doors. Moreover, even the security guards had treated him with respect.

How was he not doing well after graduating? He had risen to an entirely different level.

“So the rumors were true!”

Her companions’ jaws had dropped as they stared at the VIP entrance.

When they thought about how they had planned to sell Shi Feng a back-row ticket, they realized the idea was laughable. Fortunately, they had not actually tried to sell him the ticket. Otherwise, they would have humiliated themselves.

“Senior Shuyu, aren’t you very familiar with Senior Shi Feng? I’m very interested in gaming. If there is an opportunity, would you introduce us?” a petite girl with big, round eyes and cherry red lips asked Qin Shuyu with anticipation.

“Ah... Mhm... If there is an opportunity... I’ll introduce you...” Qin Shuyu muttered, wearing an indescribably awkward expression.

...

Meanwhile, in the sports arena’s VIP Hall...

Upper echelons from the various dojos and training centers, as well as influential figures from the various cities, had gathered, chatting merrily.

Only, despite the sounds of laughter that filled the hall, an intense hostility snapped between them.

When three of the White Tiger Dojo's people entered, practically every upper echelon shifted their gazes to the newcomers.

Among these three, the one leading the group was a middle-aged man in his mid-30s. The man gave off a peaceful aura. Of the two men beside him, one was Gan Xingteng, the representative instructor for Jin Hai City's White Tiger Dojo, while the other was Xie Qiwen, White Tiger Dojo's rising star.

"What?! Jiang Tianyuan is here?!"

"Seeing as Jiang Tianyuan is attending, this competition must be quite important to the White Tiger Dojo."

When the crowd saw the middle-aged man, Jiang Tianyuan, they spoke in hushed whispers.

In the fighting world, Jiang Tianyuan had been a superstar in the past. He had participated in multiple international competitions and had placed quite well. During his youth, he had been practically unrivaled among his peers within the country. The White Tiger Dojo had raised him to the position of advanced instructor at a very young age. He had even become a Hall Master, managing over a dozen branches. Jiang Tianyuan was definitely one of the White Tiger Dojo's core upper echelons. Even the dojo's Head Hall Master treated him with respect.

The fact that such an important figure had set foot in a backwater city like Jin Hai City proved that the White Tiger Dojo intended to do anything possible to win this competition. The minor dojos and training centers clearly had no chance of winning.

“Qiwēn, are the arrangements for the competition complete?” Jiang Tianyuan asked quietly after he greeted the various VIPs.

“Hall Master, everything is complete. Once this competition is over, the White Tiger Dojo will secure all six cities,” Xie Qiwēn reported, smiling.

“Good, then.” Jiang Tianyuan nodded. “However, I heard that the Big Dipper Dojo has a few skilled fighters. I’ve also heard that Lei Bao is now one of their instructors. Make sure our competitors do not grow complacent.”

“Hall Master, rest assured; we’ve investigated the Big Dipper Dojo’s situation. Among their 20-year-old and younger members, none are exceptional. I am sure that some other dojo or training center will deal with Big Dipper before we have to,” Xie Qiwēn said confidently.

If the woman named Fire Dance, who had defeated Gan Xingteng in a single move, took part in this competition, they would have to take Big Dipper seriously. However, none of the dojo’s new members had any talent to speak of, much less strength.

Compared to the Big Dipper Dojo, the other dojos and training centers posed were a greater threat.

“Right, who have you chosen to be our third representative in this competition?” Jiang Tianyuan asked. “I’ve heard that both You Ziping and Liao Huajie have performed considerably well thus far. Although Liao Huajie is one of the main branch’s elites, You Ziping is nearly skilled enough to become an advanced apprentice.”

“After some discussion, we’ve decided on Liao Huajie as our third representative. At the end of the day, You Ziping is too young. Although You Ziping has the advantage when it comes to the basics, he doesn’t have as much combat experience as Liao Huajie,” Xie Qiwēn explained, smiling.

“What a pity. This is a good opportunity to accumulate experience. After all, that child is quite talented.” After Jiang Tianyuan considered the matter, he agreed with Xie Qiwen. The competition was extremely important. If it weren’t, he would not mind letting You Ziping take part in it instead.

However, Jiang Tianyuan only played with this thought. After all, neither Liao Huajie nor You Ziping was skilled enough to attract his attention. He had only asked because You Ziping was one of his daughter’s friends.

...

Elsewhere in the arena...

“Head Instructor Shi, you’re finally here.” When Xiao Yu saw Shi Feng enter the room, he hurriedly welcomed the latter. Anxiously, he asked, “How is the team coming along?”

The competition was about to start, yet the Big Dipper’s Chairman was utterly unfamiliar with his team’s condition. To make matters worse, quite a few influential figures within Jin Hai City were concerned and had repeatedly asked him about Big Dipper’s representatives.

Meanwhile, he could only smile in response. He didn’t have any answers for them...

“They should be alright,” Shi Feng said, chuckling.

Hearing Shi Feng's vague reply, Xiao Yu was speechless. He even wondered if Shi Feng was concerned at all.

However, Xiao Yu's requirement wasn't overly high. As long as they didn't lose too miserably, he'd be satisfied.

After all, the White Tiger Dojo had dispatched its elites from the main branch.

Although Xiao Yu tried to say something more, the bell signaled the start of the competition. Everyone immediately turned towards the arena.

The large sports arena, which was capable of accommodating 50,000 spectators, was filled to the brim. The venue was extremely lively, and even some of the contestants, who participated in fighting competitions frequently, grew tense.

Of all the people that had applied to join the competition, a total of 768 people had qualified. These people would be divided into 32 groups of 24. Only one person from each group would proceed to the official competition. It was a cruel elimination round. Each dojo and training center's three contestants would be divided into different groups.

Thirty-two platforms had been set up inside the arena. Hence, all 32 groups could compete simultaneously without wasting time. The audience would get their fill of exciting fights. A virtual screen had also been set up in the arena's center, displaying the winners of each round. Naturally, the more winners a dojo or training center possessed, the more powerful they would be. The results would allow the audience to judge just how strong the various dojos and training centers were.

Although the White Tiger Dojo called this a friendly match, everyone knew that it was a ploy to show off its strength and the difference between itself and the other organizations.

Following which, the contestants entered the arena. They moved towards the platform corresponding to their groups. Seeing the various contestants, the audience seated grew excited.

“Look! Isn’t that Gu Chen, one of the White Tiger Dojo’s geniuses?! A frequent participant in the national competition is actually taking part in this competition?!”

“Huh?! Isn’t that beauty Yi Yuqing?! I heard that she is a female genius second only to Tang Jingyao in the White Tiger Dojo. If she’s here as well, there’s no need for this competition. The final match will definitely be between Yi Yuqing and Gu Chen.”

...

As the audience watched the White Tiger Dojo’s representatives approach the stages, they were stunned.

Meanwhile, the various dojos and training centers’ upper echelons paled at the sight.

With two of the White Tiger Dojo’s geniuses participating in this competition, how could they compete?

Xie Qiwen, who watched from the VIP stands, suddenly noticed a familiar figure on Platform No. 14.

This figure was none other than You Ziping.

“Why is he here?!” Xie Qiwen was flabbergasted.

Chapter 1291 – Death Group

So, you secretly applied for the qualifiers, knowing that you wouldn't be chosen as a representative? Xie Qiwen's expression darkened as he glared at You Ziping on Platform No.14. You really are a resilient bastard.

Xie Qiwen knew that You Ziping was chasing after Jiang Tianyuan's daughter, Jiang Mengyun. Originally, he had planned to cause some trouble for You Ziping, forcing the boy to retreat.

However, he hadn't expected You Ziping to disregard his kindness, much less join the competition without approval.

Following which, Xie Qiwen sent Gu Chen, Yu Yiqing, and Liao Huajie a message. The contents were simple: cripple You Ziping and prevent him from continuing in the fighting world.

Hopefully, you don't disqualify too quickly. Xie Qiwen sneered as he looked at You Ziping.

He had to admit that You Ziping was quite lucky. Among the White Tiger Dojo's three representatives, none were assigned to Platform No. 14.

If he wished to take You Ziping out, he had to wait until the boy won the elimination round. As long as You Ziping won in the elimination round, he would be easy to deal with.

Although this was only a friendly competition, injuries were common in any fighting competition. For an elite like Gu Chen, accidentally crippling You Ziping in a fight would be a piece of cake. Even if You Ziping could recover, a mere disciple with no background wouldn't be able to afford the treatment.

Suddenly, Gan Xingteng approached Xie Qiwen, respectfully handing his superior a folder.

"Boss, here's the detailed report on the dojos and training centers' representatives that you asked for."

"Good job."

Xie Qiwen nodded, casually browsing through the information.

He was responsible for handling the occupation of the six cities. This was the first important task the White Tiger Dojo had assigned him. Naturally, his performance had to be flawless. Although he didn't expect anyone from the six cities to defeat his dojo's representatives, he had Gan Xingteng investigate any noteworthy opponents.

Among the six cities, there were only three noteworthy opponents: the Martial Heaven Dojo, White Cloud Dojo, and Big Dipper Dojo. Among the three, the Martial Heaven Dojo and White Cloud Dojo deserved the most attention. After all, these two were considerably famous in the past. Only, their fame had fallen considerably since then. However, they were still capable of nurturing national fighters once every few years.

The martial arts master, Lei Bao, was the only reason the Big Dipper Dojo was considered a worthy foe. They also had Fire Dance, who was suspected of being a martial arts master as well. With these two masters, the Big Dipper Dojo might have some hidden trump cards.

As Xie Qiwen read through the files, however, he noticed a familiar name—You Ziping!

Moreover, You Ziping was representing the Big Dipper Dojo.

Seeing this, Xie Qiwen was momentarily stunned. He was utterly dumbfounded by You Ziping's foolishness.

Had You Ziping joined the competition as an individual, the youth would retain his identity as a White Tiger Dojo intermediate disciple. If that were the case, he couldn't do anything too drastic against the youth. After all, Jiang Tianyuan was watching.

However, the situation had changed. By representing another organization, You Ziping had severed all ties with the White Tiger Dojo. Even if he crippled the boy, Jiang Tianyuan wouldn't interfere. On the contrary, Jiang Tianyuan would be pleased. After all, no one tolerated a traitor.

Since you're asking for a beating, I'll gladly give you one. Xie Qiwen sneered. However, something is off about this Big Dipper Dojo. Were they unable to find suitable candidates? They're actually willing to work with members from other dojos.

Although the information regarding Shadow Sword and Turtle dove showed that both had participated in their own city's professional qualifiers, they had never passed the elimination rounds to become official professional fighters. This year was their last opportunity to surpass their status of reserve professional fighters.

Even in weaker dojos, people like Shadow Sword and Turtledove were a dime a dozen. They were only slightly stronger than the Big Dipper Dojo's new members.

I have really overestimated them. Xie Qiwen turned to look at Shi Feng and the others, who sat in the VIP stands, his sneer still plastered on his face. "It would be a pity to keep such interesting information to ourselves. Xingteng, notify the techs to switch the main screens to these three people when it's their turn to fight. I want everyone to watch the Big Dipper Dojo's performance."

There were four virtual screens set up in the center of the arena to give the audience a better view of the fights. However, due to the number of platforms, only the interesting matches were broadcast. As the host of the competition, the White Tiger Dojo could choose any particular fight to broadcast.

When choosing to join a dojo or training center, fighters usually based their selection on the establishment's capability to nurture its members. If it was well-known that if a dojo's members were weak, no one would join it, regardless of who the instructors were.

"Boss, rest assured; I'll make sure that they are the main focus of the competition," Gan Xingteng said.

...

Meanwhile, in the VIP stands...

When Xiao Yu read the information Shi Feng had provided regarding the Big Dipper Dojo's representatives, he very nearly fainted.

He had met these three people when they had arrived at the sports arena. However, he didn't know much about them.

Now that Xiao Yu had read the reports, he regretted not holding Shi Feng back. He felt that Shi Feng had underestimated the six cities' various dojos and training centers.

After all, of the dojo's representatives, two were not even professional fighters! They were merely reserves!

Even if Big Dipper were weak, it was more than capable of hiring professional fighters to assist them, yet Shi Feng had chosen reserve fighters.

Moreover, the only professional fighter was a White Tiger Dojo disciple...

If the two reserve fighters performed badly, and they had to rely on the White Tiger Dojo's disciple to achieve victory, others would still assume that the White Tiger Dojo was more powerful. They would be promoting the White Tiger Dojo instead of the Big Dipper Dojo. On the other hand, if they lost, they would be slandered for misleading a White Tiger Dojo disciple with poor training. To make matters worse, both Shadow Sword and Turtledove had been assigned to death group...

Although none of the White Tiger Dojo's elites were in their death group, many excellent provincial-level fighters were. Quite a few were even preparing to challenge the national competition this year. Their combat standards far exceeded city-level professional fighters. These reserve fighters had no chance against them.

As Xiao Yu contemplated stopping the competition, the first match on Platform No.1 began.

To Xiao Yu's dismay, Shadow Sword, Fu Jinghong, had been chosen to fight in the first match. And to make matters worse, his opponent was the favorite to win in Platform No.1. His opponent's name was Lu Jingshan, a genius disciple from the White Cloud Dojo.

"It's over..." When Xiao Yu saw Lu Jingshan's two-meter-tall, muscular frame walk up the platform, his expression darkened.

Lu Jingshan was one of the White Cloud Dojo's favored disciples. He had been born with extraordinary physical strength and was a talented fighter. Last year, he had secured fifth place in a provincial fighting competition and had very nearly qualified for the nationals. This year, Lu Jingshan had challenged many experts and defeated numerous people from last year's national competition. His strength had long since reached the national level. In the White Tiger Dojo, he would easily become an advanced disciple.

"So, the fight is over before it has even begun?" Xie Qiwen stifled his laughter when he saw Fu Jinghong's opponent.

Once both fighters were in position on Platform No. 1, the referee swung down both his hands and declared the start of the match.

Chapter 1292 – Shocking the Arena

The moment the match began, the screens above the arena began to broadcast the fight, attracting everyone's attention.

"Hahaha! Chairman Xiao, you've really got some bad luck. Your boy has to face our White Cloud Dojo's genius right off the bat. This year, Little Lu has achieved a punching strength of 604 kg. He can even rank near the top in the national competition." A white-haired, old man began to laugh not far from Xiao Yu.

Hearing this old man's comment, Xiao Yu's expression darkened further.

Even Hall Master Chen Wu, Jin Hai City's number one expert, only had a punching strength of 453 kg.

The Big Dipper Dojo would be eliminated in the very first round.

Xiao Yu wasn't the only one with such thoughts. Everyone in the venue shared a similar opinion. Even Fu Jinghong thought so. Lu Jingshan was very famous in the fighting industry; even top-class, city-level professional fighters looked up to the genius.

Guild Leader, will it really be alright? Fu Jinghong could not help but glance at Shi Feng, who watched from the distant VIP stands, worriedly.

He had only arrived at the Greenwater Villa four days ago, yet he was participating in such a large-scale competition, required to face off against experts from various cities. Although he had undergone three days of special training and consumed plenty of S-rank Nutrient Fluids, which significantly improved his physique, he had no confidence in winning. After all, before this, he had been a reserve fighter.

Unfortunately, despite his many attempts to convince Shi Feng that he wasn't skilled enough to participate in such a large competition, Shi Feng had told him to relax and fight like normal...

"Brat, are you going to get off of the stage yourself, or do I have to throw you from it?" Lu Jingshan asked, sneering at Fu Jinghong. "I'll say this. My strength has increased again recently, so don't blame me if I can't control it."

“Come,” Fu Jinghong said, gritting his teeth. He decided to put up a fight. After all, Shi Feng had invested five bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluid in him. If he surrendered, he would forsake his Guild Leader’s kindness.

“Oh? How courageous of you.” Lu Jingshan clapped his hands in mock praise. However, a second later, he dashed towards Fu Jinghong. As he moved, he looked like a brown bear, inspiring fear in his opponent.

As Lu Jingshan arrived before Fu Jinghong, he jabbed at the later’s face, his fist moving so fast that it left behind even afterimages.

“Not bad. He has trained a standard punch to such a degree. No wonder even some national-level fighters aren’t a match for him,” Jiang Tianyuan praised the fighter from the VIP stands.

From the moment Lu Jingshan charged forward to the moment he threw his punch, he had completed the entire process like flowing water. He was fast, accurate, and ruthless. There wasn’t any excess movement to hinder his strength. Lu Jingshan threw his entire weight into the single punch. Although there was nothing special about this move, it was extremely dangerous. If not dealt with properly, the hit might finish Fu Jinghong off.

Boom!

An explosion echoed throughout the platform.

However, Lu Jingshan’s punch didn’t reach its mark. Instead, it stopped three inches away from Fu Jinghong’s face.

The audience was stupefied.

“He missed?”

“Lu Jingshan really loves to play around. He’s deliberately trying to scare his opponent.”

“That’s right. After all, the difference between them is massive. It wouldn’t be interesting if he ended the match with one punch. Lu Jingshan must be trying to spare his opponent’s reputation.”

“Fu Jinghong really is unlucky. Not only will he be defeated, but Lu Jingshan will scare him in the process. He won’t faint, right? If Lu Jingshan hits him accidentally, he might kill the boy.”

Some of the audience members, who were familiar with Lu Jingshan, chatted merrily as they watched. They could not help but pity Fu Jinghong.

Meanwhile, in the VIP stands, Xiao Yu could no longer bear to watch the match. Instead, he glared at the smiling, white-haired elder hatefully. The White Cloud Dojo was clearly using the Big Dipper Dojo to gain more fame. Who would want to join the Big Dipper Dojo after this devastating fight?

Suddenly, however, the white-haired elder was confused. He had assumed that the boy was a brute, all muscle and no brains, yet the boy had increased his dojo’s fame.

And yet, Lu Jingshan didn’t look as gleeful as everyone had expected. Rather, he looked at Fu Jinghong with a serious expression.

He was not as kind or playful as everyone thought. He had planned to finish off Fu Jinghong with one punch from the very beginning to shock his following opponents. After all, this was not your standard competition. He had to fight several matches in a row. He might even suffer injuries as a result. Although the sports arena was equipped with excellent medical facilities and could help him heal small injuries very quickly, medicines and machines couldn't restore one's mental state. Hence, he had intended to finish his fights as quickly as possible.

However, he had never expected Fu Jinghong to dodge his punch.

"Brat, you got lucky, but your luck ends here," Lu Jingshan shouted. Immediately, he executed Chaotic Arrow Strikes, his swiftest and most violent technique. He planned to overwhelm his opponent with brute force and speed.

A wall of fists bombarded Fu Jinghong.

"Lu Jingshan's trademark Chaotic Arrow Strikes! That kid is doomed! It will take several months in the hospital to recover from his injuries." The audience could not help but pity Fu Jinghong when they saw Lu Jingshan's ruthless assault.

As everyone thought that Lu Jingshan would send his opponent flying, Fu Jinghong reacted, blocking every one of the incoming punches.

"Impossible!"

"He can actually block that?!"

“Is he even human!?”

The audience in the VIP stands were shocked. This was especially true for the White Cloud Dojo elder.

Lu Jingshan’s punches were both swift and strong. This technique would even overwhelm national fighters, yet Lu Jingshan couldn’t even hit Fu Jinghong.

What refined skills! Jiang Tianyuan’s eyes glowed as he watched Fu Jinghong’s movements.

The spectators were focused on Fu Jinghong’s defense, but Jiang Tianyuan was fully aware of how difficult it was to block Lu Jingshan’s Chaotic Arrow Strikes so effortlessly. First, Fu Jinghong needed to predict Lu Jingshan’s attack trajectories accurately. Then he needed to block the attacks from the correct angle. To achieve such a feat, one required an acute awareness of the fight and a wealth of combat experience.

Jiang Tianyuan found it very difficult to believe that a youngster in his late teens could possess so much combat experience.

“What? I thought he was just a reserve fighter?” Xiao Yu wore an incredulous expression as he watched Fu Jinghong move across the stage gracefully, his mouth hanging open. He then shifted his gaze to Shi Feng, and all of his resentment for the man vanished. He was surprised and elated. He had never thought that Shi Feng would find such a hidden expert. At the same time, his respect for Shi Feng grew.

After the fight continued for another dozen seconds or so, Lu Jingshan gradually weakened.

While Chaotic Arrow Strikes could overwhelm his opponent, the move taxed his stamina.

"I see that you have some hidden strength as well, brat. You nearly fooled me." Seeing the fight going nowhere, Lu Jingshan gave up on using Chaotic Arrow Strikes and pulled away from Fu Jinghong. He tried to buy himself some time to recover his stamina with words. "If dodging is the only thing you know how to do, you will never defeat me."

However, before Lu Jingshan finished speaking, Fu Jinghong charged forward. He had no intention of giving Lu Jingshan time to rest.

Seeing this, Lu Jingshan sneered at his opponent's foolishness. Adjusting his stance, he responded with a horizontal kick.

As Lu Jingshan's leg was about to strike Fu Jinghong, the young fighter representing the Big Dipper Dojo slid to a stop as if he had predicted the counterattack. As a result, Lu Jingshan's leg brushed past Fu Jinghong's clothing. Lu Jingshan's stance crumbled as his attack missed, revealing weak spots in his defense. Using this opportunity, Fu Jinghong launched a scissor kick at Lu Jingshan's unguarded abdomen.

Pu!

Lu Jingshan spat a mouthful of blood on the spot, flying off the platform and slamming into the ground. Although Lu Jingshan tried to stand, he swayed before losing consciousness and collapsing back to the ground.

As this was a friendly competition and each contestant had to participate in more matches than the standard competition, once a referee determined that a contestant was incapable of continuing, they would immediately declare the fight's outcome.

“Winner! Big Dipper Dojo’s Fu Jinghong!”

Chapter 1293 – Another Monster

“He won, just like that?”

The audience was dumbfounded as they stared at Platform No.1’s Fu Jinghong.

Nobody had expected such an outcome. Moreover, the fight had ended so quickly.

However, among those present, the upper echelons in the VIP stands were the most surprised.

Although the general audience knew that Lu Jingshan was very strong, they didn’t know that he was as skilled as a national-level fighter. And such an expert had been defeated by a disciple from a dojo they had never heard of. This was unbelievable.

“The Big Dipper Dojo? Didn’t that dojo recently open?”

“Amazing. I thought the rumors about Big Dipper recruiting a master were lies. It seems they are actually true!”

“That guy defeated Lu Jingshan so easily. Doesn’t this mean he already qualifies to join the national competition?”

“After this competition is over, I have to apply for the Big Dipper Dojo!”

The majority of the audience found the unexpected outcome] inconceivable. However, after considering the matter carefully, they realized how impressive the Big Dipper Dojo truly was. After all, none of them had ever heard of Fu Jinghong before. The Big Dipper Dojo must be impressive if it nurtured such an extraordinary fighter.

The audience members aspiring to become professional fighters stared at the stage with bloodshot eyes. They were all eager to join the Big Dipper Dojo.

Even if they couldn’t become national-level fighters, they wouldn’t have to worry about putting food on their table for the rest of their lives if they joined the ranks of provincial-level fighters.

Due to the focus on Fu Jinghong and Lu Jingshan’s fight, the spectators discussed the Big Dipper Dojo for a time. The more they talked about the dojo, the more enthusiastic they became. In the blink of an eye, the Big Dipper Dojo had garnered a lot of fame.

...

Well, I won’t have to worry about my marketing plans. When Shi Feng noticed the heated discussions in the other audience stands, with some even expressing their intent to join the dojo, he considered this a good opportunity to advertise the Big Dipper Dojo.

The White Tiger Dojo was trying to occupy the various third-tier cities because it wanted to recruit more talented fighters as leverage during its negotiations with international corporations. After all, everyone had already learned that talented fighters had an easier time becoming experts in God's Domain. Hence, instead of blindly recruiting players in God's Domain and hoping to find hidden gems, it was far more efficient to recruit talented fighters and train them in the game.

Although the Big Dipper Dojo had already been established in Jin Hai City for quite some time now, only those in the fighting industry knew its reputation. The general public didn't know much about the organization. If he could use this opportunity to gain some publicity for the dojo and lure more people into applying, this would allow Zero Wing to recruit talented fighters for internal nurturing.

Although Zero Wing had already recruited plenty of talents, at the end of the day, the Guild had too few. Zero Wing didn't even have enough experts to give first-rate Guilds a run for their money, much less super-first-rate Guilds.

Of course, the Guild's lack of funding was the main reason for this. It couldn't afford to nurture a lot of players at once yet. However, Shi Feng had no intentions of selling his God's Domain resources for Credits as it was his monetary resource in God's Domain. In the future, these resources would become even more valuable. Selling them now would be the epitome of foolishness. Hence, he was forced to recruit talented players slowly.

...

I thought he was just some newcomer who couldn't even pass the city's qualifiers? Xie Qiwen was confused. Was there an error in the report? Or did he hide his strength intentionally?

The fact that Fu Jinghong had defeated Lu Jingshan proved that he was not a mere reserve fighter, yet no matter how Xie Qiwen looked at it, it shouldn't be possible for a city-level fighter to grow to a national level within a short period.

I have really underestimated the Big Dipper Dojo to think they would have such a hidden trump card. Xie Qiwen could not help but shift his gaze towards Shi Feng. Sneering, he muttered, "Although I've allowed you all to gain some fame, do you really think the championship will be that easy to win?"

He hadn't expected the Big Dipper Dojo to have an expert capable of defeating Lu Jingshan. However, Gu Chen and Yi Yuqing had no cause for concern.

...

Meanwhile, Shadow Sword, Fu Jinghong, was still dazed as he remained on Platform No. 1.

"I won, just like that?" Fu Jinghong muttered as he watched the medics carry away Lu Jingshan on a stretcher. He questioned his own performance. "Was that really Lu Jingshan?"

He had challenged the city qualifiers twice before. However, he had been eliminated both times. Meanwhile, Lu Jingshan was an expert who actively participated in provincial-level competitions. The difference between them was like heaven and earth. Logically, he shouldn't have been able to win.

Yet, although Lu Jingshan's attacks had been fierce and powerful, he counted plenty of weaknesses in Lu Jingshan's stances. Most importantly, Lu Jingshan had telegraphed his attacks with his body language, which allowed him to predict his opponent's strikes. As a result, not only had he easily avoided Lu Jingshan's attacks, but he had also blocked Lu Jingshan's seemingly-unblockable Chaotic Arrow Strikes. This was a basic mistake that no expert should make.

Of course, he hadn't realized his own abilities earlier, either. He had only learned about these factors after training with Lei Bao and sparring with Cola and the others. However, learning about these flaws was one thing. Putting this newfound knowledge to proper use was another altogether. To do so, he had arduously trained to execute Void Steps in God's Domain and utilized the S-rank Nutrient Fluids to recover from the exhaustion, gradually increasing his brain activity.

Only, even after his training, Cola and the other still beat him mercilessly...

...

Meanwhile, in the VIP stands, Shi Feng wasn't surprised in the least to see this outcome.

Shadow Sword was immensely talented. He could easily see this in the young man's performance in God's Domain. But there were a lot of differences between combat in God's Domain and fights in the real world. If one wished to use their combat experience in the game in the real world, they needed to adapt. After all, one's body in the real world was different from their body in God's Domain. There were minute differences between the way one controlled these two bodies. Of course, with proper guidance, one could adapt easily.

Over the past three days, Shadow Sword had trained with Lei Bao continuously. He had also received plenty of Nutrient Fluids to aid his body's growth and repair. Most importantly, thanks to the S-rank Nutrient Fluids, his mental capabilities had evolved, allowing his five senses to become far more sensitive.

Coupled with Shadow Sword's wealth of combat experience, it was only a matter of course for him to defeat someone like Lu Jingshan, who had very little combat experience.

...

Once the match on Platform No. 1 ended, the matches on the other platforms began. The fights here were much more exciting than the city's annual fighting competition, so the audience's blood boiled as they watched.

After watching Fu Jinghong defeat Lu Jingshan, who had been a favorite to win, the other fighters on Platform No. 1 weren't so desperate to win. If they didn't think that they could defeat their opponent, they simply surrendered. After all, they still had to participate in official competitions once this friendly competition ended. Unless absolutely necessary, they would avoid injury.

Aside from Platform No.1, some eye-catching experts emerged on the other platforms. The White Tiger Dojo's three experts, in particular, struck fear in their opponents, extinguishing their plans for overcoming the elimination round.

Meanwhile, the match on Platform No. 28 ended within less than five seconds.

A robust man that was 1.9 meters tall was thrown from the platform, tearing a gasp from the spectators.

If the person responsible were a muscular man, they wouldn't have been surprised. However, the victor was a charming beauty with an hourglass figure.

With a single punch, this beauty had sent a 1.9-meter-tall man flying over three meters away and off the platform's edge.

The waiting fighters sucked in a breath of cold air when they saw this. Suddenly, they were afraid of this beauty.

"What kind of monstrous strength does she possess!?"

“Crap! Just who is she?!”

...

Everyone began to evaluate the young woman. Meanwhile, the various dojos and training centers' upper echelons began to investigate this mysterious girl.

When they discovered her identity, they nearly cried out in shock.

This girl was actually one of the Big Dipper Dojo's representatives, Turtledove, Yu Qiaoqiao.

Chapter 1294 – Famous

“Amazing! Truly amazing!”

“Are all of Big Dipper's disciples so powerful?”

...

Exclamations echoed throughout the spectator stands. When they discovered Yu Qiaoqiao's identity, their interest in the Big Dipper Dojo grew.

If only one of the dojo's representatives were strong, they could chalk it up to that individual's talent. However, it was a different story if both representatives were powerful.

This showed that the dojo had excellent teaching methods.

Meanwhile, the various upper echelons in the VIP stands stared at Shi Feng and Xiao Yu in shock.

"Didn't Big Dipper recently establish its dojo? How could they have nurtured such skilled disciples?"

"No wonder why the White Tiger Dojo stopped challenging the various dojos and training centers after visiting the Big Dipper Dojo! It turns out that the Big Dipper Dojo is actually quite powerful!"

"So, that rumor was true. The Big Dipper Group has won the lottery this time. Why can't a powerful master stumble into our dojo as well?"

Everyone in the VIP stands was a fighting industry insider, so they were all aware that the Big Dipper Dojo was a new construct. Moreover, the dojo had specifically been established for Shi Feng.

However, they had neither expected Shi Feng to be such a powerful individual nor a capable instructor. With this, the Big Dipper Dojo's fame would grow.

“Hahaha! Big Brother, our Big Dipper Dojo is famous. Several people just contacted me stating that they wish to join the dojo. There are even a few professional fighters among them who have previously refused our invitations,” Xiao Yan said excitedly.

Since the dojo’s establishment, the Big Dipper Group had constantly searched for ways to expand the dojo’s influence. After all, a dojo wouldn’t necessarily become popular just because it had a master martial artist leading the training sessions. Before the dojo succeeded in nurturing powerful disciples, nobody would know how capable said master was. If the master happened to be inept at teaching, there was no point to joining the dojo.

Hence, they had attempted to recruit some well-known professional fighters in Jin Hai City and the several neighboring cities. Unfortunately, these fighters had either refused outright or demanded too high of a price.

Now, however, these professional fighters, who had acted like almighty masters, acted like children. They were all eager to join the Big Dipper Dojo.

Xiao Yu nodded and smiled as well.

He hadn’t realized how thoroughly Shi Feng had hidden his capabilities either. Now, they didn’t have to worry about damage to the Big Dipper Dojo’s reputation, and they could recruit a plethora of well-known professional fighters.

As the audience paid more attention to the Big Dipper Dojo, the matches around the arena became increasingly intense as the various competitors fought to obtain the only advancement slot for their respective platforms.

As predicted, all three representatives from the White Tiger Dojo advanced through the elimination round eventually. All three were unbelievably skilled.

The other dojos and training centers didn't fare as well. Over 40-plus dojos and training centers had come to participate. Even if the remaining slots were divided equally, not every establishment could earn a slot. Furthermore, many fighters had joined the competition independently. In the end, only the stronger dojos and training centers would advance.

"The White Tiger Dojo really is impressive as expected of one of the country's best dojos. The other dojos and training centers simply aren't a match for it."

"The Martial Heaven Dojo is also pretty strong. All three of its representatives advanced. As for the White Cloud Dojo, if Lu Jingshan hadn't lost, all of its representatives would have advanced as well."

"That Big Dipper Dojo is also quite skilled. All three of its representatives advanced to the next round, too. Moreover, I heard that the Big Dipper Dojo is relatively new. It can definitely rival the Martial Heaven Dojo and White Tiger Dojo."

...

When the organizers displayed the list of fighters who had advanced above the stage, the audience discussed the various establishments.

Among the many dojos and training centers, only the White Tiger Dojo, the Martial Heaven Dojo, and the Big Dipper Dojo would be represented by all three of their fighters in the next round. Hence, many people started comparing the three dojos.

When Xie Qiwen heard the chatter, he paled.

The spectators were comparing one of the country's best dojos to third-rate organizations. If news of this reached the main branch, the higher-ups would call his management capabilities into question.

Damn it! Where did Big Dipper find so many experts?! Xie Qiwen balled his fists as he glared at the distant Xiao Yu. In his opinion, the only person in the Big Dipper Group capable of such a feat was the sly old fox, Xiao Yu.

As Xie Qiwen inwardly cursed Xiao Yu's cunning, Jiang Tianyuan, asked from beside him, "Qiwen, why is You Ziping listed among the Big Dipper Dojo's representatives?"

"Hall Master, this... I'm not sure." Feigning ignorance, Xie Qiwen replied, "I'll have someone find out what is going on immediately. Once he returns, I'll demand an explanation."

"No need. Despite the White Tiger Dojo's nurturing, he dares to represent another dojo without consent. He has already broken one of our sacred taboos. He is no longer a member of the White Tiger Dojo. Let him fend for himself," Jiang Tianyuan announced coldly.

Originally, he had considered You Ziping a talented child worthy of the dojo's attention. Hence, he had specifically asked if the boy had been chosen to represent their dojo in this competition. Even if You Ziping hadn't been chosen, he had intended to recommend moving the youth to the main branch for better training.

However, You Ziping had greatly disappointed him.

“Understood.” Xie Qiwen nodded. However, when Jiang Tianyuan looked away, he revealed a faint sneer.

You Ziping had lost his protection from the White Tiger Dojo. It was obvious that Jiang Tianyuan’s attitude towards You Ziping had changed significantly. After this, dealing with the boy would become easier.

Once the competition ended, he would report You Ziping for violating his contract with the White Tiger Dojo. Not only would You Ziping be forced to pay a massive compensation fee, but it would also deal a blow to the Big Dipper Dojo’s reputation. To protect itself, the Big Dipper Dojo might be forced to abandon You Ziping.

...

Shortly after the elimination round, the 32 contestants that had advanced approached the sports arena’s main stage to draw lots.

The main stage was far more spacious than the surrounding platforms. Moreover, the virtual screens constantly broadcast the main stage, allowing all of the spectators to watch the fights.

As the 32 contestants drew lots in sequence of their platform number, a petite, beautiful girl in a blue martial arts uniform walked up to You Ziping. This girl was none other than Yi Yuqing.

“You Ziping, must you do this?” Yi Yuqing asked quietly. “You know that Hall Master Jiang already plans to give Mengyun to Xie Qiwen. If you leave to join the Big Dipper Dojo now, you’ll destroy your future.”

In the White Tiger Dojo, very few knew that Yi Yuqing, who was only second to the goddess Tang Jingyao in terms of strength, had a friendship with You Ziping and Jiang Mengyun.

“I couldn’t care less about that anymore. Xie Qiwen is only a step away from the global stage. Meanwhile, I am still a mere intermediate disciple in the White Tiger Dojo. Whether it’s strength, resources, or family background, I am inferior to him in every aspect. If I don’t fight now, I won’t have a chance once he reaches the international level,” You Ziping said seriously.

“Even so, you shouldn’t go about it like this!” Yi Yuqing was astonished when she saw You Ziping’s determination. “If you lose the White Tiger Dojo’s protection, Xie Qiwen won’t hesitate to strike out at you! He already told us to cripple you in this competition! If you fight either Gu Chen or Liao Huajie, you must be careful! If you can’t, surrender!”

“Relax. I’ll show Xie Qiwen that I’m not just going to take his crap lying down,” You Ziping said, smiling calmly.

“You...!” Angry, Yu Yiqing spun around and left.

She couldn’t understand where You Ziping’s confidence came from. If she had to fight him, she could show mercy. However, it was a different story for Gu Chen and Liao Huajie. After all, Xie Qiwen was close with both fighters. However, now that You Ziping was determined to take this path, it was not her place to stop him.

Time passed quickly. After the drawings were done, the competition resumed.

The screens above the arena displayed the first match-up.

First match: Liao Huajie VS You Ziping!

Chapter 1295 – Instant Judgment

As the first match was announced, a commotion erupted in the VIP stands.

“A present White Tiger Dojo disciple fighting an ex-White Tiger Dojo disciple! This match is going to be interesting!”

Those in the VIP stands were all insiders of the fighting industry. They had already investigated every fighter that had advanced through the elimination round. They were all aware of You Ziping’s background.

You Ziping had been a relatively talented disciple of the White Tiger Dojo. He had become an intermediate disciple despite being so young. If he continued to work hard for another year or two, he definitely could have become an advanced disciple.

Becoming an advanced disciple in the White Tiger Dojo was basically a guarantee that one could qualify for the national fighting competitions.

Yet, for some inconceivable reason, You Ziping had shown up as one of the Big Dipper Dojo’s representatives.

As the audience in the VIP stands discussed the matter quietly, Jiang Tianyuan wore a twisted expression. You Ziping's actions were a slap in the face for the White Tiger Dojo. The dojo would become a laughingstock.

"Hall Master, rest assured; Liao Huajie will teach the boy how wrong and foolish his decision was," Xie Qiwen said, smiling.

He had waited for this day for a long time.

Although You Ziping was slightly more skilled than Liao Huajie, the latter had far more combat experience. Liao Huajie could easily defeat You Ziping.

With You Ziping's defeat, they would show everyone the White Tiger Dojo's strength while leaving a stain on the Big Dipper Dojo's reputation. He could even cripple You Ziping in the process. This was practically killing three birds with one stone.

There was no possibility of Liao Huajie's defeat. He was very familiar with You Ziping's skills. The teen would need another one or two years of arduous training to reach the national level. Meanwhile, Liao Huajie's strength was not as simple as everyone assumed.

...

Below the main stage, the various fighters watched Liao Huajie and You Ziping on the main stage. They were very curious to see the outcome of this fight.

Unlike everyone else, a flash of concern appeared in Yu Yiqing's eyes as she watched You Ziping stretch. She then quietly moved towards Shadow Sword and Turtledove, who also watched the match. Quietly, she said, "If you two are You Ziping's friends, you must stop this fight. Liao Huajie is not as simple as you think. He is one of our main branch's watchmen. If you don't stop You Ziping before the match starts, he will be in danger."

"A watchman?" Shadow Sword and Turtledove turned to Yu Yiqing, their expressions turning serious when they heard this. "Are you telling the truth?"

Yu Yiqing was a member of the White Tiger Dojo. Although they did not know what Yu Yiqing intended by warning them, they knew that watchmen should not be underestimated.

Those who weren't familiar with the various dojos and training centers might not know what the term "watchman" implied. However, those who focused on breaking into the industry's inner circle were familiar with the word.

To put it simply, a watchman determined if a disciple was worthy of focused nurturing.

After all, a dojo or training center's resources were limited. It was not possible to provide tons of resources to every member.

Hence, anyone who could defeat the designated watchman would receive the dojo's attention and vice versa. This maintained the quality of the establishment's best disciples.

Watchmen were no weaker than those favored disciples.

Rather, the opposite was true.

On average, watchmen were stronger. Generally, watchmen were experts the establishment's upper echelons had chosen unanimously. Although watchmen were forced to hide their achievements during their service, once their term ended, they would receive their dojo's best training. Moreover, as compensation, they would have access to an abundance of resources during their service. As a result, many people aspired to become watchmen. Unfortunately, very few were ever chosen.

Although not every dojo and training center had watchmen, it was normal for a peak dojo like the White Tiger Dojo.

"Why would I lie to you?" Yu Yiqing rolled her eyes at Shadow Sword and Turtledove. She was one of the White Tiger Dojo's geniuses. She didn't need petty tricks to defeat her opponents. "Although I'm not trying to brag, Lu Huajie is no weaker than I am. You Ziping stands no chance against him. Moreover, Lu Huajie is famed for his mercilessness during fights."

"He's as strong as you are?" Turtledove asked as she evaluated Yu Yiqing.

"If I fought him, I'd have a sixty-forty chance of winning," Yu Yiqing said after giving the matter some thought.

Lu Huajie had been hiding his strength. Only the dojo's upper echelons knew his true skill. Meanwhile, she was the genius Tang Jingyao's future successor, so she was at least on par with Lu Huajie. However, to convince the Big Dipper Dojo to take Lu Huajie more seriously, she exaggerated his strength a little bit.

"So, that's the case. We shouldn't need to notify the Guild Leader, then." Turtledove breathed a sigh of relief.

Shadow Sword nodded in agreement. He, too, didn't think this matter was worth Shi Feng's time.

"You guys..." Turtledove and Shadow Sword's response dumbfounded Yu Yiqing momentarily. Although she tried to ask if they truly understood the severity of the matter, they shut her up with a word of thanks. As a result, she could only walk away, fuming as she realized that Shadow Sword and Turtledove were just as stubborn as You Ziping. None of them could be reasoned with!

As Yu Yiqing tried to think of a way to convince You Ziping to drop out of the match, the timer above the main stage began to count down.

"You Ziping, I had thought you were better than this. I had believed that you could have joined the main branch after another year or two. But you crossed the line today. You betrayed the White Tiger Dojo. Today, I show you the price for that betrayal," Lu Huajie said as he stopped two meters away from You Ziping. Sneering, he continued, "Brother Qiwen has asked me to pass you a message. You are 100 years too early if you wish to compete on his level!"

Suddenly, Lu Huajie moved. Executing Swimming Dragon Steps, he was instantly within attack range of You Ziping. He then launched a flying knee kick at You Ziping's face. At the same time, his arms lashed towards You Ziping's neck like whips. Lu Huajie's attacks were extremely vicious. From the very onset of the match, he aimed for You Ziping's life.

Against an attack to the face, fighters instinctively go on the defensive, ignore attacks from other directions. However, Lu Huajie wanted more from his flying knee attack than You Ziping's focus on defending himself. Martial artists frequently practiced conquering their defensive instincts. Rather, Lu Huajie wanted to distract his opponent with the initial attack, preventing You Ziping from noticing the attacks aimed for his neck.

As Lu Huajie's knee flew towards You Ziping's face, You Ziping dashed forward, instead of retreating.

“That guy is insane!”

The fighters below the stage were shocked by You Ziping’s suicidal counter. If the knee struck his face, he would die.

Is he trying to get himself killed? Lu Huajie was a little surprised by You Ziping’s actions. However, it didn’t distract him from his attacks.

In the moment between life and death, You Ziping barely avoided the knee as he circled to Lu Huajie’s side. When their bodies interlocked, You Ziping used centrifugal force to land a powered punch to Lu Huajie’s back.

You Ziping’s attack was as quick as lightning, giving his opponent no time to react.

Thud!

When You Ziping’s fist met Lu Huajie’s back, Lu Huajie felt as if he had been struck by a hammer. Immediately, Lu Huajie spat a mouthful of blood as the strike threw him over three meters away. By the time he hit the ground, Lu Huajie had lost consciousness. The entire process was complete in the blink of an eye.

“What...just...happened?”

Practically everyone watching the fight was stunned.

Just as they thought that Lu Huajie would win, You Ziping stood on the stage alone.

“The fight ended so quickly! Can somebody tell me what just happened?! I didn’t see anything!”

Many of the spectators stared in shock, confused about what had just happened.

Chapter 1296 – Competition with Many Hidden Experts

The various dojos and training centers’ upper echelons were even more shocked than the audience in the spectator stands, staring at the match’s victor with wide eyes.

However, nobody was more surprised than Xie Qiwen.

What... What is going on?! How is he so strong?!

He was extremely familiar with Lu Huajie’s strength. Although Lu Huajie was slightly weaker than Gu Chen, the boy could still rank among the top of the main branch’s advanced disciples. This was why the main branch had agreed to dispatch Lu Huajie for this friendly competition.

Even Xie Qiwen wouldn’t be able to defeat Lu Huajie so quickly, yet You Ziping had ended the match in the span of a breath...

Yu Yiqing stared at You Ziping with a stupefied expression from below the stage.

“Impossible! How did he become so strong?!” Yu Yiqing thought back to what You Ziping had told her. “Could he have hidden his strength all this time?”

Moreover, You Ziping wasn’t the only one behaving strangely today. The other two Big Dipper representatives, Fu Jinghong and Yu Qiaoqiao, had been extraordinarily calm despite learning that Lu Huajie was a watchman. They were both obviously confident of You Ziping’s victory.

However, this only further confused Yu Yiqing.

If You Ziping had revealed such strength early on, the White Tiger Dojo would have offered him focused training. If that had happened, even Xie Qiwen would have had a hard time dealing with him.

“Could the Big Dipper Dojo be responsible for this?” Yu Yiqing considered the possibility, her voice shaking as she spoke aloud. She couldn’t bring herself to believe it.

When the referee on the stage announced You Ziping’s victory, shrieks of excitement flooded the arena.

“So strong! Is this the Big Dipper Dojo’s true strength?”

“Is that guy a monster?! I didn’t see what had happened!”

After this match, the audience’s admiration for the Big Dipper Dojo reached new heights.

Jiang Tianyuan, however, wore a solemn expression as he watched from the VIP stands.

“Hall Master, Lu Huajie must have been careless! However, Gu Chen and Yu Yiqing should be able to restore our reputation!” Xie Qiwen hurriedly explained. Although he knew that his explanation was somewhat forced, it was true that Lu Huajie had been careless.

When fighting an expert of the same level, a direct, full-powered assault was foolish. If the opponent spotted a weakness, they could certainly obtain victory with a single blow. Lu Huajie’s miserable defeat was understandable.

“Hopefully, that is the case. After this competition, I would also like a proper explanation for why You Ziping is suddenly representing the Big Dipper Dojo,” Jiang Tianyuan responded in a deep tone as he glanced at Xie Qiwen.

While it was true that Lu Huajie had been careless, not every fighter could find an opportunity to deal such a devastating blow. It a certain degree of skill. It was clear that You Ziping had already reached this standard.

“Also, I want you to learn everything there is to know about the Big Dipper Dojo. Do not miss a single detail.” Jiang Tianyuan could not help but shift his gaze towards Shi Feng, who sat quietly in the distance. He kept having the feeling that there was more to the Big Dipper Dojo than what met the eye.

“Understood. I will look into it.” Xie Qiwen repeatedly nodded, feeling a chill crawl down his spine when the heavy pressure Jiang Tianyuan gave off washed over him.

Jiang Tianyuan was a legend in the White Tiger Dojo. Even the Head Hall Master treated him with respect. Jiang Tianyuan’s wrath was not someone a mere genius like himself could hope to endure.

Meanwhile, on another side of the VIP stands, Xiao Yu and Xiao Yan brimmed with exhilaration.

“Head Instructor Shi, you are truly astounding! You poached such a genius from the White Tiger Dojo! Now that we have defeated one of the White Tiger Dojo’s elites, I’m afraid that the crowds will trample over and destroy the Big Dipper Dojo’s entrance tomorrow.” When Xiao Yu thought about the sea of people that would rush to apply for the Big Dipper Dojo, an indescribable joy bloomed in his heart.

As long as the Big Dipper Dojo developed successfully, it would help the Big Dipper Group grow. The company would finally be able to branch out of Jin Hai City and enter a bigger stage.

“I was just lucky,” Shi Feng said, chuckling.

You Ziping’s performance had been quite impressive. It was no wonder why even Lai Bao and Fire Dance had given him praise. Although You Ziping had only played God’s Domain for a short time, his level had increased very quickly. Almost every monster he fought was a higher level. In addition, his foundations had already been sound. As a result, after practicing Void Steps incessantly, he had undergone a qualitative transformation. Unlike Shadow Sword, who had used five bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluids to reach his current level, You Ziping had only needed one. As for Turtledove, she had used four bottles.

You Ziping was more fit than Shadow Sword and Turtledove. When it came to combat experience, however, You Ziping couldn’t compare to them. After all, You Ziping had never experienced a fight against God’s Domain’s peak experts.

Following which, time passed quickly. One match after another ended on the main stage.

The following matches were intense, and the audience's blood boiled as they watched. Unlike the first match, however, the other matches' outcomes weren't surprising. The only unexpected outcome was that, among the eight contestants that made it to the quarterfinals, one was an independent contestant that had joined using the nickname Evil Fire. Despite not belonging to a dojo or training center, Evil Fire was frighteningly skilled.

The strangest thing was that nobody had ever seen or heard of Evil Fire before. As a result, many dojos and training centers sent the contestant secret invitations, with some offering him astronomical incomes, yet Evil Fire refused every offer. Instead, he made a confusing counteroffer, stating that he would only join an establishment if they had a representative that could defeat him in God's Domain.

During the quarterfinals' second match, Evil Fire faced Gu Chen.

No one had expected the unknown Evil Fire to defeat Gu Chen, one of the White Tiger Dojo's geniuses and Xie Qiwen's future successor, in less than ten moves. During the final exchange, Evil Fire abandoned all caution as he landed a ruthless blow to Gu Chen's chest, knocking his opponent out instantly like a wild beast. As a result of his recklessness, though, Evil Fire had broken an arm.

Evil Fire's combat method made every spectator shudder.

If not for the high-quality medical care available, Evil Fire's fighting career might have ended with that final blow.

"Is that person trying to get himself killed? He's a savage." Xiao Yan frowned when he recalled Evil Fire's fight. It was very obvious that Evil Fire had deliberately sacrificed an arm to finish Gu Chen. No normal martial artist would've fought so desperately, especially not in a friendly competition.

Trying to get himself killed? Shi Feng did not voice his opinion.

Although the fight seemed desperate, in reality, he had made the wisest decision. The match's outcome wouldn't have been so clear otherwise. After all, Gu Chen clearly had the advantage regarding physique. Evil Fire had only defeated his opponent due to having more combat experience. Based on the way Evil Fire fought, Shi Feng could tell that the teen had experienced plenty of life-or-death battles. Otherwise, the teen wouldn't have been able to maintain his calm in such an intense fight.

As everyone discussed Evil Fire's match, Xie Qiwen wore a grim expression. He couldn't understand what was happening.

This was simply a friendly competition between six third-tier cities, yet one unknown expert had shown up after another. Now, even Gu Chen had been defeated. How was this a city-level competition? This could practically be considered a national-level competition already.

During the third match, Shadow Sword defeated his opponent from the White Cloud Dojo, advancing to the semifinals.

The crowd cheered as the quarterfinals' last match began.

Yu Qiaoqiao VS Yi Yuqing!

Chapter 1297 – Limit Removal

Although Yu Qiaoqiao and Yi Yuqing had just approached the stage and were waiting for the match to start, the various upper echelons in the VIP stands were exceptionally excited.

Nobody had expected that this friendly competition would reach this point.

This should've been a stage for the White Tiger Dojo to display its overwhelming might. Now, however, just getting into the semifinals was a problem.

Meanwhile, Xie Qiwen wore a twisted expression. He had never thought that Gu Chen would be so useless as to lose to some unknown fighter. With this, the White Tiger Dojo's reputation was soiled. Meanwhile, as the person responsible for handling this competition, he couldn't escape blame.

"Xingteng, contact Big Dipper immediately. If they are willing to forsake the competition, I will give them the Green God Company's invitation. We can both still benefit. If they refuse and Yi Yuqing takes the championship, they'll get nothing," Xie Qiwen quietly instructed Gan Xingteng, who sat beside him.

The current situation wasn't in his favor. Although Yi Yuqing was very strong, at the end of the day, she was no match for Gu Chen.

Gu Chen had only lost to Evil Fire because he hadn't dared to go all out. It was difficult to guarantee that Yi Yuqing would not make the same mistake.

Xie Qiwen did not want to take this risk. In any case, the dojos and training centers' main goal in this competition was the Green God Company's invitation card. If the Big Dipper Dojo accepted his offer, not only would they do the White Tiger Dojo a favor, but they'd also receive the invitation card. This was a heaven-sent opportunity to a small dojo like Big Dipper.

Gan Xingteng immediately left the VIP stands and contacted Xiao Yu, notifying the man of Xie Qiwen's offer.

...

“Big Brother, did something happen?” Xiao Yan asked curiously when he noticed Xiao Yu’s hesitant expression while he was on a call.

The Big Dipper Dojo had already garnered quite a bit of fame during this friendly competition. It wouldn’t have any issues expanding past Jin Hai City in the future. This should be cause for celebration, not concern.

“It’s the White Tiger Dojo. They’ve offered a deal. If we forfeit, they will compensate us with the Green God Company’s invitation,” Xiao Yu explained.

At the end of the day, the White Tiger Dojo was still one of the best dojos in the country.

If Big Dipper won the championship, while it would indeed help to further its reputation, but it would also provoke the White Tiger Dojo. The Big Dipper Dojo would have some trouble expanding into other cities, particularly first- and second-tier cities.

However, if Big Dipper conceded this competition, it would benefit their expansion.

“...” Even Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment. However, he shifted his gaze to Shi Feng and said, “Big Brother, rather than deciding ourselves, why don’t we let Shi Feng make the decision? After all, Shi Feng is the dojo’s manager. The dojo’s development should be left to him.”

"I guess that's true." Xiao Yu smiled bitterly. After all, he wasn't responsible for the Big Dipper Dojo's management. Rather than having a headache over this matter, it was better to leave it to Shi Feng. While Shi Feng looked young and immature, his mind was anything but. The only reason the Big Dipper Dojo had come this far was Shi Feng. If he decided on his own, and Shi Feng disagreed, it would sour their working relationship.

Following which, Xiao Yu passed Xie Qiwen's message to Shi Feng.

"Head Instructor Shi, what do you think?" Xiao Yu looked at Shi Feng, curious as to what decision the youth would make.

The White Tiger Dojo's favor wasn't easy to earn. If the Big Dipper Dojo tried to expand to first- and second-tier cities, it would run into the White Tiger Dojo.

Moreover, it was not a guarantee that they would win the championship. If they rejected this offer, they might lose the opportunity to obtain the Green God Company's invitation.

The White Tiger Dojo's offer didn't particularly surprise Shi Feng. Straightforwardly, he responded, "Chairman Xiao, tell them that we can get the Green God Company's invitation by ourselves. We don't need their charity."

The White Tiger Dojo was a frightening organization. As one of the best dojos in the country, it had branch dojos in practically every first- and second-tier city.

Shi Feng understood Xiao Yu's thoughts. If he hadn't been reincarnated, he really would've been tempted to accept this offer as well. After all, getting in the good graces of a top dojo would make things easier when the Big Dipper Dojo expanded into first- and second-tier cities.

Unfortunately, the future was in God's Domain!

The Big Dipper Dojo had only recently established. If he wanted to recruit talented players and quickly increase the dojo's fame, this friendly competition was the best stepping stone available. He could not let this opportunity get away.

If he waited a few more months, the other dojos and training centers would monopolize many talented players. He was in a race against time. Did he have enough to waste with the White Tiger Dojo?

"This... If we do this..." Xiao Yu was stupefied. He had never expected such a clear-cut response from Shi Feng.

This was the White Tiger Dojo they were talking about!

If they humiliated the White Tiger Dojo today, the Big Dipper Dojo would suffer from its wrath later.

However, seeing Shi Feng's determination and taking into account that the youth had full management rights for the Big Dipper Dojo, Xiao Yu would not offer a differing opinion. He sighed as he had no choice but to relay the decision to Gan Xingteng.

...

"What? They refused?" Xie Qiwen asked again, thinking he had heard wrong.

“They said that they will obtain the Green God Company’s invitation by themselves...” Gan Xingteng had also thought he had heard wrong. However, Xiao Yu’s answer had been definitive.

“Good! Excellent!” At this moment, Xie Qiwen’s expression was as cold as ice. He had never thought that a little dojo would dare oppose him. “Let’s wait and see, then! Notify Yi Yuqing right away. The dojo’s reputation is at risk now. If need be, have her remove her limiter. I’ll cover the recovery expenses myself!”

Initially, Gan Xingteng had been excited when he heard Xie Qiwen’s words. After all, he would finally get an opportunity to witness a Limit Removal, yet he began to worry as he responded, “But Boss, if we expose that move here, we’ll get in trouble with the main branch.”

“I’ll take responsibility for it. I want to show these no-name dojos and training centers that, no matter how much they try, their efforts are futile!” Xie Qiwen sneered as he glanced at Shi Feng.

...

On the main stage...

Both Yu Qiaoqiao and Yi Yuqing eyed each other, carefully observing the other party’s movements. As soon as the referee swung his hands down and announced the start of the match, both fighters dashed forward, invading into each other’s attack range.

Although Yi Yuqing’s attacks seemed soft and light, they were incredibly fierce. Every punch and palm strike sounded like an explosion, overwhelming the audience.

Although Yi Yuqing was a girl, she had already achieved a 550 kg punch. Over a century ago, her punches would have qualified her for a boxing championship. She was fully capable of punching holes through concrete walls and crushing stones in her palm. She could even put an ordinary person's life at risk with one hit.

Against Yi Yuqing's overwhelming attacks, any normal person would've retreated. However, Yu Qiaoqiao did not. Instead, she launched her own barrage of attacks, her hands moving like whips as they clashed with Yi Yuqing's attacks. Her momentum was no slower than Yi Yuqing's. Moreover, every time she blocked an attack, a loud crash would echo throughout the venue.

This scene stupefied the audience at the spectator stands. Both fighters exchanged blows constantly, attacking and defending nonstop. In the blink of an eye, Yu Qiaoqiao and Yi Yuqing had exchanged numerous moves. The audience could not keep up with the two girls.

This continued for over a dozen seconds without either side securing an advantage.

It was obvious that neither side would have an easy victory.

Seeing the fight going nowhere, Yi Yuqing backed away. With a confused expression, she then said, "I haven't found a single weakness in your defense even after our exchange. It really is hard to imagine why an expert like you would join a small dojo that has no history."

In terms of strength and speed, she was clearly a cut above Yu Qiaoqiao. However, Yu Qiaoqiao continued to find holes in her defense, forcing her to parry or dodge and preventing her from exhibiting her full strength. Rather than a teenage girl, Yi Yuqing felt as if she faced a veteran fighter who had participated in fighting competitions for over a dozen years. She even felt that Yu Qiaoqiao's moves slightly resembled that of the savage Evil Fire.

If not for witnessing Evil Fire's attack methods earlier, Yu Qiaoqiao would have caught her off guard.

Yi Yuqing suddenly caught sight of Gan Xingteng making hand gestures at her. These gestures were the White Tiger Dojo's internal sign language, which all main branch disciples had to learn.

Has Xie Qiwen lost his mind? This is just a friendly competition. Is there a need to go so far? Yi Yuqing could not help her surprise when she saw Gan Xingteng's gestures.

Noticing that her opponent's diverted attention, Yu Qiaoqiao took advantage of the distraction and advanced, using a superficial footwork technique. Following which, Yu Qiaoqiao seemed to flicker in and out of existence. By the time Yi Yuqing snapped back to attention, Yu Qiaoqiao had already circled to her side. Yu Qiaoqiao's fist flew towards Yi Yuqing's defenseless side.

Since she had noticed the attack too late, Yi Yuqing couldn't dodge the fist normally.

As Yu Qiaoqiao's fist was about to hit its mark, a black shadow darted and intercepted Yu Qiaoqiao's fist.

Thud!

Even the referee, who stood over eight meters away, heard the dull sound.

How?! Yu Qiaoqiao looked at Yi Yuqing in shock.

Her attack had been flawless. She had used the momentary distraction to circle to her opponent's side and attack from a blind spot. Yi Yuqing shouldn't have been able to defend herself.

Yet, the palm that had caught her fist belonged to none other than Yi Yuqing.

Most importantly, she had put her entire weight into that punch, yet Yi Yuqing had intercepted the hit. It felt as if she had punched a wall. It was unbelievable.

“You really are amazing. If I hadn’t used Limit Removal, you might have defeated me with that blow.” At this moment, Yi Yuqing sighed ruefully as she gripped Yu Qiaoqiao’s fist. “Originally, I had planned to save this move for the national competition. I never thought that I would be forced to use it so soon. However, since I have, this match is over.”

Saying so, Yi Yuqing squeezed Yu Qiaoqiao’s fist. No matter how much Yu Qiaoqiao struggled, she couldn’t break the hold. At this time, Yi Yuqing clenched her free hand into a fist and punched her trapped opponent. The instant she threw her punch, a loud explosion rang throughout the arena. She was both faster and stronger than before.

Chapter 1298 – You’re Not the Only One Who Knows

Knowing that she couldn’t avoid Yi Yuqing’s fierce punch, Yu Qiaoqiao clenched her free hand into a fist and aimed a punch for Yi Yuqing’s wrist.

The instant her fist met the young woman’s wrist, however, she felt as if she had punched a steel wall.

Fortunately, the force behind her punch diverted Yi Yuqing’s attack trajectory slightly, the latter’s punch missing her shoulder and only tearing her clothing.

When Yi Yuqing saw that her first hit had failed, she followed up with another, giving Yu Qiaoqiao no time to breathe.

Limit Removal was a double-edged sword.

Ordinary people could only exert up to 20% of their muscle strength, with their minds suppressing the remaining 80%. However, the White Tiger Dojo had a secret technique that allowed one to loosen this suppression with breathing techniques and mental training. Although this technique only removed a small portion of the limiter, it increased one's strength, speed, and reaction speed tremendously.

However, in return, one would damage their own muscles and weaken their internal organs.

The Limit Removal technique was the equivalent of trading one's lifeforce for strength temporarily. If one used this technique for too long, they could die. After all, human's minds suppressed their strength to protect the body.

Even though Yi Yuqing had trained constantly as a professional fighter, which made her much tougher than ordinary people, it was very risky to use Limit Removal. She wouldn't use it unless absolutely necessary.

If not for Xie Qiwen's promise to pay for her recovery and the White Tiger Dojo's reputation being at risk, she wouldn't have even considered using the trump card.

Yi Yuqing launched a series of rapid punches. Meanwhile, Yu Qiaoqiao tried her best to block while struggling to break free from Yi Yuqing's hold. However, Yi Yuqing's control grew more precise, which made it increasingly difficult for Yu Qiaoqiao to block her attacks.

Yi Yuqing's punches were like bullets from a machine gun. They were both fierce and powerful. The strong wind from her punches stirred the dirt and dust on the stage. The audience was stupefied.

"So strong! Is this the genius that will succeed Tang Jingyao in the White Tiger Dojo in the future?"

"Why do I have the feeling that Yi Yuqing is even stronger than Gu Chen? In Gu Chen's fight against that Evil Fire fellow, his punches only caused some sound. Yi Yuqing's punches are sending dirt into the air. Just how strong is she?"

"Is this the White Tiger Dojo's true strength? She's inhuman."

...

Compared to the audience in the spectator stands, however, the fighters below stage were truly shocked. After all, nobody knew just how strong Yi Yuqing was.

"A monster!"

"Thank goodness I wasn't matched with her. She'd knock me out with a single punch."

"As expected of one of the White Tiger Dojo's geniuses. She can contend with national fighters. It seems the White Tiger Dojo will be this competition's champion."

The fighters below stage felt their skin grow cold as they watched Yi Yuqing's violent display.

...

Meanwhile, in the VIP stands, Jiang Tianyuan watched the battle in silence. Although he didn't express joy, he didn't seem dissatisfied either. Seeing this, Xie Qiwen breathed a sigh of relief.

Hahaha! Good! As expected of Tang Jingyao's future successor! Her Limit Removal's efficiency should be at around 30% or so. Although she is still slightly weaker than Gu Chen, only experts from the other top dojos should be any match for her now. Xie Qiwen sneered as he watched Yu Qiaoqiao's defense crumble.

One of the reasons that the White Tiger Dojo had become one of the best dojos in the country was this Limit Removal secret technique. Of course, the other top dojos and training centers had their own similar techniques, though there were slight variations.

This was why other dojos and training centers had no hope against the top establishments.

However, this kind of secret technique was extremely difficult to learn; not everybody could master it.

Both Gu Chen and Yi Yuqing were known as geniuses in the White Tiger Dojo because they had grasped this secret technique. Hence, they were showered with attention and resources in the dojo.

Normally, the dojo only permitted the use of Limit Removal during national competitions as the technique took a toll on the user's body. After all, one would need a lot of time and resources to recover.

However, Xie Qiwen couldn't care less right now.

He would rather get reprimanded and compensate Yi Yuqing with S-rank Nutrient Fluids, dwindling his limited stockpile, than lose this friendly competition.

Big Dipper, just you wait! I'll repay this debt sooner or later! Xie Qiwen glared at Shi Feng and the others, plotting his revenge.

...

Meanwhile, on Xiao Yu's side...

"We're finished... Yi Yuqing has been hiding her strength all this time. With such strength, who could defeat her?" Seeing Yi Yuqing suppress her opponent, Xiao Yu began to have regrets. If he had tried to persuade Shi Feng, they might have obtained the Green God Company's invitation card. Now, however, they would lose everything.

The other upper echelons were similarly stunned.

Rumors indicated that Gu Chen was stronger than Yi Yuqing. Now, however, it would seem that the opposite was true. If they compared their own disciples against this young woman, the difference between them would be like the difference between an adult and a child.

Hiding her strength, huh? When Shi Feng saw the veins popping on Yi Yuqing's arms and forehead, he realized something. The White Tiger Dojo sure is willing to splurge. They're using Limit Removal in such a small competition. Aren't they afraid that it would affect their performance in the national competition?

At present, very few in the fighting industry knew about Limit Removal.

In ten years, though, the move would be common.

This was all due to God's Domain. After all, God's Domain had the technology to develop the human brain's potential. With a well-developed brain, it wasn't unusual for someone to be capable of removing their body's limiters.

It was likely that no one fully understood the pros and cons of the Limit Removal technique yet.

As for Yu Qiaoqiao, who was currently overwhelmed, Shi Feng wasn't worried.

After all, Limit Removal wasn't unique to the White Tiger Dojo. Moreover, compared to the Limit Removal technique in Shi Feng's past, the present techniques were laughably crude.

...

Meanwhile, on the stage, just as Yi Yuqing's fist was about to strike Yu Qiaoqiao's shoulder...

Yi Yuqing's fist suddenly froze.

What's going on?

Yu Yiqing was shocked when she couldn't move her fist. Before she realized it, Yu Qiaoqiao had caught her wrist. Not only that, but she had broken free of the latter's hold. It was as if her entire arm had frozen in place.

Chapter 1299 – Do You Dare Fight?

What is she trying to do? Xie Qiwen frowned when he saw Yi Yuqing's fist stop suddenly.

Yi Yuqing could've ended Yu Qiaoqiao right there and then, yet she had frozen.

Xie Qiwen wasn't the only person confused. The others in the VIP stands were also baffled.

Why had Yi Yuqing held back?

However, none of them knew that Yi Yuqing was just as shocked.

Although her punch hadn't contained her full power, her opponent shouldn't have been able to stop it, yet Yu Qiaoqiao had done just that.

“You really are impressive. You are the first person my age to stop my punch after I used Limit Removal.” Yi Yuqing could not help but praise Yu Qiaoqiao. “However, you should give up. I cannot afford to lose this match. My strength is 50% higher than when this fight started. You have no chance of winning.”

Yi Yuqing could not help but admire Yu Qiaoqiao. If not for her being a White Tiger Dojo disciple, she definitely would not have been a match for Yu Qiaoqiao.

Saying so, Yi Yuqing took half a step forward. Cracks began to appear on the stage beneath her feet.

Her legs, waist, and shoulders twisting, Yi Yuqing concentrated all of her strength into her fist.

Half-step Collapsing Punch!

In Yi Yuqing’s opinion, Yu Qiaoqiao had only caught her punch due to luck. It was very likely that Yu Qiaoqiao had grabbed her wrist before her fist accelerated. Although Yu Qiaoqiao currently had a firm hold on her wrist, if she went all-out, Yu Qiaoqiao had no hope of stopping her.

Moreover, her fist was less than ten centimeters away from Yu Qiaoqiao. At this distance, Yu Qiaoqiao wouldn’t be able to dodge the hit. Even diverting her attack trajectory would not be possible.

Peng!

Immediately, Yu Qiaoqiao took a step back, the stone floor beneath her feet cracking. Unexpectedly, however, Yu Qiaoqiao's firm on her opponent's fist was firm. She did not let Yi Yuqing's fist get close to her shoulder.

"You..." Yi Yuqing was shocked.

The young woman blocked her full-powered punch!

"As expected of a genius from the White Tiger Dojo. It was a tough fight without Limit Removal. Let's continue our earlier fight." Yu Qiaoqiao smiled slightly, a hint of excitement flashing in her eyes.

Yi Yuqing was momentarily stunned.

Based on the way Yu Qiaoqiao spoke, it was obvious that she, too, had grasped Limit Removal and simply hadn't used it yet.

Although Yi Yuqing wanted to respond, Yu Qiaoqiao was already moving.

Yu Qiaoqiao twisted her fist and broke free from Yi Yuqing's hold. Immediately after, her body spun as she sent a spiral kick at Yi Yuqing's head, her leg cutting through the air like a menacing scythe.

Suddenly, Yi Yuqing felt death loom over her. Not daring to be careless, she used her full strength to break free from Yu Qiaoqiao's hold and used both arms to block the incoming kick.

Thud!

The instant Yu Qiaoqiao's foot met her arms, Yi Yuqing felt a stinging pain deep into her bones. Afterward, her arms grew numb. She felt as if she had been hit by a car as she flew backward. However, reacting quickly, Yi Yuqing adjusted her posture so that she would land on her feet. In the end, Yi Yuqing only stabilized herself after retreating another eight steps.

Impossible! Yi Yuqing wore an incredulous look as she stared at Yu Qiaoqiao, who now stood over ten meters away.

Just by blocking one kick, both her arms were numb. She couldn't even move them.

Just how strong was Yu Qiaoqiao?

Meanwhile, the audience stared with wide eyes, their gaze fixed on Yu Qiaoqiao.

Just who is that girl!? Xie Qiwen nearly shouted when he saw Yi Yuqing fly through the air.

Xie Qiwen could also see the blood vessels on Yu Qiaoqiao's forehead surface slightly. After factoring in Yu Qiaoqiao's sudden burst of strength, even a fool could tell that Yu Qiaoqiao had used Limit Removal.

However, Limit Removal was one of the top dojos and training centers' secret techniques. How could Yu Qiaoqiao have learned and grasped it?

Yi Yuqing had trained arduously for two years under countless masters' guidance to grasp Limit Removal.

Yet, not only had Yu Qiaoqiao grasped the technique, but it was also obvious that she could suppress her limiters far more than Yi Yuqing.

Even Jiang Tianyuan was surprised.

What an amazing little girl! Just who is her master? She can control her strength so freely despite removing her limiter to such a degree. Jiang Tianyuan was curious as he watched Yu Qiaoqiao launch a relentless assault against Yi Yuqing.

Although grasping Limit Removal was difficult, trying to exert the additional strength one received to its full potential was even more so. Only those on Xie Qiwen and Tang Jingyao's level could rival Yi Yuqing's standards. It was no longer a matter of talent. Rather, one required careful guidance and a wealth of combat experience to achieve this.

...

Back on the stage, the match between Yu Qiaoqiao and Yi Yuqing was incomparably fierce. Every one of their actions shattered the stone floor.

Yi Yuqing, who wasn't a match for Yu Qiaoqiao's combat experience, had become even less of a match for her opponent.

Every blow Yi Yuqing exchanged with Yu Qiaoqiao hurt her to the bone. In the end, Yu Qiaoqiao found a massive weakness in Yi Yuqing's defense as she launched a palm strike at the woman's shoulder, shoving Yi Yuqing off the stage.

Yi Yuqing realized that this was Yu Qiaoqiao's way of showing mercy. Had she not taken pity on her opponent, Yi Yuqing would have suffered more than just a fall off the stage.

A genius? Yi Yuqing looked up at Yu Qiaoqiao. Suddenly, she found that all of the praise she had received from others, calling her a genius, truly laughable. Ignoring all other aspects, Yu Qiaoqiao was leaps and bounds above her regarding her strength after executing Limit Removal.

Her defeat was only a matter of course.

After Yi Yuqing fell off the stage, the referee announced the match's winner.

Yu Qiaoqiao!

As the referee announced the outcome, the arena fell silent for a moment. Then, loud cheering filled the venue. This breathtaking match had truly surprised every spectator.

The Big Dipper Dojo's name etched itself deeply into everyone's mind.

After all, among the four people taking part in the semifinals, three belonged to the Big Dipper Dojo.

There were dozens of dojos and training centers from the six cities participating in this competition. Among them were the White Tiger Dojo and a large number of independent contestants. Sending all three representatives to the semifinals was a miracle.

“The Big Dipper Dojo? I am definitely going to apply to join it tomorrow!”

Many among the audience had already decided to join the Big Dipper Dojo no matter what. Even the contestants consider the option.

Among those in the VIP stands, some celebrated while others worried. Xiao Yu was naturally ecstatic. With this, the Big Dipper Dojo’s fame would spread throughout the six cities. Xie Qiwen, on the other hand, felt both rage and helplessness. He had never thought that his first attempt of benefiting the dojo would end so miserably.

However, Xie Qiwen hadn’t given up yet. There was still the savage Evil Fire. It was still possible that Evil Fire could secure the championship. This would be much better than letting the Big Dipper Dojo win.

Now that the four semi-finalists had been decided, due to this being a friendly match, as long as You Ziping defeated Evil Fire, the Big Dipper Dojo would win the competition. Everyone very much looked forward to the first match of the semifinals between You Ziping and Evil Fire.

It took roughly twenty minutes to repair the stage. Once the repairs were complete, You Ziping and Evil Fire approached the stage.

However, as the referee was about to announce the start of the competition, Evil Fire stopped him and said, “Wait!”

“Contestant Evil Fire, is there an issue?” the referee asked curiously.

“Before the match, I have something to say,” Evil Fire, who looked like a brown bear, said, grinning.

“Alright, but I can only give you one minute.” The referee nodded.

“Ten seconds will be enough!” Evil Fire laughed. He then received the microphone and shifted his gaze to Shi Feng in the VIP stands. Emanating a dominant aura, he proudly proclaimed, “Head Instructor Shi, I have come here today for one reason and one reason only! I have heard that you are one of Zero Wing’s upper echelons, so I hope that you can convey a message to Black Flame for me! Tell him that I, Evil Fire, want to challenge him in God’s Domain! Does he dare fight me?”

Chapter 1300 – Black Flame’s Fame

Evil Fire?

This is interesting.

As Shi Feng looked at Evil Fire, he tried to remember his past.

He hadn’t actually heard this name before, yet based on the skill Evil Fire displayed, Shi Feng concluded that the youth was extraordinary. Evil Fire should be someone powerful in God’s Domain. Otherwise, the youth wouldn’t have here to challenge him so confidently.

Evil Fire's words echoed throughout the sports arena. Meanwhile, everyone else in the venue had fallen silent.

Everyone was stunned.

Nobody could've imagined that Evil Fire's goal in this competition was to challenge someone. He hadn't even challenged someone in the real world, but someone in God's Domain.

"What's going on?"

"Crap, he's challenging someone to a fight in a game? Why can't he just do that in the game? Did he really have to do this here?"

"What do you know? He is talking about Black flame!"

"Who is Black Flame? Is he someone amazing?"

"You don't play God's Domain, so you might not know, but Black Flame is the Guild Leader of Star-Moon Kingdom's number one Guild. The Secret Pavilion even gave him the title Sword King. He is a mythical existence, and countless experts in God's Domain want to challenge him. However, why would someone as important as Black Flame accept every challenge? Moreover, Black Flame's whereabouts are always a mystery. He's incredibly hard to find. I never thought that the Big Dipper Dojo would be related to Zero Wing. This is going to be interesting. Sense Evil Fire is so strong in the real world, I wonder how strong he is in God's Domain?"

“Hahaha! This is interesting! I am definitely going to watch the fight between Evil Fire and Black Flame!”

“I doubt Black Flame will agree to it. After all, he is Zero Wing’s Guild Leader.”

“This is where Evil Fire is smart. Big Dipper’s head instructor is one of Zero Wing’s upper echelons, so Big Dipper and Zero Wing must have a close relationship. Meanwhile, Evil Fire put his strength on display for everyone to see. Now that he has challenged Black Flame in front of so many people, he’d be hard to ignore. If Black Flame refuses the fight, not only will this smear Zero Wing’s reputation, but it might also affect Big Dipper’s reputation.”

...

Although many among the audience had no idea who Black Flame was, those who did promptly explained. Very quickly, everyone became familiar with the name. At the same time, they grew curious about how strong this Black Flame was. After all, someone as strong as Evil Fire had issued this dramatic request. For some time, this unexpected announcement boosted Big Dipper and Zero Wing’s fame for some time.

...

This little bastard! He used my friendly competition to challenge someone in a game! Xie Qiwen glared at Evil Fire, rage burning in his eyes. He wanted nothing more than to murder the youth with his own hands.

Had Evil Fire simply challenged Black Flame, he would not have minded it as much. The issue was that Evil Fire had defeated Gu Chen. Gu Chen was one of the White Tiger Dojo’s geniuses, yet Evil Fire used the fame of his victory as a stepping stone to challenge Black Flame.

This was a slap in the face for the White Tiger Dojo.

...

Meanwhile, Shadow Sword and Turtledove, standing beside the main stage, were furious.

“This bastard overestimates himself! He dares to challenge the Guild Leader! Jinghong, make sure that you take care of him later!” Turtledove’s gaze burned with rage. If she didn’t have to recuperate after using Limit Removal, she’d take care of the brat herself.

“Leave it to me. I’ll make sure this kid spends several months in the hospital after the competition!” Shadow Sword nodded seriously.

In God’s Domain, challenging a Guild’s leader was the equivalent of declaring war on the entire Guild.

They could not let such an insult slide.

“Head Instructor Shi! Two days! I’ll give you all two days to prepare! When the time comes, I’ll head to White River City’s Divine Colosseum for the challenge! Hopefully, Black Flame doesn’t chicken out!” Evil Fire smiled at Shi Feng. He then tossed the microphone back to the referee before turning and leaving the stage gallantly.

After catching the microphone, the referee noticed Evil Fire leaving the stage. Hurriedly, he reminded, “Contestant Evil Fire! If you step off of the stage, you will forfeit the match!”

“I have already achieved my goal. Consider this match my loss,” Evil Fire responded nonchalantly.

Saying so, Evil Fire descended the steps. He paid no attention to the competition’s outcome. Everyone was stunned.

“He surrendered? He’s not going to continue?”

“Crap! He’s too cool! Doesn’t he want the 5,000,000 Credits?”

“Does he need to go this far? Did he really join this competition just to challenge Black Flame?”

...

The audience was shocked as they watched Evil Fire leave the arena, ignoring the championship prize. Not many had the opportunity to earn 5,000,000 Credits.

Meanwhile, due to Evil Fire forfeit, You Ziping won the match.

Naturally, the Big Dipper Dojo had secured the championship. As for the position of champion, neither Shadow Sword nor Turtledove cared as both focused on God’s Domain. They were no longer interested in the fighting world. Hence, in the end, You Ziping was crowned champion.

This set off a commotion among the various dojos and training centers' upper echelons.

The normal audience might not know much about You Ziping's background, but they did.

You Ziping had been an intermediate disciple in the White Tiger Dojo. Now, however, he had left the dojo and won this competition's championship. This would seriously wound the White Tiger Dojo's reputation.

Xie Qiwen wore an ugly expression. Although he wanted to rage and kill You Ziping personally, he had a much larger problem to deal with—Jiang Tianyuan, who had been silent for some time now.

“Qiwen, I believe that you know what to do. I want an explanation for this. Once we return, you will also explain yourself to the Head Hall Master. You are aware of the consequences if we're not satisfied with your explanation!” Jiang Tianyuan glanced at Xie Qiwen. He then stood and walked away. Although he hadn't reprimand Xie Qiwen with his words, his chilling tone stole the strength from Xie Qiwen's legs.

Jiang Tianyuan's anger was reasonable.

After all, You Ziping's performance today had been shocking. The youth definitely qualified to join the main branch for concentrated training, yet such a talented fighter had represented the Big Dipper Dojo.

Explain to the Head Hall Master? Xie Qiwen suddenly felt faint.

Compared to the White Tiger Dojo's Head Hall Master, he was nothing. Although he was one of the dojo's geniuses, he was only a genius. He wasn't a powerhouse. Normally, he would encounter the Head Hall Master a few times a year, yet he was told that he would have to present his case to such an important figure...

Xie Qiwen felt wronged. Although he had chosen Lu Huajie for personal reasons, his decision had been logical as Lu Huajie had been much stronger than You Ziping. However, You Ziping had become so powerful, so much so that he had defeated Lu Huajie. How could he possibly know what was going on?

...

As the competition ended, the audience gradually departed the arena. As they left, they discussed Evil Fire's challenge to Black Flame. Meanwhile, as Shi Feng and the others prepared to leave the VIP stands, Gan Xingteng stopped them.

"May I know what business Instructor Gan has with us?" Xiao Yu asked, smiling.

They had won the friendly match fair and square. Even the White Tiger Dojo couldn't find an excuse to cause them trouble. They also had tens of thousands of witnesses. If the White Tiger Dojo tried to do something here, it would only humiliate the dojo further.