

Strongest

Chapter 1321 – National Weapon

The three SSS-rank commissions were crucial to Star-Moon Kingdom's upgrade.

If Star-Moon Kingdom were upgraded to an empire, as the kingdom's number one Guild, Zero Wing would rise with it. This developmental method was much easier than contesting with other Guilds for territory.

There were many other benefits to be had when a kingdom upgraded to an empire as well.

One of them was the acquisition of the neutral maps surrounding the kingdom.

God's Domain's neutral maps occupied more area than all of the empires and kingdoms combined. Every one of these neutral maps was a high-level area. Many among them were also high-resource maps. Once players reached Level 50, they would gradually migrate to these neutral maps.

Maps above Level 100 were extremely rare in kingdoms. Empires did not fare much better in this regard. Hence, it was only a matter of time before players turned towards neutral maps to continue their development. Meanwhile, when a kingdom upgraded, it would annex these maps, and the new empire would claim the areas. It would then become much easier to level in these maps due to the NPC cities that would emerge.

In the past, every NPC city constructed in a neutral map had a minimum player population of 3,000,000. Among them, the NPC city in the Shallow Hills, one of the neutral maps the Golden Sands Empire had claimed, had reached a player population of over 10,000,000 during its peak. This gave the Epic adventurer Guilds, who completed the SSS-rank commissions, a massive windfall.

This was due to the new cities' Lands. To purchase those Lands, players needed a certain amount of Reputation in the former kingdom or noble status in the new NPC city. It had become impossible for non-native Guilds to purchase the Lands within a short amount of time.

Meanwhile, due to the neutral maps' high-level environment, the new city's Lands had been far more valuable than Lands in cities near low-level maps.

Shi Feng had been planning this since he joined God's Domain in this life.

"Lord Protector, there is a very large variety of commissions available. If you are unsure of which to choose, I can offer a recommendation based on your preference and requirements," the senior administrator suggested after Shi Feng's long moment of silence.

"Thanks for the offer, but I've made my decision. I'll choose the Ancient Orc Empire," Shi Feng said as he pointed to the quest name on the list.

Although Star-Moon Kingdom's past players had known about the three SSS-rank commission quests, no one had known about the quests' contents aside from the player who accepted them.

After carefully reading through the quests' contents, Shi Feng concluded that the Ancient Orc Empire was the easiest among the three. Based on his current abilities, completing the other two would be impossible.

Revenge of the Fallen required him to kill five Fallens that hid within Star-Moon Kingdom.

The Fallen within Star-Moon Kingdom would not be as easy to deal with as Berenwoka. The system wouldn't suppress them. A Fallen at its peak had the strength to destroy an entire city. Moreover, these Fallens hid all over Star-Moon Kingdom. Just finding them would be a difficult task. It was no wonder why nobody had completed the commission in the past.

Undead Resurrection wasn't easy either. He needed to gather three extremely rare items: the Book of Undead, the Bone Staff, and the Ancient Contract. Of these items, Shi Feng had only heard of the Book of Undead. However, this item was located in the Level 80 neutral map, Slumbering Tomb. It was the gathering place for Undead. The Book of the Undead was even guarded by the Tier 4 Mythic rank Skeleton King. Shi Feng had no hope of obtaining the book. And he had never heard of the other two items before. He did not even know where to start looking for them...

That only left the Ancient Orc Empire. Once, the powerful Orc Empire had its imperial capital in the Level 75 neutral map, Mourning Battlefield, which was situated between Star-Moon Kingdom and Purple Thorns Kingdom. However, after countless wars, the imperial capital had become a battlefield. Powerful Orcs currently gathered in the ruins, hoping to restore the glory they once enjoyed and conquer the several surrounding kingdoms. These Orcs had been a thorn in these kingdoms' sides for a long time now.

The Ancient Orc Empire commission's task was to destroy the alliance between the various Orc tribes. In order to destroy this alliance, Shi Feng was required to locate the Orc Empire's founding emperor's weapon, the Disintegration Axe, and prevent it from falling into Orc hands. If the Orcs got their hands on this weapon, they would be able to gather the Orcs scattered across God's Domain. If they succeeded, God's Domain's various kingdoms and empires would be in trouble.

Fortunately, the Disintegration Axe had been very famous in the past. Shi Feng knew the weapon's whereabouts. Otherwise, he would have been forced to choose the Undead Resurrection commission instead.

"Lord Protector, this commission will require a 6,000 Gold deposit. However, as you are an Epic adventurer, you are only required to pay half. Are you sure you wish to accept this commission?" the senior administrator asked.

Shi Feng handed 3,000 Gold over without hesitation. As a result, however, he was almost broke.

Although Stone Forest Town had earned quite a lot of money while he had been busy, most of that money had been reinvested in the town and Guild's development. Part of the money had also been used to purchase Diamond Wood. There wasn't much left.

He also needed to save funds for his future city's development and construct the Four Towers of Elements.

After his rampant slaughter of Demonic Beasts in the Moon God's Space, Shi Feng had a total of 989 Seven Luminaries Shards. Although he had wanted to grind a little more, as he obtained more shards, their drop-rate decreased. Fortunately, he had enough to synthesize 40 units of Seven Luminaries Crystals and construct the Four Towers of Elements. Once the towers had been constructed, his city would be safe from players. However, constructing a high-end building like the Four Towers of Elements cost an astronomical number of Coins. Based on Shi Feng's initial estimates, the other materials alone would cost around 90,000 Gold...

Once Shi Feng accepted the commission and was about to return to the Candlelight Trading Firm, Blackie contacted him.

"Has something happened?" Shi Feng asked when he saw Blackie's grim expression.

"Guild Leader, we lost again..." Blackie replied quietly.

"What? Even Aqua and Summer were defeated?" Shi Feng was slightly stunned.

He had sent Aqua Rose and the others to the Battle Arena.

He had a very clear understanding of Aqua Rose and Alluring Summer's strengths. Both were fully geared in top-tier equipment. In addition, not only were they Refinement Realm experts, but the two women had also grasped a portion of the Secret Spellcasting Technique.

With their strength, no one throughout Star-Moon Kingdom should be their match. Only the superpowers' peak experts should be able to offer a challenge. Restoring Zero Wing's reputation should be a piece of cake for them.

"Well, no. The other side suddenly asked to change the rules of the competition and is now seeking to melee combat. Skills, Spells, and tools are not permitted. So, only Cola, Shadow Sword, and Flying Shadow were able to fight. However, all three were defeated. That Evil Fire kid still hasn't made a move either..." Blackie explained. "Currently, the people in the Battle Arena are starting to badmouth us, saying that Zero Wing doesn't have any capable experts. Many Guilds have sent spies to rub salt in our wounds. If we don't stop those guys now, the prestige we've worked so hard to gain will most likely..."

"Guild Leader, what I'm trying to say is that we should send in Big Sis Fire. She can definitely defeat those punks."

"This is interesting. Even Cola and Flying Shadow's techniques were no match for them?" Shi Feng's lips curled up, his interest in Evil Fire growing.

First, Evil Fire had challenged him, the Guild Leader of Zero Wing, publicly. He then went to Stone Forest Town a day before the competition to make a name for himself. With this, Shi Feng would have no choice but to accept Evil Fire's challenge.

"Guild Leader, should I ask Big Sis Fire for help?" Blackie asked anxiously.

Fire Dance had been busy dealing with important Guild affairs. Moreover, Shi Feng had already stated that without his permission, nobody was to disturb Fire Dance. However, they had no choice but to

involve Fire Dance, the number two melee expert in Zero Wing, to teach those challengers a lesson now that trouble was knocking on their door.

Unfortunately, involving Shi Feng wasn't an option. If their Guild Leader fought a bunch of nameless challengers, it would humiliate Zero Wing and its members. After all, Zero Wing was no longer some small, upstart Guild. It was Star-Moon Kingdom's number one Guild.

"No. I'll make a trip myself." Shi Feng smiled as he shook his head.

Chapter 1322 – Unlocking a New Function

Stone Forest Town:

When Shi Feng stepped out of the Guild Residence, the sight before him was foreign.

Rows of one- and two-story houses had stood before the Guild Residence previously. Now, various virtual shops occupied both sides of the street. There were also advanced hotels, restaurants, bars, and other establishments. The street was now as busy as White River City's most popular areas. There was no lack of expert players that had exceeded Level 40. Some players even roamed the street atop Mounts.

Aside from adventurer players, quite a few Lifestyle players chatted merrily on the street.

Many wandering merchant NPCs hawked their wares from temporary stalls along the main street. The NPC traffic was just as shocking as the number of players.

The lively scene made Stone Forest Town look like a city rather than a town.

Shi Feng was surprised.

After just a few days, Stone Forest Town had undergone such a massive transformation. If the town continued to develop at this rate, it wouldn't be long before it could be promoted to an Advanced Town. If Shi Feng hadn't already started his city's construction, Stone Forest Town could have served as Zero Wing's main headquarters.

As Shi Feng slowly made his way to the Battle Arena, he eavesdropped on the conversations throughout Stone Forest Town.

"More experts are gathering in the Battle Arena each day. Before this, I could have easily ranked among the daily tournaments' top 100 and earned the consolation prize. Now, I can't even get within the top 300..."

"That's right. Only our team leader can hold his rank in the top 100 now. However, I heard that Zero Wing plans to extend the consolation prizes to cater to the top 300 soon. The top 100 contestants will get priority in purchasing Exotic Stamina Potions from the Candlelight Trading Firm. They'll even get a 10% discount. But they will be limited to three bottles."

“Priority in purchasing the Exotic Stamina Potion? That’s great! Candlelight only sells a limited number each day, and the various large Guilds and secondhand dealers usually claim them.”

“That’s right. Fortunately, we have our team leader. We’ll be able to buy three Exotic Stamina Potions every day. As long as we stockpile, we’ll be able to explore those high-level maps. Our income will be amazing. I heard that the Sharp Edge adventurer team went on an expedition earlier, venturing into the core of the Ghost Ruins and making a fortune. I’ve also heard that they’re already preparing to buy their second private house in Stone Forest Town. All that’s left is to wait until Zero Wing sells more.”

“They made that much money? I heard that the private houses auctioned for more than 600 Gold. I’m guessing that they’ll be far more expensive during the next auction.”

“Of course. They came across a Fine-Gold Treasure Chest during their expedition and obtained a Secret-Silver ranked combat boots design from it. They sold it in the Auction House for a fortune.”

“The Exotic Stamina Potion is awesome. Practically nobody explores those distant maps. I wish we could get a private house in Stone Forest Town. We’d be able to participate in the Battle Arena’s daily tournament everyday. We could also purchase special tools from the wandering merchants.”

“That’s right. Unfortunately, our leader is still hesitant. He’s unsure of whether or not we should equip each team member with a Mount first.”

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The players’ eyes sparkled as they discussed Stone Forest Town’s private houses.

No one had thought much of the town’s private houses previously. After all, there were Transport Carriages that traveled to and from other NPC towns, saving them plenty of time. However, these players realized that there was a world of difference between the teams that owned a private house those that did not. Not only could the teams that owned private houses send their strongest expert to the Battle Arena, but they could also purchase various items from the wandering merchants when the NPCs restocked. Most importantly, team members could accumulate the Double EXP buff. They also had the option of using their private houses as warehouses.

It seems people are starting to realize the benefits of private houses. However, this is only the beginning. Shi Feng’s confidence in his plans grew as he listened to the public’s growing interest in Stone Forest Town’s private houses.

In reality, private houses offered more than just easy teleportation for their owners. Their companions could also utilize this function. Unfortunately, only a small number of players could teleport at a time. Moreover, the Cooldown between each teleport was considerably long. In addition, private houses needed to reach a certain rank before this function would be available.

To put it simply, private houses could be upgraded like Guild Residences’ private rooms and Shops. In fact, player-constructed private houses were much easier to upgrade. It simply depended on whether or not the house’s town had reached the required standard to unlock the group teleportation function.

This was also why players preferred to purchase private houses in large Guilds’ towns and cities. First, it granted them some security. Players wouldn’t have to worry about other Guilds invading and capturing

the town. Second, large Guilds' towns tended to develop quickly. This, in turn, meant that the private houses could be upgraded very quickly.

Currently, Stone Forest Town was an Intermediate Town. Owners could already upgrade their private houses. Unfortunately, the town had yet to unlock the group teleportation function.

Two conditions needed to be met to unlock this function. The first condition was a player population of over 300,000. For Stone Forest Town, meeting this requirement was a piece of cake. The second condition was the town's security. This condition was a little more complex. The town needed a sufficient number of defensive structures and a certain quality of the NPCs guarding the town.

Once these conditions were met, the town would unlock the group teleportation function.

Stone Forest Town had already met the requirement for defensive structures. The only problem remaining was the quality of the NPC guards. Although the Guild could recruit NPC guards, it couldn't nurture them. Hence, the quality of the NPCs depended on the town's standard and luck. It would take time to meet the requirement.

Fortunately, things had changed. Shi Feng had intended to use the Hero's Chapter in his new city. After reviewing the situation, though, Shi Feng decided that this was a good opportunity to develop Stone Forest Town.

Before Shi Feng had realized it, he had already reached Stone Forest Town's most popular location—the Battle Arena!

A large crowd of players was trying to squeeze into the Battle Arena, now the size of Jin Hai City's City Center Sports Arena. The scene wasn't any less lively than the White Tiger Dojo's friendly competition.

Meanwhile, in the Battle Arena's fourth-floor tournament hall, players filled the stands as they constantly cheered on the fighters on the stage. Among them, many were Level 40 and above experts.

At this moment, the fight on the stage reached its conclusion. The victor was a cloaked Berserker.

However, the spectators hadn't cheered because the match was so exciting. Rather, their cheers were due to another Zero Wing expert's defeat...

"Sure enough, Turtledove isn't a match for them." Blackie sighed as he watched the stage.

Both Rampant Blade and Ye Wumian had fought as well. However, their opponents had been too strong. Neither had lowered their opponents' HP below 50%. Only Flying Shadow and Shadow Sword had reduced their opponents' HP to nearly half.

The unknown challengers were ridiculously strong.

"Hahaha! It seems Zero Wing's experts only amount to this much! They are only slightly stronger than those first-rate Guild peak experts we challenged before. Zero Wing, just send whatever expert you've got. I'll accept the loss if you can get my HP below 50%!" a two-meter tall, cloaked Berserker said, laughing.

"Damn it! They're looking down on Zero Wing!" Shadow Sword slammed his palms on the guardrail, wrathful flames burning in his eyes. "If Big Sis Fire were here, she would beat them to a pulp!"

Zero Wing's other members nodded in agreement.

Fire Dance was the undisputed number two melee expert in Zero Wing. Only the Vice Guild Leader Gentle Snow could put up a fight against her. No one else could even offer a challenge.

Suddenly, a familiar figure slowly approached the stage. When Blackie and the others saw this figure, their jaws dropped.

"Guild Leader!"