

Strongest

Chapter 1329 – Rank Upgraded

The round table meeting room fell silent after hearing Singular Burial's command.

"Guild Leader, although Abandoned Wave has created more monsters in the Frozen Scar, they're not fully grown yet. They will need at least two or three more days before they reach maturity. If we declare war on Zero Wing now..."

Everyone attempted to persuade Singular Burial to be patient and wait a little longer.

"What's there to worry about? You've witnessed these Evil Beasts' strength for yourselves. Even before reaching maturity, they're terrifying creatures. The only reason that we're helping Abandoned Wave create Evil Beasts is to prevent every Guild in Star-Moon Kingdom from working together against us. We'll just use the Evil Beasts to raid Stone Forest Town. It'll be a piece of cake.

"We won't even need to dispatch our forces to the raid. Abandoned Wave can take care of it easily without our help. At most, the other Guilds will suspect that we're related to Abandoned Wave and his beasts. Without concrete proof, they won't work together to challenge us.

"When Abandoned Wave captures Stone Forest Town, Zero Wing's members and the independent players in the town will become sacrifices for the army. Abandoned Wave can then nurture even more Evil Beasts. Even if the various Guilds discover our relationship, it will be too late to do anything about it.

"Alright, see to the necessary preparations right away!" Everyone grew excited as they listened to Singular Burial's reasoning.

If Heaven's Burial secured Stone Forest Town, the two towns would provide a stable source of Coins and Magic Crystals for the Guild. With the help of the monster army, it would only be a matter of time before they took control of Star-Moon Kingdom. At that point, only God's Domain's various superpowers would pose any threat.

Heaven's Burial's upper echelons exploded into action.

...

Meanwhile, in Stone Forest Town, Shi Feng discreetly returned to Zero Wing's Residence after the competition in the Battle Arena.

In the Guild Hall's basement, Shi Feng carefully took the Hero's Chapter from his bag. He placed it on the magic array in the center of the hall and began to chant an incantation.

As the Hero's Chapter sat within the array, the hall's Mana surged towards it.

Suddenly, balls of light appeared in the center of the array. These balls of light began to gather and form a humanoid shape as if they were constructing a body. Once the shape was complete, the Hero's Chapter transformed into divine runes that entered the body.

*Hopefully, the Hero isn't too weak,* Shi Feng silently prayed as he watched the body gradually take shape inside the magic array.

The Heroes summoned with the Hero's Chapter shared the same starting point. However, their Growth Potential varied like Personal Guards. Only, Heroes typically had very high Growth Potential. Even the weakest among them could reach Level 180, Tier 5, while some could climb as high as Level 200, Tier 5.

Even in the past, Shi Feng had never heard of a Hero reaching Tier 6 God rank. However, it was rumored that if one gathered a sufficient number of Hero's Chapters, they could summon a Tier 6 Hero to defend their town or city. Unfortunately, nobody had succeeded, so Shi Feng did not know if the rumor were true.

Time passed quickly. After the balls of light vanished, a robust man in black robes and wielding a blood-red greatsword appeared before Shi Feng.

*It seems my luck is still quite good. At least I didn't summon the weakest kind of Hero.* Shi Feng could not help but breathe a sigh of relief after he checked the Hero's Attribute Panel.

There was a 60% chance to summon the most common Hero when using the Hero's Chapter. Such Heroes growth was limited to Level 180, Tier 4.

There was a 30% chance to summon a Hero with good potential. The combat power of such Heroes could reach the peak of Tier 4. They could also reach Level 200.

Only 10% of the Heroes summoned could reach Tier 5.

The Hero standing before Shi Feng was among the 30% with good potential. It also had the Barbarian hidden class.

The Barbarian was an advanced class. Its Strength was even higher than Berserkers. Amongst the many advanced classes, its Strength ranked among the top three.

—

[Gilbert] (Hero, Great Lord, Barbarian)

Level 63

HP 40,000,000/40,000,000

Growth Potential: 84

—

In God's Domain, Heroes were not actually considered human, although they were. They had human parents but had received the Gods' blessings, which increased their Life Ratings. Hence, they were far more powerful than ordinary human NPCs. They could even rival Archaic Species of the same tier

Every large Guild that had obtained a Hero's Chapter in the past hadn't hesitated to summon one to protect their Guild cities.

After summoning Gilbert, Shi Feng designated him as the commander of Stone Forest Town's army, giving him control of the 2,000 NPC guards the town employed. Aside from their personal strength, Heroes were powerful managers. One Hero was more than enough to manage every NPC guard in an Advanced Town, not to mention an Intermediate Town like Stone Forest Town. With this, players wouldn't have to be responsible for the town's security.

Shortly after summoning Gilbert, Shi Feng heard the sound of a system notification.

—

System: Congratulations. Stone Forest Town, which is under your management, has achieved C-rank security. Activating Private Space Upgrade System. Once a private space has been upgraded, players can enjoy even more benefits.

System: Stone Forest Town is the first town to achieve C-rank security in Star-Moon Kingdom. Do you wish to allow the Adventurer's Association to enter and garrison the town?

—

*There is also such a reward?* Shi Feng was ecstatic.

Players couldn't construct the Adventurer's Association, Lifestyle Association, War God's Temple, Library, or the Bank. Similarly, there were no designs for these establishments. Only after a player town reached a certain rank would these establishments occupy the town.

Practically every player in the game visited the Adventurer's Association, for example.

Normally, the Adventurer's and Lifestyle Associations would only occupy a town after it upgraded to Advanced rank and B-rank security. As for the War God's Temple, Library, and Bank, they would only occupy Small Cities or above with B-rank security.

These five establishments had an even greater function in player towns and cities than in NPC cities.

Take the Adventurer's Association for example. As long as the establishment occupied a player town, players would be able to accept commission quests unique to the kingdom and commission and rare quests unique to the town. As the town flourished, more quests would become available. The chance of high-ranking commissions appearing would also increase.

Some players had even received SSS-rank commissions in a particular player city in the past. However, that player city hadn't been just any city. It had been the Secret Pavilion's main city.

If Stone Forest Town could attract the Adventurer's Association now, it would become far more popular with players.

Independent players would no longer have to return to NPC cities to turn in their quests. They could simply do so in Stone Forest Town.

Following which, Shi Feng agreed to allow the Adventurer's Association to occupy Stone Forest Town. He only needed to choose a location for the building. As for the construction fees, the system covered it fully; he didn't have to pay a single Coin.

Without hesitation, Shi Feng placed the Adventurer's Association near both the Candlelight Trading Firm and the private housing area.

The players that had purchased private houses in Stone Forest Town also received a corresponding system notification.

Suddenly, a three-story building rose in Stone Forest Town's crowded central district. The building took shape as players watched.

"What is Zero Wing constructing this time?"

"That can't be it. If it were a player-constructed building, it wouldn't complete so fast. The system must be generating this. Could it be a Shop for wandering merchants?"

"That might be the case. Based on my research, once a town reaches a certain point in its development, it'll gain a Mysterious Shop. I hear that it offers plenty of valuable items."

"Isn't that just another benefit for the players who own houses in Stone Forest Town? How are we supposed to compete with them now? Normally, I have to waste hours traveling to and from Stone Forest Town when I go out to grind. Anyone that owns a house can simply teleport back!"

After discussing the possibilities for about ten minutes, the players stared at the finished building. A signboard hung near its door, advertising two words.

Adventurer's Association!

Chapter 1330 – Number One Town

The construction of the Adventurer's Association, which had three floors and took up the area of a large football field, stunned players in the central district.

"The Adventurer's Association?"

"Why would the Adventurer's Association be here? I'm not seeing things, right?"

Everyone shuddered when they saw the Adventurer's Association. None of them were able to believe what their eyes were seeing was true.

The Adventurer's Association was becoming more important to God's Domain's players. The Association's daily quests were many players' main source of income. This was the main reason that players couldn't venture too far from NPC towns and cities.

Now that an Adventurer's Association occupied Stone Forest Town, many of these players could break free from this restriction. They could now level up and earn money far more conveniently.

Thinking up to this point, many players curiously entered Stone Forest Town's Adventurer's Association.

"Crap! It's real!"

As the crowd entered the first-floor hall, they discovered that the hall's furnishings were exactly the same as the Adventurer's Association in NPC towns and cities. Many NPCs were busy, publishing new quests on the quest board. The only difference was the number of quests available. There were far more quests available here than in other towns and cities' Adventurer's Associations.

"Quick, look! There are daily town quests and several high-ranking quests!" a player that had immediately checked the quest area exclaimed.

These words attracted a lot of attention, and many players headed towards the quest boards for a closer look.

"This is awesome! The daily town quests' rewards are even better than daily quests in NPC towns and cities! Moreover, the quest locations are all near Stone Forest Town! We can easily complete these quests in two hours, even faster if we had Mounts!"

Everyone's eyes shone as they read the daily town quests.

Normally, the daily quests in NPC towns and cities required more than three hours to complete. Of course, the main reason for this was the long distance between quest objectives. Completing the quest itself only took half an hour or so. Most players would pick up local quests while completing their dailies to increase their leveling efficiency. Only after they completed the local quests would they return to hand in their daily quests.

News about Stone Forest Town's Adventurer's Association spread through the town quickly. As a result, many players who had intended to return to their respective NPC cities to turn in their daily quests surged towards Stone Forest Town's Adventurer's Association instead.

Star-Moon Kingdom's official forums were in an uproar.

"Players with houses in Stone Forest Town are going to have an even easier time! With the Adventurer's Association located beside the residential district, they can pick up and turn in quests easily!"

"Hopefully, when the private houses go up for sale tomorrow, the price won't be too high. Our team has only managed to gather 1,000 Gold after much difficulty..."

"That can't be certain. The private houses in Stone Forest Town were already quite valuable thanks to the town's high Mana density. Even while resting in a private house, players can accumulate the Double EXP buff faster than in 1-star Guild Residence private rooms. Now, not only can Stone Forest Town's private houses be upgraded, but there is also the Adventurer's Association nearby. Don't forget about Stone Forest Town's current development speed either. With the Adventurer's Association, it won't be long before Stone Forest Town becomes an Advanced Town. At that point, the town's private houses may cost as much as those in major NPC cities."

"Indeed. If we fail to get a house now, by the time Stone Forest Town becomes an Advanced Town, purchasing one will be even harder..."

...

Due to the Adventurer's Association, many adventurer teams that originally held a wait-and-see stance promptly sold off all their unnecessary rare materials, weapons, and equipment to collect money. Some teams even purchased Coins in bulk with Credits, deeply afraid that they wouldn't have enough money to buy Stone Forest Town's private houses when they became available.

At the same time, many of the hesitant adventurer teams in the neighboring kingdoms began to take action, swarming towards Stone Forest Town.

After all, Stone Forest Town had massive advantages over other player towns. It could definitely be considered the number one town in Star-Moon Kingdom and the several neighboring countries.

If they could enjoy the benefits Stone Forest Town had to offer, migrating across counties would be worthwhile.

Meanwhile, back in Zero Wing's Residence in Stone Forest Town, Shi Feng charged Gilbert to manage the town's NPC guards after summoning him. He then used a Return Scroll and returned to White River City's Candlelight Trading Firm.

...

Every Intermediate and above alchemist in the Candlelight Trading Firm had gathered in the top-floor's Special Alchemy Room.

In any of Star-Moon Kingdom's large Guilds, even the Guild's upper echelons would treat these alchemists like VIPs. Meanwhile, 150 such players had gathered. Among them, more than half of the Advanced Alchemists in the kingdom were present.

These alchemists had already waited for over twenty minutes, but they didn't show the slightest sign of anger or resentment. In fact, they brimmed with excitement and joy.

"Hahaha! This is wonderful! The Guild had always called upon the forgers and engineers. Now, it's finally the alchemists' turn!"

"I wonder why Big Sis Melancholic has called us here? Does the trading firm plan to select alchemists for Titan City?"

"That's possible. The last group that entered Titan City should return soon. This gathering might be to select the candidates for the next batch. Based on what I've heard from those that entered the Holy City of Titan, it is a holy land for experience. You can gain tons of knowledge in Titan City. There are even tutorial videos and instructions from Masters and Grandmasters. One round trip can almost guarantee a promotion from Intermediate rank to Advanced rank. The insight that Advanced Lifestyle players gain in the Holy City can also help one reach Master rank."

"It's that amazing?"

"Of course. Just look at the last Candlelight Auction. The Super Guilds and super-first-rate Guilds went crazy just to get a single slot. I wonder how many slots have been allocated for alchemists?"

As the various alchemists conversed, the room's door abruptly opened. A man and a woman then walked into the room. Immediately, everyone in the Alchemy Room snapped to attention, anxiety and reverence filling their gaze as they looked at the man who had just entered.

“What’s going on?”

“Guild Leader Black Flame is here in person?”

“Is Candlelight searching for alchemists to cultivate?”

Everyone was astonished to see the cloaked man. Despite this man’s lack of aura, these players couldn’t help but shudder in his presence.

When the alchemists realized that Blake Flame had made a personal trip to meet them, anticipation gripped their hearts.

Not only was the man before them Star-Moon Kingdom’s number one expert, but he was also the kingdom’s number one forger. Although it had been a long time since he had displayed his forging skills, his abilities were obvious based on the Level 50 Fine-Gold Set Equipment that had sold during the previous auction. In the Candlelight Trading Firm, even Cream Cocoa and a handful of other Advanced Forgers who were approaching their Master rank promotion could only forge Level 50 Secret-Silver Set Equipment. The other Advanced Forgers couldn’t even produce Level 50 Mysterious-Iron Set Equipment.

Moreover, the man before them was the Guild Leader of the number one Guild in Star-Moon Kingdom. With even a sliver of his resources, these Advanced Lifestyle players would be set for life. If the trading firm nurtured them, they’d have an even higher chance of becoming Master Alchemists in the future. Not to mention, the Candlelight Trading Firm had already set a standard.

“I’ve asked Melancholic to gather you here today for two reasons. The first is that I will be changing the benefits alchemists are offered. I also want to help several talented alchemists become Master Alchemists!”

Although Shi Feng hadn’t been very loud, every one of his words caused these players’ hearts to pound.

When these alchemists had heard that Shi Feng wanted to help them become Master Alchemists, they felt as if they had heard the word of god.

If any of Star-Moon Kingdom’s large Guilds, and even those in the several neighboring kingdoms, had said this, they would assume it was a joke. But it was a different story if these words came from Shi Feng’s mouth.