

Strongest

Chapter 1351 – Monster-like Player

As the dust settled, it revealed the three-meter-tall Evil Demon half-kneeling on the ground. Cracks broke the dirt for over a dozen yards beneath the demon.

“What?!” Flame Blood’s eyes nearly fell from his sockets when he saw the injured Evil Demon.

A Tier 3 NPC would barely be a match for a Great Lord ranked Evil Demon, yet Shi Feng had sent the creature flying...

Beside Flame Blood, Beast Emperor stared at the demon with a solemn expression. He found it inconceivable that Shi Feng could contest and surpass a Grand Lord ranked Evil Demon’s Strength.

“You, heal the Evil Demon! I’ll have it protect you! Black Flame’s Berserk Skill won’t last long! Once it ends, he will die!” Beast Emperor roared at Flame Blood. He had lost his previously complacent expression. “We just have to buy enough time for the reinforcements I’ve sent to arrive!”

Although he thought that it was almost impossible for Shi Feng to kill the demon, he instructed Flame Blood to heal the creature as a precaution. Even if Shi Feng could suppress the Evil Demon, he wouldn’t kill it.

He had only ordered the fastest Great Lord ranked Evil Demon to separate from the main contingent to save Abandoned Wave. It would take some time before the rest of his forces arrived.

Once the follow-up forces arrived, Shi Feng would lose any hope of escape or survival.

Flame Blood nodded and immediately went into action. First, he cast Recover on the Evil Demon, healing it for over 2,300 HP every 1.5 seconds. He followed up with a Truth Shield, which could absorb over -11,000 damage.

Although these Spells were almost negligible compared to the Evil Demon's HP, the Truth Shield and Recover would heal the creature's injuries. At the very least, it would be able to fight at peak condition.

Flame Blood began to chant an incantation. As Heaven's Burial's best Cleric, Flame Blood had double-cast right off the bat.

He had chosen to cast the Tier 1 Spell, Life Recovery, and the Tier 0 Spell, Healing Light.

Not only was Flame Blood's chanting very fast, but he was also accurate. He was only slightly less efficient than Violet Cloud. Of course, there was a massive gap between his brain activity and hers.

Shi Feng didn't sit idly by while Flame Blood healed the Evil Demon. Without hesitation, he activated the Tier 2 Taboo Skill, Instant Strike, vanishing and reappearing before the demon in an instant.

Sword's Orbit!

Suddenly, a glittering galaxy formed around Shi Feng's body. Dazzling stars bombarded the Evil Demon, one after another. Both Flame Blood and Beast Emperor were shocked.

Despite the stars appearing slow, in reality, they moved so quickly that they could barely react to the attacks. The stars they saw were simply residual images their brains had created.

Fortunately, the Evil Demon possessed godlike reaction speed. With a physique that surpassed that of ordinary players, it reacted immediately and blocked the incoming attacks with its claws.

However, as Shi Feng had activated Twofold Berserk and Instant Strike, both his Strength and Attack Speed exceeded the Evil Demon's. The Grand Lord couldn't keep up.

The brilliant stars continued to bombard the monster, each collision ripping pained screams from the Evil Demon's throat.

The Evil Demon's agonizing screams echoed across the grassland, causing all who heard it to shudder.

If other players saw this, they'd likely confuse Shi Feng for the monster, while assuming that the Evil Demon was some innocent player.

Each star that penetrated the Evil Demon's Body dealt devastating damage.

-431,571!

-435,197!

-871,054!

...

For a moment, Flame Blood had even forgotten to chant his Spells as he stared at the screaming demon with a dumbfounded expression.

“Is he a monster?”

Flame Blood had intended to mitigate some of Shi Feng’s damage with his heals, but after seeing the Swordsman’s devastating power, he realized that his efforts would be utterly futile.

Only now did Flame Blood understand why Shi Feng hadn’t prioritized killing him, a healer.

It wasn’t because Shi Feng didn’t want to kill him. Rather, he didn’t need to. Since he was negligible, the Swordsman didn’t need to waste time on him. After all, Berserk Skills’ durations were extremely limited.

The Evil Demon’s HP bar continued to plummet. Every hit Shi Feng landed reduced it by 1%; 2% with a critical hit. The demon’s HP rapidly decreased from 93%.

90%... 80%... 70%...

By the time Instant Strike’s 3-second duration ended, the Evil Demon had only 64% HP remaining.

However, as soon as Instant Strike’s effects wore out, Shi Feng’s Attack Speed and damage dramatically decreased. Seeing this, Beast Emperor released a sigh of relief.

Had Shi Feng continued dealing such horrific damage, the Evil Demon would have lost all of its 35,000,000 HP and died in less than 20 seconds.

Now that Shi Feng's Attack Speed had decreased, the Evil Demon could finally keep up with the attacks, blocking them. In fact, the demon launched powerful counter attacks with the dark fog it had summoned, forcing Shi Feng to dodge and waste time.

It was only a matter of time before Shi Feng's Berserk Skill ended.

Sure enough, one person's Strength isn't enough, Shi Feng thought as he was forced into a corner. The Grand Lord ranked Evil Demon's superb physique was even more powerful than a Tier 3 player's. Players of the same tier might have some difficulty blocking his slashes, but to the Evil Demon, doing so wasn't difficult in the least.

Reacting quickly, Shi Feng retrieved two Summon Guard Scrolls from his bag.

Although he was strong enough to suppress a Grand Lord for a short time, whether it was an Evil Demon or a normal monster, players had one disadvantage—HP. This was why it was so difficult to solo monsters of the same or a higher tier as players progressed in the game.

When Shi Feng finished chanting, two golden magic arrays appeared beside him.

Kite and Anna emerged from the arrays. Although it hadn't been long since Shi Feng last saw his Personal Guards, the two NPCs had leveled up considerably.

After completing his Tier 2 Promotion Quest and returning to White River City, Shi Feng hadn't immediately resummoned his Personal Guards. Instead, he left them in the Dark Canyon to continue leveling.

Compared to the time flow in God's Domain, time passed five-times faster in the Dark Canyon. Moreover, the canyon's environment was far more suitable for training.

The last time Shi Feng had seen Kite, the NPC was Level 70. Now, Kite had reached Level 74. As for Anna, she was already Level 75. She was undoubtedly the highest-level Personal Guard in the game right now.

The instant these two NPCs appeared, Kite swung his greatsword down. Countless wind blades surrounded the Evil Demon, sealing its movements completely. As for Anna, she waved her staff and chanted an incantation, summoning forth ten Level 75, Lord ranked Rock Guardians and a Great Lord ranked Golden Giant.

Under Anna's control, the Rock Guardians positioned themselves to form a magic array, lowering the Evil Demon's Basic Attributes by 15%. Unless one of the Rock Guardians died, the array would remain active.

Without wasting time, Shi Feng activated Phantom Kill and Nine Dragons Slash. At the moment, his doppelganger's Attributes were even higher than Kite's. Each Abyssal Blade phantom also dealt as much damage as the Lord ranked Rock Guardians.

With his doppelganger and Kite's support, Shi Feng overwhelmed the Evil Demon. Although Kite's and Anna's damage output was no match for Shi Feng's individually, when combined, they dealt even more damage than their master.

Time passed gradually. Although Shi Feng's Berserk Skills were running out, the Evil Demon's HP decreased at a rate visible to the naked eye.

60%... 45%... 30%...

When the Evil Demon's HP fell below 20%, it finally went Berserk as it shrank and its skin turned crimson. Its entire body began to release more gray fog.

Evil Energy Outbreak was a desperate Skill that only Grand Lord ranked demons and above could use. When activated, the Skill would increase the user's Strength, Movement Speed, and Attack Speed by 30% and physique by 15%. However, the Skill was a double-edged sword that would also decrease the user's maximum HP by 30%.

Only 2 seconds remained of Shi Feng's 24-second Twofold Berserk state. His aura had already begun to weaken.

As if it had realized that Shi Feng couldn't hold out much longer, the Evil Demon's lips curled up as it formed a sharp spear with the gray fog surrounding its body. With the slightest movement, the spearhead sliced space itself and created a spatial tear. The Evil Demon then threw the weapon at Shi Feng.

As the spear flew through the air towards Shi Feng, a loud boom shook the area.

Responding quickly, Anna directed the Golden Giant to block the attack. Surprisingly, however, the dark-gray spear passed through the giant without causing any harm.

As the spear was about to find its target, Shi Feng instinctively used Divine Steps, summoning ten invulnerable doppelgangers around the Evil Demon, switching positions with one of these doppelgangers.

Instinctively, Shi Feng turned his blades on the Evil Demon.

Flame Burst!

Divine Providence!

At this time, his Phantom Kill doppelganger activated Flame Burst and attacked the Evil Demon in tandem.

Although the Evil Demon responded very quickly, Shi Feng switched positions with another doppelganger after every slash, not giving the demon a chance to block his attacks.

By the time Shi Feng landed his 15th hit, his sword's scorching flames had devoured the demon's last strand of HP. When the Grand Lord collapsed, it transformed into innumerable light particles like shattered glass and disappeared.

Shi Feng's experience bar rose madly, his level instantly increasing from 53 to 54. He had earned even more EXP from killing the Evil Demon than from soloing an Archaic Species.

It had given him nearly as much EXP as a Level 70 Mythic monster... Shi Feng was astonished. If he could kill a few more of these Evil Demons, his level would skyrocket.



“Hm? This is... an Evil God Crystal?”

As the Evil Demon disappeared, the gray fog condensed to a single point. The gray fog then formed a crimson crystal that hovered quietly in the air, releasing an intensely mighty aura.

Chapter 1352 – Auction House Design

*It died?!*

Flame Blood froze when he saw the Evil Demon inside the magic array disappear.

Even a Great Lord ranked Evil Demon of the same level would require a team of hundreds of elite players, led by dozens of experts, to take down. They had learned this lesson during their experiments in the Frozen Scar. In the end, the Great Lord had more than two-thirds of its HP remaining after wiping out the entire elite team.

Yet, Shi Feng killed a Level 70 Grand Lord ranked Evil Demon by himself...

Beast Emperor wore an indescribably grim expression.

Not only had Abandoned Wave been captured, but he had also lost a Grand Lord ranked Evil Demon. It had taken a lot of effort to nurture five Evil Demons. Grand Lord ranked Evil Demons were not easy to produce. It all depended on an Evil Demon’s potential. He had killed many peak experts to obtain five Evil Demons capable of reaching the Great Lord rank.

After his momentary rage, the crimson crystal, which had formed after the Evil Demon's death, drew Beast Emperor's attention.

*How is this possible?! How could a mere Grand Lord possibly drop an Evil God Crystal?! Shock, excitement, and greed flashed in Beast Emperor's eyes as he stared at the crystal.*

It was highly unlikely that players outside of the Evil God's Temple would understand how valuable the item was. However, to Evil God's Temple players, the Evil God Crystal was an absolute treasure. It was even too valuable to trade for a Mythic ranked Evil Demon.

Shi Feng grabbed the Evil God Crystal and shoved it in his bag before Beast Emperor could get a closer look. His eyes became bloodshot with fury as he wanted nothing more than to kill Shi Feng with his own hands. Unfortunately, he was only here as a mirror image. He could not touch Shi Feng.

Beast Emperor quickly calmed himself. Turning to the somewhat feeble Shi Feng, he smiled and praised, "Guild Leader Black Flame, you're truly capable. Even the strongest Evil Demon under my command wouldn't be a match for you. As expected of Star-Moon Kingdom's number one expert."

"What? Trying to persuade me with sweet words after failing with brute force?" Shi Feng sneered as he glanced at Beast Emperor.

Although he suffered a Weakened state, decreasing his Attributes by 70%, he was easily strong enough to kill Flame Blood and drag Abandoned Wave back to the War God's Temple.

He knew that an Evil God Envoy could only create a limited number of Evil God Apostles. Losing even one Apostle would undoubtedly weaken Beast Emperor.

Beast Emperor's expression darkened, a cold glint flashing in his eyes. He was the Evil God's Temple's sole Evil God Envoy. He was fated to become an overlord, establishing the Evil God's Empire in God's Domain, yet a Guild Leader from a measly kingdom stood before him, ridiculing his failure.

If only he were here physically, he would give Shi Feng a taste of despair.

"Black Flame, let's not waste time talking. Why don't we make a trade?" Beast Emperor said after suppressing his rage. "You'll gain at most some Merit Points for handing an Evil God Apostle over to the War God's Temple, but I can offer your Guild resources others dream of and access to Dark Cities. Zero Wing desperately needs these."

The Evil God's Temple was one of God's Domain's strongest dark forces. It had branches throughout numerous kingdoms and empires. He couldn't help Zero Wing gain access to every NPC Dark City, but getting access to a few shouldn't be a problem.

This was also why Heaven's Burial was willing to help Abandoned Wave gather so many Evil Beasts and Evil Demons in such a short time.

"Sure, I might get some measly Merit Points for handing over an Evil God Apostle, but ridding God's Domain of an Apostle is just as good," Shi Feng said, chuckling. Although he was interested in access to multiple Dark Cities, getting rid of an Evil God Apostle that had been persistent in picking fights was a better option. If not for the Adventurer's Association's assistance in Stone Forest Town, Zero Wing might have failed to protect it. Shi Feng would have been forced to accept mutual destruction, using a method to prevent anyone from claiming the town.

Beast Emperor nearly popped a vein when he heard Shi Feng's refusal. Taking a deep breath, he tried again, "How about this? I have an Auction House Design in my possession. I also have a Secret Land Key

that can open the Secret Land Door, allowing you to send 1,000 players through at a time. Aside from the resources the secret land has to offer, you can gain far more Magic Crystals there than in the Stoneclaw Mountains. I will also help Zero Wing gain access to five Dark Cities. In return, you just need to hand over the Mobile Jail and the crimson crystal.”

The Auction House Design might not be useful for a Basic Town, but it was a different story for Stone Forest Town.

Once a player town had an Auction House, it would lure more players, and the ruling Guild would make a profit from the handling fees.

Of course, the Secret Land Key was obviously quite valuable. If a Guild periodically harvested the resources from the secret land, it wouldn't need to fight other Guilds for resources.

With these items, Zero Wing wouldn't need much time to improve by leaps and bounds. A measly ten or twenty thousand War God's Temple Merit Points couldn't compare to these benefits.

Beast Emperor's offer stunned Shi Feng for a moment.

The Auction House Design was extremely rare in God's Domain. It was any less rare than the Teleportation Magic Array Design. However, while the Teleportation Magic Array Design could be used multiple times, the Auction House Design was a one-time-use item. He had never expected Beast Emperor to offer up such an item.

The Secret Land Key was also extremely valuable. It was only slightly less valuable than mineral veins that produced Magic Crystals.

Shi Feng had to admit that Beast Emperor's offer was incredibly tempting.

Meanwhile, Flame Blood, who overheard the offer, was also dumbfounded. Heaven's Burial dreamed of obtaining both items, especially the Secret Land Key. He would never have dreamed that Beast Emperor would offer such items and access to five Dark Cities in exchange for Abandoned Wave and the crimson crystal. Not even Super Guilds would refuse such an offer.

"How tempting! But I still refuse!" Shi Feng responded, smiling. "I'm not in the habit of breeding troublemakers!"

If an Evil God Apostle had only attacked his town by chance, he might consider letting them go. However, the Apostle in his hands had intentionally picked a fight. Truth be told, even if he released this troublemaking Apostle, he wouldn't be afraid for his future. After all, once Zero Wing reinforced its foundations, its development speed would only continue to increase. Furthermore, an Evil God Apostle required a large amount of resources to create Evil Beasts and Evil Demons. If Star-Moon Kingdom's various large Guilds were cautious, creating more underlings wouldn't be easy.

However, he had no interest in fighting siege wars for no good reason.

Moreover, he still had plenty of things he needed to attend to. He did not have enough time to waste in Star-Moon Kingdom.

Again, Beast Emperor was stunned. However, he demanded in a chilly voice, "Do you really intend to fight me to the bitter end?"

## Chapter 1353 – Crazy Black Flame

Beast Emperor's deep voice echoed throughout the grassy plains. The surrounding temperature dropped.

Flame Blood couldn't help but shudder.

This Beast Emperor was only a mirror image. It didn't have any offensive ability. Beast Emperor wasn't even backed by a superpower. However, no Guild would dare to underestimate his strength. The various superpowers were no exception.

Although Flame Blood didn't know how much power Beast Emperor truly wielded he had learned that Beast Emperor still had two other Evil God Apostles. They had been Apostles much longer than Abandoned Wave and had considerably powerful backers. Unlike Abandoned Wave, the other two Apostles operated in secret in other kingdoms. They weren't like Abandoned Wave, acting boldly in the open in Star-Moon Kingdom. Abandoned Wave's actions were part of the reason he had gathered such a large army of Evil Beasts and Evil Demons so quickly.

After a moment of silence, Shi Feng shook his head and laughed.

"Do you really believe that I'm afraid of your Evil Beasts and Evil Demons?" Shi Feng asked calmly.

He didn't know much about the Evil God's Temple, but he knew that Evil Beasts and Evil Demons weren't easy to produce. Unlike Evil Beasts, Evil Demons couldn't be summoned. Evil Beasts could only travel on foot as well. This was also why Evil God's Temple players paid more attention to Evil Demons.

It was practically impossible for the Evil God's Temple to amass another army of that size with Abandoned Wave's army annihilated and the resources around Star-Moon City mostly exhausted. If it were possible to create Evil Beasts and Evil Demons without limit, Evil God's Temple players would've long since become invincible. Of course, Beast Emperor might summon his own Evil Demons against Stone Forest Town, but with how rare they were, sending an army of demons to capture the town would be a waste.

When Flame Blood heard Shi Feng's reply, he thought he had heard wrong for a moment.

*Has Black Flame lost his mind?* Flame Blood stared at Shi Feng incredulously. He simply could not figure out what was going through Shi Feng's mind.

Not only had Shi Feng refused a profitable business proposition, but he had also gone out of his way to provoke someone who shouldn't be pushed.

He was a lunatic!

"Good! Very good! I had thought you were an intelligent man, Black Flame, but it would seem that you're just a frog in a well with no idea of how vast heaven and earth are!" Beast Emperor's expression darkened as several veins popped across his forehead. "Since you want war, I'll give it to you!"

Saying so, Beast Emperor disappeared, his voice echoing across the grassy plains for a long time.

*He left?* Flame Blood was stupefied.

He had assumed that Beast Emperor had been trying to buy time while waiting for his forces to arrive. However, it would seem he had been wrong.

What Flame Blood did not know was that, although Beast Emperor had considered buying time, he had dispelled the thought after Shi Feng had summoned Kite and Anna. After all, of the Evil Demons he had sent to fetch Abandoned Wave and Flame Blood, only three Great Lords remained. If those Great Lords had worked together with the demon that had died, they could suppress Shi Feng and wear him down until he died. Unfortunately, now that the Grand Lord was dead, he knew that he had lost his chance of defeating Shi Feng with the two Personal Guards by his side.

The ten Rock Guardian's magic array alone could suppress his three Great Lord ranked Evil Demons. Shi Feng could even kill Flame Blood before his eyes.

If Zero Wing had sent reinforcements, they might even claim the Great Lords' lives. Hence, there was no reason to linger.

While Flame Blood was dazed, Kite appeared before him, the NPC's greatsword forming a blue arc as it sliced the Cleric's throat. Before Flame Blood had realized what had happened, he died and dropped a piece of equipment.

"Start a war?" Shi Feng could not help but chuckle as he stared at the Beast Emperor's previous location. He then picked up the equipment Flame Blood had dropped before returning to Stone Forest Town.

In reality, Shi Feng looked forward to Beast Emperor's war.

He had already activated Star-Moon Kingdom's Epic ranked Main Storyline Quest and was required to extract the Evil God's Temple from the kingdom. Since Beast Emperor was the Evil God Envoy that had activated the Evil God's Temple in Star-Moon Kingdom, their fight was only a matter of time.



Rather than let the Evil God's Temple quietly develop in Star-Moon Kingdom, it was more beneficial to incite Beast Emperor to increase the temple's activity in the kingdom. This way, he could locate the Evil God's Temple's base of operations faster and complete his quest.

Moreover, it was thanks to Beast Emperor that he had thought of a plan to develop Stone Forest Town while earning a lot of money.

Others might not know where to obtain the Auction House Design, but he recalled a certain location that would guarantee the acquisition.

The neutral map, Mourning Battlefield!

Once the Ancient Orc Empire's capital, the area hid plenty of treasure. This was especially true for the imperial palace's hidden treasury. The treasury contained rare items that the empire had obtained by conquering other nations. The Auction House Design was one of those treasures. Moreover, it wasn't just any ordinary design. It was a Grandmaster's Advanced Auction House Design.

Ouroboros had obtained the design in the past. In the end, the Guild had constructed the most gorgeous Auction House in Star-Moon Kingdom. It had caused quite a commotion. Even after ten years, it had still been the number one Auction House in the kingdom.

Beast Emperor's appearance had also given Shi Feng a massive windfall.

The Evil God Crystal!

Ordinary players might disregard the Evil God Crystal, throwing it away. The item's introduction only stated that it contained a horrific amount of Evil Energy, after all, and those who carried it would be cursed to encounter disaster and misfortune.

While this introduction was correct, it did fail to mention a particular aspect.

The Evil Energy the Evil God Crystal radiated had a corrosive effect on normal players. It had a similar effect to residing in areas polluted with Evil Energy for too long.

However, the Evil Energy within Evil God Crystals was also incredibly pure. It could help Evil Demons or Beasts to evolve. Doing so would also increase the monster's growth potential. This was why Beast Emperor had wanted it so badly.

It had another, more frightening purpose as well; it could become a power core for a city's magic array. Although the Evil God Crystal wasn't as effective as the Titan's Heart, it was still an extremely precious power core.

If used to power a city's magic array, it would upgrade the array to a whole new level. Both the city's defenses and its Mana density would increase significantly.

Various large Guilds had desperately sought after the crystal in the past.

Shi Feng hadn't expected a Grand Lord ranked Evil Demon to drop the item. Normally, only Mythic ranked Evil Demons and above had a small drop-rate.

In the past, the Super Guild ruling the Lionheart Empire had annihilated the Evil God's Temple, which had destroyed nearly half of the empire in the process. It had only obtained two Evil God Crystals after slaughtering dozens of Mythic ranked and above Evil Demons. In the end, the Guild had used the two crystals to power two of its cities. Both cities had eventually grown to become the number one and number two Guild cities in the empire.

After seeing the Evil God Crystal's wonderful potential, God's Domain's various large Guilds had searched for and hunted down the temple's Evil Demons to obtain Evil God Crystals of their own.

When Shi Feng saw the crystal drop from the Grand Lord, he even wondered if his eyes had played a trick on him.

#### Chapter 1354 – Town Changes

In Stone Forest Town, the Evil Beast and Evil Demon army gradually scattered. As a result, the intense battle had become a good opportunity to grind EXP.

It was not very often that one came across Chieftain rank and above monsters. Even when they did, fights between players might ensue.

On average, both the Evil Beasts and Evil Demons provided more EXP than monsters of the same rank and level.

Although more than one-third of the Zero Wing members had died in this siege war, the surviving members' levels had increased significantly. Most of them had leveled up at least once, while some had even gained two levels.

As the siege war ended, Zero Wing had obtained a large number of Level 40-plus elite members...

“This is just too scary! Even those powerful monsters failed to conquer Stone Forest Town!”

“With this, Zero Wing’s position in Star-Moon Kingdom is as stable as a mountain. Both the Star Alliance and Heaven’s Burial have lost their chance to become the kingdom’s number one Guild. If I had known this would happen, I would’ve joined Zero Wing sooner! I might have been a core member by now!”

“Tch, you think becoming core member in Zero Wing is that easy? I’ve heard that the first condition to become a core member is to reach the Trial Tower’s sixth floor. Although everyone’s combat standards have improved significantly since the game’s launch, those capable of reaching the sixth floor are still considered experts in first-rate Guilds. On the other hand, you’re stuck on the fifth floor. How could you possibly have a chance of becoming a core member?”

“If Zero Wing can protect Stone Forest Town from such a large army of monsters, setting up our headquarters there might not be a bad idea after all. Tomorrow, we’ll head to Stone Forest Town and purchase a private house!”

“You want to get a private house with your standards? Don’t make me laugh. One of my brothers is an upper echelon in a small Guild. He’s told me that several small Guilds have decided to purchase the town’s houses. Your adventurer team only has a hundred or so members. Do you think you can compete with small Guilds that have several thousand players?”

...

Stone Forest Town's victory over the Evil Beast and Evil Demon army was a hot topic among many players on the official forums. The strength Zero Wing displayed flabbergasted everyone. After this battle, no one in Star-Moon Kingdom would dare challenge Zero Wing's position.

Many of the previously hesitant independent players changed their minds, determined to join the Guild.

Many of these independent players hadn't considered applying to Zero wing due to the Guild's extremely high recruitment standards. If they joined other first-rate Guilds, they would also receive far more benefits than if they joined Zero Wing. However, now that Zero Wing had proven how much stronger than other first-rate Guilds it was, its high requirements made sense.

...

"Is this Zero Wing's true strength?"

Blue Phoenix, who had remained in White River City, was surprised to see peace returning to Stone Forest Town as she watched the live-stream.

Despite facing an army of 500,000-plus monsters, not only had Zero Wing annihilated their enemy, but it had also only suffered a little over 10,000 casualties.

However, although Blue Phoenix was shocked by the large number of high-tiered NPCs defending Stone Forest Town, Zero Wing's revelation of its Intermediate Mana Pulse Cannons and fleet of Miniature Ballistas frightened her.

After all, while NPCs could not be dispatched outside of the town or city they belonged to, it was a different story for the Intermediate Mana Pulse Cannons and Miniature Ballistas. These war weapons could be employed against cities or to defend strategic locations. Not even the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion could compare to Zero Wing's firepower.

Blue Phoenix had been prepared to lend Zero Wing the Gnome Cannons and special ammunition she had brought with her as a back-up, but she was grateful that she hadn't. Both she and Phoenix Rain would've been laughingstocks.

"It seems I need to report this to Big Sis Rain." After giving the matter some thought, Blue Phoenix decided to report this situation immediately.

...

Back in Stone Forest Town, Shi Feng discovered a long line of independent players outside of the Guild Residence after using a Guild Transfer Scroll to return. These players were all considerably high-leveled. Even the weakest among them was Level 38, while some had reached as Level 41. Their equipment was equally impressive, with the most inferior being Secret-Silver rank. With a quick glance, Shi Feng estimated that at least 200 such players waited outside the Residence.

Shi Feng also spotted quite a few Level 20-plus players in line.

"Guild Leader, you're finally back," Aqua Rose said, smiling when she saw Shi Feng emerge from the Residence's Teleportation Hall.

"Has something happened?" Shi Feng asked curiously when he saw Aqua Rose's excited expression.

“After we finished clearing out the monsters close to the Residence, some of the players that bought Stone Forest Town’s private houses teleported to the town and offered to cooperate with our Guild. After a quick search, we discovered that most were representatives of well-known adventurer teams from other kingdoms and empires. There were also quite a few adventurer team representatives from Star-Moon Kingdom and merchant players.

“Now that they feel certain of Stone Forest Town’s security, they want to cooperate. Those adventurer teams have also stated that they’re willing to sell us their rare materials for 70% market price in the future. However, they’ve requested that Zero Wing build more private houses suitable for adventurer teams. As for the merchant players, they’d like to see us sell a few Shops in town. Of course, they’re willing to pay for these structures.”

As she spoke, Aqua rose gestured to the various adventurer team representatives and merchant players.

In God’s Domain, adventurer teams and merchant players generally didn’t invest in smaller Guilds’ towns.

There were two reasons for this. First, Guild towns had a lack of player traffic. Second, these independent players were concerned about a town’s safety. In Guild wars, there were no guarantees that rival Guilds wouldn’t capture or destroy a Guild town.

A few adventurer teams had only decided to purchase Stone Forest Town’s private houses because of the tempting benefits the town offered. Several hundred Gold Coins might be astronomical to ordinary players, but it was affordable to the kingdom’s top adventurer teams.

However, setting up a main base of operations in a Guild town was a different story.

To adventurer teams with hundreds of players, it was clear that private houses, which could only accommodate a small number of players, were not suitable. Such teams needed the ruling Guild to construct houses that catered to their activities, but Guilds generally refused to construct such massive structures for no good reason.

Moreover, purchasing such a large house would cost more than just a few hundred Gold Coins.

Hence, both sides needed to compromise.

But no adventurer team would risk such an investment until a Guild town was stable.

After this siege war, Stone Forest Town had proven that it was just as secure as an NPC town, allowing players to develop in the area without worry.

Because of this, many well-known adventurer teams and merchant players hurried to Stone Forest Town, afraid that their competition would steal their opportunity.

Not even Aqua Rose could make the decision to allow so many players into Stone Forest Town. She had to wait for Shi Feng to return.

“Guild Leader, would you like to meet with them?” Aqua Rose asked.



God's Domain had plenty of adventurer teams.

Aside from a few lone rangers, independent players with similar goals usually formed teams that were exempt from Guild restrictions.

Some of the top adventurer teams in the game were even as strong as some of the game's Guilds.

Take the Midnight Tea Party for example. It explored various dangerous locations in God's Domain, constantly challenging its limits. The adventurer team was little more than a power group of lunatics. When these people gathered, even Super Guilds feared their prowess.

Owl was another well-known adventurer team, just as famous as the Midnight Tea Party. However, Owl had more members than the Midnight Tea Party, and they weren't as addicted to battle. Rather, Owl consisted of players that enjoyed challenging all kinds of quests. In the past, Owl had even completed a few quests that Super Guilds had failed.

Due to these top adventurer teams' fame, the Guild towns and cities they occupied would become instantly popular as countless like-minded players swarmed to these locations.

However, the Midnight Tea Party had been an exception in the past. The adventurer team had never set up a fixed base, and the team member's whereabouts had been a mystery, making the team nearly impossible to locate intentionally.

Meanwhile, when a large number of adventurer teams occupied a Guild Town, the ruling Guild would rake in considerable profit long-term, and these teams would help defend the town if it were attacked.

Other Guilds typically avoided targeting Guild towns and cities that had multiple top adventurer teams. After all, not only would these guilds make an enemy of the defending Guild by attacking the town, but they'd also make enemies of the adventurer teams. It simply wasn't a wise decision.

Adventurer teams setting up in a Guild town always benefited the ruling Guild.

"They sure moved quickly." Shi Feng was slightly confused as he watched the various adventurer team representatives outside of the Residence.

He had assumed that it would take some more time before these teams made a decision.

After all, the battle in Stone Forest Town had just ended, and investing in a Guild Town was an incredibly important decision that would affect the team's development. They needed to consider their options carefully.

"When I first saw them, I had assumed that they were experts some Guild had sent to snatch the Town Token," Aqua Rose said, giggling. "However, after listening to what they had to say, it seems that they were already interested in setting up in Stone Forest Town. Only, they were hesitant due to concerns over the town's safety. After seeing Zero Wing's foundations, they rushed over."

"Tell them that Stone Forest Town still needs repairs, so we won't be selling any adventurer houses just yet. Once we've repaired the town, we'll construct five adventurer houses. When the time comes, the houses will be available in the Candlelight Auction and will go to the highest bidder," Shi Feng decided after giving the matter some thought.

“This...” Aqua Rose was at a loss for words when she stared at Shi Feng’s serious expression.

Normally, Guilds hoped to house as many adventurer teams as possible in their towns to increase the town’s overall strength. Some large Guilds even sold their adventurer teams for a low price to attract these teams.

Yet, not only had Shi Feng decided to sell a limited number of these adventurer houses, but he also intended to sell them off to the highest bidders. Such a bold decision was likely to chase away these adventurer teams.

“Just convey my decision. A town’s development is never dependent on how many adventurer teams it has. As long as they are strong enough, two or three teams will be enough,” Shi Feng said.

A town’s land was limited, and adventurer houses easily took up enough space for 20 private houses. Rather than increasing the town’s security with a few measly adventurer teams, they’d benefit from more independent players visiting the town for rest and relaxation.

“Understood. I’ll let them know.” Aqua Rose could not help but sigh.

Although she, understood Shi Feng’s reasoning, not even powerful adventurer teams were likely to pay a high price to occupy a Guild town. After all, these teams would serve as free guards after investing in the town.

Although Stone Forest Town offered considerable benefits, these benefits meant little to powerful adventurer teams. At most, they’d buy one or two private houses over competing for an adventurer house.

Sure enough, once Aqua Rose informed the various teams of Shi Feng's decision, it caused a commotion among the various players.

This incident immediately hit the kingdom's official forums, dissuading a few well-known adventurer teams from occupying Stone Forest Town.

"They're only selling five adventurer houses?! Do they want us to pay to serve as the town's bodyguards?!"

"Zero Wing is dreaming! There are tons of Guild towns that want us! Only an idiot would compete for those five slots!"

"Zero Wing is too arrogant! Do they think that our only option is to set up in Stone Forest Town!?"

...

Zero Wing's announcement came as a shock to ordinary players. They had never expected such a boastful stance from the Guild. Of course, these players had never considered setting up a base in the town. After all, they could only afford a private house in Stone Forest Town in their dreams, much less an adventurer house.

To Star-Moon Kingdom's various adventurer teams, however, Zero Wing was just trying to scam them.

...

Meanwhile, inside an ancient ruin in the Apocalypse Empire, a 20-man team rested in its temple. Corpses of Level 55-plus monsters littered the ground around them. The weakest of their enemies had been a Chieftain, while the strongest had been a Great Lord, yet this 20-man team had slaughtered them. Moreover, not one member of the team had died.

“Hahaha! Black Flame, you really are an interesting man!” Endless Scars laughed when she heard about Zero Wing’s announcement.

“Big Sis Endless?” Cloud Yarn, the Cleric sitting beside her, was confused by Endless Scars’s smile.

Cloud Yarn wasn’t the only one; the other team members also turned to look at their leader. Even the other members of the team could not help but turn to look at Endless Scars.

Endless Scars had actually laughed. They could count the number of times they’ve seen her laugh since they had joined the team on their fingers.

“It’s nothing. Zero Wing intends to auction off adventurer houses, and they’re only selling a handful,” Endless Scars explained.

“They’re auctioning houses in limited quantities? What powerful adventurer team would be foolish enough to garrison in Stone Forest Town?” Everyone was surprised to hear about Zero Wing’s latest announcement.

No matter how excellent Stone Forest Town’s conditions were, the Stoneclaw Mountains was a Regional Dungeon with a level cap of 50. Many adventurer teams had already begun to purchase Mounts for their members, and it wouldn’t be long before they were over Level 50. There weren’t any other high-level and high-resource maps near Stone Forest Town. Powerful adventurer teams’ priority was to level up

and upgrade their weapons and equipment; everything else was secondary. Even with the town's high Mana density, there was no point to occupying Stone Forest Town.

What sane adventurer team would possibly be willing to pay a huge price to set up a base in the town?

"Foolish, is it?" As Endless Scars read the report about the siege war in Stone Forest Town, her interest in Zero Wing grew.

After all, the Guild had abandoned the opportunity to strengthen its town and used a completely different approach than the other Guilds. Endless Scars found the Guild's actions both confusing and intriguing.

...

While Star-Moon Kingdoms various major powers discussed the matter, Shi Feng, the perpetrator of this commotion, returned to White River City. After leaving the Teleportation Hall, he took an advanced horse carriage to the War God's Temple.

Chapter 1356 – Abandoned Wave's End

Star-Moon Kingdom, Star-Moon City:

After the battle in Stone Forest Town, many merchant players from neighboring kingdoms and empires gathered in the city. Three out of ten players that arrived in the Teleportation Hall were low leveled

merchant players in ordinary equipment. Normally, such a scene could only be found in imperial capitals.

Upon arriving at Star-Moon City, the merchant players teleported to the closest NPC town to Stone Forest Town. The long line at one of the departure teleportation arrays stupefied players.

“Why are all these merchant players heading to Stone Forest Town?! Isn’t it just a measly Guild town? Why make such a huge fuss over it?”

“Don’t you know? When Zero Wing announced that it would auction adventurer houses, it had also declared that it would sell all kinds of Shops to outsiders. These merchant players are heading to Stone Forest Town to get a better idea of the town’s situation. The Shops in NPC cities are too expensive. There’s also a lot of competition with the various large Guilds’ Shops on top of the high property tax every month. It’s simply impossible for ordinary merchant players to afford.

“The Shops in Guild towns, on the other hand, are much cheaper. The monthly property tax is also much lower. Most importantly, Stone Forest Town’s player traffic rivals an NPC city’s. Due to the Battle Arena, expert players have gathered there, and they generally have plenty of precious resources. Merchant players will be able to buy and sell their items more conveniently if they had a Shop in Stone Forest Town. Everyone knows that Stone Forest Town has near-impeccable security now. Naturally, merchant players are eager to move into Stone Forest Town.”

“In that case, wouldn’t it be amazing if we developed in Stone Forest Town!?”

...

Independent players quickly started making preparations to shift their base of operations to Stone Forest Town.

Originally, the Candlelight Trading Firm's presence already made Stone Forest Town a good place to develop. Unfortunately, NPC cities sold a much more diverse selection of items than the Candlelight Trading Firm. Now that so many merchant players were planning to invest into Stone Forest Town, with some even coming from other kingdoms and empires, Stone Forest Town would sell a greater variety of items.

Stone Forest Town's variety of merchandise might rival, or even surpass, Star Moon City's.

Unlike Shops in NPC cities, players could construct simple teleportation arrays in Guild town shops. Merchant players could teleport directly to their Shops without passing through Star-Moon City or spending hours traveling by carriage. This encouraged merchant players to sell more products in Stone Forest Town, facilitating the transfer of merchandise.

...

Heaven's Burial's upper echelons had gathered in the Residence's meeting room.

The meeting room was silent as everyone stared at Singular Burial, who wore a solemn expression.

Despite foolishly throwing away the opportunity to invite famous adventurer teams to occupy Stone Forest Town, even more independent players were attracted by the mass of merchant players. Both Stone Forest Town and Zero Wing would develop rapidly. As a result, the gap between Heaven's Burial and Zero Wing would expand.



“Our only hope is to take down the Frost King as soon as possible. Although the rewards won’t help us overtake Zero Wing, we can put up a fight,” Singular Burial said helplessly.

Not only was Zero Wing undamaged by Abandoned Wave’s, but it had helped increase Stone Forest Town’s fame. He wouldn’t have let Abandoned Wave take action so soon if he’d known this would happen. To make things worse, Abandoned Wave had been captured. With Abandoned Wave finished, there was no Guild in Star-Moon Kingdom capable of stopping Zero Wing from becoming the kingdom’s overlord.

“Guild Leader, I just received good news,” Daybreak Fog said.

“Good news?” Singular Burial inquired, “What kind of good news could there be at a time like this?”

“Didn’t Black Flame kill Flame Blood? Broken Flow had brought his team to resurrect Flame Blood after failing at his task. Although Flame Blood had suffered grievous losses, he got to meet Abandoned Wave’s leader, Beast Emperor. Beast Emperor had even secretly added Flame Blood as a friend,” Daybreak Fog explained. “Beast Emperor took the initiative to contact Flame Blood, stating that he wishes to have a personal chat with you. Beast Emperor also said that he’s willing to help Heaven’s Burial annihilate Zero Wing!”

“Abandoned Wave’s leader, is it?” Singular Burial smiled. “Alright, tell Flame Blood to send Beast Emperor a reply. Say that I’m willing to have a proper discussion with him.”

Daybreak Fog conveyed Singular Burial’s response to Flame Blood.

...

Shi Feng alighted from the advanced horse carriage and came face to face with White River City's War God's Temple.

The War God's Temple served as a waypoint for teleporting to the Abyss Battlefield. There were more players entering and leaving the War God's Temple now than the Adventurer's Association. Players would visit the War God's Temple at least once a day.

If the Adventurer's Association was a good place for individual players to earn money, then the War God's Temple was a good place for players to level up and improve their foundational strength.

If the Abyss Battlefield didn't limit players to just one life per day, every player in the game would likely stay cooped up there and refuse to leave.

Although the Abyss Battlefield's monsters didn't drop Coins, they dropped weapons and equipment as well as gave Honor Points. Honor Points could be used to purchase tools, top-tier weapons, and equipment from the War God's Temple.

It was extremely difficult to survive inside the Abyss Battlefield. Moreover, the higher level one reached, the more difficult the monsters would be.

Expert players below Level 50 could stay in the Abyss Battlefield for an entire day as long as they didn't go anywhere too dangerous. Though their income would be lower if they didn't take risks, after a few days of grinding, they could still accumulate enough points to purchase good equipment. The weapons and equipment for sale at the War God's Temple were more suited towards PvP. The items' effects and Basic Attributes would be inferior to the items dropped by Field Bosses and Team Dungeons. Even so, the Abyss Battlefield was still a paradise for solo players.

After Level 50, however, surviving in less dangerous maps would be even more difficult for expert players. Level 50-plus weapons and equipment cost substantially more Honor Points. Eventually, rather than a place for farming items, the Abyss Battlefield became a training ground for expert players and a place for ordinary players to grind for the Double EXP Potion.

When Shi Feng arrived at the War God's Temple's third-floor hall, a Level 150, Tier 3 Great Mage greeted him. "Sir, how may I help you?"

Casting a glance at the NPC, Shi Feng noticed that it was a senior administrator at the War God's Temple named Roland.

"I've captured an Evil God Apostle, so I'm here to claim the bounty."

The first-floor hall of the War God's Temple dealt with all matters relating to the Abyss Battlefield. The second floor was the War God's Temple's quest area, where players could accept quests or turn in their completed quests. Players were awarded Merit Points for completing War God's Temple quests. Similarly, players could spend Merit Points on items here.

Players were allowed to freely enter the War God's Temple's first two floors. The third floor was different. As it was a place that specifically dealt with matters relating to the dark forces, players wouldn't be allowed to set foot onto the third floor if they didn't have any related matters.

"An Evil God Apostle?!" Roland's old face twitched. With a slightly suspicious look on his face, he looked at Shi Feng and said, "Can you allow me to confirm your claim's validity?"

"Sure." Shi Feng took out the Mobile Jail and handed it to Roland.

After Roland received the Mobile Jail, he chanted an incantation and tapped his finger on the crystal ball.

An image appeared above the Mobile Jail. The image displayed Abandoned Wave trapped inside a dark space. Abandoned Wave was continuously hurling attacks at the surrounding space. He radiated Evil Energy, and his eyes were bloodshot. It was obvious that he had already fallen into madness.

“It really is an Evil God Apostle!” Shock flashed in Roland’s eyes. The War God’s Temple and the Evil God’s Temple had a hostile relationship. Meanwhile, Evil God Apostles had received the Evil God’s blessing. They were rare in God’s Domain. Roland returned the Mobile Jail to Shi Feng and said respectfully, “Esteemed adventurer, please follow me. I’ll bring you to meet with the Vice Temple Lord. I believe the Vice Temple Lord will be very happy to meet you.”

#### Chapter 1357 – War God’s Temple’s Reward

In the Triumphant Hall on the War God’s Temple’s fourth floor, Senior Administrator Roland led Shi Feng to one of the hall’s Astrology rooms.

The Astrology Room was as dark as night, while the circular ceiling glittered like the night sky. From time to time, shooting stars streaked by. The room’s beauty was mesmerizing.

As Shi Feng entered the room, Roland closed the doors from the outside. Instantly, Shi Feng felt an indescribably pleasant sensation run through him. With the fascinating scenery, he couldn’t help his desire to remain in this room for the rest of his life.

*Why is the Mana density in here so high?* Shi Feng was curious about the incredibly dense Mana surrounding him.

This was the first time he had ever set foot in an Astrology room. The War God's Temple's Astrology rooms were forbidden to players. If not for having captured an Evil God Apostle, Roland wouldn't have led him here.

Before entering the room, Shi Feng hadn't sensed any usual Mana density from inside.

Yet, as soon as Roland left and shut the doors, Mana started pouring filled the space. It was three times as dense as Stone Forest Town's Mana, which had the support of three Magic Towers.

If players could duel other experts or practice their Skills and Spells in such an environment, their growth would be astonishing.

"Young adventurer, you've arrived."

A deep voice echoed throughout the entire Astrology Room. Shi Feng could not help but turn to the voice's origin. He spotted an old man in dark-blue mage robes and wielding a staff. The old man manipulated a magic water ball as if he were searching for some kind of new Spell.

This old man was none other than Capra, one of the three Vice Temple Lords in White River City's War God's Temple. He was a Level 180, Tier 3 Great Mage. He could be considered the oldest NPC in White River City; not even Magistrate Weissman was as old.

Capra should be the most knowledgeable NPC in White River City. After all, not only was Capra a Tier 3 Great Mage, but he was also a Magic Array Master[1]. However, due to Sharlyn's occupation of White River City's library, he ranked second.

“I hear that you’ve captured an Evil God Apostle?”

“Yes, Lord Capra.” Shi Feng immediately retrieved the Mobile Jail from his bag.

As soon as he revealed the crystal ball out, it vanished and reappeared in Capra’s hand.

“Not bad. This is indeed an Evil God Apostle.” Capra nodded lightly.

Suddenly, the Mobile Jail began to crumble. Following which, a cloaked, bandaged figure appeared before the old man.

The moment Abandoned Wave appeared, the Black Cloak and bandages covering him were destroyed, exposing his true appearance.

“Abandoned Wave?” Shi Feng was slightly surprised to see this man. Although his appearance had changed significantly, Shi Feng easily recognized him.

Shi Feng hadn’t expected Abandoned Wave to be the Evil God Apostle that attacked Stone Forest Town.

However, after considering the matter, it seemed reasonable. The Blackwater Corporation had given up on Abandoned Wave. With his connection to the Evil God’s Temple, becoming an Evil God Apostle was a matter of course if he wanted vengeance against Shi Feng.

“I’m free?” Abandoned Wave was ecstatic when he realized that he had emerged from the Mobile Jail, but after looking around him, his mood plummeted. Not only did Shi Feng, disguised as Black Flame, stand before him, but a Level 180, Tier 3 NPC also stared at him.

Abandoned Wave’s first thought was of escape.

Immediately, Abandoned Wave ruffled through his bag space, trying to retrieve a Tier 1, Instantaneous Movement Magic Scroll.

Shi Feng had caught him off guard earlier, so he hadn’t had the opportunity to use it.

As long as he could reach the scroll, he could flee.

The instant Abandoned Wave got his hands the Tier 1 Instantaneous Movement Magic Scroll, he glanced at Shi Feng with a sinister smile.

“Black Flame, just you wait! I’ll give you a taste of despair the next time we meet!”

Following which, Abandoned Wave unfurled the Magic Scroll and activated it. Abandoned Wave’s elated expression returned the instant the scroll activated. It was as if he could already see Shi Feng’s tragic ending.

However, after a few seconds, Abandoned Wave realized that he hadn’t moved.

And since he had activated the scroll, the Instantaneous Movement Magic Scroll faded from his hands.

“Despair?” Shi Feng could not help but laugh and shake his head when he saw the confusion on Abandoned Wave’s face. “Don’t you realize that you’re in the War God’s Temple?”

In God’s Domain, all teleportation tools and Skills were useless inside a War God’s Temple. Players could only use these items after leaving the building.

This was basic knowledge to God’s Domain’s players.

Hearing the words “War God’s Temple,” fear twisted Abandoned Wave’s expression.

He was fully aware of the consequences should the War God’s Temple capture him. Beast Emperor had warned him about this.

When the War God’s Temple captured an Evil God’s Temple player, it signified the end for said player. The captured player’s only option would be starting a new account. Moreover, they wouldn’t be allowed to rejoin the game immediately. They would have to wait one month before they could create the new account. After experiencing the joy God’s Domain had to offer, being unable to play for an entire month would be unbearable for players.

Moreover, by the time Abandoned Wave rejoined the game, God’s Domain would be a different world with how fast it was developing.



“Black Flame!”

Abandoned Wave practically screamed Shi Feng’s name. Although he wanted to say more, Capra had already begun to chant an incantation. In the next moment, dozens of golden chains appeared around Abandoned Wave, piercing his body. He screamed in pain as he started to burn. Eventually, he turned to ash and vanished from the Astrology room.

Abandoned Wave’s hatred for him hadn’t particularly surprised Shi Feng.

Even a peak expert would struggle to catch up if they were banned from the game for a month and had to start from scratch. The Blackwater Corporation had also given up on Abandoned Wave long ago. With Abandoned Wave’s standards, they were not likely to meet again.

Furthermore, Beast Emperor had lost an Evil God Apostle slot.

Following which, a series of system notifications reached Shi Feng’s ears.

—

System: Congratulations! You have captured an Evil God Apostle. Rewarding 10,000 War God’s Temple Merit Points, Reputation with the War God’s Temple increased by 500 points, 100,000,000 EXP, 50 Free Mastery Points, and 5 Legacy Skill Points.

System: Congratulations! You are the first person to have eliminated an Evil God Apostle. Rewarding “War God’s Warrior” title.

System: Capra's Favorability has increased by 300 points.

—

*What an abundant reward!* Shi Feng's excitement grew as he read the notifications. This was especially true when he saw the War God's Warrior title and his increased Favorability with Capra.

He had only heard of the War God's Warrior title in the past. He didn't know much about it.

Although this title wouldn't benefit a player's strength, it elevated players to one rank below the temple's Vice Temple Lords. With this benefit, he could easily purchase items that required extremely high Reputation in the War God's Temple's exchange center. He wouldn't need to complete numerous high-difficulty quests, slowing increasing his Reputation.

However, the title was slightly less valuable than his Favorability with Capra.

Capra was a Magic Array Master.

If he could earn enough Favorability with Capra, he would gain access to all sorts of magic arrays. He might even get to purchase the rumored Advanced Mana Gathering Magic Array, which could double the Mana density in a 500-yard radius.

Not only was this array's effective area vast, but it also increased the Mana density by so much. One could just imagine how much it could benefit a Guild.

Countless players had tried all sorts of methods to gain Favorability with this NPC. Unfortunately, doing so was extremely difficult and would become even more so after every 100-point increment. Very few players had gained 100 points of the elder's Favorability in the past. Only a handful had ever earned 200 points.

Shi Feng had never even heard of any players earning 300 points.

#### Chapter 1358 – Lost Magic Array

*With such high Favorability and Merit Point rewards, it's no wonder why those Guilds had hunted Evil God's Temple players in the past. Shi Feng couldn't help his growing elation as he looked at his rewards.*

Although the 10,000 Merit Points was a lot, without the corresponding Reputation and Favorability, they were useless.

Even after challenging the Twelve Trials, he had only been awarded 6,800 Merit Points. The items he could purchase were extremely limited. With 10,000 Merit Points, he had a greater variety available to him.

Moreover, he could purchase items from Capra.

"Lord Capra, I've heard that you are a Magic Array Master. I have always been very interested in magic arrays. May I know if I can purchase a few from you?" Shi Feng asked.

Purchasing items from Capra required a minimum of 100 Favorability.

Although 300 points were far from the maximum Favorability one could earn with Capra, Shi Feng had never heard of a single player with such high Favorability in the past.

“You are interested in magic arrays?” Capra’s elderly eyes shone with an excited light when he heard the words “magic array.” He continued, “Of course, you can. Very few youngsters are so studious. Come here. This magic water ball holds all of my records on magic arrays. If you wish to learn one, you can use this. However, the War God’s Temple rules still apply. To learn a magic array, you’ll need to pay the corresponding Merit Points.”

“Learn them from the magic water ball?” Shi Feng was slightly confused, though he nodded and approached the magic water ball.

He had come to purchase magic arrays from Capra in the past as well, but the old man had been in a workshop instead of an Astrology room. All of his magic arrays had been displayed on a bookshelf.

He hadn’t expected that he would get to choose an array from a magic water ball.

Magic arrays were not as easy to learn as most players assumed. The process was extremely complex.

Learning a magic array from a book was troublesome and difficult. Learning from a magic water ball was much easier. Players could practice the production steps through the water ball without wasting precious materials. This would greatly help improve one’s learning speed.

As Shi Feng tapped on the floating water ball, an exchange list appeared before him.

Amazing! There are so many Advanced Magic Arrays available! Shi Feng's eyes glowed as he read the exchange list.

If one had to point out the most difficult item to obtain in God's Domain, it would definitely be magic arrays.

Magic arrays also provided the most assistance. For example, there were suppression magic arrays, summoning magic arrays, defensive magic arrays, and many more. Unfortunately, obtaining a Basic Magic Array was incredibly challenging for the various large Guilds, not to mention Intermediate and Advanced rank.

Shi Feng now had access to more than thirty Basic Magic Arrays, eight Intermediate Magic Arrays, and three Advanced Magic Arrays.

In the past, Capra had only given Shi Feng one Advanced Magic Array option: the Advanced Mana Gathering Magic Array. Now, however, there were three.

Of course, they were also frighteningly expensive.

Basic Magic Arrays only cost between 500 and 1,500 Merit Points, while Intermediate Magic Arrays cost between 3,000 and 5,000 Merit Points, and the three Advanced Magic Arrays cost between 8,000 to 15,000 Merit Points.

Among the Advanced Magic Arrays, the cheapest was the Advanced Mana Gathering Magic Array. It was worth as much as the Seven Luminaries Ring he had purchased long ago.

*These are... Celestial Magic Arrays!* Glancing at the three Advanced Magic Arrays, Shi Feng was stunned.

Celestial Magic Arrays weren't like the arrays players commonly stumbled upon. These had survived since ancient times, lost in God's Domain for many years. Every Celestial Magic Array was incredibly powerful, and because they borrowed power from the stars, they didn't consume as much Mana as ordinary magic arrays. Celestial Magic Arrays had been very popular in God's Domina, but for some unknown reason, they had vanished.

Yet, those magic arrays had appeared before Shi Feng.

Shi Feng found it hard to imagine that he could actually purchase Celestial Magic Arrays from Capra. He had only ever heard rumors of such a thing. In his previous life, very few Guilds had possessed Celestial Magic Arrays.

—

[Purgatory Star Magic Array] (Advanced Celestial Magic Array)

Suppress all enemies within a 200-yard radius, weakening their Basic Attributes by 70% if they are Tier 3, 50% if they are Tier 4, and 20% if they are Tier 5.

Required Merit Points: 15,000

[Starlight Gathering Magic Array] (Advanced Celestial Magic Array)

Creates an enclosed space with a 500-yard radius, increasing the Mana density within the enclosed space by 300%.

Required Merit Points: 12,000

—

Although the introductions were brief, Shi Feng read them with bated breath.

The Advanced Mana Gathering Magic Array could only increase the Mana density in a 500-yard radius by 200%, but the Starlight Gathering Magic Array increased the density by 300%. Although there was only a 50% boost to player's performance, it was a qualitative difference.

As for the Purgatory Star Magic Array, even challenging Tier 4 Mythic monsters would become easier with its power. After all, the majority of the Advanced Magic Arrays available in God's Domain could only suppress Tier 4 Mythic monsters by 30%.

For a time, Shi Feng was fraught with indecision.

He had initially planned to purchase the Advanced Mana Gathering Magic array, saving his remaining points for special tools that could aid him in the Mourning Battlefield. However, the Starlight Gathering Magic Array just too tempting.

He had experienced such a powerful array in a Super Guild's main city in the past, and he had to admit that the magic array had been wonderfully effective. When he had practiced his combat techniques inside the magic array, his training efficiency had risen by leaps and bounds. Even the Divine

Colosseum's Trial Tower could not compare to that magic array's effects. Only the Holy City of Titan could surpass it. However, to reach locations such as the Holy City, one's status needed to be extremely high, and they needed to pay an exorbitant price. Very few large Guilds could afford such a price.

*Forget it! Let's just pick it!* Shi Feng gritted his teeth and chose the Starlight Gathering Magic Array.

It was extremely difficult to obtain War God's Temple Merit Points. If he purchased the Advanced Mana Gathering Array, it would be a long time before he gathered enough points to purchase the Starlight Gathering Magic Array. Now that Stone Forest Town had stabilized, and he had begun his city's construction, setting up the Starlight Gathering Array in both locations would further reinforce their popularity.

—

System: The Starlight Gathering Magic Array requires 12,000 Merit Points. You have 3,500 War God's Temple Reputation Points. You may pay 20% of the Merit Point cost in Coins. Do you wish to use Coins?

System: Based on the system's analysis of the current market, each Merit Point is worth 2 Gold Coins. Do you wish to proceed?

—

"Purchase!" Shi Feng agreed to the transaction without hesitation.

Four thousand eight hundred Gold for 2,400 Merit Points wasn't particularly expensive.



Fortunately, the required currency wasn't Magic Crystals. He wouldn't have been able to fork over a single crystal.

Shi Feng wasn't particularly surprised that the cost of Merit Points had increased. In the future, he would likely have to part with an exorbitant amount of Gold Coins in exchange for Merit Points. After all, as players reached higher levels, their income would continue to increase. The game's player population was also increasing. As a result, more Coins would become available in God's Domain. It was only natural for their value to depreciate. Of course, the Main God System constantly worked to lower inflation by reducing the number of Coins in the market.

Suddenly, Capra asked curiously, "Young adventurer, you have chosen a Celestial Magic Array?"

"Yes. I am very interested in learning the magic arrays that have been passed down since ancient times," Shi Feng confirmed, nodding.

Practically every God's Domain player had been interested in Celestial Magic Arrays in the past.

"I won't stop you from purchasing it. However, I need to remind you that Celestial Magic Arrays aren't like your conventional magic arrays. Producing them requires extremely rare materials. They are impossible to mass-produce," Capra reminded.

"Thank you for the information, Lord Capra," Shi Feng responded respectfully.

He had already been aware of the Celestial Magic Arrays' flaws. However, even the Advanced Mana Gathering Magic Array's materials were exceedingly difficult to obtain. Since both arrays' materials were challenging to collect, it was wiser to choose the more powerful array.

Following which, Capra chanted an incantation. Suddenly, a palm-sized water ball separated from its massive counterpart. The ball of water then landed in Shi Feng's hands.

After obtaining the Starlight Gathering Magic Array and leaving the War God's Temple, Shi Feng received a communication request from Aqua Rose.

"What's the rush? Has something happened?" Shi Feng asked when he saw the woman's anxiety.

"Guild Leader, check the official forums! Some time ago, Heaven's Burial signed an agreement with several top adventurer teams and dozens of well-known adventurer teams. These adventurer teams have officially occupied Heaven's Burial's town. News of this has already reached the various large Guilds," Aqua Rose hurriedly reported.

## Chapter 1359 – Pioneering the Ancient Empire

"Top adventurer teams have occupied Heaven's Burial's town?" The report confused Shi Feng.

In God's Domain, adventurer teams fell into various ranks, just like Guilds. When referring to Star-Moon Kingdom's adventurer teams, the well-known teams' overall strength could compare to a first-rate Guild's elite teams. As for the kingdom's top adventurer teams, every one possessed several dozens of experts. Among these expert players, a small portion could rival first-rate Guilds' peak experts. When it came to raiding Team Dungeons, they were even stronger than some large Guilds' main forces.

Normally, these top adventurer teams ventured to dangerous maps that even Guild elite teams avoided. Their leveling speed was no slower than Guild elite players' that occupied high-resource maps.

This was also why these top adventurer teams paid no attention to the benefits most Guild towns offered, so much so that they even ignored invitations from large Guilds.

Based on Aqua Rose's report, however, it seemed that more than one top adventurer team had set up a base in Heaven's Burial's town. Why wouldn't Shi Feng be surprised?

He immediately checked the official forums, getting a detailed idea of the situation.

*Heaven's Burial and three top adventurer teams have reached an agreement! These adventurer teams will occupy Red Iron Town and will explore the Frozen Scar alongside the Guild's forces!*

*Good news! Red Iron Town will soon open the Red Iron Mine to the public! Players will gain access to the mine for a 30% harvesting fee!*

These two messages caused an uproar on the Star-Moon Kingdom forums as everyone talked about the town.

"This is going to be awesome! I've heard that the Red Iron Mine is a small-scale Regional Dungeon. Not only do the mine's monsters have higher drop-rates, but you can also harvest all sorts of ores! We'll make a killing! Why is Heaven's Burial being so generous?"

"Three of Star-Moon Kingdom's top adventurer teams and many well-known teams have garrisoned in Red Iron Town! The town's security will likely only be second to Stone Forest Town. And there are so many high-resource maps nearby. There is even a teleportation array very close to the town. Developing in Red Iron Town might not be a bad idea."

“It seems Heaven’s Burial has finally gotten serious. This is going to be interesting. I wonder which town will take the position of Star-Moon Kingdom’s number-one Guild Town? Stone Forest Town or Red Iron Town?”

“Stone Forest Town is definitely the number one town right now, but it might not stay that way. After all, Heaven’s Burial is quite powerful. With the assistance of three top adventurer teams, it won’t be long before they explore the Frozen Scar’s entire map. Red Iron Town’s players will be able to teleport to any of Heaven’s Burial’s towns from Evernight City. Transportation to and from Red Iron Town will become far more convenient than traveling to and from Stone Forest Town.”

“I guess that’s true. There really aren’t any Level 50-plus high-resource maps near Stone Forest Town, either. It’s only suitable to players below Level 50. Considering long-term development, Red Iron Town is the better option. Moreover, with three top adventurer teams based in the town, it’ll be easier for adventurer teams to contact each other in the future.”

...

The new changes in Red Iron Town tempted many players. While it was important to increase one’s individual strength, leveling and upgrading equipment was more so. More players were reaching Level 40, yet despite having met the level requirement to gain a Mount, most were too poor to purchase one and had to continue their travels on foot. Red Iron Town was also attractive due to how easy it would be to earn Coins.

“Heaven’s Burial is even willing to part with such a goldmine?” Shi Feng was astonished as he read the forum posts.

It was not easy to open a mine. First, a team needed to defeat the mine’s Boss. Otherwise, the monsters inside would continue to respawn quickly. The monsters would also scale to the highest-leveled player

that entered the mine. As the Boss respawned periodically, players were also required to defeat it each time they encountered it.

Furthermore, the mine's ore deposits were limited and would only respawn when the Boss did.

When a Guild occupied a mine, they generally only allowed their own people inside.

Yet, Heaven's Burial was generous enough to open the mine to the general public after clearing its monsters and Boss.

Although Iron Ore wasn't particularly valuable, not many towns in God's Domain had access to an ore vein. Hence, the various large Guilds would prioritize towns with the most common ore veins as they offered a plethora of riches.

"Guild Leader, once it secured the adventurer teams' assistance, Heaven's Burial dispatched a 1,000-man elite team to pioneer the Frozen Scar. They also sent their 100-man main force. Even the main force's weakest player is Level 42. They'll clear the map much faster than their previous exploration," Aqua Rose said helplessly. "On the other hand, we just survived a massive war. Although we didn't have many casualties, we had lost many of our experts and main force members. During the final stand at the Guild Residence, in particular, we lost a significant number of our main force members and core members.

"While weapons and equipment aren't a problem, the players who were killed by Evil Demons suffered double the usual penalty. Our main force and core members that had died lost two levels a piece. This has significantly slowed our progress in the Blizzard Fortress and with the Frost King.

"Moreover, the Dark Guilds around White River City are growing bolder. We've had to dispatch our experts to deal with them from time to time.

“Guild Leader, should we recall Snow’s forces and prioritize killing the Frost King?”

It had never been wise to underestimate Heaven’s Burial’s main force. And now that so many top and well-known adventurer teams had joined Heaven’s Burial’s exploration team, the team’s overall strength had increased.

In contrast, Zero Wing had been forced to dispatch its main force and experts to various locations to expand the Guild’s influence. As a result, their exploration team’s strength had fallen.

If they let Heaven’s Burial get the Frost King’s first kill, Heaven’s Burial’s position in Evernight City would become unshakable. Meanwhile, Zero Wing would lose the best opportunity to gain access to Evernight City. If that happened, Stone Forest Town’s popularity would plummet by the time mainstream players reached Level 50.

In fact, Red Iron Town had nearly caught up to Stone Forest Town.

“Forget it. We can’t recall Snow. If we don’t have a team of experts there to defend the Branch Guild in the Black Dragon Empire, the empire’s large Guilds will take the opportunity to strike,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. This was why he had refused to ask Gentle Snow for help to protect Stone Forest Town. He then said, “This is a golden opportunity! It’s been a while since Zero Wing had a large-scale Guild operation. Aqua, see to the necessary preparations. Round up 1,000 people. Aside from the main force members and core members, do not select any elite players below Level 40. After you’ve finished, have them gather in Dark Lake Town. We’re going to pioneer the Ancient Orc Empire!”

“Guild Leader, you’re going to lead the operation?” Aqua Rose’s excitement grew as her Guild Leader issued orders.

Normally, the Guild Leader would organize Guild operations as their main purpose was to increase the Guild's prestige and motivation. However, Shi Feng was usually too busy. Normally, he was impossible to find. Hence, Zero Wing's Vice Guild Leaders, such as herself and Gentle Snow, organized these events. Although nobody in the Guild had complained, practically every player that joined Zero Wing knew of Black Flame, and they were all dying to meet him.

The Guild's main force and core members were particularly eager to quest and raid Dungeons with their Guild Leader.

"Mhm. I'll take command this time." Shi Feng nodded. He had initially intended to head to the Frozen Scar, but the environment was simply too harsh. Without sufficient preparation, the Frost King was impossible to raid. Moreover, his current goal was to help his people level up. Naturally, they had to travel to a higher-level map.

"The Guild members will go crazy when they hear this!" Aqua Rose responded, smiling. She immediately disconnected the call and began to address the necessary arrangements.

Chapter 1360 – Shocking Everyone

White River City, Zero Wing's Residence...

After disconnecting her call with Shi Feng, Aqua Rose published an announcement in the Guild chat.

**The Guild Leader will be leading a Guild operation personally. All main force members and core members in Star-Moon Kingdom, gather in White River City immediately. Elite members Level 40 and above may apply to join by contacting me. Priority will be given to those with Guild Mounts.**

The instant the announcement published, the Guild chat exploded with comments.

“Vice Guild Leader, this isn’t a trick, right?! Boss Black Flame is really going to lead us?!”

“What?! The Guild Leader is leading a Guild op himself?! Are we going after some Guild?! This is awesome! I need to apply!”

“Big Sis Aqua, can’t you relax the requirements a little bit? I’ve just reached Level 40 after many difficulties. I can’t afford a Guild Mount right now.”

“Hahaha! This is great! I’ve been saving up and bought a Guild Mount as soon as they were available!”

...

For a time, Zero Wing’s members were frenzied. This was especially true for the main force and core members. They were all fully aware of what benefits a Guild Leader-led operation would offer. Not only could they level up incredibly fast, but they’d also get to see the Guild Leader in action up close as they gained combat experience.

Less than a minute after the announcement, Aqua Rose received over a thousand applications. At the same time, plenty of members had were disappointed. After all, despite such a rare opportunity to join a large-scale operation, led by their Guild Leader himself, they didn’t qualify to join because they had already spent their GCP and Coins on upgrading their weapons and equipment. They did not have any money to purchase a Guild Mount.



While Aqua Rose selected participants from her elite members, the various Guild experts scattered across Star-Moon Kingdom returned to the Residence in White River City. Very quickly, the overall mood in the Residence lifted considerably as the Guild members' excitement grew.

Meanwhile, the players lined up outside the Residence's entrance hoping to join Zero Wing were stunned as they watched Zero Wing's experts return.

Not only were these experts above Level 40, but they were also ridiculously well-gearred, with even the most inferior piece of equipment being Level 40 Fine-Gold rank. Many of these experts even wielded Level 40 Dark-Gold Weapons. Meanwhile, the number of such experts returning continued to increase.

The most incredible sight was the tall, mighty Thunder Wolves traveling next to these experts. After entering the Guild Residence, these experts lined up outside of the Guild Hall, yet despite their quiet stances, they all radiated an indescribably heavy pressure.

"What's Zero Wing planning?"

"Their Guild Mounts are so cool!"

"Why do I get the feeling that I couldn't even defeat one of those Guild Mounts in a fight?"

...

Everyone was utterly stupefied.

Although many players had already reached Level 40, very few had Mounts, yet hundreds of Thunder Wolves stood before them. Players who didn't know any better might assume that this was an NPC army.

Moreover, everyone could see around 50 different types of mounts aside from the Thunder Wolves. Every Mount was Bronze rank or above.

Not everyone had a clear grasp of Zero Wing's power, but after this display, they finally understood why Zero Wing was Star-Moon Kingdom's number one Guild. While other Guilds struggled to get Common Mounts, Zero Wing had already popularized the Thunder Wolf.

Shortly after Zero Wing's 1,000-man legion had gathered, with Aqua Rose in the lead, the legion departed for White River City's Teleportation Hall.

As the 1,000-man legion rode their Mounts across White River City, players unconsciously made way as the legion's imposing momentum swept over them.

When Zero Wing's legion stopped in front of the Teleportation Hall, the adventurer teams and Guild teams visiting from other kingdoms, confused and curious about what was happening.

A thousand Mounted players stood before the Teleportation Hall's entrance. The various Guild teams, who had stopped in White River City on their way to the Twin Towers Kingdom to level, were afraid of leaving the Teleportation hall, concerned that their lives might be at stake if they did.

"Which Guild are these players from?" a burly man with silver hair in the Teleportation Hall asked in shock.

“You don’t know? Are you new to God’s Domain?” a Level 31, simple-looking Swordsman asked.

“I am new, actually. I’ve just reached Level 10 today and came to White River City.” The silver-haired man nodded.

“No wonder,” the Swordsman said as he took a look at the level of the silver-haired man and his companions. Indeed, they were all Level 10 players. “They are all Zero Wing members. Zero Wing is Star-Moon Kingdom’s bona fide number one Guild. It’s a pity that I’m not strong enough. Otherwise, I’d join Zero Wing as well.”

“Zero Wing?” The name was somewhat familiar to this silver-haired.

“Big Brother Tian Ji, isn’t Zero Wing the Guild that Hall Master Jiang wanted to work with?” a bald man asked quietly.

“What?! That’s the Guild that kind belonged to?!” Tian Ji was stunned. “How is that possible?!”

Before he led the White Tiger Dojo’s disciples into God’s Domain, he had to establish a firm understanding of the game. After all, they had learned that competent fighters would have an edge in God’s Domain. To fighting experts like himself, combat was commonplace. Hence, battles in a virtual world would be trivial.

However, as he encountered the game’s virtual combat, he quickly realized that the combat in God’s Domain wasn’t very different from combat in reality. Although he and his subordinates had an

advantage, there were some slight differences between virtual combat and real-life combat. Their advantage was limited.

After playing the game for some time, he also gained a general understanding of various NPC towns' Guilds. Surprisingly, these Guilds were far more impressive than he had assumed. At one point, he had dueled an expert from a small Guild. Even with his skills, the expert had defeated him. The experience had taught him how impressive God's Domain truly was. Of course, he was confident of surpassing these small Guild experts sooner or later. After all, he had only begun playing the game a few days ago.

With the White Tiger Dojo's strength and enough disciples, he was confident that they could establish a Guild and raise it to third-rate status quickly. If they wanted to contest with second-rate Guilds, the dojo would be required to invest a large amount of resources and time.

As for contesting against first-rate Guilds, it was too soon for the dojo to aim so high. After all, first-rate Guilds were backed by major corporations. They also had dozens of years' worth of history in the virtual gaming world and had long since established their own training systems. The White Tiger Dojo had no hope of catching up to first-rate Guilds in a short time unless they annexed second-rate Guilds or purchased shares of a particular first-rate Guild.

Investing in a first-rate Guild would depend on whether or not the Guild was willing to sell shares. After all, these Guilds didn't lack willing investors.

Tian Ji never thought that Shi Feng, some no-name dojo's Head Instructor, directed such a power...

Meanwhile, as Zero Wing's members left White River City through the teleportation arrays, news of the legion's mobilization reached Star-Moon Kingdom's various major powers.

"Why is Zero Wing dispatching such a massive force?"

“With so many experts, has Zero Wing targeted some Guild?!”

“Could Zero Wing be planning to exterminate the Dark Guilds?”

Normally, these major powers ignored a 1,000-man elite team. However, they couldn't ignore such a legion from Zero Wing. After all, every one of those players was an expert.

If Zero Wing had targeted a particular Guild, even a 10,000-man elite army would not be able to stop this legion.

For a time, the various major powers discussed their guesses about Zero Wing's intentions. They also recalled their own members to their respective cities.