

Strongest

Chapter 1511 – Thunder God’s Charm

“Speak with me privately?” Shi Feng’s confusion grew.

He had never expected Eternal Dead to seek a private conversation.

The Sacred Temple was a bona fide Super Guild. It was in a completely different league than the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion; not even the super-first-rate Guild, Miracle, could stand up against the Sacred Temple.

This was why Phoenix Rain had wanted to work with the Sacred Temple and Battle Wolves.

Had she gained the two Super Guilds’ cooperation, she could’ve easily suppressed Nine Dragons Emperor and Miracle.

“That’s right. My Guild Leader is very interested in Zero Wing.” Quiet Melody nodded.

In truth, Quiet Melody was also confused as to why Eternal Dead wanted to speak with Shi Feng. Not even Phoenix Rain had elicited such a reaction from her Guild Leader as he usually sent a Vice Temple Master for such discussions. Only the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s Great Pavilion Master qualified to speak with Eternal Dead personally.

“Alright. When will he contact me?” Shi Feng agreed.

He had assumed that the Sacred Temple would wait until after the contest to contact him, but the fact that Eternal Dead had reached out now was a good thing. After all, it wasn't easy to wrestle control of Thunder Island.

Despite so many superpowers struggling to claim the island for themselves, they had been forced to share its management in the past.

The island had a total of 17 monster encampments. A Guild could only dominate Thunder Island after they captured all 17. Currently, the various superpowers would be fortunate to claim two or three encampments. Attempting to monopolize the island right now was unrealistic.

As soon as Shi Feng asked his question, he received a friend request. It was from none other than Eternal Dead.

How fast. Shi Feng immediately clicked 'Agree.'

In God's Domain, players couldn't call each other directly until after they added each other as friends. At most, players could send messages. However, the majority of the game's players generally blocked incoming messages from outsiders, only accepting missives from friends.

"Guild Leader Eternal, to what do I owe this unexpected call?" Shi Feng asked, smiling at the somewhat-stern, middle-aged man in the screen.

During Shi Feng's previous life, Eternal Dead had achieved many feats throughout his ten years in God's Domain. One of his crowning achievements had been his decision to focus on developing the Sacred Temple's navy early in the game. It had given the Sacred Temple a massive advantage over the other superpowers, becoming one of God's Domain's top-ranked navies. Take the present Thunder Island

contest, for example. During this contest, the Sacred Temple had dispatched 710 players, forming the largest team in the contest.

From the very onset, the Sacred Temple had split its forces to fight on two fronts. No one dared to provoke the Guild. While the other superpowers were just beginning to raid their second monster encampment, the Sacred Temple was almost ready to move on to their third.

“Elder Ye Feng, I’ve watched Zero Wing’s battle, and I’m impressed by the Guild. Including the fact that Zero Wing possesses a sailboat, the Battle Wolves’ Guild Leader and I have agreed that you qualify to negotiate a partnership with us. We’ve also decided to give Zero Wing 20% of Thunder Island’s profits should you agree.”

As Eternal Dead spoke, his face had remained expressionless. He didn’t reveal a hint of joy or sadness. Even the man’s voice was neutral as he praised Zero Wing, yet his words ingrained themselves into any listener’s mind.

Even Shi Feng could not help but admire Eternal Dead’s regal aura as the man spoke. It was no wonder why the Sacred Temple’s management was so unified, with none of the Guild’s upper echelons dissatisfied with Eternal Dead’s leadership.

“May I assume that Guild Leader Eternal Dead has agreed to Zero Wing and Phoenix Rain occupying 40% of Thunder Island’s profits?” Shi Feng said, still smiling.

“Thunder Island will play an important role in naval development in the future. I’m sure you are aware of this. Although Phoenix Rain has potential, she hasn’t shown enough to stand as a partner. Meanwhile, if Zero Wing has 20% of the profits, I doubt it will be long before your Guilds becomes an overlord in God’s Domain’s seas,” Eternal Dead responded softly as he shook his head.

“So, Guild Leader Eternal, are you suggesting that only our three Guilds will cooperate?” Shi Feng asked, frowning.

"If Zero Wing wishes to split its 20% with Phoenix Rain, the Sacred Temple and Battle Wolves will not refuse her participation in the alliance," Eternal Dead said, chuckling.

"I see." Realization dawned on Shi Feng. After all that talk, the Sacred Temple and Battle Wolves still had no intention of parting with additional profit. Shi Feng chuckled and said, "Since that is the case, please allow us to *consider your offer properly* and reply at a later date. Is that acceptable?"

"Alright. In any case, there is still a month before the next contest. It would be wise to take your time in considering our offer." Confusion bubbled in Eternal Dead's mind as he watched Shi Feng, who appeared quite calm. He had never expected this man to refuse such a profitable offer.

After Eternal Dead disconnected the call, a playful smile appearing on his face.

"Guild Leader, did he agree?" Quiet Melody could not help but ask.

"No. He rejected it. It seems Phoenix Rain has a good eye for allies," Eternal Dead said, smiling. "However, he is foolish to pass up an opportunity to cooperate with our Guilds for the sake of a partner."

The struggle for Thunder Island was more complex than he had anticipated. With the various superpowers in once place, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was insignificant, much less the Phoenix Pavilion.

If it had been that simple, he wouldn't have allied with Battle Wolves.

Now that Zero Wing had rejected his offer, it might not even secure 5% of the island's total profits.

Quiet Melody was stunned. She was surprised to learn that Shi Feng was so daring and straightforward. If it were up to her, she might have agreed without hesitation, yet Shi Feng had calmly rejected it.

Although she was happy for and envied Phoenix Rain as the woman's good friend, neither Phoenix Rain nor Zero Wing would obtain any profits on their own.

Following which, Quiet Melody related this news to Phoenix Rain.

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"Big Sis Rain, Eternal Dead is really despicable. He actually tried to poach our ally midway through the contest. Fortunately, Big Brother Ye Feng refused the offer." Blue Phoenix couldn't help but curse Eternal Dead when she heard about the deal.

"Although Eternal Dead's offer was underhanded, he wasn't wrong about us lacking naval strength." Phoenix Rain smiled bitterly. At the same time, she also felt lucky and touched. If not for Zero Wing, she would've been eliminated from this contest.

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Meanwhile, in the Orc encampment, Shi Feng didn't react to the previous conversation with Eternal Dead, continuing to appraise the Orc Chief's loot.

It's no wonder why the various superpowers had been so eager to obtain the Guardian Bosses' loot in the past. They drop quite an abundance of good items. Shi Feng excitedly gazed at the items in his bag.

The Orc Chief had dropped 32 items, twenty of which were various rare materials. Seven of the remaining twelve were Level 55 and 60 weapons and pieces of equipment, and the weakest of which was Fine-Gold rank.

The Orc Chief had also dropped the Tier 2 Skill Book, Holy Prayer, a Skill for healers. Holy Prayer was one of the rare Tier 2 AOE Healing Spells. It could easily go for several thousand Gold on the market.

The loot also included a Bronze Speedboat and two Dark-Gold ranked tools: the Magic Rain Gun and Thunder Beast Skin.

The Magic Rain Gun could replace a speedboat's weapon and would display the power of a peak Tier 2 attack. The gun's Attack Speed was very high, and its attacks would inflict the Poisoned debuff, causing targets to lose HP over time and reducing Movement Speed.

As for the Thunder Beast Skin, it was similar to the Magic Whale Skin. When used on a ship, the Thunder Beast Skin increased the ship's Magic Resistance by 10%, Movement Speed by 4%, and durability by 10 points.

These items were all worth a fortune. However, even added together, they weren't worth as much as the simple necklace the Guardian Boss had dropped.

The Thunder God's Charm!

Chapter 1513 – God-speed Clearing

“Everything?”

When the team heard Shi Feng’s strategy, they stared at the monster encampment before them. As they watched the Rock Giants in the encampment, they hoped they had misheard their commander.

Although the Rock Giant encampment wasn’t protected by watchtowers like the Orc encampment, the Rock Giants were difficult enough to deal with. They became even more powerful when they gathered.

The weakest Rock Giant was a Level 55 Chieftain, while the majority of the were Level 56 and Level 57 Lords. There were also quite a few Level 58 High Lords and Level 59 Great Lords.

All of these Rock Giants had high HP and Defense. In addition, their attacks had a chance of triggering Armor Break, allowing their attacks to ignore their target’s Defense. Though, depending on their ranks, the chances to trigger Armor Break varied.

Even without Armor Break, the Rock Giants could deal a significant amount of damage to players. If they happened to trigger the effect, a Lord ranked Rock Giant could likely kill an MT of the same level in two or three hits, not to mention the High Lords and Great Lords.

If they just charged into the Rock Giant encampment, it wouldn’t take long for the monsters to pummel them to death.

“Mhm, that’s right. We’ll get rid of the surrounding Rock Giants altogether. Although the Rock Giants have high HP, Defense, and Armor Break, their Movement and Attack Speeds are quite low. As long as we don’t let them too close, they won’t pose much of a threat. The main problem is how much aggro you three can hold,” Shi Feng said as he looked at Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian. “As for the rest of you, wait for my command to attack.”

He had chosen the Rock Giant encampment because of the monsters’ slow reactions. These monsters would struggle to hit moving targets, and with the Thunder Emblem and Thunder God’s Charm, the Rock Giant’s HP and Defense wouldn’t be an issue.

Furthermore, without the aid of archers or ballistas due to the lack of watchtowers, the Rock Giants, which were melee attackers, would have to face players’ DPS and Stamina.

However, Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian were now Tier 2 players. Both their Stamina and their reaction speed had undergone qualitative transformations. They could last much longer in battle than Tier 1 players.

The MT trio quickly realized what Shi Feng wanted them to do. Rather than clashing with the Rock Giants head-on, they just needed to hold the monsters’ aggro. For them, that was considerably easy.

Following which, the three MTs separated and ran around the encampment, luring the monsters.

As Elemental Creatures, the Rock Giants’ perception range exceeded ordinary monsters’. The instant Cola and the other two set foot in the encampment, a patrol squad of Rock Giants noticed them and charged into the MT trio.

However, Cola and the others didn't change their course. Instead, they charged deeper into the encampment to lure the other patrol squads.

The MT trio moved very quickly. Despite the numerous blockades, the three of them maneuvered through the crowds easily. A few times, they took a wrong path and came within attack range of a few Rock Giants, but they reacted quickly enough and defended themselves with their shields. Even when a Great Lord landed a hit, they only received around -5,000 damage. To these three players, that was nothing.

Very quickly, the three MTs lured the encampment's 700 or so Rock Giants to the perimeter in a single, massive mob.

The scene of hundreds of Rock Giants in a single group was even more terrifying than an army of 10,000 players. When they moved, the earth shook beneath their feet.

"Alright, everyone with a large-scale destruction Spell, get ready!" Shi Feng moved his team into position when he saw the Rock Giant army approach.

However, when his teammates saw the monsters, a sliver of fear pierced their hearts. Even the Chieftains had 4,500,000 HP, whereas the strongest Great Lords had 50,000,000 HP.

This was definitely not an army that they could defeat with a few large-scale destruction Spells.

When the Rock Giants came within 30 yards of Shi Feng, who stood at the forefront of the team, their HPs suddenly plummeted thanks to the Thunder Domain. These monsters' Basic Attributes had fallen by 30%.

Now, the Great Lords had only 35,000,000 HP, the High Lords had 21,000,000, the Lords had 13,000,000, and the Chieftains had 3,150,000.

“Cola, Turtledove, Ye Wumian, hold their aggro! Attackers, on my mark!” Shi Feng commanded.

“Understood!”

Immediately, the MT trio turned and faced the approaching Rock Giant army. They then used the Guardian Knight’s Tier 2 Skill, Punishing Light and the Shield Warrior’s Tier 2, Skill War Rage.

Both Skills were AOE Taunts and would temporarily force monsters to ignore everything but the Skills’ user. At the same time, the Skills increased the user’s Defense.

The MT trio used the Taunts in three different locations. Although they could not pull every Rock Giant’s aggro, they held the majority of the monsters.

Seeing the MTs stabilize their hold, Shi Feng followed up with Flame Domain.

Towering pillars of fire rose from the ground, devouring every monster in the Rock Giant army. Arcs of electricity also danced around the flaming pillars. Not only did the first attack deal over -400,000 damage to each of the Rock Giants, but it had also inflicted the monsters with four stacks of the Electrified debuff, decreasing their Defense and reaction speed.

By the time Flame Domain’s 7-second duration ended, quite a few Chieftain ranked Rock Giants were dead. Shi Feng then followed up with Lightning Edge, dealing over -300,000 damage to the remaining Rock Giants every second for five seconds.

None of the Chieftain ranked Rock Giants had survived the two AOE's, reducing the monster army's numbers by half.

As a result, Cola and the others had an easier time gathering the remaining Rock Giants in a single location.

"Good! DPS, attack!" Shi Feng commanded.

Zhao Yueru, Blackie, Aqua Rose, Alluring Summer, and Violet Cloud immediately released their large-scale destruction Spells.

Although none of their attacks did as much damage as Shi Feng's, when combined, the damage was astounding. Moreover, the Rock Giants now had ten stacks of the Electrified debuff, which eased the burden on Cola and his fellow MTs.

After the wave of large-scale destruction Spells, the battlefield was void of Lord ranked Rock Giants. Now, only 40-plus half-HP High Lords and six Great Lords with two-thirds of their HPs remained.

With this, the 'impossible' task of clearing the encampment became a reachable goal.

"Everyone, prioritize the High Lords! All MTs, separate them! Kite them, and don't let them near you!" Shi Feng commanded.

With ten stacks of the Electrified debuff, even Tier 1 MTs could easily evade the Great Lords' attacks. As long as they maintained the ten stacks, they could kite the monsters without issue.

Solitary Nine and Dark Madness dashed forward and pulled some of the Rock Giant's aggro, which was currently chaotic due to the previous bombardment. They then kited their monsters around the team, allowing the ranged players to attack.

Zero Wing and Asura's members were treating the Rock Giants, which other teams had deemed impossible to defeat, like target practice. After suppressing the Rock Giants Defense, they were no more difficult than Orcs of the same level. In addition, with Aqua Rose and the others' Tier 2 Skills, the team took less than 30 seconds to finish off a half-HP High Lord.

Time passed quickly. Every five minutes, Shi Feng would cast Flame Domain. Every ten minutes, Shi Feng executed Lightning Edge and the others used large-scale destruction Spells like Frostflame Hell.

In less than 30 minutes after the battle had begun, the Rock Giants in the encampment's perimeter had been annihilated, feeding the team members' EXP bars. Tier 1 players like Gentle Snow and Zhao Yueru had even gained a full level from the abundant EXP. Meanwhile, the various superpowers who were raiding their second encampment finally eliminated the monsters in their encampment's perimeters...

Chapter 1514 – Powerful Combination

After Zero Wing's team swiftly cleared out the Rock Giant encampment's outer area, news of its success soon reached the various superpowers.

“They took out the outer area's Rock Giants in less than half an hour?! How is that possible?!”

“They kited everything in the perimeter at once? Aren’t they just a 50-man team? How is their DPS so high?”

“I’ve really underestimated Zero Wing’s members. They might actually capture the Rock Giant encampment.”

The various superpowers were shocked.

These superpowers had unanimously agreed that the Rock Giant encampment would be the most difficult to deal with. The Rock Giants’ Armor Break ability, in particular, posed a huge threat. If MTs tried to tank the monsters, they’d likely die.

Hence, when fighting these monsters, the players would need to dodge as many attacks as possible. However, the Rock Giants were massive, which gave them a larger attack range than ordinary monsters. This made it very difficult for MTs to dodge the Rock Giants’ attacks. Even if a player were a Refinement Realm expert, constant evasive maneuvers would tax their bodies, yet if one relied on small evasive maneuvers, they’d fail to escape the monsters’ attack range.

Relying on large evasive maneuvers for a short period wouldn’t be a problem for heavily armored MTs, but as fate would have it, the Rock Giants had both high HP and Defense. It would take a considerable amount of time to kill them. On the off chance that the MTs ran out of Stamina midway through the fight, the team would have to flee and start all over again...

The amount of time a team would waste in dealing with the Rock Giants was only a small part of the problem. The bigger issue was the levels players would lose when they died. If players lost too many levels, they might not be able to use their current weapons and equipment, forced to use old items or retire from combat completely. Unlike in Team Dungeons, MTs could only afford to die a very small number of times on Thunder Island.

Compared to the other superpowers, when Nine Dragons Emperor, who was in the middle of an encampment raid, heard the news, his expression twisted with fury.

First, Zero Wing had stolen his Orc encampment, wasting the time and effort his team had put into their first raid. Now, before he had even cleared out the new encampment's perimeter, Zero Wing had cleared out the Rock Giant encampment's perimeter.

If this news reached the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's Guild Elders, their estimation of him would plummet.

"Pavilion Master, now that Zero Wing's team has cleared the perimeter, we can organize a team to harass them. Even if we can't eliminate Zero Wing's team, we can at least prevent them from securing a second encampment," Martial Dragon suggested.

There was a huge difference between a monster encampment's inner region and its perimeter. Although more monsters patrolled the perimeter, the monsters in the inner region were, on average, much stronger. Take the Rock Giant encampment, for example. The weakest Rock Giant in the inner area was a Lord. Although there weren't as many of them, they were more difficult to defeat.

If they sent a force to the Rock Giant encampment now, it'd arrive within 30 or so minutes. It was highly unlikely that Zero Wing would reach the Guardian Boss before the force got there. They definitely had a chance of disrupting the troublesome Guild's raid.

"No, we can't afford the risk. Don't forget that they still have a teleportation gate that allows them to travel across the island instantly. If we split our forces, they might come to steal our encampment again. Besides, do you really think that the Rock Giant encampment is that easy to raid? Don't forget that the Guardian Boss is a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species." Although Nine Dragons Emperor hated to admit it, his current team could not afford to provoke Zero Wing. "For now, tell all of our available forces to gather here. We'll use everything we have to raid this encampment."

“Understood. I’ll notify them right away.”

As Martial Dragon listened to his commander’s reasoning, he remembered Zero Wing’s trump card. It was precisely because of that trump card that their team had suffered one defeat after another and had yet to capture a single encampment.

Nearby, Lonely Heaven, Firmament’s Guild Leader, wore a solemn expression when he heard of Zero Wing’s success.

How can this be? When Lonely Heaven heard that Zero Wing had begun to raid the Rock Giant encampment’s inner region, regret gripped his heart.

He had been displeased with Phoenix Rain’s actions. After all, Firmament was a bona fide first-rage Guild that had focused on developing its navy, yet Phoenix Rain considered Zero Wing more important, even providing the Guild with various benefits and a ton of Credits.

By doing so, Phoenix Rain had silently expressed her opinion that Firmament couldn’t compare to a Guild like Zero Wing.

Hence, he had decided to join Nine Dragons Emperor’s side instead. By doing so, not only would Firmament secure a temporary teleportation array on Thunder Island, but Nine Dragons Emperor would invest in the Guild, allowing Firmament to develop far more quickly.

Yet, his decision had backfired.

Even if Nine Dragons secured a monster encampment, Firmament wouldn’t get a temporary teleportation array. On the other hand, Zero Wing, whom he had assumed was unfoundedly arrogant

when the Guild had promised Phoenix Rain two monster encampments, was close to fulfilling that promise...

Without the temporary teleportation array on Thunder Island, Firmament would not have the foundation to develop in the Sea of Death.

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As Lonely Castle regretted his decision to betray Phoenix Rain, Shi Feng's team rapidly cleared out the Rock Giant encampment's inner region.

Shi Feng was more careful in the inner area than he had been in the perimeter. He had Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian only lure three or four patrol squads as each was led by a Great Lord. While Cola's group kited the Rock Giants, Solitary Nine and Dark Madness pulled the stragglers' aggro. Like so, the team steadily reduced the number of patrol squads around the Guardian Boss.

As the team faced fewer monsters, they had a much easier time killing the Rock Giants.

Each wave only took around ten minutes or so to finish off.

After fighting for around an hour, they had dealt with all 200-plus Rock Giants in the encampment's core. The only monsters remaining were the Level 60 Rock King and two Level 60 Rock Guards in the center of the encampment.

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[Rock King] (Elemental Creature, Archaic Species, Grand Lord)

Level 60

HP 200,000,000/200,000,000

[Rock Guard] (Elemental Creature, Specialized, Grand Lord)

Level 60

HP 150,000,000/150,000,000

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Zero Wing and Asura's members shuddered when they saw the three Bosses' HPs.

Each Rock Guard had three HP bars. Meanwhile, the Rock King had five.

Players HP bars were an indicator of how much HP they had at any time. HP bars had a different meaning for monsters.

Each HP bar a monster possessed signified their combat standards; a monster with more than one had higher combat standards than a monster of the same rank and level with a single bar.

A monster with three HP bars could exhibit combat standards on par with players who could reach the Trial Tower's third-floor, while a monster with five HP bars could reach the Trial Tower's fifth-floor. Although this evaluation method was not necessarily accurate, it was not that far off the actual numbers.

Reaching the Trial Tower's fifth-floor meant that one had the standards of an expert.

No matter how they looked at it, fighting an expert with 200,000,000 HP was suicidal. Besides which, their team only had 50 players.

"Guild Leader, how should we fight it?" Aqua Rose asked as she watched the Rock King. She had no idea how they should raid this Guardian Boss.

"Cola, Ye Wumian, and Solitary, switch shields with each other. Cola will use Solitary's, Ye Wumian will use Cola's, and Solitary will use Ye Wumian's. Cola will tank the Rock King, and I'll support you from the sides. Turtledove and Ye Wumian will tank the two Specialized Bosses with Solitary and Dark's support. When the fight begins, lure the two Specialized Bosses away. Everyone else, focus your attacks on the Rock King!

"If no has an issue with that plan, let's begin!"

Although Shi Feng had never raided any of the monster encampments on Thunder Island during his previous life, he had watched plenty of raid videos. Hence, he, more or less, knew how to raid the Rock King. However, at the end of the day, the Rock King was an Archaic Species. For safety's sake, it would be best if Cola used the Titan Guard.

“Switch shields?” Cola was confused. He currently had the Epic ranked Dragonscale Shield equipped, yet Shi Feng wanted him to use Solitary Nine’s shield.

Chapter 1515 – Oppressing an Archaic Species

When Gentle Snow and the other Zero Wing upper echelons heard Shi Feng’s command, they gave him confused looks.

Since Cola would tank the Rock King, he should use the best items they had, yet Shi Feng didn’t want him to use the Dragonscale Shield. This would undoubtedly make raiding the Rock King even more difficult.

Moreover, they were more surprised to hear that Shi Feng would support Cola.

Aside from high HP and Defense, the Guardian Knight and Shield Warrior classes also had Passive Skills that reduced the damage and paralysis effect they suffered from attacks. The Swordsman class did not possess such Skills. Meanwhile, the more powerful a Boss was, the longer a player would be paralyzed after receiving one of its attacks. If the paralysis remained for too long, the MT could fail to keep up their defensive cycle and die.

Hence, teams rarely relied on non-MT plate armor classes to support lead MTs, generally relying on Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights.

However, after Cola received the Titan Guard and checked the shield's Attributes, his jaw dropped. For a moment, he even wondered if his eyes were playing a trick.

"What amazing Attributes!"

Cola stared at the Titan Guard with wide eyes. Originally, he had been somewhat reluctant to part with the Dragonscale Shield, but he fell in love with the Titan Guard at first sight.

Fragmented Legendary items were practically myths in God's Domain. Although the Titan Guard was an Epic item right now, he could upgrade it to Fragmented Legendary rank once he gathered 100,000 Magic Crystals. He'd even dare to provoke a Mythic monster with the shield equipped, not to mention a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species.

Furthermore, even at Epic rank, Titan Guard's Attributes and Skills were far more impressive than the Dragonscale Shield's.

A moment later, everyone moved into position and prepared to deal with the Rock King and its Rock Guards. Even from over 100 yards away, the team members could feel the Rock King's terrifying aura.

Their breath quickened.

This was especially true for the melee players.

The Rock King's massive frame, 30-meters tall, loomed like a tall building. They did not doubt that they could die instantly should they fail to cope with its attacks appropriately.

“MTs, start the raid!” Shi Feng shouted once everyone was ready.

With Shi Feng’s command, Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian exploded into action, charging at the Level 60 Rock King and Rock Guards separately.

The moment the MTs were within the monsters’ 100-yard perception range, the three Bosses, which stood at the altar in the center of the encampment, opened their crimson eyes.

The instant the three Bosses opened their eyes, Shi Feng activated Thunder Domain to suppress the Rock Giants. However, the ability wasn’t as effective, only suppressing the Rock King and Rock Guards’ Basic Attributes by 20%.

Even after Thunder Domain activated, the Rock King had 180,000,000 HP.

Thunder Domain’s suppression enraged the Rock King. The Guardian Boss bellowed and flexed its arms. It then slammed its fists against the ground.

Boom!

Upon impact, the ground shattered and a powerful shockwave radiated away from the Rock King.

Like a tidal wave, the ground around the Rock King rose over ten meters high as it surged towards Cola and the others; the earth tsunami’s length was impossible to avoid.

Tier 3 Spell, Earth Pulsation!

Seeing this, the MT trio did not dare to be careless as they immediately activated their Lifesaving Skills.

Protection Blessing!

Shield Wall!

The healers on the rear-line instantly began to cast magic shields and HoT (heal-over-time) Spells on the three MTs.

Upon colliding with the Rock King's Earth Pulsation, the magic shields protecting Cola and the others shattered, and the three MTs were thrown over a dozen yards backward. When their bodies slammed into the ground, their HPs began to decrease rapidly. Only after falling past the 50% threshold did their HPs stop.

Seeing this, Gentle Snow and the others gasped.

A single hit had devoured over half of their three MTs' HP. Moreover, this was after they had activated their Lifesaving Skills. Without their Lifesaving Skills, the MT trio would have died.

Fortunately, Shi Feng had only sent these three first.

“MTs, secure aggro! Healers, use everything you have on the MTs! Everyone else, only attack after the MTs have the aggro!” Shi Feng remained unfazed. After all, this was merely the Rock King’s opening attack.

Although he had never raided the Rock King personally, he had watched recordings of numerous Thunder Island contests. He was very familiar with the island’s Guardian Bosses. He knew all of their Skills and weaknesses.

Two factors made the Rock King a particularly challenging foe: Meteor Bombardment and Life Division. Both were powerful team-wipe moves. If these not dealt with appropriately, these Skills would annihilate a team. Players would not even have a chance to escape. Compared to those two moves, the Tier 3 Earth Pulsation was child’s play. Otherwise, the Rock King would not have been publicly acknowledged as one of the three strongest Bosses on Thunder Island.

Hearing Shi Feng’s command, everyone went into action. Cola secured his aggro on the Rock King and started to kite the Guardian Boss in circles, while Turtledove and Ye Wumian lured the two Rock Guards far away from the Guardian Boss. Meanwhile, Solitary Nine and Dark Madness assisted Turtledove and Ye Wumian in kiting the Rock Guards.

However, a Grand Lord was still a Grand Lord at the end of the day. Even if Thunder Domain weakened the Rock King and Rock Guards, their Movement Speeds and Attack Speeds were still superior to the Great Lord ranked Rock Giants’.

When the three Bosses attacked the MTs with their palms, it looked as if they were swatting flies. Each of their palms was easily eight yards across. Despite Cola and the others’ promotions to Tier 2, they struggled to dodge the Bosses’ attacks and were hit from time to time.

Turtledove and Ye Wumian were somewhat lucky. Due to their Lifesaving Skills still being active, they only received around -8,000 damage when they blocked the Rock Guards’ normal attacks. Cola, however, was not as fortunate.

When the Rock King slapped him, Cola angled his shield, forcing the Rock King's palm to slide off as he deflected the attack, but he still received over -12,000 damage. Fortunately, Cola's HP had risen to 73,000 after switching to the Titan Guard, which allowed him to nullify an attack every 20 seconds.

Thank goodness I switched to the Titan Guard. Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to tank this thing. The more Cola employed the Titan Guard, the more he fell in love with it.

In his opinion, the extra HP and damage nullification were secondary. The paralysis reduction effect was the shield's true power.

The 30% paralysis reduction allowed him to dodge and block the Rock King's attacks more easily. Without that effect, he wouldn't be able to react in time to block the second attack even if he blocked the first and reduced its damage. He'd have to receive the full brunt of the Rock King's attacks, and if that happened, he wouldn't be surprised to suffer -30,000 damage with a successful block.

The Rock King was no pushover, either. The Archaic Species' bloodline gave the Rock King higher Attack Speed and reaction speed than the other Rock Giants. As a result, it could strike Cola twice, worsening the paralysis effect the Guardian Knight suffered.

When the Rock King's third attack descended, Cola couldn't move into position to deflect the attack in time, having no choice but to block the attack with the full breadth of Titan Guard.

Suddenly, a blue flash struck the Rock King's descending palm.

Boom!

The impact deviated the Rock King's attack trajectory, its palm strike landing half a yard away from Cola.

"Guild Leader!" Aqua Rose and the others were shocked.

Shi Feng had dealt the blow that deviated the Rock King's attack, yet despite taking a hit, he had only lost a little over 10,000 HP. He had received less damage than Cola when the MT deflected an attack.

The most impressive aspect of the counterattack was that Shi Feng didn't show any signs of suffering paralysis. The Sacred Sword he wielded only trembled slightly.

Players had to rely on their own Attributes on Thunder Island, prohibited from using any Berserk Skills, yet Shi Feng had still accomplished such an astounding feat...

Chapter 1516 – Slaying the King

What tremendous Strength! Shi Feng glanced at the vibrating, humming Sacred Sword in his hand.

His teammates were amazed that Shi Feng had only received a little over -10,000 damage from deflecting the Rock King's attack. However, only Shi Feng understood how high the damage truly was.

Currently, he was a Level 60, Tier 2 Blade Saint. In addition, he had multiple Epic Weapons and pieces of Equipment on top of three Fragmented Legendary items. Although rings and capes provided a much

lower boost than weapons, they were still precious Fragmented Legendary items; Epic items simply couldn't compare.

He also had the Aura of Earth, which increased his Defence and decreased incoming damage, activated, yet despite these factors, he still took over -10,000 damage from just redirecting the Rock King's attack.

Had he received the Guardian Boss's attack head-on, the consequences would have been dire.

After Shi Feng deflected the Rock King's attack, the latter swung its other arm, attacking Cola again. However, since Shi Feng had bought Cola a moment's peace, he had recovered from the paralysis effect. He immediately turned and leaped backward, his shield angled to deflect the Guardian Boss's attack while using the resulting impact to propel himself towards the Rock King. When Cola returned to the ground, he stood next to the Rock King's feet. He then brandished his sword, a streak of golden light smashing into the Boss's massive foot.

Tier 2 Skill, Divine Strike!

Suddenly, a high amount of damage appeared above the Rock King's head.

-52,497!

But Cola wasn't satisfied. The Tier 2 Divine Strike was his strongest Skill, and Thunder God's Power added lightning damage to his attack, yet he only dealt a little over -50,000 damage. If he were fighting any other Boss, he would deal over -80,000 damage.

However, due to this attack, Cola had stabilized his aggro on the Boss.

“Everyone, focus your fire on the Rock King!” Shi Feng commanded.

Immediately, the ranged classes launched one attack after another.

Unfortunately, most of the damages weren't particularly high. On average, Tier 1 Skills only dealt around -14,000 damage to the Guardian Boss, whereas Tier 1 players' normal damage hovered between five and six thousand. Moreover, this was including the bonus damage from Thunder God's Power...

“Just how high is this Rock King's Defense?”

Everyone winced when they saw their meager damages.

Their damage and levels currently ranked at the very peak of God's Domain, yet against this Boss, their damage was pitiful.

The Rock King's current maximum HP was 160,000,000. It could regenerate 1,600,000 HP every five seconds, 320,000 HP every second. Meanwhile, their team only included 35 DPS players. If everyone only dealt an average of -10,000 damage per second, they'd barely do any actual damage to the Guardian Boss...

Fortunately, they had the damage increase from Thunder God's Power. Otherwise, they'd have no hope of defeating this Guardian Boss.

Only now did Zero Wing and Asura's experts understand why the various superpowers had saved the Rock Giant encampment for last. It wasn't just because of how challenging the ordinary Rock Giants were to clear out, but because of the difficulty of raiding the Rock King.

However, when Aqua Rose and the other Tier 2 ranged players made their move, damages over -20,000 began to appear above the monster's head. Some attacks even dealt over -40,000 damage.

After the first wave of ranged attacks, Fire Dance, Shadow Sword, Flying Shadow, Rampant Blade, and Gentle Snow and the other Tier 1 melee players finally assaulted the Boss.

Tier 2 Skill, Successive Shadowsteps!

Tier 2 Skill, Blade Storm!

Tier 1 Taboo Skill, Frozen River!

When the Tier 2 players' numerous Skills struck the Rock King, the rest of the team was astonished.

-56,487!

-124,678!

-58,037!

-42,054!

-31,675!

...

Massive amounts of damage appeared above the Rock King's head, one after another, swiftly reducing the Guardian Boss's HP. Fire Dance's attacks, in particular, were absurdly strong. Her normal attacks alone dealt over -13,000 damage each, nearly -30,000 damage with a critical hit. When she used her Skills, she could easily deal over -50,000 damage, over -100,000 damage if she achieved a critical hit.

Fire Dance alone dealt more damage than five Tier 1 melee players combined.

"Big Sis Fire really is too fierce. Even though I'm going all-out, I can't deal half as much damage as she can..." Blackie's eyes nearly fell from their sockets when he saw the team's damage ranks.

Despite both of them being Tier 2 players, there was such a massive gap between them.

So, she is one of Zero Wing's upper echelons? Lifeless Thorn was at a loss for words as he looked at Fire Dance's consistent damage.

Cleansing Whistle and the other Asura members were similarly stunned.

Back in Cold Wind City, Lifeless Thorn's DPS had ranked at the very top. Now, however, they encountered so many players that far surpassed his DPS. They had even met a player like Fire Dance, whose DPS was simply monstrous.

However, the most impressive player among them was still Shi Feng.

Despite helping Cola fend off the Rock King from time to time, he ranked first on the team in total damage dealt. Moreover, there was a massive gap between him and the second-ranked Fire Dance.

With a casual swing of his sword, Shi Feng dealt over -20,000 damage to the Rock King, over -50,000 with a critical hit. When he used the Tier 2 Skill, Shadow Blade, each of the nine shadows dealt over -60,000 damage. When he used Flame Burst, each of the fifteen attacks dealt over -200,000 damage.

In addition, Shi Feng had the doppelganger he summoned with Phantom Kill. Although the doppelganger only wielded 90% of Shi Feng's Attributes, it still dealt about the same amount of damage as Fire Dance.

The team continued to chip away at the Rock King's HP. Even after Cola's Protection Blessing ran out and the Guardian Knight began to take around -26,000 damage when deflecting the Rock King's attacks, he was able to keep his HP above a safe threshold with Shi Feng's timely help in deflecting attacks.

Time passed quickly. When the Rock King's HP fell to 50%, its body abruptly curled. A magic array with a 500-yard radius appeared beneath its feet, and the surge of Mana moving towards the array gave everyone a moment of discomfort. A second later, crimson meteors began to rain from the sky.

This move was none other than the Rock King's team-wipe move, Meteor Bombardment!

"Everyone, gather to me!" Shi Feng shouted when he saw the descending meteors.

Although none of them knew what Shi Feng intended to do, they did as they were told.

Just before the meteors struck the team, Shi Feng activated the Aura of Earth's only Activatable Skill, Absolute Domain!

When activated, the Skill gave Shi Feng immunity to all damage for 10 seconds and his allies within 50 yards immunity for 5 seconds.

Suddenly, a golden glow enveloped the team. Even when the two Rock Guards bombarded Turtledove and Ye Wumian with attacks, the MTs took no damage.

As the first wave of flaming meteors crashed into the ground, towering mushroom clouds rose up around the Rock King. The ground shook as if Armageddon had come. Not even the Rock Guards were spared as a meteor struck each of them, shattering their bodies into countless fragments...

Unfortunately, the Rock Guards were Elemental Creatures. Even after they had shattered, they quickly gathered the broken pieces and reconstructed themselves. Only, as soon as they reformed, another wave of meteors crashed into them, shattering them once again. Each meteor wave dealt millions of damage to the two Grand Lords.

In the end, the Rock Guards' bodies had been destroyed nine times throughout Meteor Bombardment's 4-second duration.

When the smoke and dust settled, it revealed the utter disaster the Rock Giant encampment had become. Massive craters littered the encampment. Meanwhile, the Rock King had lost over 10,000,000 HP in its own attack.

Seeing this, the players nearly lost their footing.

Fortunately, they had been protected by Shi Feng's Absolute Domain. Otherwise, they would have all died.

"Good! The meteors have forced the Boss into a Weakened state! Attack with everything you've got!" Shi Feng commanded when he saw the Rock King, who remained immobile after its Spell had ended.

Hearing Shi Feng's command, everyone quickly resumed with their assault, bombarding the Rock King with every Skill and Spell they had.

The Weakened Rock King's Defense was at an all-time low, doubling everyone's damage. Since the Rock King was immobile, they didn't need to worry about it blocking their attacks, either.

A series of damages appeared above the Rock King's head, draining its HP like flowing water. In less than a minute, the Rock King's HP fell to 20%, at which point the Guardian Boss stood and bellowed in rage. Cracks formed across its body before numerous fragments began to fall off. These fragments then formed Lord ranked Rock Giants, the exact same number as the team's players – 50.

This sudden change also decreased the Rock King's HP to 10%, but it had entered a defensive state, significantly increasing its Defense. Now, the team members' attacks dealt less than 20% of what they did originally.

This was the Rock King's other team-wipe move, Life Division. If players couldn't defeat the Lord ranked Rock Giants in time, these Rock Giants would be reabsorbed and restore the Rock King's HP, each Rock Giant healing the Guardian Boss for 1% of its HP.

Meanwhile, if the Rock King's HP recovered to 50%, it would use Meteor Bombardment again...

The team nearly succumbed to despair at this turn of events.

The only thing preventing them from thoroughly falling into despair was the fact that the 50 Lord ranked Rock Giants only had 9,000,000 HP each. After including the 30% suppression from Thunder Domain, each Rock Giant only had 7,200,000 HP.

Shi Feng, however, had long since prepared for this moment. Relaxed, he commanded, "Cola, aggro the mobs! Blackie, give Cola a Guardian of Light! Everyone with large-scale destruction Spells, use them!"

Hearing the command, Cola dashed into the monster crowd and used the Tier 2 AOE Taunt, Punishing Light. Immediately, all 50 Rock Giants set their sights on Cola. At the same time, Blackie cast Guardian of Light, rendering the Guardian Knight immune to all magic damage and reducing incoming physical damage by 80%. At the same time, the Skill healed Cola for 5% of his HP every second for 20 seconds.

With Cola's Defense and Guardian of Light's damage reduction, he only took around -300 damage from the Level 60 Lords' attacks. Even when he received a direct hit, he only took -1,000 damage. With Guardian of Light's healing, he easily endured the Rock Giants' attacks.

After Cola used Tier 1 Devotion, another AOE Taunt, Shi Feng, Blackie, Aqua Rose, Alluring Summer, and Zhao Yueru simultaneously cast their large-scale destruction Spells.

Despite the numerous Spells raining down on him, Cola received no damage, but the same could not be said for the Rock Giants. By the time every large-scale destruction Spell ended, the 50 Rock Giants were no more.

Once the team annihilated the Rock Giants, the Rock King was forced out of its defensive state and sustained another 20-second Weakened period.

“Attack with everything you’ve got! Don’t let it split a second time!” Shi Feng shouted.

Shadow Blade!

Phantom Kill!

Nine Dragons Slash!

Dragon Breath!

As Shi Feng executed these Skills, he sacrificed 20 units of Life Force and activated the strongest Divine Providence.

When the Rock King’s HP fell below 1,000,000, he followed up with Flame Burst.

In the end, he only needed three hits to destroy the Rock King’s final strand of HP.

Chapter 1517 – King’s Reward

“We won!”

“The Boss is finally dead!”

Zero Wing cried out in excitement as they watched the Rock King crumbling into a pile of rubble.

The Rock King’s death, it meant that they now owned the Rock Giant Encampment.

Now that they had secured two of Thunder Island’s monster encampment, they would secure nearly one-eighth of the authority over Thunder Island, becoming one of the island’s main rulers.

When the Rock King’s corpse began to fade out of existence, a pillar of light rose from it and shot into the sky.

Even players outside Thunder Island could see the pillar of golden light.

“What’s going on over there?”

“What’s up with that light pillar?”

“The light pillar seems to be coming from the Rock Giant encampment’s direction.”

“Quick, have our scouts investigate the area!”

Players both outside of and on Thunder Island turned towards the golden light pillar almost simultaneously.

When the various superpowers’ observers adjusted their Magic Mirrors to scout the situation over at the Rock Giant encampment, what they saw dumbfounded them. Only two Rock Guards were left alive in the encampment the various superpowers abandoned. The Archaic Species Rock King was nowhere to be seen...

“Why is the Rock King gone?”

“Could they have... Impossible! How can they possibly defeat it with just 50 people?!”

Although no one could bring themselves to believe that Zero Wing had managed to defeat the Rock King with only 50 players, they couldn’t find any signs of the Guardian Boss’s massive figure regardless of how hard they searched the encampment. The only noteworthy thing in the encampment was the golden pillar extending from a pile of rubble.

With this, they had no choice but to accept the fact that Zero Wing’s 50-man team had secured the Rock Giant encampment.

The various observers reported what they saw to their superiors on the island.

“What? How is that possible? Zero Wing managed to secure a second encampment before we did?”

“Just what did they do?”

Although Zero Wing’s clearing speed surprised them, they were still confident that they could claim their second encampment before Zero Wing was anywhere close to defeating the Rock King. Then they would be able to secure their third encampment with little effort. After all, the Guardian Boss there couldn’t be defeated easily, especially not with a 50-player team.

Not only did Zero Wing manage to clear the monsters in the inner and outer areas, but it defeated the Rock King quickly. This outcome exceeded their expectations.

...

When Phoenix Rain received this shocking news, she, too, was astonished.

They actually succeeded?! Phoenix Rain looked at the Rock King’s remains with an indescribable sense of shock.

At this point in the contest, the various superpowers had almost finished claiming their second encampment, and they had far more players than she and Zero Wing. However, these superpowers had many more players than she and Zero Wing did.

If not for their lack of manpower and Nine Dragons Emperor's interference early on, they could've secured more than just two encampments.

...

In contrast to the reactions of Phoenix Rain's team, Nine Dragons Emperor's players wore grim expressions when they heard the news.

"How did they defeat the Boss so quickly?"

"Was the Rock King actually an easy raid?"

"Right! That must be it! How else would Zero Wing's 50-man team have cleared out an encampment faster than us?!"

When Nine Dragons Emperor's team members looked at the distant light pillar, they were envious. Despite fighting desperately, they had yet to clear out the monsters in the encampment's inner area. On the other hand, despite starting the raid on the encampment's inner area much later than they did, Zero Wing's team already defeated the Rock King, a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species.

Damn it! How did things end up like this?! Lonely Castle's eyes were bloodshot from rage and envy.

Had he known something like this would happen, he would never have agreed to cooperate with Nine Dragons Emperor.

Although he wouldn't receive any financial support from Phoenix Rain, he would have obtained a temporary teleportation array on Thunder Island at the very least. With the teleportation array, Firmament would be able to further the development of its naval forces and gain the opportunity to surpass the other first-rate naval Guilds. Now that opportunity was gone.

"Pavilion Master, this will be troublesome. Now that Phoenix Rain has secured two monster encampments, the Great Pavilion Master will side with her," Martial Dragon said as he gave the light pillar a grim look.

Had Phoenix Rain only secured one monster encampment, they could still, more or less, compete with her, but they'd lose their advantage if she secured two encampments. Not only could she convince more large Guilds to ally with her, but she would also gain the Guild Elders' support during the next contest.

Phoenix Rain also had a powerful ally like Zero Wing. Not only would Phoenix Rain be able to get more players to take part in the next Thunder Island contest, but she would also have many more powerful experts supporting her.

"Zero Wing?" Killing intent welled up within Nine Dragons Emperor. Immediately, he commanded, "After the battle, notify Beast Emperor that I'll support him fully. But I have one condition. I want Zero Wing eliminated from God's Domain!"

"This... The Guild Elders will likely voice their opinions about this matter. After all, Zero Wing is in the same boat as Phoenix Rain. If we use the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's strength to deal with Zero Wing publicly..." Martial Dragon said worriedly when he heard Nine Dragons Emperor's chilling tone.

"Let them! As long as Phoenix Rain loses Zero Wing's support, we'll have a chance to struggle onward!" Nine Dragons Emperor stated, determined. His voice radiated killing intent.

He had always treated Zero Wing as one of Phoenix Rain's chess pieces and had never placed any importance on the Guild. Now he fully understood that Zero Wing was no mere chess piece. Instead, it was Phoenix Rain's lifesaver. He would be eliminated from the competition for the Great Pavillion Master's position sooner or later if he didn't disregard his reputation and destroy Zero Wing while it was still developing.

Even if he had to earn the Great Pavillion Master's displeasure, he was determined to destroy Zero Wing thoroughly.

"Understood!" Martial Dragon looked at Nine Dragons Emperor's determination in shock.

Nine Dragons Emperor would normally only place such great importance on Super Guilds and super-first-rate Guilds, yet he was doing the same for Zero Wing now. In fact, this was the first time he had ever seen Nine Dragons Emperor willing to go to such lengths to defeat a foe.

...

Zero Wing's members received a system notification while the various superpowers were shocked by their successful capture of the Rock Giant encampment.

...

System: Congratulations! You have defeated the Rock King with less than 100 people. Rewarding 15 Thunder Island Reputation and 800 Thunder Island Contribution Points.

System: Congratulations! You have defeated the Rock King during the first struggle for Thunder Island! Rewarding 20 Free Mastery Points, 5 Legacy Skill Points, and 1,000 Thunder Island Contribution Points.

...

Two system notifications appeared consecutively, stunning the team.

While they might not know the value of Thunder Island's Contribution Points, they knew the importance of Mastery Points and Legacy Skill Points.

When one had enough Mastery Points, their base damage would increase. As for Legacy Skill Points, players typically on received some when they leveled up. With the five points they just received, they could easily learn an additional Tier 1 Legacy Skill. They could even learn a Tier 2 Legacy Skill if they obtained some more points, greatly enhancing their combat power.

It was true that Shi Feng's leadership had allowed them to defeat the Rock King so easily this time, but another reason that quite a few players in the team possessed Tier 2 Skills, which allowed their team's overall damage to exceed the Rock King's battle recovery.

After the system notifications ended, the light pillar rising from the center of the encampment began dissipating gradually. Dazzling items of various shapes and color then rained down from the sky, forming a small mountain where the Rock King's corpse had previously lain. The brilliant glow and powerful aura the mountain of items radiated moved the team members' hearts.

The reward for the First Kill of Thunder Island's Three Great Bosses is tremendous. Shi Feng was also quite surprised.

Although he had expected the Rock King's loot to be extraordinary, he hadn't expected this much. The amount of loot here could already rival the loot from killing three or four Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species of the same level...

Chapter 1518 – Magic Workshop

The Rock King's loot did not shock only Shi Feng and his team. Even the players watching the encampment from outside of the island drooled when they saw the small mountain of items.

“Isn't the Rock King only an Archaic Species? Why did it drop so many items?”

“By the looks of it, there should be more than 150 items!”

“If I had that loot, I could make a fortune overnight by selling them!”

...

Everyone felt a deep jealousy of Zero Wing as they looked at the Rock Giant's loot.

The Rock King was a Level 60, Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species. The most common item would drop would be at least Level 50-plus Fine-Gold Equipment. If one were lucky, it might even drop Level 50-plus Dark-Gold Equipment.

Even Super Guilds and super-first-rate Guilds' experts would drool over Level 50-plus Fine-Gold Equipment, not to mention Dark-Gold Equipment.

Epic items were simply too rare. Not even superpowers' peak experts necessarily had one.

At a glance, they could spot over 30 weapons and pieces of equipment among the loot. One could just imagine how valuable that miniature mountain was.

The various superpowers' experts were very close to Level 50 and urgently trying to collect Level 50 top-tier equipment for the Level 50 large-scale Team Dungeons.

Now that Zero Wing had all of these weapons and pieces of equipment, it would gain a definite advantage over other Guilds when raiding large-scale Team Dungeons.

...

Meanwhile, in the Rock Giant encampment, Shi Feng began to organize the loot once he recovered from his shock. He left the remaining two Rock Guards to Turtledove, Ye Wumian, and the arriving Tier 2 NPCs.

Although the Rock Guards were Specialized Grand Lords, they were no longer a threat to the two MTs under the suppression of the encampment's magic array. It was only a matter of time before they fell.

By the time two Rock Guards died, Shi Feng finished going through the loot.

The abundance of the Rock King's loot had greatly exceeded Shi Feng's expectations.

In total, the Rock King had dropped 183 items. Among them, 55 were super-rare materials, 71 were Gemstones of various kinds, 24 were Magic Scrolls, and 32 were weapons and pieces of equipment. The most inferior of the weapons and equipment was Level 50 Fine-Gold rank, while the best items were three Level 55 Dark-Gold Weapons. Each of these weapons could easily fetch over 1,000 Gold on the market.

However, what surprised Shi Feng most were the three pieces of the Breaker Set, a Level 55 Dark-Gold Set Equipment.

The Breaker Set was an eight-piece set equipment for the Berserker class. Normally, it only dropped in super-large-scale Team Dungeons. Shi Feng had never expected the Rock King to drop Level 55 Dark-Gold Set Equipment.

Moreover, the Breaker Set was a unique Dark-Gold Set Equipment. If players collected two or more pieces of the set, the set's level requirement would decrease by five levels. This meant that Level 50 players could equip the items.

In terms of Basic Attributes, the individual pieces of the Breaker Set were only slightly weaker than Level 50 Epic Equipment.

The Guardian Boss had also dropped a piece of Epic Growth-type Equipment called the Soul Robe.

The Soul Robe wasn't restricted to a specific class, although its Skills and Attributes were suited for healers. When equipped, the robe increased the potency of the wearer's Healing Spells by 5%. The robe also offered the Passive Skill, Soul Fluctuation. This Passive Skill would recover the wearer's Mana even when in combat.

This Skill was akin to an everlasting Mana Recovery Potion during battle. With this Skill, a healer could support their allies without worrying about Mana.

When Shi Feng shared the Soul Robe's Attribute Panel with the team, it earned a round of gasps.

During the game's early stages, players didn't place much importance on their Mana, but as they reached higher levels, their Skills and Spells increased in both quantity and quality. As a result, their Mana consumption increased as well. The higher tiered a Skill or Spell was, the more Mana it consumed. Hence, if players wanted to raid Bosses, the Soul Robe was a must-have item.

Following which, Shi Feng handed the Soul Robe to Violet Cloud.

Whether players were up against other players or monsters, a powerful healer on a team was of the utmost importance. Giving the robe to Violet Cloud was undoubtedly the wisest decision. Not only would it improve her healing, but she'd also have an easier time managing her Mana. She'd have more leeway when choosing Spells and could maximize the team's survivability.

However, the last item the Rock King had dropped was the only one that truly attracted Shi Feng's attention.

The Magic Workshop Design!

For a moment, Shi Feng even wondered if he were hallucinating as he gazed at the thick, dusty tome in his hands.

The Magic Workshop was one of the three major buildings players could construct in a Guild Residence, but only a small number of Guilds had ever constructed one for themselves in the past.

The first reason was the Magic Workshop Design's low drop-rate. Normally, only Level 60-plus Mythic Field Bosses had a sliver of a chance of dropping the design. Unfortunately, Mythic monsters were exceedingly rare in the fields.

The second reason was the construction materials. The main materials to construct the Magic Workshop were incredibly rare and precious. The list even included Seven Luminaries Crystals, the design requiring 200 units. That was the equivalent of four to six hundred Seven Luminaries Crystals...

This was why, even after obtaining the design, most Guilds had been unwilling to construct the building.

With that many Seven Luminaries Crystals, one could set up a relatively large Mind Space.

However, the Guilds that had built the Magic Workshops had proven that the sooner they did so, the more beneficial it would be to the Guild's development.

The Magic Workshop had a wide range of use. Chief among them was Magic Scroll production. The Magic Scrolls on the market were generally attack, defense, or summoning scrolls. Meanwhile, the Magic Workshop could produce Support Scrolls. These scrolls were tierless and similar to players' buff Spells and Skills.

Only, the buffs didn't increase players' Basic Attributes, Magic Resistance, or Defense. Instead, the buffs improved aspects of a more intrinsic in nature.

For example, players could see farther, hear clearer, and react faster. These buffs allowed players to exhibit more of their own strength, covertly helping them become stronger.

It was similar to the difference between a Refinement Realm expert and an ordinary expert. Even if both players had the same Basic Attributes, their combat power was vastly different.

The Support Scrolls fell into two main categories: individual support and team support. They were extremely useful when exploring the maps and raiding Dungeons.

Unfortunately, players needed to gather the required materials before paying the Magic Workshop's NPCs to produce the scrolls for them.

But after obtaining the Support Scrolls, players' leveling speed and survivability would improve significantly.

These scrolls effectiveness depended on the Magic Workshop's rank. The higher a Magic Workshop's rank, it would produce a wider variety of and stronger Support Scrolls. However, it was not easy to upgrade a Magic Workshop. This was another reason that Guilds were recommended to construct the building as soon as possible.

In the past, a rumor had floated around stating that the Support Scrolls from a 7-star Magic Workshop would grant an ordinary expert the temporary ability to contend with a Refinement Realm expert on equal footing.

However, Shi Feng had never seen or heard of any Guild successfully upgrading their Magic Workshop to seven stars. The highest rank he had seen was a 5-star Magic Workshop.

Even so, a 5-star Magic Workshop could improve Guild members' strength by leaps and bounds.

Many of the first-rate Guilds that had hesitated to construct their Magic Workshops after obtaining the design had regretted their decisions.

After Shi Feng finished examining the Magic Workshop Design, he stored it in his bag, afraid that he would lose it accidentally.

After dealing with the Rock Giant encampment, Shi Feng didn't attempt to raid another encampment. He simply guarded the Rock Giant encampment while waiting for the contest to end.

They simply didn't have enough time to raid another encampment, and Thunder God's Power was still on Cooldown. Without the Thunder God's Charm's Skill to assist them, it would take a very long time for their 50-man team to raid an ordinary monster encampment, not to mention the remaining encampment that had a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species as a Guardian Boss.

Meanwhile, the Sacred Temple, which raided its third encampment, encountered an unexpected problem. Halfway through the raid, Miracle attacked the Sacred Temple and stole the encampment, becoming one of the only two Guilds on Thunder Island to secure three monster encampments.

"Hahaha! Despite their arrogance, the bastards from the Sacred Temple ended up with only two encampments, just like us!" Blackie could not help but laugh when he heard this news.

The rest of the team nodded and expressed their agreement.

The Sacred Temple had looked down on Zero Wing and displayed zero sincerity in their negotiations. It would be a lie to say that they hadn't been insulted. Although the Sacred Temple wasn't an enemy, they were still delighted over the Super Guild's setback.

While Zero Wing's members chatted, the system eventually notified players that the contest on Thunder Island had come to an end. At the same time, the magic barrier around Thunder Island disappeared. Everyone on the island was then teleported out of the contest area to Thunder Town.

Yet, even after arriving in Thunder Town, no one showed any signs of relaxing. Instead, they shifted their gazes towards the large, stone monument erected in the center of the town plaza.

After the Thunder Island contest ended, the system would rank the various participants by their performances. The ranks would then determine each power's status and authority on the island. Hence, all of the involved upper echelons were incredibly nervous.

"Quick, look! The system is releasing the ranks!"

Slowly, words began to appear on the stone monument.

Chapter 1519 – Thunder Island Rankings

"I wonder who will get first-place? I've heard that first-place gets to control the only Large Shipyard on Thunder Island. Whoever gets that Shipyard will definitely have an easier time developing in the Sea of Death."

“That’s right! I’ve heard that the Large Shipyard on Thunder Island can produce unique speedboats and cargo ships. Anyone that gets the Shipyard will easily be able to expand their naval forces.”

“All of the rewards for the top five ranks are pretty good. The top five Guilds will share authority over a Large Repair Yard, giving them easy access to ship repairs.”

...

As words began to appear on the stone monument, players in the plaza and waiting outside of Thunder Island watched with building excitement.

Even players who didn’t belong to the various superpowers were paying close attention to the ranking because the powers on the list would be in control of Thunder Island for some time. If one had a rocky relationship with the ruling superpowers, they’d likely have to avoid Thunder Island and the Sea of Death until the next contest.

It was incredibly difficult to avoid damage to a ship in naval combat, and as ships’ durability decreased, players would need to repair them.

If one were an enemy of the powers controlling Thunder Island’s Shipyards or Repair Yards, this contest’s results could deal a devastating blow to their naval development. Thunder Island was the only location that offered repairs in the Sea of Death, and traveling to and from this zone was troublesome and time-consuming. As for obtaining a temporary teleportation array, that was impossible. There weren’t even enough teleportation arrays for all of the participating superpowers. All minor characters like themselves could do was stand by and watch from the sidelines.

As players quietly chatted, the first-place Guild’s name appeared on the monument.

Miracle!

“How is it Miracle? Didn’t the Battle Wolves secure three encampments as well?”

“It should be because of the impromptu merge between Nine Dragons Emperor and Miracle’s teams. Don’t forget; Nine Dragons Emperor’s side also secured an encampment. With this, Miracle technically has four encampments under its control. Naturally, it secured first-place.”

“Wow, Nine Dragons Emperor really did that? Won’t he lose all authority over Thunder Island by merging with another team?”

“It can’t be helped. Nine Dragons Emperor dug his own grave by starting a fight with Phoenix Rain. Had he not done so, he could’ve easily gained a share of authority over Thunder Island.”

While the watching teams were slightly surprised by Miracle’s success, they also sympathized with Nine Dragons Emperor.

There was a massive difference between those who had authority over the island and those who did not. With this authority, even controlling a fraction of the island, allowed these powers to decide Thunder Island’s development model. At the same time, they would have control of a Repair Yard. Had Nine Dragons Emperor secured a monster encampment under his own name, although he wouldn’t have obtained a Large Repair Yard, he could’ve obtained a smaller Repair Yard. He wouldn’t have to borrow one from another power.

With the advent of the first-place, the name of the second-place Guild soon followed.

Unsurprisingly, the Battle Wolves secured second-place. It was the only other Guild that had occupied more than two monster encampments. By coming in second-place, the Battle Wolves had gained complete control over a Medium Shipyard, 25% of the shares of a Large Repair Yard, and full control of a Small Repair Yard.

The various superpowers were jealous.

Like the Large Shipyard, Thunder Island only had one Large Repair Yard. In addition to the Large Shipyard, first-place only received 30% of the Large Repair Yard's shares and a Small Repair Yard.

"I wonder which Guild will come in third?"

"It should be either the Sacred Temple or Nine Heavens Pavilion. After all, both Super Guilds had occupied quite a number of ancient towers."

"Even the reward for third-place is amazing. Not only will they obtain a Small Shipyard, but they will also enjoy 20% of the Large Repair Yard's shares and a Small Repair Yard. Only the top three ranks won't have to share a Small Repair Yard."

While the waiting players discussed the situation, the system finally finished calculating the results and displayed the third-ranked team.

Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion!

When the black stone monument displayed these three words, the plaza fell silent. Everyone was speechless as they stared at the name.

Players only commented after a long pause.

“What’s going on? How is it the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion?”

“How is the system calculating these results?”

“Although the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion secured two encampments, it didn’t capture nearly as many towers as the Sacred Temple and Nine Heavens Pavilion. How could it rank third? The system must’ve miscalculated.”

...

The various superpowers weren’t pleased with the rank. The Sacred Temple and Nine Heavens Pavilion’s members, in particular, were furious about the result.

Both of their Guilds had surpassed Phoenix Rain’s team in terms of member count and captured ancient towers. No matter how they looked at it, Phoenix Rain’s team should not have secured third-place. In fact, it should’ve been a miracle if her team even ranked fifth.

...

“Big Sis Rain, look! We actually got third-place!” Blue Phoenix shouted excitedly when she saw their rank on the stone monument. She paid zero attention to the other superpowers’ grumbling and voices of dissent.

When Phoenix Rain saw her team's rank, she, too, was astonished. She turned her gaze on Shi Feng, curiosity filling her eyes.

As far as she was concerned, she should thank the heavens if her team ranked fifth in this contest. After all, the few other superpowers participating had also occupied two encampments. Moreover, they had claimed more than just three ancient towers.

Yet, her team had ranked third in the contest. This was simply inconceivable.

The only possibility was that Zero Wing had done something to increase their team's overall rank.

However, Shi Feng merely shrugged his shoulders, expressing that he wasn't sure either, in response to her curious look. Seeing his response, she decided that the matter wasn't worth pursuing. Even so, Phoenix Rain flashed her ally a grateful look.

Now that she had secured third-place in the Thunder Island contest, she had qualified to compete in future contests. Even if she had lost Firmament's naval support, with the Small Shipyard and a Small Repair Yard on Thunder Island, she could develop a considerably powerful fleet of her own in one month.

"Guild Leader, you really don't know anything about this?" Aqua Rose quietly asked.

"Of course, I know. But I don't want to reveal this secret just yet," Shi Feng said, chuckling. He then explained, "It is true that the system calculates the contest's ranks based on the number of occupied encampments, but not all encampments are equal. Some are more difficult than others. Naturally, the

more difficult a monster encampment is, the more points a team can gain by capturing it. The Rock Giant encampment we captured is one of the three most difficult encampments on Thunder Island. Naturally, we earned more points than our competition.”

Current players hadn't yet discovered the matter of different encampments rewarding a different number of points. Players had only reached this conclusion in the past after multiple contests.

When a team had limited strength, those who knew this information could earn a better result.

Although their team had only captured two monster encampments on paper, the Rock Giant encampment awarded the most points of any encampment on Thunder Island. The encampment awarded the equivalent of 1.5 times an ordinary encampment. Hence, Shi Feng wasn't surprised that their team had ranked third in the contest. In fact, this was precisely why he had chosen the Rock Giant encampment over an easier target.

...

“Phoenix Rain!” Jealousy tore at Nine Dragons Emperor as he shot Phoenix Rain a nasty look.

Despite all of his effort and resources, he had only obtained a temporary teleportation slot. In contrast, Phoenix Rain had secured a portion of authority over the island and ranked third in the contest. The Great Pavilion Master and previously neutral Elders would definitely give her their full support now.

Meanwhile, Lonely Heaven's stomach twisted with regret.

If he had access to a Small Shipyard and Repair Yard on Thunder Island, furthering Firmament's naval forces and surpassing the other first-rate Guilds would be easy.

...

A heavy silence loomed over the Sacred Temple's upper echelons. Eternal Dead, in particular, wore a solemn expression.

"Guild Leader...the Battle Wolves has stated that they want to reopen negotiations with Phoenix Rain and Zero Wing. What should we do?" Quiet Melody hesitantly asked the silent man beside her.

The contest's outcome was unexpected. Their original plan was to share control of half of Thunder Island's sole Large Repair Yard with Battle Wolves. However, that was no longer possible.

Chapter 1520 – Change in Positions

"The Battle Wolves plan to renegotiate with Phoenix Rain and Zero Wing?" A frown appeared on Eternal Dead's solemn face when he heard Quiet Melody's words. "I understand. Tell the Battle Wolves that we'll leave negotiations to them. If the Battle Wolves decide to accept Phoenix Rain and Zero Wing's conditions, we won't argue."

He had hoped to teach Zero Wing the difference between their Guilds, but he never expected this kind of outcome.

Together, Phoenix Rain and Zero Wing had actually outperformed the Sacred Temple.

Now, he had no choice but to lower himself and reopen negotiations with Shi Feng.

“Understood.”

Quiet Melody nodded. Eternal Dead’s reply didn’t particularly surprise her. After all, he had climbed to the Guild Leader’s position with the unanimous support of the previous Guild Leader and various Elders because he always kept the Guild’s best interest in mind.

Rather, Quiet Melody was curious about Zero Wing.

Very few existences in the virtual gaming world were capable of forcing Eternal Dead to admit defeat. It would seem that Zero Wing had become one of them.

...

While everyone was shocked about Phoenix Rain and Zero Wing’s rank, the stone monument in the plaza continued to reveal the following ranks.

In the end, the Sacred Temple ranked fourth in the contest, obtaining 15% of the Large Repair Yard’s shares and 50% of a Small Shipyard’s shares.

The Nine Heavens Pavilion came in fifth. At fifth place, the Super Guild acquired the final 10% of the Large Repair Yard’s shares and 50% of a Small Shipyard.

The crowd paid little attention to the remaining ranks since sixth place and below hadn't earned any shares of Thunder Island's Large Repair Yard. In fact, they weren't even granted any control of a Small Shipyard. They only gained the right to vote for Thunder Island's development path and temporary teleportation arrays.

Meanwhile, after the ranks were announced, news quickly reached the ears of the various naval forces outside of Thunder Island.

"What?! The Phoenix Pavilion was the dark horse in the competition and even surpassed the Sacred Temple and Nine Heavens Pavilion!?"

"I recall that Phoenix Rain had secured two monster encampments. She should have four temporary teleportation arrays now. Since Firmament betrayed her, and Zero Wing only needs one, she should have two teleportation arrays to spare. If we ally ourselves with Phoenix Rain, we might have a chance of obtaining one of them!"

"Thank goodness we didn't agree to work with Nine Dragons Emperor. We would've lost any hope of befriending Phoenix Rain!"

...

The various first- and second-rate naval Guilds quickly took note of Phoenix Rain's remaining teleportation arrays.

Unlike Phoenix Rain, the other superpowers had already reserved their extra temporary teleportation arrays for their allies. Some superpowers had even failed to meet their original goals and acquire enough teleportation arrays. On the other hand, one of Phoenix Rain's partners had betrayed her, so it was entirely possible to ally with her team and obtain one of the arrays.

...

“Big Sis Rain, several large Guilds with relatively powerful navies have contacted us, stating that they’re willing to work under you. However, they have requested a temporary teleportation array in return,” Blue Phoenix excitedly announced. “In addition, several superpowers have congratulated us, stating that they would find time to negotiate cooperation in the future. The Battle Wolves have also sent a representative to reopen negotiations regarding cooperation on Thunder Island.”

Although the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was a super-first-rate Guild, Phoenix Rain could only mobilize a small portion of the Guild’s power. Hence, before today, very few naval forces had been willing to ally with her.

The various superpowers were of a similar opinion.

Now, however, first- and second-rate naval Guilds and superpowers began to pay attention to Phoenix Rain. Even the Battle Wolves wanted to reopen negotiations. Blue Phoenix had never imagined this outcome.

“Ye Feng, the Battle Wolves have sent an invitation. What is your opinion on the matter?” Phoenix Rain asked Shi Feng softly, who stood beside her.

She was fully aware that Zero Wing was the only reason she enjoyed such treatment. Furthermore, their relationship had long since grown past that of an employer and employee to a partnership.

Since the Battle Wolves had taken the initiative to reopen negotiations, she had to seek his opinion on the matter.

“Let them wait for a bit. We’re not in a hurry,” Shi Feng said, smiling. He was not particularly surprised by the situation. “Instead, we should focus on recruiting strong naval forces. Only by doing so can we increase our overall strength quickly.”

Cooperating with the various superpowers would only benefit them on Thunder Island. On the other hand, by recruiting the naval forces that needed a temporary teleportation array, they could bolster the ships sailing under their banner. With this, grinding for Thunder Passes would become much easier.

“Let the Battle Wolves wait?” Phoenix Rain was taken aback when she saw Shi Feng’s serene expression.

The Battle Wolves was a bona fide Super Guild. It had also occupied three monster encampments during this contest. Many large Guilds would die for the opportunity to cooperate with the Battle Wolves, yet Shi Feng wanted to reject the Super Guild’s offer...

“Mhm. Once we begin operating our Small Shipyard, we’ll have a greater advantage in the negotiations,” Shi Feng said, nodding.

“Alright, then. I’ll let them know,” Phoenix Rain agreed, finding no flaws in Shi Feng’s reasoning.

To forge iron, one needed a sturdy hammer. Even if they proposed the conditions they deserved, the Battle Wolves wouldn’t necessarily agree.

Once they were sufficiently powerful, the Battle Wolves and Sacred Temple would offer the appropriate conditions.

...

“What? She rejected the offer? She’s even told the Battle Wolves to wait for her answer? What is she trying to do?” When he read the report containing Phoenix Rain’s reply, Eternal Dead was confused. “Has she lost her mind?”

In his opinion, the fact that he and the Battle Wolves had even agreed to reopen negotiations was incredibly generous, yet Phoenix Rain and Zero Wing had rejected the offer.

“Guild Leader, what should we do?” Quiet Melody asked.

“We wait. If they don’t come looking for us, we won’t seek them out, either. I refuse to believe that Phoenix Rain and Zero Wing will sit by and do nothing,” Eternal Dead replied seriously.

...

While the various powers chatted about the contest, Phoenix Rain and Shi Feng’s group ventured to Thunder Island’s Town Hall and selected their Small Shipyard and Small Repair Yard. They also registered their Guilds for the respective temporary teleportation arrays.

Guilds that had registered their teleportation arrays could teleport members between Thunder Island and their Guild Residences for a small fee. They wouldn’t have to waste the time traveling by ship.

In addition, although the Small Shipyard and Small Repair Yard were not as effective as their Large counterparts, they were more than enough for current players.

Once they finished dealing with those issues, Shi Feng used a Return Scroll, leaving Thunder Island.

The most important thing he needed to deal with was the Magic Workshop's construction.

Although constructing the Magic Workshop would put a dent in the Guild's coffers, the building would quickly pay for itself. Moreover, the Magic Workshop's value to the Guild would grow as the game progressed. Now that he had the design for the building, he had to erect it as soon as possible.

...

While Phoenix Rain and Shi Feng had completed the necessary procedures, Nine Dragons Emperor had watched from a short distance away, glaring daggers at the two players.

After Shi Feng's group left from the Town Hall, Nine Dragons Emperor opened his mouth and asked, "Martial, have you made contact with Beast Emperor yet?"

"Rest assured, Pavilion Master; Beast Emperor has guaranteed that Zero Wing will soon be removed from God's Domain," Martial Dragon said.

"Good. Once his people are ready, we'll take action. I can no longer stand to watch Zero Wing survive!" Nine Dragons Emperor hissed, a cold glint flashing in his eyes.

...

Meanwhile, as Shi Feng made his way to the Candlelight Trading Firm after returning to White River City, the sound of a system notification reached his ears.

...

System: Congratulations! The construction of your city in Witch's Hill is complete. Please check and ratify the construction within three days. If you fail to do so, the constructed city will be discarded.

Chapter 1521 – Materials of Astronomical Value

It's finally finished.

Shi Feng could not help his elation when he saw the system notification.

In God's Domain, the income from a Guild town was limited to its Shops and establishments. While the money from these sources might sustain a small Guild, it was nowhere near enough to cover a large Guild's operation costs. Furthermore, Guilds were required to pay exorbitant system management fees every month.

The monthly management fee for a Basic Town was 5,000 Gold. For an Intermediate Town, it was 15,000 Gold, and for an Advanced Town, it was 50,000 Gold.

If a Guild couldn't afford the fee, the system would temporarily freeze the Guild's authority over the town. If the Guild couldn't pay the fees within three months, they'd lose the town. The system would then hold an auction and sell the town to the highest bidder.

Aside from the monthly management fees, the Guild was responsible for hiring the various NPCs that operated the town.

Hence, when the various large Guilds considered constructing a town, they had to consider whether or not they could afford to run it.

A Guild city's expenditures were even higher. The monthly management fee alone could bankrupt an ordinary large Guild several times over. A Basic City already cost 200,000 Gold per month. No ordinary large Guild could gather that much in two or three months, not to mention one, unless it abandoned the Guild's development and pooled all of its money for the city's development.

Naturally, a Guild city also had more income sources. Aside from the Shops and establishments, a Guild was allowed to collect tolls from players entering the city. Guild towns didn't offer this function.

As long as a Guild city attracted a sufficient number of players, the income from the tolls could easily surpass the Shops and establishments' by several folds. Hence, site selection was extremely important when building a city. If the Guild chose poorly, the city would lose the Guild more money than it could earn.

Following which, Shi Feng contacted Melancholic Smile and had her collect the materials to construct the Magic Workshop while he intended to visit Witch's Hill.

"Guild Leader, the various large Guilds are currently fighting over the materials you've asked for. They're selling for very high prices. Some of the materials only drop from special 100-man Hell Mode Team

Dungeons. It will likely take some time to collect all of these items,” Melancholic Smile said. She was astonished when she read the list of materials Shi Feng had sent. “I’m afraid Mana Ore is going to be particularly difficult to acquire.”

Shi Feng had only asked for 500 Crimson Fire Rocks, 500 Frost Stones, 500 logs of Purple Lightning Wood, 5,000 ingots of Mana Ore, and 100 Advanced Magic Cores, all of which were extremely rare and valuable.

Mana Ore was particularly rare since it dropped randomly when mining with an incredibly low drop-rate. It was also useful in many aspects, such as construction, furnishing, forging, alchemy, and engineering. Although Zero Wing frequently purchased Mana Ore, it only had a stock of a little over 1,300 ingots.

As for the Advanced Magic Core, it only dropped from the Final Bosses in 100-man Hell Mode Team Dungeons. Although the Guild had consistently raided Hell Mode Team Dungeons, it had only collected a little over a dozen cores.

With the amount of money it would cost to purchase the materials Shi Feng had requested, they could buy golden Lands in multiple NPC cities...

“Are a lot of Guilds collecting Mana Ore right now?” Shi Feng asked curiously. “If it’s too difficult to acquire in Star-Moon Kingdom, try Black Dragon Empire or other kingdoms.”

Although Mana Ore was very rare, Guilds weren’t the only ones capable of acquiring the ingots. Many independent players spent their time mining ores in the fields, and a few were bound to get lucky, obtaining a few ingots. With how many independent players there were in the kingdom, it should not be very difficult to collect 1,000 pieces. Among the materials he listed, the Mana Ore should be the easiest to obtain.

The list he had given Melancholic Smile hadn't even included the Seven Luminaries Crystals. Had he added that to the list, Melancholic Smile would've fainted from shock.

Rather than a building, it seemed like he intended to construct a display of pure gold.

"Guild Leader, the ore is very difficult to acquire. Searching other kingdoms and empires won't change that. The various large Guilds have already purchased every ingot on the market, and any new Mana Ore will be highly contested over..." Melancholic Smile said, smiling bitterly.

"Why?" Shi Feng asked curiously.

As far as Shi Feng could remember, while Mana Ore had been rare and in high demand, Guilds hadn't necessarily fought over it. Even in the past, Mana Ore hadn't been cheap, each ingot selling for 30 to 40 Silver.

"It's due to the Orc Empire's sudden rise. The Orcs have affected several kingdoms and two empires already, and these countries have dispatched their armies to hold the Orcs back. As a result, an exchange system activated on the frontlines. So far, many items are available for purchase, including the Common Mounts, which most Guilds have been searching desperately for. There are even Bronze Mounts available.

"To purchase these Mounts, players have to complete all sorts of large-scale quests and earn Contribution Points. However, these large-scale quests are extremely difficult. They either required players to reinforce or capture towns. Meanwhile, not only are there a lot of Orcs, but their combat standards are also quite high. In addition, when the Orcs show up, a strange mist covers the area, driving players' Mana into chaos and decreasing their combat power. Players are only able to stabilize their Mana with Mana Charms, a consumable tool that's crafted with Mana Ore.

“Aside from that, a lot of ancient ruins have appeared because of the fog. The monsters in these ancient ruins have very high drop-rates. There have been rumors that claim that these ruins contain siege tools from ancient times.

“Hence, the kingdoms and empires’ major powers are frantically collecting Mana Ore in hopes of raiding these ruins and acquiring Guild Mounts as quickly as possible. This, in turn, has resulted in the Mana Ore shortage on the market. The ore’s price has also increased by several times...”

Melancholic Smile’s explanation surprised Shi Feng.

Although he had known that the Orc Empire’s rise would change the game, he hadn’t expected the situation to develop like this.

“I understand. In any case, try to collect as many of these materials as possible. I’ll figure out a way to deal with the Mana Ore problem,” Shi Feng said after giving the matter some thought.

The Magic Workshop was of the utmost importance to Zero Wing. The sooner he constructed it, the sooner he could improve the Guild’s overall strength by a large margin. Moreover, it would help Guild members’ survivability.

Currently, Zero Wing’s combat power relied on its peak experts and siege weapons.

Without these factors, Zero Wing wasn’t even on par with a first-rate Guild, much less super-first-rate Guilds or Super Guilds.

If he could construct the Magic Workshop, however, he could shorten this gap and attract more powerful players to join Zero Wing.

He had to collect these materials.

Following which, Shi Feng disconnected the call and made his way to Witch's Hill. He intended to deal with the Guild city before worrying about the Mana Ore issue. After all, once Zero Wing had its own city, the Guild would transform yet again.

Chapter 1522 – Initial Appearance of City

After reaching White River City's Teleportation Hall, Shi Feng teleported to Bewildering Forest Town.

In seconds, Shi Feng arrived in another, crowded Teleportation Hall.

Not only was the hall crowded, but he also noticed that all of these players were above Level 40. Many wore Guild Emblems on their chests and grim expressions on their faces.

The rest of the players had already formed teams of over 20 players. Shi Feng only spotted a few solo players throughout the hall.

Why are so many people here? Shi Feng watched the players around him curiously.

Bewildering Forest Town was one of the more remote towns in Star-Moon Kingdom. Moreover, most of the leveling maps around it were below Level 30. Although it was the closest NPC town to the Witch's

Hill, even with a Mount, it would take players over seven hours to reach the map. Furthermore, Witch's Hill wasn't the most resource-rich map in this level range, and Star-Moon Kingdom's largest forest separated Bewildering Forest Town and Witch's Hill.

The Maze Forest!

The monsters in the Maze Forest were between Level 40 and Level 50. Although the entire forest was not particularly dangerous, its inner sanctum was a maze. Players who weren't familiar with the terrain could easily lose their way. The only thing that even made grinding in the Maze Forest worthwhile was the Dawn Flower.

The Dawn Flower was a rare material for brewing wine and the Disorienting Potion. Currently, however, neither of these items were useful to players. Logically, there should not be that many high-levelled players in Bewildering Forest Town.

"Starting a 1,000-man expedition to an Orc Fortress! Players who are interested in the raid can register with me!"

"Selling cheap Mana Charms! Interested players can come find me!"

...

As soon as Shi Feng left the Teleportation Hall, he was greeted by the sight of quite a few expedition teams recruiting members. In addition, merchant players stood by the busy street, hawking their wares. Of the numerous times Shi Feng had visited the town during his previous life, he had never once seen the town this lively.

The Orcs have already reached this area?

Shi Feng was surprised as he watched the various players recruiting for 1,000-man team expeditions.

The Orc Empire was southwest of Star-Moon Kingdom, but although Bewildering Forest Town was the closest town in the kingdom to the Orc Empire, it didn't border the empire.

Moreover, these players weren't mobilizing 100-man teams, but 1,000-man teams. It was rare in God's Domain, much less Star-Moon Kingdom. Normally, players would only form such large teams when venturing into dangerous Regional Dungeons.

As Shi Feng turned away from the crowd, intending to head to a bar to collect some intel, he heard the sound of a regional announcement.

...

Bewildering Forest Town Region System Announcement: An army of Orcs has broken through the defensive line of Star-Moon Kingdom's Third Army and is currently making its way to Bewildering Forest Town. Bewildering Forest Town will enter a defensive state and garrison quests will activate in Bewildering Forest Town. The Orc army's estimated time of arrival is 10 Hours. Please make prepare.

...

"Crap! Aren't the Orcs moving too quickly? They're already heading our way?"

“Hahaha! This is wonderful! I’ll be able to earn even more CPs!”

Upon hearing the system announcement, a commotion broke out among the players in town. Some were excited for the event, while others were surprised. However, the one thing these players had in common was their anticipation of the Orc army’s arrival. They were clearly interested in participating in the town’s defense.

It wasn’t long before the teams that had been recruiting for an expedition changed their goal to the town’s defense.

Members of the various large Guilds and adventurer teams immediately contacted their superiors, notifying them of the sudden development.

“Boss, Orcs are going to attack Bewildering Forest Town!”

“Guild Leader, the Orc Empire you asked me to keep an eye on has broken through the defensive lines and will attack Bewildering Forest Town in ten hours.”

...

For a time, players from the various large Guilds and well-known adventurer teams in Star-Moon Kingdom hurried towards Bewildering Forest Town. It was clear that these Guilds and adventurer teams had long since prepared for this as their members flooded the town.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng found a seat on the second floor of an open-air bar, and just as he was about to browse Star-Moon Kingdom's forums for information, Aqua Rose contacted him.

"Guild Leader, the Orc army has started its invasion of Star-Moon Kingdom's Bewildering Forest Town. I just received the news, but it seems that many Guilds have already dispatched their armies to the town. Should we do so as well? I've heard that if the town is successfully defended, participating players will receive an abundance of CPs, and participating Guilds can increase their Influence in Star-Moon Kingdom."

"Increase a Guild's Influence in Star-Moon Kingdom?" When Shi Feng heard Aqua Rose's report, he realized why the various large Guilds seemed so prepared and passionate about defending this town.

In God's Domain, kingdoms and empires wouldn't remain the same forever. As time passed, some would disappear, while others would rise to prominence. Guilds even had the opportunity to take control of some countries. This was how the various superpowers had established their own massive kingdoms and empires during Shi Feng's previous life.

Players couldn't simply establish kingdoms and empires by constructing numerous towns and cities. They had to take control of an NPC kingdom or empire.

The oceanic kingdom, Sea's End, was a perfect example, in which players could take control of its NPC cities. Although players wouldn't have as much control of the cities as they would of a Guild town, it was enough.

On God's Domain's continent, Guilds that wanted to take control of NPC cities, kingdoms, or empires needed Guild Influence.

Of course, Influence wasn't the only thing Guilds needed to take control of NPC cities and countries. There were other requirements as well. At this stage of the game, it wasn't possible; players were simply too weak, unable to take on God's Domain's NPCs.

However, it was important for a Guild to accumulate Guild Influence as early as possible.

"Aqua, see to the necessary arrangements immediately. Since the Star-Moon Kingdom's large Guilds are participating in the event, Zero Wing can't be absent," Shi Feng instructed after giving the matter some thought.

Although he had several methods to increase Zero Wing's Guild Influence in Star-Moon Kingdom, it was not a bad idea to take advantage of this opportunity. It could save him a lot of time in the future.

"Guild Leader, should we call in Gentle Snow's team as well?" Aqua Rose asked.

"No need. Let them finish their promotions first." Shi Feng had high hopes for Gentle Snow's and Zhao Yueru's Tier 2 promotions. After all, both wielded Fragmented Legendary items and hidden classes. Once the two completed their Tier 2 promotion, their combat power would be extraordinary.

Following which, Shi Feng disconnected the call and departed from Bewildering Forest Town. After finding a secluded location, he summoned the Demonic Flame Tiger and made his way to Witch's Hill.

With he still had ten hours before the Orc army arrived, it was more than enough time to deal with the Guild City and return to command the Guild's army in battle.

With the Demonic Flame Tiger, Shi Feng completed his journey to Witch's Hill, which normally required over seven hours of travel time on a Common Mount, in less than four hours.

As Shi Feng reached the massive waterfall near Witch's Hill, the sight of a towering city rose before him.

Unlike Stone Forest Town, soaring, magically strengthened stone walls surrounded the city. Although it wasn't visible to the naked eye, a magic barrier also enveloped the city. Although players could enter a town from any side, players could only enter the city through its main entrance.

"The construction looks quite nice." Even from afar, Shi Feng was satisfied with how his city turned out.

His new city was much larger than the Basic Cities, which were upgraded from Advanced Towns, that he had seen in the past.

After the brief pause, Shi Feng made his way towards the city.

Chapter 1523 – Power Source Improves

When Shi Feng stopped before the city's main entrance, an imposing pair of tightly shut gates greeted him. Pitch-black runes had been carved into the gates, forming multiple magic barriers that protected them. The magic barriers here were much stronger than the barrier his movement-type defensive magic array created as it could even withstand Tier 4 attacks.

As for the magic barrier around the city the entire city, although it was not as powerful as the one on the gates, it wouldn't have any issue blocking Tier 3 attacks. This city was a perfect Guild fortress.

It was definitely worth spending all those Coins to build this thing. Shi Feng could not help his rueful sigh as he observed his surroundings.

The city occupied a mountain peak, so the mountain's scenery remained unobstructed. In addition, an impressive waterfall fell by the hillside. Occasionally, Shi Feng saw birds of various kinds fly past the mountain and below the city. He felt as if he had just arrived in paradise.

Setting aside Witch's Hill's unique circumstances, this grand scenery would attract many Lifestyle and entertainment players.

During his previous life, Shadow hadn't even had a Guild town at this stage of the game, yet his Zero Wing already had its own Basic City. Not even Super Guilds had achieved this feat. Currently, only Sea's End's major powers controlled cities.

Unlike Sea's End's major powers, however, he had complete control of his city. The city's development path wouldn't limit his options.

Meanwhile, when Shi Feng arrived, a dozen or so NPC guards came down from their posts along the city walls to open the gates.

"Esteemed City Lord, we have completed your city's construction. If there are no issues, we may begin the transfer procedures," a middle-aged man with a cross-shaped scar on his face respectfully reported as he came forward to greet Shi Feng. The man wore a luxurious suit of armor with a white cape draped over his back. He also carried a longsword embedded with several pieces of Seven Luminaries Crystal at his waist.

Although the man didn't radiate an aura, he was a Level 180, Tier 3 Knight Captain. In a minor NPC city, he could even serve as the Magistrate. At this stage of the game, he could kill any ordinary player in a single move.

“I’m fine with that. However, before we begin, I’d like to visit the city’s Core Magic Array,” Shi Feng said, nodding.

He had previously obtained an Evil God Crystal after killing a Grand Lord ranked Evil Demon under the Beast Emperor’s command.

To a Guild City, the item’s value was astronomical.

The Evil God Crystal could be used as a power source for a city. Although it couldn’t compare to a Titan Core, the power source was very difficult to come by. It was definitely much stronger than the freebie power source that was included in a city’s construction.

“Esteemed City Lord, please follow me,” the Knight Captain Yarod said as he led the way for Shi Feng, the dozen or so Knights previously guarding the gate following close behind.

As Shi Feng walked through the city, he could easily tell it was many times larger than Stone Forest Town. Not even an Advanced Town could compare to its grandeur. Despite the city’s Basic rank, it should easily accommodate over 300,000 permanent residential players. Moreover, this was assuming that he built the city’s Basic infrastructure. If he used Advanced buildings, he could double the city’s capacity, at which point the city wouldn’t even feel cramped with over a million players. In contrast, players would likely walk shoulder to shoulder in an Advanced Town with a one million player population.

However, it was due to the city’s large size that it required a lot more resources to develop.

Take the street Shi Feng was currently on, for example. Although the NPCs had already built quite a few essential buildings, Shi Feng passed large plots of empty land. He'd have to spend a lot more to fill these gaps.

Based on Shi Feng's initial estimates, the initial resources to construct the necessary infrastructure would be enough to drive any first-rate Guild mad, not to mention constructing buildings like the Battle Arena.

The buildings in cities were allowed to have far more floors than those in towns. The Battle Arena in Stone Forest Town, for example, could only have eight floors. In a Basic City, however, a Battle Arena could have up to 16 floors. Though, players had to have enough money to build them.

Under Yorad's lead, Shi Feng quickly reached the third underground floor of the City Lord's Mansion.

"Esteemed City Lord, this is the city's main control room. Here, you may control the magic arrays all over the city," Yorad explained as he gestured to the mammoth ball of water floating in the center of the hall.

Numerous golden runes decorated the wide hall's walls, while the water ball in the center felt like an inhaling whale as it absorbed the Mana from outside of the city, transferring the Mana to the city's various areas. Meanwhile, a black crystal floated within the core of the magic water ball.

This black crystal was the power source the system granted when players constructed their own cities. This crystal was the city's lifeblood, created by dozens of high-tiered Wizards. It was a better power source than those that formed naturally or those the Gods had created.

Without hesitation, Shi Feng went up to the magic water ball and replaced the black crystal with the Evil God Crystal.

The moment he placed the Evil God Crystal in the magic water ball, the Mana in the hall rampaged.

The hovering water ball began to grow. As it did, the Mana density in the hall increased.

The Knight Captain and his entourage were afraid.

Fortunately, after a few minutes, the hall's Mana calmed. Everyone was dumbfounded as they stared at the evolved water ball.

The previously mammoth water ball had tripled in size, and the hall's Mana density had at least doubled.

As I expected, a Basic City can only use 60% of the Evil God Crystal's power. Shi Feng was somewhat disappointed when he saw the Evil God Crystal's utilization rate the system had displayed.

In God's Domain, a strong power source didn't necessarily mean that players could improve a city indefinitely. Every city had its limits. It seemed that a Basic City could only use 60% of the total energy an Evil God Crystal provided.

If he wanted to increase the efficiency, he'd have to upgrade the city to Intermediate or Advanced rank. He might even need to upgrade it to the standard of a kingdom's capital city to use the Evil God Crystal's full power.

However, 60% was enough to improve the city's defenses by a tier and increase its Mana density by 40%. Although the city's current Mana density couldn't compare to Stone Forest Town's, it would rise beyond the town's once he constructed the Magic and Mana Towers.

“Esteemed City Lord, you really know how to surprise a man. You actually got your hands on such a high-ranked power source. Your city is guaranteed to become famous in Star-Moon Kingdom,” Yarod said in admiration.

In Star-Moon Kingdom, one could count the number of cities with such a high-ranked power source on one hand. Only the kingdom’s capital was more powerful.

After Yarod finished speaking, the sound of a system notification reached Shi Feng’s ears.

...

System: You have earned a reward. Please name your city within one hour, or the reward will be discarded.

System: You have 59 minutes, 59 seconds remaining.

“Thank you for your praise, Knight Captain. I am very satisfied with this city. Let’s complete the transfer procedures right away,” Shi Feng said.

Once Shi Feng agreed to start the transfer procedures, the Knight Captain revealed a dazzling, silver token and passed it to Shi Feng.

The token itself looked wasn't ornate, but the moment the Knight Captain revealed the item, the hall's Mana began to gather around it, forming a magic barrier around the token. The magic barrier would prevent undesigned players from touching it.

"Esteemed City Lord, here is your City Lord's Token. Once you carve the city's name on the token and we finish the registration, the city can officially open to the public," Knight Captain Yarod explained as he admired the item in Shi Feng's hand.

The token's owner would have absolute control over the city. Not even City Magistrates has so much authority.

City Magistrates were merely representatives the kingdom tasked to manage its cities. Throughout Star-Moon Kingdom, only a handful of people controlled their cities and were acknowledged as Lords in the kingdom. These NPCs' statuses were so high that even the King had to treat them respectfully.

This wasn't the first time Shi Feng had obtained a City Lord's Token. As it rested in his palm, he tapped on the magic array around the token.

Immediately, a system window appeared before him, asking him for the city's name.

Since this is Zero Wing's first city, let's call it Zero Wing City! Shi Feng thought as he filled in the name box.

By using the Guild's name for the city, not only would the public know who the city belonged to, but it would also advertise the Guild. This was another benefit of constructing a city from scratch. If a Guild obtained their city by upgrading a town, the new city would retain its old name.

Hence, first-rate Guilds and stronger had usually tried to construct their cities from scratch as proof of their prowess.

After Shi Feng finished naming Zero Wing City, Yarod began the registration process.

"Congratulations, Esteemed City Lord. You have now become the first heaven's blessed to own your own city in Star-Moon Kingdom. The city will now enter a 21-day protection period. During this time, you may hire city guards to protect the city from harassment. You will also be responsible for a 200,000 Gold tax each month," Yarod explained. "Do you wish to hire guards now?"

"Do you have a list for me to choose from?" Shi Feng asked.

A city's defense wasn't like that of a town. The system would only allow players to hire up to Tier 2 NPCs in a town. After all, Tier 3 NPCs could serve as small cities' Magistrates.

Although he could hire Tier 3 NPC guards in a Basic City, he could only hire five. Moreover, Tier 3 NPCs had different strengths and specialties. To ease the burden of the city's defense, it was necessary to choose the Tier 3 NPC guards carefully.

"Alright. Here is a list of the Tier 3 guards we can currently provide. Unfortunately, since there are so many Tier 1 and Tier 2 guards to choose from, I am unable to provide a precise list. If you would like a more detailed list of your options, you may hire these guards from the Adventurer's Association," Yarod explained as he handed Shi Feng a list.

The list showed the general prices for the Tier 1 and Tier 2 NPC guards as well as a brief introduction of the various Tier 3 NPC guards available for hire.

Hiring ten Level 150 elite guards for 21 days would cost 100 Gold, 300 Gold for ten Level 150, Tier 1 guards, and 700 Gold for ten Level 150, Tier 2 guards. Each of the Tier 3 guards had different prices.

There were a total of 37 Tier 3 guards available, and they cost anywhere between 800 and 1,400 Gold for 21 days. The cost of hiring one of these NPCs could already rival that of two squads of Tier 2 guards.

Even for Zero Wing, the expenditure wasn't easy to shrug off, yet Shi Feng had no choice.

He hadn't constructed Zero Wing City near any NPC towns or cities, so it could easily come under monster attack. This was especially true at night. For Zero Wing City, which didn't have its defensive constructs yet, powerful guards were a must.

Furthermore, Shi Feng hadn't expected the rise of the Orc Empire, which had already turned its sights to Bewildering Forest Town. The Maze Forest was the only thing standing between the town and Witch's hill. On the off chance that the Orc army decided to attack Zero Wing City, Tier 1 and Tier 2 NPC guards wouldn't be able to fend off the attack. Only Tier 3 NPCs had enough of an advantage over the Orcs.

Following which, Shi Feng chose to hire five Tier 3 guards: one healer, two MTs, and two magical classes. Among them, the magical classes were the most expensive, each costing 1,300 Gold. Each of these magical-class NPCs had two Tier 3 large-scale destruction Spells and a Tier 3 Curse in their arsenal.

"I've decided to hire these five. In addition, I wish to hire 800 elite guards, 150 Tier 1 guards, and 50 Tier 2 guards," Shi Feng said, returning the list to Yarod after making his decision.

If Aqua Rose or Gentle Snow were present, they would have a heart attack over hiring so many guards.

The cost of hiring NPC guards was much higher than NPC soldiers, yet Shi Feng still chose to hire 1,000 NPC guards at once...

But Shi Feng knew the necessity of the decision. Cities were much larger than towns, and without enough NPCs, a city would be impossible to defend, and public security wouldn't be maintained.

Moreover, as the city's environment was more beneficial than a town's, it didn't cost as much to hire NPC guards. If he hired this many guards in a town, it would drop Zero Wing's finances into the red.

This was an advantage that the system provided when players constructed their own city from scratch.

"Alright. The total cost for the guards you've chosen is 21,000 Gold. Once you've made the payment, the Adventurer's Association will send them to the city," Yarod said.

Without hesitation, Shi Feng handed 21,000 Gold to the Knight Captain.

Fortunately, he had recently posted plenty of rare materials he had obtained from Cold Wind City in Zero Wing's Auction House. While he had been on Thunder Island, most of the materials had sold, and after deducting his base cost, he had made a profit of 33,527 Gold.

This was why he dared to hire so many Tier 1 and Tier 2 guards despite Zero Wing's current financial situation.

Moreover, that was only the profit from the first shipment. After time passed, Cold Wind City's players would stockpile a ton of materials again. If he purchased and resold those materials, he would earn another 30,000 Gold. This money-making speed even surpassed that of Stone Forest Town and the Candlelight Trading Firm.

When Cold Wind City opened a path to the other NPC cities in the Ice Crystal World in the future, he'd make even more profit. It wasn't unlike owning his own goldmine.

After Yarod confirmed the payment, he bowed respectfully to Shi Feng before leaving with the other Knights.

Following which, a series of system notifications and system announcements reached Shi Feng's ears.

...

System: Congratulations! You are the first player in Star-Moon Kingdom to own a city. Rewarding 300 Star-Moon Kingdom Reputation and "Lord of Star-Moon Kingdom" title.

System: Congratulations! Zero Wing City has become the first player-city in Star-Moon Kingdom. Rewarding 10,000 City Popularity and one Advanced Restaurant Design.

System: Congratulations! Zero Wing City has become the first city to upgrade its power source. Rewarding 10,000 City Popularity and one City Conscriptio Order.

Star-Moon Kingdom Region System Announcement: Congratulations to Zero Wing for becoming Star-Moon Kingdom's first Guild to construct a city. Rewarding 10,000 Guild Popularity and 50 Guild Influence.

Chapter 1525 – Uproar

The regional announcement repeated for several times, the mechanical voice of the system echoing in the minds of Star-Moon Kingdom's players continuously. For a moment, whether they were players currently resting in towns and cities or players out grinding in the fields, they all fell into a daze when they heard this announcement.

“What's going on?”

“Constructed a city?”

“How is this possible?! The various large Guilds are still working on getting their towns upgraded to the Intermediate rank. Even Super Guilds have just begun trying to upgrade their towns to the Advanced rank. How could there be a Guild city already?”

“Did Zero Wing manage to upgrade Stone Forest Town into a city?”

“All hail Zero Wing!”

“That might really be possible. After all, the player population in Stone Forest Town right now is really insane. The population there is not one bit lower than an NPC city’s.”

“This is impossible! I’m standing inside Stone Forest Town right now, and nothing about the town has changed whatsoever!”

...

Practically everyone on Star-Moon Kingdom’s official forums was discussing Zero Wing and the city it built right now.

Although the players of God’s Domain currently did not have any concrete information about Guild cities, they could generally guess how amazing a Guild city would be just by looking at the various Guild towns currently in the game. Setting aside the various other functions a Guild city would possess, just the amount of land it occupied would definitely exceed that of a town by a large margin, which would, in turn, allow it to accommodate more players.

However, compared to the fact that Zero Wing was now in possession of a Guild city, everyone was much more interested in finding out about the city itself, particularly its location.

Currently, mainstream players were starting to outgrow Stone Forest Town. If Zero Wing had built its city at a high-level resource map and replicated the facilities it had in Stone Forest Town in its new city, players would both be able to complete high-level quests without traveling long distances and easily improve their combat standards inside the city, killing two birds with one stone.

“Zero Wing has a Guild city now? This is a good opportunity for our adventurer team.”

“A new city? I wonder where it’s located. If its location is good, it might not be a bad idea to buy a Shop there and settle down.”

...

In the eyes of most independent players, Zero Wing’s new city was merely a potential rest area. To the various adventurer teams and merchant players, however, the city was a huge opportunity for them.

Currently, both the private houses and Shops of Stone Forest Town were becoming increasingly valuable. Many wealthy adventurer teams and merchant players were already regretting their decision not to purchase one for themselves before.

At the same time, the various large Guilds of Star-Moon Kingdom also became busy, holding internal meetings to restructure their future development plans in the kingdom.

Zero Wing’s acquisition of a Guild city might be good news for ordinary players, but there was nothing good about it for large Guilds like theirs.

In God’s Domain, maintaining and protecting a Guild town entailed a lot of manpower. Hence, whenever a Guild was thinking of conquering a new Guild town, said Guild would have to expand and recruit new members. Naturally, a Guild city would need even more players to maintain and protect a city. Meanwhile, once Zero Wing began increasing its member count, it would also require more resource maps for these new members to develop in.

Yet, as players reached higher levels, the resource maps available in Star-Moon Kingdom also grew increasingly scarcer. As a result, competition between Guilds also intensified.

In the future, there would definitely come a time when their Guilds would have to compete against Zero Wing. Hence, they naturally had to plan for such situations in advance.

For a time, due to this system announcement, Zero Wing once again became the focus of the entire Star-Moon Kingdom. Players within the kingdom were practically talking about Zero Wing nonstop.

...

Meanwhile, just as Shi Feng was about to make arrangements for Zero Wing City's further development, he suddenly started receiving mails and calls one after another.

"Guild Leader, what did you do? How did we get a new city?"

Gentle Snow was filled with both curiosity and excitement when she found out about the new Guild city, and she could not help but send multiple messages asking Shi Feng about the matter.

Before this, she was just about to start challenging her Tier 2 promotion. However, she put it off temporarily when she received a report on this sudden development. She knew very clearly that Zero Wing currently had only two towns under its control. One of them was Stone Forest Town in Star-Moon Kingdom, while the other was Hidden Mist Town in the Black Dragon Empire. Aside from these two, Zero Wing did not own any other towns.

Yet, now, the Guild had suddenly gained a brand-new Guild city.

“Old pal, your Guild really knows how to hide its strength. Well? When are you free to sit down for a chat?” Yuan Tiexin had also sent Shi Feng a message. Judging by his tone, he seemed to be very interested in Zero Wing’s Guild city.

In fact, the Secret Pavilion wasn’t the only Guild that sent Shi Feng a message. Even Phoenix Rain had sent a congratulatory message as well as expressed her surprise at finding out about this news.

“Guild Leader, you’ve finally picked up. Right now, our Residence at Stone Forest Town is being swarmed by adventurer teams and merchant players. They all wish to partner with Zero Wing. In addition, several companies also want to meet with you to discuss investment opportunities,” Aqua Rose said with a bitter smile on her face.

Although Aqua Rose had known about the new city, Melancholic Smile was the one tasked with managing all matters relating to the city. Hence, Aqua Rose had not tried prying too deeply into those matters. After all, the amount of money required to construct a city would no doubt be astronomical. In her opinion, it would definitely take some time before they would accumulate enough funds to complete the city’s construction. Thus, she had never imagined that the city would be completed so soon.

This sudden development had caught her completely off guard. Right now, even people from her family were frantically contacting her and asking about the Guild city. Her family hoped to be able to purchase a virtual store once the city was officially opened to the public. This situation put her at a loss on what to do, as it was not in her place to make decisions on such important matters.

“Set those matters aside for now. First, have Candlelight’s architects stop what they’re doing and have them prepare the materials on the list I’ll be sending to you in a moment. Once they have everything ready, bring them to Zero Wing City. While you’re at it, bring some elite members with you as well, to deal with the management work of the city.” Shi Feng could guess the situation on Aqua Rose’s side right now. After all, he was mostly facing the same. However, he had just completed the handover procedures for Zero Wing City. Right now, their priority was to have the necessary infrastructure set up in Zero Wing City. Otherwise, they would simply be inviting ridicule should they open up an empty city to the public.

“Very well, I’ll get to it right away.” Aqua Rose nodded. She could not help looking forward to seeing the newly constructed Zero Wing City.

After Shi Feng finished assigning tasks to Aqua Rose, he quickly made his way to the Guild Residence in Zero Wing City.

Compared to the Guild Residence in Stone Forest Town, the Residence here was much more luxurious. Located in the central district of the city, it took up one-fifth of the available land there—something possible only in a Guild city. In NPC cities, a Guild Residence could occupy only a small area. Normally, one would be fortunate to be able to fit ten or twenty thousand players inside the Residence. As for the Residence in Zero Wing City, even if 50,000 players were present inside the Residence at the same time, there would still be plenty of space to spare.

Following which, Shi Feng took out the Guild Residence Teleportation Magic Array he had prepared beforehand and set it up inside the Guild Hall.

If the Guild Residence did not possess a teleportation array, Guild members would not be able to teleport directly to the city. This was also the reason why Aqua Rose did not simply teleport to the city to meet up with Shi Feng. Currently, although everyone in the Guild had already found out about Zero Wing’s new city, they could not visit it. They could only wait until Shi Feng was done setting up the teleportation array.

Once Shi Feng set up the teleportation array, he made a slight adjustment to its permissions—allowing only Guild members with a certain level of authority to teleport to the city—to avoid unnecessary trouble that would disrupt the city’s construction speed.

After he settled the matters that required immediate attention, he sat down in his office to catch his breath. While resting, he opened up his bag and took a look at the Advanced Restaurant Design and City Conscriptio Order he received from the system.

He had heard about these two items in his previous life. However, he had never personally seen either of them before. He had never thought that he would actually receive these two items just by constructing Zero Wing City. These were truly an unexpected harvest.

Chapter 1526 – Strengthening Players

It's no wonder these things can help a Guild improve quickly. They actually possess such effects.

Shi Feng was astonished as he inspected the Advanced Restaurant Design and City Conscription Order in his bag.

The City Popularity the system awarded was already quite beneficial to the city's development, as it would lure many more NPCs to the city. However, when compared to the two items in his bag, the amount of City Popularity he had gotten paled into insignificance.

Similar to the Advanced Auction House, the Advanced Restaurant was an extremely rare Advanced Construction in God's Domain. The Guilds that managed to obtain it in his previous life numbered extremely few. There had been one instance where a top adventurer team had put up an Advanced Restaurant Design for auction. In the end, the design had sold at a price that could cause even first-rate Guilds to despair—two Fragmented Legendary items.

Even after ten years had passed in God's Domain, Fragmented Legendary items were still extremely hard to come by in God's Domain. Back then, most first-rate Guilds would have only two or three Fragmented Legendary items in the entire Guild, and none of them were willing to exchange any. After all, everyone back then was already fully aware of just how valuable a Fragmented Legendary item was.

Yet, in the end, a superpower had still bought the design for two Fragmented Legendary items.

Back then, many people had felt that the transaction was not worthwhile, and Shi Feng was no exception. After all, a restaurant would, at most, function as an attraction to lure players to a city. Meanwhile, the clientele would be spending only Coins or Magic Crystals at the restaurant. To the wealthy superpowers, Fragmented Legendary items held far greater importance compared to Coins and Magic Crystals. Nevertheless, the various superpowers back then had still gladly competed over the Advanced Restaurant Design.

Now that Shi Feng saw what functions the Advanced Restaurant possessed, however, he immediately realized why the various superpowers had been eager to buy the design back then.

Not only was the Advanced Restaurant much more spectacular than a Basic Restaurant in terms of size and appearance, but it also had various modes of transactions available. In addition, players could even hire Master and Grandmaster Chef NPCs for the restaurant.

In God's Domain, no matter which subclass a Lifestyle player possessed, they would have great difficulty reaching even the Master rank, not to mention the Grandmaster rank.

Meanwhile, any Lifestyle player that managed to reach the Master or Grandmaster rank in their subclass would be capable of taking on a role that exceeded one's imaginations. This was especially true for those that managed to become Grandmaster Lifestyle players; they would become existences that could single-handedly affect an entire Guild's strength.

Take a Grandmaster Chef for example. Aside from being able to cook up unimaginably delicious food and beverages, a Grandmaster Chef was also capable of producing special cuisines that could permanently improve a player's Attributes or even physique. There was a limit to how many times a player could improve through consuming such cuisines, but, even so, the capability was already plenty

amazing. After all, aside from upgrading to better weapons and equipment, players had almost no other method to improve their Attributes and physique significantly.

However, a Grandmaster Chef was capable of continuously strengthening players by producing various special cuisines. Although there was a limit to how much one could improve through consuming special cuisines, according to the rumors, when a player reached that limit, the additional Attributes and physique they obtained could rival even that of a Fragmented Legendary item.

Of course, the requirements to construct the Advanced Restaurant were also very high. At the very minimum, the Advanced Restaurant had to be built in a Basic City. Aside from that, the architects building the Advanced Restaurant needed to be of sufficiently high standards, as they had to inscribe various kinds of runes. Finally, the Advanced Restaurant called for many different types of rare materials in its construction, including 1,000 pieces of Mana Ore. By Shi Feng's estimates, the total construction cost would be around 10,000 Gold.

As for the City Conscription Order, it was also a very valuable item. When used, it allowed a city to recruit a powerful NPC soldier with high Growth Potential. Meanwhile, the better-developed a city was, the greater the City Conscription Order's effects would become.

In the past, there was one Guild that actually managed to recruit a Tier 4 Great Wizard through a City Conscription Order, when it was normally extremely rare for a city to manage to get even a Tier 2 NPC soldier. As for Tier 3 NPCs and above, it was practically impossible to recruit one without external aid such as the Hero's Chapter and the City Conscription Order. Not to mention, a Tier 4 Great Wizard was much more powerful than other classes when it came to defending a city.

It should be appropriate to use this thing once Zero Wing City is set up properly and the total population stays at 1.5 million long-term. Shi Feng grew a little excited as he looked at the City Conscription Order. If he really managed to recruit a Tier 4 NPC to protect the city, it would truly be perfect.

...

Meanwhile, over at Stone Forest Town, Aqua Rose was rapidly gathering elite members and architects. When Aqua Rose announced that she would be bringing some players to garrison the Guild's new city, the entire Guild had gone into an uproar.

"Vice Guild Leader, I want to apply!"

"Crap! It's actually true! Our Guild really does possess a city!"

"Fortunately, I joined Zero Wing early on. Had I waited to do so only after the Guild obtained a city, the requirements to join the Guild would definitely have been much higher."

"I know, right? Previously, a friend of mine was debating on whether he should join Zero Wing or King's Return. In the end, he chose to develop himself in King's Return. If he finds out that Zero Wing already has a city, something not even Super Guilds like King's Return possess, he will definitely die from regret."

When Zero Wing's members heard Aqua Rose's announcement, they immediately started applying to join the new city's daily maintenance workforce in a frenzy. In reality, though, they were trying to use this opportunity to take a look at the new city as well as find out where it was located.

In less than ten minutes, Aqua Rose managed to gather 3,000 elite members and 200 architects.

"I've already provided you all with the permission to transfer to the new city. After you arrive there, start the daily maintenance work and manage the NPCs that are coming into the city. If you can't manage some of the incoming NPCs, notify the nearest NPC guard. If none of you have any problems,

you may transfer over right away,” Aqua Rose said after talking about the tasks everyone would be doing once they arrived at the new city.

Whether one constructed a new town or city, the first thing they needed to do was deal with the influx of NPCs. After all, players were not allowed to stop NPCs from entering Guild towns and cities. Only in the event where players had managed to catch an NPC in the commission of a crime or could identify them to be wanted criminals could they expel said NPC from their town or city. Meanwhile, there would also be plenty of NPCs belonging to the dark forces mixed among the ordinary NPCs entering the city.

If the Guild could properly manage the security of the city, the city’s Popularity would rise at a faster rate. Conversely, if it failed to maintain the security of the city, the city’s Popularity would decrease. Hence, maintaining the security of the city during the city’s early stages required a large number of players. Only after stabilizing the city’s security could the Guild open the city to players.

After Aqua Rose was done speaking, the players she gathered inside the Guild Hall began purchasing the Guild Transfer Scroll for Zero Wing City before promptly disappearing from the hall. This scene inspired strong envy in the other Guild members present inside the Guild Hall. Although it was said to be city maintenance work, it was similarly a quest. If players could capture a Dark NPC inside the city, they would receive plenty of EXP and GCPs. Doing this quest was much more profitable than grinding monsters out in the fields.

...

Elsewhere, when the upper echelons of the various major powers of Star-Moon Kingdom learned of the movements of Zero Wing’s members, their expressions turned indescribably grim.

“Immediately have people look for Zero Wing’s City! Find out where it’s located no matter what!”

To the various major powers of Star-Moon Kingdom, the whereabouts of Zero Wing’s new city was critical. If its location was somewhere close to them, they would have no choice but to shift their focus

of development. At the same time, there were also some Guilds that began having designs on Zero Wing's new city.

For a time, the various major powers all began dispatching a large number of people to locate Zero Wing's new city.

...

Meanwhile, inside the Guild Residence in Zero Wing City, numerous flashes appeared inside the Guild Hall as a large group of players teleported into the city.

"Zero Wing City?"

"This place is our Guild's city?"

When everyone exited the Guild Hall, they were momentarily dumbfounded by what they saw.

Although they knew that the new city would definitely be much better than Stone Forest Town, they never thought the city would be such a spectacular sight. The difference between Zero Wing City and Stone Forest Town was like the difference between heaven and earth.

Chapter 1527 – Guild's New Benefits

“This place is our Guild’s new city?”

“The Mana density here is amazing! Although it’s still no match for Stone Forest Town’s, with this place being so large, at least the city won’t be as crowded as Stone Forest Town.”

“Wait, something’s not right! Look around! There doesn’t seem to be any Magic Towers here! The Mana present here should be something the city naturally gathered by itself!”

“What?! A city is actually so much stronger than a town?! If Magic Towers are constructed inside the city, won’t the Mana density here become much higher than even Stone Forest Town’s?!”

After Zero Wing’s members exited the Guild Hall and observed their surroundings, they quickly noticed a marked difference between a Guild town and a Guild city. This was especially true in the case of Mana density.

Everyone was already sure that Zero Wing City would become overcrowded with players.

Just how much resources did the Guild Leader invest in building this city? Aqua Rose was indescribably shocked when she looked at the city around her.

Although she knew that a Guild city would be much better than a Guild town, she had never thought the disparity would be to such a degree.

With the high Mana density in the city, the city would attract not only a large number of expert players to visit but also Lifestyle players. In the future, there would be no need to worry about Zero Wing being unable to recruit capable experts and Lifestyle players.

After a moment of shock and awe, Aqua Rose had the elite members she brought begin accepting the city's patrol quests. As for herself, she took the 200 architects to meet up with Shi Feng at an empty plot of land in the city.

"Guild Leader, I've brought all the available architects in the Candlelight Trading Firm over already," Aqua Rose reported quietly as she looked at Shi Feng, who was currently surveying the terrain of the city.

"They're all here?" Shi Feng muttered to himself as he sent a glance at the architects standing some distance behind Aqua Rose. Nodding in approval, he continued, "Advanced Architects, come forward."

Immediately, 40-odd players stepped forward nervously. Among them, nearly 30 were male and over a dozen were female. Although the levels of these players ranged between 24 to 35 only, if placed in a first-rate Guild, any one of these players would definitely receive VIP treatment.

In the Candlelight Trading Firm, however, they were merely normal members. After all, the Candlelight Trading Firm already had Master Lifestyle players at the helm. Compared to them, Advanced Lifestyle players were insignificant existences.

Meanwhile, when these Advanced Architects looked at Shi Feng, who had disguised himself using the Demon Mask, their eyes were filled with reverence and excitement. After all, the man before them was none other than Black Flame, the Guild Leader of Zero Wing. At the same time, he was also the number one expert of Star-Moon Kingdom.

They might have the qualifications to act proudly in front of the Guild Leaders of any other Guild. After all, those Guild Leaders were definitely no match for themselves in terms of subclass development. However, it was a different story for their own Guild Leader. Even in terms of subclass development, their Guild Leader was an existence they had no choice but to look up to.

The reason for this was their knowing that their Guild Leader had already become a Master Forger some time ago. Now, one could say that he was the bona fide number one forger in Star-Moon Kingdom.

“Excellent. From now on, you all will be tasked with constructing Zero Wing City’s Advanced Constructions. If any among you isn’t an inner member, you can come to me to sign the contract to become one. If any of you does not wish to become an inner member, you may return to the group behind.” Shi Feng was considerably surprised at the number of Advanced Architects present. He had not expected that after not seeing Melancholic Smile for some time, the woman had actually recruited many more Advanced Architects.

Moreover, among the Advanced Architects present, he managed to spot three familiar figures.

One of them was a middle-aged man named Happy Mo, who looked to be in his 40s. He wore a monocle and radiated an indescribably calm feeling. The second person was a muscular youth named Boiled Fish, who carried a scimitar on his back. As for the last one, she was a short-haired beauty named Wind Chimes.

In the past, all three of these players were very famous architects in Star-Moon Kingdom. To be precise, they were part of the top ten architects in Star-Moon Kingdom. Only, these three players all belonged to first-rate Guilds.

Shi Feng had never imagined that these three people had actually joined Zero Wing this time.

Among the three, Happy Mo was the strongest. In the past, he had constantly pushed his limits in order to become a Grandmaster. Unfortunately, the rank of Grandmaster was not easily attained. At the very least, the amount of help a first-rate Guild could provide towards reaching this rank was minimal. Happy Mo had never managed to become a Grandmaster Architect.

After everyone heard Shi Feng's words, most of the Advanced Architects that had joined the Candlelight Trading Firm recently chose to sign the contract right away. Only Happy Mo, Boiled Fish, and Wind Chimes remained hesitant, exchanging glances with each other. After a moment, as if having come to an agreement, they nervously turned to look at Shi Feng.

"Guild Leader, if we become inner members, can we use our GCPs to exchange for a private house inside the Guild city?" Happy Mo, who was the eldest among the three, stepped forward and asked carefully.

Although Shi Feng looked younger than himself, the feeling the man gave off was akin to that of a prehistoric beast. While standing in such close proximity, Happy Mo found himself growing breathless. In the past, when he heard others mentioning such a reaction, he had simply taken their words as jokes. Only after personally experiencing this feeling did he realize that those words were no joke.

At this moment, he felt as if he would be doomed forever if he made even the slightest mistake.

Upon hearing Happy Mo's question, everyone nearby could not help but perk up their ears. They never thought that Happy Mo would be so courageous as to propose such a demand to the Guild Leader.

"Are you all interested in the private houses of Zero Wing City?" Shi Feng asked as he looked at Happy Mo's group of three.

"Mhm. The environment here is quite good. I feel that if it is here, my research would be more successful," Happy Mo stated.

Boiled Fish and Wind Chimes nodded their heads in agreement. Initially, the three of them had considered living in Stone Forest Town. However, after taking a look at Zero Wing City, they felt that this place was much better. Even if the Mana density in the city was not comparable to Stone Forest Town's

right now, they had a feeling that Zero Wing City would very quickly surpass Stone Forest Town as time passed.

“That’s not a bad suggestion. Since you’ve already raised it, I’ll use this opportunity to talk about the new benefits Zero Wing and Candlelight will be offering. From now on, members may use their GCPs to exchange for private houses in the Guild’s towns and cities. However, there is a restriction, which is that only elite members of Zero Wing and official members of Candlelight are qualified for this exchange. As for the pricing, you can ask Melancholic about it in a while,” Shi Feng said.

In reality, the matter Happy Mo had raised was a problem commonly seen in the past. After all, whether it was a Guild town or city, the amount of land available was limited. Generally, Guilds would try to attract as many visitors to their towns or cities as possible. At the same time, in order to maximize the town’s or city’s income, they would construct only a small number of private houses, opting to build hotels and other facilities instead. Hence, private houses could not simply be bought just because one had the funds to do so. This was especially true for popular towns and cities.

However, in order to attract and recruit independent experts and capable Lifestyle players, Guilds would still build some private houses to use as bait, making them available for exchange using GCPs only.

When Shi Feng mentioned about this new benefit, cheers immediately erupted from the crowd before him.

“What?! The Guild Leader is so generous!”

“All hail the Guild Leader!”

“Hahaha! With this, I will also have an opportunity to own a private house in Zero Wing City! When I get one, my friends will definitely die of envy!”

Currently, the various large Guilds were all trying to earn as much money as possible from their Guild towns to further develop themselves. Hence, they would only construct a few private houses for show. It was simply impossible for Guilds to offer these private houses as a Guild benefit. As for the private houses in popular Guild towns, even Guild upper echelons might not be able to get their hands on one.

Yet, now, Lifestyle players like themselves actually had the opportunity to exchange for private houses in Star-Moon Kingdom's number one town and number one city. They felt as if they were dreaming right now. Although they also knew that the price would not be low, at the very least, they had a chance—a much greater chance of obtaining one than if they were an outsider.

If news of this matter were to spread, it would no doubt cause a commotion in the entire Star-Moon Kingdom. Even the neighboring kingdoms and empires might be affected.

Shi Feng faked a cough to silence the excited crowd before him. He then said, "Alright, now that that's dealt with, once you sign the contracts, you all will start researching this item together," and took out a thick book from his bag.

This book was none other than the Four Towers of Elements Design, which he had obtained from the Fallen Ark.

Chapter 1528 – Hidden Promotion Condition

When Shi Feng revealed the thick tome, the architects' eyes glowed.

“This is...an Advanced Construction Design!”

Ordinary players might not understand what kind of design Shi Feng had shown them, but these weren't ordinary players; they stood at the apex of Star-Moon Kingdom's architects.

An ordinary construction design only consisted of several sheets of paper. Meanwhile, designs with enough pages to become books were Advanced Construction Designs. The thicker the book was, the more difficult the design would be to construct. Unlike the buildings in the real world, God's Domain's Advanced Constructions required Secret Runes and Magic Arrays. If these were imperfect in the slightest way and couldn't connect, they wouldn't function and would have to be redrawn.

Fortunately, the entire pattern wouldn't need to be redrawn if mistakes occurred with some runes or arrays. Players simply needed to rework the failed symbols and sacrifice a few extra materials. However, since the necessary materials were precious, the Guild would feel a slight sting in its pockets if an architect failed too many times.

Meanwhile, what truly excited these architects was the fact that every Advanced Construction Design had a unique set of Secret Runes for players to learn. Learning these Secret Runes would help them when they designed their own in the future. They would then have an easier time climbing to the Master rank.

“Guild Leader, while we can complete the foundation of the Four Towers of Elements, I'm afraid the magic arrays for the core part are too complex. They are at least Advanced Magic Arrays. We aren't capable of drawing them right now...” After taking a look through the Elemental Towers' design, Happy Mo discovered the design's most challenging aspect.

Although they frequently researched magic arrays, they were only capable of completing Basic Magic Arrays at the moment. They were still some time from being able to draw Intermediate Magic Arrays. Meanwhile, the Four Towers of Elements' core required Advanced Magic Arrays, which were used to harvest energy within the Seven Luminaries Crystals.

Architects of their rank weren't yet capable of achieving this feat.

"Your task is to build the towers' foundations. I'll draw the magic arrays for the cores. You just need to deal with the Secret Runes and Magic Circuits," Shi Feng explained.

"You'll draw them, Guild Leader?" The Lifestyle players were stunned when they heard Shi Feng's plan. They stared at the man as if he were a monster.

Not only was Shi Feng a Master Forger, but he could also draw Advanced Magic Arrays. How were they supposed to compare to someone like this?

What these players didn't realize was that players had to learn to draw magic arrays to develop their subclasses. In the past, players had only discovered this fact after reaching Level 100. Regardless of the subclass, players would encounter magic arrays as they increased their Lifestyle ranks. Only, the difficulty varied depending on the subclass.

For example, forgers, alchemists, and engineers needed to be able to draw Intermediate Magic Arrays at the very minimum if they wanted to reach the Master rank. The requirement was even higher to become a Grandmaster. When crafting a higher-quality item, the production process would require more Mana. Without a magic array to help guide the Mana to the item, the production process would fail.

Because of this, the various large Guilds fought over the rare Magic Array Designs, particularly the high-ranked ones. This was also why powerful Lifestyle players preferred to join powerful Guilds. As an individual, not only was it difficult to obtain high-quality materials in large quantities, but it was also extremely difficult to collect a large variety of Magic Array Designs. Such a task required sufficient strength and a large number of players.

This was the reason that the various kingdoms and empires restricted the circulation of Magic Array Designs.

Aside from the Four Towers of Elements Design, Shi Feng had also revealed the Advanced Restaurant Design and instructed the Advanced Architects to research it together. With this, they could improve their Secret Rune standards far more quickly and complete the Four Towers of Elements with more precision.

Seeing this, the other architects present could not help their envy. Now, they were even more eager to reach Advanced rank. After all, there was a massive difference between the amount of GCPs they could obtain from constructing an Advanced Construction and a Basic Construction.

Moreover, Shi Feng had stated that as long as they qualified and had enough GCPs, they could purchase a private house in Zero Wing City.

Following which, every architect went into action.

While the Advanced Architects focused on the Four Towers of Elements, the other architects focused on the hotels, bars, private houses, Shops, the Battle Arena, and other Basic Constructions.

...

Elsewhere, Shi Feng published the news of Zero Wing City on Star-Moon Kingdom's official forums. After all, the city wouldn't remain a secret for long, and with how massive Zero Wing had become, the Guild certainly had quite a few spies among its ranks. Rather than letting only the other Guilds in on the secret, it was more beneficial to announce it to the kingdom, increasing the city and Guild's fame.

When the information went public, a sensation swept through the kingdom.

The spectacular view from the city alone was mesmerizing, not to mention its functions.

However, players were more excited about the city's Mana density.

"The city's Mana density is so high even without any Magic Towers?"

"With this, Zero Wing will definitely rise in God's Domain. Once Zero Wing finishes constructing Magic Towers, the city's Mana density will be even higher than in Stone Forest Town."

"But why is Zero Wing City constructed in Witch's Hill? Although the average levels of the area's maps are quite high, their resources are average at best. They chose a far better location for Stone Forest Town."

"Zero Wing might have other reasons. Just look at Witch's Hill. It has the high-level resource map, Shadow Forest, and the hell Mode Regional Dungeon, Mournful Ruins. When players reach Level 60, Witch's Hill will be a prime leveling spot."

"I wonder when Zero Wing will open its city to the public?"

"That's right! When is Zero Wing going to open the city?!"

“It would be great if our adventurer team can garrison in Zero Wing City. Hopefully, the private houses won’t be too expensive.”

Although Shi Feng had only released a small amount of information, it was enough to stir players’ interest.

When the various large Guilds saw Shi Feng’s post, some celebrated, while others wept. Those who celebrated were the Guilds whom the city couldn’t threaten right now. After all, God’s Domain’s mainstream players were still some distance from Level 40. It would still be some time before mainstream players would head to Level 50-70 areas like Witch’s Hill to develop.

Once players reached Level 50, Zero Wing City would become a disaster.

“Gather more manpower immediately! We need to earn as many Contribution Points as possible during Bewildering Forest Town’s defense!”

For a time, the various large Guilds assembled and dispatched their forces to Bewildering Forest Town.

If their Guilds wished to develop quickly, they had to deal with their lack of Mounts as quickly as possible. Bewildering Forest Town’s defense was the best opportunity to do so.

As a result, more players flooded to the already-crowded town. Among the new arrivals, the lowest level was Level 40, while the majority were Level 42 and 43.

As one large Guild after another arrived with its forces in Bewildering Forest Town, many of the independent players, who were there to earn some Contribution Points, were amazed.

Expert players, which were normally difficult to encounter, swarmed the town. Their equipment was simply blinding. Normally, players in full Level 40 Dark-Gold Equipment attracted a lot of attention, but now, these players were a dime a dozen. In fact, they barely attracted any attention.

Many of the players who had come to Bewildering Forest Town wore full sets of Level 45 Dark-Gold Equipment, but some even wielded weapons and equipment that radiated the Epic rank glow effect.

Among the various large Guilds that had arrived, one Guild stood out. Upon this Guild's arrival, the other Guilds in the Teleportation Hall opened a path for its members. Not only were these Guild members' levels quite high, but the other Guilds' upper echelons also drooled over their equipment. In addition, every one of these players sat comfortably atop their Mounts, with the majority riding pitch-black warhorses. These players also wore a black cape draped over their shoulders. As they moved, they looked like a well-trained army.

The several dozen players leading this group even rode Bronze rank and above Mounts. Compared to these players, the other Guilds' members looked like hoodlums.

"What Guild is that? It's so amazing!"

"Have you never been to a neutral map outside of Star-Moon Kingdom? You don't know about Heaven's Burial?"

"Heaven's Burial?! How is this possible?! I remember that Heaven's Burial suffered a devastating defeat when it tried to compete with Zero Wing for the position of number one Guild. How does it have so many high-level members? They even have Mounts!"

“You must’ve never been to a neutral map before, then. After Zero Wing defeated the Guild, Heaven’s Burial shifted its focus. Now, it thrives in neutral maps. Have you heard of Bonewind Town?”

“I’ve heard of it. I think it’s one of the three Orc Towns players captured after the Orc Empire’s rise.”

“Let me tell you, then. Heaven’s Burial is the Guild that captured Bonewind Town. Because of that, a large corporation decided to invest in the Guild. Heaven’s Burial used those investments to recruit a large number of experts and well-known Workshops from other kingdoms and empires. Now, the Guild’s strength has reached a new level. If Heaven’s Burial clashed with Zero Wing in the fields now, it might have a chance of victory.”

As the crowd discussed Heaven’s Burial, another series of flashes illuminated Bewildering Forest Town’s Teleportation Hall. Unlike Heaven’s Burial’s members, however, none of these players rode Mounts. But despite standing there quietly, the crowd couldn’t help but turn towards them.

“Look! Zero Wing’s members are here!”

Chapter 1529 – War between Countries

As Zero Wing’s members teleported into Bewildering Forest Town, their arrival caused a commotion that swept through the town.

“Zero Wing’s members have arrived?”

“What a powerful aura! As expected from Star-Moon Kingdom’s number one Guild!”

“What?! Black Flame is here, too?!”

...

As Bewildering Forest Town’s players watched Zero Wing’s team approach the town’s ramparts, they unconsciously moved aside, opening a path for these experts.

“Guild Leader, Zero Wing’s members are so high-leveled! They’re all Level 45 and above!” The Star Alliance’s Flourishing Willow couldn’t help but gape at Zero Wing’s team. “Wait, look! There are Level 50 players among them! Aqua Rose and the other dozen or so core members are actually over Level 50!”

Flourishing Willow was a top-tier expert in the Star Alliance, and she had been leveling quickly in a neutral map, reaching Level 47. Based on her calculations, she could rank among Star-Moon Kingdom’s top 20 players, and that included the players who hid their levels.

However, she had never imagined that the Zero Wing had would have several dozen players that had higher levels than hers. Among them, over a dozen players were above Level 50...

“Level 50?” Galaxy Past, who stood beside Flourishing Willow, turned to look at Shi Feng and his team. This news was truly surprising. “What about Black Flame’s level?”

He did not doubt Flourishing Willow’s words in the slightest. Although Zero Wing’s members wore Black Cloaks and hid their levels, Flourishing Willow had learned a super-rare Identification Skill that could see through a Black Cloak’s concealment.

Level 50 was a significant threshold for players. Not only would weapons and equipment's quality spike, but players could also challenge their Tier 2 Promotion Quests.

There was no doubt that Zero Wing's members had already begun to challenge these quests. Given enough time, they could even start raiding Level 50, 100-man Hell Mode Team Dungeons and super-large-scale Team Dungeons. It was what all the various large Guilds focused on right now. It was relevant to their Guilds' development due to the various special construction designs and Construction Upgrade Orders that dropped from these Dungeons.

"I can't see it..." Flourishing Willow said, shaking her head. "I don't know why, but when I try to inspect him with my Skill, all I get is an 'Unknown.' Black Flame must have a high-rank concealment tool on him. At most, my Skill can see through ordinary concealment tools."

"As expected of the individual even the Secret Pavilion takes care around, but at least we know a portion of Zero Wing's strength."

Galaxy Past could not help his rueful sigh. He truly found it hard to imagine that in just a few short months, Black Flame and Zero Wing would transform from unknown existences into Star-Moon Kingdom's current giant. He shot Heaven's Burial's members a glance as they took their positions on another section of the town's ramparts.

Galaxy Past had to admit that Star-Moon Kingdom was an ominous area. Not only had it given birth to an existence like Zero Wing, but it had also been the birthplace of Heaven's Burial. For a while now, Heaven's Burial had enjoyed great success in the Orc Empire's neutral maps. Now that it had the financial support of a large corporation, its overall strength even exceeded first-rate Guilds' like the Star Alliance.

With Zero Wing and Heaven's Burial fighting over Star-Moon Kingdom, Galaxy Past had been forced to give up on his endeavors in the kingdom, shifting his focus to different kingdoms. If the Star Alliance had

continued to compete with these two Guilds, it might not even retain its status as a first-rate Guild by the end of the year.

...

Meanwhile, on Heaven's Burial's side of the rampart...

"Guild Leader Singular, is that the Zero Wing you mentioned earlier?" a muscular man with a blood-red cape and a whitebone scimitar on his back asked as he watched Shi Feng and the others.

"Mhm." Singular Burial nodded.

"It's no wonder why Zero Wing can thrive in Star-Moon Kingdom. It has so many Level 45-plus players. Their team can practically rival a super-first-rate Guild's main force," the muscular man said, smiling. "Guild Leader Singular, why don't we use this opportunity to annihilate their group?"

If Star-Moon Kingdom's players heard this muscular man's question, he'd be labeled a fool.

However, when Heaven's Burial's members heard the man's words, their response was matter-of-fact.

"Young Master Lei, please don't act so rashly. The city's defense is our current goal. We'll have plenty of opportunities to take care of Zero Wing in the future," Singular Burial hurriedly stated. "Zero Wing won't be able to continue prancing around for much longer."

The muscular man before him was none other than Lei Jingyang, the heir of the corporation backing Heaven's Burial. He was also the virtual gaming world's famous Young Master Lei. Lei Jingyang had established the Thunder Workshop, one of the top Workshops in the virtual gaming world. Super-first-rate and Super Guilds even commissioned the Thunder Workshop's help on occasion.

Although the Thunder Workshop only had several hundred members, every member was an expert Lei Jingyang had personally poached from various organizations. The Thunder Workshop had also performed miracles in multiple virtual reality games and stood against Super Guilds. At one point, numerous super-first-rate and Super Guilds had even entertained the idea of taking out the Workshop.

However, Lei Jingyang's identity was extraordinary. Considering that and how powerful the Thunder Workshop was, these superpowers eventually dismissed this notion.

Once Lei Jingyang had joined God's Domain, he had become unstoppable. With the support of his corporation, he quickly increased his Workshop's member count to several thousand and achieved plenty of feats in the Fire Dragon Empire, one of the Four Great Empires in God's Domain.

Naturally, Lei Jingyang earned his arrogance, even when facing Zero Wing.

Singular Burial was absolutely certain that if he didn't stop Lei Jingyang now, Bewildering Forest Town would become a bloodbath later.

"Alright. But if Zero Wing gets too close, don't blame me for killing a few of them," Lei Jingyang said, fighting spirit flashing in his eyes as he scanned Shi Feng's group.

Singular Burial was speechless when he saw Lei Lingyang's excitement. He knew that this man wasn't specifically targeting Zero Wing. He simply wanted to fight its experts. His attitude was well-known in

the virtual gaming world. In fact, Lei Jingyang had even challenged a Super Guild's Guild Leader in the past.

...

Meanwhile, as Shi Feng led Zero Wing's members to one of the massive ramparts around Bewildering Forest Town, he noticed Heaven's Burial, a little surprised by what he saw.

"Guild Leader, is there something peculiar over there?" Fire Dance asked when she noticed Shi Feng staring at Lei Jingyang's group.

"It's nothing. I just realized how deep Heaven's Burial's roots are," Shi Feng said, chuckling. After one last look at Lei Jingyang, he stopped caring about Heaven's Burial's group entirely.

He knew something about Lei Jingyang. In the past, the man had been known as the Tempest Wargod in God's Domain. Backed by the corporation behind him, Thor's Hammer, the Guild he established in God's Domain, had gained public recognition as a super-first-rate Guild just three years after its creation. Shi Feng had never expected to find this man among Heaven's Burial's people.

...

Just as everyone quietly observed the various major powers in Bewildering Forest Town, the sky above and around the town abruptly darkened. Suddenly, thousands of Orcs began to march out of the forest a short distance away from the town. For a moment, the combined bloodlust the Orcs radiated caused the players standing on the town's ramparts to shudder involuntarily. Moreover, these Orcs were all above Level 40, with the highest at Level 65. There was no lack of Grand Lord ranked Orcs amidst the army, either.

“What is this?” The scene stupefied every player watching.

In this moment, the players on the ramparts finally understood what war truly meant. Even Zero Wing’s members, who had taken part in multiple siege wars, could not help their shock.

The siege wars they had experienced were a joke compared to the force they were about to face. In the face of this Orc army, even 500,000 Evil Beasts would be child’s play.

Unlike the Evil Beast army, these Orcs moved in well-organized rows. Even from afar, one could see the clear division between the Orcs’ frontliners, healers, and ranged attackers. More importantly, the Orcs dragged siege weapons, such as Catapults and Battering Rams, with them. At a glance, there were easily over a hundred Catapults lining up at the edge of the forest.

Such a force even surprised Aqua Rose and Zero Wing’s other main force members, who had experienced hundreds of fierce battles.

This was nothing like the monster siege they had imagined.

Before the defending players could wrap their minds around the situation, sounds of warhorns rang out from the forest. Immediately, the Orcs began to surge from the forest’s edge fervently. Every one of them had gained a status buff...

Chapter 1530 – Despairing Gap

“Why are there so many monsters?”

“Is this really a monster siege? Why does it feel more like a war between NPCs?”

“Quick, look! The NPC soldiers’ levels have dropped!”

Everyone felt their scalps tingle as they watched the tsunami of Orcs surge out of the forest. Before they realized it, the Level 100-plus NPC soldiers defending Bewildering Forest Town had fallen to Level 70. Even the guard captains fell to Level 75.

Seeing this, everyone felt a chill grip their hearts.

Level 70-plus NPCs would only have a small advantage over the Level 60-plus Orcs. Trying to defend the town with just a little over 2,000 NPCs would be a dream.

As a result, the various large Guilds’ original plan to rely on the NPCs shattered.

“Guild Leader, there are too many Orcs. It’s impossible to stop them with Bewildering Forest Town’s current defenses. Should we retreat?” Flourishing Willow’s expression darkened after she inspected the Orc army with her Identification Skill.

The weakest of these Orcs was a Level 40 Special Elite. There were also a large number of Great Lord ranked Orc Warriors and Grand Lord ranked Orc Captains. Most importantly, this army was marching towards the town from three different directions, and Level 65 Mythic ranked Orc Generals led the siege on each side.

This level of combat power simply could not be stopped by a weakened town's defenses. The only defensive structures the town had were Arrow Towers, which were far weaker than Catapults. In such a situation, trying to stop several million Orcs with 300,000-plus elite players was a joke.

"Let's wait and see. If victory is impossible, we'll retreat." Even Galaxy Past felt the building pressure.

He had assumed that this battle would devolve into a struggle for Boss kills, but just defending the town against the low-ranking Orcs would be a miracle, much less trying to compete for the Mythic Bosses. Whoever tried to fight the Bosses while surrounded by so many Orcs would be begging for death.

The other Guilds also adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

Suddenly, over a hundred, massive fireballs began to rain down on Bewildering Forest Town.

"Crap! Dodge the attacks!" the various Guilds' upper echelons shouted, their expressions darkening when they saw the fireballs.

The fireballs had come from the distant Catapults. If players were struck by the Catapults' attacks, there would only be one outcome—death!

Although players tried to move out of the attack's trajectory, over 300,000 players had gathered in Bewildering Forest Town. The town was so cramped that even normal movement was difficult. As a result, these players could only watch as the massive fireballs descended.

Boom... Boom... Boom...

A series of explosions echoed throughout Bewildering Forest Town.

Before the fireballs struck the town, the town's defensive magic array stopped and scattered the attack. However, as a result of the explosions, the barrier shook violently and began to crack. Fortunately, due to its supply of Mana, it recovered quickly.

Everyone in the town breathed a sigh of relief. Had the 100-plus fireballs landed, the consequences would've been unimaginable.

However, as the magic barrier dealt with the fireballs, the Orcs and their Battering Rams reached the edge of the barrier outside of the town's ramparts. They attacked. As a considerably fortified town, magic runes strengthened the town's ramparts, and these walls could take more punishment than the magic barrier. However, the Orcs' Battering Rams specialized in breaking down walls and gates.

Sure enough, the Battering Rams' magical pikes pierced the magic barrier and struck the wall around the town, leaving multiple marks.

"Everyone, focus on the Orc's Battering Rams! Do not let them break through the town's magic arrays and walls!" the various upper echelons shouted.

Reacting immediately, players launched their attacks from atop the town's walls, raining down countless arrows and Spells on the Orcs below. However, as if some barrier protected the Battering Rams and reduced incoming damage, the attacks only dealt several hundred damage. Very few players dealt over - 1,000 damage.

This amount of damage barely affected the Special Elite ranked Orcs, who had several hundred thousand HP, much less the Chieftain, Lord, and Great Lord ranked Orcs, whose HPs were in the millions.

Even when the players launched large-scale destruction Spells and AOE's, the effects weren't ideal. At most, these attacks removed some of the Special Elites. The Chieftains and above were still alive and kicking even after the bombardment. As a result, the magic barrier's energy reserves steadily decreased.

Although the Orcs' attacks were within the range of the defensive magic array's endurance, the large number of Orc attacks quickly depleted the magic barrier's energy reserves. Furthermore, the Battering Rams' relentless attacks had already begun to crack the town's walls.

In contrast, the defending players had only eliminated a small fraction of the army despite their constant assault. The Orc army still covered the plains around the town as far as the eye could see. The Catapults constant bombardment also illuminated the night sky above Bewildering Forest Town.

...

"Young Master Lei, at this rate, it is only a matter of time before the Orcs break through the town's defensive magic array and ramparts. Once the Orcs enter the town, the town's teleportation arrays will shut down. I suggest that we retreat," Singular Burial said, frowning as he watched the Orcs below the ramparts. "It is impossible for current players to complete this defensive quest."

Just the Orc Warriors and Captains before them were discouraging, let alone the Mythic ranked Orc Generals who were slowing approaching.

Aside from their numbers, the Orcs had a buff that reduced all incoming damage. Even if several thousand players attacked a single Great Lord together, they would need a considerable amount of time to defeat it.

“Alright, let’s retreat.”

When Lei Jingyang noticed that the various large Guilds had begun to flee, he shook his head helplessly. He might be a battle maniac, but he was no fool. He could tell that the Main God System had never had any intention of letting players succeed in this defensive battle. Otherwise, the system wouldn’t have weakened the Level 100-plus NPC soldiers. Continuing this fight would be futile.

...

“Guild Leader, Heaven’s Burial has begun to retreat,” Flourishing Willow reported.

“It seems that this war is lost. Let’s leave as well,” Galaxy Past said. As Galaxy Past gave the command to retreat, however, something caught his attention. “Hm?”

Surprisingly, even after the various large Guilds had begun to flee, Zero Wing’s members continued their zealous assault against the attacking Orcs and Battering Rams. The team’s clearing speed was far superior to the other large Guilds as every member dealt over -1,000 damage. Some of Zero Wing’s players even dealt several thousand damage with each attack.

“They’re staying?” Galaxy Past watched Zero Wing’s members in confusion.

Currently, less than 100,000 players remained in Bewildering Forest Town. Moreover, more players fled with each passing second, yet Zero Wing’s members had chosen not to retreat and continued to attack even though the town’s defensive magic array and walls could shatter at any minute.

...

“Zero Wing still acts so tough even now?” Lei Jingyang, who currently stood below the town’s walls, revealed a contemptuous sneer as he watched Shi Feng, who remained on the ramparts. “Just for the sake of keeping up appearances as the number one Guild, he’s ordered his Guild members to throw away their lives. It seems that Zero Wing isn’t as impressive as they say.”

In his opinion, Zero Wing was merely trying to maintain its reputation as Star-Moon Kingdom’s number one Guild, being the last Guild to leave the battle.

“Do they really think they can perform some miracle with just 1,000 players? Young Master Lei, let’s leave.” Singular Burial laughed as he moved towards the town’s Teleportation Hall.

Following which, one Guild after another left the town. In minutes, only Zero Wing remained.

...

“Guild Leader, the other Guilds have left,” Aqua Rose reported as she inspected Bewildering Forest Town’s situation. Only Zero Wing’s members occupied the town.

“Good. Let’s begin.” Shi Feng then turned to Cola beside him, and said, “Cola, Turtledove, Ye Wumian, you three will be the lead MTs. We’re targeting the Orc Warlord!”

Although he did not have any experience dealing with Orcs’ sieges, he had watched several videos of such in the past. The fact that the Orcs had dispatched this massive of a force to deal with Bewildering Forest Town didn’t surprise him in the least. In fact, he had expected it. After all, this was a war between countries. It wouldn’t be unexpected if the battle dragged on for several days.

However, there was a method to end this war swiftly: slay the enemy commander. This method might be difficult for other Guilds, as even approaching the enemy commander was nearly impossible, but it wouldn't be difficult for him.

Following which, Shi Feng activated Spatial Gate, aiming for the Orc army's temporary base of operations at the army's rear.