

Strongest

Chapter 1781: Tremendous Changes

Star-Moon Kingdom, Zero Wing City:

When Shi Feng entered the Guild Hall's first-floor hall, he noticed that the main hall was crowded with Guild members either eagerly picking up a quest or exchanging for an item from the Guild Warehouse. With a glance, he noticed that the players present inside the hall were all Level 51 and above. Some Tier 2 players sporting Zero Wing's core member emblem were forming Guild teams to raid Team Dungeons.

The entire first-floor hall bustled with prosperity. Things here were completely different from before he left for the Ice Crystal World.

After observing the situation in the Guild Hall for a short while, Shi Feng hurried to the Candlelight Trading Firm.

As he rode through the streets of Zero Wing City on an advanced horse carriage, he noticed that there were many more players in the city than before, especially merchant players. In addition, he also saw quite a lot of leisure players wearing virtual clothing designed and made by real-world companies. It was obvious that players had started treating Zero Wing City as a place where they could enjoy life.

Aside from merchant players and leisure players, there was also a marked increase in expert players in the city.

Just within his field of vision alone right now, Shi Feng already spotted several dozen Level 53 and above expert players and even two extremely rare Tier 2 players. This was a situation that could not be found even in Frozen City.

However, the greatest change to Zero Wing City was the horse carriages on the streets. Convoys of carriages frequently drove past Shi Feng. These convoys mostly belonged to NPC merchant caravans, the presence of which also represented the prosperity of a city. And the more there were of such caravans inside a city, the more prosperous a city was.

After Zero Wing City's prosperity reached a certain degree, so long as the city met certain safety requirements, it could get promoted from a Basic City to an Intermediate City.

In Shi Feng's opinion, Zero Wing City's promotion was imminent

If a Guild wished to promote its Basic City to an Intermediate City, the city needed sufficient Popularity. The presence of NPC merchants on the streets was a good benchmark for a city's Popularity—something which the various large Guilds in the past had discovered after collecting sample information from multiple Guild Cities. Normally, when half of the merchant caravans present in the city were made up of Advanced Transport Carriages, a Basic City already possessed sufficient Popularity to become an Intermediate City.

Meanwhile, roughly one-third of the merchant-owned carriages present inside Zero Wing City were Advanced Transport Carriages. The city was not far off from attaining the needed Popularity.

Zero Wing City's development speed thoroughly exceeded Shi Feng's expectations.

What with the Four Towers of Elements in Zero Wing City, it already fulfilled the security requirements to become an Intermediate City. In other words, so long as Zero Wing City achieved sufficient Popularity, it could immediately be promoted to an Intermediate City.

It would be great if Silverwing Town and the Lost Town could get promoted as quickly. Shi Feng could not help but sigh ruefully as he looked at the streets through his carriage's window.

Being Star-Moon Kingdom's first Guild City provided Zero Wing City with a massive advantage. With the additional benefit of an Advanced Defensive Construction like the Four Towers of Elements, it was basically impossible to stop Zero Wing City from developing rapidly.

On the other hand, Silverwing Town and the Lost Town, which were both located in neutral maps, did not possess such an advantage.

After riding on the horse carriage for about ten minutes, Shi Feng arrived before the Candlelight Trading Firm, which was as lively as ever. Quite a number of Lifestyle Players were lined up on one side of the Shop waiting to apply to join Candlelight

"Guild Leader, you're back!" Melancholic Smile, who was currently busy handling recruitment procedures on the second-floor hall, was pleasantly surprised to see Shi Feng.

"Mhm. What's the situation in Zero Wing City and Candlelight right now?" Shi Feng asked when he saw Melancholic Smile approaching him. When he noticed the Master Forger's Insignia pinned on her chest, he could not help his surprise, asking, "You got promoted to Master already?"

"I became a Master Forger just yesterday. It is all thanks to the rare materials you had Solitary Nine and the others deliver. Those materials allowed me to carry out many experiments. In the end, I managed to create an entirely new piece of equipment," Melancholic Smile said. However, despite her humble words, Melancholic Smile still felt a little proud of herself. After all, the threshold of Master was a huge one to cross. At this point in time, tons of Lifestyle players were still stuck at the Advanced rank, nowhere close to creating a new item.

“Since you’ve already been promoted to a Master Forger, I’ll hand over these designs to you,” Shi Feng said, taking out a few designs from his bag.

He had obtained these designs from the Snow Ruin. One of these designs was for the Level 50 Dark-Gold Weapon Sockham’s Blade, one was for Level 50 Fine-Gold ranked plate armor armguards, and one was for Level 50 Dark-Gold ranked cloth armor robes.

Upon taking a closer look at these designs, Melancholic Smile immediately fell into a daze, her hands gripping the designs for Sockham’s Blade and the Fine-Gold ranked armguards tightly.

“Guild Leader, can I really learn these?” she asked excitedly.

If these were merely Secret-Silver ranked forging designs, she wouldn’t have batted an eye at them. However, it was a different story for Level 50 Fine-Gold and Dark-Gold ranked designs because forging items of such quality required completely different techniques and the proper matching of materials to unleash the full potential of the materials used.

In short, the rank of a forged weapon or equipment was determined by a forger’s capability to utilize the materials involved.

If a forger was capable of forging only Bronze and Mysterious-Iron ranked weapons and equipment, then their ability to unleash the potential of raw materials was only at a rudimentary level. Weapons and equipment at the Dark-Gold rank, on the other hand, could be considered works of art. At this rank, the matching of materials was practically at a perfect level.

Meanwhile, if players wished to create such works of art of their own, they needed to keep learning Level 50-plus Fine-Gold and Dark-Gold ranked forging designs.

However, designs of such rank were extremely rare and difficult to obtain. Thus far, aside from the Fine-Gold rank and above designs from the Holy City of Titan, the Candlelight Trading Firm did not possess any other high-ranking designs.

“Of course. If Candlelight has a tailor who has reached the Master rank, then that robe design will be theirs,” Shi Feng said, chuckling. This situation made him realize that, aside from various rare materials, he could also get high-ranking designs for Lifestyle players from the Ice Crystal World. It wouldn’t be a bad idea to have Solitary Nine transfer some of the high-ranking designs they acquired at the Ice Crystal World.

“Thank you, Guild Leader! I’ll make sure to produce weapons and equipment that will be to your satisfaction very quickly!” Melancholic Smile was brimming with joy as she stored the designs.

Afterward, she started reporting on Zero Wing’s current affairs to Shi Feng.

Thanks to Zero Wing City and Silverwing Town, Zero Wing’s development was zooming along. The Guild already had over 240,000 elite members and 7,000 expert members. Those numbers could already rival those of first-rate Guilds.

With Zero Wing City’s player population having exceeded 5,000,000 during this period, it was close to catching up to White River City. Just the entrance fees collected daily provided massive income to the Guild.

Only, as the Guild’s member count increased, the Guild’s expenditures likewise increased. Moreover, the Zero Wing members developing over at Silverwing Town were constantly ambushed and harassed by the Evil God’s Temple and Dark Players. This forced the Guild to construct more defensive structures in Silverwing Town, as well as pay compensation to members that got killed in battle. Right now, the

Guild was basically investing every Coin it earned back into itself. As a result, it was just barely running properly right now.

However, it was also thanks to Silverwing Town that Zero Wing was gaining a bountiful harvest from the Primordial Divine Ruin. The Guild was now sending many more players into the ruin.

After hearing Melancholic Smile's report, Shi Feng, who had been cudgeling his brain over the collection of Fire Resistance equipment, relaxed considerably.

Now that the Guild had so many experts, having a portion of them focus specifically on collecting Fire Resistance equipment would not hamper the Guild's operation. At the very least, it would not affect the main force's development

As for funding, that was not a problem at all. Afterward, Shi Feng emptied the rare materials inside his bag and stacked them up into miniature mountains inside Candlelight's warehouse.

The sight of the materials Shi Feng took out rendered Melancholic Smile speechless. The amount of materials greatly exceeded the total amount that Solitary Nine's group had brought over in two trips.

With so many rare materials, they could earn a fortune just by selling the materials directly. If they turned these materials into products and sold them, they would earn even more. After all, many of these materials were suitable for producing Level 50 weapons and equipment at the Secret-Silver rank and above. If they made these weapons and equipment and sold them, they would rake in a ridiculous amount of money.

"Right, Guild Leader, I have an item here that the Secret Pavilion sent over. Originally, the Secret Pavilion's representatives stated that they had to hand it over to you in person. However, since you weren't around, after they made several visits, they ended up giving up and passed it to me for safekeeping, instead," Melancholic Smile said. She then took out a pitch-black gift box from her bag and handed it to Shi Feng.

“An item from the Secret Pavilion?” After receiving the gift box, Shi Feng immediately opened it out of curiosity.

Chapter 1782: Raising Funds

When Shi Feng tapped on the item, the exquisite gift box opened slowly.

Inside the gift box was an exquisite, golden card. Embossed on the card were the words “Secret Pavilion Auction Invitation Card.”

The invitation card for the Secret Pavilion’s auction? Shi Feng took out the card to inspect its Attribute Panel. This is interesting.

Recorded on the card’s Attribute Panel was the address for the venue of the Secret Pavilion’s internal auction. The card also served as an electronic pass that allowed entry into the auction. Meanwhile, the card could allow up to five people to participate in the auction.

Shi Feng knew very clearly what an internal auction hosted by the Secret Pavilion entailed. These internal auctions were a hub of high-class items. Moreover, the auctions weren’t limited to items found in God’s Domain. Real-world items that could be of help to one’s progression in the game would also be available.

During the first two years after God's Domain's launch, not even the Dark Arena's Dark Auction could have compared to the Secret Pavilion's internal auction. Epic items were commonplace in these internal auctions, not worth mentioning. More importantly, the auction would include Fragmented Legendary items and clues that could lead to Legendary items.

The internal auction also offered a massive quantity of items. Sometimes, the internal auctions would last two days due to so many items for sale. As long as one attended, they could reap a considerable harvest.

For Shi Feng, this auction's timing could not be more perfect. He currently needed a large stock of high-quality Fire Resistance equipment, and the Secret Pavilion, which reached all across the continent of God's Domain, definitely had some Fire Resistance equipment to sell. Purchasing some during this auction would save him a lot of time and effort.

Taking a look at the auction's date, he noticed that it would be held in four days. He still had time to prepare.

Later, Shi Feng gathered Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow to inform them of the Secret Pavilion's invitation.

If it were merely a normal auction, he might not have bothered to notify these two, but this was a Secret Pavilion internal auction. Many of God's Domain's outstanding experts would be there due to the auction's tradition.

To prevent the participating superpowers from monopolizing the finale items, leaving nothing for the other powers, the Secret Pavilion would hold a competition to decide how many of the finale items each power could purchase. Of course, one could refuse to take part in the competition, but they'd be limited to two or three of the finale items at most.

To avoid missing out on anything precious, the various participating powers would show some effort in the competition.

After all, the Secret Pavilion's finale items were all extraordinary.

Of course, not just anybody could participate in this competition. Only 25-year-olds and younger could participate. If old monsters were allowed to take part, then up-and-coming powers might as well sit still and do nothing.

Because of this, the various powers usually brought their outstanding experts to the internal auction. Although these experts were relatively unknown in the current God's Domain, they would definitely become famous figures in the future.

As Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow were Zero Wing's Vice Guild Leaders, it was best to let them keep an eye out for these up- and-coming experts. After all, nobody knew if these up-and-coming experts would become enemies in the future.

When Aqua Rose saw the invitation card in Shi Feng's hand, she stared with wide, surprised eyes.

"Guild Leader, you're too awesome! You actually received a gold invitation card! I've heard that the Secret Pavilion has only distributed 50 Gold Cards this time!" Aqua Rose said in admiration.

The Secret Pavilion's internal auction was a grand event in the virtual gaming world. Even veteran first-rate Guilds like Twilight Echo would only receive a silver invitation card. Meanwhile, those with a Gold Card would enjoy a massive loan from the Secret Pavilion. Even if one attended the event with empty pockets, they could use the Gold Card to purchase some items, paying their bill several days later.

This provided a massive advantage in the auction.

The Secret Pavilion had distributed such Gold Cards to prevent the various superpowers from casually bidding on finale items and winning them by default or for a very low price. Aqua Rose found it truly hard to believe that Shi Feng had actually received a Gold Card...

“They’ve only sent out 50?” Shi Feng could not help but take another look at the invitation card.

During his previous life, he had never participated in any of the Secret Pavilion’s internal auctions since Shadow hadn’t qualified for an invitation. He had only heard details about the internal auction from other Guilds. He certainly hadn’t expected the Secret Pavilion to send Zero Wing such a high-ranked invitation card.

“Guild Leader, can I bring a friend to the auction as well?” Aqua Rose asked hesitantly.

Depending on the type of invitation card one received, players could bring a certain number of people with them. Bronze Cards, the most common invitation cards, only granted entry to two people, and Silver Cards granted entry to three people. Only Gold Cards granted entry to five people.

“Sure. We have plenty of slots, in any case,” Shi Feng answered.

He had only intended to bring Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow to the auction. No one else really mattered. They were only going to get a glimpse at the various major powers’ up-and-coming experts. This information would only be useful to management-level figures in Zero Wing. Bringing Guild experts wouldn’t benefit the Guild. On the contrary, he would be wasting his experts’ time.

“Thank you, Guild Leader!” Aqua Rose said joyfully.

Shi Feng, Aqua Rose, and Gentle Snow agreed on a specific time to meet up at the internal auction's venue in the real world. Before this, though, Shi Feng had the two of them lead a team of their own to raid specific Team Dungeons to acquire some Fire Resistance equipment.

As for Shi Feng, he did his best to collect funds.

The Secret Pavilion's internal auction used three different currencies. The first was Credits, which was also the most preferred currency of the various superpowers, the second was in-game Coins, and the third currency was Magic Crystals.

Currently, Zero Wing severely lacked Credits. Hence, that only left the option of paying with Coins and Magic Crystals. Fortunately, the Secret Pavilion preferred Magic Crystals and Coins. Hence, during the auction, Magic Crystals and Coins would have a priority over Credits.

However, Shi Feng had no intention of purchasing items using Magic Crystals since they weren't easy to obtain. Moreover, Zero Wing currently needed a lot more Magic Crystals to sustain its operation compared to other Guilds. Hence, he would have to rely on his Coins.

Shi Feng had spent three full days cooped up inside one of Candlelight's Special Forging Rooms, constantly producing Advanced Mana Armor Kits.

Even at this stage of the game, Advanced Mana Armor Kits were still highly sought after. There simply weren't enough to satisfy market demand. However, Shi Feng hadn't had much time to craft the kits, so supply hadn't increased. Now, not only could he use these Advanced Mana Armor Kits to make money, but he could also use them to increase his Forging Proficiency. One hundred thousand Proficiency Points were required for a Basic Master Forger to become an Intermediate Master Forger. Only after a Basic Master Forger had the required Forging Proficiency and created the necessary number of weapons or equipment could they become an Intermediate Master Forger.

Producing both the Bronze Guardian Puppet and the Hell Chariot required an Intermediate Master Forger.

Between the Bronze Guardian Puppet and the Hell Chariot, it was easier to acquire the necessary materials and manpower to craft the Hell Chariot. If Candlelight could produce Hell Chariots, it would be of immense help to Zero Wing.

Aside from Shi Feng, the only Basic Master Forger in the Candlelight Trading Firm was Melancholic Smile. However, as Melancholic Smile had just reached that rank, she would need some time to become an Intermediate Master Forger. The best candidate to become an Intermediate Forger right now was Shi Feng himself.

While Shi Feng had worked to maximize his Coin profits, he had Melancholic Smile sell some of the less-important rare materials they had in stock. Since the various large Guilds were so eager to acquire these rare materials, they could sell for a high price.

However, based on the latest market trends, Shi Feng could sense that these Guilds were trying to save their funds likely due to the Secret Pavilion's upcoming auction. Some Guilds were even selling strategic resources to raise funds. This caused the various large Guilds throughout God's Domain to sense the impending arrival of a storm. Only small Guilds and powers remained ignorant about the situation. Some minor powers even felt lucky that they had been able to purchase quite a few items they normally couldn't find...

After the Advanced Mana Armor Kits and rare materials had sold, Shi Feng had earned over 80,000 Gold. Including some of the Coins Zero Wing City and Stone Forest Town generated, Shi Feng had a total of 124,000 Gold Coins in his bag. This was definitely enough to inspire awe in any first-rate Guild.

This should be enough.

After taking a look at the time, Shi Feng chose to log out and head to the Secret Pavilion's internal auction.

Chapter 1783: Secret Pavilion Auction

Tianyuan City, Secret Pavilion Branch:

The branch headquarters was a 181-story-tall building that stood in the city's business district. The area the building occupied could fit a stadium that could accommodate 100,000 people. It was one of the most iconic buildings in the entire city. It was also where countless gamers wished to work.

Currently, curious passersby had gathered on the street outside of the building.

This was because today, the Secret Pavilion Branch, which generally saw little traffic, was quite lively. One luxury hovercar after another slid to a stop before the building's entrance, with easily over 100 in line.

The crowd also gaped in shock when they saw the individuals who alighted from these hovercars.

"Isn't that Thousand Miles, the Vice Guild Leader of the super-first-rate Guild Miracle? Why is he at Secret Pavilion's Branch?"

“Look! That is Cleansed Rue, the Vice Guild Leader of the first-rate Guild Hundred Flowers Pavilion! She is so beautiful!” “Even the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s Nine Dragons Emperor is here!”

“What’s going on? Why have the upper echelons of so many powerful Guilds come to the Secret Pavilion’s Branch?”

“I get it! The Secret Pavilion must be holding an internal auction today! The auction is so grand this time, though! So many Guilds have been invited!”

“I’m getting goosebumps from seeing so many of God’s Domain’s VIPs.”

“It would be great if I could join the auction just once.”

The crowd was relatively familiar with the people that had stepped out of the luxury hovercars. The virtual gaming world had already solidified its position in society. Large Gaming Guilds’ upper echelons were far more famous than celebrity singers or movie stars among the general populace. Moreover, since God’s Domain had gained so much popularity throughout the world, many people had started to pay attention to the virtual gaming world’s matters.

As the crowd watched one Guild VIP enter the Secret Pavilion’s Branch Headquarters after another, awe and admiration filled their hearts. Inwardly, they hoped that one day, they, too, could take part in such a grand event instead of being a silent spectator.

“Sure enough, the rumors were true. The Secret Pavilion has gone all-out this time. It has invited so many major corporations.” Thousand Miles, who stood in a corner of the branch headquarters’ main lobby, revealed a smile as he watched the VIPs enter the building.

“Commander, if that is true, then we’ll be in a tight spot. Based on our investigations, plenty of major corporations will be participating. I’m afraid that these corporations will compete with us over that item...” a beautiful woman in a dark-purple one-piece said, frowning.

If Shi Feng were present right now, not even he would’ve guessed this beauty to be Silent March, the vice commander of Miracle’s Purgatory Legion. She was far more charming and intellectual than her appearance in the game.

“We might not be a match for these corporations in terms of financial strength, but when it comes to resources in God’s Domain, Miracle doesn’t need to fear anyone. They won’t necessarily win that item,” Thousand Miles said, smiling as he eyed the dozen or so corporation representatives conversing in the lobby.

This internal auction was indeed much grander than before. Usually, major corporations that weren’t related to the virtual gaming world didn’t make an appearance. Not even the Dark Auction could lure these representatives.

While the various VIPs in the brilliant lobby chatted, a group of five entered the building. The group consisted of four women and one man, and compared to the other participants, the man appeared average at best. Nobody would bat an eye at him if he walked past. However, two of the women beside him immediately attracted a lot of attention.

One of these women radiated a cold, sacred feeling, her body akin to perfection itself. As for the other woman, she was radiant with an exquisite form. These women’s smiles were so charming that others were unconsciously attracted.

These women were none other than Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose, both appearing as they did in God's Domain. However, when Shi Feng actually met the two in person, he had been slightly surprised.

Although there were many great beauties in the lobby, they were no match for Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose.

As for the other two women in Shi Feng's group, one was his assistant, Liang Jing, while the other was Aqua Rose's so-called friend. In reality, though, this woman was Aqua Rose's elder cousin, and she looked quite similar to Aqua Rose. Although this female cousin wasn't quite as beautiful as Aqua Rose, she radiated a mature, wise feeling.

"There are so many Guilds here!" Aqua Rose quietly exclaimed. After a brief glance at the people in the lobby, she noticed that many were celebrities in God's Domain.

"There are also quite a few corporate representatives. The Secret Pavilion's capabilities are quite impressive," Gentle Snow added, a hint of admiration in her eyes as she surveyed the room.

Although some auctions in God's Domain could attract a few major corporations, these auctions definitely weren't as successful as the Secret Pavilion's internal auction. After watching the room for a moment, Gentle Snow had noticed six major corporations that were frequently on the news. Countless large Guilds wanted to partner with these major corporations. Unfortunately, none of these Guilds had gained these corporations' interest. On the contrary, these major corporations had annexed quite a few large Guilds in God's Domain, developing their own Guilds rapidly.

Compared to Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow, though, Liang Jing, who stood behind Shi Feng, was utterly baffled.

She simply could not understand what was going on, even wondering if she were dreaming. Just this morning, Shi Feng had her accompany him on the earliest flight to Tianyuan City. Then she had met Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow, surprised by their appearances. She had never actually expected Shi Feng to know such stunning women.

She had worked as the head secretary of Big Dipper's Chairman Xiao for three years now, and she had seen many VIPs before. Based on Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose's temperaments, she recognized that the women were far from ordinary.

However, after arriving at the Secret Pavilion's Branch Headquarters, she was beyond astonished.

Although she rarely paid attention to matters regarding the virtual gaming world, she knew a lot about the various major companies and corporations around the world. This was especially true for corporations.

She had spotted the representatives of over a dozen major corporations since she had entered the building. Normally, these representatives were VIPs that not even Chairman Xiao qualified to meet, yet they had gathered in one location to attend an event that she, too, attended. The only explanation that she could think of for such a situation was that she must be dreaming.

Although Shi Feng was a martial arts master and someone that even Chairman Xiao had to treat with importance, he wasn't worth mentioning compared to these representatives. These people lived in entirely different worlds. Furthermore, the only thing Shi Feng did, aside from his position as a martial arts instructor, was play God's Domain.

While God's Domain was very popular, in Liang Jing's opinion, it was only a virtual reality game. Even if a virtual reality game were quite impressive, how could it possibly attract the attention of powerful international corporations?

What Liang Jing did not know was that God's Domain was unlike any virtual reality game in the past. God's Domain was capable of extending its players' lifespans. If one took care of their body properly, it was possible to extend their lifespans by decades and centuries. Hence, God's Domain had attracted the attention of countless corporations to compete over the game and its limited resources.

While Liang Jing reminded herself that she must be dreaming, a healthy middle-aged man wearing an elegant suit and tie approached Shi Feng's group.

Upon noticing this middle-aged man, many first-rate Guilds and super-first-rate Guilds' upper echelons turned to watch Shi Feng's group.

"Damn it! Why did he choose Zero Wing?" Nine Dragons Emperor gritted his teeth, nearly cracking them, as he watched this elegant man stop before Shi Feng.

While Nine Dragons Emperor's eyes turned bloodshot, the middle-aged man introduced himself to Shi Feng's group.

"Hello! You must be Zero Wing's representatives, right? Let me introduce myself. I am Lu Xingluo, the Starline Corporation's representative. May I know if we can find a quiet place for a proper chat?"

After the man introduced himself, some of the large Guilds' upper echelons, who hadn't recognized the representative, were dumbfounded. Even Liang Jing, who stood behind Shi Feng, gaped when she learned the middle-aged man's identity.

The Starline Corporation!

That was one of the top 50 corporations in the entire world!

Chapter 1784: Unyielding Soul

“The Starline Corporation has its eye on Zero Wing?”

“That’s not possible, right? Didn’t Starline reject a partnership offer from a super-first-rate Guild before? Why would it suddenly set its sights on Zero Wing?”

“If this is true, we’ll have to be careful of Zero Wing in the future.”

The corporate representatives and the upper echelon of various Guilds inside the hall discussed among themselves in hushed tones as they watched Lu Xingluo and Shi Feng’s group enter a private lounge.

Meanwhile, Nine Dragons Emperor, who had quietly watched these proceedings from a corner of the room, frowned deeply.

Previously, he had sought out the Starline Corporation for partnership but got rejected outright. He did not even manage to meet with a corporate representative like Lu Xingluo.

The Starline Corporation was one of the major corporations that had invested in God’s Domain early on, unlike those that joined the struggle after the game had garnered global fame. Hence, the Starline Corporation already had a solid foundation in God’s Domain, so much so that even the various superpowers feared the corporation greatly.

If Zero Wing really partnered with the Starline Corporation, then he would have a much harder time dealing with Zero Wing in the future.

“Uncle Yuan, what do you think this is all about? Is the Starline Corporation actually trying to partner with Zero Wing?” Purple Jade, who was wearing a white dress, asked curiously as she watched Shi Feng’s group enter the private lounge.

“I’m not sure. From what I know, the Starline Corporation has never taken the initiative to seek a partnership with a Guild before. Could Zero Wing still have some secrets that we are not aware of?” Yuan Tiexin replied, shaking his head. He was also very confused by this situation.

In fact, even the Secret Pavilion wanted to collaborate with the Starline Corporation, which held a large amount of energy resources, especially the extremely rare High-level Energy. If the Secret Pavilion could get its hands on sufficient High-level Energy, it would be able to nurture many more experts than before.

This was also the reason why many super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds sought a partnership with the Starline Corporation.

Inside the spacious private lounge, both sides were currently seated on leather sofas and observing each other. At this moment, Shi Feng was honestly surprised that the famous Starline Corporation would approach Zero Wing. As for Liang Jing, she was already close to fainting.

After the silence persisted for a while, Lu Xingluo shifted his gaze to Aqua Rose’s cousin, revealing a playful smile as he said, “Miss Mu Lingsha, your Unyielding Soul really is tenacious. Do you think that, just because you managed to worm your way into the Secret Pavilion’s internal auction this time, you’ll be able to obtain that thing and avoid defeat?”

Due to Lu Xingluo's words, the atmosphere inside the room suddenly became tense. Meanwhile, Shi Feng and Gentle Snow automatically turned to look at Aqua Rose's cousin, who had remained silent all this time.

She's someone from Unyielding Soul? Gentle Snow blinked repeatedly, her heart full of surprise as she looked at Mu Lingsha.

Unyielding Soul was a veteran super-first-rate Guild. At its peak, it had been stronger than many Super Guilds. Although it had not made headlines during the past few years, it was still much stronger than the current Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

She found it very hard to imagine that such a super-first-rate Guild would need to rely on Zero Wing to get into the internal auction.

What Gentle Snow did not know was that the Secret Pavilion had not sent an invitation to Unyielding Soul this time due to the Starline Corporation's meddling. Hence, Mu Lingsha had turned to Aqua Rose for help.

The first reason for her decision was her family ties with Aqua Rose.

The second reason was Aqua Rose's having been under Unyielding Soul and Mu Lingsha's care during her youth. Hence, the two of them could be considered best friends as well.

As for getting Twilight Echo's help, that first-rate Guild had refused to share any of its participation slots with Mu Lingsha when she asked. Just when Aqua Rose was feeling troubled by Mu Lingsha's request for help, Shi Feng happened to reveal that he had received an invitation—a golden invitation card at that. Since there were additional slots, Aqua Rose ended up asking for one for her cousin.

Meanwhile, despite having heard Lu Xingluo's question, Mu Lingsha remained silent for a long time.

Just as she was about to say something, Lu Xingluo turned his gaze to Shi Feng and Gentle Snow, who wore confused expressions on their faces.

"It seems you don't know about this matter. Fine, then. I'll treat this as Zero Wing being ignorant and overlook your transgressions. Afterward, just notify the Secret Pavilion's security and have them escort Miss Mu out of the building. In compensation for your wasting a participation slot, I'll send you one million Credits later," Lu Xingluo said. He then sent one last glance at Mu Lingsha before standing up to leave.

At Lu Xingluo's words, Mu Lingsha fell into despair.

In the Secret Pavilion's internal auction, nobody had the authority to meddle with the people brought along by other invited persons. Only the invited persons themselves were allowed to send away their companions.

The Starline Corporation possessed massive influence both in the game and in the real world, as proven by the fact that the Secret Pavilion had not sent an invitation to Unyielding Soul this time. If even an entity as powerful as the Secret Pavilion had shrunk back because of the Starline Corporation, there was no need to mention what kind of response a minor existence like Zero Wing would make.

Meanwhile, Aqua Rose, who was sitting beside Shi Feng, also turned pale at this turn of events. She had never thought that their actions would get discovered.

Mu Lingsha was her best friend. However, Aqua Rose also owed Zero Wing a huge debt of gratitude. Caught in a dilemma, she was at a loss as to what to do.

Just when Lu Xingluo's party made for the lounge's door, a voice suddenly rang out inside the room.

"One million Credits? Chief Lu sure is generous. Unfortunately, Zero Wing can't accept this generosity. Since there aren't any other matters to discuss, we'll be taking our leave first"

Although these words were spoken with a calm tone, they deeply ingrained themselves in the minds of everyone present.

Aqua Rose, Mu Lingsha, and Liang Jing instinctively turned to Shi Feng, the originator of these words.

Meanwhile, Gentle Snow revealed a bitter smile as she helplessly shook her head, her expression conveying that she had expected this outcome.

However, although Gentle Snow had a troubled look on her face, her eyes shone with joy and excitement.

After all, it was because of this attitude of Shi Feng's that she had chosen to join Zero Wing back then. Despite Zero Wing having grown considerably, Shi Feng remained the same as before. He did not change his principles just because he now had more responsibilities on his plate.

Although Shi Feng's decision would bring no small amount of trouble to the Guild, she still strongly supported this decision.

Guild Leader... Aqua Rose was greatly moved as she looked at Shi Feng, who currently wore a calm and indifferent expression.

Meanwhile, Liang Jing's mouth was hanging wide open. Although she did not understand what exactly was going on here, she knew very clearly just how frightening the Starline Corporation was. If Shi Feng were to blatantly defy Lu Xingluo, Starline's representative, he would definitely incur a disaster. Moreover, it would be a disaster that could drive even Chairman Xiao to despair.

Lu Xingluo, who had just arrived at the door, suddenly stopped. Thinking he had misheard, he turned around and looked at Shi Feng, who had just gotten up from the sofa, and asked, "Does this mean you are rejecting my goodwill?"

Although Lu Xingluo had spoken in a very bland and calm tone, the air inside the room seemed to have frozen when he was done speaking, the atmosphere becoming somewhat stifling.

The pressure he exerted with his words even made Liang Jing shudder.

Lu Xingluo was only an ordinary person. However, behind him was a monumental existence. If he wanted to, he could easily crush a company like the Big Dipper Group at any time.

"I have taken your kindness to heart. However, Zero Wing does not need an outsider to tell it what it should or should not do," Shi Feng replied coldly. After he was done speaking, he led Aqua Rose and the others out of the private lounge.

A short moment later, only Lu Xingluo and the tall man standing beside him remained inside the private lounge.

“Guild Leader, do you need us to take action?” the tall man asked quietly.

“No. This is the Secret Pavilion’s territory. We naturally have to let the Secret Pavilion be the one to take action. Go and notify the Secret Pavilion’s representative right now. Tell them that I do not wish to see Zero Wing in this auction!” Lu Xingluo said, sneering as he watched the departing figures of Shi Feng’s group.

“Understood.” After hearing Lu Xingluo’s words, the tall man promptly left the lounge to notify the Secret Pavilion.

Chapter 1785: Gold VIP

Inside the top-floor hall:

When Shi Feng’s group exited the private lounge, it immediately attracted the attention of the various major powers present. “Huh? They’re out so soon?”

“Could they be done negotiating already?”

Zero Wing’s group had entered the private lounge less than five minutes ago. Everyone could not control their curiosity at this sudden development

However, just as everyone was wondering about the results of the talks between Zero Wing and the Starline Corporation, a tall man wearing a black suit walked out of the private lounge as well. When this tall man exited the lounge, he sent a sneer at Shi Feng's group before heading for Yuan Tiexin, who was entertaining the representatives of the various major powers present.

"What's going on?"

"Did the negotiations fail?"

Everyone in the room was familiar with this tall man. After all, he was Lu Xingluo's bodyguard, who also served as his aide. Meanwhile, the bodyguard's expression was not what one would make after a successful negotiation, no matter how they looked at it. Rather, it seemed more like he was ridiculing Zero Wing's group.

Walking beside Shi Feng, Aqua Rose noticed Lu Xingluo's bodyguard's direction, and her complexion darkened.

"Are they planning on using the Secret Pavilion to deal with us?" Aqua Rose could not help frowning in worry as she watched the bodyguard getting increasingly closer to Yuan Tiexin.

The Starline Corporation had already relied on its influence to stop the Secret Pavilion from sending an invitation to Unyielding Soul, a super-first-rate Guild. Getting the Secret Pavilion to remove Zero Wing from the auction would be even easier.

If Zero Wing were to miss out on this internal auction, it would suffer a massive loss.

“No need to panic. Let’s see how things develop first,” Shi Feng said calmly as he looked at Lu Xingluo’s bodyguard. “If it really isn’t possible, then we’ll just leave.”

While it was indeed true that the items auctioned by the Secret Pavilion were extraordinary, Zero Wing was not so desperate that it would collapse just because it couldn’t get them.

At this time, Mu Lingsha walked up to Shi Feng.

“Thank you! Because of my problem, I have caused Zero Wing to provoke the Starline Corporation. I’d like to use a plot of Land in Dark Night City as compensation. The Land is under my name and is located near the city’s Central District.” Mu Lingsha thanked Shi Feng sincerely.

When faced with the threats and pressure of the Starline Corporation, few would be willing to help Unyielding Soul. After all, even Twilight Echo, a veteran first-rate Guild that had close ties with Unyielding Soul, had yielded to Starline’s tyranny. Nonetheless, Zero Wing, a Guild that had practically no relations with Unyielding Soul, had actually stood up to Starline for Unyielding Soul.

Upon hearing Mu Lingsha’s words, Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow turned involuntarily to look at her in surprise. They had never thought that Mu Lingsha would use a valuable plot of Land located within the Dark Night Empire’s imperial capital as a token of gratitude.

Nowadays, major corporations and companies around the world were investing in God’s Domain, boosting the prices of Lands in major NPC cities as a result, especially in kingdom capitals and imperial capitals. A plot of Land without high potential would still sell for a fortune. As for those with high potential, even if one offered tens of thousands of Gold to purchase such a Land, nobody would be willing to sell.

Shi Feng found it difficult to refuse such compensation.

The Dark Night Empire's imperial capital had a player population of over 10,000,000. If he could set up the Candlelight Trading Firm on this plot of Land, the trading firm would gain access to all these players. At that time, Candlelight's income would definitely increase by a significant margin. Hence, Shi Feng ended up accepting Mu Lingsha's offer.

Meanwhile, over at Yuan Tiexin's location...

Lu Xingluo's bodyguard had arrived before Yuan Tiexin and relayed his employer's words to him.

Upon receiving this unreasonable demand, Yuan Tiexin fell silent. He simply could not figure out just what Zero Wing had done to anger Lu Xingluo this much.

"I hope that the Secret Pavilion can make a decision soon. The Starline Corporation dislikes having to wait," Lu Xingluo's bodyguard said in an indifferent tone.

In his opinion, there was no need to consider this decision at all. The Starline Corporation was entirely out of Zero Wing's league. It would be in the Secret Pavilion's best interests to go along with the Starline Corporation's demands and remove Zero Wing from the auction.

The nearby people who overheard the bodyguard's words were momentarily dumbfounded. They had never thought that Zero Wing would be so bold as to actually provoke the Starline Corporation.

Zero Wing really is overestimating itself to go against the Starline Corporation. When Nine Dragons Emperor received this piece of news, he could not help but laugh.

Previously, he thought that Zero Wing would obtain the Starline Corporation's support. If that had happened, he would most likely be doomed. After all, Phoenix Rain would've indirectly gained a powerful helper in the fight to become the Great Pavilion Master.

However, now that Zero Wing had provoked the Starline Corporation, not only did this outcome not provide Phoenix Rain with the slightest bit of help, but it would also become a huge hindrance to her becoming the Great Pavilion Master. After all, the Guild Elders would have to take the Starline Corporation into account when considering Phoenix Rain for the position.

Meanwhile, when the various major powers attending the auction received news about this matter, they were similarly shocked.

Zero Wing's foolishness had thoroughly exceeded their imagination. The Guild had actually provoked the Starline Corporation for some unknown outsider.

The Starline Corporation was in possession of plenty of High-level Energy, which many superpowers had tried to purchase to no avail. Now that Zero Wing had become a thorn in the corporation's side, many superpowers would probably gun for Zero Wing to curry favor with Starline. At that time, even if they failed to establish a partnership with the corporation, they should still be able to purchase some High-level Energy to strengthen their own Guilds.

"Damn it. The Secret Pavilion will most likely earn the Starline Corporation's favor."

"Zero Wing sure is pitiful. Despite this being the Guild's first time at one of the Secret Pavilion's internal auctions, it is already going to get chased off before it can even take part in the actual auction."

The representatives of the various superpowers looked at Shi Feng's group with pity in their eyes.

“Uncle Yuan?” Purple Jade was dying of curiosity as she looked at Yuan Tiexin, who had remained silent all this time.

Yuan Tiexin was the host for this auction. All matters relating to this Secret Pavilion branch were currently under his management. In normal times, the Secret Pavilion would definitely remove Zero Wing from the premises without hesitation, to curry favor with the Starline Corporation. After all, there was simply no comparison between the two.

“What is it? I’m just asking to have Zero Wing’s people removed from the auction venue. Is this a difficult matter for you to accomplish?” Lu Xingluo’s bodyguard demanded in irritation as he looked at the unresponsive Yuan Tiexin.

“It is indeed very difficult, as I do not have this authority. Although I am the host for the auction this time, Zero Wing is just like the Starline Corporation and is a VIP invited with a Gold Card,” Yuan Tiexin explained after taking a deep breath.

Chapter 1786: Book of Undying

“Zero Wing received a Gold Card?”

“Zero Wing’s group does include five people! It’s actually true!”

The various major powers, who perked up to listen in on the conversation between Yuan Xiexin and Lu Xingluo's bodyguard, couldn't help their surprise upon hearing this revelation. When the Secret Pavilion hosted an internal auction, it would only send 50 golden invitation cards. These Gold Cards would only be given to powers the Secret Pavilion acknowledged.

The various representatives hadn't paid much attention to the number of people in Zero Wing's group. It was rare to see the powers with a Gold Card use all five of their slots. They generally only brought two or three people. Hence, the major powers that attended the Secret Pavilion's internal auction had stopped paying attention to how many attendees a particular power had with it. They were all quite familiar with the powers that qualified for a Gold Card, and even if some people arrived as a group of five, it was likely that two friendly powers had decided to attend together.

However, most of the eavesdropping powers were more surprised to learn that the Starline Corporation wanted Zero Wing removed than they were to learn that the Secret Pavilion had invited the Guild as a Gold VIP.

"So what if Zero Wing received a Gold invitation?" Lu Xingluo's bodyguard asked nonchalantly.

Although he was Lu Xingluo's bodyguard, he was also an expert in God's Domain. He knew a significant amount about the game.

Had the Starline Corporation not dissuaded the Secret Pavilion from sending an invitation to Unyielding Soul, the Guild would've received a Gold Card, treated like a Gold VIP, yet due to the corporation's interference, hadn't the Secret Pavilion failed to send the super-first-rate Guild an invitation?

"Is that so?" Yuan Tiexin responded with a tinge of anger in his voice. "The Secret Pavilion will not rescind an invitation from any of its guests, regardless of if they are Bronze or Silver VIPs, unless they have made a mistake. If you have nothing else, please wait in the banquet hall quietly. The auction will begin soon."

Not inviting someone to the auction and removing an invited person from the auction were two entirely different things. If word got out that the Secret Pavilion had removed Zero Wing from the auction at the Starline Corporation's request, who would dare do business with the Secret Pavilion in the future?

Although the High-level Energy in the Starline Corporation's possession was indeed tempting, the Secret Pavilion did not necessarily need the Starline Corporation to acquire High-level Energy. There were still plenty of major corporations that had the resource.

"You!" Lu Xingluo's bodyguard was furious. He had never expected the Secret Pavilion to show the Starline Corporation so little respect. As he thought about correcting this insult, he locked eyes with Yuan Tiexin's two bodyguards, whose auras were no weaker than his. Clenching his teeth, he turned and left.

The spectating powers were dumbfounded.

None of them had dreamed that the Secret Pavilion would disrespect the Starline Corporation.

However, the representatives from the various super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds weren't overly surprised about the outcome. Although the Starline Corporation wielded considerable influence, the several corporations backing the Secret Pavilion were no weaker than Starline. The Starline Corporation was somewhat unique in how much High-level Energy it possessed, and that was the only reason the various superpowers showed it some respect.

After all, in the current era, many aspects required High-level Energy.

It was also because of this reason that the Starline Corporation had always done things in a tyrannical way. This was also something superpowers like themselves had long since gotten used to. However,

while they would concede to the Starline Corporation in small matters, no superpower would bow to the corporation in crucial matters, much less a transcendental power like the Secret Pavilion.

“Uncle Yuan, you were so amazing! When we return, the Guild Leader will likely request a meeting,” Purple Jade said, giggling.

“You little girl...” Yuan Tiexin rolled his eyes at Purple Jade. He then shifted his gaze towards Shi Feng’s group. “However, Zero Wing really knows how to cause trouble wherever it goes. It even dares to meddle in matters between the Starline Corporation and Unyielding Soul.”

The Starline Corporation and Unyielding Soul were going at each other’s throats in the Dark Night Empire in a struggle that would only end once one of them had been utterly defeated. Meanwhile, the chances that Unyielding Soul would lose were very high. It would not even be surprising if Unyielding Soul fell from its position as a super-first-rate Guild. Unyielding Soul’s main headquarters was in the Dark Night Empire, and the Guild had focused a lot of its efforts on developing in the empire.

If it lost the Dark Night Empire, its strength would diminish tremendously.

Meanwhile, in the private lounge Lu Xingluo occupied...

Lu Xingluo’s bodyguard quickly relayed Yuan Tiexin’s response.

“Guild Leader, the Secret Pavilion is refusing to show us the respect we deserve. Should we put some pressure on the Pavilion?” the tall bodyguard asked.

“No. There’s no need to sour our relationship with the Secret Pavilion over this small matter. So what if Unyielding Soul gets to attend this auction? With the Guild’s foundations, competing with us here will be

futile,” Lu Xingluo said, shaking his head. He was not his bodyguard. He knew just how powerful the Secret Pavilion was. If the Starline Corporation truly angered the Secret Pavilion, the corporation would get the short end of the stick, not the Pavilion. The Secret Pavilion simply had too much influence in God’s Domain, and it had even more resources. Very few superpowers in God’s Domain could compete with the Pavilion.

“What about Zero Wing?” the bodyguard asked again.

“A worm. Once we return, notify the players from Dark Soul and have them take care of it,” Lu Xingluo said, snorting. Even a super-first-rate Guild like Unyielding Soul amounted to nothing in his eyes, much less an up-and-coming Guild like Zero Wing. Of course, although he did not regard Zero Wing with any importance, since a worm had dared to insult him, he would stomp it to death.

“Understood!” the bodyguard sneered.

Had Zero Wing obediently accepted their goodwill, it would’ve received at least 1,000,000 Credits, but now that Lu Xingluo wanted to mobilize Dark Soul, it wouldn’t be long until the Guild was obliterated from God’s Domain.

Meanwhile, in the banquet hall...

The previously dull atmosphere had livened considerably after the drama between the Starline Corporation and Zero Wing.

After everyone chatted for a while longer, some staff members came and notified the guests about the start of the auction. The representatives then made their way towards the venue the Secret Pavilion had prepared.

Compared to the auction venues in God's Domain, the Secret Pavilion's venue wasn't worth mentioning. The venue could, at most, house around 3,000 people. That was a fraction of the auction venues in God's Domain, which could easily house tens of thousands of people. However, nobody looked down on the small venue. The most insignificant of the guests were representatives from first-rate Guilds. Second- and third-rate Guilds could never qualify for an invitation.

Moreover, the Secret Pavilion had prepared plenty of items for this auction. As the first internal auction since God's Domain had launched, the Secret Pavilion had over 2,000 items for sale, and none of these items could be purchased in the game. Among these items, over 150 had been set aside for the finale. Needless to say, these finale items were extraordinarily valuable. The cheapest among these items had a minimum bid of 2,000 Gold. Once the bidding began, even first-rate Guilds would despair.

However, every one of these finale items was definitely worth its weight in gold. Otherwise, the Secret Pavilion wouldn't have bothered with them.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Secret Pavilion's internal auction! As always, items will go to the highest bidder. This time, though, we will give priority to bids involving God's Domain's Magic Crystals and Coins," Yuan Tiexin explained after stepping onto the main stage. "Without further ado, let us begin the auction and welcome our first item for the day!"

When Yuan Tiexin finished speaking, the image of a thick tome appeared on the virtual display above him. Several words graced the tome's cover in large text, and based on the footage, it was clear that the tome passively gathered Mana around it. The tome certainly wasn't an ordinary item. The item instantly grasped the crowd's attention.

The Book of Undying?! Shi Feng could not help his shock when he saw the image. Why is this thing here?!

Chapter 1787: Tome of Astronomical Value

Inside the luxurious auction hall...

Upon seeing the Book of Undying, every representative's eyes shone with greed.

Although they couldn't read the tome's statistics like they could in God's Domain, all of these people were representatives from major powers. They all possessed great insight.

"As expected of the Secret Pavilion. The first time is already so frightening!"

The various major powers present could not help but discuss the Book of Undying. When Yuan Tiexin saw the crowd before him stir, he was immensely satisfied. This had been the reaction he had aimed for when he chose the Book of Undying as the first item.

"I believe that you all recognize the rarity of this Book of Undying. For the buyer's benefit, I won't share the specifics of this tome's Attributes. I will only give a general summary. This tome is a Dark-Gold ranked item. Even so, it is a super-rare item that can resurrect the dead. This item will half the death penalty for players it resurrects. It can also be used on NPCs. I believe you can recognize its value," Yuan Tiexin explained.

After hearing the item's introduction, everyone in the venue became even more passionate to acquire the Book of Undying. The various superpowers' representatives, in particular, felt their blood pressure rise considerably.

The Book of Undying's ability to resurrect players was subpar at best. After all, there were plenty of tools and Skills in God's Domain that had the ability to alleviate the death penalty players suffered.

However, it was an entirely different story if the Book of Undying could resurrect NPCs.

The Book of Undying was especially valuable to superpowers that possessed powerful Personal Guards. Although there were other means to resurrect a Personal Guard, these means were not easy to accomplish. Moreover, the price one had to pay to use these means was astronomical. Hence, superpowers generally avoided risking their Personal Guards.

However, as the Book of Undying was a Dark-Gold item, not a one-time-use item, it could be used indefinitely. In other words, with this item, one could freely resurrect their Personal Guards. They would not have to worry about their Personal Guards dying by accident. The Book of Undying was far more valuable than some ordinary Epic item.

"I won't waste your time. The starting price is 1,000 Gold, with each increment being no less than 50 Gold! In addition, Credit bids will not be accepted!" Yuan Tiexin shouted.

"One thousand, five hundred Gold!" "Two thousand Gold!"

"Two thousand, five hundred Gold!"

The price quickly soared to 5,000 Gold, and the various major powers were surprised by how fast the price had risen. The bidding even troubled first-rate Guilds.

Although their Guilds earned quite a bit of wealth every day, their daily operations required a lot of Coins and resources. In preparation for the auction today, the various major powers had raised a

significant amount of funding, but even so, these first-rate Guilds had only prepared around thirty to forty thousand Gold. They couldn't possibly throw all their money at a single item.

Moreover, all of the attending powers had specific targets in mind. They all wanted to win the items that their Guilds needed most

“Eight thousand Gold!”

Nine Dragons Emperor, who sat in one of the second-floor rooms, increased the price by 3,000 Gold, immediately silencing the various major powers in the first-floor hall.

While the various powers could afford to raise the bid further, on the off chance that they won the tome, they'd have trouble winning the items they truly wanted.

“Ten thousand Gold!”

However, a few seconds after the 8,000-Gold bid went up, Shi Feng, who occupied Room No. 8, raised it.

“Who placed that bid? You can buy Epic Equipment with that kind of money!”

“It seems Zero Wing is the bidder!”

“This is insane. This is only the first auction item!”

The major powers in the first-floor hall could not help but turn to look at Shi Feng's room, astonished by the man's generosity.

What they didn't know, however, was that Shi Feng understood more about the Book of Undying than its current owner. He knew exactly how valuable the item was.

On its own, the Book of Undying was only worth around 10,000 Gold, roughly as much as an Epic Weapon.

While the Book of Undying was capable of resurrecting NPCs, it wasn't capable of resurrecting all NPCs. The Secret Pavilion had failed to mention this bit of crucial information.

At the end of the day, the Book of Undying for auction was only a Dark-Gold item. Although the Skill it possessed was heaven-defying, there was a limit to the Skill's effects. At Dark-Gold rank, the Book of Undying could only resurrect Tier 2 NPCs and players. It wouldn't be effective on Tier 3 and above existences. Otherwise, it wouldn't just be a Dark-Gold item.

This had been why the Secret Pavilion had been willing to part with the tome, putting it up for auction.

The various major powers had likely guessed the tome's limitations, as well, which explained why they weren't enthusiastic to purchase the item. If the Book of Undying were an Epic item, the various superpowers would likely bid like madmen. No one would've been surprised to see the tome's price climb to five times more than its current bid.

However, even though the Book of Undying was only Dark-Gold rank, the fact that it was available was a pleasant surprise for Shi Feng.

Although the tome wouldn't help him resurrect Tier 3 NPCs and above, it was enough for Shi Feng's uses right now. At the very least, he could involve Anna and Kite in combat without worrying about them dying.

After Shi Feng had raised the bid for the Book of Undying to 10,000 Gold, Nine Dragons Emperor gave up on the item. For him, the Book of Undying was a collector's item of sorts. Paying more for it wouldn't be worthwhile.

"Ten thousand Gold going once!"

"Ten thousand Gold going twice!"

However, just when Yuan Tiexin was about to finalize the sale, a new bid appeared.

"Twelve thousand Gold!"

Many people turned to the bidder in astonishment. Meanwhile, the person who had placed this new bid was none other than the Starline Corporation's Lu Xingluo.

"Thirteen thousand Gold!" Shi Feng raised the bid once more.

This surprised everyone further. They never thought that Shi Feng would be so desperate for the Book of Undying. That was 13,000 Gold they were talking about. With that kind of money, he could purchase a valuable plot of land in any capital.

“Thirteen thousand, five hundred Gold!”

“Fourteen thousand Gold!”

“Fourteen thousand, five hundred Gold!”

Whenever Shi Feng placed a new bid, Lu Xingluo quickly added another 500 Gold.

When the price rose to 20,000 Gold, the various major powers were utterly dumbfounded.

Paying 20,000 Gold for a Dark-Gold item was ridiculous. It'd be far more beneficial to build a town with this money.

“Twenty-four thousand Gold!” Not wanting to waste time, Shi Feng raised the price by another 4,000 Gold.

As the price rose, Yuan Tiexin's breathing became a little heavier. The bid was already more than double what he had expected.

“Forget it I don't want this item anymore,” Lu Xingluo said, chuckling as he relented.

Once Lu Xingluo dropped out of the bidding, Shi Feng eventually won the Book of Undying, surprising many of the representatives with Zero Wing's financial strength. They also inwardly ridiculed Zero Wing for spending 24,000 Gold on a Dark-Gold item.

Even Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose felt that it was excessive to purchase the Book of Undying for such a high price.

However, after Shi Feng paid the 24,000 Gold by connecting to God's Domain's Main God System via his quantum watch and received the Book of Undying from the Secret Pavilion, his smile was bright.

The Book of Undying was a Dark-Gold item, but he knew something the Secret Pavilion had failed to discover.

There wasn't just one Book of Undying in God's Domain, but 13. Every one of these tomes was a Dark-Gold item, which Undying Danasius had penned personally.

Even Tier 6 Gods had failed to kill Danasius, hence his title of 'Undying.' In the end, an Ancient God had sealed Danasius away. Meanwhile, the 13 Books of Undying contained all of Danasius's power, and there were rumors stating that Undying Danasius had recorded a method of self-resurrection in his books.

How could these tomes, written by such a powerful existence, be just ordinary Dark-Gold items?

The Books of Undying were powerful in the fact that they could be merged. When one combined two copies of the Book of Undying, its ability would improve. Only after merging all 13 Books of Undying could one display the tomes' true power. As for the complete book's rank, no one had known even ten years after God's Domain's launch. However, most people guessed that it would be a Legendary item.

This was because only ten copies had ever been found, and the strongest Book of Undying had only absorbed two other copies, reaching Epic rank. As an Epic item, the Book of Undying could resurrect Tier 3 NPCs.

Now that a Book of Undying had appeared before him, it wouldn't do him any harm to start collecting the tomes now. On the off chance that he found three copies one day, he could upgrade the tome to Epic rank, and it would be of great help to him.

Once the Book of Undying's auction had concluded, Yuan Tiexin proceeded to introduce other auction items. However, none of the following items were nearly as valuable as that first tome. Moreover, representatives could pay for the following items with Credits.

Shi Feng had to admit that the Secret Pavilion offered a large variety of items, including 20-plus pieces of Level 50 Fine-Gold Equipment and 50-plus Level 50 Secret-Silver Equipment pieces that increased Fire Resistance. In the end, Shi Feng had spent over 7,300 Gold to acquire all of them. If not for Lu Xingluo's interference, raising the price from time to time, he could've easily purchased this equipment for only 4,000 Gold.

By the time the ordinary items had sold, more than a day had passed. The Secret Pavilion then hosted a friendly competition to determine how many finale items each of the various powers could purchase. This friendly competition also gave everyone a glimpse of the various superpowers' up-and-coming experts.

"Finally, we'll start the bidding for our first finale item of the day!" Yuan Tiexin announced, chuckling as he glanced at the second-floor rooms. "I believe that many of you are familiar with this next item."

On cue, several images appeared on the display above the stage.

When these images had appeared, a commotion tore through the attentive crowd. Even the representatives in the second-floor rooms stared with bloodshot eyes.

When Mu Lingsha, who sat beside Aqua Rose, saw these images, her fists balled as excitement lit up her face. She simply couldn't keep her calm.

Chapter 1788: Grade 1

When the images appeared above the main stage, the representatives of super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds in the second-floor rooms became restless. They promptly relayed what they were seeing back to their respective Guild Leaders.

“Guild Leader, those rumors were true! The Secret Pavilion really has that thing!”

“The Secret Pavilion sure knows how to keep a secret! Are you absolutely sure about this?”

“Based on the images, there's no mistaking it. However, there are simply too many major powers and corporations present. I'm afraid acquiring it will be difficult with the money we brought.”

“Good. I'll have someone mail you all the funds we have available.”

Due to the several images, the various superpowers in attendance all started secretly raising funds. This situation enveloped the entire auction venue in tension. The major powers in the first-floor hall sensed an imminent storm.

“The Secret Pavilion really is a sly, old fox. Is it trying to have us superpowers and corporations tear at each other’s throats?” Nine Dragons Emperor tightly balled his fists, his eyes gleaming with indescribable excitement. He turned to Martial Dragon, who sat beside him, and said, “Quick! Have Blood Dragon sell all our available resources in the Black Dragon Empire! Mortgage some of the unused golden Lands in Black Dragon City as well! In any case, collect as many Coins and Magic Crystals as we can!”

“Pavilion Master, isn’t that a little too much?” Martial Dragon was stunned by Nine Dragons Emperor’s decision. The golden Lands of Black Dragon City were worth a fortune with countless buyers waiting in the wings. If the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion were to mortgage these Lands and fail to buy them back in time, it might lose these Lands to other powers.

“It’s fine. As long as we can get that thing, this small price is inconsequential,” Nine Dragons Emperor said as he shook his head. His eyes were filled with madness and ambition as he looked at the images displayed above the stage.

“Understood.” Martial Dragon immediately contacted Blood Dragon.

Meanwhile, in another room...

The elegant and scholarly Lu Xingluo stood up involuntarily and stared at the pictures the Secret Pavilion had revealed.

“Good! Wonderful! As long as we obtain this, the entire Dark Night Empire will be mine for the taking! Nobody will be able to oppose me anymore!” Lu Xingluo laughed.

“Congratulations, Guild Leader! At that time, both Crimson Emperor and Unyielding Soul will meet their end!” Zhong Langcheng, Lu Xingluo’s bodyguard, exclaimed in excitement.

“How is the fundraising I tasked you with coming along?” Lu Xingluo asked, turning around.

“Guild Leader, rest assured. Our funds are all here now,” Zhong Langcheng replied, smiling.

Meanwhile, in the room occupied by Zero Wing...

The sight of the first finale item the Secret Pavilion was auctioning set Shi Feng’s heart racing.

“The Secret Pavilion actually dares auction something like this?!” he exclaimed in astonishment.

At this moment, he understood why the Starline Corporation had done its best to prevent Unyielding Soul from taking part in this auction. If it were him, he would’ve done the same. He also understood why Mu Lingsha was willing to part with a plot of high-potential Land in the Dark Night Empire’s imperial capital just so that she could participate in this internal auction.

The reason for this was the thing the Secret Pavilion was trying to sell. It was simply too frightening!

The first finale item was neither a weapon nor a piece of equipment. It also wasn’t a tool. Instead, it was the management rights to an ore vein!

If it were any ordinary ore vein, most likely, even the first-rate Guilds present wouldn’t bother bidding for it. If it were a Manatite vein that could produce small amounts of Magic Crystals, then it would tempt

even superpowers to go all-out. Meanwhile, above a Manatite vein would be an Energy vein that produced Energy Ore. The discovery of an Energy vein would definitely trigger a war among Super Guilds.

However, Manatite veins and Energy veins—ore veins capable of tempting even superpowers to take action —were considered only Grade 2 ore veins in God’s Domain.

The ore vein the Secret Pavilion had just revealed was a Grade 1 ore vein, a Magic Crystal vein!

Based on the pictures shown, although the Magic Crystal vein the Secret Pavilion discovered was not a rich one, its value was still beyond that of a rich Manatite vein or a rich Energy vein. This Magic Crystal vein would supply enough Magic Crystals to sustain the daily operations of two Super Guilds and still have excess to spare!

The surplus was because Magic Crystals were just the main product of a Magic Crystal vein. The byproducts of a Magic Crystal vein were also worth a fortune. One such example was Magic Silver, one of the top-ranking ores in God’s Domain in terms of hardness. It was considered a super-rare material. When used in forging weapons and equipment, the final product would be unbreakable.

This special property meant that even if the durability of the item with Magic Silver reached zero, the weapon or equipment would not become useless. Although its Attributes would decrease by a significant margin, it could still be used.

Due to this special property, an ingot of Magic Silver could sell for roughly 20 Gold on the market. Any that appeared at such a price would be purchased almost instantly.

While the occupants of the second-floor rooms were going crazy over the revealed images, Yuan Tiexin swept a glance at the various private rooms. Smiling, he said, “Everyone has now seen the item in

question. If you are not familiar with it, you may find the relevant information in the libraries of kingdoms or empires. However, I believe that everyone present knows its value.

“The auction for this first finale item will be very simple. Same as always, it will go to the highest bidder. However, the Secret Pavilion will not be accepting Credits for this sale. The winner of this auction will receive a 40% share in this Magic Crystal vein. In other words, the winner will receive 40% of this vein’s harvest.

“Everyone might not know what 40% of the harvest entails. I won’t go into the specifics, but suffice to say, 40% of this vein’s harvest is definitely more than what you can get from an entire Energy vein. Moreover, the byproducts of this Magic Crystal vein are all highly sought-after materials that can help elevate a Guild’s Lifestyle players to a whole new level!

“However, before we start this auction, the Secret Pavilion also has to state one thing clearly: the winner of this auction will have to station a large number of experts and elites at the vein for the long run, and the number cannot be fewer than 100,000. If you are incapable of fulfilling this condition, winning the auction would be pointless!

“If nobody has any problems, then let us begin the auction for today’s first finale item! The minimum bid will be 100,000 Gold, and each increment must not be lower than 1,000 Gold or 2,000 Magic Crystals!”

Upon hearing Yuan Tiexin’s words, the lively auction venue suddenly fell deathly silent. The upper echelon of the various first-rate Guilds seated in the first-floor hall could not help but gape.

Any thoughts in the first-floor hall of competing for the Mana Crystal vein immediately vanished. The long-term requirement of having a 100,000-man army guarding the vein aside, just the starting price was already enough to make every first-rate Guild in attendance give up.

One hundred thousand Gold!

Although these first-rate Guilds understood that this was a very normal price, actually hearing it coming out of Yuan Tiexin's mouth still shocked them.

In preparation for this auction, these Guilds had gone through plenty of trouble just to collect around 30,000 Gold. Yet, now, it was revealed that they were far from qualified to bid on this Magic Crystal vein.

The powers that could rival first-rate Guilds were also silent. They finally understood just how wide a gap there was between themselves and the various superpowers, who lived in an entirely different world. They weren't even eligible to take part in this auction. All they could do was play the role of a spectator.

Chapter 1789: Crazy Struggle

One hundred thousand Gold? Shi Feng smiled bitterly as he shook his head.

In reality, he, too, was very tempted by the Magic Crystal vein.

However, despite all his efforts, he had managed to raise only a little over 124,000 Gold. After deducting the amount he spent on the Book of Undying, Fire Resistance equipment, and rare materials, he had just a bit more than 90,000 Gold left. He didn't have the slightest chance of winning the upcoming auction.

As the various major powers in the first-floor hall were marveling over the Magic Crystal vein's high price, the occupants of the second-floor rooms started calling out bids, one after another.

“One hundred thousand Gold!”

“One hundred ten thousand Gold!”

“One hundred twenty thousand Gold!”

After the first bid appeared, the price of the Magic Crystal vein increased rapidly, the scene stupefying the various first-rate Guilds present.

Despite the minimum increment being set at 1,000 Gold, the various superpowers and major corporations were raising the price in 10,000-Gold increments as if 10,000 Gold were no different from 10,000 Copper. In less than a minute, the price had already reached a staggering 200,000 Gold.

Only after the price reached 270,000 Gold did the price increases decline to 2,000- or 3,000-Gold increments. Even so, this was still plenty frightening to the various first-rate Guilds present.

“Damn it! Why are there so many people competing for the vein?!” Nine Dragons Emperor frowned as he watched the price ramp up. Turning to Martial Dragon, he asked, “How are things coming along on Blood’s side?”

He had prepared only 210,000 Gold for this auction. Including the Magic Crystals he had on hand, his funds came to roughly

250,000 Gold. Just now, he had mortgaged several golden Lands in Black Dragon City, netting an additional 140,000 Gold and putting his total at 390,000 Gold. This was already ten times the amount a first-rate Guild could produce in short notice.

However, the various superpowers and major corporations were like bottomless pits as they continuously hiked up their bids. Now, the price was already close to 300,000.

Moreover, he knew full well that the various superpowers were still only probing each other's depths. They had yet to truly make a move.

Despite the restraint of the various superpowers and major corporations, the price of the Magic Crystal vein was already approaching the limit of his budget.

"Pavilion Master, Blood Dragon has already asked the Guild Elders for a loan. The Elders feel that this is a good purchase and are willing to lend us 60,000 Gold. If we succeed in the purchase, they want 10% of the vein's shares as interest. If we fail, they want 30% interest," Martial Dragon said helplessly.

Although they all belonged to the same Guild, the Guild Elders each operated their own faction. Although their factions were not strong individually, when they banded together, they were a frightening force to behold. Meanwhile, this combined power was under the Great Pavilion Master's control. Hence, Pavilion Masters like Nine Dragons Emperor and Phoenix Rain could not command these Elders; they could only try to rope in these Elders to their side.

"Those old bastards actually have the gall to ask for 10% of the shares?!" Nine Dragons Emperor turned ashen upon hearing the loan conditions. The Guild Elders had outright asked for a quarter of the shares he would be getting. "Fine! I agree to their conditions! However, tell them that 60,000 Gold is too little! I will also need all of their Magic Crystals! Otherwise, I'll just give up on the auction!"

Although 60,000 Gold was a significant sum, it was still insufficient for him to compete against the various superpowers. Only after he and the Elders pooled everything they had would they stand a chance in the auction.

While Nine Dragons Emperor was raising funds, the price of the Magic Crystal vein had already increased to 352,000 Gold. At the same time, the various superpowers and major corporations were also doing their best to gather more funds. However, this price had already rendered the crowd in the first-floor hall utterly speechless.

“It seems some Guilds and corporations are already approaching their limit.” Lu Xingluo smiled when he noticed the rate of bidding slowing down. Turning to his bodyguard, he said, “Let’s begin, then.”

“Understood!” Zhong Langcheng immediately keyed in a series of zeroes on the bidding interface.

Five hundred thousand Gold!

The moment this price appeared, the entire auction venue went into an uproar. Even Shi Feng’s mouth twitched involuntarily when he saw this bid. With that kind of money, he could already build two cities in Star-Moon Kingdom.

Seeing this price also allowed him to understand just how frightening the various superpowers were. The difference between himself and them was not something that he could easily bridge just by having more information on God’s Domain.

...

“Why does the Starline Corporation have so much money?!” Nine Dragons Emperor felt like puking up blood when he saw this amount. Although the Starline Corporation was strong and had annexed quite a few first-rate Guilds, it had also spent a lot of money to develop its Guild, far more than what super-first-rate Guilds had spent. Logically, the corporation shouldn’t have that many Coins to spare.

At this moment, let alone Nine Dragons Emperor, even the representatives of the Sacred Temple, Battle Wolves, Pantheon, Nine Heavens Pavilion, and other Super Guilds were taken aback by the Starline Corporation’s bid. Although they, too, possessed that much money, spending it would no doubt cause their Guild a cash-flow shortage in the near term; the Starline Corporation’s Guild would definitely suffer an even greater setback.

Shortly after Lu Xingluo placed the bid of 500,000 Gold, Mu Lingsha also clenched her teeth and topped it.

Five hundred and ten thousand Gold!

This price likewise stunned the various superpowers present. Although Unyielding Soul was a super-first-rate Guild, as its development in the Dark Night Empire had not gone smoothly, the Guild should not have that much money to spare.

However, what the various superpowers did not know was that, in order to contest for the management rights of the Magic Crystal vein, Unyielding Soul had long since mortgaged many of its properties and was prepared to duke it out with the Starline Corporation. After all, if the Starline Corporation acquired the Magic Crystal vein, Unyielding Soul’s development in the Dark Night Empire would be doomed.

Hence, Unyielding Soul had accumulated a total of 625,000 Gold’s worth of Coins and Magic Crystals to compete with the Starline Corporation.

“Hahaha! You want to compete against the Starline Corporation in terms of financial strength?” Lu Xingluo sneered at Mu Lingsha’s new bid. “A pity. Truly a pity. The Starline Corporation might not have as powerful a background as a super-first- rate Guild like Unyielding Soul, but we do have High-level Energy!”

In order to acquire the Magic Crystal vein, the Starline Corporation had traded 400,000 Gold’s worth of High-level Energy with the Secret Pavilion. Of course, it had stipulated that Unyielding Soul would not be invited to the internal auction. Including the 300,000 Gold the corporation raised, Starline had a total of 700,000 Gold prepared to purchase the vein.

At this stage of the game, even the various Super Guilds were incapable of taking out 700,000 Gold, which was why he was confident of acquiring the Magic Crystal vein.

After some back and forth, the price eventually reached 630,000 Gold, the bid being placed by Lu Xingluo. This figure caused many of the superpowers present to give up on the auction. They also could not help but marvel at the Starline Corporation’s financial strength.

...

“Aqua, I wish to borrow money from Zero Wing. I am willing to use a few plots of golden Land in the Dark Night Empire as collateral. These Lands are worth around 70,000 Gold in total. I wish to borrow 60,000 Gold. I will pay you back in five days with 30% interest. If I fail to repay the loan, these golden Lands will be Zero Wing’s,” Mu Lingsha said after making some calculations.

At this point, she could tell that the price of the Magic Crystal vein was already close to Lu Xingluo’s limit. After all, the man was no longer as decisive when placing his bids. Meanwhile, through Aqua Rose, she had learned much about Zero Wing. Hence, she knew that Zero Wing had prepared quite a lot of funds for the auction this time—several times more than the average first-rate Guild, in fact. Hence, it should be possible for Zero Wing to lend her 60,000 Gold.

If she had these 60,000 Gold Coins, she would have a greater chance of winning against Lu Xingluo.

“This...” Aqua Rose was slightly troubled as she turned to look at Shi Feng, unsure whether she should agree to this request or not.

“Miss Mu, how about this? I can lend you 100,000 Gold’s worth of funds. However, Zero Wing does not need any collateral or the 30% interest. We only want to borrow some manpower from Unyielding Soul. What do you think of this proposal?” Shi Feng suggested.

Although he had thought of using this opportunity to acquire some of the Magic Crystal vein’s shares, the percentage of shares he could obtain in the end would most likely not amount to much. In that case, the number of Magic Crystals Zero Wing could get from the vein would be a drop in the bucket, given Zero Wing’s current Magic Crystal shortage. Meanwhile, earning an additional 18,000 Gold from the 30% interest would not help Zero Wing by much, either. Rather than these negligible benefits, it would be far more meaningful to borrow Unyielding Soul’s strength, instead. After all, it was normally impossible to borrow the strength of a superpower without paying an exorbitant price.

“You don’t need any collateral or interest? You’re willing to lend us 100,000 Gold in exchange for only manpower?” Mu Lingsha’s eyes widened in shock as she stared at Shi Feng, her mind finding both Zero Wing’s financial strength and Shi Feng’s proposed conditions inconceivable.

Chapter 1790: Ore Vein of Astronomical Value

Upon hearing Shi Feng’s proposal, Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow could not help but stare at him in disbelief.

They could not understand why he would actually abandon such a good opportunity to make money and, instead, settle for just borrowing manpower from Unyielding Soul.

Meanwhile, during the time Shi Feng and Mu Lingsha were discussing this point, Yuan Tiexin had slammed his gavel for the second time.

“Six hundred and thirty thousand, going twice! Is there nobody present willing to offer a higher price?” Yuan Tiexin asked as he glanced at the audience before him.

Although 630,000 Gold already exceeded the Secret Pavilion’s original estimates, earning a few more Coins would not do the Pavilion any harm.

“Greedy bastard!” Lu Xingluo frowned at Yuan Tiexin’s deliberate prolongation of the auction.

Six hundred thirty thousand Gold was already far outside of his expectations. He had never thought that Unyielding Soul would be capable of taking out so much money.

With such an expenditure, even if he could eventually recover the cost from the profits generated by the Magic Crystal vein, it would take a very long time before he could recoup his entire investment. Not to mention, he would also have to station an army of 100,000 players at the vein over the long run, which would further increase the time needed to recover his cost.

The only fortunate matter was that the Magic Crystal vein produced Magic Crystals and rare ores that were very difficult to acquire on the market. For the foreseeable future, the Starline Corporation would no longer have to worry about its Guild’s daily Magic Crystal expenditure.

Meanwhile, inside Shi Feng’s room...

“Alright, I agree with your conditions.” Mu Lingsha nodded to Shi Feng.

Although she was neither Unyielding Soul’s Guild Leader nor Vice Guild Leader, she was the heiress of Unyielding Soul’s biggest shareholder. Moreover, Unyielding Soul had already granted her full authority over the auction this time. If it was only getting some of Unyielding Soul’s members to help Zero Wing with a task, she could easily approve this matter with her authority.

“Alright, I’ll write up a contract You should place a bid first.” Shi Feng smiled when he heard Mu Lingsha’s reply.

With the help of a super-first-rate Guild like Unyielding Soul, he could proceed smoothly with the next step of his plans. Compared to what he stood to gain through this help, making a few thousand Coins of profit was not worth mentioning whatsoever.

Since both sides had come to an agreement, Mu Lingsha hurriedly placed a new bid.

“Six hundred thirty-two thousand Gold!” Mu Lingsha shouted.

The Secret Pavilion’s internal auction was different from the auctions held in God’s Domain, where players had to have enough currency in their pockets to place their bids. The Secret Pavilion did not bother verifying how much the bidders had. It would be fine so long as the buyer could pay for their purchase afterward.

The silent auction venue immediately livened once again with Mu Lingsha’s bid.

“How does Unyielding Soul still have money?” Lu Xingluo’s gaze turned chilling as he glared at Mu Lingsha’s room. He had thought that the auction for the Magic Crystal vein was already over, never imagining that Mu Lingsha still hadn’t given up hope. He immediately placed a new bid to thoroughly suppress her. “Six hundred forty thousand Gold!”

“Six hundred forty-two thousand Gold!”

“Six hundred fifty thousand Gold!”

“Six hundred fifty-two thousand Gold!”

A heated struggle between Lu Xingluo and Mu Lingsha broke out, the price reaching 672,000 Gold in short order. This situation shocked the various superpowers present

These superpowers were fully aware of the financial strength of their rivals. Even if some of them were superior to others, the disparity was not that much. However, the wealth the Starline Corporation and Unyielding Soul were displaying had already exceeded the liquid assets a superpower should wield. This was no longer a competition of liquidity. This was basically an all-out struggle between two superpowers.

“This is impossible! Unyielding Soul can’t possibly have this much money!” Lu Xingluo said as he looked at Mu Lingsha’s room. Just then, he happened to catch sight of Mu Lingsha signing some kind of contract with Shi Feng. “Damn it! That little bug dares to lend money to Unyielding Soul!”

At this moment, even a fool could tell that Zero Wing had lent Unyielding Soul a lot of Coins; hence, super-first-rate Guild was able to persist in this auction.

“Mu Lingsha, do you think you can win against the Starline Corporation just because you borrowed some money from a little bug?!” Lu Xingluo placed another bid. “Seven hundred thousand Gold!”

Although Zero Wing had lent Coins to Unyielding Soul, how much could an up-and-coming Guild that could rival first-rate Guilds possibly have? It would already be plenty amazing if Zero Wing had even 70,000 or 80,000 Gold. If Lu Xingluo included the amount of money Zero Wing spent earlier, he estimated that the Guild would be able to lend around 50,000 Gold, at most, to Mu Lingsha. Previously, she had also stopped placing bids after the price reached 630,000 Gold, which meant that her personal limit was 630,000 Gold. Including the 50,000 Gold from Zero Wing, she would have only around

680,000 Gold in total.

With his bid of 700,000 Gold, he would definitely triumph over Mu Lingsha.

The people inside the auction venue gasped upon hearing Lu Xingluo’s bid. If he were to spend so much money to acquire the Magic Crystal vein, he would have to wait for three months or so just to recoup his costs. However, 700,000 Gold at this stage of the game was definitely more valuable than 700,000 Gold three months later. After all, Coins and Magic Crystals were constantly depreciating in value in God’s Domain.

Of course, the purchase also wasn’t without benefits. With the Magic Crystal vein, Lu Xingluo would convert 700,000 Gold into Magic Crystals and various rare ores. In the long term, it was still more beneficial to have the Magic Crystal vein than not to have it.

However, before Yuan Tiexin could even hammer his gavel once, Mu Lingsha made another bid.

“Seven hundred ten thousand Gold!”

“Are you kidding me? How does Unyielding Soul have so much money?”

The people present were dumbfounded at Mu Lingsha’s bid. Logically, the increment in price should taper off as the auction approached its end. Yet, now, Mu Lingsha had actually raised the size of her increment to 10,000 Gold.

“Impossible!” Lu Xingluo could not help but turn to look at Shi Feng, confusion written on his face. “How can a new Guild like his possibly have so much money?”

“Guild Leader, what should we do? We only have a little over 703,000 Gold left. We don’t have any more money to continue bidding,” Zhong Langcheng said anxiously.

“Good! Very good!” Lu Xingluo’s gaze turned deathly chilling. “Contact the Secret Pavilion and tell them I have some business with them!”

“Understood!” Zhong Langcheng immediately contacted a representative from the Secret Pavilion.

Meanwhile, when Mu Lingsha saw that Lu Xingluo had stopped bidding, she could not help but breathe out a sigh of relief.

Had Shi Feng lent her only 60,000 Gold, she definitely wouldn’t have been able to compete with Lu Xingluo. However, with

100,000 Gold, she was able to thoroughly suppress him. Moreover, during the time she was competing with Lu Xingluo, as she worried that she wouldn’t have enough funds, she had someone in her Guild

mortgage several plots of golden Land in Dark Night City and gained another 60,000 Gold. The Coins would be transferred later to her God's Domain account

Seeing that nobody was bidding, Yuan Tiexin very quickly slammed his gavel once, saying, "Seven hundred and ten thousand, going once!"

"Is there anyone willing to place a higher bid? You should know that this is very likely to be your only chance to see a Magic Crystal vein! You might not get another chance like this in the future!" At this moment, Yuan Tiexin was ecstatic. After all, in just under a minute, he had earned nearly 100,000 Gold more for the vein.

However, despite Yuan Tiexin's words, the auction venue remained silent. Nobody was willing to place any more bids. "Seven hundred and ten thousand, going twice!"

Seeing that nobody was responding even after some time, Yuan Tiexin understood that this was the highest price he could sell the vein for. He then readied himself to slam his gavel for the third time and confirm the final owner of the Magic Crystal vein. When Mu Lingsha saw this, she was thrilled.

"Seven hundred twenty thousand Gold!"

At this time, however, Lu Xingluo suddenly broke the silence.

"How is this possible?" Mu Lingsha was astounded as she looked at Lu Xingluo's solemn expression. Nevertheless, she very quickly placed another bid, saying, "Seven hundred thirty thousand Gold!"

“Seven hundred fifty thousand Gold!” Lu Xingluo said, sending a chilling glare at Mu Lingsha and Shi Feng.

Despite Lu Xingluo’s glare, Mu Lingsha showed no intentions of giving up whatsoever.

“Seven hundred sixty thousand Gold!”

“Seven hundred seventy thousand Gold!”

“Seven hundred eighty thousand Gold!”

“Eight hundred thousand Gold!”

In the end, Lu Xingluo directly raised the price by an additional 20,000 Gold, causing Mu Lingsha’s complexion to darken considerably. That price exceeded the limits of what she could afford.

In the end, after Yuan Tiexin slammed his gavel three times, Lu Xingluo was announced the winner of the Magic Crystal vein’s management rights. This outcome sent the entire auction venue into an uproar.

Eight hundred thousand Gold!

This was already double the liquid funds a superpower possessed at this stage of the game.

Although Lu Xingluo had acquired the Magic Crystal vein, throughout the remaining part of the auction, he glared hatefully at Mu Lingsha and Shi Feng.

In order to emerge as the final victor, he had been forced to sell a large amount of High-level Energy to the Secret Pavilion— far more than what the corporation had authorized.

Although he eventually won the auction, he had to spend nearly 200,000 Gold more. How could he possibly be in a mood for celebration?

“Langcheng, once we return, gather all the information you can find on Zero Wing and pass it to Dark Soul. Have Dark Soul mobilize right away. If Dark Soul is lacking in strength, have a portion of our main force support it. I want Zero Wing to disappear from God’s Domain immediately!” Lu Xingluo said. “A mere bug dares cause me to lose 200,000 Gold!”

“Understood!” Zhong Langcheng replied eagerly. The thing he loved doing the most was none other than annihilating small Guilds.

Chapter 1791: Crazy Actions

The uproar caused by the auction of the Magic Crystal vein distracted the various powers in attendance from the many excellent finale items appearing after the vein. Most focused their attention on the implications of the Magic Crystal vein.

Now that the Starline Corporation had the Magic Crystal vein, combined with its financial strength and military strength, its development in God’s Domain would most likely skyrocket in the future.

Particularly, when it came to Magic Crystals, the Starline Corporation would have a massive advantage over everyone else.

“Now that Starline has obtained the Magic Crystal vein, the Dark Night Empire will probably belong to Starline from now on.”

“Crimson Emperor and Unyielding Soul sure are pitiful. The two of them going all-out was what allowed Starline to annex two former super-first-rate Guilds in one go. Without the sudden influx of experts and veteran players, Starline wouldn’t have developed so quickly and become capable of rivaling Crimson Emperor and Unyielding Soul. Now that Starline has acquired a Magic Crystal vein as well, it’ll be able to nurture more experts through the Divine Colosseum.”

“That’s right! Most likely, it won’t be long before Crimson Emperor and Unyielding Soul get chased out of the Dark Night Empire.”

“Unyielding Soul is truly unfortunate. It was just a little bit short of acquiring the Magic Crystal vein. It really makes you wonder where the Starline Corporation managed to get so much money from.”

Everyone secretly discussed the matter between the Starline Corporation and Unyielding Soul.

The auction of the Magic Crystal vein had determined the future of the Dark Night Empire. This situation also prompted some first-rate Guilds, which had been developing in the Dark Night Empire all this time, to draft alternate plans.

Meanwhile, inside Zero Wing’s private room...

After this auction, Gentle Snow and Aqua Rose gained newfound recognition of the financial strength of major corporations.

Compared to the major corporations, the amount of money Zero Wing possessed was not worth mentioning whatsoever.

They also realized just how far Zero Wing was from becoming a superpower in God's Domain. The Guild was already severely lacking just in the aspect of financial strength.

"So, this is the Starline Corporation's strength?" Mu Lingsha could not help a bitter smile when she saw Lu Xingluo acquiring the Magic Crystal vein. Despite all her efforts, she still lost in the end. Fortunately, she did not suffer a total loss in this auction. At the very least, she had forced Starline to spend a large portion of its wealth. With this, Starline would not have the funds to develop rapidly within the shortterm. Following which, Mu Lingsha turned to look at Shi Feng and said, "Thank you for your help. As per our agreement, I will have Unyielding Soul help you out once."

"That's just wonderful. In reality, the thing I need Unyielding Soul's help with is very simple. I need you to lend me 60 Tier 2 experts to raid a Team Dungeon. I believe that with Unyielding Soul's strength, that should be doable," Shi Feng said, directly revealing the task he wanted Unyielding Soul's help for.

Currently, expert players in God's Domain had already reached Level 53 and Level 54. The number of experts that had gone to attempt their Tier 2 promotions was also very high. At this stage of the game, most first-rate Guilds already had a dozen or so Tier 2 experts in their ranks, with some having even more than twenty. As for super-first-rate Guilds, they definitely had more than 60 Tier 2 experts.

"Help with raiding a Team Dungeon?" Mu Lingsha was slightly surprised by Shi Feng's request. She had expected Shi Feng to have Unyielding Soul act as a deterrent to Beast Emperor in the Ore Empire. She had never thought that Shi Feng would only want to borrow some Tier 2 experts to raid a Team Dungeon. "Alright, that won't be a problem. When will the raid be? Where should we meet up?"

In reality, Mu Lingsha wasn't the only person surprised by Shi Feng's request. Even Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow were confused at this situation. They had the rare opportunity of getting Unyielding Soul to owe them a favor, yet Shi Feng was wasting this favor to borrow some experts to raid a Team Dungeon.

Although there were some Team Dungeons that Zero Wing was currently still incapable of raiding, given enough time, Zero Wing would have more Tier 2 experts of its own. There was simply no need to get the help of other Guilds.

"I hope that we can start tomorrow. The meeting point will be Star-Moon Kingdom's White River City. As for the exact time, I'll have Aqua notify you once we enter God's Domain. May I know if that is acceptable?" Shi Feng asked.

"Tomorrow? It seems you're quite pressed for time. However, all the better. The sooner this favor is repaid, the sooner Unyielding Soul will be able to relax," Mu Lingsha said, smiling. "Alright, I'll head back and make the necessary arrangements. I'll be sure to send over the people you asked for on time tomorrow."

"Big Sis Lingsha, are you returning so soon? The auction for the finale items is just beginning. There are bound to be some excellent items coming out. Isn't it a waste to leave right now?" Aqua Rose asked, surprised when she noticed Mu Lingsha standing up from her seat.

"My goal this time is only the Magic Crystal vein. Now that the Starline Corporation has acquired it, I naturally have no reason to stay. Rather than waste time here, it is much better if I return and start making the necessary preparations," Mu Lingsha explained. "However, I must also remind you that Lu Xingluo is a vengeful bastard. Now that you have gone against him, although he won't be able to dispatch his Guild's armies after you, he is very likely to send a large number of experts to target Zero Wing. It is best if you all beware."

"Thank you for your reminder," Shi Feng said.

In reality, Shi Feng had a much greater understanding of the Starline Corporation than Mu Lingsha did.

During his previous life, the Starline Corporation had quickly become the overlord of the Dark Night Empire by relying on its advantages from entering God's Domain at the game's launch and having a large amount of High-level Energy. Moreover, aside from the empire, Starline had also taken control of several neighboring kingdoms. Eventually, the corporation annihilated Unyielding Soul and developed into a bona fide Super Guild.

Meanwhile, Lu Xingluo, the Guild Leader of the Starline Corporation's Guild, was also famed for being incomparably ruthless.

As Lu Xingluo had close ties with Dark Players, those who became his enemy were often hunted down by Dark Players. Some first-rate Guilds had even gotten wiped out because of this.

After Mu Lingsha was done speaking, she promptly left the room. Now, only four people remained inside.

"Guild Leader, just which Dungeon are we going to raid that we actually need Unyielding Soul's strength?" Gentle Snow asked quietly, unable to rein in her curiosity, after seeing Mu Lingsha leave.

Although she wasn't one to self-praise, she believed that Zero Wing's Dungeon-raiding capabilities were not the slightest bit weaker than those of the superpowers of God's Domain. In fact, Zero Wing might be stronger than even some superpowers.

Given a little more time, Zero Wing would be capable of raiding even super-large-scale Team Dungeons. Hence, there really wasn't a need to employ the help of a super-first-rate Guild.

"No, we're not just going to borrow Unyielding Soul's strength!" Shi Feng said, smiling. "Afterward, we're going to borrow the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's strength as well!"

"Borrow the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's strength?" Gentle Snow grew even more confused at Shi Feng's words. She simply could not figure out what Shi Feng intended to do.

Shi Feng wasn't satisfied with getting the help of just one super-first-rate Guild. He was even going to get the help of two super-first-rate Guilds.

Aqua Rose was similarly surprised by Shi Feng's declaration.

"Guild Leader, we can't possibly be trying to raid the Flaming Ruins now, right?!" A hint of shock flashed across Aqua Rose's eyes as she suddenly thought of a possibility.

No matter how she tried, the only Team Dungeon that she could think of that would necessitate the help of Unyielding Soul and the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion would be Star-Moon Kingdom's Flaming Ruins, a Level 50 super-large-scale Team Dungeon.

Up to now, nobody in the game had managed to acquire the First Clear of even a Level 50, 100-man Hard Mode Team Dungeon. Trying to challenge a 200-man Team Dungeon was simply insane. After all, the raid difficulty of a super-large-scale Team Dungeon was many times greater than that of a 100-man Team Dungeon. It simply wasn't a challenge that current players could overcome. Moreover, the final loot one would get from the two Dungeons was mostly of the same quality.

Rather than waste time raiding a super-large-scale Team Dungeon, it was much better to raid a large-scale Team Dungeon.

“Of course not,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. “Our goal is the neutral map Eclipse Gate’s super-large-scale Team Dungeon, Eclipse Throne!”

Meanwhile, during the time the Secret Pavilion was holding its internal auction...

Things were very lively over at Dark Soul’s Residence in Yin Yang City, a Dark City in the Dark Night Empire. Currently, many rarely seen experts had gathered.

“This really is a rare occurrence. Boss, why did you suddenly have us all come here? Are we waging war on a Guild?” Lonely Lamp, a core member of the Dark Hunters adventurer team, asked curiously as he looked at the core members of Dark Soul in the room.

“A direct order came from the Starline Corporation,” a Level 54, Tier 2 male Berserker looking to be in his 40s said, smiling.

“Which Guild is unlucky enough to get targeted by the Starline Corporation?” Lonely Lamp asked, laughing. The last time Dark Soul had mobilized such a powerful force was when they were targeting a first-rate Guild. In the end, said first-rate Guild had very nearly disappeared from God’s Domain. Fortunately, though, the first-rate Guild managed to pack up and leave the Dark Night Empire in time.

Rubbing his beard, the Tier 2 Berserker thought back to the message he received a while ago before replying, “It seems it’s a Guild called Zero Wing.”

Chapter 1792: Upgrading a Magic Weapon

“We’re targeting Zero Wing?” Lonely Lamp could not help his surprise when he heard the Tier 2 Berserker’s words. “Could it be Star-Moon Kingdom’s Zero Wing?”

“That’s right!” Looking at Lonely Lamp curiously, the Tier 2 Berserker asked, “Is there a problem?”

“N-no.” Lonely Lamp shook his head, his complexion darkening slightly.

He had never thought that the various adventurer teams belonging to Dark Soul had actually been gathered this time to deal with Zero Wing.

“This is interesting,” a soldierly man seated before Lonely Lamp said, his lips curling up slightly. “Originally, I was planning to take care of this Zero Wing sometime in the future. Now, it seems that won’t be necessary.”

“Commander Shark, does Dark Hunters have some kind of grudge against Zero Wing?” a beautiful, womanly lady wearing dark-blue robes asked, a faint smile on her face.

“Mhm. We crossed paths when carrying out a client’s commission. Although we managed to complete the commission, our side suffered quite a loss as well,” the soldierly man named Black Shark replied, a cold glint flashing in his eyes.

“To be able to make your Dark Hunters eat a loss, Zero Wing must be quite capable. It’s no wonder the Alliance Master has gathered us here today,” the beautiful lady said. “When the time comes, if Commander Shark needs any help in the battle, do make sure to ask Dark Claw.”

“Then, I’ll have to thank you in advance for the help, Commander Spirit,” Black Shark replied.

Lonely Lamp could not help but grow excited upon overhearing the conversation between Black Shark and Veiled Spirit.

Even now, he still remembered with hate the time Shi Feng had killed him. Although his commander had also stated previously that they would make Zero Wing pay, he was painfully aware of just how powerful Zero Wing was. Even if the entire Dark Hunters adventurer team mobilized, they wouldn’t be a match for Zero Wing.

However, it was a different story now. Dark Soul was a Dark Alliance of over ten dark adventurer teams. If these adventurer teams mobilized simultaneously, the alliance would have no problem throwing the entire Star-Moon Kingdom into chaos. After all, the dark adventurer teams capable of joining Dark Soul were all frighteningly powerful.

Just as everyone inside the meeting room was discussing this matter, three players suddenly entered the room. At the lead was a Level 50 male Guardian Knight wearing pitch-black armor. The beast-like young man carried on his back a crystalline shield that released crimson flames. Following this Guardian Knight was a Level 55 female Ranger and a Level 55 male Elementalist.

The equipment these three players wore elicited a little envy in the adventurer team commanders present. These three players had a minimum of three pieces of Epic Equipment each. The Guardian Knight in the lead, in particular, had four pieces of Epic Equipment plus a weapon and shield of indiscernible rank. However, although the weapon’s and shield’s ranks were not distinguishable, the density of the Mana circulating around them indicated that they were definitely extraordinary items.

Meanwhile, this young man was none other than Tiger Breaker, the Alliance Master of Dark Soul.

Although Tiger Breaker looked very young, nobody present dared underestimate him because he had risen to fame much sooner than anyone else here had. He was actually already over 45 and had once inspired fear and helplessness even in super-first-rate Guilds.

This man was also why the various dark adventurer teams present were willing to join an alliance like Dark Soul.

“I assume you all have been notified of the reason you are gathered here?” Tiger Breaker said after taking his seat. “The Starline Corporation’s intent is to have us annihilate Zero Wing as soon as possible. Rest assured, the remuneration provided is very bountiful. Like usual, whoever contributes more will get more. According to the data we collected, Zero Wing has the strength of a first-rate Guild. As for our plan of annihilation, we’ll go about it like always and target Zero Wing’s core combatants and upper echelon first. Whatever loot you get from your kills will belong to you. If there are no problems, we’ll move out now.”

Tiger Breaker’s words immediately filled everyone present with enthusiasm.

They had been eagerly awaiting such a large-scale campaign for a long time now. This was their motivation for joining Dark Soul, to begin with. While their respective adventurer teams might have great difficulty annihilating a large Guild all by themselves, doing so would be a walk in the park if over a dozen of them worked together.

Every time their alliance received a mission to annihilate a Guild, they made a fortune for themselves. The profits they gained from annihilating first-rate Guilds, in particular, were astronomical.

“Alliance Master, what happened with the Starline Corporation that it’s in such a rush to annihilate Zero Wing?” the Level 55 male Elementalist standing beside Tiger Breaker asked curiously after seeing that the representatives of the various dark adventurer teams had left. “In the past, they always gave us a few days to prepare. Now, they’re not even giving us a day.”

“I’m not sure about this,” Tiger Breaker replied, shaking his head. “However, it doesn’t matter. The target has the strength of just a first-rate Guild. It’s not the first time they’re doing such a task.”

“Indeed. With the current strength of the various adventurer teams, every one of them can easily mess up a first-rate Guild all by themselves. If they work together, even the top-ranking first-rate Guilds will suffer,” the male Elementalist said, chuckling.

“Right, after they’re done with this mission, our next target will most likely be Unyielding Soul. Make sure you get the necessary preparations done. Even though Unyielding Soul has fallen behind the times, it is still a super-first-rate Guild. It won’t be an easy opponent,” Tiger Breaker said.

“Alliance Master, rest assured, as long as that batch of resources arrives, we’ll be able to nurture a large group of experts very quickly,” the Elementalist said confidently.

Star-Moon Kingdom, White River City:

After the Secret Pavilion’s auction, Shi Feng immediately returned to the Greenwater Villa and logged back into God’s Domain. The first thing he did after getting online was contact Phoenix Rain and have her send every Tier 2 expert she had to White River City.

After making the necessary arrangements, he handed 30,000 Gold to Aqua Rose and had her continue fortifying Silverwing Town. He then took out another 30,000 Gold and secretly fortified the Lost Town. Next, he gathered the rare materials he brought over from the Ice Crystal World and nineteen Lifestyle

Players at the Candlelight Trading Firm. Finally, he used the Holy City's Emblem and brought the nineteen Lifestyle players to the Holy City of Titan.

At this point, the Abyssal Blade was still just a Level 45 Magic Weapon. Although the Abyssal Blade remained very powerful, it was severely mismatched for his current level. Compared to Killing Ray, the Abyssal Blade was no different from baggage to him.

Meanwhile, the Eclipse Throne was a Level 50 super-large-scale Team Dungeon in the Eclipse Gate, a neutral map. Its difficulty was much greater than even that of the Level 50 super-large-scale Team Dungeons in kingdoms and empires, not to mention the special environment inside the Eclipse Throne. He would have to increase his combat power further if he wanted to improve his chances of successfully raiding the Dungeon.

Hence, Shi Feng planned on forging Level 50 weapons in Titan City in order to upgrade the Abyssal Blade.

In the outside world, Level 50 Fine-Gold and Dark-Gold Weapon designs were very rare. In Titan City, however, so long as one had sufficient status, one could use Magic Crystals to exchange for all kinds of weapon production designs. However, only the player that exchanged for these designs could learn them. At the same time, the weapons produced using the designs obtained in Titan City were slightly weaker than average weapons of the same rank.

To Shi Feng, however, this weakness did not matter at all. After all, the weapons he produced would be sacrificed to the Abyssal Blade. What kind of Attributes those weapons possessed was not important.

After arriving at Titan City's Forging Association, he spent 3,000 and 6,000 Magic Crystals to purchase Level 50 Fine-Gold and Dark-Gold Weapon Forging Designs, respectively. He then rented a Special Forging Room and set to work.

In order to increase his production success rate, Shi Feng even utilized the Philosopher's Hand's power.

After working away for over half a day, he finally ended up with 100 Level 50 Fine-Gold Weapons and 30 Level 50 Dark-Gold Weapons. He had used nearly 80% of the materials he had prepared for this occasion.

“I can finally upgrade it.” After taking a good look at the pile of weapons stacked on the table before him, Shi Feng unsheathed the Abyssal Blade. “Devour!”

Chapter 1793: Black Dragon Appears

Inside the blazing hot Special Forging Room...

After Shi Feng chose to upgrade the Abyssal Blade, he felt space inside the room freeze.

Pitch-black divine runes lit up the silver sword before him, and the Black Dragon coiled around the hilt opened its eyes abruptly. As if the ornament had gained life, the Black Dragon let loose a deafening roar.

Roar!

The Dragon’s roar made the room tremble so violently that Shi Feng even thought it might collapse. Following which, a terrifying aura saturated that was so powerful that Shi Feng felt his body grow multitudes heavier. He couldn’t move an inch.

How is it so powerful?

Shi Feng stared at the hovering Abyssal Blade, afraid. The weapon's current aura was many times stronger than it had been during the previous upgrades. If not for the magic arrays that reinforced the Special Forging Room, he had no doubt that the roar would've crumbled the room.

The Dragon's roar hadn't only affected the Special Forging Room Shi Feng occupied. Candlelight's Lifestyle players, who practiced forging techniques in their own rooms, heard the deafening announcement and felt the world quake. They all felt a horrific pressure weigh on them the moment after the roar, preventing them from moving.

"What's going on? Why can't I move?"

Everyone was afraid of the sudden pressure. They could all sense death linger as if they stood before the opened mouth of some ferocious beast.

When the Abyssal Blade's aura reached its peak, even the Forging Association's Tier 2 NPCs dropped to the ground. Only the patrolling Tier 3 NPCs remained standing, but when these NPCs turned to the Forging Association, they did so with grim expressions. They felt as if they were staring at a live Dragon, not a building.

After another ten seconds, the aura disappeared, and everything returned to normal.

However, Shi Feng, who stood before this phenomenon's cause, looked decidedly less than pleased.

He no longer stood in the Special Forging Room. In fact, it seemed as if he had been transported to some kind of dusky world. Only he and the gigantic magic array he stood on seemed to occupy this world.

So, this is a Magic Weapon's Backlash? Shi Feng thought as he looked at the pitch-black Dragon, that stood over ten meters tall, before him. The Black Dragon quietly observed him in return. Although it didn't move, it radiated a horrific aura that even made Katie Green, a Tier 5 Sacred Magic Knight, look like a joke.

A Dragon!

Shi Feng was absolutely certain that the Black Dragon before him was a bona fide Dragon, although it was much smaller than ordinary Dragons. However, its aura was several times stronger than an ordinary Dragon's...

"Human...give me...your body!" the Black Dragon uttered in the human language as it watched Shi Feng with crimson eyes.

Saying so, the Black Dragon widened its mouth and bit down on Shi Feng with lightning speed. Its had only needed an instant to reach the Swordsman, and the attack caught Shi Feng off guard.

Is this it for me? Shi Feng panicked.

But when the Black Dragon's maw was only ten centimeters away from Shi Feng, it suddenly stopped.

Before Shi Feng knew it, silver chains had appeared around the Black Dragon's body, binding the creature.

“Damnable magic array!”

The Black Dragon roared and struggled fiercely against the chains. Regardless, the chains refused to budge. On the contrary, they steadily sapped away the Black Dragon’s power, shrinking its body.

The chains only disappeared after they had reduced the Black Dragon to six meters in height. Meanwhile, Shi Feng had noticed the Dragon’s Attributes.

[Black Dragon King] (Dragon, Lord) Level 50

HP 32,000,000/32,000,000

What a high HP! Shi Feng could not help but gasp when he saw the Black Dragon King’s statistics.

An ordinary Level 50 Lord would only have around 10,000,000 HP, with the high-HP ones having around 15,000,000, yet the Black Dragon King had 32,000,000 HP.

Before Shi Feng could say anything, the Black Dragon King charged at him, one of its scaly claws transforming into a streak of light as it swiped at him. The Black Dragon King was only slightly slower than a Tier 3 Great Lord of the same level.

“Human...food!”

With each step, the ground below the Dragon's feet sank. Its immense Strength could even put Great Lords of the same level to shame.

The Dragon race was an apex race in God's Domain. They were even capable of slaughtering Gods. Their superior Life Ratings allowed them to challenge opponents above their own tiers.

Although the Black Dragon King was only a Tier 2 Lord, a Tier 2 Dragon was much stronger than an ordinary Great Lord. If it came down to a fight, the Black Dragon King could easily kill a Tier 3 Great Lord.

As a mountain-like claw descended on Shi Feng, explosions rang out as it tore apart space itself.

A Lord ranked Dragon? Shi Feng smiled as he watched the Black Dragon King. He then swung Killing Ray to block the Dragon's claw.

Boom!

When the pitch-claw claw collided with Killing Ray, sparks scattered, and the earth beneath the collision sunk slightly, yet despite the impact, Shi Feng hadn't moved. He didn't even receive a single point of damage.

"Human..." The Black Dragon King was momentarily stunned to find Shi Feng unharmed.

Although Shi Feng was over ten levels higher, the difference in Life Ratings could easily make up for the gap and more. Normally, it should be able to send Shi Feng flying with a single slap.

However, the human had stopped the Dragon's attack with relative ease, taking no damage...

It's no wonder why so many experts were devoured by their Magic Weapons. The Backlash is actually so powerful. Shi Feng smiled at the stunned Black Dragon King. It's a pity that I have the Heavenly Dragon's Breath. Although I haven't fully repaired the ring yet, it still gives me an advantage against dragons.

Following which, Shi Feng activated Shadow Blade, sending one sword light and nine shadows at the Black Dragon King. Responding quickly, the Black Dragon King swiped its claws and blocked three attacks, but the remaining seven struck the monster, each dealing over -20,000 damage, over -40,000 with critical hits.

Not giving the Black Dragon King an opportunity to react, Shi Feng followed up with Chop, forcing the Black Dragon King to take a step back. He then used Thundering Flash, and damages exceeding -30,000 appeared above the Black Dragon King's head, one after another.

A Dragon might be a troublesome foe for others, but it was no problem for Shi Feng. Shi Feng already had frightening Basic Attributes. In addition, he had the Heavenly Dragon's Breath's Passive Skill, Dragon's Domination, which decreased enemy Dragons' Basic Attributes by 20% and increased his own by 500 points each.

Right now, the Level 50 Black Dragon King was weaker than Shi Feng when it came to Basic Attributes.

However, inside this special space, Shi Feng couldn't use the items and tools he carried in his bag, so facing a Dragon with 32,000,000 HP was still a considerable challenge-

wasting no time, Shi Feng activated Power of Darkness, increasing his Basic Attributes by another 120%. Now, his normal attacks dealt over -40,000 damage, and his Skills could deal over -100,000. This put the Black Dragon King at a disadvantage, and its HP fell at an unprecedented rate.

“Despicable human!” When the Black Dragon King’s HP fell to 50%, it expressed its anger with a deafening roar. Pitch-black flames then appeared around it, transforming into flaming swords that surrounded Shi Feng.

The Black Dragon King had summoned 30 of these fiery weapons, each sword carrying the Black Dragon King’s power. Despite Shi Feng’s superior Basic Attributes, he had no choice but to dodge or block the burning swords. If any of these summoned weapons struck him, he’d lose over 26,000 HP in an instant. Meanwhile, under the effects of Power of Darkness, Shi Feng only had a measly 180,000 HP. If he were struck seven or eight times, he’d be dead.

Hence, Shi Feng had no choice but to defend himself while fighting. Whenever his HP fell below 30%, he would activate Life Domain and heal himself.

However, once Shi Feng’s Berserk Skill ended, the two combatants entered a stalemate.

Time continued to pass.

Ten minutes... Twenty minutes... Thirty minutes...

Finally, after 40 minutes, the Black Dragon King’s HP fell to 10%, and Shi Feng activated Heavenly Dragon’s Power, increasing his Strength, Defense, and HP significantly. With Heavenly Dragon’s Power, Shi Feng could completely suppress the Dragon. He turned some of his focus away from defense, enduring the flaming swords’ attacks to strike the Black Dragon King’s chest. The hit was a critical, dealing more than -100,000 damage to the Lord.

Following which, the Black Dragon King's HP began to decrease much faster than before.

8%... 6%... 3%...

Shi Feng also steadily lost HP. Despite Heavenly Dragon's Power's buffs, each flaming sword shaved off over 10,000 HP. Against the 30 flaming swords' relentless attacks, it was inevitable that he'd lose HP rapidly.

90%... 70%... 50%...

"Die!" Once the Black Dragon King had very little HP remaining, Shi Feng used Lightning Slash.

Suddenly, a damage of over -400,000 appeared above the Black Dragon King's head and devoured of the Lord's last strand of HP. By the time the Black Dragon King's body disappeared, Shi Feng had less than one-third of his HP remaining.

Chapter 1794: Dragon Soul

I finally won. Shi Feng could not help but breathe a sigh of relief as he watched the Black Dragon King's body fade away.

A Dragon's Strength was simply too high. If Heavenly Dragon's Power hadn't suppressed the monster while boosting Shi Feng's Basic Attributes, the battle might have ended differently.

Fortunately, the Black Dragon King had only been a Level 50 Lord, the same level that Shi Feng was trying to upgrade the Abyssal Blade to. Had the Black Dragon King been the same level as Shi Feng, the battle would've definitely been far more difficult. With this knowledge, Shi Feng would have to be more careful during future upgrades. Without preparing for such a battle, upgrading the Abyssal Blade would be extremely dangerous.

Once the Black Dragon King was gone, the gigantic magic array under Shi Feng's feet compressed, transforming into a new Abyssal Blade.

The new Abyssal Blade was a fully silver sword with pitch-black divine runes etched on the blade. Gray mist circled the weapon, and it gave off a chilling aura.

This is the newly upgraded Abyssal Blade? When Shi Feng gripped the new Abyssal Blade, he could clearly feel the sword pulsate. It felt as if the sword had become an extension of his body.

What truly surprised Shi Feng, however, was the new information in the weapon's Attribute Panel.

[Abyssal Blade] (One-handed Sword, Magic Weapon)

Attack Power +2,070 All Attributes +170 Attack Speed +27 Ignore Levels +20 Attacks have:

70% chance to cause 220% damage.

30% chance to cause 300% damage.

Every attack increases damage by 2% to a maximum of 24%.

If wielder belongs to a Swordsman-related class, all Skill Levels +5.

Increase Free Ability Points received for every increase in Level by 2 points.

Equipment Level 50. Can be upgraded (Devour one hundred Level 55 Fine-Gold Weapons and thirty Level 55 Dark-Gold Weapons to upgrade to Level 55).

Equipment Tier 2. Can be evolved (Devour 100 Mana Crystals or Eternal Ice Crystals to evolve to Tier 3).

Additional Active Skill 1: Phantom Kill (Tier 2). Instantly creates a doppelganger under the wielder's control. Doppelganger has 90% of the wielder's Attributes and all Skills. The wielder can swap positions with the doppelganger at any time.

Duration: 1 minute, 30 seconds

Cooldown: 5 minutes

Additional Active Skill 2: Abyssal Bind (Tier 2). Binds up to 3 enemies simultaneously and prevents movement, reducing Defense and Magic Resistance by 100%. The higher tiered the target is, the weaker the effect will be.

Duration: 5 seconds

Cooldown: 40 seconds

Additional Active Skill 3: Nine Dragons Slash (Tier 2). Instantly creates 16 phantoms of the Abyssal Blade for wielder's use; each phantom sword deals up to 80% damage.

Duration: 30 seconds

Cooldown: 5 minutes

Additional Active Skill 4: Abyssal Curse (Tier 2). Prevents all targets within a radius of 50 yards from moving or attacking for 6 seconds and reduces their Attributes by 20% for 10 minutes. Effect doubles if there is only one target in range.

Cooldown: 20 minutes

Additional Active Skill 5: Dragon Soul (Tier 2). Grants a doppelganger a Dragon Soul, transforming it into a Black Dragon. The transformed doppelganger will have the same Life Rating as a Black Dragon.

Duration: 3 minutes

Cooldown: 48 hours

Additional Passive Skill: Abyssal Will. Improves wielder's physique depending on the surrounding Mana density. The higher the Mana density, the greater the improvement

Additional Profound Inheritance: Black Emperor (Tier 2). When activated, every critical hit will accumulate one stack of Death Aura. Each stack can be used to increase all Attributes by 2% and Attack Speed and Movement Speed by 1% for 12 seconds or to reduce the Cooldown of a skill by 4 seconds. Maximum of 30 stacks of Death Aura.

Duration: 10 minutes

Cooldown: 8 hours

The Famed Smith Olysses personally created the Abyssal Blade using the Black Dragon King's fangs as material. It is one of thirty-six Famed Swords, ranking 31st. However, the Black Dragon King himself has cursed this sword. Beyond the immense strength the blade offers, the wielder must face a Backlash after a certain amount of time. However, after Jack had remodeled the Abyssal Blade with a Star Crystal, the strength of the Backlash has been reduced greatly. If the wielder is unable to suppress the Backlash, the wielder will receive the Black Dragon King's curse, permanently reducing all Attributes by 50%.

Unable to be dropped.

Unable to be traded.

Unable to be destroyed.

After this latest upgrade, the Abyssal Blade's Attack Power was on par with a two-handed Epic Weapon of the same level, although it wasn't quite as strong as Killing Ray. After all, the Abyssal Blade was only Level 50, whereas Killing Ray's level automatically increased to match its user's level.

Regardless, the Abyssal Blade was still very powerful. The new Skill, Dragon Soul, was particularly impressive.

He could turn one of his doppelgangers into a true Black Dragon.

Just thinking about this excited Shi Feng.

That was a bona fide Dragon they were talking about. An Archaic Species was insignificant before a true Dragon. Even Angels had a slightly lower Life Rating than Dragons. This Skill was now Shi Feng's greatest trump card. Unfortunately, the Skill only had a short, three-minute duration.

Once Shi Feng had finished marveling at the new Abyssal Blade, he sheathed the weapon and contacted Silent Wonder, Candlelight's current Chief Alchemist.

Aside from the Lifestyle players with the highest chances of becoming Masters, Shi Feng had also brought the Candlelight Trading Firm's top five Alchemists to the Holy City of Titan. Naturally, after Silent Wonder had become an internal member and read the Moon God's Secret Journal, she had quickly become a Master Alchemist. Now, she was the trading firm's number one alchemist in terms of alchemy techniques.

Since Candlelight had too many Lifestyle Players for Melancholic Smile to manage alone, Shi Feng had split the management responsibilities for each subclass among their respective Chiefs.

“How is the Elven Silver production coining along?” Shi Feng asked.

Elven Silver was an alchemy recipe that could only be found in Titan City. Each copy cost an exorbitant 800 Magic Crystals. Elven Silver was also very difficult to produce. Even if an Advanced Alchemist had the help of various support tools, they would be fortunate if they could achieve a 20% production success rate, and each attempt cost roughly 4 Gold...

Elven Silver only had one function-temporary physical reinforcement. Not only could it increase one's physique and Stamina, but it would also improve their Resistance significantly. It was an extremely valuable potion and had been a must-have when raiding super-large-scale Team Dungeons during Shi Feng's previous life.

Since Candlelight's alchemy standard had been lacking, Shi Feng hadn't had his alchemists attempt to produce Elven Silver. However, Silent Aspiration had also become a Master Alchemist, so Shi Feng had decided to give them the recipe.

“Guild Leader, the Elven Silver Potion's brewing procedures are too complex. Even now, we only have 217 bottles. May I know if that is enough?” Silent Wonder said, a little embarrassed.

“Two hundred and seventeen?! So many?!” Shi Feng was slightly surprised when he heard Silent Wonder's report. He knew that even a Basic Master Alchemist would only have a 25% theoretical success rate, roughly 30% if they had the proper support tools. Moreover, each bottle of Elven Silver required a very long time to brew. A Basic Master Alchemist would be fortunate to brew around 100 bottles after a full day of work, yet despite having only been in Titan City for half that, the two Master Alchemists and three Advanced Alchemists that had been given the task had produced over 200 bottles. “Good. Bring them to me.”

“Understood.” Silent Wonder nodded before disconnecting the call.

Shi Feng then turned his attention to crafting All-rounded Devices.

The Eclipse Throne had a chance of dropping top-tier Fire Resistance equipment. The Dungeon's recommended raid level was Level 55 to Level 60, and it was far more challenging than the Level 50 super-large-scale Team Dungeons at kingdoms and empires' borders. Aside from the Dungeon's corrosive gas, its low Mana density made it particularly difficult. Shi Feng's team needed the All-rounded Devices to raid the Dungeon.

Shi Feng spent the rest of the day producing 80-plus All-rounded Devices. Including the All-rounded Devices he had made some time ago, he had more than enough to outfit a team of 200 players.

Time is almost up. They should've arrived in White River City by now. Shi Feng smiled as he took a look at the time. Before he had realized it, a new day had arrived in God's Domain. There were less than 20 minutes remaining before the agreed meeting time. Immediately, Shi Feng took out a Return Scroll for White River City. After activating the scroll, his body transformed into a streak of light and left the Special Forging Room.

Chapter 1795: Gathering of Heroes

Star-Moon Kingdom, Zero Wing's Residence in White River City:

Silence dominated the crowded Guild Hall due to the group of the Guild's main force members resting in the lobby. The lowest-leveled player among this group was Level 54, Tier 2, and the weakest equipment they wore was Level 50 Fine-Gold rank. The players who led the group even wore multiple pieces of Epic Equipment.

These people were none other than Fire Dance, Cola, Shadow Sword, Blackie, Turtledove, Ye Wumian, Violet Cloud, Minor Wind, and Flying Shadow. Most of these players had been in the Guild since its founding and had participated in countless Guild wars and expeditions alongside Zero Wing's Guild Leader.

Zero Wing had already become the number one Guild in Star-Moon Kingdom both in terms of financial power and strength. Countless players in the kingdom studied Fire Dance and the others' battle videos. Unknowingly, they had become idols in Star-Moon Kingdom.

"Flaming Rose Fire Dance! Tyrant Bear Cola!"

"Why have all of these celebrities gathered here? Is our Guild about to embark on some important operation?"

"They're too cool! When can I become a core member and join their ranks?"

"Our Guild has recruited a lot of new members recently. As a result, the requirements to become a core member have become stricter. In other Guilds, you can become a core member as long as you reach the Trial Tower's fifth floor and have enough GCPs. In Zero Wing, however, I've heard that you need to reach the Trial Tower's sixth floor at minimum."

"I've heard the same, but even if you become a core member, it's very difficult to get recruited for the Guild's main force."

Right now, even the main force's weakest member can reach the sixth floor's late stage and has a grasp of at least two Basic Combat Techniques. If you want to become a party leader, you'll need to reach the

seventh floor's middle stage or higher and grasp at least three Basic Combat Techniques and one Advanced Combat Technique.”

The Guild members inside the Guild Hall were ecstatic when they saw Fire Dance and the others. This was especially true for the new recruits. Many of Zero Wing's new recruits had only decided to join Zero Wing because of experts like Fire Dance and her companions.

Suddenly, shrieks echoed throughout the hall. A man in his thirties had entered the hall, carrying two longswords at his waist. Arcs of blue electricity danced around one of the weapons, while a gray mist surrounded the other. Ambient Mana collected around the man passively, and he radiated an aura so powerful that those around him unconsciously stepped aside.

This middle-aged man was none other than Shi Feng's Black Flame persona.

“Guild Leader! The Guild Leader has arrived!”

“It's really the Guild Leader! His aura is so powerful! He is so much stronger than the battle videos make him out to be!”

When the Guild members saw Shi Feng, excitement and reverence filled their eyes. Black Flame was a living legend in Star- Moon Kingdom and was responsible for many miracles, never suffering defeat.

Just the name 'Black Flame' made expert players in Star-Moon Kingdom shudder.

In response to the exclamations, Shi Feng could only offer a troubled smile as he approached Fire Dance and her team.

“Guild Leader, all 85 Tier 2 players we have right now are present. We can set out right away,” Aqua Rose said as Shi Feng walked over to the group.

Shi Feng examined the main force members that had stood to greet him. The group included the experts from the Black Dragon Empire Branch that Gentle Snow managed. Even Youlan, who managed Zero Wing City’s daily affairs, was here. Silent Blade, You Ziping, who had recently been promoted to Tier 2, was also present.

Some of these players had been incredibly famous during his previous life. In this life, however, these people had gathered in the Guild he had created.

Not even a first-rate Guild could field 85 Tier 2 players at this stage of the game. Zero Wing had only nurtured so many thanks to the Primordial Soul Shi Feng had acquired from Primordial City.

“Good! Let’s move out!” Shi Feng said, nodding. He then led the group toward the agreed meeting point in White River City. Shi Feng and the 85 Tier 2 players left Zero Wing’s Residence on their Mounts.

The players on the street gasped when they saw Shi Feng’s group. These Zero Wing players were, after all, quite eye-catching. Their Mounts alone were terrifying, with the weakest at Mysterious-Iron rank. Meanwhile, the players’ statistics were simply horrific.

When Shi Feng’s group had taken to the street, the various powers in White River City began to panic. They all feared that Zero Wing had targeted them.

White River City, airport:

Due to the appearance of the Eclipse Gate, the airport had become one of the most popular hubs in White River City, especially for the city's various Guilds and adventurer teams.

Not only was the Eclipse Gate a high-resource map, but the map also produced plenty of rare herbs and ores. There was also the precious Energy Essence, which could be used to nurture Guild Mounts. The Eclipse Gate was undoubtedly the best option to grind and earn money for players who didn't want to travel to the distant Ore Empire.

Currently, the players from the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul had gathered in the airport's rest area. These two Guilds' presence made the other players in the rest area nervous, feeling a great pressure weigh on them. The teams were frightening, with each made up of around 60 Tier 2 players.

Players recognized these Guild members as Tier 2 players due to the Tier 2 Class Insignias that only Tier 2 classes received. This insignia could only be acquired by completing a very difficult quest, and not only was it proof of one's strength, but it also increased Skill and Spell effects by 10%.

"Big Sis Rain, Zero Wing is amazing! They actually borrowed so many experts from Unyielding Soul. Even Unyielding Soul's First Vice Guild Leader, Unyielding Heart has made an appearance!" Blue Phoenix exclaimed, looking at the middle-aged man some distance away. The man was slim and wore a set of dark-blue sacred armor with a pure-white cloak thrown over his shoulders.

Unyielding Heart had been well-known in the virtual gaming world for many years now. He had been responsible for various miracles in previous virtual reality games. His performance had been just as frightening after he had joined God's Domain.

He had single-handedly slain two of Crimson Emperor's Domain Realm experts when he had led Unyielding Soul's trump card legion to capture the Dark Night Empire's Serene Town. His success had

allowed Unyielding Soul to gain an upper hand, surpassing Crimson Emperor's development in the Dark Night Empire.

Blue Phoenix found it truly hard to imagine that an important figure like Unyielding Heart would actually help Zero Wing.

"Unyielding Soul should have some internal arrangement with Zero Wing," Phoenix Rain said as she glanced at Unyielding Heart. Honestly, his arrival had surprised her, as well.

Even if Unyielding Soul had some kind of business with Zero Wing, it shouldn't have been easy for Zero Wing to acquire Unyielding Heart's assistance. After all, the position of First Vice Guild Leader came with a lot of responsibilities, and Unyielding Soul's situation in the Dark Night Empire wasn't looking good. Logically, Unyielding Heart should not have the leisure to work for another Guild.

On the other side, Unyielding Soul's members were just as surprised to see the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's members in the airport.

"Vice Guild Leader, that woman over there seems to be Pavilion Master Phoenix Rain from the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion!" a Level 54, Tier 2 male Cleric whispered to Unyielding Heart. "Moreover, the genius Blue Phoenix is here. It seems Zero Wing isn't as simple as we thought."

"Indeed. Although rumors have mentioned that the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion has a good relationship with Zero Wing, I didn't expect the Pavilion to dispatch one of its Pavilion Masters for a request for help. It seems their relationship runs much deeper than the rumors make it out," Unyielding Heart said, frowning slightly as he considered the matter.

He had come here with very little expectations of Zero Wing. He had only joined the expedition due to Mu Lingsha's request, but he had never dreamed that Zero Wing could even acquire the assistance of God's Domain's famous Demon Queen, Phoenix Rain. Currently, Phoenix Rain held the most sway

among the two Pavilion Masters in the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. She also had the strongest chance of becoming the next Great Pavilion Master.

Phoenix Rain's presence in a foreign area alone was enough to cause a commotion nowadays. If the public realized that she was here to help Zero Wing, it would cause a sensation that would sweep across God's Domain.

While the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul discussed each other, excited cries reached them from outside of the airport. Many players in the lobby ran over immediately to take a look.

A short moment later, a group of players entered the airport's main lobby. All of these players were at least Level 54, with some at Level 56. Their equipment was just as impressive. At this stage of the game, Level 50 Fine-Gold Equipment was even extremely rare in the various superpowers, yet such equipment was the weakest that could be found on these 80-plus players...

Chapter 1796: Extraordinary Foundation

Inside the sports arena-sized main lobby, the appearance of Shi Feng's group triggered an uproar among the players present.

"Is this real? These people are all equipped with Level 50 Fine-Gold Equipment at the very minimum!"

"Why is Zero Wing here?"

“Crap! Zero Wing actually has more than ten people at Level 56! How are they leveling up so quickly?!”

When the players inside the lobby saw Zero Wing’s team of 86, their eyes nearly fell out of their sockets.

Although the various large Guilds were making excellent progress in raiding Level 50 Team Dungeons, most of the equipment they acquired were only Level 50 Secret-Silver Equipment. Level 50 Fine-Gold Equipment were so rare that only the upper echelons of large Guilds had a few pieces on them.

Nevertheless, every one of Zero Wing’s team of 86 was geared in Level 50 Fine-Gold Equipment at the very minimum. This was simply inconceivable.

The levels of Zero Wing’s members were even more incredible. Currently, most expert players were only at Level 53. Only experts that leveled up extremely quickly would be at Level 54. As for those capable of reaching Level 55, they were top- ranking existences in Star-Moon Kingdom and could rank within the top 20 or top 30 in empires. Although the various large Guilds usually had some experts that would choose not to reveal their levels, they still wouldn’t be too far ahead, yet Zero Wing actually had more than ten players at Level 56.

In other words, if Zero Wing wanted to, it could easily monopolize the top 10 positions of the Ranking List of an empire.

The members of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul were similarly shocked when they saw Shi Feng and the other members of Zero Wing.

“Why does Zero Wing have so many Tier 2 players?” Both Phoenix Rain and Unyielding Heart were astonished when they finished counting Zero Wing’s members. The shock they felt from this revelation was much greater than that from the sight of Zero Wing’s equipment.

Currently, first-rate Guilds would be fortunate to have even twenty Tier 2 players. After all, the Tier 2 Promotion Quest was no walk in the park. Moreover, in view of future promotions, most players would choose to challenge the Hard Mode Tier 2 Promotion Quest at the very minimum, which had considerably high requirements for a player's equipment standard and combat standard. With the current level and equipment standard of players, completing the Hard Mode Promotion Quest would be extremely difficult.

One of the reasons why their two super-first-rate Guilds had so many Tier 2 players at this stage of the game was the many peak experts in their Guilds. Another reason was that they gave their peak experts priority when allocating resources. These two factors were how their Guilds managed to nurture so many Tier 2 players.

Yet, despite Zero Wing being such a small Guild, it actually boasted over 80 Tier 2 players—a number only slightly lower than what their two super-first-rate Guilds possessed.

"Sorry for the delay. I had to make some preparations," Shi Feng said, smiling as he looked at Phoenix Rain and Unyielding Heart.

"You came just in time. However, Guild Leader Black Flame, this is such a surprise. I never thought that you would be leading the Dungeon raid personally," Phoenix Rain said, her gaze filled with curiosity and surprise as she looked at Shi Feng.

Her curiosity was because Black Flame was in attendance. He rarely made an appearance himself, leaving such matters to Ye Feng, Aqua Rose, and Gentle Snow. As for her surprise, it was due to the feeling Black Flame was giving her. Right now, she picked up intense lethality from the man as she stood before him. This feeling was much more intense than when she last met face-to-face with Black Flame.

"I am Unyielding Heart, Unyielding Soul's Vice Guild Leader. Guild Leader Black Flame, you are even more amazing than the rumors make you out to be," Unyielding Heart said. After he evaluated Shi Feng and the other experts of Zero Wing briefly, indescribable shock flooded his heart.

In his opinion, the Guild Leader capable of developing Zero Wing to the point where it could rival veteran first-rate Guilds was definitely a very capable administrator. Even if Black Flame was as strong as rumored, in his opinion, Black Flame should be only as strong as the peak experts of superpowers like Unyielding Soul. However, right now, Unyielding Heart was actually feeling the threat of death from him—something he had rarely come across since entering God's Domain.

Moreover, he also felt a considerable threat from several other players from Zero Wing.

Unyielding Heart found it truly unbelievable that a Guild that had no backing would be capable of acquiring so many experts.

“Vice Guild Leader, I just used an Advanced Identification Skill on them. Aside from Black Flame, quite a few players from Zero Wing possess weapons and equipment of indiscernible rank,” a male Cleric standing beside Unyielding Heart said, shuddering. “I believe these weapons and equipment are either Magic Weapons or Epic rank, and they number over 40.”

“Over 40? Are you sure about this?” Unyielding Heart could not help being surprised once again.

Unyielding Soul was a super-first-rate Guild. However, thus far, it only had roughly 40 Epic Weapons, Epic Equipment, and Magic Weapons in total. Zero Wing actually surpassed Unyielding Soul in this aspect.

How was such a thing possible?

Although Unyielding Soul was no longer as strong as it was during its peak, it was still much stronger than the ordinary super-first-rate Guild. At the very least, it was still slightly stronger than the current Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, which, according to its investigations, only had around 30 Epic Weapons, Epic

Equipment, and Magic Weapons. Even if the Pavilion managed to hide some, it would be a miracle if the Pavilion had 35 of such items.

“I’m absolutely sure of it,” the male Cleric said, a bitter smile forming on his face.

He, too, had hoped that he had seen wrong or was hallucinating. However, he had already checked this information multiple times using his Advanced Identification Skill.

Not to mention, he could not read a single piece of information from Black Flame. All he got was a bunch of “Unknown” when observing the man—a fact that he did not reveal.

When he looked at Black Flame, he even suspected that his Identification Skill was malfunctioning. However, when he tried inspecting Unyielding Heart’s equipment, his Skill worked as normal.

He also refrained from saying that, Black Flame aside, Fire Dance, Aqua Rose, Gentle Snow, Cola, Turtledove, and Violet Cloud actually possessed more unidentifiable items than Unyielding Heart.

When looking at Fire Dance and the others, Cycling Light even got the impression that the team he was looking at right now was the main force of a superpower rather than one of a first-rate Guild.

“Is Zero Wing really just at the standard of a first-rate Guild?” Cycling Light muttered to himself.

In reality, Cycling Light wasn’t the only one having such thoughts. Unyielding Heart did as well.

Setting aside other factors, the combat power of Zero Wing's main force was already on the level of super-first-rate Guilds.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, may I know which super-large-scale Team Dungeon you have called us here to raid? Is it the Flaming Ruins or Silent Castle?" Phoenix Rain asked curiously. "If we know which Dungeon we're raiding, we'll be able to plan ahead."

In Star-Moon Kingdom, there were only two Level 50 super-large-scale Team Dungeons that were relatively easy to raid: the Flaming Ruins and Silent Castle. Among super-large-scale Team Dungeons, these two Dungeons could be considered Basic Dungeons. All the others were of the Intermediate difficulty. Raiding an Intermediate super-large-scale Team Dungeon before even raiding these Basic Dungeons would be tough.

Meanwhile, raiding super-large-scale Team Dungeons required players to switch to equipment that was more suitable to the environment inside the Dungeon. Only, as Zero Wing had refused to reveal its target Dungeon all this time, her side was not able to make any proper preparations. Now that they were about to set off to their target Dungeon, she naturally had to ask.

Raiding a super-large-scale Team Dungeon? Unyielding Heart could not help his surprise as he looked at Shi Feng. He felt that Zero Wing was a little too crazy.

Currently, the various superpowers were still trying to raid large-scale Team Dungeons. As for raiding super-large-scale Team Dungeons, they did not even bother with such thoughts, as they all felt that the returns were not worth the cost. After all, although the difficulty of a super-large-scale Team Dungeon was much greater than that of a large-scale Team Dungeon, the quality of the loot one could acquire from both types of Dungeons was mostly the same.

Yet, while the various superpowers had not even managed to obtain the First Clear of a Level 50 large-scale Team Dungeon, Zero Wing actually wanted to raid a Level 50 super-large-scale Team Dungeon.

“No, neither of those two Dungeons are our target,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. He then pointed at the large Flying Ship that was approaching from the distance and said, “Our target is the Eclipse Gate’s Eclipse Throne!”



Chapter 1797: Hell Mode

“The Eclipse Gate?” Phoenix Rain’s eyes widened in shock as she stared at Shi Feng. “That’s a neutral map’s super-large- scale Team Dungeon!”

Although she did not have a particularly good understanding of the Eclipse Gate, she knew that super-large-scale Team Dungeons found in neutral maps were generally far more challenging than their counterparts in kingdoms and empires.

If the super-large-scale Team Dungeons were ranked based on difficulty, then neutral maps’ Team Dungeons would be Intermediate rank or higher.

None of the current superpowers even dared to harbor thoughts of raiding such an arduous Team Dungeon.

“Guild Leader Black Flame, although Unyielding Soul has agreed to help Zero Wing, I must make it clear that Unyielding Soul has dispatched our best experts to do so. If you wish to raid a super-large-scale Team Dungeon, we are willing to make the attempt twice at most Any more and it would affect our leveling speed too much,” Unyielding Heart stated the bottom line for his assistance. Shi Feng’s declaration had left him similarly astonished.

Even raiding the super-large-scale Team Dungeons within a kingdom's borders was problematic. Trying to raid a neutral map's super-large-scale Team Dungeon was simply ludicrous.

At this point, the various superpowers had only succeeded in killing the first few Bosses in Level 50 large-scale Dungeons; they had failed to clear the Dungeon itself. However, if they tried to raid a kingdom's super-large-scale Team Dungeon, they'd likely fail to defeat the first Boss. Even if they had a full team of Tier 2 players, they had less than a 20% chance of getting past the first Boss in a neutral map's large-scale Team Dungeon.

Although players wouldn't lose an entire level of EXP when they died in a Dungeon, they would lose 10% of their EXP if they die inside a super-large-scale Team Dungeon.

After reaching their levels, even expert players, who had an impressive leveling speed, would need seven or eight hours to earn 10% EXP. If Unyielding Soul accompanied Zero Wing into death's embrace three to five times, Unyielding Soul's main force would fall behind the other superpowers' main forces by one or two days.

"That's fine." Shi Feng nodded.

Naturally, no Guild would lend its Tier 2 players to another team unconditionally; it was understandable that Unyielding Heart had set certain limits. In fact, Phoenix Rain had already informed Shi Feng of her bottom line.

"It's fine?" Shi Feng's composure surprised Unyielding Heart a little.

The point of his statement regarding his limits was to inform Shi Feng that he wouldn't tolerate meaningless ventures and that Zero Wing's Guild Leader should cherish this opportunity. However, Shi

Feng's response was utterly void of anxiety; the man hadn't even frowned. It was as if this limitation wasn't a problem at all.

Even Phoenix Rain carefully observed Shi Feng's reactions. She was curious as to why Shi Feng was wasting such a good opportunity on such an impossible task.

With their three Guilds' combined strength, they'd have very high chances of success even in a Level 50, 100-man Team Dungeon, yet Shi Feng had decided to attempt the impossible.

"Since everyone's here, I'll reform the team. I'll also handle the team's leadership. Do either of you have any issues with that?" Shi Feng asked Phoenix Rain and Unyielding Heart.

Neither of the two Guild Leaders had any particular opinions on the arrangement. Both Guilds had come to offer their assistance, after all. The most they could do was support Zero Wing.

Very quickly, Shi Feng created a new team of 200 Tier 2 players. He then led the team to a Flying Ship that was headed for the Eclipse Gate.

Meanwhile, inside a high-class restaurant in Star-Moon City...

A large group of cloaked players drank and bantered. Intense killing intent wafted from every one of these players, and some even radiated a dense bloodlust.

"Commander, our scouts have just reported back, stating that Zero Wing's main force members and upper echelons have boarded a Flying Ship for the Eclipse Gate. Should we move out? Or should we

notify the other adventurer teams?” Lonely Lamp excitedly asked Black Shark, who was currently enjoying a glass of Blazing Fruit Wine.

“They’ve finally left their nest?” Taking a big gulp, Black Shark smiled and said, “Forget about the other adventurer teams.

I’m not in the habit of sharing such golden opportunities. Notify our team; tell them to bring those items and set out immediately. We must not let the other adventurer teams get ahead of us.”

“Understood!” Lonely Lamp replied. He had waited for this moment for a long time.

Shortly after, the Dark Hunters adventurer team set off toward the Eclipse Gate.

Eclipse Gate, Sun Chasing Fortress:

The Sun Chasing Fortress was the only safe zone NPCs guarded in the Eclipse Gate. A large number of Flying Ships docked in the fortress each day, and since the fortress was a hub for multiple kingdoms’ forces, the Sun Chasing Fortress’s player population was even higher than a kingdom’s capital.

When Shi Feng’s team exited the airport, they were greeted by the sight of players hawking their wares and forming teams by the street. The fortress was no less lively than Star-Moon Kingdom’s Star-Moon City.

However, although the Sun Chasing Fortress was very popular, the various large Guilds weren’t particularly fond of this place since players couldn’t purchase Lands in an NPC fortress. Instead, it had become a hub for independent players, and there were far more of these players than those from Guilds.

To avoid attracting too much attention, Shi Feng had his team members don their Black Cloaks before leaving the fortress on the backs of their Mounts. Even so, their group still earned sidelong glances from the payers they passed.

The Eclipse Throne was an ancient fortress in the Eclipse Gate's inner region. Corrosive Behemoths roamed around Eclipse Throne, and a corrosive fog, which would numb players' senses and slow their reactions, was ever-present around the Dungeon. Because of these factors, very few players were willing to grind here.

Fortunately, this also meant that the monsters in this area had a higher chance of dropping Energy Essence, so a few players still wandered the area.

"Old Three, be careful not to lure those Corrosive Spiders."

"Commander, are you that distrusting of my abilities?"

A 20-man team occupied itself by grinding Corrosive Scorpions in the dense, wet jungle. The team's Level 53 Shield Warrior maneuvered through the forest while over 100 Level 54, Special Elite ranked Corrosive Scorpions chased after him. Meanwhile, the team's three healers maintained the Shield Warrior's HP, while the remaining ranged players bombarded the scorpions with one AOE attack after another.

With over ten players launching AOE Skills and Spells simultaneously, the Corrosive Scorpions' HP rapidly decreased. After a short moment, the Corrosive Scorpions began to fall. Very quickly, every monster chasing the Shield Warrior had died. At this time, an Assassin, which had followed the Shield Warrior stealthily, collected the scorpion's loot.

“Hahaha! Commander, we got one! An Energy Essence dropped!” the Level 53 Assassin exclaimed as he picked up a dark-green crystal.

“Good! Lure more monsters!” the Level 54 Elementalist leading the team this time commanded, nodding approvingly. He was very satisfied with the loot acquired from this batch of monsters.

As this Assassin prepared to head off to lure more monsters, he noticed a team of players swiftly moving through the jungle ahead. This team completely disregarded the monsters around them as they made a beeline for the ancient fortress.

As a result of these players’ recklessness, they had lured many of the jungle’s monsters.

After getting a better look, the Assassin discovered over a thousand monsters running after these strange players. Among them were over a dozen Level 55 Great Lord ranked Corrosive Behemoths and over a hundred Level 55 Lord ranked Corrosive Spiders...

“Crap! What are these people trying to do?!” The Level 53 Assassin gaped.

Although the Corrosive Behemoths were only Level 55 Great Lords, the corrosive gas their bodies released was extremely powerful. MTs weren’t able to approach these monsters because of that. Any team that visited this jungle did their best to avoid the Corrosive Behemoths as much as possible. Although the Corrosive Spiders’ gas wasn’t as detrimental as the behemoths’, they could also launch spiderwebs to seal players’ movement.

Having to face a force that included both the Corrosive Behemoths and Spiders would be an absolute nightmare for players.

However, before the Level 53 Assassins could say anything, one of these reckless players, a man, halted the team before the fortress walls. The man then swung his blue longsword.

Suddenly, golden divine swords fell from the sky, restricting the Corrosive Spider, which led the monster army, to a specific area. Towering pillars of fire then rose from the ground, engulfing the trapped Corrosive Spiders. At the same time, the other team members launched one AOE attack and large-scale destruction Spell after another.

For a moment, the jungle shook with the bombardment

Before two minutes had passed, every monster chasing the reckless team was dead. Even the dozen or so Corrosive Behemoths lay motionless on the ground. This scene dumbfounded the 20-man adventurer team that grinded Corrosive Scorpions some distance away.

“Who are those people?!”

“By the looks of them, they seem to be Guild players.”

“The Guild Emblem the guy in the lead is wearing, I think it belongs to Zero Wing! They should be Zero Wing’s members!” “What’s going on? Why are Zero Wing’s members here?”

Shock overwhelmed the adventurer team’s members as they watched Shi Feng and the others loot the fallen monsters.

Just as these adventurers wondered what Shi Feng's group was trying to do, Shi Feng arrived before the passage leading into the ancient fortress.

"Are we not going to rest first?" Phoenix Rain asked curiously.

"No, we don't have the time for that. As long as we are surrounded by this corrosive gas, our Stamina will continuously deplete, and the corrosive gas in our bodies would become denser. If we waste too much time here, we'll run out of Stamina sooner or later. We need to hurry," Shi Feng said, shaking his head.

"Surely we don't need to be in such a rush, right? We still have plenty of Stamina. At the rate that we're losing Stamina, we should have more than enough even if we're raiding a super-large-scale Team Dungeon," Unyielding Heart said after briefly

estimating his Stamina consumption. He felt that Shi Feng was trying to move too fast. They were going to challenge a super-large-scale Team Dungeon. It would be wise to let the team rest, so they could fight in peak condition."

"If we're only talking about the Hard Mode Eclipse Throne, then, of course, we'll have enough Stamina for the raid, but we're here for Hell Mode. The corrosive gas is much stronger inside. Being inside the Dungeon will further agitate the gas, and we'll lose Stamina far more quickly. We need to hurry!" Shi Feng explained.

Chapter 1798: Fortress Assault

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“Hell Mode?” Unyielding Heart stared at Shi Feng in disbelief. Only after taking some time to process Shi Feng’s statement did he ask, “Guild Leader Black Flame, you must be joking, right?!”

He had barely been able to accept the fact that Shi Feng wanted to raid a neutral map’s super-large-scale Team Dungeon, but raiding the Dungeon’s Hell Mode was too much. This was beyond foolish courage; it was plain suicide.

The Hell Mode of a Level 50, large-scale Team Dungeon was already difficult enough that the various superpowers couldn’t even get past the first Boss, let alone the Hell Mode of a Level 50, super-large-scale Team Dungeon.

Moreover, a super-large-scale Team Dungeon’s Hell Mode was far more severe than Hard Mode. Each death would take 15% of the player’s EXP. Two deaths in Hell Mode was the equivalent of three deaths in Hard Mode.

Even Phoenix Rain frowned at Shi Feng’s declaration.

She had to admit that Shi Feng was too full of surprises. Although she doubted that the man would execute a plan that he wasn’t confident in, raiding the Hell Mode of a Level 50, super-large-scale Team Dungeon at this time simply wasn’t realistic.

“Hell Mode might seem difficult, but it isn’t impossible. As long as we cooperate well enough and react quickly enough, the Dungeon won’t pose much of a threat,” Shi Feng explained.

He was very familiar with the Eclipse Throne; it was one of the few Dungeons that dropped top-tier Fire Resistance equipment. He had raided the Dungeon more than 20 times in his previous life, and he had raided the Hell Mode roughly seven or eight times. He knew how to dominate this Dungeon.

Moreover, he had specifically invited the experts from two super-first-rate Guilds. How could he possibly settle for the Hard Mode Eclipse Throne with such a rare opportunity?

“Not much of a problem?” Phoenix Rain was at a loss for words. It seemed as if Shi Feng were treating the Eclipse Throne like some six-man Party Dungeon.

However, with things as they were, she couldn’t really argue with Shi Feng’s decision. Not only had Zero Wing invited the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, but it had also secured Unyielding Soul’s help. In the end, she decided to leave the decision of how to utilize this chance to Zero Wing.

Following which, Shi Feng chose the Eclipse Throne’s Hell Mode. His team members wore skeptical expressions as they followed the man into the horrific skeletal head that had appeared before the ancient fortress’s entrance.

“Hell Mode?! Am I seeing things?!”

“Are Zero Wing’s members insane? They actually want to raid the Hell Mode Eclipse Throne? Most of the various superpowers are still struggling to get the First Clear of Level 50, 100-man Hard Mode Team Dungeons!”

“Well, Zero Wing is Star-Moon Kingdom’s number one Guild. Since they dare to enter the Dungeon, they should have some confidence of clearing it.”

“Confidence?”

“That can’t be possible, right? That is the Hell Mode of a 200-man Team Dungeon we are talking about, not a 50-man Team Dungeon.”

After the adventurers in the jungle watched Shi Feng’s team disappear into the Dungeon, they broke into a heated discussion. They were all very confused as to why Zero Wing would take such a huge risk to raid the Hell Mode Eclipse Throne.

Meanwhile, inside the Eclipse Throne...

Once Shi Feng and the others entered the fortress, they felt their five senses dull. Corrosive gas surrounded them, steadily depleting their Stamina. The ambient Mana was also significantly less dense than outside of the fortress. This decreased the players’ efficiency with their Skills and Spells.

Although the dense corrosive gas and thin ambient Mana was alarming, those factors became of little significance once they saw the corrosive monsters roaming the Dungeon.

[Corrosive Zombie] (Undead, Lord)

Level 56

HP 13,000,000/13,000,000

[Corrosive Abomination] (Undead, Great Lord)

Level 56

HP 37,000,000/37,000,000

[Corrosive Earth Dragon] (Undead, Grand Lord)

Level 56

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

...

There were easily over ten thousand corrosive monsters wandering down the streets before them. Moreover, these monsters had formed patrol squads and marched down the streets.

Aside from the large number of monsters, Rapidfire Ballistas had been set up on the castle walls ahead. Multiple Corrosive Zombies manned each of these war weapons, and as long as those monsters discovered their team, they would face an intense bombardment.

These players felt as if they were on a crusade against an army of corrosive monsters, not a Dungeon raid.

“Why is the difference so massive?” Phoenix Rain wore a solemn expression as she watched the corrosive army that surrounded the castle.

She had challenged a super-large-scale Team Dungeon before, but her team had quickly given up the attempt once they realized that they were no match for the first Boss.

Her team had at least been able to clear out the mobs and reach the first Boss. Here, however, she wasn't even sure that they could get through the mobs...

Although the super-large-scale Hard Mode Team Dungeon she had challenged had been occupied by a lot of monsters, her team hadn't had to face such an exaggerated number as they did now. Here, a single patrol squad easily had over 300 monsters.

The weakest among these monsters was a Lord. Even a 200-man team of Tier 2 experts would have a hard time against 300-plus Lords, Great Lords, and Grand Lords. Furthermore, this Dungeon's environment prevented players from exhibiting their full combat power.

They also had to worry about the war weapons mounted on the castle's walls. If they accidentally lured a second wave of monsters, they'd have no choice but to flee.

“Guild Leader Black Flame, we're not going to fight our way through this army, are we?” Unyielding Heart felt an intense pressure bear down on him as he surveyed the monsters and Rapidfire Ballistas, but seeing Shi Feng's previous confidence, the man should have a method to get past these obstacles in mind.

“Of course not,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. “We're charging into the castle.”

“Charging straight through those monsters?” Unyielding Heart asked, flabbergasted as he pointed at the monsters on the streets before him. For a moment, he even wondered if Shi Feng were truly Zero Wing’s Guild Leader. “Are you certain?”

“Yes. If we try to clear out these monsters slowly, we’ll run out of Stamina before we even get to the first boss,” Shi Feng said, determined. “But before we move out, I want everyone to use these items.”

Saying so, Shi Feng took out the All-rounded Devices and Elven Silver Potions he had prepared and distributed them to every member on the team.

If players wished to raid the Hell Mode Eclipse Throne, they needed to restore their five senses, Mana, and Stamina. Otherwise, they’d be annihilated before they even met the first Boss.

Raiding a super-large-scale Team Dungeon was different from a large-scale Team Dungeon. Rather than a Dungeon raid, it was more appropriate to call it a miniature war. Most importantly, a team was limited to 200 players. Trying to clear the Dungeon with brute force while at such a massive numerical disadvantage would be nearly impossible. At the very least, such a feat was impossible with his team’s current standard.

When brute force wasn’t a viable option, a team would have to raid the Dungeon by using their numbers and making appropriate sacrifices at the right times. By doing so, clearing the Dungeon was possible, albeit a little cruel.

This time, though, Shi Feng did not intend to use such a method. Rather, his plan was a little more forceful.

Although Phoenix Rain and Unyielding Heart were still willing to believe in Shi Feng's confidence, they couldn't help but wonder if they were as safe as Shi Feng claimed as they watched the monsters cover the streets.

"What's this?"

When Phoenix Rain, Unyielding Heart, and the other team members received the All-rounded Devices and Elven Silver, they didn't understand what Shi Feng intended.

However, gasps escaped them after they inspected the two items' Attribute Panels.

Chapter 1799: Another Magic Crystal Treasure Chest

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"Guild Leader Black Flame, do you have more of these items?" Unyielding Heart could not help but ask after inspecting the All-rounded Device and Elven Silver in his hands. "If you have extras, I'd like to buy some."

Ordinary players might not recognize the value of the All-rounded Device and Elven Silver, but they were absolute treasures to superpowers.

As players reached higher levels, they would encounter environments with low Mana density more often. Some severe environments even inflicted debuffs, yet these locations were often high-resource maps or the sites of high-ranked quests.

Dealing with such maps would often give the various superpowers painful headaches.

Yet, even now, they hadn't found a solution.

The All-rounded Device and Elven Silver Shi Feng had just handed out just so happened to solve all of those problems.

Aside from the increased Mana density the All-rounded Device offered its user, it also provided a 5% increase ^

Attributes.

"I still have some left, but as they are very rare, they won't be cheap," Shi Feng said, smiling. "If you want to buy them, it'll be 300 Magic Crystals for each All-rounded Device and 100 Magic Crystals for each bottle of Elven Silver. How many do you want?"

Unyielding Heart's interest in purchasing the All-rounded Devices and

Elven Silver Potions didn't surprise Shi Feng in the slightest Superpowers had an extensive sphere of influence. Hence, they would encounter low-Mana environments more frequently than ordinary Guilds.

If Unyielding Heart wanted to buy them, he could also use this opportunity to make a small fortune.

“They’re so expensive?!”

Unyielding Soul’s members were astonished when they heard the two items’ prices. They were also surprised that Zero Wing had prepared so many All-rounded Devices and Elven Silver just to raid the Eclipse Throne.

“Alright. I want 100 All-rounded Devices and 100 bottles of Elven Silver,” Unyielding Heart answered without hesitation.

“You want that many?” Shi Feng was surprised by Unyielding Heart’s generosity. This transaction was actually worth 40,000 Magic Crystals.

“You don’t have that many?” Unyielding Heart’s brows furrowed slightly as he looked at Shi Feng.

Unyielding Soul had a great use for the All-rounded Device and Elven Silver, and Unyielding Heart judged that 100 of each should be enough for his Guild’s purpose.

“I don’t have that many in stock right now. I’m sure you recognize how valuable these items are. It isn’t so easy to acquire them. If you want that many, I’m afraid that I’ll need a few days to get them ready,” Shi Feng responded truthfully.

Both the All-rounded Device and Elven Silver took a long time to produce, and their production success rates weren’t very high. Currently, he only had a dozen of each remaining. It would take quite some time to craft 100 of each item.

“A few days?” After some mental calculations, Unyielding Heart said, “That’s fine. If you can acquire the stock within three days, I will offer you an additional 5,000 Magic Crystals!”

As soon as Unyielding Heart finished his statement, Phoenix Rain spoke up, “Guild Leader Black Flame, I also want 200 of each item, but I don’t have any time constraints. It is fine as long as you can get them ready for me.”

Hearing Unyielding Heart and Phoenix Rain’s offers, Shi Feng was at a loss for words.

His asking price was already incredibly high. He had never dreamed that Unyielding Heart and Phoenix Rain would be so interested in the All-rounded Devices and Elven Silver.

He had secured two massive orders just by revealing the two items in the Eclipse Throne. Once he filled these orders, he would earn over 100,000 Magic Crystals. This revenue flow was much faster than mining a Manatite vein for Magic Crystals.

Afterward, following Shi Feng’s command, everyone equipped the All-rounded Device and drank the Elven Silver they had received.

In the meantime, Shi Feng signed a contract with Unyielding Heart and Phoenix Rain, assuring that the two couldn’t go back on their word once he had crafted the items.

Not only did the team’s players feel much lighter after they had drunk the Elven Silver, but their five senses also recovered. Most importantly, their Stamina consumption rate had drastically decreased. Now, these players felt more confident as they watched the monsters waiting for them.

Once the team was ready, Shi Feng organized its formation.

Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian would spearhead the team, while the other Tier 2 MTs would guard the team's sides. The remaining melee players would be responsible for protecting the team's ranged DPS and healers. Meanwhile, the ranged DPS would be responsible for pushing away and slowing down the incoming monsters with their Spells and Skills.

After the team had prepared and under Shi Feng's command, these players charged for the castle's main gate.

Without hesitation, Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian slammed their shields into the corrosive monsters. As soon as they did, the Corrosive Zombies and Corrosive Abominations blocking their path were knocked aside, the Strength the three MTs displayed stunning the Tier 2 MTs from the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul.

They were all Tier 2 MTs, so they knew what kind of strength a Tier 2 MT should wield.

Their equipment should be the best available at this stage of the game, and their Strength was only slightly higher than a High Lord of the same level. They still weren't a match for a Great Lord of the same level, yet Zero Wing's MT trio easily shoved aside the Great Lord ranked Corrosive Abominations. This proved how high the MT trio's Strength was, much higher than the other MTs.

A moment later, one Grand Lord ranked Corrosive Earth Dragon charged towards the team, but despite the monster's approach, Cola accelerated as silver divine runes lit up along his saber. He swung the blade to counter the Grand Lord's approaching claw.

Boom!

As the sound of an explosion echoed throughout the fortress, sparks scattered, dancing around Cola and his foe.

The Corrosive Earth Dragon stumbled back by three steps while Cola remained unharmed and in place, standing steady... This scene stupefied the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul members, watching with dropped jaws.

Who is this Guardian Knight? Unyielding Heart could not believe his eyes.

Unyielding Heart wore multiple pieces of Epic Equipment and wielded a Magic Weapon. He was also a Berserker, the class famed for having the highest Strength in the game among the twelve main classes. However, despite all these factors, his Strength was only a match for a Great Lord of the same level even after he used an offensive Skill.

Yet, Cola had just forced back a Level 56 Grand Lord. Moreover, he had done so without using a Berserk Skill. This was the first time Unyielding Heart had met such a powerful Guardian Knight since joining God's Domain.

However, this was a common occurrence for Zero Wing's members. Cola held a Tier 3 Mana Weapon, and if he activated the weapon's Skill, suppressing a Level 56 Grand Lord would be child's play.

After the Corrosive Earth Dragon stumbled backward, the team followed after Cola and the others, steadily advancing.

Fortunately, the Rapidfire Ballistas' attacks didn't pose any threat to the team. Every member was an expert, and now that they had recovered their five senses, dodging the ballista attacks was easy.

Trailing after the MT trio, the team reached the castle's main entrance in less than ten minutes.

Surprisingly, when they reached the gate, the corrosive beasts that had chased after them turned and fled. The monsters seemed oddly terrified of something.

"We reached the castle, just like that?" When everyone turned around to look at the thousands of retreating corrosive beasts, they found it hard to believe what was happening. It felt like some strange dream.

So, this is the Sword King's strength? When Unyielding Heart glanced around the perfectly intact team, he, more or less, realized that Shi Feng hadn't come to the Eclipse Throne to get himself killed. He was actually confident of succeeding here.

By Unyielding Heart's estimates, it might have taken the team more than five hours to reach the castle gates if they had attempted to carve a path towards the castle, yet Shi Feng had shortened that time to seven minutes. Moreover, the team had reached the gates without a single casualty.

Unyielding Heart finally realized how Zero Wing had grown to the standard of a first-rate Guild so quickly without any background or support.

"Alright, that's enough rest! We should continue forward!" Shi Feng stated after the team had mostly recovered from their brief run.

After entering the castle, the team had encountered far fewer monsters, although these monsters were of significantly higher quality. Most of the monsters inside the castle were Great Lords, with frequent appearances from Grand Lords. However, against 200 Tier 2 experts that were unaffected by the low-Mana environment and corrosive gas, these monsters were no trouble. The Grand Lords didn't even last more than five minutes.

Naturally, the monsters' loot was extraordinary. The most inferior items that had dropped were rare materials for crafting Fire Resistance items. If the team were lucky, the monsters would even drop Level 55 Fine-Gold Fire Resistance Equipment. By the time the team had reached the first Boss, a total of six such equipment pieces had dropped, inciting the Dragon- Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul's envy.

Level 55 Fine-Gold Equipment was the equivalent of Level 50 Dark-Gold Equipment. Despite these players' position as their superpowers' Tier 2 experts, they only had a few pieces of Level 50 Dark-Gold Equipment, much less Dark-Gold Equipment that increased Fire Resistance.

After fighting and advancing for over an hour, the team reached a large arena inside the castle. Tall walls and steel cages lined the arena, and standing in its center was a five-meter-tall humanoid monster. The monster was geared in crimson armor and wielded a one-handed axe in each of its two hands. Despite the monster's immobile state, it radiated an intense aura that made the watching players afraid.

[Troll Hero] (Humanoid Creature, Mythic) Level 57

HP 500,000,000/500,000,000

Everyone involuntarily gulped upon seeing the Troll Hero's statistics, permeated by their fear. Not only was the Troll Hero a bona fide Mythic monster, but it also had an Attribute boost due to its home being a Team Dungeon...

After the team members examined the Troll Hero for a moment, they noticed the steel cage hanging above the Boss's head.

“What’s that? A treasure chest?”

“That should be a treasure chest! Though, I can’t tell its rank.”

“That’s not right! An ordinary treasure chest is either made of wood or metal, but that treasure chest is made entirely of Magic Crystals!”

The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul members fell into a heated discussion after discovering the treasure chest within the steel cage, but when Shi Feng noticed the treasure chest, his eyes glowed with excitement.

A Magic Crystal Treasure Chest!

Chapter 1800: Violent MT

“This is the first time I’ve ever seen such a treasure chest. What rank is it?”

“This is a super-large-scale Hell Mode Team Dungeon. No matter how you look at it, that treasure chest should be Dark- Gold rank. It might even be an Epic Treasure Chest.”

The team started to discuss their guesses as they gazed at the Magic Crystal Treasure Chest with bloodshot eyes. Even Phoenix Rain and Unyielding Heart felt a pang of envy when they glanced towards the treasure chest.

Although they didn't know the treasure chest's exact rank, it shouldn't be anything insignificant.

Treasure chests often offered better loot than the items that dropped from a Boss. In other words, securing that treasure chest was on par with killing an additional Boss in this super-large-scale Team Dungeon.

Of course, Shi Feng was ecstatic. Unlike his teammates, he knew just how valuable a Magic Crystal Treasure Chest was. It was definitely far more valuable than an Epic Treasure Chest. Moreover, this Magic Crystal Treasure Chest glowed with golden light. Even superpowers would go mad over the items inside.

Could this be a reward for being the first team to raid the Eclipse Throne? Shi Feng wondered as he looked at the Magic Crystal Treasure Chest. He hadn't seen a treasure chest in the Dungeon during his visits in the past, even when he had raided the Hell Mode version.

After the team finished its debate about the Magic Crystal Treasure Chest, they shifted their attention to the Troll Hero standing in the arena. No matter how much they desired the treasure chest, they couldn't reach it since it had been locked away in a cage. To open the cage, they'd need a key, and it was obvious that they could only obtain that key by defeating the Boss before them.

However, when the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul's members looked at the motionless Troll hero, they couldn't help but gulp audibly, fear returning to their gazes.

Despite having reached Tier 2, they still had an instinctive fear of Mythic monsters. Their previous encounters had been traumatizing. Monsters at this rank were simply undefeatable.

Moreover, as one of a Hell Mode Dungeon's Bosses, every aspect of the Troll Hero had been boosted, especially its HP. Compared to Hard Mode, the Hell Mode Troll Hero should have at least an additional 40% HP. This increased the pressure the team had to face by a considerable margin.

However, in contrast to the reactions of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul's members, Zero Wing's members seemed relatively relaxed before the Troll Hero. They were as calm as usual.

Unyielding Heart was surprised to see such a lack of reaction from Zero Wing's members.

All of Unyielding Soul's members present had their fair share of tough battle experiences, but despite the wealth of experience, they couldn't help their anxiety about facing the Troll Hero. And yet, Zero Wing's members were so calm.

Do they think they can beat the Troll Hero? Examining Zero Wing's members for a moment, Unyielding Heart realized that not only weren't they anxious, but they even watched the Boss like hunters tracking prey.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, how should we go about raiding this Boss? Should we test its Skills and combat method first?" Phoenix Rain asked.

Normally, when going up against a Boss monster that could potentially annihilate an entire team in a single attack, players would send in a small number of players to probe the Boss for its combat method and Skills so that they could set up a better foundation for the actual raid.

“It’s best that we don’t do that. This is a Mythic Boss. If we send in too few players, we won’t learn anything at all. Instead, we’d be wasting EXP. Let’s just start the raid,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head. He then commanded, “Cola, Turtledove, you two will take turns tanking the Boss! Other MTs, prepare to replace them at any time! Melee DPS, stay back and leave the attacks to the ranged DPS for now! Only go in after we ensure that it’s safe!”

“This...” Phoenix Rain could not help but be appalled at Shi Feng’s instructions. His commands felt too halfhearted. It seemed as if he had given up on the battle already.

Unyielding Heart gave Shi Feng a similarly confused look. He could not figure out if Shi Feng were an expert or a fool.

Shi Feng’s instructions during the start of the raid had been precise and effective, yet the man was barking out such cursory commands now. Although starting the raid without probing would spare their Guild members, avoiding unnecessary deaths that could compromise their participation, blindly sending the team into battle was both reckless and counterproductive.

However, what Phoenix Rain and Unyielding Heart did not know was that Shi Feng was already familiar with the Troll Hero’s Skills and combat method.

The Troll Hero was a pure warrior. It didn’t wield any Spells, but it did have frightening Strength and agile movements. Most importantly, it possessed the Passive Skill, Self-regeneration. This Skill was the reason the Troll Hero had earned the title of Eclipse Throne’s Undying Gatekeeper.

Self-regeneration allowed the Troll Hero to recover rapidly from heavy injuries. This Skill ensured that the Troll Hero’s combat power couldn’t be affected. Moreover, unlike normal Bosses, whose battle recovery restored 1% of their HP every five seconds, the Troll Hero regenerated 2% of its HP every five seconds. The longer it fought, the more Strength it would gain, as well. Fortunately, it could only use this power-up once every five minutes, but there wasn’t any upper limit...

Due to this Passive Skill, countless teams' progress in the Eclipse Throne had slid to a halt.

No other Boss in the Eclipse Throne tested a team's raw power like the Troll Hero. Technique wasn't as important when raiding this Boss. Players simply had to attack with everything they had and pray that they had enough DPS.

Without waiting for Unyielding Heart and Phoenix Rain's comments, Cola and Turtledove charged forward. Seeing this, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul's MTs exchanged a few hesitant glances before helplessly following after the two Zero Wing MTs.

When Cola and Turtledove were less than 100 yards away from the Troll Hero, the latter abruptly opened its eyes. When its gaze landed on the two MTs, the Boss revealed a sneer and roared, "Foolish challengers! Do you believe you can defeat the strongest warrior in Lord Armas's army?"

The Troll Hero then threw its axes at Cola and Turtledove.

Shua! Shua!

The two four-meter-long axes flew from the Troll Hero's hands, transforming into spinning blades as they soared towards Cola and Turtledove. As the axes sliced through the air, they left behind long, pitch-black lines...

"Dodge!" Unyielding Heart shouted in panic.

Attacks that caused spatial tears could even threaten Mythic monsters of the same level. If current players received such an attack, even powerful MTs like Cola and Turtledove, they'd likely die instantly.

However, just before the axes reached these MTs, Turtledove slid in front of Cola. Releasing a black aura, her Attributes skyrocketed as she activated Power of Darkness.

Following which, she swung her sword at the two flying axes.

Silver divine runes illuminated Turtledove's longsword, which formed a dazzling arc as it cut the two colossal axes down. Boom! Boom!

With two explosions, the axes crashed to the ground. As for Turtledove, she had been forced to take three steps back to stabilize her stance. At the same time, two damages exceeding -20,000 appeared above her head. However, to Turtledove, who had 140,000 HP after activating Power of Darkness, the damage was tolerable.

Meanwhile, the rear line healers, who had long since prepared for this moment, released several Healing Spells, instantly restoring Turtledove's HP to full.

“This... This... What is going on? She blocked both attacks all by herself?”

“I'm not seeing things, right?! How did she stop those attacks so easily?! Is that really a Mythic monster?”

“Didn't you notice that she activated her Berserk Skill?”

“Even if that's the case, she shouldn't be able to stand against a Mythic monster! Moreover, the Boss used a Skill! Those attacks had definitely been enhanced!”

Both the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul's members gaped at Turtledove, who had resumed her charge towards the Boss.

When the Troll Hero charged at her in return, Turtledove smiled brightly.

"Come!"

When less than 30 yards separated both sides, Turtledove activated the Steel Crown's Additional Skill, Steel Impact. Suddenly, her speed doubled. Raising her shield, she transformed into an afterimage. A moment later, she appeared before the Troll Hero and slammed her shield into the Boss.

Immediately, the Troll Hero flew back by over 20 yards...