

Strongest

## Chapter 1841 – Rich Danger Zone

Melody and her teammates only breathed a sigh of relief after Shi Feng's group had vanished.

Too strong!

The strength and frightening aura Shi Feng had displayed had been stifling. For a moment, they even thought that they had already died.

“So, that is Rain and Blue's Guild?”

“How could such a powerful expert exist?”

When Ninth Heaven's members turned to Thoughtful Rain and Blue Bamboo, who still fought the three Flame Demon Guards, they watched the women with shock and fear. They had never realized that Zero Wing was so powerful.

The racial talents they were so proud of were little more than a joke before Shi Feng.

Even Thoughtful Rain and Blue Bamboo, who had thought that they understood their own Guild, couldn't help but gape after witnessing Shi Feng's attack.

Not only had Shi Feng's single attack alleviated the pressure they faced, but he had also shocked Ninth Heaven's experts, deterring them from attacking.

Among the Ninth Heaven experts present, quite a few were even stronger than the two of them. This was especially true for Melody. Melody wore three pieces of Epic Equipment and had stronger combat standards than them, yet against Shi Feng's attack, even she had failed to react...

Melody also could not help but shake her head and smile bitterly as she looked at the three Flame Demon Guards' wounds.

She had intended on threatening Zero Wing and questioning Zero Wing's purpose in the Flame Demon's Valley. After all, both teams had roughly the same number of players. Even if their teams fought, she did not think that her team would lose. At worst, their teams would suffer mutual destruction. However, reality proved that her thoughts were laughable.

"Guild Leader, what should we do? Are we going to give up, just like that?" a tall, robust Tier 2 Tigerman Berserker asked.

Before he had seen Shi Feng's power, he had been confident in defeating Zero Wing's members, but after, he understood one thing; he absolutely must not clash with Shi Feng. He would only find his death if he did.

He hadn't only come to that conclusion because of Shi Feng's superior Basic Attributes, but also because of the technique the Swordsman had displayed.

"Why should we give up? We've gone to great lengths to find this quest, and Flame Demon's Valley is so large. Do you really think that they have eyes in every corner of the valley?" a Tier 2 female Ranger carrying an icy, crystalline bow said, clicking her tongue. She had no intentions of giving up on their

quest. Moreover, she refused to believe that Shi Feng's group would notice them sneaking into the Flame Demon's Valley.

"Forget it. Let's just wait here," Melody said, shaking her head. "I don't think that Zero Wing is here for our quest, anyway. They must be here for something more important. Otherwise, with Zero Wing's strength, they wouldn't need to waste words on us. They could've simply gotten rid of us before entering the valley."

Hearing Melody's decision, the other members nodded in agreement, seeing the logic in her words.

It would've been much easier and safer just to get rid of them, rather than asking them to wait at the valley's entrance. They had just witnessed Shi Feng's prowess personally, and they doubted that he'd need long to annihilate their team.

If Shi Feng wished it, he could've killed several of them with that attack, and they would've been powerless to do anything about it.

"We should also thank Rain and Blue. Large Guilds generally dislike others following them during a large-scale operation. Generally, they seal off the area. Even if they don't, they tend to get rid of any potential threats, yet Black Flame had simply forbidden us from entering the valley, rather than kill us. Let's not stir up any more trouble," Melody explained.

When large Guilds were on an important mission, they definitely didn't show mercy.

The fact that they were still alive was all thanks to Thoughtful Rain and Blue Bamboo's membership in Zero Wing. If not for these two women... She didn't dare imagine what kind of outcome her team would have suffered.

Upon hearing Melody's explanation, her teammates gave Thoughtful Rain and Blue Bamboo grateful and apologetic looks.

They now felt that their decision to invite the women on this mission had been a wise one. Otherwise, they would've likely died an unjust death at the entrance of the Flame Demon's Valley.

This turn of events had also bewildered Thoughtful Rain and Blue Bamboo, who still tried to figure out how to clear up the prior misunderstanding.

A moment ago, the team had been hostile towards them, but now, their teammates seemed grateful and cordial. It felt like they had been dropped into hell before being thrown into heaven in the next moment. They had no idea how to react.

"Zero Wing is so strong, Guild Leader. And I've heard that Candlelight, the Guild's trading firm, is doing quite well. Both Rain and Blue are Zero Wing's core members. If we can get acquainted with Black Flame through them and partner with Zero Wing, our Guild's development in Forest City will definitely go more smoothly," the Tigerman Berserker quietly suggested as he looked at Thoughtful Rain and Blue Bamboo.

"I get what you're trying to say. I'll ask them for their opinions later. However, I must say this: if they don't want to help us in that way or find it too difficult, you will let the matter rest" Melody nodded as she turned to the Tigerman Berserker in surprise.

Previously, the Tigerman Berserker had been very opinionated about Thoughtful Rain and Blue Bamboo's participation in this operation. She had never expected him to suggest that they cozy up to the women.

The Tigerman Berserker nodded silently in response.

Meanwhile, in the Flame Demon's Valley, Shi Feng remained ignorant of the fact that his behavior had made Thoughtful Rain and Blue Bamboo VIPs in Ninth Heaven. He simply led his team toward the Flame Demon's Valley's core region.

Although the Flame Demon's Valley didn't house a lot of Flame Demons, as a danger zone, its severe environment was incredibly uncomfortable for those who entered.

Despite having equipped Fire Resistance items and drinking Master Flame Resistance Potions, Zero Wing's team sweltered in the heat. This prevented them from displaying their full strength.

Although Shi Feng had been very careful in selecting their path, due to Aqua Rose and the others' low levels, they still attracted Flame Demons. They had no choice but to engage in a few fights, slowing their advance considerably.

However, killing the Flame Demons also granted a bountiful harvest.

Although the monsters lacked equipment drops, they did drop enough fire-type materials to earn a small fortune. This was especially true for the Flame Crystal the Flame Demons dropped.

These Flame Crystals could be turned into Flame Gemstones, which could be equipped on weapons. When equipped, the Flame Gemstone gave the weapons an additional 10% flame damage. This was an excellent item for players like them, who struggled to increase their combat power. Unfortunately, the Flame Gemstones were Consumable items, unlike ordinary Attribute Gemstones, which could be used indefinitely.

Even so, the Flame Gemstones were an excellent item.

After advancing for around four hours, Zero Wing's members finally reached the Flame Demon's Valley's core. Shi Feng then contacted Thoughtful Rain and notified her that her team could now enter the Flame Demon's Valley.

To current players, the Flame Demon's Valley's core was absolutely off-limits, even for Half-beastmen and Half-elves. Without the All-rounded Devices, Elven Silver, and sufficiently high Fire Resistance, players would die in a matter of seconds upon setting foot in this area. Hence, he was not worried that others would discover his activities.

After another half an hour, Fire Dance, who scouted ahead, excitedly reported in the team chat, "Guild Leader, I found something!"

"Something good?" Shi Feng muttered, curious when he heard Fire Dance's trembling, excited voice.

The Flame Demon's Valley was a danger zone. It had many valuable things to offer. She shouldn't have sounded so excited.

Guild Leader, you won't guess what I've found! I actually found an ore vein!" Fire Dance proudly proclaimed.

## **Chapter 1842 – Attributed Ore Vein**

Upon hearing Fire Dance mention an ore vein, everyone's eyes glowed with excitement.

Ore veins were extremely rare in God's Domain and particularly in Star-Moon Kingdom[1]. This was because Star-Moon Kingdom was a relatively balanced kingdom. While the kingdom had no lack of herbs, ores, wood, and food materials, it did not specialize in any of these resources. Hence, ore veins were very rare in the kingdom.

Whenever one was found, it would be highly contested over.

"An ore vein? What type is it?" Shi Feng asked curiously.

He wasn't particularly surprised by the fact that an ore vein had appeared in the Flame Demon's Valley. After all, this was a mountainous region. It was also a danger zone, a map famed for abundant resources. However, although ore veins were generally quite valuable, they were also differentiated by rank. For example, the difference between a Bronze vein and a Magic Crystal vein was like heaven and earth. Although a Bronze vein could tempt ordinary large Guilds, it wouldn't be particularly helpful to Zero Wing. At the very least, it wouldn't be occupying if it were in the Flame Demon's Valley.

The Flame Demon's Valley was a danger zone and home to very dangerous monsters. The map's harsh environment would only make it even more difficult to mine the vein. Even Super Guilds had a hard time setting up mining operations in danger zones within kingdoms and empires, and the Flame Demon's Valley was both a neutral map and a danger zone.

Normally, superpowers ignored ore veins in danger zones. The rewards simply weren't worth the effort.

"A Source Fire vein!" Fire Dance exclaimed.

When Fire Dance reported the vein's identity, her teammates let out a gasp. In their opinion, finding a Copper or Mithril vein was already exciting, yet they had stumbled across a Source Fire vein.

“Source Fire?” Shi Feng’s heart raced upon hearing this.

A Source Fire vein was a bona fide Grade 2 vein. Unlike ordinary Grade 2 veins, a Source Fire vein was also an Attributed ore vein. It was extremely rare even among Grade 2 veins.

Normally, an ore vein didn’t have Attributes, just like how ores were normally Unattributed. However, if an ore had an Attribute, its price would increase by severalfold. For example, Frost Steel Ore was an ice-type ore. When using this type of ore to forge weapons, the weapons produced would deal additional frost damage. When used to produce equipment, the equipment would have additional Ice Resistance.

This was why Attributed ore veins were far more valuable than their non-Attributed counterparts. Superpowers would even fight over a Grade 3 Attributed vein, not to mention a Grade 2 vein.

If the various superpowers found out about this Source Fire vein, they would do everything they could to acquire it. The vein might not be as valuable as a Grade 1 vein, but it would greatly help their members when raiding Dungeons or exploring new maps. Even if the price were great, they would pay it to secure the Source Fire vein.

However, Shi Feng had never heard of an Attributed ore vein in the Flame Demon’s Valley in the past, leaving him a little confused. Had such a vein existed, the Flame Demon’s Valley would’ve been a battlefield for the various superpowers, rather than some obscure map that no one cared about.

“Send the coordinates. We’ll head there immediately.”



Thinking up to this point, Shi Feng wanted to verify the authenticity of the vein. If the Source Fire vein were real, it could help Zero Wing's rapid advance in both ship and weapon production.

After Fire Dance relayed her current coordinates, Shi Feng led the team, slowly approaching the Assassin's location.

Fire Dance was situated before a canyon that was surrounded by mountains and lava. The canyon was clear of black smoke, so visibility was excellent. Only, the terrain was extremely dangerous. There were also a large number of Giant Lava Beasts in the area. Moreover, laying at the canyon's entrance was a gigantic, Level 80 Mythic ranked beast.

[Lava Hound] (Elemental Creature, Mythic) Level 80

HP 450,000,000/450,000,000

Everyone felt their heads ache when they saw the two-headed Lava Hound guarding the canyon's entrance.

However, they could clearly see a cave in the distance with some crimson ore around its entrance. This crimson ore was none other than Source Fire Ore.

It's actually real?! Shi Feng's eyes burned with desire as he gazed at the Source Fire Ore.

Although the vein seemed small, it was definitely a Source Fire vein.

“How unfortunate. There are too many lava monsters nearby. There’s even a Level 80 Mythic monster guarding the canyon’s entrance. We don’t have a chance of securing the vein,” Aqua Rose said, slightly frustrated as she looked at the cave entrance.

With their current strength, they might be able to defeat Level 60 Mythic monsters, but a Level 80 Mythic ranked monster was still too difficult. Furthermore, they had to fight the lava creature in such an extreme environment. Under such circumstances, they wouldn’t be able to defeat the Lava Hound even if they were Level 80.

This was because this was a danger zone. The monsters here had much higher combat standards than monsters in a normal map. Including the frightening Attributes of a Mythic monster, they had no hope against the Level 80 Lava Hound unless they returned at Level 90 or 100.

Lava creatures were different from ordinary monsters. Players would be subjected to the burning heat radiating from the monster’s body if they got close to it. Even if players had sufficiently high Fire Resistance to avoid taking any damage, they’d still feel the searing pain. This pain would significantly affect players’ combat power and prevent them from fighting at their best.

However, this was not the most frightening aspect about lava creatures.

Lava creatures’ corrosive ability was far more dangerous. Weapons and equipment would rapidly lose durability when they came into contact with these creatures. If the items lost all durability mid-battle, they’d be permanently lost.

Because of this, players tried to avoid lava monsters as much as possible.

Meanwhile, every monster in the canyon was a lava creature. Trying to clear out these monsters long-term would be hell.

Not only would they fail to acquire the vein, but they would also sacrifice a large number of weapons and equipment.

If they tried to construct a mining base here, a large number of monsters would assault the base during its construction. If the mining base were destroyed, all resources they had invested would be lost.

On the off chance that they managed to construct a mining base here, there was also the problem of manpower. Zero Wing simply couldn't afford to station a lot of players here. This was the Flame Demon's Valley's core. Its harsh environment could easily kill the Guild's players. Players needed sufficiently high Fire Resistance to survive here.

They were only able to explore this area because they were fully equipped in Fire Resistance equipment and had consumed Master Fire Resistance Potions. If any other player stood in their place right now, the extreme temperatures would've long since claimed their lives.

The rest of the team agreed with Aqua Rose's assessment, a little disappointed.

While the Source Fire vein before them was a priceless treasure, they could only afford to view it from afar...

Meanwhile, as Shi Feng examined the roaming lava monsters, he fell deep into thought.

Not many people knew the true value of an Attributed ore vein in God's Domain yet. However, he did. The Source Fire vein would be particularly valuable to the current Zero Wing. Not only did the vein produce Source Fire Ore, which could be used to increase the Guild's overall combat power by a significant margin, but the vein also produced the super-rare by-product, Flame Source Crystals.

Flame Source Crystals were incredibly useful to Master Alchemists, but they were also one of the main materials to produce the Epic Set Equipment, Broken Steel, a set exclusive to his Blade Saint class.

“Lava creatures?” After carefully observing the terrain and the wandering lava monsters, Shi Feng said, “While it would be impossible to set up a mining base here, it isn’t entirely impossible to harvest the ore.”

“Guild Leader, can we really mine here?” Anticipation burned in Aqua Rose’s eyes as she looked at Shi Feng.

Nowadays, Fire Resistance weapons and equipment were in high demand since the various large Guilds had realized how necessary these items were to their development. If Zero Wing could harvest the Source Fire vein, it would definitely increase the Guild’s development speed. Given enough time, Zero Wing’s members wouldn’t be limited to operating near Silverwing Town. They could freely explore the Ore Empire and cross swords with the Ore Empire’s Evil God’s Temple.

They had long since grown tired of the Evil God’s Temple’s antics by this point.

## **Chapter 1843 – Titan’s Might**

When Zero Wing’s members heard that it was possible to mine the Source Fire vein, their eyes glowed with excitement.

They all had a certain understanding of ore veins, so they knew that the Source Fire vein was a Grade 2 ore vein. This meant that there was a certain chance to obtain Magic Crystals when mining it.

This was something the various large Guilds sorely lacked right now, especially Zero Wing.

Currently, Zero Wing was expanding and recruiting more members. This meant that the Guild needed to nurture far more players. Although Zero Wing had training locations like the Battle Arena, the Guild members still had to train in the Divine Colosseum's Trial Tower.

Zero Wing's Battle Arenas simply couldn't accommodate enough people.

The Trial Tower also provided comprehensive training, testing players' limits.

If Zero Wing could acquire a large number of Magic Crystals, the Guild would be able to transform the new recruits into usable combat power; right now, the majority of Zero Wing's members wouldn't be useful in large-scale combat.

This was also why Zero Wing's members couldn't venture far from Silverwing Town, and the Guild couldn't develop properly in the Ore Empire.

"We'll have to give it a try before we'll know if it's truly possible. I can only say that we have around a 30% success rate," Shi Feng said, shaking his head. He wasn't particularly confident in his plan.

While it was common knowledge that lava monsters were extremely difficult to deal with, not many knew that lava monsters also had obvious weaknesses-ice- and water-type attacks. In addition, an ice- or water-type environment would dull the lava monsters' reactions to an extreme.

Once the lava creatures' reactions dulled, they'd become far easier to deal with.

However, lava monsters filled the canyon before them. In addition, they were nowhere near the monsters' levels. If they tried to lure a single lava monster, they'd likely attract a large group instead. They also had to worry about the Level 80 Mythic Lava Hound.

Moreover, this was the Flame Demon's Valley. The environment was extremely hot. Even after equipping Fire Resistance equipment and drinking Master Fire Resistance Potions, the heat still affected them considerably, and they couldn't fully exhibit their combat powers. Picking a fight with the Lava Hound would be suicide.

Hence, he wasn't confident in success.

"A 30% success rate? It's so high!"

"Some hope is better than none at all. Guild Leader, just tell us what you need us to do."

When they heard their chance of success, the team grew excited, rather than disappointed.

Even the various superpowers weren't likely to occupy this Source Fire vein, but if Zero Wing could, it could grow into a super-first-rate Guild within a short time. Zero Wing would then be able to compete for dominance over God's Domain. It would no longer be limited to its status as a kingdom's number one Guild.

Aqua Rose, who had once been an Honorary Elder in the veteran first-rate Guild, Twilight Echo, had never thought that Zero Wing would one day have a chance of becoming a super-first-rate Guild.

Despite so many years of development, Twilight Echo had never reached the point where it had the potential of becoming a super-first-rate Guild, yet Zero Wing already had.

“Alright, since everyone is in agreement, Aqua and those with the Sea God’s Legacy, ready your Spells. You should’ve learned quite a few water-type Spells. As for the remaining Elementalists, prepare to use ice-type Spells. Try to use as many AOE Spells as possible. I don’t need you all to attack. I just need you to transform this canyon into a world of ice and water.

“As long as you can change the environment, the lava monsters will weaken and become much easier to deal with. If you succeed, we’ll have a chance of getting the vein.

“Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian, once Aqua and the others begin, you three need to do everything you can to lure the monsters away from the canyon’s entrance. Cola, you’ll be responsible for tanking the Lava Hound. All you need to do is lure it away. Everyone else will use the ice- and water-type Magic Scrolls I’ll distribute in a moment.

“I don’t need you to buy a lot of time. Five or six minutes will be enough. No matter what happens, do not use Power of Darkness. We’ll need it later.”

When Shi Feng finished explaining his plan, his teammate gulped as they glanced at the eight-meter-tall Lava Hound. They had no confidence of defeating the Mythic monster.

The other Level 70-plus lava monsters shouldn’t be an issue, but distracting a Level 80 Mythic monster for five or six minutes would be a massive challenge. An unsuppressed Level 80 Mythic monster would most likely kill them with a single slap, and they weren’t allowed to use their Berserk Skills.

Surprisingly, however, Cola brimmed with fighting spirit

“If nobody has any problems, let’s begin,” Shi Feng said.

After scouting the terrain for about ten minutes, Aqua Rose and the other casters finally decided on their positions. Meanwhile, after Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian prepared to pull every monster’s aggro in the canyon.

“Good! Let’s begin!” Shi Feng commanded once everyone was in position.

Immediately, Aqua Rose and the others started to chant incantations and draw runes, drawing a large amount of water- and ice-type Mana towards them. The non-magical class players also activated their water- and ice-type Magic Scrolls.

The flow of Mana soon attracted the attention of nearby monsters. These monsters instantly searched for the change’s source.

However, before these lava monsters discovered Aqua Rose and her companions’ locations, AOE Spells began to descend. Boom! Boom! Boom!

Suddenly, icicles and waterfalls rained down from the top of the canyon walls.

As the streams of ice and water reached the bottom of the canyon, the molten lava vaporized the ice and water, filling the canyon with a dense mist. At the same time, the canyon’s temperature began to decrease.



Unfortunately, Aqua Rose and the others' Spells were only temporary. Their Spells couldn't stop the lava from spewing out of the ground and canyon walls.

"Damn it! Why is there so much lava? If we can't stop it, changing the environment will be impossible," Blackie said, anxiety filling his heart as he watched water and ice become steam.

If they failed to change the environment, the lava monsters would easily annihilate them. They shouldn't even dream of securing the Source Fire vein.

Seeing the swarm of lava monsters charge up the canyon, Cola and the other MTs began to grow nervous. These Level 70- plus lava monsters hadn't weakened in the slightest

It seems the effects are quite good. Everything is coming along just as I expected. Shi Feng smiled as he watched the rising steam. He then took out the Ancient Weather Book and activated Weather Control.

He hadn't actually expected Aqua Rose and the others to change the environment here by themselves. After all, only powerful Domain Skills could accomplish such a feat. Only a fool would try to change an area's environment with ordinary AOE Spells.

While the Ancient Weather Book could alter an area's weather, it was too difficult to do so in such an inferno. It would take a very long time for the Ancient Weather Book to alter this environment enough to impact the lava monsters. Meanwhile, the Lava Hound would've killed the entire team several times.

Hence, he needed Aqua Rose and the others to create enough steam in the valley to hasten the Ancient Weather Book's alteration process.

Suddenly, a powerful storm began to brew above the canyon, dark clouds forming in the sky. After five seconds, rain began to fall, showering the lava monsters. As the rainwater covered their bodies, the lava monsters cried out in pain. Their body temperatures rapidly began to cool.

Not only did the lava monsters' Movement Speed begin to decrease, but they also seemed sluggish.

Awooo!

The Lava Hound raged as the rain drenched its body, its howl so powerful that it even pushed away the descending rainwater and rubble on the ground.

The Lava Hound then charged for Shi Feng, swiping a paw as it pounced on the Swordsman.

"You're not getting past me!" When the Lava Hound ignored him, Cola activated Titan's Domain and ran at the beast with his shield raised.

Boom!

Sparks scattered when the Lava Hound's nails scratched against Cola's Titan Guard.

The Lava Hound's gigantic body came to an abrupt halt. Meanwhile, Cola only stumbled three steps backward, a damage exceeding -1,000 appearing above his head. To Cola, who had over 90,000 HP, this damage was practically negligible.

“So strong!”

“Cola can actually tank that thing by himself?”

Everyone was surprised to see Cola barely harmed.

This was a Level 80 Mythic monster they were talking about. Although the rain had somewhat weakened the Lava Hound, it was a Mythic monster, yet Cola had received its attack effortlessly without any help...

Even Shi Feng was shocked by how little damage Cola had taken. He finally understood just how frightening a Fragmented Legendary Shield was. By the looks of it, the Guardian Knight should have no problems tanking the Lava Hound by himself even if he didn't use Titan's Domain.

Shi Feng also dismissed the worry that plagued his heart. He then activated Gale Domain and flew toward the cave entrance in the distance.

He quickly reached the mine, realizing that its entrance was so small that barely three people, shoulder-to-shoulder, would be able to enter at the same time.

The instant Shi Feng set foot in the mine, a series of system notifications reached his ears. Moreover, he wasn't the only person to receive the system notifications. Everyone in the Flame Demon's Valley had received them.

## Chapter 1844 – Underground Country

System: Congratulations! You have discovered the Fire God's Ancient Land.

Flame Demon's Valley Region System Announcement: A player has triggered the new expansion pack "Underground Country" and activated the primordial taboo seal. Players may enter the Underground Country in ten days.

The system announcement repeated three times, the system's indifferent voice echoing in everyone's minds for quite some time.

Underground Country? Shi Feng was stunned. Fire God's Ancient Land?

He had never heard of the Flame Demon's Valley containing some kind of Underground Country during his previous life. He only knew that the Fire Demon's Valley's monsters had a high drop-rate for Source Fire Ore and Magic Crystals, and a few superpowers had fought fiercely over the area.

However, this new expansion pack had never been triggered in the past.

Although he had never heard of the Fire God's Ancient Land before, he was very familiar with Ancient Lands.

Any location that was considered an Ancient Land had existed before the Great Destruction. Only, these locations had disappeared from the public eye after the Great Destruction. Meanwhile, these Ancient Lands were rumored to have been blessed by Ancient Gods, which was why they had survived for so long. But as time passed, these Ancient Lands had become relics.

Among the various Ancient Lands that had been discovered during Shi Feng's life, some contained items that had even been famous during ancient times. These items had all been highly sought after by the various superpowers. Hence, the various superpowers had fought desperately to claim any discovered Ancient Lands in the past.

Shi Feng had never thought that the Source Fire vein they had found was actually an entrance to the Fire God's Ancient Land.

This rendered Shi Feng speechless.

Now that the system announcement had been made, the Underground Country in the Flame Demon's Valley would be exposed sooner or later. The Source Fire vein would definitely be discovered as well. Meanwhile, the Flame Demon's Valley was tens of thousands of miles away from Star-Moon Kingdom. If the Fire Dragon Empire's superpowers wanted to claim the vein, he'd be powerless to stop them.

Fortunately, it wasn't easy to reach the Flame Demon's Valley's core. Players would need high enough Fire Resistance to do so.

Triggering this new expansion pack also excited Zero Wing's members. Although they didn't know what the Underground Country was, they knew that this expansion pack represented a huge opportunity.

Every kingdom and empire had its own specialty products, and no player had ever explored this Underground Country yet. This meant that they could monopolize the Underground Country's specialty products. Depending on the items' value, they could make a fortune by reselling them.

Although Zero Wing's members were excited about the new expansion pack, when they returned their attention to the horrific number of approaching monsters, they suppressed their excitement and focused on their enemies.

As for Shi Feng, after a moment of surprise, he quickly charged into the Source Fire vein and started building a marker for a Teleportation Magic Array.

Trying to get all of his team members into the Flame Demon's Valley's core had already been incredibly difficult, not to mention sending an army into the valley. No Guild in God's Domain would be able to do so at this stage of the game, so it was impossible to mine this Source Fire vein long-term.

However, while this task might be impossible for other Guilds, the same was not true for Zero Wing.

As long as he set up a teleportation marker, he could transport players via teleportation array. Not only would it save his players a lot of travel time, but they could also avoid unnecessary battles in the Flame Demon's Valley.

Unfortunately, due to the massive distance between teleportation arrays, the Magic Crystal cost would be considerable.

But compared to the Source Fire vein's value, the teleportation fees were almost negligible. Aside from the fact that Magic Crystals could drop from the Source Fire vein, the Source Fire ore was incredibly valuable. It also had a small chance of dropping Flame Source Crystals.

Meanwhile, in a hot, sandy area in the Flame Demon's Valley's inner region...

Melody and her team worked on clearing out the monsters in an ancient ruin. When Shi Feng entered the Source Fire vein, they, too, had heard the regional announcement regarding the new expansion pack.

“Amazing! Someone actually triggered a new expansion pack in the Flame Demon’s Valley!”

“That should be Zero Wing’s doing. Is it the matter they mentioned earlier?”

“Although I don’t know what the Underground Country is, it must have a lot of valuable items. Our Ninth Heaven has struck gold! The only other Guild that should be in the Flame Demon’s Valley is Zero Wing. Our two Guilds should be the only ones who know about this Underground Country. We’ll make a fortune by reselling the items from it!”

...

Excitement flashed in the eyes of the Ninth Heaven’s members when they heard the system announcement.

Traveling into human kingdoms and empires was intensely difficult for neutral races, so any items they purchased in Forest City were far above market price.

Now that they had discovered the Underground Country, they could sell its unique items in Forest City. They’d be able to make a fortune and rapidly develop their Guild.

So, this is Zero Wing’s strength? Melody revealed a bitter smile when she read the system announcement.

She had been smug and satisfied because she had accepted a high-ranked quest with an extraordinary reward. In contrast, Zero Wing had triggered a new expansion pack in the Flame Demon's Valley. The difference between them was immense.

Previously, she had still suspected Zero Wing of targeting Ninth Heaven.

But now, her suspicions were laughable. To Zero Wing, her high-ranked quest wasn't likely worth a second glance.

While Ninth Heaven's members envied Zero Wing for activating a new expansion pack, Shi Feng frantically set up the teleportation array's marker.

Setting up a teleportation marker was not an easy task. Players needed a considerable understanding of magic arrays to succeed. The procedures were extremely complex, and normally, a player would need a lot of time to set up the marker and connect it to a teleportation array.

However, to Shi Feng, who was adept in drawing Advanced Magic Arrays, this task was easier. He swiftly etched magic arrays on one crystal after another before placing the crystals on a large magic array he had carved into the ground.

Very quickly, the Mana in the mine started to gather in the magic array.

Shi Feng could feel the mine's dense Mana begin to dwindle.



Awooo!

Suddenly, Shi Feng heard a furious howl from outside of the mine, echoing on the mine's stone walls.

"Guild Leader, trouble! The Lava Hound went berserk and is charging towards you! It's ignoring aggro completely!" Aqua Rose shouted in the team chat when she saw the enraged Lava Hound rush back to the canyon.

To current players, a berserk Level 80 Mythic monster was an absolute nightmare.

Cola had tried to stop the Lava Hound with his shield but had instantly lost over 30,000 HP when the Boss had responded with an angry swipe. The Lava Hound's Strength was terrifying. If anyone else had taken that attack, they would've likely died instantly.

As soon as Aqua Rose fell silent, the Lava Hound arrived before the mine's entrance. Fortunately, the mine entrance was too small for the Lava Hound, so the Boss couldn't get in. Seeing this, Aqua Rose and Cola breathed a sigh of relief.

However, something then happened that stupefied Zero Wing's members.

The gigantic Lava Hound split into three miniature copies. Each copy was still a Level 80 Mythic monster, but they did have slightly lower Basic Attributes.

Before Zero Wing's members could react, the three Lava Hounds charged into the mine.

Hurry! Hurry up!

Shi Feng could already hear rapidly approaching footsteps. It was obvious that the Lava Hound was almost to him. Meanwhile, he only needed to insert one last crystal into the ground to set the spatial coordinates. Unfortunately, the loading bar, which had swiftly filled before, felt extremely slow to Shi Feng. It was only 70% full.

While conducting the merging process, Shi Feng couldn't do anything. He couldn't even activate a Skill.

When the loading bar reached 90%, three one-meter-tall Lava Hounds appeared before Shi Feng.

“Despicable mortal! You dare violate this sacred ground! You'll pay for your crimes with your soul!”

The three Lava Hounds spoke in the human language, rage flaring in their eyes as they spat three scorching, white beams at Shi Feng. Like lasers, the white beams vaporized everything in their path.

## **Chapter 1845 – Evil God's Sword**

Just before the three scorching beams slammed into Shi Feng, the loading bar before him finally reached 100%.

When the beams were less than 10 yards away from Shi Feng, a barrier of divine runes appeared. When the three beams met the barrier, it shook violently. As for Shi Feng, he shot backward like a cannonball.

Boom!

Shi Feng crashed into one of the mine shaft's sturdy walls.

What power. Shi Feng was shocked as he stared at the mine shaft's deformed terrain.

He had never thought that the Lava Hound would possess such frightening power even after dividing itself into three copies.

They were currently inside a Source Fire vein. The walls surrounding them were sturdy and fire-resistant, especially the Source Fire Ore. Ordinary flames wouldn't melt it, let alone vaporize it. One could easily imagine how high the Lava Hound's flames were.

If those white-hot flames struck a player's equipment, not even magically-enhanced, Dark-Gold Equipment would survive. Only Epic Equipment might

If he hadn't activated Absolute Domain in time, he likely would've died from that attack.

"Retreat! Everyone, retreat immediately!" Shi Feng shouted through the team chat once the flames dissipated.

Cola could barely tank one Lava Hound. Now that they had to face three miniature Lava Hounds, which were only slightly weaker than the full version, he knew they couldn't stay here for a moment longer.

After issuing his command, he switched the Aura of Earth to the Aura of Space, preparing to teleport out of this map. Awooo!

As Shi Feng was about to escape using Space Movement, the three Lava Hounds howled as one. Three light-red ripples radiated from the beasts, and as if space had frozen, the Seven Luminaries Ring failed to open a tear in space.

Spatial Lockdown? Shi Feng's expression darkened when he saw the growing spatial tear before him disappear.

A monster with such peerless strength and the ability, Spatial Lockdown, were a nightmare for players. Coming across one such monster almost guaranteed death.

Monsters that possessed the Spatial Lockdown ability were extremely rare in God's Domain. Normally, only NPCs at the peak of God's Domain could execute the ability. Shi Feng never thought that an Elemental Creature like the Lava Hound would be able to use it as well.

"You have touched on the Almighty Fire God's taboo! Sacrifice your soul to beg forgiveness from the Fire God!" The three Lava Hounds spoke in a chilling tone before charging at Shi Feng.

Although the three Lava Hounds were small, their movements were so powerful that space itself trembled in their wake. Their Strength could even rival the complete Lava Hound's.

As the three Lava Hounds approached Shi Feng, they split up and assaulted Shi Feng from three different directions, transitioning into a battle formation as smoothly as NPCs.

Is this a God's guardian? Shi Feng's expression turned somber as he watched the three Lava Hounds approach.

It was normal in God's Domain to find treasures guarded by powerful monsters, and there were some incredibly powerful existences among these guardian monsters.

These guardians had been created by the Gods.

Normally, Gods only created such powerful guardians to protect their wealth. Not only did these guardians have an eternal lifespan, but they were also undying. In addition, they commanded extremely powerful Skills and Spells. They were even more difficult to deal with than Archaic Species of the same rank and level.

I can only give it a try. Shi Feng gritted his teeth and used Heavenly Dragon's Power before activating Divine Steps.

In the next moment, ten doppelgangers with the exact same aura and Attributes as Shi Feng appeared. Shi Feng and his doppelgangers then charged at the three Lava Hounds.

Although the Lava Hounds were powerful, Shi Feng managed to nullify their attacks by constantly switching positions with his doppelgangers. Using this opportunity, Shi Feng quickly made his way towards the mine's exit.

Normally, guardian monsters would give up the chase once they were a certain distance away from what they were supposed to protect. As long as Shi Feng moved out of range, he could shake off the Lava Hounds.

However, the Lava Hounds were incredibly difficult to get away from. Not only was their Strength incredibly high, but their speed was also impressive. They constantly interrupted Shi Feng's advance and left very little space for him to move forward.

By the time Divine Steps' duration ended, Shi Feng had only crossed a little over 50 yards. He was still over a hundred yards away from the mine's entrance...

The instant Shi Feng's doppelgangers disappeared, a Lava Hound swiped its paw at Shi Feng so fast that it was impossible to dodge. With no other choice, Shi Feng raised Killing Ray to block the attack.

Peng!

The instant the Lava Hound's paw met Shi Feng's sword, he felt his entire arm go numb. The impact sent his body flying backward over 20 yards, dealing over -40,000 damage.

What incredible Strength. This should be close to rivaling a High Mythic's Strength. Shi Feng thought as he stared at the Lava Hound that hit him.

His encounter with the Lava Hound had been brief, and the beast hadn't used any Skills, yet he had lost so much HP. He had already activated Heavenly Dragon's Power, as well, drastically increasing his Strength and Defense. Right now, his Defense was even higher than Cola's, although he didn't have the Passive Skills that provided damage reduction.

Even then, he had still lost over 40,000 HP!

The current Lava Hound before him definitely had much higher Strength than the original. Meanwhile, he had to face three of these Lava Hounds...

Before Shi Feng could figure a way out of this situation, another Lava Hound pounced at him. Hurriedly, Shi Feng activated Parry to block its attack.

Peng!

Once more, Shi Feng flew backward by over 20 yards. Not only hadn't he moved closer to the mine's entrance, but he was actually further from it. This was clearly what the Lava Hounds had intended to do with their attacks. These Lava Hounds' combat standards were in no way inferior to expert players.

Am I going to die here? Shi Feng could not help his bitter smile as he watched the third Lava Hound pounce at him.

It would seem that he had taken on too large of a risk to set up the teleportation marker.

While he did not mind losing one level of EXP, he carried multiple tools that would drop on his death. Moreover, these items would not simply remain on the ground after being dropped. After a certain time had passed, these valuable items would disappear.

Meanwhile, when players died, they'd only resurrect after half an hour unless someone resurrected them with a Skill or special tool.

By the time he returned to this mine, his dropped items would be gone from this world.

As Shi Feng clashed with the Lava Hounds, his HP continued to decrease.

80%... 70%... 60%...

Although he had tried to use Void Steps to blindsight the beasts, the technique was ineffective against the Lava Hounds' sharp sense. Even though the Lava Hounds couldn't see him, they could pinpoint his location with their other senses, launching another paw swipe or bite attack.

...

"Why hasn't the Guild Leader come out yet?" Aqua Rose, who had long since distanced herself from the canyon, muttered as she watched the swarm of lava monsters return to their home.

"The Guild Leader should be fine. If he goes all-out, he can even contend with Mythic monsters," Blackie reassured.

"It's been so long, though. Moreover, there were three Lava Hounds. I think it's best if I go take a look," Fire Dance said worriedly.

"I'll go with you," Flying Shadow offered as he followed Fire Dance.



Meanwhile, inside the mine...

Shi Feng watched the circling Lava Hounds and glanced at the small percentage of HP he had remaining with a bitter smile.

Despite activating Twofold Berserk, which temporarily granted him the power to contend with Tier 4 Mythics, he still couldn't come within 100 yards of the mine's entrance. While he was confident that he could escape a single Lava Hound, three were too much for him to handle. To make matters worse, the three Lava Hounds coordinated perfectly.

Although he had thought of using a Magic or Summoning Scroll, the three Lava Hounds were simply too fast. They gave him no opportunities to use such tools.

As Twofold Berserk's duration continued to run out, Shi Feng frantically searched through his bag for items that could help him out of this predicament. Suddenly, he discovered a broken longsword that had been inactive in his bag for quite some time.

This longsword was none other than the Evil God's Inheritance, a treasured sword that had once belonged to the Evil God.

Seeing that the Lava Hounds charge at him again, Shi Feng gritted his teeth and took out the Evil God's Inheritance. He then inserted his power into the weapon.

Protecting the items that would drop if he died was undoubtedly more important than losing 10 points in all of his Attributes.

After Shi Feng powered the sword, the Evil God's Inheritance pulsed. An invisible force then spread out from the sword, sweeping through the mine with so much power that even space shook with the intensity. A moment later, a deathly aura pervaded the mine shaft.

### **Chapter 1846 – Broken Sword's Power**

As the aura of death saturated the mine, space itself froze. The three Lava Hounds slid to a halt as they glared at the broken sword in Shi Feng's hand, wary. Pitch-black divine runes had appeared along the broken blade as the sword released plumes of dark smoke. The weapon felt cold and evil.

The Lava Hounds finally discerned the broken sword's identity, and fear flashed in their eyes. It was as if they had remembered something horrific from their past.

"Despicable heretic! You dare set foot in this sacred land!"

"Let the Almighty Fire God's flames purify your soul!"

After Shi Feng replaced the Abyssal Blade with the Evil God's Inheritance, the broken sword seemed to trigger something in the three Lava Hounds. Suddenly, they began to grow larger as golden flames flared across their bodies.

Despite standing still, the solid rock beneath the Lava Hounds' feet began to crack. Space tore around them as if it couldn't withstand the golden flames' power. It was as if the space around them was no longer able to withstand the power of the golden flames.

Shi Feng could also sense a threat of death from that golden fire. Moreover, Shi Feng could tell that this death wouldn't just end with a single lost level. He could feel a power akin to Soul Fire, although this was many times stronger. Burning and devouring his soul would be child's play for this strange fire.

If these golden flames burned a player's soul, the player's account would likely be left permanently crippled...

Before Shi Feng could think of a plan to get out of this troubling situation, the three Lava Hounds pounced as one.

At this point, Shi Feng had no Skills that he could use to protect himself. In addition, the Lava Hounds' Movement Speed had significantly increased. With no other options, Shi Feng instinctively executed Sword's Orbit.

Countless sword lights enveloped Shi Feng, clashing with the three gigantic, flaming beasts as they attacked.

Boom... Boom... Boom...

The resulting impacts tore the nearby rocky ground. The scattered sparks ignited anything they touched, transforming the area into a sea of fire.

The three Lava Hounds were thrown back, forming three large craters as they crashed into the ground. Damages of over -3,000 appeared above their heads.

In contrast, Shi Feng remained standing in his original position, although the ground beneath him had been burned and melted. Now, he stood in a deep crater of his own that had a smooth, glassy surface.

What incredible power! So, this is a weapon that had once belonged to an Evil God? Shi Feng was stunned as he looked at the injured Lava Hounds.

Truthfully, the broken sword he wielded was only Fragmented Legendary rank. Although the weapon provided a considerable boost to Strength and Attack Power, he hadn't expected the boost to be this intense. After all, his Abyssal Blade was even stronger than ordinary Epic Weapons, but it had never been this powerful.

Meanwhile, the Lava Hounds before him nearly had enough Strength to rival High Mythic ranked monsters. Even after activating Twofold Berserk, he still hadn't been a match for the Lava Hounds' Strength, yet when he had used the Evil God's Inheritance against these monsters, he felt as if he had hit a group of weak, powerless dogs. He hadn't felt the intense impact that he had experienced during his prior clashes with these beasts.

Although he had seen weapons that could weaken an opponent's power in the past, he had never seen one as strong as the Evil God's Inheritance. The weapon had actually decimated Tier 4 Mythic monsters' Strength to such a great extent.

That wasn't all. When he had clashed with the Lava Hounds, he had felt his own Strength skyrocket. It was as if the broken sword had absorbed the monsters' Strength, transferring it to him.

As Shi Feng tried to get a better grasp on the Evil God's Inheritance's power, a Lava Hound stood up. This time, however, it did not charge at Shi Feng. Instead, it howled with anger and formed a golden, threefold magic array in front of itself.

A moment later, a beam of fire shot out from the magic array, moving so fast that Shi Feng couldn't dodge in time.

This beam was the result of the Lava Hound's Tier 4 Spell, Red Lotus Breath, the same Spell that had vaporized the Source Fire Ore earlier.

In response, Shi Feng simply swung the Evil God's Inheritance at the approaching beam of fire.

Boom!

The broken sword sliced the crimson beam in half, the flames disintegrating the stone wall behind Shi Feng. Shi Feng stumbled five steps back as a damage of over -10,000 appeared above his head.

Sure enough. Shi Feng was indescribably shocked, glancing down at the Evil God's Inheritance in his hand.

As he had guessed, the Evil God's Inheritance could absorb an enemy's power, converting it into his own. Moreover, he had received far more power from this attack than the last. Not only had he gained 20% more Strength, but his Fire Resistance had also increased by 30%.

This ability was simply frightening!

Due to this ability, his combat power had instantly soared. Moreover, he could sense that this still wasn't the Evil God's Inheritance's limit. Although he couldn't see the Evil God's Inheritance's exact Attributes, when he wielded the weapon, he felt that he hadn't fully grasped the broken sword's power. The broken sword could grant him even more boons depending on the strength of the attack he received.

However, the provided improvements were not without a flaw: their short duration. Each time it absorbed an attack's power, the weapon's wielder could only retain it for a short 10 seconds.

Even so, it was amazing.

Shi Feng found it truly hard to imagine that the Evil God's Inheritance was still incomplete and that he only exhibited 10% of its power after sacrificing his Attributes. If he could exhibit the weapon's full power, the result would be unimaginable. Most likely, he'd be able to suppress the three Lava Hounds completely.

1 should be able to leave now. When he saw the other two beasts charge towards him, Shi Feng licked his lips in excitement and ran to meet his enemies in battle.

Previously, the difference between their Basic Attributes had been too great. Even after using Twofold Berserk, he had been thoroughly suppressed. Now, however, his Strength had surpassed the Lava Hounds' after he had weakened them and boosted his own with the Evil God's Inheritance.

Shi Feng relied on his superior Strength and technique to push the two Lava Hounds to the side. He then dashed for the mine's entrance like a powerful gale. When the Lava Hounds caught up to Shi Feng, he easily threw them back with an attack.

In less than five seconds, Shi Feng burst from the mine and back into the canyon. Thousands of lava monsters then turned to look at the Swordsman.

"Big Sis Fire, the Guild Leader is out!" Flying Shadow said, breathing a sigh of relief when he saw Shi Feng emerge from the mine. However, his excitement quickly faded, and a somber expression dominated his face.

Thousands of lava monsters surrounded Shi Feng, including the three Mythic Lava Hounds that chased after him. Even a Tier

2 Assassin like him or Fire Dance would have no hope of surviving such an encirclement, much less a Swordsman like Shi Feng.

“I’ll attract the monsters’ attention. Ready a Defensive Magic Scroll and prepare to use it on the Guild Leader.” Fire Dance felt her scalp tingle as she watched the swarm of monsters close in on Shi Feng, but she had to try to rescue her Guild Leader. She could feel how extraordinary the flames that enveloped the Lava Hounds were. If those flames claimed Shi Feng’s life, he’d lose far more than a single level.

Just as Fire Dance was about to dash forward, Shi Feng raised the Evil God’s Inheritance into the air.

Suddenly, the canyon’s Mana began to gather around the broken blade, and the sword gradually took on a mist-like state.

Shi Feng swung the weapon lightly at the surrounding lava monsters.

The mist-like broken sword suddenly disappeared from Shi Feng’s hand and transformed into five pitch-black sword lights that flew at the offending monsters, devouring everything in their path.

This move was the Evil God’s Inheritance’s only Skill after Shi Feng had sacrificed a fraction of his Attributes.

Godslayer!

With one attack, every Chieftain and Lord ranked lava monster nearby was incinerated, their ashes scattering in the wind. The surviving monsters were heavily injured and unable to make the slightest movement.

### **Chapter 1847 – Flame Demon’s Crown**

When Shi Feng had swung the broken sword, the attack had carved five deep grooves in the rocky ground around him. The canyon’s terrain had changed drastically.

What great destructive power! Shock filled Shi Feng as he gazed at the Evil God’s Inheritance in his hand.

Godslayer’s destructive power was even greater than that of a Tier 4 super-large-scale destruction Spell.

He had turned several hundred Level 70-plus lava monsters into ash instantly. The Skill truly had the power to decimate heaven and earth.

Unfortunately, the monsters he had killed with Godslayer hadn’t granted Shi Feng any EXP. In fact, he would not gain any EXP from slain monsters while he had the Evil God’s Inheritance active; the sword would absorb it all.

After killing so many monsters, the black mist the Evil God’s Inheritance emitted had become denser.



Following which, Shi Feng heard the sound of a system notification.

System: Evil God's Inheritance has accumulated sufficient life force and recovered the first Evil God's Mark, activating a portion of its power.

The Evil God's Inheritance has such an effect? Shi Feng was surprised.

He had thought that he could only repair the weapon by collecting the missing fragments. He had never expected the broken blade to recover some of its lost power by absorbing others' life force.

[Evil God's Inheritance] (One-handed Sword)

A treasured sword that the Evil God had once used. However, the sword had been destroyed in a battle, shattered into three pieces. Although the Evil God's treasured sword had been destroyed, the Evil God's power within remains intact. As long as one gathers all three fragments, it is possible to restore the sword to its past glory. This piece is the sword's broken hilt.

By permanently sacrificing 10 points of all Attributes, the user may temporarily use the sword's power. Although this sword has been severely damaged, it can still exert one-tenth of its original power.

First Evil God's Mark: Power Absorption can increase Strength by a maximum of 100%, Stamina by 20%, and All Resistances by 100%.

When this fragment is within 1,000 yards of other fragments, the fragments will resonate. Drops upon death.

Cannot be traded.

Although he could strengthen the Evil God's Inheritance by killing a large number of monsters, he had no intentions of doing so.

While Shi Feng might wield extraordinary power when he used the Evil God's Inheritance, he'd have to sacrifice 10 points from every Basic Attribute permanently each time he wielded the weapon. While 10 points in all Attributes might not be much to a Tier 2 player, it would add up. If he used the weapon for too often, he would cripple his account. One could say that the Evil God's Inheritance was even more evil than Magic Weapons.

Hence, the Evil God's Inheritance should only be used as a final trump card.

Shi Feng had no intentions of feeding the Evil God's Inheritance any more life force right now, either. He only had half an hour to use the weapon after activating it. How much life force could he possibly accumulate in half an hour?

However, the ability to strengthen the Evil God's Inheritance had truly been an unexpected boon.

Following which, Shi Feng charged out of the hole he had opened in the monster encirclement. Now that the Evil God's Inheritance had grown stronger, he had a much easier time dealing with the three Lava Hounds that chased after him.

"Is this the Guild Leader at his full strength?" Flying Shadow, who watched from the valley's entrance, was astonished as he watched Shi Feng take on three Level 80 Lava Hounds without trouble.

Even Fire Dance, who prepared to move out, was stunned.

She had assumed that after so many battles and adventures, the distance between her and Shi Feng had shortened. Looking at it now, however, it would seem that the gap was larger than ever.

What the two Assassins did not know was that Shi Feng fully relied on the Evil God's Inheritance to command such power. Without it, he might not have survived even after activating Twofold Berserk.

Shi Feng quickly escaped the Lava Hounds' grasp, and although this further enraged the Mythic monsters, they didn't dare leave their domain by as much as a centimeter. They could only watch until Shi Feng left their sight.

"Despicable heretic! The Almighty Fire God will not let you get away with this!"

After Shi Feng had vanished, the Lava Hounds released furious howls, the sounds echoing throughout the valley.

At the same time, a system notification reached Shi Feng's ears.

...

System: You have incurred the Rre God's wrath. As long as you enter the Fire God's territory, its guardians will hunt you to the death.

...

How ruthless. Shi Feng could not help his astonishment as he read the system notification.

He had only set up a teleportation marker in the Fire God's Ancient Land, yet he was now prohibited from entering any location the Fire God sheltered. This penalty was truly severe.

After all, the Fire God was a God who had left behind many areas in God's Domain. The Fire God had even been responsible for creating a number of Otherworlds. This penalty basically warned him that he could lose his life if he entered any of these locations. Unless he was strong enough to defeat the areas' guardians, he shouldn't even consider exploring the locations.

But after giving the matter some thought, Shi Feng didn't mourn the loss.

Now that he had constructed a teleportation marker in the Fire God's Ancient Land, he could lead a team to mine the Source Fire ore without revealing themselves to the Lava Hounds as long as he prepared properly. In ten days, he could also visit the so-called Underground Country, possibly obtaining another significant harvest.

Overall, he considered this transaction quite profitable.

After leaving the canyon, Shi Feng regrouped with Zero Wing's other members. He then briefed Aqua Rose about the teleportation marker and had her contact her subordinates to prepare.

They would need enough Fire Resistance to survive in the Flame Demon's Valley's core region. Moreover, only Intermediate Miners or higher could mine the Source Fire ore. They'd only be able to revisit the mine after fulfilling these two conditions. It would take quite some time to prepare.

After the team rested for a short moment, Shi Feng led his team into the heart of the Flame Demon's Valley.

Although they came across quite a few monsters on their way, and Shi Feng was currently Weakened, the team advanced relatively quickly with their powerful MTs like Cola and Shi Feng's summoned Tier 3 Demons.

As no one had explored the Flame Demon's Valley thus far, it was home to a lot of monsters, which, fortunately, provided far more EXP than normal. Moreover, a large number of treasure chests hid in the area. After venturing through the core region for four hours, some of the team's Level 56 members had risen to Level 57. Fire Dance and Flying Shadow had also discovered six treasure chests in the area. They had found three Bronze Treasure Chests, a Mysterious-Iron Treasure Chest, a Secret-Silver Treasure Chest, and a Fine-Gold Treasure Chest.

The discovery surprised both Fire Dance and Flying Shadow, who frequently searched for treasure chests in the fields.

It was common knowledge that treasure chests were extremely rare in God's Domain. Normally, a map only had two or three at one time, yet after wandering in a small section of the core region, they had discovered six.

Moreover, one was a Fine-Gold Treasure Chest.

Past Level 50, a Bronze Treasure Chest would contain loot that could rival the items a High Lord dropped, while Mysterious- Iron Chests' items were on par with a Great Lord, and Secret-Silver Treasure Chests dropped items on par with a Grand Lord's loot.

As for a Fine-Gold Treasure Chest, its loot could rival that of a Mythic monster.

However, in the Flame Demon's Valley, both the monsters and the treasure chests offered weapons and equipment that were all Level 70 or higher. Unfortunately, current players couldn't use these items unless they had weapons and equipment that could reduce level requirements by 15 levels or more.

As Shi Feng activated the Fine-Gold Treasure Chest, it released a light that illuminated the gloomy sky above the Flame Demon's Valley. Even players several thousand yards away could see the glow.

The Flame Demon's Crown? Shi Feng was flabbergasted when he saw the exquisite, flaming crown inside the treasure chest.

## **Chapter 1848 – Ancient Demon**

"Guild Leader, did you find something good?" Aqua Rose asked curiously as she watched Shi Feng's blank expression.

The rest of the team turned to look at Shi Feng, as well, anticipation flashing in their eyes. They all wanted to know what kind of treasure a Fine-Gold Treasure Chest had to offer.

A Fine-Gold Treasure Chest was almost impossible to find in Level 50-plus maps. The best players normally found were Secret-Silver rank. Meanwhile, even Mysterious-Iron Treasure Chests could cause a heated struggle between Guild teams.

The higher-quality treasure chest players found, the more of a commotion activating the treasure chest would cause. In turn, this would lead to more players finding out about the treasure chest. Moreover, after players acquired the items inside a treasure chest, there was a two-hour period when the items would be guaranteed to drop upon death. Hence, whenever a treasure chest appeared in the fields, a slaughter would soon follow.

Fortunately, Zero Wing's team didn't have to worry about being attacked. After all, this place was the Flame Demon's Valley. The only other players that might see the glow from the Fine-Gold Treasure Chest were the Ninth Heaven members.

Even if other players with hostile intentions discovered them, they had no fear that anyone would try to rob them.

"Something good has dropped," Shi Feng said, laughing. He then retrieved the Flame Demon's Crown and shared its statistics in the team chat.

...

[Flame Demon's Crown] (Head, Fine-Gold Rank)

Equipment Requirement: Strength 800, Agility 800, and Intelligence 800 Defense +100 Additional Passive Skill-

Flame Demon's Body: Allows the wearer to gain the body of a Flame Demon, increasing Fire Resistance by 200 and becoming immune to burning effects.

Additional Active Skill-

Flame Avatar: Becomes immune to all flame damage for one minute.

Cooldown: 10 minutes

...

After reading the Flame Demon's Crown's details, the team lost their prior excitement.

"Guild Leader, this crown is a scam. Not only does it have such a high equipment requirement, but it doesn't actually offer any Basic Attributes. The only good thing about it is its high Fire Resistance, but it isn't worth sacrificing everything else."

"I feel the same. The monsters in harsh environments are generally very powerful. Although this crown can provide sufficient Fire Resistance to survive in these maps, without the Basic Attributes, you'll have a difficult time dealing with monsters. It would be much better to equip several pieces of equipment that provide less Fire Resistance but have significant Basic Attributes."

"Its defensive properties are even more important. No matter how I look at this crown, it doesn't seem to have any."

Everyone quickly discerned the pros and cons of the Flame Demon's Crown.



Even Level 50 Common cloth armor had more than 100 Defense. The Flame Demon's Crown's Defense was practically a useless decoration.

In addition, losing the Basic Attributes from a piece of equipment would reduce a player's Attributes by around 10%. This would cause at least a 20% reduction in combat power. Moreover, due to the lack of Defense in the head section, others would have a weakness to exploit. If one were struck in the head, it was entirely possible that they'd suffer a Fainted state.

As God's Domain continued to update, the equipment players wore would have greater importance. Equipment would play a role in a player's defense beyond Basic Attributes.

Take two players with the same Defense, for example. If one of these players wore chest armor while the other player did not, the player without a chest piece would receive more damage when struck in that area and suffer additional negative effects.

If a player took a blow to the head, they would feel dizzy and powerless, and their reactions would become sluggish. If one were struck in the arm, it would go numb and become difficult to move.

There were subtle differences in the negative effects depending on the materials of their equipment, as well. An attack's impact was one such example.

During the early stages of the game, these negative effects were barely noticeable, but as players took on higher-leveled monsters, these negative effects would become more prominent. As a result, players would have to choose their equipment carefully. It wasn't enough to prioritize Basic Attributes. Players also needed to focus on their equipment's compatibility and defensive properties.

Meanwhile, the Flame Demon's Crown, made of fire with a pitiful 100 points in Defense, clearly didn't have any. It was a costume piece at best. If one equipped the Flame Demon's Crown during battle, they'd be asking for an early death.

Shi Feng simply revealed a bitter smile as he stored the Flame Demon's Crown.

He had to admit that his Guild members' standards had significantly improved. Their understanding of weapons and equipment was no longer limited to Basic Attributes. Unfortunately, they were still somewhat ignorant

This didn't particularly surprise Shi Feng. His teammates were still relatively low-leveled, after all. They still didn't fully understand Resistances. They did not know just how valuable a piece of equipment capable of increasing Fire Resistance by 200 points was.

Among the items in the Fine-Gold Treasure Chest, the Flame Demon's Crown was easily more valuable than the other items combined.

By the time mainstream players had reached Level 100 and beyond in the past, a Flame Demon's Crown had sold for a whopping 5,000 Gold. With that amount of money, one could purchase an Epic Equipment with poor Attributes. Even so, players rarely sold their Flame Demon's Crowns.

Equipment that added 200 Fire Resistance was extremely rare. Most importantly, the Flame Demon's Crown's Flame Demon's Body allowed its wearer to become immune to burning effects. In other words, no matter how hot an environment was, players would not suffer any negative effects. They could maintain their combat power at its peak.

Of course, due to the Flame Demon's Crown's glaring weakness, it was only suitable for expert players. Ordinary players would be better off wearing several pieces of equipment that provided both Basic Attributes and Fire Resistance.

Ordinary players already fought to get their Basic Attributes up to standard and as a result, struggled against monsters and in Team Dungeon raids. They would be asking for trouble by using a piece of specialized equipment like the Flame Demon's Crown. However, expert players were different. They would easily have enough Basic Attributes even without wearing a headpiece. When fighting in sweltering environments, it was far more important for expert players to have high Fire Resistance.

Hence, during the later stages of the game, the various large Guilds' main force members had stopped focusing on Basic Attributes. Instead, they had prioritized Resistances and physique.

Moreover, the Flame Demon's Crown was like an entry pass to the Flame Demon's Valley. As long as one had a Flame Demon's Crown, they could travel anywhere within the valley. They wouldn't even have any issues exploring the flaming valley's core.

Originally, Shi Feng had worried that he didn't have enough Fire Resistance to survive in the central area, but now that he had the Flame Demon's Crown, he wasn't concerned. Now, only the Flame Demon King himself would be a problem. In God's Domain, the Flame Demon King was categorized as a World Boss.

Counter to most expectations, World Bosses were not much stronger than ordinary Field Bosses. The system did not grant World Bosses any special traits, either. However, they did have full control over their territories.

While in a World Boss's territory, players would be prevented from using Magic Scrolls and magic arrays. It wasn't even possible to use magical tools. At most, players could use their weapons and equipment's Skills. It was a nightmare for most players.

After emptying the Fine-Gold Treasure Chest, Shi Feng and the others continued towards the central region. After traveling for a little over an hour, they finally arrived before a fiery world. White-hot flames danced along the mountain range before them. The ring of mountains resembled a burning sun, making it difficult to look at.

“This place is so hot!” Blackie exclaimed as he looked at the flaming mountain range. Despite standing some distance away from the mountain range, he felt as if like roasting meat.

Everyone on the team felt the sweltering heat. Even walking exhausted their Stamina.

Meanwhile, a gigantic figure wielding a trident patrolled the center of this mountain ring. Every one of this figure’s movements stirred the flames around it as lava rose into the air. Even from several thousand yards away, Zero Wing’s team could feel the figure’s fierce aura.

When they saw the Flame Demon King’s true appearance, they couldn’t help their gasps.

Even Shi Feng was shocked.

...

[Flame Demon King] (Elemental Creature, Ancient Fiend, Mythic) Level 83

HP 720,000,000/720,000,000

...

An Ancient Fiend?! How is this possible?! Shi Feng was indescribably shocked when he saw the Flame Demon King’s statistics. Shouldn’t it be an Archaic Species?

## Chapter 1849 – World Gate

“Guild Leader, don’t tell me we’re supposed to fight that Boss?”

“Is that really a Mythic monster?”

The Flame Demon King was a 50-meter-tall giant. Every one of its movements stirred up a storm in the sea of fire around it. Zero Wing’s team could tell how terrifying this monster was just by looking at it.

When he saw the Flame Demon King, Cola, who had brimmed with confidence, felt his scalp tingle.

This Boss could likely even slay a 1,000-man team of Level 80, Tier 2 experts. Compared to the Mythic monsters they’ve encountered thus far, the Flame Demon King was on an entirely different level.

Could the new expansion pack I triggered have made the Flame Demon King stronger? Shi Feng pondered as he looked at the Flame Demon King. The more he thought about it, the more his theory seemed plausible.

After all, the Flame Demon’s Valley was only a Level 70-plus map; it wasn’t a Level 100-plus map. An Ancient Fiend shouldn’t be here.

An Ancient Fiend was an Elemental Creature that had fully unlocked its Bloodline and reverted to its ancestral form. Although Ancient Fiends were no match for Dragons in terms of Life Rating, they were fully capable of rivaling Ferocious Beasts. Even an expert team that was twenty levels higher wouldn't be a match for a Mythic ranked Ancient Fiend, much less an expert team of the same level.

In addition, the Flame Demon King had a World Boss's special ability. Not even a 100-man team of Level 100, Tier 3 players could defeat this monster.

There's no helping it I can only adjust my plans. Following which, Shi Feng addressed his team, "I had thought that I could complete this quest and get everyone out of here safely, but that's no longer possible. I'll have to ask you all to sacrifice yourselves to lure the Flame Demon King away from its territory. Try to buy as much time for me as possible. Violet, you won't be joining the fight. I need you to hide in the distance. Once the battle is over, you'll be responsible for resurrecting the team."

All he could do now was lure the Flame Demon King away from the World Gate. The players that would be responsible for buying time would die, but with the Resurrection Skill he had given Violet Cloud, they could reduce the death penalty his teammates suffered.

"I understand." Violet Cloud nodded.

None of his teammates had any objections to Shi Feng's proposal. They were the Guild's main force members. Their weapons, equipment, and levels had been granted by their Guild. It wasn't unusual to die for their Guild's benefit. Very quickly, the team followed Shi Feng's instructions.

Cola would be the first player responsible for attracting the Flame Demon King's attention and luring it to the designated area. After Cola died, Turtledove and Ye Wumian would take over. Once all three MTs had died, the rest of the team would split up and flee, forcing the Flame Demon King to waste as much time as possible chasing them down.

“Move out!” Shi Feng commanded once he was in position a short distance away from the valley’s entrance.

Following his orders, Cola charged into the flaming valley. Shortly after he had set foot in the sea of fire, a deafening roar echoed from the valley’s center.

“Little human! You dare trespass in my, the Flame Demon King, Monacoland’s, territory?! I’ll show you just how frightening fire’s anger is!”

As the voice faded, the Flame Demon King emerged from the raging flames, its movements causing waves of fire that washed over Cola.

Not daring to be careless, Cola immediately activated Power of Darkness and hid behind Titan Guard.

**Boom!**

As the firestorm slammed into him, Cola stumbled three steps backward, a damage exceeding -20,000 appearing above his head.

“So strong! Just its movements cause such a powerful attack!” Aqua Rose, who watched from afar, could not help her shock when she saw Cola lose one-eighth of his HP despite his active Berserk Skill.

Normally, Cola could face a Level 70 Mythic monster head-on after activating his Berserk Skill, yet he had just lost so much HP after an indirect attack from the Flame Demon King.

The team's other members paled when they saw this.

If they had received that indirect attack, they would've likely lost over 50% of their HP.

They felt like ants before this World Boss.

As the Flame Demon King's frightening strength stunned Zero Wing's players, the Boss had arrived before Cola. The Flame Demon King then thrust its trident at the Guardian Knight with so much speed that the attack had been invisible to the naked eye.

Fortunately, Cola had already raised Titan Guard and blocked the attack in time.

After blocking the attack, however, Cola had lost all feeling in his arms. Like a cannonball, he had been thrown back, only stopping as he crashed into a massive boulder. Cola's HP instantly fell by over 80,000, more than half of his total...

The team was stunned. Just one attack had left Cola so miserable. The gap in strength was despairing.

"Heal him, quickly!" Shi Feng shouted through the team chat.

The outcome didn't surprise him. After all, their opponent was a Mythic ranked Ancient Fiend. If not for the Fragmented Legendary ranked Titan Guard, Cola might have died instantly.



Upon hearing Shi Feng's command, the Tier 2 healers snapped out of their daze and cast Healing Spells on Cola, instantly restoring the Guardian Knight's HP to 70%. However, the Flame Demon King was already stabbing its trident at Cola again, the weapon releasing white-hot fire.

The white-hot flames shocked Cola. Hurriedly, he activated Protection Blessing.

After its upgrade to Tier 2, Protection Blessing reduced the damage he took by 60%. However, when the trident met Cola's shield, the stone under his feet shattered, forming a crater. Meanwhile, Cola's HP fell by more than 60,000, dropping his HP into the red.

By the time the Flame Demon King executed another attack, the team's healers only recovered Cola's HP to 50% of his total.

Realizing how precarious his situation was, Cola used Titan's Heart, forming three layers of Protective Energy, which could absorb up to ten times his maximum HP, around him. With Titan's Heart in effect, Cola quickly fled the sea of fire.

Seeing Cola pull away from the valley, Shi Feng breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, he had upgraded Titan Guard to the Fragmented Legendary rank earlier. Otherwise, the three MTs wouldn't be able to lure the Flame Demon King away before they died, even if Cola, Turtledove, and Ye Wumian worked together.

Afterward equipping the Flame Demon's Crown, Shi Feng activated Gale Domain and charged into the flames that could even melt fine iron.

As expected of the Flame Demon's Crown. It really is wondrously effective. When Shi Feng soared through the fire, he only felt a little warm. He wasn't in any pain at all.

Due to the additional 200 Fire Resistance the crown provided, he now had over 400 Fire Resistance. His HP only fell by a little over 100 each second he remained in the fire.

After flying for about 40 seconds, he noticed Cola's name darken among the list of his team members. It was obvious that the Flame Demon King had killed Cola.

So quickly? When Shi Feng realized that he was still over 200 yards away from the stone gate in the center of the valley, his expression darkened.

Cola was the sturdiest player in the team. He had thought that the Guardian Knight alone would be able to buy him enough time to reach the World Gate, but it seemed that the Flame Demon King was much stronger than he had expected.

As soon as Shi Feng reached the World Gate, he pulled out the Philosopher's Hand and used it to activate the stone doors.

At this point, Turtledove had also fallen, and only Ye Wumian remained alive of the team's three MTs.

I need to hurry! Shi Feng used the Philosopher's Hand's power to repair the broken magic arrays on the World Gate.

As he did, a furious roar reached him from outside of the valley.

"Despicable trespasser! You dare to open the World Gate?!"

As the voice faded, a pillar of fire rose from its origin. Following which, everyone but Shi Feng and Violet Cloud's names went dark...

This situation put immense pressure on Shi Feng. He pushed himself to work faster.

Fast! Faster!

While Shi Feng repaired the World Gate's magic arrays, he could feel the space around him boil. This meant that he was already standing within the Flame Demon King's sphere of influence. The Ancient Fiend's Movement Speed had completely exceeded his expectations.

"Despicable human! Vanish alongside your sins!"

When the Flame Demon King caught sight of Shi Feng, it threw its flaming trident at the Swordsman.

However, before the trident could reach Shi Feng, he activated the Aura of Earth's Absolute Domain.

Yes! It's done! Using the period of invulnerability Absolute Domain granted him, Shi Feng completed the final magic array. Following which, he placed a hand on the World Gate's main magic array and said, "Open! World Gate!"

**Chapter 1850 – Hidden Reward**

With Shi Feng's command, the divine runes on the gigantic pair of doors before him began to glow with a purple-gold light. A moment later, the divine runes released a beam of light that threatened to devour the Flame Demon King.

"No!" Upon seeing the beam, the Flame Demon King, who was within 50 yards of Shi Feng, turned in a panic and tried to flee.

However, the beam of light was much faster than the Flame Demon King. In the blink of an eye, the purple-gold light enveloped the World Boss, and the Ancient Fiend cried out in pain. In the next moment, the Flame Demon King began to shrink, and the flames around its body gradually extinguished.

A short moment later, the World Gate slowly opened. Some force sucked the valley's fire through the opening gates, and the Flame Demon King began to shrink even faster.

From its original height of 50 meters, the Flame Demon King quickly shrunk to 40 meters... 30 meters... 10 meters...

By the time the World Gate was fully open, the black hole within had devoured every last flame in the valley. The Flame Demon King had also been dragged towards the World Gate by the black hole's powerful gravity.

"No! This is my power!" the Flame Demon King shouted, panicking as it used every shred of power to fight the black hole's pull.

Seeing this, Shi Feng could not help but breathe a sigh of relief.

He had no hope against a Level 83 Mythic ranked Ancient Fiend right now. Fortunately, the World Gate could remove things that didn't originate from the continent of God's Domain.

While the World Gate had activated, the Philosopher's Hand had also undergone a transformation.

The Philosopher's Hand had originally been made of translucent crystal, radiating an ominous feeling. Now, however, not only had the ominous feeling disappeared, but the translucent hand had also transformed into a blood-red bead.

What pristine Mana! As Shi Feng held the blood-red bead, he could feel incredibly pure Mana emerge from it. This Mana was even purer than that from the Seven Luminaries Crystals.

Suddenly, Shi Feng heard the sound of a system notification.

...

System: Congratulations! You have completed the Epic ranked Main Storyline Quest "Philosopher's Wish" before Level 80. Rewarding Philosopher's Hand, +40% EXP of current level, 5 Legacy Skill Points, 30 Free Mastery Points, 30,000 Subclass

Proficiency Points, and one Subclass Dark-Gold Design.

When the system notification ended, Shi Feng's experience bar rose to 52% of Level 68.

However, obtaining the complete Philosopher's Hand excited Shi Feng far more than the bountiful EXP. This was a bona fide Legendary item. Any superpower in God's Domain would easily go mad over this.

Moreover, Shi Feng was surprised by the additional reward for completing the quest before reaching Level 80.

Five Legacy Skill Points were no small matter. In addition, the awarded 30,000 Subclass Proficiency Points would save him a lot of time when upgrading his forger subclass. After reaching the Master rank, players would still need a ridiculous number of Proficiency Points to rise from a Basic Master to an Intermediate Master. While ordinary Master Lifestyle players might not have trouble earning the required Proficiency Points, it was a different story for Shi Feng. Shi Feng had many matters he needed to deal with, and he only had a small amount of time to invest in his forging. As a result, he didn't obtain Forging Proficiency Points very quickly.

However, the most valuable of the rewards had to be the Subclass Dark-Gold Design.

This Subclass Dark-Gold Design wasn't like ordinary designs. Not only could it upgrade a design to Dark-Gold rank, but the new design would be a player-creation.

It was common knowledge that becoming a Master Lifestyle Player was incredibly difficult. Players needed to create completely new items, which had to meet certain requirements. To accomplish this feat, players needed a certain understanding of items and materials.

This was also the case when players tried to rise from a Basic Master to an Intermediate Master. In fact, the promotion to an Intermediate Master was even more difficult since players would have to create one Dark-Gold item or three Fine-Gold items. This hurdle had been the end of the line for many Basic Master Lifestyle players during Shi Feng's previous life.

In the past, when one had referred to a Master Lifestyle player, they had generally meant Basic Masters. The majority of God's Domain's Master Lifestyle Players had been Basic rank. After ten years in the game, Basic Masters hadn't received as much attention from first-rate Guilds, although they were still VIPs in second-rate Guilds. At most, they would be treated slightly better than the average Lifestyle player. Only Intermediate Masters had earned first-rate Guilds' respect.

Now that he had a Subclass Dark-Gold Design, he had received a free pass to become an Intermediate Master.

Of course, an Intermediate Master that reached the rank by using a Subclass Dark-Gold Design wasn't as capable as a player that reached the rank through their own hard work and original items. The latter had solidified their foundation, while the former had none. A player who became an Intermediate Master through their work would have a higher possibility of creating more Dark-Gold items in the future, soon becoming an Advanced Master. On the other hand, the Intermediate Master that did not possess a sturdy foundation would struggle to advance. The only real benefit of using such a cheap method to become an Intermediate Master was the higher production success rates that came with the rank.

Even so, many Basic Master Lifestyle players had spent their entire life savings to get their hands on a Subclass Dark-Gold Design during Shi Feng's previous life since they had already reached their limits.

As Shi Feng celebrated his additional rewards, the World Gate began to close. By the time the World Gate had shut, the valley was void of fire. Only the scorched earth remained.

"Despicable human! It took me hundreds of years to accumulate that power! And now it's all gone! You will pay for this with your soul! I will turn you into a puppet that will forever live under my command!" the Flame Demon King bellowed as it glared at Shi Feng.

Currently, the Flame Demon King was only eight meters tall. It looked like an infant compared to its previous size. Its aura was also much weaker.

...

[Flame Demon King] (Elemental Creature, Mythic)

Level 81

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

...

The Flame Demon King didn't even have the HP of a Mythic monster anymore. A Mana Depletion debuff also graced its status bar, lasting for a whole hour.

The World Gate has robbed it of so much energy? Shi Feng was astonished when he saw the enraged Flame Demon King.

The valley's flames had originated from a Higher Plain, containing unparalleled power. The fire had been highly sought after by Fire Elementals since they could increase the elementals' power. The Flame Demon King had only grown so strong because it had continuously absorbed these flames' power. Now that the World Gate had returned these flames to their source, the Flame Demon King had lost the power it had accumulated over the years.

With the energy that had bolstered its physical form gone, it was only natural that the Flame Demon King had weakened. Only, Shi Feng never thought that the Flame Demon King would grow this weak.



Thinking up to this point, Shi Feng abandoned all thoughts of escape.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. When the time the Mana Depletion debuff ended, the Flame Demon King would recover its strength. Although it wouldn't be as strong as it had been, it would still be beyond current players' capabilities.

Before the Flame Demon King could launch an attack, Shi Feng activated Power of Darkness, Phantom Kill, and Dragon Soul.

A Level 68 High Lord ranked Black Dragon should have zero chances against a Level 80 Mythic monster, but now, the Black Dragon had the upper hand against the weakened Flame Demon King. While the Black Dragon kept the Flame Demon King busy, Shi Feng activated every Skill he had to the weakened Boss.

Thunder Flame Explosion!

Flame Burst!

Nine Dragons Slash!

Lightning Slash!

Although the weakened Flame Demon King was still a World Boss, whose ability prevented players from using external tools, it no longer mattered. The Flame Demon King's Defense had drastically fallen, after all.

Now, Shi Feng's normal attacks dealt over -30,000 damage, while critical hits dealt over -70,000 damage. Even the weakest of his Skills inflicted over -100,000 damage.

Even when the Flame Demon King used its powerful AOE attacks, Shi Feng, who had over 400 Fire Resistance, only took a little over -3,000 damage from each hit.

The Flame Demon King's HP continued to fall.

80%... 50%... 20%...

When the Black Dragon's duration was almost over, the Flame Demon King had around 10% HP remaining. Once the Black Dragon was gone, Shi Feng would have to fight the World Boss head-on.

I guess there's no other choice. Shi Feng sighed as he came to terms with his current predicament. A moment later, he retrieved the Evil God's Inheritance from his bag once more.

Trying to escape a World Boss was an extremely difficult task. This was especially true now that he had used all of his Skills. Furthermore, it wasn't every day that he found himself in such a favorable position against a World Boss.

"Die!" Gritting his teeth, Shi Feng sacrificed his Attributes to activate the Evil God's Inheritance. He then activated Godslayer.

Five pitch-black sword lights instantly pierced the Flame Demon King, leaving five deep grooves in the rocky ground before Shi Feng.

“Despicable human! If the World Gate hadn’t taken my power from me…” The Flame Demon King’s eyes burned with rage as it glared at Shi Feng, but despite its fury, the Flame Demon King’s HP didn’t stop depleting before it eventually reached zero.

Boom!

As the Flame Demon King fell to the ground, its fiery body started to dissipate. A short moment later, only Shi Feng remained in the scorched valley.

## **Chapter 1851 – Flame Demon King’s Loot**

After the Flame Demon King died, the rampaging Mana in the valley settled down.

It’s finally dead. Shi Feng breathed out a sigh of relief as the Black Dragon disappeared, shortly after the Flame Demon King died.

If not for the Black Dragon’s assistance, he wouldn’t have been able to defeat the Flame Demon King. After all, even though the Flame Demon King was weakened, it was still a Mythic monster. The Boss had possessed not only superior Strength but also far more HP. Even if the Flame Demon King had only 10% of its HP left, it would still have had more than enough time to kill him.

Although he had to sacrifice another ten points of every Basic Attribute to kill the Flame Demon King, he forgot about the loss when he saw the small mountain of items the Boss dropped.

The Flame Demon King was a World Boss. Although it had been weakened due to his quest, it was still a Mythic ranked World Boss, hence the extremely bountiful loot

Not to mention, as this was the first time the Flame Demon King was killed, it was guaranteed to drop a 4-star Guild Promotion Order. Future Flame Demon Kings killed would have only a certain chance of dropping the Promotion Order. This item was also the reason why he had persisted in killing the Flame Demon King to the point of permanently weakening himself.

Currently, Zero Wing was a 3-star Guild and held a significant advantage over other Guilds. However, as the various superpowers started raiding Level 50, 100-man Hell Mode Team Dungeons, it was only a matter of time before they became 3-star Guilds as well.

Meanwhile, compared to Zero Wing, the various superpowers would gain much more of an advantage from being a 3-star Guild.

Be it the Guild Employment Center or Guild Training Room, these two facilities needed Guilds to reach a certain scale in order to display their usefulness fully. In other words, the larger a Guild was, the better the Guild could leverage these two facilities. In the case of Zero Wing, despite the rapid expansion it was currently undergoing, in terms of member count, it was far from rivaling even first-rate Guilds. The operations of the various superpowers spanned over a dozen kingdoms and empires. Their member counts naturally dwarfed Zero Wing's.

Once these superpowers became 3-star Guilds, their development speed would undoubtedly skyrocket. At that time, not only would these superpowers be able to nurture a large number of elite players, but the income their Guilds generated would also increase substantially.

If Zero Wing, a Guild that ruled over only a single kingdom, wished to surpass these superpowers, which had become 3-star Guilds, in terms of development speed, then there was only one way to do so.

By getting promoted into a 4-star Guild!

Unlike a 3-star Guild, the benefits offered by a 4-star Guild did not manifest with the scale of a Guild. Instead, these benefits were apparent in the finer details. Reaching the 4-star rank would not give a Guild the privilege to construct any additional facilities. Instead, what a Guild gained from the 4-star rank was the recognition of the Adventurer's Association as a Large-scale Guild. At that time, the Adventurer's Association would directly issue large-scale quests to the Guild. These large-scale quests ranged from easy to very difficult; even national level quests were available.

The rewards for these quests were extremely generous. Moreover, these quests also provided players with good opportunities to raise their ranks in the Adventurer's Association.

In addition to receiving large-scale quests, 4-star Guilds would be designated a temporary rest area in every Adventurer's Association on the continent of God's Domain. While this rest area was relatively small, it allowed members of 4-star Guilds to receive commissioned quests from every NPC town and city on the continent, not just from towns and cities where their respective Guilds had Residences.

Due to this benefit, members of 4-star Guilds could travel all over the continent to do quests, no longer hindered in their leveling speed and acquisition of resources by competition over a limited number of quests. The only downside to this was the Adventurer's Association's tax on players' quest rewards when completing commissioned quests accepted from these designated rest areas. This, in turn, reduced the Guilds' income from these quests.

Even so, this benefit would still help Guilds generate much more wealth than before. At the same time, Guilds would also be able to raise their Popularity in the various NPC kingdoms and empires significantly, killing two birds with one stone.

This was the distinguishing feature of a 4-star Guild. After reaching the 4-star rank, a Guild's development would no longer be tied down to the territories they controlled.

Of course, the consequence of this feature was also very obvious: the amount of competition Guilds had to face would increase drastically.

However, so long as Zero Wing managed to become a 4-star Guild ahead of others, it would seize a significant advantage over the other Guilds, hence Shi Feng's persistence in killing the Flame Demon King.

Following which, Shi Feng started going through the Flame Demon King's loot

Just like he expected, there was indeed a 4-star Guild Promotion Order among the dropped items. So long as a 3-star Guild possessed 200,000 Guild Popularity, it could be upgraded into a 4-star Guild using this Promotion Order.

As expected of a World Boss, its loot sure is bountiful. Shi Feng was inwardly astonished as he looked over the statistics of the other dropped items.

The Flame Demon King had dropped over 100 items in total, the majority of which were rare materials—including the extremely rare Seven Luminaries Crystal. Although only three Seven Luminaries Crystals dropped, the equivalent of ten units, the value of these Seven Luminaries Crystals still exceeded that of the other materials by a large margin.

The rest of the loot were Level 70-plus weapons and equipment. Practically every one of these weapons and equipment was of Fine-Gold rank; only one of them was Epic rank. Among the Fine-Gold Equipment dropped, four pieces belonged to the Level 70 Fine-Gold ranked Sins of Thunderfire Set. The Boss also dropped the entire Level 70 Fine-Gold ranked Scorching Wind Set.

While the weapons and equipment dropped looked subpar at best, Shi Feng's eyes glowed with excitement when he saw them.

His reaction was because the Sins of Thunderfire Set was top-tier set equipment for magical classes. This was set equipment that only Level 70-plus Mythic ranked Field Bosses dropped. The set had a total of six pieces, and even superpowers would need to expend a lot of effort to collect the complete set.

As for the Scorching Wind Set, it was similarly top-tier set equipment but for plate armor classes instead of magical classes. Not only did the Scorching Wind Set provide higher Fire Resistance than the Dark Corrosion Set, but its six-piece set effect was also extremely heaven-defying. It allowed players to transform into a Wargod of Fire and acquire a Life Rating that could rival Archaic Species. Although players would incur double damage from ice- and water-type attacks than they normally would, it was still plenty amazing.

The Sins of Thunderfire Set's six-piece set effect was similar to the Scorching Wind Set's, allowing its user to transform into a Thunderfire Messenger.

Due to these two set effects, despite the ordinary Basic Attributes the two sets provided, they had ended up publicly recognized as the strongest Level 70 set equipment available in the game. Even Level 70 Dark-Gold Set Equipment could not rival them.

Shi Feng had never thought that he would be able to obtain the entire Scorching Wind Set. As for the Sins of Thunderfire Set, he was just short of two set pieces to complete the set.

Once he geared two Guild experts in these two sets, he would have himself two peak experts.

As for the sole Epic Equipment dropped, it was a pair of cloth armor gloves named Hands of Fire. Not only did the gloves provide a significant amount of Fire Resistance, but it even increased the Spell Completion Rate of players by 2%. It also had a Skill that allowed its user to summon a Lord ranked Fire Familiar, making this pair of gloves perfect for magical class players that were not adept in melee combat

After Shi Feng was done going through the Flame Demon King's loot, he then took out the Philosopher's Hand from his bag and inspected it, suppressing the excitement in his heart as he looked through its Attribute Panel.

As he needed to deal with the Flame Demon King before, he had not had any time to inspect the fully recovered Philosopher's Hand. Now that the Flame Demon King was dealt with, he naturally had to take a good look at this Legendary item, which had disappeared from God's Domain in his previous life.

## **Chapter 1852 – Complete Philosopher's Hand**

The instant Shi Feng retrieved the Philosopher's Hand from his bag, he felt the space around him grow heavier. It felt as if space itself couldn't withstand the pristine energy within the Philosopher's Hand.

Now that Shi Feng had the chance to get a better feel for the Philosopher's Hand, he felt a powerful inspiration well within him. His mind felt sharp and focused like never before. It was as if the world had faded away, leaving him alone with his thoughts.



So, this is the true Philosopher's Hand? Shi Feng could not help his excitement as he gazed at the crimson bead in his hand.

[Philosopher's Hand] (Legendary Rank Item)

A special gemstone crafted by the Philosopher Urhart, containing incredible power that is capable of manipulating the soul.

Additional Passive Effect: The wielder of the Philosopher's Hand will have all of their subclasses temporarily raised by one rank.

Additional Active Skill 1-

Philosopher's Soul: Offers players guidance for 10 hours when crafting items.

Cooldown: 12 hours Additional Active Skill 2-

Soul Fantasy: Allows players to enter an imaginary world for 8 hours. During this time, players may use the materials that they know of to produce items without limit.

Cooldown: 15 hours

Although the Philosopher's Hand only possessed three Skills, these Skills were heaven-defying.

Based on Shi Feng's knowledge, only the Epic ranked Icarus's Heart could temporarily raise a Lifestyle player to Master rank. In Shi Feng's opinion, Icarus's Heart's ability to do so was already heaven-defying, but compared to the Philosopher's Hand, Icarus's Heart was a cheap knockoff. However, compared to the Philosopher's Hand, Icarus's Heart couldn't even be considered a cheap knockoff...

The fact that the Philosopher's Hand could unconditionally raise a player's subclass by one rank meant that it could transform a Basic Master into an Intermediate Master or an Intermediate Master into an Advanced Master...

The Philosopher's Soul also offered the system's guidance, which would be a great help to players when they produced items. Originally, the Skill had been limited to a 1-hour duration. Unfortunately, it was almost impossible to accomplish anything useful in that time. Crafting items was a time-consuming process, after all, especially complex items. How many items could players possibly make within one hour?

Now that the Skill's duration had increased to 10 hours, players could attempt to craft far more complex items with the system's guidance.

Lastly, Soul Fantasy granted players access to the Main God System's resource warehouse...

After seeing the Philosopher's Hand's two active Skills, Shi Feng finally understood why the item was capable of producing so many Lifestyle Masters. Regardless of the subclass, any Lifestyle player would require materials to craft new items.

Although some tools allowed players to participate in simulations, these simulations couldn't truly replicate the materials' properties. At most, these simulations allowed players to get a feel of the production procedures. An actual attempt would still require real materials.

Meanwhile, to reach the Master rank, players needed very high-ranked items. Hence, the material requirements were quite high. However, high-ranking materials were not easy to obtain, and players would need these materials in large quantities. Experimenting with a few sets of materials would barely yield any results.

Every Lifestyle Master was born of an astronomical resource investment. This was even true for the talented geniuses. Only, geniuses would need to spend fewer materials compared to ordinary Lifestyle Masters.

However, with Soul Fantasy, players could experiment to their heart's content without worrying about lacking materials. Naturally, this would make new-item creation very easy.

I'm going to have a headache once I return. Shi Feng revealed a bitter smile as he looked at the Philosopher's Hand.

While he had acquired the alchemy treasure, there was still the matter of how to use it.

There was only one Philosopher's Hand, yet the Candlelight Trading Firm had tons of Advanced Lifestyle players waiting to use it. He would have to decide which players were worthy of the privilege. Most importantly, he'd have to worry about information leaks.

Due to an information leak, Kingdom's Sword, the Philosopher's Hand's owner in the past, had become a target for the various superpowers, eventually vanishing from God's Domain altogether.

Although Zero Wing was impressively powerful right now, if multiple superpowers decided to make it their target, it would suffer a similar fate.

He needed to be extremely careful when using the Philosopher's Hand.

Shi Feng stored the Philosopher's Hand and exited the scorched valley. When Zero Wing's members, whom Violet Cloud had resurrected, saw Shi Feng emerge, they breathed a sigh of relief.

Due to the Flame Demon King's outburst, the entire team had been annihilated in an instant. They had barely bought their Guild Leader any time.

"Guild Leader, how did the quest go?" Aqua Rose asked worriedly.

Not only were high-ranked quests incredibly dangerous, but they also gave players very few chances of success. Plenty of quests only gave players a single attempt, and since their deaths had been so unexpected, they knew it was likely that this attempt had been a failure. Hence, Aqua Rose wondered if they'd have a second chance.

On the off chance that this quest didn't offer a second chance, Shi Feng would have to suffer the system's penalty. To ordinary Guild experts, suffering a system penalty wouldn't be much of a problem. At worst, if the penalty were severe, they could just start over with a new account. However, Shi Feng was different. He was Zero Wing's Guild Leader. If he suffered such a severe penalty, it would shake the very foundation of the Guild.

"Relax. I completed my quest," Shi Feng said, chuckling at the worried expression on Aqua Rose's face.

"That's wonderful. I worried that we had failed the quest and you'd have to pay a high price for it. Now that the quest is complete, we didn't waste our trip here," Aqua Rose said, breathing a sigh of relief. She

then looked at Shi Feng curiously and asked, "But, Guild Leader, you really are amazing. You actually escaped the Flame Demon King after completing your quest. Looking at the terrain, there should only be one path out of the valley. How did you manage to hide from the Boss, Guild Leader?"

She had experienced the Flame Demon King's frightening might personally.

The World Boss had been beyond terrifying. It was basically a God to current players. She found it very difficult to imagine any players defeating the Flame Demon King, even after reaching the same level. She didn't even know if a 100-man team of Level 100 players had any hope against the Flame Demon King.

Hearing Aqua Rose's question, the rest of Shi Feng's team turned towards him, curious.

The Flame Demon King had slain Turtledove, a Tier 2 MT who had activated her Berserk Skill, in just three hits, yet Shi Feng had escaped the Boss unharmed. It was incredible!

"Hide? I wish I could've hidden from it, but the valley is only so large. Where would I possibly hide?" Shi Feng said, shaking his head.

"Huh? If you didn't hide from it, how did you get away safely, Guild Leader? Didn't the Flame Demon King discover you as you left?" Shi Feng's reply on confused Aqua Rose further. When the Flame Demon King had killed her, she had caught a glimpse of the Boss as it charged back into the valley, where Shi Feng had still been.

"It discovered me, of course," Shi Feng said, smiling. "But rather than wait for it to attack, I decided to strike first."

“Then, Guild Leader...how did you get out?” Aqua Rose asked, utterly confounded. “Did you use an auto-resurrection tool?”

Although auto-resurrection tools were very rare and precious in God’s Domain, they were nothing new. Aqua Rose couldn’t think of any other way that Shi Feng would’ve escaped the Flame Demon King’s pursuit.

“Take a look at this,” Shi Feng said, smiling as he retrieved a gigantic, crimson crystal ball from his bag. The fire-type Mana within the crystal ball was so dense that the ambient fire-type Mana automatically gathered around it

“Isn’t that...a Flame Core? But the fire-type Mana in the core is incredibly dense. It’s even denser than the Flame Cores we obtained from Great Lord ranked Flame Demons.” Looking at the gigantic Flame Core in Shi Feng’s hands, Aqua Rose realized a possibility. Doubtfully, she asked, “Could it be... Guild Leader... Did you kill the Flame Demon King?”

## **Chapter 1853 – Returning to White River City**

Looking at the Flame Core in Shi Feng’s hand, Cola and the others fell silent, incredulity flashing in their eyes.

“Guild Leader, are you for real?!”

They had all witnessed and experienced the Flame Demon King’s might. Only Cola had been able to stand against the Boss for any length of time. The rest of the team had been forced to flee to buy their Guild Leader the time he needed.

While they considered the possibility of Shi Feng fighting such a Boss, they knew that it would only be a matter of time before he died as well. As for Shi Feng slaying the Flame Demon King, that was simply impossible.

However, the Flame Core before them was proof of the Swordsman's claim. Moreover, the raging inferno that had consumed the valley was gone; not even a spark remained.

For a time, they were utterly baffled.

"I have killed the Flame Demon King, but only its weakened version," Shi Feng explained, smiling.

With the explanation, the team could, more or less, accept the fact that Shi Feng had killed the Boss. Otherwise, they would've suspected Shi Feng of abusing some bug in the game.

"Right, Cola, how far are you from Level 58 right now?" Shi Feng asked as he turned to the MT.

"Level 58?" After taking a look at his experience bar, Cola said, "After my recent death, I'm 73% away from Level 58."

"What about you, Summer?" Shi Feng asked as he turned to Alluring Summer, who wore an exquisite set of light-blue robes. "How far are you from Level 59?"

"I'm down to 6% of Level 58. I'll need quite a few days before I reach Level 59," Alluring Summer said.

“Guild Leader, what’s going on?” Aqua Rose asked, giving Shi Feng a strange look. She didn’t understand why he suddenly asked about those two’s levels.

“It’s nothing. You two are a little low-leveled right now. Once we return, stop raiding Dungeons and come level with me. Violet, you’ll join us as well,” Shi Feng said after giving the matter some thought

Now that he had the Scorching Wind Set and Sins of Thunderfire Set, it would be a waste to let them collect dust. Although the Level 70 equipment requirement was quite high, it wasn’t a problem without its solutions.

Both Cola and Alluring Summer had equipment that reduced items’ level requirements, though only by five levels. However, he had Requirement Gemstones, which could reduce the level requirements by another five levels.

Once they equipped the Requirement Gemstones, Cola and Alluring Summer could wear items that were ten levels higher than them. Once they donned the set equipment, it would increase the overall strength of the Guild’s main force by a significant margin.

“We’re low-leveled?” Alluring Summer blinked in astonishment at her own level.

She already had the highest level in the team. Even in an empire, she’d be the undisputed number one player on the empire’s Ranking List

However, the comment didn’t dampen Alluring Summer’s excitement in the least. After all, she was going to level up alongside Shi Feng.



“Guild Leader, we’ve rested already. Let’s hurry and head back,” Cola said impatiently after hearing Shi Feng’s intentions.

Their teammates looked on with a little envy. When leveling up with Shi Feng, not only would they rise in levels with astonishing speed, but they’d also improve their combat standards quickly.

Following which, everyone used Return Scrolls to teleport back to White River City.

Once they returned, Shi Feng had Aqua Rose organize a team to mine the Source Ore vein, only selecting trustworthy players.

He then contacted Melancholic Smile, instructing her to select trustworthy Advanced Lifestyle players from the Candlelight Trading Firm for the Philosopher’s Hand. These players would be required to sign an extremely strict contract, since containing the secret of the Philosopher’s Hand was of the utmost importance. He could not afford for the public to discover its existence. He’d only be able to relax after Zero Wing could properly protect itself. Otherwise, Zero Wing would definitely follow in the Kingdom’s Sword’s footsteps.

While Shi Feng rode an advanced horse carriage towards the Adventurer’s Association to promote Zero Wing to a 4-star Guild, Gentle Snow contacted him.

“Guild Leader, big trouble!” Gentle Snow said anxiously. “Not long ago, there was a system announcement in the Ore Empire, stating that Blackwater had captured the Crimson Flame Fortress!”

“The Crimson Flame Fortress? Isn’t that a transit hub to the Ore Capital City? They actually managed to capture it?” Shi Feng had already investigated the Ore Empire’s various fortresses. Each fortress varied in its importance. The more important it was, the more Ores it would contain.

The Crimson Flame Fortress was a crucial transit hub for the Ore Empire. Players heading for the Ore Capital City or other kingdoms or empires through the Ore Empire would have to pass through this fortress.

Because of this, the Crimson Flame Fortress was invaluable to the Ore Empire. According to player reports, over 700,000 Ores were stationed there, including four Mythic Ores. One of these four Mythic Ores even had a special Bloodline, which made it far stronger than ordinary Mythic monsters. In addition, the Crimson Flame Fortress was protected by powerful war weapons and defensive walls.

Current players shouldn't be capable of raiding the Crimson Flame Fortress, even with Beast Emperor's help.

"We don't know how they managed to do it exactly, but based on the current reports, Blackwater has already dispatched a large number of players to garrison in the Crimson Flame Fortress. Blackwater has also officially announced the fortress's grand opening to the public on the Ore Empire's official forums. In addition, Blackwater has placed a bounty on every Zero Wing member.

"Right now, players gain one point for killing a normal member, five points for elite members, and 50 points for core members. These points can then be traded for Coins or weapons and equipment. In addition, depending on how many points a player has collected, they can get discounts for the Crimson Flame Fortress's teleportation arrays. Players will receive a 10% discount for 500 accumulated points, 20% if they accumulate 3,000 points, and 30% if they accumulate 10,000 points. Those with over 10,000 points will even enjoy the benefits of a Blackwater core member.

"Shortly after this forum post was uploaded, a large number of players swarmed towards the Crimson Flame Fortress. The Ore Empire is in chaos. I doubt it will be long before this news reaches players in the neighboring kingdoms as well. Even more players will join this madness. I've also heard that a large number of Dark Players have set their sights on our members."

As he listened to Gentle Snow's report, Shi Feng's expression darkened.

"They're being so ruthless?" Shi Feng also could not help his surprise at Blackwater's generosity.

To secure a share of the pie known as God's Domain, the Blackwater Corporation had invested heavily into the Blackwater Guild. That investment enabled the Guild to offer its members even greater benefits than other superpowers. As a result, many expert players had sought to join the Guild, especially when they had learned of its core member benefits. The benefits were so generous that even large Guilds' upper echelons envied Blackwater's core members.

However, becoming a core member in Blackwater wasn't easy. It wasn't enough to be an expert player. One also needed a list of noteworthy achievements. Moreover, Blackwater limited the number of core members the Guild could have at a single time.

With how many expert players Blackwater had, it was easy to imagine how difficult it was to become a core member. Even so, a vast number of players did everything they could to achieve that status.

Now that Blackwater offered those same benefits for kill points, how could players ignore the temptation?

Moreover, by doing so, Blackwater could scout for true peak experts. Even if Blackwater couldn't convince these peak experts to bear the responsibility of a core member, the Guild could persuade these experts to become allies.

"Guild Leader, should we limit our Guild members' activity within the Ore Empire?" Gentle Snow suggested.

“No!” Shi Feng shook his head. “We’re already limited to a small area. If we reduce that further, our members in Silverwing

Town won’t be able to level up. Since Blackwater has already declared war against us, then we’ll prepare for war as well! Post an announcement on the Ore Empire’s forums, stating that Zero Wing will offer the same point-system as Blackwater.”

“But...Blackwater has too many advantages over us. Even if we establish a similar system, I’m afraid that very few people will side with us,” Gentle Snow said worriedly.

“Relax. I have a surprise for Blackwater,” Shi Feng said, smiling.

Shi Feng disconnected the call as the carriage arrived before the Adventurer’s Association. After alighting from the carriage, he walked into the building, brimming with confidence.

#### Chapter 1854 – Promotion to a 4-star Guild

Dark Night Empire, Lightshadow City, Dark Soul’s main headquarters:

“Zero Wing is quite interesting. I don’t know if this Guild is brave or overestimates itself. It’s provoked so many powers that nobody usually dares to. Not only has Lu Xingluo targeted Zero Wing now, but Blackwater also wants to exterminate the Guild,” Tiger Breaker said, smiling as he read the report he had just received regarding Blackwater’s official declaration of war against Zero Wing.

This latest move from Blackwater was particularly vicious. Not only could Blackwater's bounty destroy Zero Wing's members regardless of rank, but the Guild would also be able to lure a large number of players to the Crimson Flame Fortress, earning considerable profits. In addition, it would have its pick of peak experts, killing three birds with one stone.

Although Zero Wing's foundation was sturdy, Blackwater was on an entirely different level. It wouldn't be long before Zero Wing's economy crumbled.

"Alliance Master, should we proceed with our original plan?" Pathless, the Tier 2 Elementalist, quietly asked from beside Tiger Breaker.

"Of course. We had only accepted Starlink's commission, but now that Blackwater has joined the fray, not only are we going to proceed with our plan, but we'll also increase the number of participating members," Tiger Breaker said, snorting. "We suffered quite a loss at Zero Wing's hands. It's time for Zero Wing to pay back that debt tenfold! Notify every adventurer team and tell them to send their experts to the Ore Empire. I'll take command of the operation personally. We'll teach Zero Wing to fear Dark Soul!"

"Understood!" Pathless nodded slightly, a hint of excitement flashing in his eyes.

Since Dark Soul had grown famous, his and Tiger Breaker's adventurer team, the strongest in the alliance, had rarely taken action. Normally, they left the toughest commissions to the Dark Hunters and Shadow Claw adventurer teams.

White River City, Adventurer's Association:

As soon as Shi Feng entered the building, he noticed players crowding the lobby, chatting about Blackwater and its Crimson Flame Fortress.

“Blackwater is amazing. It actually captured the Crimson Flame Fortress so quickly. Exploring the Ore Empire will be much easier now. I’ve also heard that the Crimson Flame Fortress can teleport players to any nearby locations like Zero Wing City. We’ll be able to avoid the Ores’ inspection points in the empire’s inner region and reach its core area.”

“That’s right. I’ve heard that the empire’s core area is basically a treasure trove. It has a lot of rare ores and herbs, and the monsters in that area provide far more EXP than in the inner region. If we can get into the Ore Capital City, we’ll have an even greater time. I’ve heard that the monsters in the Regional Dungeon have a chance of dropping Magic Crystals.”

“I’ve heard that as well. The Ore Capital City is an extremely rare Asura Mode Regional Dungeon. Moreover, it’s a Level 50 to Level 100 super-large-scale Regional Dungeon. Including the fact that it’s in a neutral map, it’ll offer far better loot than any Regional Dungeon available right now.”

“Zero Wing is in trouble this time. Now that Blackwater has made such a vicious move, I’m afraid Zero Wing will struggle to survive in the Ore Empire.”

“I’ve heard that quite a few well-known and top adventurer teams were doing everything they could to garrison in Silverwing Town, but those that succeeded probably regret their decisions now.”

When the players in the lobby spoke about the Crimson Flame Fortress, their eyes glowed with excitement and anticipation. When they spoke about Zero Wing, their tone carried disappointment and pity. At this point, nobody had an optimistic view of Zero Wing’s chances against Blackwater. After all, the difference between both sides was simply massive. Previously,

Zero Wing had held its ground thanks to Silverwing Town, but now that Blackwater had secured the Crimson Flame Fortress, Zero Wing had lost the advantage Silverwing Town granted.

News sure spreads quickly. Shi Feng revealed a bitter smile when he overheard the conversations around him. It seems Blackwater had prepared to advertise this matter, waiting for the right moment.

Blackwater's successful capture of the Crimson Flame Fortress had only been announced recently, yet White River City's public was already talking about it. No matter how he thought about it, this shouldn't be possible.

While it wasn't unusual that the various major powers' upper echelons had learned of the situation very quickly, they had intelligence members everywhere, but the same couldn't be said for ordinary players. Most ordinary players only learned about other countries' news through other players. Normally, it took a few hours or even days before White River City's populace would learn of something happening in the Ore Empire.

Yet, as soon as he had received news about the Crimson Flame Fortress from Gentle Snow, the ordinary players in the Adventurer's Association were already talking about it. The information had spread too quickly.

The only explanation was that Blackwater had sent some of its members to White River City to talk about the news, secretly spreading the word.

However, Shi Feng did not particularly mind as he headed toward the Association's second-floor hall.

As Shi Feng arrived before the VIP counter on the second-floor hall, he received a call. The caller was none other than Phoenix Rain.

“Guild Leader Black Flame, I’ve just heard about Blackwater’s declaration of war on Zero Wing. As an ally, how can I be of help?” Phoenix Rain asked.

Zero Wing’s development had progressed well lately. Moreover, Zero Wing’s naval force continued to grow stronger, assisting her on Thunder Island. This help gave her more leeway. Now that Zero Wing was in such a predicament, she had to pay back the debt she owed.

“Since Phoenix Pavilion Master has offered, I won’t shy away. I’ve been informed that Blackwater has been quite close with Nine Dragons Emperor recently. I’m guessing that Nine Dragons Emperor helped the Guild capture the Crimson Flame Fortress. I hope that you can help me hinder Nine Dragons Emperor as much as possible,” Shi Feng said, his gratitude obvious in his voice.

“That won’t be a problem. I’ll send some people to cause him some trouble. We’ll make sure that Nine Dragons Emperor has no time to assist in the Ore Empire,” Phoenix Rain said, nodding. “However, Blackwater and Beast Emperor are still allies. Their combined forces should not be underestimated. I can have Blue Phoenix lead a team of experts to assist you. Although they wouldn’t be enough to contend with Blackwater and Beast Emperor’s forces, they can deter Dark Players from participating.”

“That won’t be necessary. Blue Phoenix is your capable and trusted aid. She must have a lot to do, as well,” Shi Feng said, chuckling. “As for Blackwater, Beast Emperor, and the Dark Players, I have a plan to deal with them. They’ll soon learn that Zero Wing shouldn’t be trifled with.”

He knew that Phoenix Rain had her own issues right now. The struggle on Thunder Island was far more troublesome than the struggle in the Ore Empire. Every competitor on Thunder Island was a superpower with an extraordinary foundation, and a single misstep could eliminate one from the competition. If Phoenix Rain could prevent Nine Dragons Emperor from joining the fight in the Ore Empire, that would be enough.



“Alright. If you need extra funds, you can contact me for help at anytime.” Phoenix Rain was a little surprised that Shi Feng had rejected her goodwill, but it wouldn’t be right to insist on sending him reinforcements.

After discussing the Dark Corrosion Set, Phoenix Rain disconnected the call.

“Big Sis Rain, how did things go with Zero Wing? Should I lead some of my men over?” Blue Phoenix asked curiously.

“Not at the moment. It seems that Zero Wing has already prepared for this. However, since Blackwater has decided to go all-out, I doubt those preparations will last very long. It’s best if you are ready to head out at a moment’s notice,” Phoenix Rain said.

“I understand.” Blue Phoenix nodded. She felt as if Zero Wing was being too stubborn this time.

Blackwater had occupied the Iron Empire, and its development speed was ridiculously fast. Even the Great Pavilion Master was awed by Blackwater’s success. Blackwater even had more experts than the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion right now. The Guild only lacked Domain Realm experts. However, while Blackwater didn’t have Domain Realm experts, it had countermeasures for such monstrous players. Otherwise, it wouldn’t have been able to remove the super-first-rate Guilds that had occupied the empire.

Meanwhile, inside a VIP room of White River City’s Adventurer’s Association...

“Lord Protector, how may I be of service today?” an NPC senior administrator asked Shi Feng respectfully.

“I wish to promote Zero Wing to a 4-star Guild. Here is the Promotion Order,” Shi Feng said. He then retrieved the 4-star Guild Promotion Order and placed it on the table for the senior administrator to inspect.

## **Chapter 1855 – Town-level Guild**

“Promotion to a 4-star Guild? That won’t be a problem,” the NPC senior administrator said as he turned his eyes towards the purple-golden token on the table. Once he saw the token, however, a look of surprise flashed across his face as he asked, “Lord Protector, do you really intend to use this Advanced 4-star Guild Promotion Order?”

“Is something wrong with it?” Shi Feng asked.

Although he had noticed that the 4-star Guild Promotion Order he had acquired was a different color than those he had seen in his previous life, it was a 4-star Guild Promotion Order. He hadn’t paid it much attention, assuming that the Promotion Order was slightly different since it had dropped from a World Boss.

“Lord Protector, Advanced 4-star Guild Promotion Orders were produced when the Adventurer’s Association had first established. There are only 22 of these Advanced Promotion Orders in existence scattered across God’s Domain’s continent. They are considered a trial for Adventurer Guilds, and the more Advanced Promotion Orders an Adventurer Guild collects, the higher its status will be, enjoying greater treatment, in the Adventurer Association once it becomes a 4-star Guild.

“If an Adventurer Guild collects three Advanced 4-star Guild Promotion Orders, it will be treated as a City-state-level Guild.

If an Adventurer Guild collects seven Advanced Promotion Orders, it'll be treated as a Kingdom-level Guild. Currently, you already have one Advanced Promotion Order. If you collect another two, the Adventurer's Association will recognize your Guild as a City-state, Lord Protector.

"However, if you promote your Guild now, you will lose the opportunity and will have to climb the ranks slowly, starting as a Town-level Guild. Are you sure that you want to use this Advanced 4-star Guild Promotion Order now?"

After listening to the senior administrator's explanation, Shi Feng looked at the purple-gold token on the table, a little surprised.

So, the Adventurer's Association has this kind of method to elevate a Guild's status. Shi Feng understood what the statuses the senior administrator had mentioned represented. Other Guilds would only come to learn and value the information after they were promoted to 4-star status.

Once Guilds reached 4-star status, they'd open a 'path' in the Adventurer's Association, gaining a temporary residence in every Adventurer's Association across the continent of God's Domain. From then on, members of 4-star Guilds' base of operations wouldn't be limited to one or a few locations. They could expand their development across the entire continent and use the opportunity to increase the EXP and income they earned.

This so-called 'path' meant recognition from the Adventurer's Association as an official Guild. Official Guilds would then be able to engage in Adventurer Guild work. However, even after becoming an official Guild, Guilds would receive varying benefits from the Adventurer's Association.

When a Guild first became a 4-star Guild, it would be treated as an Ordinary-level Guild. If the Guild wished to receive more support from the Association, it would have to raise its status. The simplest method of doing so involved upgrading the Guild's status from Ordinary- to Town-level, City-state level, Kingdom-level, and finally, Empire-level.

Depending on the Guild's rank in the Adventurer's Association, the Guild would have access to different degrees of problems.

At the Ordinary-level, Guilds would be commissioned to solve civilian problems. Generally, these problems were similar to large-scale Guild Quests that required Guilds to wipe out some Demonic Beasts harassing the civilian population. Only, they might reward more EXP than ordinary large-scale Guild Quests.

After an Adventurer Guild reached the Town-level, the Adventurer's Association would acknowledge the Guild's ability to solve a town's problems. Normally, Town-level Guilds would receive commissions from town nobles, and the rewards would be much better than Ordinary-level commissions. Even when a Town-level Guild accepted a civilian commission, the quest would reward more than what an Ordinary-level Guild would receive. After all, a Town-level Guild was much stronger than an Ordinary-level Guild.

When a Guild reached City-state Level, it proved to the Adventurer's Association that it was strong enough to solve issues that plagued an entire region. Commissions City-state-level Guilds generally received involved crusades against the dark forces in a particular area.

Normally, to rise from Ordinary-level to City-state-level, a Guild had to complete a significant number of large-scale Guild Quests, slowly accumulating Prestige in the Adventurer's Association. Large-scale Guild Quests only awarded three to five Prestige points, but becoming a Town-level Guild required 700 to 1,000 Prestige, depending on where the Guild's main headquarters was located.

The number and quality of large-scale Guild Quests would differ depending on the size of its NPC city, so the more prosperous the city was, the more Prestige a Guild needed to increase its rank.

"Thank you for the advice, but I have decided to go through with the promotion," Shi Feng said after giving the matter some thought

The revelation was indeed surprising. After all, just one Advanced Promotion Order was enough to promote a Guild to Town-level. Normally, it would take a large Guild several years to achieve such a feat. As for reaching the City-state-levels, not many large Guilds would rise so high within their lifetimes.

This was because promotion to the City-state-level required a Guild to complete a large-scale Promotion Quest in addition to earning enough Prestige. This Promotion quest was despairingly difficult. In the past, only a small number of second-rate Guilds had completed the quest, yet a Guild only needed three Advanced Promotion Orders to become a City-state-level Guild. As for Kingdom-level, only a small number of first-rate Guilds had reached that rank in the past.

However, Shi Feng didn't have the time to search for more Advanced 4-star Guild Promotion Orders. Most importantly, he didn't have a clear idea of where to obtain them. Even if he knew that World Bosses dropped them, he wasn't strong enough to hunt those Bosses yet. He had only slain the Flame Demon King thanks to his quest. If he tried to raid a Mythic ranked World Boss, he'd only be asking for a beating.

"Since Lord Protector has decided, the processing fees and Guild Residence reconstruction fees come to a total of 60,000 Gold. However, due to your status, we can offer you a discount of 10,000 Gold, dropping your total to 50,000 Gold," the senior administrator said after making some calculations.

"Fifty thousand? Doesn't a normal promotion to 4-star status only cost 12,000 Gold?" Shi Feng had already begun to retrieve the money from his bag, but after hearing the total cost, he froze with shock.

"As you are using the Advanced 4-star Guild Promotion Order, the promotion will require more work than usual. We also have to notify the various cities' nobles and announce the officialization of the Zero Wing Guild. Hence, the procedural fees are slightly higher," the senior administrator said.

How fraudulent. The senior administrator's statement rendered Shi Feng speechless. However, when he thought about how Zero Wing would instantly become a Town-level Guild, he considered the cost

relatively low. This was basically spending money to save time. Following which, he obediently took out 50,000 Gold and handed it to the NPC.

While he had seen to his quest, Phoenix Rain and Unyielding Heart had paid off the materials they had purchased, earning him another 120,000 Gold. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to afford the promotion fees.

Once the NPC confirmed Shi Feng's payment, a series of system notifications reached Shi Feng's ears.

## **Chapter 1856 – Shock**

Star-Moon Kingdom Region System Announcement: Congratulations to Zero Wing for becoming Star-Moon Kingdom's first

4-star Guild. Rewarding one set of Intermediate Guild Defensive Magic Arrays, 3,000 Gold in Guild funds, and 50,000 Guild Popularity. Guild Emblem upgraded to Mysterious-Iron rank.

Star-Moon Kingdom Region System Announcement: Congratulations to Zero Wing for becoming the first Guild to own a 4- star Guild Residence. Rewarding 100 Adventurer's Association Prestige and 20,000 Guild Popularity. Guild Battle Flag upgraded to Bronze rank.

...

Upon hearing the system announcements, Star-Moon Kingdom's players couldn't help but gasp.

"I'm not hearing things, am I? Zero Wing actually became a 4-star Guild?"

"Zero Wing is amazing! I haven't even heard of a 3-star Super Guild, yet Zero Wing has already been promoted to a 4-star Guild! Zero Wing's members are so lucky!"

"I've heard that joining a 3-star Guild will help new players quickly become elites. The Bronze Guild Emblem even increases the buffs when you're in a party with other Guild members. A 3-star Guild receives more high-ranked quests than a 2-star Guild, too. What kind of benefits will a 4-star Guild enjoy?"

"I don't know, but the benefits are definitely going to be better. Moreover, Zero Wing's Guild Emblem has been upgraded to Mysterious-Iron rank. The buffs the emblem provides will be much stronger. Maybe I should try my luck with joining Zero Wing."

"As expected of Zero Wing. Blackwater has just declared war on the Guild, yet Zero Wing has retaliated with such power. Blackwater will likely find Zero Wing a difficult opponent."

"There's no doubt about that I just received some insider information from a friend of mine. He just got his Mysterious-Iron Guild Emblem from the Guild Residence, and he says it's much stronger than before. The Bronze Emblem only provides 3% more HP and 1% more Attack Power, but the Mysterious-Iron version provides up to 2% to all Basic Attributes, Attack Power, Defense, and EXP gain. As long as six or more Guild members are within 150 yards, players will enjoy the maximum buff. There's no need to be in the same party."

"Right! There's also the Bronze ranked Guild Battle Flag! That's basically a treasure for raiding Dungeons! As long as you purchase it, you can plant it in a Dungeon, and all Guild members within 200 yards will receive a 10% increase to all Attributes for five minutes!"

...

After seeing the system announcements, Star-Moon Kingdom's independent players engaged in a heated discussion on the official forums. Many players had abandoned the thought of joining Zero Wing after Blackwater's declaration of war, but now that Zero Wing was a 4-star Guild, it offered even better benefits. When these independent players learned about these benefits, they began to reconsider their positions.

Zero Wing's new benefits were simply too tempting, especially the Guild Emblem. Previously, the Bronze Guild Emblem had offered free teleportation between Guild Residences and increased Attributes when in a party with other Guild members. Not only did the Bronze Guild Emblem save Zero Wing's members money, but it also made it easier to grind monsters.

Now that the Guild Emblem had been upgraded to Mysterious-Iron rank, its effects had more than doubled. Moreover, the Guild now had access to the Bronze Guild Battle Flag. With the Battle Flag's help, Zero Wing's members would have a much easier time with Dungeon Bosses. After all, not every player in the game had the opportunity to learn a Berserk Skill. Meanwhile, the Guild Battle Flag's buff was akin to a mini Berserk Skill for the entire team.

...

Meanwhile, the various major powers soon learned of Zero Wing's latest promotion.

"So, this is what Black Flame was talking about?" Phoenix Rain could not help but shake her head and smile as she read the latest report regarding Zero Wing. "Sure enough, Zero Wing hasn't changed. It is always full of surprises."



“Big Sis Rain, I wish I could see the expressions of Blackwater and Nine Dragons Emperor’s people when they hear about this,” Blue Phoenix said, giggling.

Even she was tempted by the benefits a 4-star Guild enjoyed, not to mention independent players. She could already imagine the massive crowd that would form outside of Zero Wing’s Guild Residences. Zero Wing would definitely increase its strength in a short time.

Moreover, with the Mysterious-Iron Guild Emblem and Bronze Guild Battle Flag, she could already foresee Zero Wing’s members improving significantly in a short time. After all, both items would drastically reduce the difficulty of raiding Team Dungeons. Players that had struggled to increase their attributes could now raid these Dungeons, acquiring better weapons and equipment. These players could then use these weapons and equipment to raid Team Dungeons of greater difficulty and acquire even better items, creating an endless cycle.

“Black Flame’s latest trump card is certainly impressive. With the benefits of a 4-star Guild hastening its development, Zero Wing has a chance in a war of attrition against Blackwater in the Ore Empire. As more time passes, Zero Wing will also be able to include more members in the fight. On the other hand, Blackwater severely lacks manpower,” Phoenix Rain said, nodding. She hadn’t actually thought that Shi Feng was capable of such a move. It was no wonder why the man had rejected her offer for reinforcements.

...

Ore Empire, Crimson Flame Fortress:

After the Crimson Flame Fortress had opened to the public, a large number of players had gathered there, seeking the Ore Capital City’s treasures. The fortress’s player population was even more frightening than Silverwing Town’s.

However, while the town was quite lively, the meeting room in the castle was not.

“Vice Guild Leader, according to our investigation, many experts from the neighboring kingdoms have begun to consider visiting Star-Moon Kingdom to join Zero Wing due to its promotion to a 4-star Guild,” Falling Fire said, reading the report in his hands with a grim expression.

All 20-plus Guild upper echelons inside the meeting room were deathly silent as they looked at the woman in the seat of honor. The woman had long, light-red hair draped over her shoulders, and she wore a suit of sacred crimson armor. The woman looked to be around 25 or 26 and radiated a majestic charm.

However, when everyone present looked at this charming beauty, fear and cowardice overwhelmed them, clear on their faces. Even Falling Fire, who was responsible for Blackwater’s forces in the Ore Empire, only engaged this woman with trepidation.

Their reaction was not because she was a Level 57, Tier 2 Shield Warrior. Rather, it was due to her identity as one of Blackwater’s Vice Guild Leaders and her title as the Iron Valkyrie, granted by the Secret Pavilion.

Xuanwu Chisha!

Despite her age, Xuanwu Chisha had become a master-level expert in the Blackwater Corporation’s dojo. She was also one of the corporation’s heirs. After joining God’s Domain, she had displayed monstrous talent. First, she had defeated over 50 experts on the God’s Domain Experts List. Then, she had challenged several old monsters from the various Super Guilds before leading Blackwater’s forces to dominate the Iron Empire, relying on her vicious tactics until she secured the Guild’s position as the empire’s overlord.

Now, to secure Blackwater’s hold of the Ore Empire, she had arrived to oversee the Guild’s development personally. She was also responsible for the plan to target Zero Wing.

“Good! Then, can anyone here tell me why we only learned about Zero Wing’s promotion after the fact?” Xuanwu Chisha asked softly as she swept her gaze over the people before her.

## **Chapter 1857 – Airport**

The atmosphere inside the quiet meeting room became even tenser at Xuanwu Chisha’s question.

After the silence continued for some time, a young man, who was a Level 56, Tier 2 Assassin, stood up.

“Vice Guild Leader, my subordinates did not do their job properly and failed to notice Zero Wing’s actions in time. Afterward, I’ll have them transferred—no, I’ll send them packing right away!” the Assassin youth said nervously. “Blackwater has no need for incompetent people!”

When everyone present heard the intelligence team leader’s decision, they did not express any opinions about it, neither did they feel surprised by it.

After all, the Vice Guild Leader before them was extremely vicious in her actions. Moreover, her viciousness wasn’t limited to her enemies but extended to her allies as well. Xuanwu Chisha did not tolerate mistakes from her subordinates. A subordinate that slipped up would incur terrifying consequences.

Not to mention, Zero Wing’s promotion to 4-star Guild was a huge incident, yet the intelligence team spying on Zero Wing had actually failed to get any hint of it.

“Well said!” Xuanwu Chisha smiled, clapping her hands as she walked up to the Assassin youth. “In that case, you can also get lost now!”

Following Xuanwu Chisha’s words, everyone in the room received a notification that the Assassin youth had been expelled from the Guild and was no longer a member of Blackwater.

“Vice Guild Leader! I...” When the Assassin youth saw the expulsion notice, he turned to Xuanwu Chisha in shock. He had never thought that she would actually remove a managerial figure like himself just like that.

Just as the Assassin youth was about to say something more, Xuanwu Chisha suddenly unsheathed the sword hanging from her waist and sent a dark-purple arc cutting at him. Before the Assassin youth could even react, his vision started darkening. A moment later, the Assassin youth’s body collapsed to the ground, and multiple weapons and equipment dropped beside his body.

After the Assassin youth died, his corpse slowly disintegrated, transforming into dark-purple smoke. The smoke then flowed into Xuanwu Chisha’s sword. Everyone inside the room could faintly hear agonizing screams coming from the purple smoke.

Suddenly, fear permeated the entire room. Everyone present looked at Xuanwu Chisha with a dumbfounded expression.

The Assassin youth, named Gray Blade, was the vice commander of the Ore Empire Branch Guild’s main force. At the same time, he was the head of the Branch Guild’s intelligence department. Despite his high position, Xuanwu Chisha had actually expelled him after just a few words. She had even killed Gray Blade without hesitation.

This situation evoked an unprecedented fear in everyone.

They could tell that Gray Blade had not died an ordinary death. Otherwise, the Assassin youth wouldn't have dropped over half of the weapons and equipment he wielded and let loose such soul-piercing cries. He also definitely did not lose just one level.

Once Gray Blade resurrected, his account would most likely be crippled.

After Xuanwu Chisha sheathed the glowing purple sword she wielded, no one inside the meeting room dared to look at her in the eye. Everyone simply lowered their heads and fixed their eyes on the floor, deeply afraid of becoming the next Gray Blade.

"Snow Scar, you'll take over his job from now on. I believe you won't disappoint me, right?" Xuanwu Chisha said as she looked toward a cloaked and thin Level 56, Tier 2 Berserker standing by the entrance of the room.

"Vice Guild Leader, please rest assured. The Heavenly Eagle Legion I lead definitely will not disappoint you," the Berserker addressed as Snow Scar said respectfully as he lowered the hood of his Black Cloak.

Upon hearing the name "Snow Scar," everyone present turned automatically to look at the Berserker. When they saw the man's appearance, they could not help but gape in shock.

Snow Scar? Isn't he the number one Berserker of the super-first-rate Guild Puzzled Star? Falling Fire was also surprised when he saw Snow Scar.

Everyone present was no stranger to this name. Puzzled Star was a super-first-rate Guild that had contended against Blackwater over the Iron Empire. Meanwhile, among Puzzled Star's forces, the Berserker named Snow Scar had given Blackwater plenty of headaches.

Yet, now, Snow Scar had actually joined Blackwater. Moreover, he had even become one of Xuanwu Chisha's direct subordinates. This revelation was simply too shocking.

"Since Zero Wing plans on using the benefits of a 4-star Guild to fight a war of attrition with us, let's play along with them," Xuanwu Chisha said as she eyed the map of the Ore Empire displayed at the center of the meeting table. When she looked at the terrain around Silverwing City, the corners of her lips curled up slightly. "The Iron Empire has become very boring lately, now that no more enemies remain there. Hopefully, Zero Wing can bring me some entertainment."

Meanwhile, inside Zero Wing's Residence in White River City, the atmosphere was extremely lively.

Due to Zero Wing's promotion to 4-star Guild, the Guild Residence in White River City had gotten upgraded into a 4-star Residence.

The new Guild Residence was much more majestic than before. The Guild Hall was now a massive nine-story-tall building. Not only were there more Private Rooms available, but even the first-floor lobby had undergone significant changes.

Now, aside from the counter that issued high-ranking quests, there was also a counter operated by the Adventurer's Association inside the lobby. This counter allowed players to pick up high-ranking quests that were normally out of reach. Meanwhile, these quests could help Tier 2 players not only quickly raise their Reputation in the Adventurer's Association but also acquire tons of EXP and remuneration.

“Guild Leader, thus far, the number of applicants for the Guild test has increased by 50%. Many of our Guild’s experts have also started forming teams with elite members to raid Level 50 Team Dungeons. I believe it won’t be long before our Guild elites have Level 50 Secret-Silver Equipment as well,” Aqua Rose reported excitedly. “Then, we’ll be able to dispatch large numbers of well-equipped elite and expert members to Silverwing Town and show Blackwater and those Dark Players who’s boss.”

Although mainstream players had already reached Level 50, due to the sharp decrease in drop-rate for Level 50 weapons and equipment, players weren’t particularly well-equipped right now. Let alone elite players, even Level 50-plus expert players currently had only a few pieces of Level 50 Secret-Silver Equipment on them.

“Excellent. Since so many people in the Guild wish to raid Level 50 Team Dungeons, let them prioritize raiding these Team Dungeons,” Shi Feng said as he pointed out a few Level 50 Team Dungeons in Star-Moon Kingdom.

Although these Team Dungeons did not drop the best weapons, equipment, and materials, they were sources of Fire Essence Stones, Ice Crystal Water, and Titan Ore.

These three materials were extremely rare and were very difficult to acquire from the market. However, they were also the main materials necessary for the Hell Tank.

Currently, due to Zero Wing’s promotion to 4-star Guild, the Guild’s fame had skyrocketed, and the Guild’s growth potential had risen considerably. As a result of this change, however, the Guild had also earned the attention of many superpowers.

Originally, he had planned on directly taking control of the Secret Stone Fortress. However, if he did so now, the consequences would be extremely severe. The various superpowers coveting the fortress would definitely go crazy over the matter.

Hence, what he needed to do right now wasn't to take control of the Secret Stone Fortress but to boost the Guild's combat power.

Meanwhile, the simplest way to do so was to expand the Guild's arsenal of war weapons.

Currently, he had two new war weapons he could make. One was the Guardian Puppet, while the other was the Hell Tank.

He had just acquired the Philosopher's Hand, and it would take Melancholic Smile some time to select trustworthy Advanced Lifestyle players. Nurturing these Advanced Lifestyle players into Masters would also take quite a lot of time.

The production of the Guardian Puppet required too many Masters. It simply wasn't feasible to nurture the necessary Masters within the amount of time remaining to take control of the Secret Stone Fortress. Hence, the only option he had left was the Hell Tank.

With sufficient Hell Tanks, although these wouldn't allow Zero Wing's members to roam the Ore Empire uncontested, defending the Secret Stone Fortress should not be a problem.

"I understand. I'll have our Guild members focus on raiding these Dungeons," Aqua Rose said, nodding. She then started making the necessary arrangements.

Meanwhile, after Shi Feng was done assigning tasks, he went to White River City's Teleportation Hall and teleported to Star-Moon City, then headed to the capital's City Hall.

"Lord Protector, how may I be of service to you today?" an NPC senior administrator greeted Shi Feng as soon as he entered the building.



“Hello, I wish to construct an airport linked to Star-Moon City in Silverwing Town. Here is my airport’s construction certificate,” Shi Feng replied as he retrieved an ancient parchment from his bag.

## **Chapter 1858 – Medium Airship**

After the senior administrator verified the Airport Building Order’s authenticity, he presented a list of Airport Designs for Shi Feng to choose from.

Unlike other Advanced Constructions, players only needed an Airport Building Order to construct an airport. The airport’s size would depend on the player’s budget. Players had three sizes to choose from: Small, Medium, and Large.

The larger an airport was, the more airship docks it would have. Moreover, the system would allocate higher-quality airships.

How expensive! As Shi Feng examined the various airports’ prices, he felt like a poor bastard.

The cheapest airport on the list the senior administrator had provided cost 50,000 Gold to construct, whereas the most expensive Small Airport cost 150,000 Gold. Needless to say, the Medium and Large Airports cost even more.

Although he had known the minimum price for constructing a Small Airport, he hadn’t expected such a large price disparity between the cheapest and most expensive Small Airports available.

Of course, the most expensive Small Airport was worth every Coin.

The 50,000 Gold airport looked shabby next to the 150,000 Gold option.

The 50,000 Gold airport only had four Small Docks, which were only available to ordinary Small Airships. The 150,000 Gold option had six Small Docks, and all six housed Small Bronze Airships. Not only were Small Bronze Airships 30% faster than ordinary Small Airships, but their load capacity was also 50% higher. The profits a Small Bronze Airship could generate was more than double that of an ordinary Small Airship.

However, after deducting the promotion fees he had paid earlier, he only had a little over 90,000 Gold on hand. It was obviously not possible to construct the best Small Airport available right now.

Moreover, if he wished to become the Secret Stone Fortress's Advanced Manager, he needed to fork over another 60,000 Gold...

He still had two days left before he had to pay the 60,000 Gold for the Secret Stone Fortress. Although he could earn a lot of money through the Guild's territories and selling the rare materials from the Ice Crystal World, he should have barely enough money for the cheapest airport and the required fees for the Secret Stone Fortress with the total profits.

It seems I have no choice but to go with the cheapest option for now and rebuild a better one once I have the money to do so. Shi Feng could not help his sigh as he read the list.

As long as players qualified to build an airport in a town, they could build whatever kind of airport they wished. However, once an airport had been constructed, it couldn't be upgraded. If players weren't satisfied with their Small Airport and wanted to construct a Medium Airport, they'd have to remove the

current construction and build the desired airport from scratch. In other words, players would have to pay the full price for a Medium Airport, rather than the price difference.

This was why even Super Guilds didn't dare to expand their airports casually.

"Lord Protector, as you are the first heaven-blessed individual in Star-Moon Kingdom to construct an airport, we have two additional Small Airport models and one Medium Airport model we can offer. May I know if you are interested in seeing them?" the senior administrator asked, smiling at Shi Feng, who was deep in thought.

"Let me take a look." Shi Feng's eyes glowed with interest when he heard the NPC's offer. This additional recommendation was the equivalent of a bonus reward. Naturally, he wouldn't ignore the potential opportunity.

The senior administrator then retrieved a second list, handing it to Shi Feng.

Although the list only had one page, listing only three airport variations, descriptions covered the page. Only a fraction of the descriptions included simple introductions, while rules and regulations took up the majority of the page.

[Model 024 – Small Airport]

Price: 150,000 Gold

Has five Small Docks, each equipped with a Small Bronze Airship.

Has one Medium Dock, equipped with a Medium Bronze Airship.

Installment plan: Down payment of 60,000 Gold and pay an additional 200,000 Gold within one month. If payment is not completed within that time, the airport will be repossessed.

[Model 039 – Small Airport]

Price: 180,000 Gold

Has six Small Docks, each equipped with a Small Bronze Airship.

Has one Medium Dock, equipped with a Medium Bronze Airship.

Installment plan: Down payment of 80,000 Gold and pay an additional 240,000 Gold within one month. If payment is not completed within that time, the airport will be repossessed.

Shi Feng couldn't ignore the temptation of these two models.

Not only could he pay in installments, but the Small Airports even had a Medium Dock and a Medium Bronze Airship.

Normally, this benefit was only included with Medium Airports.

A Medium Airship wasn't just larger than a Small Airship; it also allowed NPC merchants to transport large and special cargo that Small Airships couldn't handle.

As for the Medium Airport the NPC recommended, Shi Feng had instinctively ignored it. Five hundred thousand Gold was more than enough of a reason to pass the option by.

"Lord Protector, are you satisfied with the airports listed?" the senior administrator asked. "If you cannot decide or lack sufficient funds, we can reserve these three options for you for three days."

"No need. I'll go with Model 024," Shi Feng said without hesitation.

He definitely couldn't afford the Medium Airport, even if he bankrupted himself. As for Model 039, he would've chosen it if he could have. After all, it only cost an additional 30,000 Gold, or a total of 60,000 if he chose the installment plan, for an additional Small Dock and Small Bronze Airship. However, if he paid the 80,000 down payment, he would have a very difficult time collecting the 60,000 Gold required to claim the Secret Stone Fortress. Hence, he had chosen Model 024.

Although playing the remaining 200,000 Gold within one month would be a little troublesome, with Zero Wing's current development rate, it wasn't entirely impossible.

Moreover, with an additional Medium Dock and Medium Bronze Airship, his airport would likely generate enough income to cover a significant portion of his debt. Furthermore, the airport's construction would increase the income from Silverwing Town's other facilities.

“Lord Protector, the Model 024 you have chosen comes to 150,000 Gold. Would you like to issue a one-time payment or pay in installments?” the senior administrator asked respectfully.

“I’ll pay in installments,” Shi Feng said. He then retrieved 60,000 Gold from his bag, leaving him with just a little over 30,000 Gold.

“Alright.” Once the senior administrator confirmed the payment, he explained, “I have received the 60,000 Gold. I will soon send people to Silverwing Town to start the construction. The airport will take two natural days to complete. If you wish it, you can reduce the construction time to one natural day by paying an additional 6,000 Gold.”

“Just build it normally,” Shi Feng replied.

Building an airport required a lot of time, which he knew. That was also why he had chosen to construct the airport now. If he completed the airport a day before schedule, it would do more harm than good.

Once Shi Feng finished with the airport selection, he returned to White River City’s Candlelight Trading Firm. He had to set aside his original plan of helping Cola and Alluring Summer level up, sending the two to Beslo Hills, a neutral map near Star- Moon Kingdom, once they had formed a six-man party instead.

The Beslo Hills was a Level 70 neutral map and home to the Undead. Although the monsters there were roughly as strong as the monsters in the Flame Demon’s Valley, the party would face far less danger than in the valley. Moreover, Undead generally had below-average HP. With Cola’s current equipment, he’d be able to resist the Undead army in the area. His five party members would simply need to consume Holy Light Potions, converting their attacks into light-type. Light-type attacks dealt double damage to Undead, which would significantly increase the party’s grinding speed.

Many of Star-Moon Kingdom’s large Guilds had used this method to power-level new, low-level members in the past.

The only downside to this was that Undead monsters were very poor. Even after killing an army of several hundred Undead, one wouldn't earn enough money to cover the cost of a single Holy Light Potion.

After making the necessary arrangements for Cola and Alluring Summer's leveling, Shi Feng returned to his Special Forging Room in the Candlelight Trading Firm. He then took the Subclass Dark-Gold Design from his bag.

Anticipation flashed in Shi Feng's eyes as he gazed at the blank parchment before him. He then pulled the Hell Tank Design[1] from his bag.

The Hell Tank required multiple subclasses to craft its various components. The forger subclass was only one of them.

Among the parts the forger subclass had to craft, the most important were the power source and the sturdy, outer shell. As an Intermediate Tank, both were Fine-Gold rank. If he could upgrade one of them to Dark-Gold rank, it would definitely improve the overall Hell Tank.

With his current forging standards, modifying the Hell Tank's power source or outer shell would be impossible. Not even an Advanced Master Forger was guaranteed to accomplish the task. However, the Subclass Dark-Gold Design before him could forcefully modify and upgrade a low-ranked design to Dark-Gold rank, making the impossible, possible.

Of course, he had never actually heard of anyone achieving the feat, so he wasn't sure if it was possible, but if he succeeded, the Hell Tank would become far more powerful.

Improving the outer shell will only increase the tank's Defense and durability, but the tank's offensive abilities are more important. Let's go with the power source. After examining the Hell Tank Design before him for some time, Shi Feng decided to upgrade the tank's power source.

Shi Feng activated the Subclass Dark-Gold Design and designated the Hell Tank's Power Source Design as the target.

A loading bar then appeared as the system analyzed and modified the design.

Please succeed! Shi Feng silently prayed as he watched the loading bar slowly fill.

## **Chapter 1859 – Improved Power Source**

As the light-blue loading bar filled, the analysis began to take more time to complete. Once the analysis reached 90% completion, each subsequent percentage took over a dozen seconds.

Don't tell me it's going to fail? Shi Feng couldn't help his growing nerves as he watched the loading bar.

Blank Subclass Designs generally had a 100% modification success rate, but as far as he knew, no one had ever tried to modify parts of a design.

The Subclass Design was a one-time use item, vanishing regardless of whether the modification succeeded or not. Nobody would take the risk of losing an opportunity to upgrade their subclass to the next rank.



Finally, after more than ten minutes, the modification finished.

And Shi Feng heard the sound of a system notification.

System: Congratulations! You have modified the Hell Tank's Power Source and acquired the Dark-Gold ranked Hell Tank Power Source Design.

System: Congratulations! You have created the Dark-Gold ranked Hell Tank Power Source Design.

Wonderful! Shi Feng was ecstatic as he watched words and diagrams appear on the blank parchment before him.

Now that he had created a new Dark-Gold item, he only needed to accumulate 100,000 Forging Proficiency Points to become an Intermediate Master Forger.

Following which, Shi Feng eagerly clicked to inspect the Dark-Gold Power Source Design.

The upgrade would improve the power source's transfer of energy throughout the Hell Tank. Not only would this increase the Hell Tank's Movement Speed, but it would also increase the power of the tank's cannons.

Amazing! It's so much stronger after the modification! Shi Feng was astonished as he inspected the upgraded power source.

At the Fine-Gold rank, the power source could supply anywhere from 200 to 300 units of energy per second. This energy would power the Hell Tank's movement, defenses, and attacks. After its upgrade to Dark-Gold rank, the power source could generate between 320 and 400 units of energy per second. In terms of performance, the power source had improved by more than 30%. Moreover, the new power source's energy output was far more stable. Now, the Hell Tank's Dark-Gold Power Source could rival the power source of an Advanced Tank.

Although Advanced Tanks' power sources were also Dark-Gold rank, they required far more precious materials to construct. The required materials for the Hell Tank's modified power source, on the other hand, hadn't changed. Only, the design now required a higher quantity of materials. The fact that it could rival an Advanced Tank's power source was amazing.

The various empires commanded Advanced Tanks to combat Mythic monsters; these war weapons weren't available to players.

"Guild Leader, I've already collected all the materials you've requested in Blackwing City. Abyss and the others have also returned from Ocean Viewing Town," Melancholic Smile reported joyfully as she entered Shi Feng's forging room. "Should I bring them to you?"

"Mhm. Send them here," Shi Feng said, nodding.

Now that he had completed the modifications, he could start the Hell Tank's production.

With Titan City and Burning Abyss's tutelage, the Candlelight Trading Firm had gained two more Master Engineers, bringing the total to three—the minimum required to craft the Hell Tank. Although Shi Feng wasn't an Intermediate Master Forger yet, with the Philosopher's Hand, he could perform like one. In addition, he had a much higher success rate when forging the power source than ordinary Intermediate Master Forgers since he had created the upgraded power source.

A short moment later, Burning Abyss and the two other Master Engineers stepped into Shi Feng's Special Forging Room.

Despite these three players' status as Master Engineers, they still looked at Shi Feng with nervous and excited energy.

Anywhere else, even a first-rate Guild's Guild Leader would have to treat them with respect due to their identities as Master Engineers.

However, as employees of the Candlelight Trading Firm, they knew their place in the trading firm. Master Lifestyle players might be good, but they were not irreplaceable. With the Candlelight Trading Firm's strength, it would have no issues nurturing more Masters in the future. They were proof of this.

"Guild Leader, do you need us for something?" Burning Abyss asked.

"I've asked you here today to help me produce an item. However, before we do, you'll need to sign a confidentiality agreement," Shi Feng told Burning Abyss's group of three. "If any of you don't wish to do so, I won't force you. I'll just find someone else to replace you later. If there are no problems, the contracts are on the table."

Burning Abyss and his companions revealed confused expressions. Before they had become Master Engineers, they had signed Candlelight's core member contract, which was already quite strict. Logically, there should be no need to sign an additional confidentiality agreement.

Although these three were curious, they didn't hesitate to sign the new contract Shi Feng had presented.

“Good! Since you’ve signed the contract, take a look at this,” Shi Feng said as he revealed the Hell Chariot Design to the three Master Engineers. “If you don’t have any issues with it, you may begin production right away.”

When the three Master Engineers saw the design, they were dazed.

“Amazing! This is an Intermediate Tank!” Burning Abyss’s eyes glowed with excitement as he read the Hell Tank’s introduction.

The other two Master Engineers couldn’t tear themselves away from the design after seeing it, and they wanted nothing more than to test their skills on the Hell Tank’s production.

Although they had learned a lot while producing speedboats, the knowledge they had gained was a drop in the ocean compared to what they would learn as they crafted this Intermediate Tank. If they grasped the Hell Tank’s production method, it could even help promote them to Intermediate Masters.

“Guild Leader, we don’t have any problems with the engineering aspects of this design, but some of its components will require an Intermediate Master Forger,” Burning Abyss said awkwardly.

“Don’t worry about that. I’ll send the components to you soon,” Shi Feng said.

Shi Feng’s decisive, confident reply stunned the three engineers.

Has the Guild Leader already been promoted to Intermediate Master Forger?

This thought popped into the Master Engineers' minds. They couldn't think of any other explanation for how Shi Feng would acquire the required components.

An Intermediate Master!

They had only become Basic Masters after a long struggle, and even now, they had no idea how to become Intermediate Masters. They didn't even know if they could reach the Intermediate Master rank, yet Shi Feng had just hinted that he had already become one...

"Alright, you guys should get to work on the basic components. I'll have the forging components sent over soon." Naturally, Shi Feng knew what these three were thinking, but he didn't bother to refute their assumptions.

Although he wasn't an official Intermediate Master, he wasn't far from becoming one. After all, he only lacked sufficient Proficiency Points. He could easily deal with that by investing time into forging items.

Following which, Burning Abyss and the others went to another Special Workshop and started to craft the necessary basic components.

As for Shi Feng, he activated the Philosopher's Hand's Philosopher's Soul. He then began to refine the Titan Ore and the various other materials Melancholic Smile had delivered.

After eight straight hours of work, Shi Feng had finally crafted all of the Hell Tank's forged components. Although he had failed multiple times and wasted a lot of materials, the losses were within his expectations.

Burning Abyss and his engineers had long since completed their part, and once they received the forged components, the trio carefully began to piece it all together.

As Shi Feng watched the three Master Engineers combine the individual components and transform them into a full-fledged tank, he could not help his growing excitement. The Hell Tank was crimson and four times the size of a tank in the real world. The Hell Tank took up nearly half of the Special Forming Room like some gigantic, slumbering beast.

“Guild Leader! It’s a success! We combined all of the components successfully!” Burning Abyss shouted in elation as he inserted the final piece and received a notification from the system.

## **Chapter 1860 – New Hell Tank**

Burning Abyss’s joyful voice echoed inside the spacious and messy Special Workshop. When the other two Master Engineers saw the cold, pitch-black Hell Tank before them, they, too, could not help but become excited.

As the makers of the Hell Tank, they knew very clearly just how amazing it was.

The Hell Tank’s armor was made from Titan Ore, an incomparably tough material that was basically indestructible to current players. If players couldn’t damage the Hell Tank’s armor, then they wouldn’t be able to reduce its durability, either. With the frightening Mana output of the Hell Tank’s power source, the tank would be capable of rolling over any Tier 3 monsters in its path. As for Tier 2 players, they were no different from powerless children before the Hell Tank.

The destructive power of the Hell Tank's body itself was already plenty troublesome to players, what more the firepower the Hell Tank possessed.

When they thought about fielding the Hell Tank in combat in the future, they could easily imagine the Hell Tank's destructive power instilling fear into their enemies. They really wished they could put the Hell Tank to use right away.

"Excellent!" Shi Feng also could not help a little excitement as he looked at the completed Hell Tank.

Burning Abyss and the other two only understood that the Hell Tank was a very powerful weapon. However, they failed to appreciate what an Intermediate Tank represented, never having witnessed how frightening an existence an Intermediate Tank was when used against players out in the fields.

Even a 100-man, Tier 2 expert team would be helpless against a fully armed Intermediate Tank. There would only be one outcome—death!

The powerful armor of an Intermediate Tank was not something that Tier 2 Skills and Spells could destroy. Only Tier 3 attacks stood a chance of damaging an Intermediate Tank slightly. Hence, for Tier 2 players, going up against an Intermediate Tank would be akin to raiding an invincible monster.

However, the immunity to Tier 2 attacks and below still wasn't the most amazing aspect of an Intermediate Tank. The crucial detail about an Intermediate Tank was its speed and power.

If one had an Intermediate Tank, one could basically move unhindered, so long as one did not come across Tier 3 or above players and monsters or players that wielded war weapons.

After verifying that the production was a success, Shi Feng arrived before the Hell Tank and stored it inside his Epic ranked Spatial Bag. This scene stupefied Burning Abyss and his fellow Master Engineers.

The Hell Tank wasn't an item that could be stored whole in a player's bag space. If players wished to store it there, they would have to disassemble it first into smaller parts because not only did the Hell Tank occupy too many bag space slots, but its weight was also extraordinary. Normally, several players would be required to lug it around.

Currently, even the most expensive 1,000-slot Bag sold on the market could hold only one-tenth of the Hell Tank. If one wanted to store the entire Hell Tank in a single bag, said bag would need a capacity of 10,000 slots. However, this was still not the most crucial point.

The deciding factor was the weight.

Carrying a Hell Tank required at least five Strength-focused Tier 2 players.

Nevertheless, Shi Feng had actually stored the entire Hell Tank all by himself.

What Burning Abyss and the other two did not know was that Epic ranked Spatial Bags existed in God's Domain. Take Shi Feng's Spatial Bag for example. Not only could it store 12,000 slots' worth of items, but it also had a Built-in Warehouse that allowed the storage of non-bag space items. In addition, items stored inside the Spatial Bag wouldn't add to the load of players. Hence, Shi Feng was able to store the Hell Tank without problems.

After collecting the Hell Tank, Shi Feng had to inspect its Attributes.



As the Hell Tank was a war weapon, its Attribute Panel could not be inspected while it was present in the outside world. At most, one would see only its name when inspecting it. Only after storing it in a bag space could one inspect it.

[Hell Tank) (Intermediate Tank [Equipped with a Dark-Gold Rank Power Source])

Maximum capacity: 20 people Increases Movement Speed by 210%.

Possesses Upper-rank Tier 2 defensive capabilities.

Durability 400/400 Additional Skill 1-

Magic Shield: Constructs a Tier 3 magic barrier that can absorb up to a maximum of 3,000,000 damage for 24 minutes. Each use costs 18 Magic Crystals.

Cooldown: 10 minutes

Additional Skill 2-

Hell Cannon: 1,700-yard range. Deals a devastating blow at the Tier 3 standard to a 35-yard radius. Each use costs 90 Magic Crystals.

Cooldown: 14 seconds Additional Skill 3-

Flame Spears: Creates 14 Flame Spears. Each Flame Spear carries power at the peak of Tier 2 and has a 150-yard attack range.

Cooldown: 2.7 seconds

It's improved by so much? Shi Feng hid his astonishment as he looked at the Attributes of the Hell Tank.

The original Hell Tank was already top-tier among Intermediate Tanks. However, upgrading its power source to Dark-Gold rank had improved it significantly in every aspect.

Not only did the higher Mana output bring a 30% increase to its Movement Speed, but it also amplified the magic runes carved on the Hell Tank's armor, boosting the Hell Tank's defensive capabilities from Tier 2 to Upper-rank Tier 2. With this, even Tier 3 attacks would barely damage the Hell Tank. Aside from that, the upgraded power source had also strengthened the Hell Tank's firepower slightly and reduced its energy consumption somewhat

Overall, the Hell Tank's combat power had improved by at least 40%. Although it still wasn't comparable to an Advanced Tank, it also far superior to an ordinary Intermediate Tank.

"Guild Leader, now that we've completed the first Hell Tank, may we start production on the second one?" Burning Abyss asked carefully as he looked at the silent Shi Feng.

He was already captivated with the Hell Tank at this point. The engineering techniques involved in the Hell Tank's production were superior to the production techniques for the ships he had made thus far. One could say that tanks were his current romance.

Right now, all he wanted to do was mass-produce the Hell Tank and research the theories behind its production so that he could create his own tank in the future.

However, the materials required to produce the Hell Tank were simply too staggering. Just the engineering materials needed were already extremely difficult to acquire, not to mention the forging materials. Without permission from the Guild, the Hell Tank was not something he could produce as he wished.

“Of course. Currently, what you all need to do is produce the Hell Tank’s engineering components from the materials on hand. If you run out, you can ask Melancholic for some more. I’ll also try to have the forging components delivered to you as soon as possible,” Shi Feng replied, nodding.

After seeing the Hell Tank’s strength, he was even more certain of its necessity.

Although Melancholic Smile had collected barely enough materials for three or four Hell Tanks—which would be hardly

sufficient to accomplish anything major —he had already mobilized the entire Guild’s power to collect the necessary main materials. It wouldn’t be long before they acquired more Titan Ore.

Upon hearing Shi Feng’s command, the three Master Engineers grew even more excited. Without hesitation, they rushed back to their respective workstations and resumed producing the engineering components. As for Shi Feng, he returned to his Special Forging Room and crafted the forging components. He wanted to fabricate as many Hell Tanks as possible before the airport’s completion.

Like so, two days passed by in the blink of an eye.

During this time, Zero Wing's members were continuously raiding the Dungeons Shi Feng specified and collected a large amount of Titan Ore. Including the other rare materials Melancholic Smile sourced from other kingdoms and empires, which were integral to the Hell Tank's production, Shi Feng and the others had managed to build five more Hell Tanks. Now, a total of six Hell Tanks were sitting inside the Candlelight Trading Firm's underground warehouse.

Looking at the six Hell Tanks, Shi Feng found them to be a spectacle to behold.

Shi Feng's Forging Proficiency had also increased rapidly during this period. Including the Proficiency Points the system awarded him before, he had over 70,000 Forging Proficiency Points accumulated. He now needed just a little over 20,000 points to officially reach the Intermediate Master rank.

As Shi Feng was considering producing the components for the seventh Hell Tank, he suddenly received a system notification.

System: The construction of Silverwing Town's airport is completed. Please check and ratify the construction work.