

Strongest

## **Chapter 1991 – Power of a Bronze Combat Technique**

Smiling Breeze and Cool Summer were dazed as the Swordsman youth arrived before them. They had never expected that someone would dare stand out during such a critical moment.

The Swordsman youth was none other than Shi Feng, who currently used his original appearance as Ye Feng.

Both siblings would be a benefit to Zero Wing. Since he had found them here, he might as well use this situation to make them owe him a favor.

“We do! We still have plenty!” Cool Summer instinctively responded to Shi Feng’s question. However, she spun towards Sin Realm’s members after snapping out of her daze and hesitantly said, “But...”

Crocodile Breaker frowned at Shi Feng. Although he said nothing, the relaxed atmosphere regained its prior tension. Everyone could see that Crocodile Breaker was truly furious now.

Sensing Crocodile Breaker’s rage, the surrounding players could not help but take a few steps back.

“This guy must be nuts!”

“Is he really trying to challenge Sin Realm’s prestige?”

The crowd stared at Shi Feng as if he were a dead man walking.

“Brat! You sure have guts, don’t you? You dare to interfere with Sin Realm’s affairs?” Crocodile Breaker hissed as he glared at Shi Feng. “Are you trying to die so soon?”

It had been quite some time since he had encountered anyone who openly dared to provoke Sin Realm. Naturally, he didn’t mind teaching everyone the price for such an insult!

While Crocodile Breaker had addressed this stranger, the several Tier 2 experts around him surrounded Shi Feng, sealing off any path of escape.

Seeing this, Cool Summer began to worry.

She felt that Shi Feng was simply too foolish!

Although the town had NPC soldiers to protect its citizens, players weren’t absolutely safe from harm. If Sin Realm’s members wanted to act, not even her brother could stop them.

As she considered the situation, Smiling Breeze called out to her through their party chat, saying, “Once the battle starts, I’ll hold them back as long as I can. Use the chance to flee with this Swordsman. As long as you two find the town’s NPC soldiers, Sin Ream’s members should give up the chase.”

“Brother, you need to be careful! Crocodile Breaker won’t be an easy opponent!” Cool Summer said as she nodded. She agreed that the plan was their only way out of this predicament.

Although everyone expected Shi Feng to make a move, he didn't seem on high alert in the least. Instead, he looked at Cool Summer and calmly asked, "Wonderful! I'd like to buy every Basic Level Strengthening Potion you have. How much will it be?"

Hearing Shi Feng's offer, Cool Summer was speechless. Despite the situation's painful tension, Shi Feng was in the mood to discuss the potion. If they didn't make a move now and allowed Sin Realm's members to surround them, they'd be doomed.

She even began to suspect that Shi Feng truly wanted to purchase the potions and that he didn't actually have any intentions of helping them...

"Brat, you must really be tired of life!" one of the Tier 2 Assassins around Shi Feng bellowed. He hadn't thought that Shi Feng would dare to belittle them to this extent.

The Tier 2 Assassin dashed towards Shi Feng to scare the Swordsman, although he didn't plan to attack the man. Crocodile Breaker hadn't given the command to attack, and if he struck this Swordsman, the town's NPC soldiers would attack him and the rest of his team.

However, after the Tier 2 Assassin used Shadow Steps to appear behind Shi Feng and before he could place a Tracking Mark on the Swordsman, a blue light flashed before him.

The Level 58, Tier 2 Assassin's vision faded to black, and his body collapsed to the ground, a piece of equipment appearing next to his corpse...

As if space had frozen, the main street fell deathly silent. Everyone only recovered from their daze after a few seconds.

“What’s going on?”

“What just happened? How did that Tier 2 Assassin die?”

Although the spectators saw that the Tier 2 Assassin was dead, they didn’t understand what had just occurred. The Tier 2 Assassin had been charging at Shi Feng a moment ago, yet his body had fallen to the ground a second later.

“Brother, do you know what just happened?” Cool Summer whispered to Smiling Breeze as she stared at the slain Assassin.

“I didn’t get a clear look, but I think that Swordsman is responsible,” Smiling Breeze said as he stared at Shi Feng, an indescribable shock filling his heart. Despite having reached the Trial Tower’s seventh floor, he had failed to witness Shi Feng take action. All he has seen was a blue flash envelop the Tier 2 Assassin.

To make matters worse, he hadn’t been able to react to the situation. He had only realized that Shi Feng had acted after the Assassin had died. It was unbelievable.

Sin Realm’s members were just as stunned, unable to believe that their companion had fallen.

What did he do?

This question consumed their minds.

It wouldn't have been as unusual if anyone else had died, but the Tier 2 Assassin was one of Sin Realm's top-ranked experts. Why wouldn't they be afraid after watching such an expert die in an instant?

"What are you afraid of?!" Crocodile Breaker roared. "We're in an NPC town! He attacked us first! The NPC soldiers won't let him off the hook!"

Crocodile Breaker's reminder snapped his companions out of their daze, and they began to close the distance between them and Shi Feng. They planned to distract this Swordsman until the NPC soldiers arrived.

"Fellow friend, you need to run! You'll be in trouble if you stay until the NPC soldiers arrive!" Smiling Breeze hurriedly warned Shi Feng.

Despite Shi Feng's frightening strength, attacking another player in a town was unwise. If the NPC guards captured him, he'd suffer a tragic end.

"Run? You think we'll let you get away so easily?"

Sin Realm's members sneered at Shi Feng as they began to attack.

They had been rather apprehensive of making a move, but now that Shi Feng had attacked them, the system would determine that this Swordsman was the guilty party. If they attacked now, they'd simply be defending themselves.

Spells and arrows bombarded Shi Feng as Sin Realm's Tier 2 MTs formed a tight circle around Shi Feng, leaving no gaps for escape.

However, when the Spells and arrows struck, they only hit Shi Feng's afterimage. Before anyone had time to realize what had happened, Shi Feng had appeared beside the approaching Tier 2 MTs, his blades slicing the MTs' vital points.

Purgatory Pentaslash!

Despite targeting Tier 2 MTs, Shi Feng ended them in no more than two slashes. In the end, two Tier 2 MTs died without the chance to activate their Lifesaving Skills.

When Crocodile Breaker saw his companions dying, his expression darkened. He immediately activated his Berserk Skill and launched a vicious slash at Shi Feng with his greatsword. Sin Realm's other Tier 2 experts activated their Berserk Skills, as well, assisting Crocodile Breaker from the side and aiming to pin Shi Feng down.

Despite seeing the greatsword, with its deathly aura, and the multiple Tier 2 Spells flying toward him, Shi Feng didn't move to dodge. Instead, he dashed forward and brandished his two swords against Crocodile Breaker. Sword's Transmigration!

Suddenly, a beautiful galaxy of stars appeared around Shi Feng before exploding.

Boom!

The impact threw Crocodile Breaker back by over ten yards. Even after he landed, he had to stumble several steps back before he could stabilize his position. Both of his arms had gone numb, and he couldn't lift his weapon. He had also lost 20% of his HP. In contrast, Shi Feng remained unharmed.

How is this possible?! Crocodile Breaker stared at Shi Feng, dumbfounded.

When he activated his Berserk Skill, his Strength was even higher than a Great Lord's of the same level. He nearly had enough Strength to rival a Grand Lord, and he had the support fire from the Tier 2 Elementalists and Curse-mancers around him. Still, Shi Feng had sent him flying, not the other way around. To make matters worse, he could tell that this Swordsman hadn't used a Skill or Spell, both of which would change the user's ambient Mana when activated.

Crocodile Breaker's companions were just as stupefied.

The Berserker, known as Heavy Sword, had been thrown from a head-on clash. Moreover, Crocodile Breaker had already activated his Berserk Skill, while his opponent hadn't...

So, this is the power of a Bronze Combat Technique? Shi Feng was similarly surprised to see the results of his attack. He had never thought that a Bronze Combat Technique would be so powerful.

"Boss Croc! The NPC soldiers are here! This Swordsman is dead for sure!" Sin Realm's players sent Shi Feng gleeful sneers when they noticed the approaching NPC soldiers.

Although Shi Feng's combat power had exceeded their expectations, his demise was assured now that the NPC soldiers had arrived, regardless of how powerful he was.

“It’s over... Why didn’t he run away?” Cool Summer anxiously muttered as she watched the town’s guards surround Shi Feng.

Just as Sin Realm’s members assumed that they’d get to watch Shi Feng struggle against the NPC soldiers, the Tier 3 NPC leading the patrol squad approached the Swordsman and respectfully asked, “Lord Bronze Legatee, how may we be of service?”

## **Chapter 1992 – Taking Action in Purple Thorns Kingdom**

Rows of Level 150 NPC stood at attention before Shi Feng between him and the street crowded with players.

When they heard the Level 150, Tier 3 patrol captain’s question, the watching players were stunned.

“How is this possible?!”

“Why aren’t the soldiers arresting him?”

“Who is that?”

“Is the system bugged?”



Questions plagued the players' minds, and Sin Realm's members were particularly stupefied.

The scene they had just witnessed had thoroughly altered their world view.

It was common knowledge in God's Domain that any player that attacked another within an NPC town or city would be killed, captured, or both. It was an ironclad rule.

Yet, this player had just broken that ironclad rule. In fact, the NPC soldiers, who were supposed to administer justice to Shi Feng, treated the Swordsman with respect...

"Brother, am I dreaming?" Cool Summer asked as she tugged on Smiling Breeze's sleeve, blinking in confusion as she watched Shi Feng.

Glory Town was one of the most heavily fortified towns in the Purple Thorns Kingdom, and its laws were just as strict as in NPC cities. The NPCs that ensured order within the city wouldn't ever pardon a player that had intentionally committed murder. Not only would the guards kill the offender on the spot, but they'd also lock the player in jail for another two or three days. Unless one could escape the NPC soldiers' pursuit, avoiding punishment was impossible.

Despite hearing his sister's question, Smiling Breeze didn't reply. He was preoccupied with his frustration over this situation.

Naturally, Shi Feng wasn't particularly surprised by the NPC soldiers' reactions. He was, after all, a Bronze Legatee, enjoying the status of a Baron in any NPC city he visited. Although the Baron rank was the lowest among nobles, one was treated differently in NPC cities based on their title.

Although Sin Realm's Tier 2 Assassin hadn't attacked Shi Feng, the Assassin had planned to use a Tracking Skill on him. Using a Tracking Skill on a normal player in an NPC city might not be a crime, but using it on a titled noble was. The system would consider the act as a premeditated attack. The NPC soldiers wouldn't question him for killing the Tier 2 Assassin.

Needless to say, although the other Sin Realm members hadn't landed an attack, they had attacked him. He could kill these players without consequences from the system, as well. This was the true benefit of being a titled noble.

Of course, if two titled noble players fought, the system would deem the first to cause damage as the offender.

However, an Advanced Town like Glory Town might not have a single ordinary noble, much less a titled noble. Hence, Shi Feng didn't have a reason to hold back and could slay all who had attacked him.

"These people attacked me. What is the most severe punishment they can receive according to the laws?" Shi Feng asked the patrol captain, smiling as he gestured to Crocodile Breaker and his minions.

"Lord Bronze Legatee, since they have attacked a titled noble within the town, they can be imprisoned for a maximum of three days," the patrol captain replied, flashing Crocodile Breaker's group a frosty glare.

"Good. Lock them up for three days, then." Shi Feng nodded.

"Understood!"

Upon hearing Shi Feng's instructions, the patrol captain waved a hand and signaled his soldiers to arrest Crocodile Breaker and the rest of Sin Realm's members.

The crowd gaped in shock as they watched the NPC soldiers arrest Crocodile Breaker's group.

Shi Feng had clearly attacked and killed a player first, yet Sin Realm's members were going to jail. This would be a huge loss for the Guild.

Damn it! How does he have a titled noble position in Glory Town?! Crocodile Breaker's expression darkened after hearing the patrol captain's command.

He knew a little about the privileges a titled noble enjoyed, but he hadn't dreamed that Shi Feng would be a titled noble here. Spending three days in jail was far less acceptable to expert players like himself than losing a single level.

In God's Domain, time was money. He would fall far behind the frontline players if he lost three days. Not only would he fall behind in terms of levels, but his weapons, equipment, and Skills would as well.

"Boss, what should we do?" Sin Realm's members grew anxious as the NPC soldiers approached.

Spending three days in jail was akin to being locked out of God's Domain for three days. To players like them, who had already gotten used to living in God's Domain, this outcome was worse than death.

"Retreat! Everyone retreat!" Crocodile Breaker shouted.

The only way to escape imprisonment was to flee Glory Town. They'd be ruined if the NPC soldiers captured them.

As soon as Crocodile Breaker gave the command, the Sin Realm members held nothing back as they used their lifesaving tools to flee. Trying to fight the NPC soldiers would be suicidal; the Level 150, Tier 2 NPCs could kill them with a single hit.

They'd be pulverized. If they fought, not only would they die and lose a level, but they'd still be stuck in prison for three days.

When Smiling Breeze and Cool Summer saw Sin Realm's members turn and run, they couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Now that these Guild players were gone, they could escape danger. At worst, they would have to leave the Purple Thorns Kingdom. Although doing so would waste the investments they had poured into the kingdom, it was a better option than being hounded and killed by Sin Realm's members.

However, as Crocodile Breaker fled, he retrieved a Magic Scroll from his bag and activated it.

Suddenly, a pitch-black magic array formed above the main street, radiating a dense, lethal aura. The aura extended toward Shi Feng and the two siblings so quickly that it was almost impossible to evade.

However, the aura didn't inflict any damage, but left Shi Feng and the sibling pair a debuff.

The Death Mark!

No matter where the marked players ran, the Death Mark would reveal their location to Crocodile Breaker during the next twelve hours. The Death Mark would even be effective while the players were offline, and its duration would only decrease while they were logged into the game.

“Although I don’t know who you are, I promise that only death awaits you since you have made an enemy of Sin Realm in the Purple Thorns Kingdom!” Crocodile Breaker bellowed as he glared at Shi Feng with bloodshot eyes. Many of the expert players in the crowd felt a chill crawl down their spines as they sensed the killing intent within his voice.

He had wanted to kill Shi Feng to prove Sin Realm’s might to the watching players, but he hadn’t expected the Swordsman to use him as a nameless pawn and damage Sin Realm’s reputation instead. He swore to himself that he wouldn’t rest until he killed Shi Feng personally. Naturally, he couldn’t let Smiling Breeze and Cool Summer off the hook, either.

“It’s over! Those three are doomed!”

“I knew something like this would happen! Provoking Sin Realm in the Purple Thorns Kingdom is simply suicide! No one can save those three now!”

The various expert players and adventurer team members present could not help but sigh at this turn of events. They knew Crocodile Breaker wouldn’t easily let this matter rest. He would kill the trio back to Level 0 at the very least.

Realizing the same, Smiling Breeze and Cool Summer revealed grim expressions.

Now that they bore the Death Mark, Sin Realm would track them down and kill them even if they left the Purple Thorns Kingdom.

“Is that so? Let’s see you try it!”

Glancing at Crocodile Breaker, who was about to activate an Instantaneous Movement Magic Scroll, Shi Feng used Instant Strike to appear before the Berserker. He then brandished Killing Ray.

Sword’s Orbit!

With the Attack Speed boost from Instant Strike, the Sacred Sword moved so quickly that not even Crocodile Breaker, who still had an active Berserk Skill, could defend himself before multiple swordlights devoured him. In the blink of an eye, his HP plummeted, and his body collapsed to the ground.

## **Chapter 1993 – Kingdom Uproar**

Crocodile Breaker’s death shocked the spectating crowd and Sin Realm’s retreating members; none of them could believe what they had just seen.

“He’s dead?!”

“This is a trick, right?! The Heavy Sword actually died in a single move?!”

Players new to the Purple Thorns Kingdom might not be familiar with Crocodile Breaker, but those who resided in the kingdom knew his name and nickname quite well. He had become many players' nightmare.

Many of the kingdom's expert players that had resisted Sin Realm had died by Crocodile Breaker's hand, yet such a powerful expert had died instantly. No one would believe them if they retold this tale.

"That player is amazing, Brother!" Cool Summer exclaimed as she watched Shi Feng loot the battlefield. "He might even be stronger than you!"

"Mhm! His swordsmanship is so fast!" Smiling Breeze nodded in agreement. Shi Feng's performance had shocked him, as well. "I've seen almost every top-ranked Swordsman in the kingdom in action, but none of them are close to his level. Who is he?"

Not only was he a Tier 2 player, but he was also an Assassin, the class famed for its speed, but he hadn't been able to keep up with Shi Feng's attack. He hadn't even caught the moment this Swordsman had executed the Skill. By the time he had realized what was happening, Shi Feng's attack was over, and Crocodile Breaker was dead.

When he tried to put himself in Crocodile Breaker's shoes, he doubted that he'd be able to activate Vanish, an almost instantaneous Lifesaving Skill, in time.

When he recalled his decision to send Shi Feng and his sister away while he protected them from behind, he found the idea laughable.

Crocodile Breaker's death had undoubtedly dealt Sin Realm's members quite the mental blow. As a result of their momentary pause, only a small number of the Guild players had actually escaped Glory Town. The NPC soldiers captured the rest of them. The players that had died lost a level and a piece of equipment as a result, in addition to resurrecting in the town's prison to spend three days behind bars.

“Friends, Sin Realm’s people have left. If you intend to flee, you should do so now. I doubt it will be long before the Guild sends reinforcements. It will become far harder to leave Glory Town once they arrive,” Shi Feng addressed Smiling Breeze and Cool Summer once he finished collecting the items Sin Realm’s members had dropped.

Shi Feng’s warning snapped Smiling Breeze out of his daze, and he gratefully replied, “Thank you. I’m Smiling Breeze, and this is my little sister, Cool Summer. May I have your name, friend?”

“Ye Feng,” Shi Feng answered truthfully.

Although he had considered using Black Flame, it would cause a commotion if the public learned that Zero Wing’s Guild Leader had appeared in the Purple Thorns Kingdom. The kingdom’s various major powers would certainly pay more attention to him, and if that happened, it could affect his quest.

“Ye Feng? Could you be Zero Wing’s Honorary Elder?” Smiling Breeze stared at Shi Feng in surprise.

Zero Wing had become considerably famous in God’s Domain. Its success in repelling a veteran super-first-rate Guild’s offensive and joining the Secret Chamber of Commerce had earned the Guild some notoriety, increasing Zero Wing’s chances of becoming a super-first-rate Guild itself in the future.

With so much attention on Zero Wing, it was only natural for the public to grow familiar with the Guild’s peak experts, including Ye Feng. Thus far, Ye Feng had displayed great strength in multiple battles in Star-Moon Kingdom. Not only had he become well-known in his own kingdom, but he had become extremely famous among the Purple Thorns Kingdoms’ expert players. During their free time, expert players enjoyed discussing nearby kingdoms’ experts and comparing themselves to figure out who was stronger.



Cool Summer stared at Shi Feng in shock, as well. She felt as if she were dreaming.

“Brother, is this really happening?! We actually got to meet Zero Wing’s Honorary Elder, Ye Feng!” Cool Summer whispered to Smiling Breeze, her eyes glowing with excitement.

Even existences like Crocodile Breaker were out of reach for independent players like them, not to mention an Honorary Elder from a Guild with the potential to become a super-first-rate Guild. A single sentence from Ye Feng was enough to cause most second-rate Guilds to shudder with fear.

When nearby players overheard Shi Feng’s introduction, they couldn’t help but gape at the Swordsman.

They finally understood why Shi Feng had been so relaxed during the earlier exchange with Sin Realm’s members and shrugged off Crocodile Breaker’s mighty aura.

“That’s right,” Shi Feng replied, at a loss for words after seeing the two siblings’ surprise.

Both Smiling Breeze and Cool Summer had been beyond his reach in the past. Smiling Breeze had been one of the top-ten Assassin experts in the Black Dragon Empire during his peak, and if not for his status as an independent player, he would’ve likely reached Tier 5.

As for Cool Summer, she had only been a step away from becoming a Grandmaster Alchemist. Second-rate Guilds hadn’t had a prayer of encountering her, and even first-rate Guilds had treated her like a VIP, doing almost anything to recruit her.

“May I know what plans you two have after this?” Shi Feng asked.

“Remaining in the Purple Thorns Kingdom is no longer possible now that we have a tracking mark on us. We’ll probably head over to the Black Dragon Empire and check out the situation there,” Smiling Breeze replied, sighing.

“The Black Dragon Empire? That is certainly a good place to develop,” Shi Feng said after giving the matter some thought. He then sent the two players friend requests and said, “Zero Wing has a Branch Guild in the Black Dragon Empire as well. If you encounter any trouble or run into Sin Realm’s people, you can contact me. If you need to buy or sell anything, you can also do so at the Candlelight Trading Firm. I’ll make sure you both enjoy the membership benefits.”

Although Shi Feng had considered inviting Smiling Breeze and Cool Summer to join Zero Wing, he knew that they’d never accept. Many superpowers had tried to recruit them in his previous life, as well, even offering incredibly lax conditions that barely restricted their freedom. In the end, however, the siblings had rejected every offer.

This proved to him that these two weren’t interested in joining any Guild. So, he shouldn’t try to force the situation. Befriending them would be a wiser choice. If these two ever changed their minds, they’d at least consider joining Zero Wing.

“Thank you!” Smiling Breeze and Cool Summer expressed their gratitude. Continuing, Smiling Breeze said, “We really don’t know what to say. If you need our help with anything in the future, please feel free to ask! We’ll help you to the best of our abilities!”

Ordinary players might not understand the benefits of Zero Wing’s protection and the Candlelight Trading Firm’s membership, but they did. Countless independent players dreamed of such an advantage.

After conversing with Shi Feng for a little while longer, Smiling Breeze and Cool Summer departed from Glory Town. Meanwhile, the players on the main street were in an uproar over Shi Feng's battle with Sin Realm's members. Some players had even uploaded the battle videos they had recorded to the Purple Thorns Kingdom's official forums.

The instant the battle videos were available, they became the most popular topic of conversation throughout the kingdom.

Many of the kingdom's players had negative opinions of Sin Realm due to its tyrannical behavior, but since the Guild was so powerful, they were forced to endure its control.

Now that Sin Realm had suffered a massive defeat in Glory Town, with one of its seven great experts falling in battle, it was only natural that the populace's general mood was quite jubilant.

For a time, the kingdom's population grew curious about Shi Feng's identity, and many players found themselves admiring the Swordsman. As news of the battle spread, everyone soon discovered that Shi Feng was actually Zero Wing's Ye Feng. Due to this revelation, the entire kingdom was in an uproar, with many players expressing their desire to join Zero Wing, hoping that the Guild would establish a Branch Guild in the Purple Thorns Kingdom.

The overwhelming reaction even surprised Shi Feng.

At this point, over 200,000 players, a truly frightening number, had voiced their desire to take down Sin Realm.

Just how much of a tyrant is Sin Realm in the Purple Thorns Kingdom? Shi Feng was astonished as he read the forum post containing a petition to deal with the offending Guild.

The average large Guild didn't even have 100,000 members; only second-rate and above Guilds could amass such a collection.

It didn't take long for news of the matter to reach the Purple Thorns Kingdom's various major powers, especially the kingdom's tyrant, Sin Realm.

### **1994 Unexpected Joy**

Chapter 1994 – Unexpected Joy Purple Thorns City, Sin Realm's Residence:

The glorious, magnificent Guild Hall was hectic due to the incident in Glory Town. The Guild members in the building struggled to control their bloodlust after learning about the defeat, and some players had even tried to form an expedition to flatten Glory Town.

Meanwhile, Sin Realm's upper echelons had gathered in the Guild Leader's office.

"Guild Leader, we've looked into the situation. The player that killed Crocodile Breaker is Ye Feng, Zero Wing's Honorary Elder!" an indifferent man in purple-gold robes and carrying a silver staff addressed the emaciated man in the Guild Leader's seat.

Although the emaciated man looked like a shriveled tree, he felt like a towering mountain. Some of the Guild's upper echelons didn't even dare to look him in the eye due to the powerful pressure he gave off.

Sin Realm's members only felt awe and reverence towards this emaciated man.

He was the strongest Guild Leader in Sin Realm's history.

Lone Beacon!

Sin Realm had still been considered a lowly second-rate Guild a few years ago, but after Lone Beacon had become the Guild Leader, Sin Realm had rapidly developed. Now, it was a publicly-acknowledged first-rate Guild.

Under Lone Beacon's leadership, Sin Realm had increased its development speed after joining God's Domain. The Guild was now even stronger than some veteran first-rate Guilds and had taken full control of the Purple Thorns Kingdom. Many first-rate and super-first-rate Guilds had even failed to accomplish such a feat.

"Zero Wing's Ye Feng?" Lone Beacon's lips curled into a smile. "That is interesting. As soon as we lay our hands on the Witch's Hill, someone from Zero Wing appears in the Purple Thorns Kingdom?"

"Guild Leader, this Ye Feng is too arrogant! He actually dared to kill Crocodile Breaker in our own territory! It's a slap to the face!" a robust, tanned Berserker growled angrily. "Please, let me lead a team to teach this guy a lesson! We'll show Zero Wing that just because it barely resisted an offensive from Miracle, that doesn't mean that it can strut around before Sin Realm!"

"Irontooth is right, Guild Leader! Ye Feng has come to our territory alone and killed Crocodile Breaker. If we don't take care of him, we'll become a laughingstock in the kingdom. Everyone will assume that we fear Zero Wing!" the other Guild upper echelons promptly voiced their agreement.

It might have been acceptable if Zero Wing had sent an army into Purple Thorns Kingdom, and the two Guilds had clashed, but Shi Feng had come here on his own. He had even publicly announced his identity before the kingdom's populace. If they didn't deal with this player and prove to Zero Wing that they weren't to be trifled with, then Sin Realm's reputation would be in tatters.

"Alright. Irontooth, take a team to Glory Town," Lone Beacon said, nodding. He, too, felt that it was necessary to teach Zero Wing a lesson. He then continued, "However, Ye Feng is extraordinarily strong. Take the Steel Puppet with you as a precaution."

The Guild's upper echelons were surprised by Lone Beacon's decision.

Sin Realm had only obtained the treasured Steel Puppet after many difficulties. The Guild had lost more than 10,000 lives and numerous Tier 3 Magic Scrolls. Although the Steel Puppet couldn't fight on its own like a summoned creature, needing a player's control, it could kill players as easily as killing ants. The Steel Puppet wouldn't have any issues dealing with Tier 3 experts, much less Tier 2 players.

Yet, Lone Beacon wanted to use the Steel Puppet against a single expert player from Zero Wing. He was simply making a mountain out of a molehill.

Now that Shi Feng bore the Death Mark, the Guild could easily track his movements. Sending Irontooth and his team, along with some Magic Scrolls and Magic Array Scrolls, would be more than enough. There was no need to mobilize the Steel Puppet.

"The Steel Puppet?" Irontooth rejoiced when he heard his Guild Leader's command. Hurriedly, he replied, "Leave it to me! I'll make sure Ye Feng regrets ever setting foot in the Purple Thorns Kingdom!"

Following which, Irontooth, one of Sin Realm's seven great experts, walked out of the Guild Leader's office to organize a team for his trip to Glory Town.

In the meantime, Shi Feng had arrived at Glory Town's Town Hall.

Although Glory Town was not located in a high-resource map, based on the situation, Shi Feng felt that this was an excellent place to make money and recruit expert players for Zero Wing.

Although the monsters around Glory Town were average in all aspects, a specific rare herb was available in the area—the Phantom Flower, the main material for producing the Basic Level Strengthening Potion.

Even in a herb-rich country like the Purple Thorns Kingdom, the Phantom Flower was far from common, and it didn't even grow in Star-Moon Kingdom. Other kingdoms and empires that contained the Phantom Flowers didn't produce the flowers in large quantities, either. This was why Cool Summer had come to Glory Town.

Due to the Basic Level Strengthening Potion's popularity in the past, the Phantom Flower had become incredibly valuable. Each flower had initially sold for 3 Silver, but the price had eventually skyrocketed to 15 Silver.

Currently, one could count the number of Basic Level Strengthening Potion Recipes that existed in God's Domain on one hand. Since so few players grinded in high-level maps right now, the demand for this potion wasn't particularly high yet, either. However, as players progressed in the game, they would need more EXP per level, making it far more difficult to level up. Fighting higher-levelled monsters would soon become a necessity if players wanted to increase their level quickly.

At that time, the Basic Level Strengthening Potion would become intensely popular, which, in turn, would increase the scarcity of the Phantom Flowers.

Although Shi Feng didn't yet have the recipe, he could take advantage of the situation to stockpile Phantom Flowers. Producing Basic Level Strengthening Potions would become impossible without them, after all. Naturally, more of the potion's recipes would surface as time passed.

"Lord Bronze Legatee, how may I be of service today?" The Town Hall's senior administrator took the initiative to approach Shi Feng as he entered the building.

"I wish to buy two plots of Land," Shi Feng replied.

"Very well. These are all the Lands available for sale in the town," the senior administrator said as he revealed a map of Glory Town.

Despite being an Advanced Town, Glory Town's size was only the size of an Intermediate Town. As a result, it didn't have many Lands for sale. As Shi Feng inspected the Lands in the town's central district, he noticed a dark-blue marker. It was particularly eye-catching since the rest of the markers on the map were light-blue.

How is this possible? There's actually a plot of Advanced Land for sale? Shi Feng was stunned as he stared at the dark-blue marker.

## **Chapter 1995 – Advanced Land**

"How much for this plot of Land?" Shi Feng asked, suppressing the excitement in his heart as he pointed at the dark-blue marker on the map.



In the past, the various superpowers had considered Advanced Lands extremely valuable. Unlike ordinary Lands, players had absolute control of the Advanced Lands they purchased.

In other words, like Guild Towns and Cities, players wouldn't be limited to the type of construction they could build on the land. Instead of building Shops, Guild Residences, or private houses, players could construct Auction Houses or Battle Arenas.

Though, only a fool would build a Battle Arena in an NPC town as doing so would not yield any profits. NPC towns didn't have much Mana, and a Battle Arena wouldn't provide enough benefits to the players training within without a high Mana density.

The wisest way to use a plot of Advanced Land was to build an Auction House!

Auction Houses couldn't be constructed on ordinary Lands, and NPC towns didn't usually possess Auction Houses.

Of course, player-constructed Auction Houses didn't hold much attraction for players. They were already available in NPC cities, and every NPC town and city had a Teleportation Hall, allowing players to travel from one location to another easily. Moreover, NPC Auction Houses were usually connected with multiple other NPC Auction Houses, which allowed players to sell and purchase items from multiple NPC cities. In contrast, player-constructed Auction Houses were only connected with other Auction Houses the player owned.

However, player-constructed Auction Houses had an advantage that NPC Auction Houses lacked: the freedom to choose the form of currency required. Instead of Coins, players could use Credits or Magic Crystals.

Many of God's Domain's players dreamed of earning real-world money through the game, but transactions involving Credits and in-game items were troublesome. Normally, players were only willing to go through the trouble for bulk or high-value transactions.

However, player-constructed Auction Houses removed the hassle of Credit trades. The services player-constructed Auction Houses offered were convenient for small transactions, and the Guilds operating the Auction Houses could collect processing fees, earning a large sum of Credits. If the Auction House's trade volume was sufficiently high, the ruling Guild could even earn enough Credits per day to make the various superpowers jealous.

Of course, obtaining such an income was impossible if one relied on a single NPC town's Auction House, but there was a

saying; many a little makes a mickle. If Shi Feng could construct an Auction House while God's Domain was still in its early phases, he could earn a fortune.

Moreover, an Auction House in an NPC town would be far more popular than one in a Guild Town. This was due to the more convenient transportation methods. Every NPC town and city in the Purple Thorns Kingdom allowed direct teleportation to Glory Town.

"Lord Bronze Legatee, this plot of Land's price is somewhat special. In addition to 14,000 Gold, you'll also have to pay 300 Mana Stones and 300 Pure Magic Cores if you wish to purchase it," the senior administrator said.

"Mana Stones and Pure Magic Cores?" Shi Feng released a sigh of relief when he heard the senior administrator's price.

Normally, Advanced Lands cost both Coins and resources. Fortunately, the resources required this time were not particularly valuable.

Shi Feng could easily synthesize Mana Stones from Magic Crystals, and he could collect Pure Magic Cores from killing Level 50-plus Great Lord ranked Demonic Beasts. Neither of these items would be difficult to acquire for Zero Wing.

As for the 14,000 Gold, the cost was practically negligible. Zero Wing had earned quite a bit of profit recently, and he had the compensation the Black Dragon Empire's various large Guilds had paid for their transgressions. Even though most of the compensation had been paid in materials and Lands, quite a few Guilds had paid with Coins. Overall, Shi Feng currently had over 170,000 Gold in his pockets.

This was also why he had decided to activate a super-large-scale neutral city.

After speaking with the senior administrator, Shi Feng contacted Melancholic Smile and had her send some manpower to Glory Town. He also instructed her to send Mana Stones and Pure Magic Cores.

In less than an hour, Shi Feng had received the required 300 Mana Stones and 300 Pure Magic Cores. He then purchased the Advanced Land, in addition to two plots of ordinary Lands, spending a total of 18,000 Gold.

After purchasing the Lands, Shi Feng used the Auction House Design, which the Guild had recently acquired, and instructed his Guild's architects to construct the Auction House on the Advanced Land. He then spent another 5,000 Gold to construct a Guild Residence and a Shop on the two plots of ordinary Land.

Suddenly, three extremely eye-catching buildings rose within Glory Town. The Candlelight Trading Firm was especially impressive, and although it wasn't as majestic as the Advanced Auction House, it was a three-story building. Moreover, it occupied just as much area as Zero Wing's new Residence.

Glory Town's players immediately noticed the appearance of Zero Wing's Residence and the Candlelight Trading Firm. The town wasn't particularly large, after all, and none of the town's Lands had been purchased by any major powers. Glory Town was merely a border town, a temporary leveling area for a small number of independent players. There was no real value to purchasing the Lands here.

"Why is there a player-constructed Auction House? Didn't they say that it wasn't possible to construct Auction Houses in N PC towns?"

"Zero Wing is so awesome! It has even pulled off something like this!"

"But what's the point in constructing an Auction House here? Player-constructed Auction Houses don't usually have a lot of items for sale. The customer base is so much smaller than NPC Auction Houses, so there isn't much point in using a player-constructed one."

"True, but isn't Zero Wing Star-Moon Kingdom's overlord. It also has a big city like Zero Wing City. This Auction House here should be connected to the one there. If that's the case, it should have a lot of items for sale."

Glory Town's players were all curious about the Candlelight Auction House that now graced their town. They immediately entered to inspect the building and its services.

However, once players examined the items for auction, they were stupefied.

The Candlelight Auction House had just as many items as the Auction Houses in NPC cities. Most importantly, many items could also be purchased with either Coins or Credits. Players could even spend Credits to buy a single piece of Bronze Ore. This discovery excited the players that didn't have many Coins but had spare Credits lying around.

Moreover, the weapons and equipment the Candlelight Auction House offered were much cheaper.

“Amazing! The Candlelight Auction House is simply amazing!”

“Crap! There are so many pieces of Level 55 Mysterious-Iron Equipment for sale! You won’t even find this many in NPC cities’ Auction Houses!”

Everyone’s eyes turned bloodshot as they read through the item lists in the Candlelight Auction House. Meanwhile, news of Glory Town’s new Auction House soon reached the Purple Thorns Kingdom’s official forums with a particularly eye-catching title.

Candlelight Auction House appears in Glory Town!

## **Chapter 1996 – Popular Auction House**

Due to the appearance of the Candlelight Auction House, the players viewing the Purple Thorn Kingdom’s official forums were in an uproar, especially the ordinary independent players. Once they read the forum thread, they headed to Glory Town.

Normally, these independent players struggled to earn money, yet God’s Domain had many aspects that required Coins. Exchanging Credits for Coins wasn’t easy either since most Workshops and money-farming teams sold Coins at a minimum of 5 Gold. Sellers very rarely sold small amounts, such as 50 Silver or 1 Gold. Players from ordinary households couldn’t afford to spend the Credits on 5 Gold, and although they were willing to purchase individual pieces of Bronze or Mysterious- Iron Equipment with Credits, such opportunities were incredibly rare. Most players only sold Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Equipment for Credits when they were selling in bulk.

Although it was possible to purchase individual Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Equipment with coins in Guild Towns' Auction Houses, there was generally a limited supply. Furthermore, traveling to Guild Towns wasn't very convenient.

Now that the Candlelight Auction House had appeared in an NPC town and had a large stock of items, Purple Thorns Kingdom's general populace couldn't sit still and do nothing.

In less than half an hour, Glory Town's sparsely populated streets had become crowded with players. Everyone visiting the town swarmed toward the Candlelight Auction House to purchase and sell items. The town had become even more lively than Zero Wing City.

Shi Feng was overwhelmed as he watched from within the Auction House.

According to the Auction House's statistics, over 30,000 items had been put up for auction, and over 50,000 items had sold. Meanwhile, the Auction House had collected over 200,000 Credits from processing fees and over 100 Gold in consignment fees.

Glory Town's Candlelight Auction House made even more money than Zero Wing City's.

Suddenly, Melancholic Smile contacted Shi Feng and demanded, "Guild Leader, what did you do in the Purple Thorns Kingdom?! The Candlelight Auction House has gained several thousand members in the last few moments! We've earned over 40,000 Magic Crystals via membership fees alone! In addition, the total trade volume for the Auction Houses in Zero Wing City, Silverwing Town, and Stone Forest Town has increased drastically! It's 30% higher than usual!"

The Auction Houses in Zero Wing City, Silverwing Town, and Stone Forest Town were some of Zero Wing's main income sources. However, the trade volume for these Auction Houses had increased by

30% and continued to rise. At this rate, the three Auction Houses would soon generate half of Zero Wing's Credit income.

At that time, Zero Wing would no longer have to sell Secret-Silver and Fine-Gold Weapons and Equipment to maintain the training ground. The Guild might even be able to afford to recruit more internal members.

"A 30% increase in trade volume?" Shi Feng chuckled. "That's only the beginning. If everything goes smoothly, we should see an increase of 70% at the very least. Oh, right. Send someone out to collect Phantom Flowers. As long as they don't cost more than 5 Silver per stalk, buy as many as possible!"

An ordinary Guild City couldn't compare to the convenience of owning an Advanced Land in an NPC town or city. This was even true for Zero Wing City, which had a player population of over 10,000,000. No other Guild had built a Guild Auction House in an NPC town in the Purple Thorns Kingdom, and Shi Feng's success would attract a large number of players to Glory Town. Soon, the NPC town would see more player traffic than Zero Wing City, and almost every player that visited had done so specifically to use the Candlelight Auction House.

Melancholic Smile was dazed when she heard that the trade volume would increase by at least 70%. If it really were possible to secure so much income, they wouldn't have to worry about the new training ground's operation costs.

"Phantom Flowers? I'll have my people purchase them via Secret's channels," Melancholic Smile said after recovering from her shock.

"No! We cannot purchase the flower through Secret. I don't want to attract any unnecessary attention. Have people purchase the flowers from the various kingdoms and empires in secret, but try not to affect the market price," Shi Feng said.

Although the Phantom Flower wasn't particularly special, if Zero Wing purchased the flower in bulk through the Secret Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber's other members would notice. That could affect his plans to stockpile the Phantom Flowers. He was not willing to take such a risk.

"I understand. I'll have people collect Phantom Flowers in secret," Melancholic Smile said, understanding Shi Feng's intentions. She then disconnected the call and began to arrange the necessary manpower.

Meanwhile, a group of cloaked players had reserved a bar not far from the Candlelight Auction House and had settled in to observe the situation.

"Commander Irontooth, I've sent some players to investigate, but we haven't discovered how Zero Wing got permission to construct the Auction House. We only know that Zero Wing had dispatched a group of architects to construct it on that plot of Land," a masked, Level 58, Tier 2 Assassin reported. "Zero Wing has also constructed a Residence in the town. By the looks of it, the Guild plans to recruit members from Glory Town and begin its development in the kingdom from here."

"What an arrogant Guild! First, Zero Wing kills our Guild members, and now, it intends to start a Branch Guild in our kingdom? This is an insult to Sin Realm!" Rage flared within Irontooth as he listened to his subordinate's report.

"Commander, why don't we go and kill Ye Feng now?" a Level 58, Tier 2 Ranger suggested.

"No! We'll wait until he leaves Glory Town!" Irontooth growled, shaking his head. "Although Glory Town is only a town, it is a heavily fortified border town. Moreover, he must be aware that he has a tracking mark on him. He will expect an ambush and remain around a high number of NPCs. He might even have a bunch of companions with him. If we strike abruptly, we'll just end up like Crocodile Breaker."



“Right now, we need to wait! Once the tracking mark disappears, Ye Feng will sense it. He’ll think that he is free and will act more boldly. That will be the perfect time to take his life. Notify Feather Hunter and tell him to keep a close eye on Ye Feng!”

“Understood!”

The Tier 3 Tracking Scroll Crocodile Breaker had used was incredibly rare and effective, but it had an obvious flaw; the targeted player could perceive the mark. However, Sin Realm used such a Tracking Scroll for that reason, letting their prey know that they were being tracked and hunted. The Tracking Scroll was merely a distraction, a set-up for the true attack that would occur after the Death Mark disappeared.

Their killing move was a special Legacy Sin Realm had obtained-Covert Killer. Not only did the Covert Killer hidden class allow a player to track others without being detected, but it also allowed the player to land a fatal blow from an extremely long distance. The class was almost tailor-made for Rangers.

Sin Realm had nurtured a group of true tracking experts with this special Legacy. Feather Hunter was the best among the players that had obtained the Covert Killer hidden class.

While Sin Realm’s Feather Hunter watched his target, Shi Feng boldly left the Candlelight Auction House and headed for the trading firm a short distance away.

The Candlelight Trading Firm’s interior was finally complete. The first floor would be reserved for selling daily necessities, the second would sell valuable items Candlelight produced, and the third would contain workspaces and a warehouse.

The Shop was also fully staffed by NPCs and Candlelight members from White River City. Now, all that was left was the Shop’s grand openings.

Once Shi Feng entered the Candlelight Trading Firm, he instructed an NPC to purchase materials and focus on buying Phantom Flowers. The Guild members would be responsible for managing sales and producing items. With everything set up, Shi Feng's true purpose of setting up the trading firm in Glory Town should remain hidden.

I should head to the Icefire Mountain Range now. Shi Feng glanced at the time once he had settled his affairs in Glory Town. Since the tracking mark on him had disappeared some time ago, he decided that it was finally time to leave. He immediately donned his Black Cloak and snuck out of the town. He only called out his Mount and made his way towards the neutral map after he had put some distance between himself and Glory Town.

The moment Shi Feng left the town, Feather Hunter notified Irontooth of the development

"Commander Irontooth, Ye Feng has snuck out of Glory Town!" Feather Hunter reported as he watched the moving red dot on his system map.

"Good! He's finally getting impatient! Follow him closely! We'll head to your location immediately!" Irontooth said, laughing as he finished the beer in his hand.

## **Chapter 1997 – Ancient Stone Box**

Shi Feng headed south after leaving Glory Town.

"Is this guy insane? He's running out in the fields without a care!"

“What’s going on? Why haven’t the monsters noticed him?”

The players grinding in the fields were astonished as they watched Shi Feng brazenly charge through the wilderness. They were stunned further when they realized that the high-level monsters nearby completely ignored the Swordsman, while some actively avoided him.

After a short moment, Shi Feng vanished.

The players here have already gotten used to killing higher-leveled monsters? As Shi Feng rode through the wilderness on his Mount, he noticed many parties fighting in the wild. Seeing these elite players’ performance, he realized that they were slightly stronger than Star-Moon Kingdom’s elites.

The monsters these elite players faced were clearly Level 70 or higher. Not only did the monsters have an advantage in levels, but their Basic Attributes were also much higher. However, these elite players handled the monsters adeptly. They never tried to take the monsters head-on, sending the party’s MT to distract the target while evading the monsters’ attacks instead. Meanwhile, the party’s ranged players bombarded the monsters, slowly but surely whittling down the higher- leveled opponents.

While this combat method might seem simple, it was not easy to implement since the monsters in the area had considerably high combat standards. Including the Attribute differences, distracting these monsters without taking a hit would be very difficult for current MTs, much less doing so for a long period. Players’ combat standards would be tested here.

However, despite their excellent performances, the best these players could manage was grinding in Glory Town’s nearby maps. The farther they were from Glory Town, the stronger the monsters would be. Players would encounter more than just Special Elites and Chieftains; they’d also run into Lords and High Lords.

Even Level 60, Tier 2 experts would have to flee from Level 70-plus Lords and High Lords, not to mention Tier 1 players. Not only were these monsters' combat standards superior to Special Elites and Chieftains, but they also had an arsenal of Skills.

If Tier 2 experts were not careful, they could die in the blink of an eye.

Of course, these monsters were no trouble for Shi Feng. He had already reached Level 70 and could easily move through these Level 70-plus Lords and High Lords.

After over two hours of travel, Shi Feng finally arrived in an open gravel plain. An ancient altar, surrounded by stone pillars that formed a maze, stood in the center of the plain. Meanwhile, Level 75 and higher Elemental Creatures roamed the maze, the majority of which were Lord ranked monsters.

This was the Elemental Altar, the most famous location in Glory Town's map during Shi Feng's previous life.

Sure enough, no one has come this far yet. As Shi Feng arrived before the Elemental Altar and gazed upon the ancient, stone box upon it, he couldn't help but smile.

Any player that had wanted to travel to Thunder Axe City had almost always done so through Glory Town in the past, but by the time he had made it to the town, players had long since explored the area. Meanwhile, among the various locations found, players had talked about the Elemental Altar more than any other.

The altar had become such a hot topic due to the stone box enshrined on it. While the stone box might look ordinary, it contained an amazing treasure.

## The Sealing Stone!

Although the Sealing Stone was a one-time use tool, it had astounding power. When used, it could seal the strength of one monster, reducing its rank by one for three hours.

While this effect might not seem impressive, the Sealing Stone was even effective against Mythic monsters. The tool would reduce ordinary Mythic monsters to Grand Lord rank, and Mythic ranked Archaic Species would become as weak as ordinary Mythic monsters.

The player that had opened Thunder Axe City's entrance in the past had only succeeded due to this Sealing Stone. The Guardian Boss that protected the entrance would've been unbeatable for individual players at that time otherwise. As proof, many superpowers' apex experts had failed to unlock the neutral city.

Now that Shi Feng wanted to open Thunder Axe City, he had to get a Sealing Stone of his own.

However, opening the stone box was easier than said due to the Thunder Beast that guarded it.

[Thunder Beast] (Elemental Creature, Grand Lord) Level 77

HP 85,000,000/85,000,000

This Thunder Beast would be a challenge, and as more players gathered, it would become stronger. Unlike other Field Bosses, it would grow stronger once more than one hostile lifeform was within range.

If more than six lifeforms were nearby, the Thunder Beast would grow into a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species, and it would become as strong as Mythic monster

if more than 20 lifeforms were within range. Although it wouldn't grow past Mythic rank, its combat standards would skyrocket. The Thunder Beast would become impossible to defeat if more than 100 lifeforms were nearby.

Meanwhile, the lifeforms in question included summoned creatures and players' Personal Guards.

To make matters worse, the Thunder Beast would obtain more and higher quality Skills as more lifeforms entered its range of influence...

Because of this, the Thunder Beast had remained undefeated even after many Guild experts had reached Level 70 in the past. The Sealing Stone had only been discovered after a Level 75 peak expert had visited the Elemental Altar and defeated the Boss with special tools in hand.

Although Shi Feng had yet to reach Level 75, he had incredibly powerful outside help.

Following which, Shi Feng took out the Bible of Darkness and summoned a Level 85, Tier 3 Lava Demon. When the Lava Demon emerged, the surrounding temperature rose sharply due to the molten lava that covered its body, creating a natural domain. The Lava Demon was fond of melee combat, and while it might not be able to contend with a Grand Lord of the same level, it shouldn't have any issues against a Grand Lord eight levels lower with the Bible of Darkness's strengthening effects.

"Go!" Shi Feng commanded, gesturing at the Thunder Beast that slumbered beside the Elemental Altar.

The Lava Demon released a warcry before charging at the Thunder Beast, appearing before the Grand Lord in an instant and activating the Tier 3 Taboo Skill, Lava Claw. By the time the Thunder Beast woke from its slumber, the Lava Demon's claw had struck the monster's lightning-formed body.

Roar!

The Thunder Beast cried out in agony, instantly losing more than 2,000,000 HP. Due to Lava Claw's weakening effect, the Thunder Beast's Basic Attributes dropped by 10%, as well.

However, not one to be outdone, the Thunder Beast responded with a swipe of its tail, sending a whip of lightning at the Lava Demon.

Tier 3 Skill, Lightning Annihilation!

With just one swing of its tail, the Thunder Beast launched a lightning attack in a 100-yard cone. Even a Tier 2 MT of the same level with an active Lifesaving Skill would barely survive the attack if they were on the receiving end. Any other class would die.

Fortunately, the Skill was nothing to the Lava Demon. The summoned Demon only lost a little over 1,500,000 of its 24,000,000 HP.

Shi Feng finally made his move after the Lava Demon and Thunder Beast struggled against each other for some time. Activating Instant Strike, he appeared beside the Thunder Beast and bombarded the Grand Lord with his attacks.

Shadow Blade!

Purgatory Pentaslash!

Flame Burst!

Phantom Kill!

Shi Feng used one Skill after another, each hit dealing tens of thousands of damage, with some even dealing over -100,000. The Thunder Beast's HP began to plummet.

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

Since the Thunder Beast only had two opponents, Shi Feng and his Lava Demon, it could only use two of its Skills: the AOE Tier 3 Skill, Lighting Annihilation and the single-target Tier 3 Skill, Lightning Claw.

Against Shi Feng, a player with the Strength to rival a Great Lord of the same level, the Thunder Beast could only watch, helpless, as it continued to lose HP.

In the end, Shi Feng activated Divine Providence and landed the killing blow when the Thunder Beast's HP fell below 1%. The Grand Lord's body then dispersed as countless arcs of lightning, vanishing from the Elemental Altar...

**1998 Sin Realm**



## Chapter 1998 – Sin Realm So much EXP!

Shi Feng stared at his experience bar in astonishment. After the Thunder Beast had died, his experience bar had increased by 11%. If he were grinding normally, he'd need at least half a day to earn that much EXP, but he had gained so much after less than 20 minutes.

When he remembered that the Thunder Beast as a special Boss, so much EXP made sense.

If a 20-man team killed an ordinary Grand Lord of the same level, every member of the team would receive a significant amount of EXP. Not only was the Thunder Beast seven levels higher than Shi Feng, but he had also killed the Grand Lord without help, monopolizing the awarded EXP. It was only natural that he received so much. Any other Level 70 player would've likely gained enough EXP to fill 20% of their experience bar.

When the Thunder Beast had fallen, it had also dropped over 30 items, filling Shi Feng with delight.

Past Level 50, even ordinary Mythic Field Bosses only dropped around 30 to 40 items. Although he was responsible for the Thunder Beast's First Kill, 30 items were still impressive.

Meanwhile, over half of the items were materials, and all of them were unique materials from the Thunder Beast's body.

[Thunder Skin) (Epic Rank Material)

When producing leather armor, the Thunder Skin can be used to enhance the armor's Basic Attributes and grant Lightning Resistance.

[Thunder Claw] (Inferior Legendary Rank Material)

When added to a weapon's production process, the Thunder Claw increases the weapon's Attack Power and adds additional lightning-type damage.

All of the materials were unique items for tailoring, leatherworking, forging, alchemy, enchanting, and engineering. Every one of these items was incredibly valuable.

The Thunder Claw was just as valuable as an ordinary Epic Weapon since materials that altered a weapon's damage to lightning-type were particularly rare.

Any weapon that could use lightning would ignore a significant amount of Defense unless the target had very high Lightning Resistance, but equipment that provided that Resistance was just as rare.

Melee players in the past had dreamed of enlisting a Master Forger to create a custom weapon with lightning-type damage for them. With such a weapon, players would have a massive advantage when fighting monsters or players.

As expected of a Unique Boss. Its loot is amazing. Shi Feng's eyes glowed as he gazed at the weapons and equipment the Thunder Beast had dropped.

The Thunder Beast had dropped a total of seven weapons and equipment. Six pieces were Level 70 equipment, of which three were Fine-Gold rank, and three were Secret-Silver rank. Of the three Fine-

Gold Equipment pieces, one was a cloth chest piece, one was a pair of leather pants, and one was a pair of plate armor boots.

The Lightning Combat Boots pleased Shi Feng the most. Although the cloth armor and leather pants were good, they weren't quite as powerful as the boots.

Not only did the Lightning Combat Boots add 10 points of Lightning Resistance, but they also possessed a powerful Additional Active Skill called Lightning's Shadow. When activated, the Skill transformed the wearer into a streak of lightning for ten seconds. Players wouldn't be able to attack during this time, but they would move as fast as lightning. If the player attacked during the transformation, they'd revert to their original state. The Skill also had a 10-minute Cooldown.

This Skill would undoubtedly make up for a plate armor class's lack of mobility. Whether the player used the Skill to chase an opponent or flee, it would be exceptionally effective.

Moreover, the Lightning Combat Boots' Basic Attributes were even higher than those on the Level 60 Fine-Gold boots Shi Feng currently wore.

Without hesitation, Shi Feng switched his current boots for the Lightning Combat Boots, gaining more than 20 points to his Basic Attributes overall. Although the increase was minor, the additional Skill, which would drastically increase his survivability, was far more important.

Level 70 experts would covet the three pieces of Level 70 Secret-Silver Equipment since each item offered Lightning Resistance. Not only would the resistance protect the wearer from lightning-type damage, but they'd also have more defense against Skills and Spells that inflicted numbing effects. The three pieces were even more valuable than ordinary Level 70 Fine-Gold Equipment.

However, the weapon the Thunder Beast had dropped, an extremely rare Epic Growth-type Weapon, was even more impressive than the six pieces of equipment.

[Howling Thunder] (Throwing Weapon, Bronze Rank)

Equipment Requirement: Strength 1,000, Agility 900, and Tier 2.

Attack Power (Value is set at Player's Strength\*1.7)

Strength +36, Agility +27, Endurance +5 Attack Speed +4

Maximum throwing distance: 42 yards When attacking:

Ignore 20% of target's Defense;

Attack Speed increases by 12%;

20% chance to land a critical hit;

10% chance to trigger a knockback effect;

10% chance to trigger the Thundering Wind effect, increasing Attack Speed by 150% and ignoring Defense completely. Additional Skill 1-

Lightning Guidance: Deals 120% lightning damage every second for five seconds in a 10-yard radius around the targeted area. Can store to a maximum of three Lightning Guidance charges. Each charge has a two-minute Cooldown.

Additional Skill 2-

Sundering Thunder: Causes a Lightning Impact that carries 100% of user's Strength in a 30-yard cone.

Cooldown: 5 minutes

Upgrading this weapon requires a large amount of Mana. Can be upgraded to Epic rank at maximum. Currently Bronze rank. Requires 1,000 Magic Crystals to reach the Mysterious-Iron rank.

Throwing weapons were extremely rare in God's Domain, even more so than ornaments. They were also the only ranged attacks available to melee players. Moreover, throwing weapons were categorized by ranks, not levels. They were the only type of weapon that players could use throughout the entire game without becoming obsolete. Hence, every throwing weapon was worth a fortune.

In the past, most melee experts had still used Mysterious-Iron throwing weapons after reaching Level 100. Very few had acquired Secret-Silver or Fine-Gold throwing weapons, and only the most fortunate players had obtained Dark-Gold ranked throwing weapons.

Shi Feng hadn't switched to another throwing weapon since he had obtained the Blazing Meteor from Seliora. The Blazing Meteor would even be incredibly rare after players reached Level 200, after all.

Of course, he hadn't expected to get his hands on an Epic Growth-Type throwing weapon after killing the Thunder Beast. The Howling Thunder was even more valuable than ordinary Epic Weapons.

Shi Feng immediately began to upgrade the Howling Thunder since he had so many Magic Crystals on him at the moment.

After a short moment, Shi Feng had upgraded Howling Thunder to Dark-Gold rank. He would need 40,000 Magic Crystals to upgrade it to Epic rank, however, which was ten times more than upgrading it from Fine-Gold to Dark-Gold rank. Since he didn't have enough Magic Crystals for this final upgrade, he had no choice but to set the matter aside for now. Even so, the Dark-Gold ranked Howling Thunder had already surpassed Blazing Meteor's power, satisfying Shi Feng.

Shi Feng left the Elemental Altar after he replaced Blazing Meteor with Howling Thunder and retrieved the Sealing Stone from the ancient stone box.

However, as he was about to use the Seven Luminaries Ring to teleport to the Icefire Mountain Range, a gigantic magic array appeared above him, forming a magic barrier that enveloped the area around Shi Feng.

Once the barrier was complete, a group of players wearing Sin Realm's Guild Emblem emerged from the ground. A playful light flashed in their eyes as they turned to Shi Feng.

"Just as the Guild Leader guessed, you came to Glory Town for a quest! It's a pity your efforts will go to waste!" the tall, robust Irontooth said as he stepped out of the crowd. Smiling, he continued, "Now, are you going to hand over the item, or will we need to retrieve it from your corpse? Decide!"

## Chapter 1999 – Instant Kill

As Irontooth finished his question, the players around him burst into action. Wasting no time, these players formed a tight circle around Shi Feng.

The Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights stood at the forefront with their shields raised, followed by the Berserkers and Swordsmen who offered their MT companions support. The ranged DPS players and healers stood farther behind. Sin Realm's members left Shi Feng no room to flee.

Even if Shi Feng could tear through the encirclement and escape, the area had been sealed off with a magic barrier. He was trapped unless he could destroy it.

"Based on this pressure, you must have used an Intermediate Magic Array?" Shi Feng thought aloud as he glanced at the players channeling the array. This magic array had also reduced his Basic Attributes by 25%.

In God's Domain, magic array's suppression was far less effective against players than monsters, and the higher-tiered a player was, the weaker the suppression would be.

To rob a Tier 2 player of 25% of their Basic Attributes, one would need to use an Intermediate Magic Array at the very least.

"You've guessed correctly. This Earth's Wind is an Intermediate Magic Array, and even a Mythic monster would need some time to destroy it. While within the array, you won't be able to use Teleportation Spells or tools," Irontooth informed his prey, sneering. "We prepared this magic array for you specifically. Is it to your satisfaction?"

Earth's Wind was one of the few sets of Intermediate Magic Array Scrolls Sin Realm possessed. They had originally saved it to use against particularly powerful Field Bosses.

However, to ensure Shi Feng's death and teach Zero Wing a lesson, Lone Beacon had decided to send the Scrolls with Irontooth's party.

"You don't really think one Intermediate Magic Array is enough to take me down, do you?" Shi Feng calmly asked as he eyed the several hundred Sin Realm players before him.

Around 50 of these players were Tier 2 experts. The rest of them were only Tier 1 players. The strongest player among them was Irontooth, a mere Level 59, Tier 2 Shield Warrior, and Shi Feng could tell that his combat standards were not quite as powerful as Crocodile Breaker's. This man was only an ordinary Refinement Realm expert.

This team wasn't enough to deal with a peak expert head-on. Peak experts had exceedingly powerful Basic Attributes, and even if those Attributes had been reduced by 25%, they were still higher than ordinary Tier 2 experts'. Naturally, killing ordinary Tier 2 experts would be child's play; they'd only need a little more time to complete the task.

"Of course, a single Intermediate Magic Array and these ordinary experts won't be enough to deal with you," Irontooth said, smiling at Shi Feng. "But what if these experts have Violent Blood Potions?"

Earth's Wind would suppress Tier 2 experts' Basic Attributes by 25%, but a peak expert could still easily annihilate ordinary experts of the same level and tier while subjected to the array's effects. A 100-man team of ordinary Tier 2 experts still wouldn't be enough to take Shi Feng down. This team would need over a dozen Refinement Realm experts working together to have any chance of victory.



Although Sin Realm did not have that many Refinement Realm experts, it did have the extremely valuable Violent Blood Potions.

Sin Realm had gone to great lengths to obtain the recipe for this potion, and after consuming it, players would gain an additional 1,200 points to every Basic Attribute. Moreover, these Attribute Points would add to players' base Attributes. With their weapons and equipment's percentage modifiers, the potion's effects would be even greater. Meanwhile, the Violent Blood Potion had a 20-second duration and five-minute Cooldown.

An ordinary Tier 2 expert would instantly gain the combat power of peak experts after drinking the potion.

Unfortunately, the materials to produce the Violent Blood Potion were incredibly rare and valuable, and not even an Advanced Alchemist would have a high success rate when brewing it. To ensure Shi Feng's defeat, Irontooth had specifically received four Violent Blood Potions from the Guild.

With four peak experts and an Intermediate Magic Array's suppression, they could even kill a superpower's apex expert, much less Shi Feng.

When Irontooth had finished speaking, three Tier 2 experts near him took out their Violent Blood Potions and drank them. The intensity of the trio's auras instantly skyrocketed.

The three Tier 2 players in question were a Berserker, a Swordsman, and an Assassin. In this line-up, the Berserker would act as the MT, the Swordsman would offer support, and the Assassin would find the opportunity to land the final blow.

"Ye Feng, today, we will prove to you and Zero Wing that resisting an attack from Miracle doesn't mean that you can stand up to Sin Realm!" Irontooth bellowed as he pointed at Shi Feng. "Go! Kill this arrogant fool!"

The trio then advanced on Shi Feng. The Berserker used Charge, the Swordsman used Wind Blade, and the Assassin entered Stealth.

The Violent Blood Potion? Watching the approaching Berserker and Swordsman, Shi Feng retrieved Howling Thunder and

flicked it.

Sundering Thunder!

Countless arcs of lightning then surged forth.

Once Shi Feng had upgraded the throwing weapon to Dark-Gold rank, Howling Thunder's Skills had considerably improved. Now, Sundering Thunder could exert 180% of its user's Strength and covered a 45-yard cone. The attack's speed was also extraordinary.

The attack caught the charging trio off guard. The impact sent all three flying while their HPs rapidly decreased. The Sin Realm members that had stood behind the trio had suffered an even more tragic fate. The Tier 1 players within Sundering Thunder's range died instantly. Only Tier 2 players had survived the attack, although their HPs had fallen to a critical level.

While Sin Realm's players were stunned, Shi Feng took the opportunity to throw Howling Thunder a second time.

Lightning Guidance!

Suddenly, three arcs of lightning charred the ground beneath the three Tier 2 experts that had consumed the Violent Blood Potions. Numerous arcs of lightning then descended from the sky and bombarded the area around the trio.

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

Since Lightning Guidance was an AOE attack, players could only evade it by escaping its range. Meanwhile, numbed by Sundering Thunder's effects, the three Tier 2 experts had no hope of dodging out of Lightning Guidance's range before the Skill struck.

The expert trio lost their remaining HP to the Skill after three seconds. Not even the healers had time to save them as they lost tens of thousands of HP each second.

How is this possible? Irontooth paled when he saw the three Tier 2 experts' corpses.

Shi Feng had killed three players with the combat power to rival peak experts without much effort. Moreover, he had accomplished this feat while suppressed by an Intermediate Magic Array...

For a moment, Irontooth couldn't believe his eyes.

Shi Feng, however, wasn't particularly surprised by the outcome. Peak experts were considered such due to their ability to react to danger. Some peak experts could even predict an enemy's attack before the player launched it. While Sin Realm's expert trio had greater combat power than peak experts, their ability to react was no more impressive than an ordinary expert's. Furthermore, even with the additional 1,200 points to their Basic Attributes, they were still no match for Shi Feng's.

“Commander, what should we do?” a Tier 2 Assassin asked.

“As expected of Zero Wing’s Honorary Elder! I had considered giving you an easy death, but since you don’t appreciate my kindness, I’ll make you suffer!” Irontooth snarled. Gritting his teeth, he pulled the Steel Puppet from his bag.

## **Chapter 2000 – Combating the Steel Puppet**

The Steel Puppet stood eight meters tall and was comprised entirely of Fine Iron. It also wore thick, heavy, pitch-black armor. The Steel Puppet had two heads and four mechanical arms, each wielding a gigantic saber. Despite the Steel Puppet’s inactive state, it radiated a dreadful aura.

“The boss is finally getting serious!”

“Amazing! So, this is the Guild’s Steel Puppet?”

When they saw the colossal Steel Puppet, Sin Realm’s members recovered their senses. They no longer feared Shi Feng, but cheered with excitement.

A Steel Puppet? Shi Feng was quite surprised to see the massive construct.

Like the Guardian Puppet, the Steel Puppet was a Bronze Puppet with the Strength of an apex Tier 2 being. Its Defense was even greater than the Hell Tank's. Like the Hell Tank and other war weapons, Bronze Puppets didn't have HP, but durability. The Steel Puppet was capable of several times the Hell Tank's combat power, the perfect weapon to deal with players and take down buildings.

"Ye Feng, you should be pleased! You'll be this Steel Puppet's first victim!" Irontooth said, sneering as he sat in the Steel Puppet's control module.

This was the first time Sin Realm would use the Steel Puppet since obtaining it.

The Guild simply hadn't needed to use it yet.

Operating the Steel Puppet also cost a large number of Magic Crystals. Just to activate it, one needed to store 1,000 Magic Crystals within the Puppet. For every minute the Steel Puppet was operated, it would consume 50 crystals. In other words, the Steel Puppet could only operate for 20 minutes at full capacity. To make matters worse, using the Steel Puppet's Skills would cost additional Magic Crystals.

Sin Realm hadn't bothered to use the Puppet for these reasons, even when dealing with other Guilds.

Irontooth was only allowed to use the Steel Puppet now because Lone Beacon wanted to teach Zero Wing a lesson.

As Irontooth fell silent, he used the Steel Puppet to advance on Shi Feng.

The Steel Puppet's Movement Speed was extremely high, crossing 50 yards in less than two seconds. Upon arriving before Shi Feng, the Steel Puppet swung one of its sabers at the Swordsman.

Despite the attack's casual nature, its power was at the peak of Tier 3. The wind even howled as the saber soared towards Shi Feng.

So fast! Shi Feng immediately responded by swinging Killing Ray.

Boom!

With the sound of an explosion, the saber's trajectory altered, and it crashed into the ground beside the Swordsman, the impact tearing a 20-meter-long gash in the ground. Shi Feng instantly lost over 20,000 HP...

"You really are something to survive an attack like that! But how will you fare against four sabers?" Irontooth brandished his three remaining weapons after seeing his target only lose a small fraction of his HP.

Since a player controlled the Steel Puppet, all three sabers accurately flew towards Shi Feng's defensive blind spots.

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

As one slash after another descended, the blades devastated the ground around Shi Feng. The earth trembled violently under the resulting impacts, and some of Sin Realm's nearby players lost their footing.

The Steel Puppet's devastatingly destructive power stupefied Sin Realm's members.

Setting aside the Steel Puppet's Strength, its Attack Speed alone shocked many of the watching players. The sabers were far too quick, and even the Tier 2 players realized that they'd be hard-pressed to block a single strike. If they had to combat all three sabers simultaneously, they'd die on the spot

Once the dust settled, however, they were even more shocked.

Shi Feng still stood beside the Steel Puppet's swords. He hadn't died in the flurry of attacks, and this time, his HP was fully intact...

As expected of a Bronze Combat Puppet its combat power is amazing. The Hell Tank is nothing in comparison, Shi Feng thought as he looked at the deformed terrain around him. If he hadn't activated Power of Darkness in time, he would've likely lost more than half of his total HP.

Controlling a Combat Puppet was very similar to controlling a Divine Beast. Players essentially merged with the Combat Puppet, and although they couldn't control the Puppet as easily as they did their own bodies, executing simple attacks at maximum efficiency wouldn't be difficult

Moreover, a Bronze Combat Puppet's every attack contained the Strength and speed of Tier 2 at its peak. It was the equivalent of a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species. In addition, every attack a Combat Puppet executed would contain its full power, like a player at their peak. Even a Tier 3 expert would be at a disadvantage against a Bronze Combat Puppet with the same combat standard.

"A Berserk Skill? Do you think that can save you?" Irontooth sneered when he saw the black aura around Shi Feng. He then raised his four sabers and attacked again.

Although he couldn't control the Steel Puppet as nimbly as his own body, he was confident of defeating a real Tier 3 expert with the Puppet's Strength, speed, and four arms.

"We'll see about that!" Shi Feng brandished his two swords to meet the four sabers.

Sword's Orbit!

A galaxy of stars formed around Shi Feng, and he either blocked or deflected every attack Irontooth launched with the Steel Puppet

"How is this possible?! How is he keeping up with the Steel Puppet?!" Sin Realm's members watched the battle with dropped jaws as the Steel Puppet was rendered ineffective against Shi Feng.

However, none of them knew that Shi Feng's Attributes could normally rival a Great Lord's of the same level. After using Power of Darkness, his Strength was as high as an ordinary Grand Lord's under the Intermediate Magic Array's suppression. He was also as fast as a Tier 3 player of the same level. Hence, the Steel Puppet's Basic Attributes were only slightly higher than his, and Shi Feng could easily make up for the gap with his techniques.

He's actually so strong? Irontooth's expression darkened when he realized that he couldn't gain any ground against Shi Feng.

He had never thought that this Swordman's Attributes were so high that they could rival the Steel Puppet's.



After trading blows for a short moment, Shi Feng lost interest in passively defending himself. He started to find opportunities to attack the Steel Puppet.

Dang! Dang! Dang!

Dazzling sparks filled the air as Shi Feng's swords stabbed and slashed at the Puppet, but despite taking multiple attacks, there wasn't a single mark on the Puppet's armor.

"It's useless! Even if you have heaven-defying Basic Attributes, they are nothing before the Steel Puppet's Defense! I want to see just how long your Berserk Skill will keep you alive!" Irontooth growled, sneering.

He was fully confident in the Steel Puppet's Defense, which had Tier 3 defensive capabilities. Only a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species' attacks could reduce its durability. Ordinary Grand Lords would only accomplish the feat if they used particularly powerful Skills.

"Is that so?"

Shi Feng chuckled. He then activated Blade Liberation and slashed at the Puppet again.

Hua!

Suddenly, a visible tear appeared on the Steel Puppet's armor...

