

The Strongest

Chapter 201 - Scripture's Might

Hearing Ling Feilong attempt to fawn over him and his respectful attitude while doing so, Shi Feng couldn't help but sigh.

The shoe was on the other foot now!

Fate truly knew how to toy with people.

Judging from Ling Feilong's tone, Shi Feng could discern that Ling Feilong intended to ride on his coattails.

"If you wish to recruit me, tell me what sort of benefits you plan to offer first," Shi Feng calmly asked.

"Brother expert, I guarantee that you'll be satisfied. As long as you join Shadow, you'll immediately become an elder of the Guild. Moreover, our Guild has a large backing behind us, and we have plenty of funding, so we can temporarily set your annual salary at one million Credits. In addition, we'll give you 10% of Shadow's shares. I think you should know the value of Guild shares, right? As long as Shadow rises to glory in the future, this 10% will far exceed tens of millions of Credits. No other Guild can offer you this kind of treatment," Ling Feilong explained, very satisfied with himself. His words even moved his own heart.

That was 10% of the Guild's shares!

Right now, all of the Guilds out there only offered high annual salaries when recruiting an expert; none of them would willingly hand over a portion of the Guild's shares. Along with a Guild's growth, the value of its shares would continuously rise. In addition to God's Domain's growth potential, if Shadow properly developed as time went on, this 10% could represent billions of Credits or more. Hence, all the large Guilds would not simply offer their shares, and instead, choose the wise decision of offering a static salary.

"Who's making this promise?" Shi Feng was slightly bewildered. He did not think that Shadow would be so decisive in their actions.

In Shi Feng's previous life, although he was the Guild Leader of Shadow, he did not possess any shares of the Guild. However, Shi Feng had only recently become the Guild Leader at that time, so he did not put too much thought into the matter. In the end, the Guild kicked him out. One could say that the shares of a Guild were the true proof of one's authority. If Shi Feng had 10% of the Guild's shares at that time, Lan Hailong would not have dared to casually expel him from the Guild and sever all connections with him.

"Our Guild Leader made this promise. Of course, with your strength, the position of Guild Leader will doubtlessly be yours in the future," Ling Feilong unwaveringly started flattering Shi Feng.

"Oh? Very well," Shi Feng calmly laughed. He then, with a tone as cold as ice, arrogantly said, "Return and tell your Guild Leader this; if you want me to join Shadow, then I want 60% of the Guild's shares and the position of Guild Leader. Otherwise, there's no deal."

Finished speaking, Shi Feng disconnected the call.

Of course, he only said those words as a joke to toy with Ling Feilong. Even if Shadow were willing to hand over 100% of its shares, Shi Feng would still reject the offer without hesitation. He swore that would never again wear the hateful name of Shadow.

He simply said those words because he knew that Ling Feilong, Zhang Luowei, and Lan Hailong could never truly agree to such a request. After all, with 60% of the Guild's shares, Shi Feng would become the head honcho of Shadow; his word would be final. Whether it was Zhang Luowei or Lan Hailong, neither could endure being a subordinate of someone else.

“Such a domineering tone! No wonder he could force Martial Union, who is even stronger than Shadow, to take a huge loss. Unfortunately, he isn't a broad-minded person. If he had accepted the offer, based on the strength he possessed, he could have easily become the Shadow's true boss in the future if he wanted to.” Although Ling Feilong admired Shi Feng, he sneered disdainfully as he determined Shi Feng to be a boorish fellow. Yet, without a backer to rely on, it was impossible for Ling Feilong to climb further up the ranks of Shadow. Zhang Luowei trusted Zhou Yuhu much more than Ling Feilong. Ling Feilong was simply an elite member of the Guild in Zhang Luowei's eyes. So, it was imperative that Ling Feilong looked for a reliable backer. Meanwhile, a boor like Shi Feng couldn't be a better backer. Although 60% of the total shares seemed a little high, if Ling Feilong expended a lot of effort, it was not an impossible number to accomplish. “It seems that I'll have to rearrange his words before reporting back to Brother Zhang and Brother Lan.”

At this moment, Shi Feng would have never imagined that his casual remark meant to anger Lan Hailong and Zhang Luowei would become Ling Feilong's new goal.

Inside the Flame God's Cave, Shi Feng took out one of the Flaming Sun Scriptures from his bag. He then opened the book, reading the incantations inside.

All of a sudden, the Flaming Sun Scripture ignited, emitting dazzling golden flames. As if the fire-type mana within the Flame God's Cave had transformed into soldiers, it all charged towards the golden flame, submitting to it. The golden flame was like an emperor among flames.

In reality, it wasn't just the fire-type mana that was affected. Even Shi Feng's Ice-Blue Devil Flame felt restless, giving off the notion of submission.

Just what kind of flame is it? Shi Feng looked at the bundle of golden flame; his heart filled with curiosity. To cause even the Tier 2 Ice-Blue Devil Flame to submit, if this flame had a rank, I wonder what tier it belonged to? It should be at least Tier 3, possibly Tier 4. If Shi Feng could absorb this bundle of golden flame, his strength might rise to a whole new level.

Unfortunately, this flame was not a Mysterious Flame, so Shi Feng had no way of absorbing it.

After a minute passed, the golden flame sank into Shi Feng's body after it absorbed a sufficient amount of fire-type mana. Instantly, a new status effect appeared on Shi Feng's status bar.

[Flaming Sun's Blessing]

Increases Fire Resistance by 100 points and reduces damage from fire-type attacks by 90%. All fire-type damage received has a 20% chance to recover an equivalent amount of HP. Damage dealt towards fire-type monsters increased by 100%. Duration of two hours.

Effective only within the Flame God's Cave.

In reality, the Flaming Sun Scripture's original purpose was simply for the convenience of players when grinding in a hot environment. However, when used inside the Flame God's Cave, where the density of fire-type mana was extremely high, its effects increased by manyfold. Hence why the Ranger in Shi Feng's previous life was able to solo the Elite monsters and Chieftain ranked Bosses here.

To begin with, Shi Feng already had 20 points of Fire Resistance. Now that he gained an additional 100 points, normal fire attacks would only be an itch to him. Not to mention, there was also the 90% damage reduction to fire-type attacks. This increase was just too awesome.

With the Flaming Sun's Blessing, Shi Feng boldly advanced deeper into the Flame God's Cave.

There were multiple pathways in the Flame God's Cave, and it was extremely spacious. Players could easily get lost in the cave. This, however, was not a problem for Shi Feng. The Flame God's Cave was like his own backyard, and very quickly, he located a lone Level 25 Lava Hound lying on solidified, blackened lava.

[Lava Hound] (Common Monster)

Level 25

HP 5,400/5,400

The Lava Hound was several sizes larger compared to a normal lion. Its entire body emitted red flames; its skin was a dark yellow, and it had a pair of large, crimson eyes. Detecting Shi Feng's presence, the Lava Hound abruptly stood; its blood-red eyes glared at Shi Feng as it let out a low, angry growl. The Lava Hound's sharp claws easily shattered a chunk of charred rock.

Just as Shi Feng unsheathed the Abyssal Blade and Silver Lake, the Lava Hound spat a mouthful of flames at Shi Feng.

Without holding anything back, Shi Feng activated the Ice-Blue Devil Flame, covering his entire body with a deep-blue flame. He then charged at the ball of flames head-on.

The Lava Hound's attack could originally devour close to half of the HP of an MT of the same level. However, when struck Shi Feng, the attack merely caused around -10 points of damage. The damage the Lava Hound's attack dealt was even less than the attacks of a Level 10 Common monster.

As expected, with 120 points of Fire Resistance, my resistance has reached extraordinary levels. Finished experimenting with his durability, Shi Feng arrived in front of the Lava Hound and sent a Chop slashing at its nape, drawing a pool of piping-hot blood. A damage of -345 points appeared above the Lava Hound's head. The damage was barely within Shi Feng's acceptable range.

Moreover, due to the Lava Hound being 11 Levels higher than himself, Shi Feng's Skill Proficiency also soared with lightning speed. Every usage netted him 3 Proficiency points.

Although the Lava Hound was powerful, Shi Feng only needed to take note of its AOE skills like the Flame Breath and Flame Explosion. Without the threat of these powerful skills, Shi Feng only needed to deal with the Lava Hound's sharp claws. With Shi Feng's extraordinary evasive techniques, in addition to his very high Agility, he could easily dodge the attacks from the Lava Hound's sharp claws.

Before even a minute had passed, Shi Feng had killed the Level 25 Lava Hound, the monster leaving behind a Flame Crystal and several Copper Coins after it died.

System: Level 25 Lava Hound killed. Level difference of 11. EXP obtained increased by 1,100%. Obtained 16,500 EXP.

Within the brightly lit Flame God's Cave, Shi Feng advanced further into the cave relentlessly.

The Lava Hound he previously killed had raised his Skill Proficiencies by quite a bit. However, that was it. In contrast, the EXP the Level 25 Lava Hound gave was much less.

However, this was not strange.

After all, the monsters within the Flame God's Cave had both high Attack Power and HP but gave out very little EXP. Under normal circumstances, average players would not grind here at all. However, it was a different story once players had the Flaming Sun Scripture. With it, they could easily deal with the monsters in the Flame God's Cave. Moreover, the monsters here dropped Flame Crystals.

Flame Crystals were the main materials used for crafting Basic Fire Resistance Potions.

By the time the majority of players reached levels between 20 to 30, they would discover that most Party and Team Dungeons required a high Fire Resistance. Otherwise, they would have no way of raiding these Dungeons. The Level 25 large-scale Team Dungeon, the Flame Nest, for example; without Basic Fire Resistance Potions, players would have absolutely no way of conquering it. Yet, this Team Dungeon had loads of good equipment and items in it. Moreover, out of all the Level 25 Dungeons, the Flame Nest gave out the most Guild Reputation. Most importantly, there was a very small chance for players to obtain a Guild Mine Certificate and Guild Medicine Garden Certificate from the Dungeon.

These were both items that could allow a Guild to develop itself further.

Normally, only Guilds with their own Guild Residence would be considered true Guilds. Meanwhile, players could establish certain constructs within the Guild Residence to further aid in the Guild's development. Among these facilities, two of the most important constructs were the Medicine Garden

and Mine. These two constructs could provide the Guild with a fixed amount of herbs and ore on a daily basis, and it could greatly reduce the Guild's burden. It could also allow Potionmakers and Forgers to have sufficient resources to increase their Lifestyle Skill Proficiencies.

Hence, as long as it was a Guild that possessed their own Guild Residence, they would unhesitatingly raid the Flame Nest regardless of the price they had to pay to obtain these two certificates.

As such, plenty of Guilds had tried to raid the Flame Nest when their players reached between 20 and 30 Levels, causing the Basic Fire Resistance Potion to become a high-demand product.

Even until now, Shi Feng had remembered that the Basic Fire Resistance Potions at that time had sold for 50 Silver Coins per bottle. Meanwhile, a single Flame Crystal sold for 15 Silver Coins. Thus, even at the cost of three to four Gold Coins, players would willingly purchase the Flaming Sun Scripture. After all, they could easily obtain 25 to 30 Flame Crystals by grinding the Flame God's Cave for two hours.

In the Flame God's Cave, a Common ranked Lava Hound had a 3% chance of dropping a Flame Crystal, three times higher than the drop rate of fire-type monsters outside. Meanwhile, the Level 25 Elite monsters in the Flame God's Cave had a 100% chance to drop one Flame Crystal and a 10% chance to drop two Flame Crystals. Of course, these monsters would also drop equipment.

As for Level 25 Special Elites, they had a 100% chance of dropping two Flame Crystals, a 20% chance to drop four Flame Crystals, and a 10% chance to drop five to seven Flame Crystals.

Level 25 Chieftain Bosses were even more rewarding. They had a 100% chance to drop 10 Flame Crystals, a 30% chance to drop 13 pieces of Flame Crystals, and 20% chance to drop 20 to 25 Flame Crystals. Players could easily earn up to 2 Gold Coins by killing a single Chieftain Boss. Not to mention, these Bosses also dropped equipment and tools.

Shi Feng continuously killed lone Level 25 Lava Hounds as he advanced further into the depths of the Flame God's Cave. Even when he met two Lava Hounds at the same time, he still easily dealt with them. Only, more time was necessary.

The Flame Breath of the Lava Hounds could be easily dodged. Players only needed to take note of the Lava Hound's throat. When its throat glowed and gave off the color of fire, it was about to spit out flames. However, the damage of this move was only a small matter to Shi Feng; it dealt about only -100 damage in total to Shi Feng.

As for the Lava Hound's other skill, Flame Explosion, it could cause extremely high flame damage to all enemies within an 8-yard radius.

Without 120 points in Fire Resistance and 90% damage reduction to fire-type attacks, MTs of the same level would instantly lose three-fourths of their HP to this single attack. However, the Lava Hound's actions were obvious before it would cast this skill. It would raise its claws high, then slam them on the ground, creating an explosion of flames. However, the skill's effective range was wide, making it extremely hard to avoid. It was practically a sure-hit skill.

Fortunately, Shi Feng's Fire Resistance was extremely high, and he would, at most, receive around -100 damage from the Lava Hound's Flame Explosion. Shi Feng had over 1,800 HP, so this damage was not significant.

Another hour or so passed by, and Shi Feng finally arrived at the core area of the Flame God's Cave. On his way here, Shi Feng had killed many Lava Hounds, and due to the Luck +3 provided by the Shadow's Blessing he wore, he obtained a bountiful number of Flame Crystals. He could get one Flame Crystal for every half a dozen or so Lava Hounds he killed.

Throughout his journey, Shi Feng had killed over 40 Lava Hounds, and obtained a total of eight Flame Crystals. His experience had also risen to 37% of Level 14; his leveling speed could already be described as flying. His skills, Chop, Thundering Flash, and Thunder Flame Explosion, also rose to Level 7, Level 5, and Level 3 respectively. If including the upgrade provided by the Abyssal Blade, these skills would be Level 10, Level 8, and Level 6 respectively. These improvements had pushed Shi Feng's damage output

to a whole new level once more. Unfortunately, the Lava Hounds Shi Feng killed did not drop any equipment; the same went for the Forging Designs that Shi Feng most desired.

The core area Shi Feng had reached was a large, empty lava field; molten lava flowed throughout the surroundings. At the highest point of the empty field sat plenty of bright crystals reflecting the glow of the lava into the surroundings, illuminating the spacious and empty field. The cooled accumulation of lava formed the land here. This place was more like a swamp than a durable stone road, and players would find it very hard to transverse across this lava field. A single misstep would instantly lead to players fall into a pit of molten lava. If players did not possess a definite control over their own bodies, they would find themselves at a serious disadvantage when battling here.

Meanwhile, on the empty land a short distance away, Shi Feng discovered plenty of Level 25 Elite Flame Naga silently guarding. Occasionally, he could also spot a few Level 25 Special Elite Flame Naga Warriors. Compared to the Lava Hound, these monsters possessed much more intelligence. Aside from attacking with flames, they could also deal a substantial amount of physical damage. These monsters also had exceptionally fast reactions, especially the Flame Naga Warriors. These warriors wore armor and wielded a shield in one of their hands. They were practically Shield Warriors, and players would find them extremely difficult to deal with.

[Flame Naga] (Elite Rank)

Level 25

HP 20,000/20,000

[Flame Naga Warrior] (Special Elite)

Level 25

HP 50,000/50,000

Soon after, Shi Feng lifted his head and shifted his gaze towards the distant central region of this lava field.

Due to the long distance, Shi Feng had to squint and focus his eyes for quite some time. Only after activating his Extraordinary Vision could he discover a beautiful figure laying atop a stone altar.

That was a Lamia. Unlike her Naga brethren, who possessed the heads and faces of a snake, although the lower half of this Lamia body was a snake's tail, her upper body was that of a human's. This Lamia possessed beauty that even women would envy. Her eyes were like red gemstones, giving off a dazzling glow. Her lustrous and seductive black hair was tied into twin ponytails. Exposed to the light of the flames, her delicate white skin shone like supple white jade.

The most attractive parts of this Lamia were her elegant temperament and her exotic beauty. The bright silken blouse she wore was especially eye-catching, as it served to accentuate her delicate body and ample breasts further. Just a glance at this Lamia would easily captivate any intruder.

It was truly hard to imagine that this delicate and beautiful Lamia was the Scorching Lamia Cela, the Level 25 High Lord ranked Boss of the Flame God's Cave.

"Sure enough, the benefits of pioneering a new land are plentiful; I have already found a High Lord rank on this first trip."

In Shi Feng's previous life, most of the Bosses Shi Feng had met were Chieftain rank, and only rarely could he meet a Lord ranked Boss. Only with superb luck could one find a Lord ranked Boss.

Shi Feng's eyes shone as he gazed at Scorching Lamia Cela's attractive appearance; his breathing became slightly hurried. He also grew excited, a never-before-seen resplendent smile appearing on his calm face.

Of course, Shi Feng wasn't captivated by Cela's beauty, but the bountiful wealth that a High Lord ranked Boss represented. Not to mention, Cela was the High Lord of the Flame God's Cave. If he could kill her, he wondered just how much EXP and high-level items and equipment he could obtain.

If Blackie and the others knew Shi Feng's current thoughts and appearance, they would definitely curse Shi Feng for being inhuman. Not sparing even a weak and delicate Lamia, Shi Feng was practically a beast...

Chapter 203 - Scorching Heart

Molten lava slowly flowed across the vast, empty field. Meanwhile, the Scorching Lamia Cela paid no particular attention to the intruder, Shi Feng. She simply swished her tail, slithering to a pool of lava. With a splash, Cela dove straight into the scorching pool, frolicking with a content expression.

If a normal player copied Cela's actions and jumped into the lava pool, they could lose their lives in a given minute. Even if they activated the Flaming Sun's Blessing and received an additional 100 points to their Fire Resistance, they would still lose 300 HP every second they submerged in the lava pool.

Taking a good, long look, Shi Feng finally decided upon a plan.

[Scorching Lamia Cela] (High Lord Rank)

Level 25

HP 500,000/500,000

A Lord ranked Boss was not as easy to deal with as a Chieftain ranked Boss. If it were a Level 25 Lord ranked Boss, not to mention a 20-man elite team, even a 100-man elite-team would still die at the Boss's hands.

A Lord ranked Boss was simply too powerful. The only way to kill these Bosses was to gather thousands of players and use the advantage of numbers to exhaust these Bosses to death slowly. Other than that, there was no other way around it.

Meanwhile, the Scorching Lamia, who bathed in the lava pool, was even more intimidating than a normal Lord ranked Boss. Without the Flaming Sun Scripture, even thousands of players would have zero chances of defeating Cela.

On the other hand, Shi Feng had a method of dealing with the Scorching Lamia. However, he first needed to clear out the surrounding Elite and Special Elite monsters. Otherwise, he would be similarly helpless against the Scorching Lamia.

Let's first lure them slowly and clear them, bit by bit. Shi Feng then randomly looked for a solitary Flame Naga, boldly walking over to it. He did not intend to use any special means to lure these monsters.

As Shi Feng was only Level 14 right now, when faced with Level 25 elites, these Elites would all charge at him in a craze as long as he came within 40 yards.

Hence, he still needed to apply some techniques to lure only one Flame Naga.

Be it a snake-type monster or a Naga, both were innately born with exceptional hearing. Hence, players needed to be light on their feet when approaching these Naga. If players made even the tiniest disturbance, they would find only their own deaths.

Shi Feng walked with a strong and steady pace atop the soft and unstable ground, and with relative ease, he attracted the attention of a Flame Naga. Immediately, Shi Feng watched as the Flame Naga charged at him like a madman.

“Come, come!” Seeing that the Naga had taken the bait, Shi Feng faintly smiled as he spun around and ran towards a distant rock cliff.

The Flame Naga was well versed in close combat. Meanwhile, its only ranged attack was the Raging Flame Roar, and it belonged to the category of channeling spells. The skill had an effective area of 40*4 yards, and it needed 3 seconds to channel the skill fully. However, this skill did not pose any threat to Shi Feng. On the contrary, melee combat with the Flame Naga was much more difficult.

As the chase continued, although the Flame Naga was fast, Shi Feng was not any slower than it either. The moment Shi Feng arrived in front the rock cliff, with no further paths of retreat remaining, Shi Feng started climbing up the extremely steep cliff with great ease. When he arrived at the top of the cliff, he stuck out his tongue at the creature as he silently looked down at the Flame Naga.

The Flame Naga was further incensed by Shi Feng’s blatant provocation, and it, too, started frantically climbing the cliff.

Although Shi Feng was not a ranged class, and he could not kite the Flame Naga, melee battle the Flame Naga was simply too dangerous. If Shi Feng was slightly careless, the Flame Naga could kill him with just two moves. Hence, Shi Feng intended to fight from a range.

Seeing that the Flame Naga was about to climb the cliff, Shi Feng took out a Basic Frost Grenade from his bag. He then threw it at the Flame Naga.

Peng! Ice fragments scattered, and cold air spread out to the surroundings.

The Flame Naga instantly froze. Due to the Flame Naga's fear of the cold, the Basic Frost Grenade managed to deal -300 damage to it. However, the Flame Naga possessed 20,000 HP, so this small amount of damage barely made a scratch.

Frozen halfway through its climb up the rock cliff, the Flame Naga's immobile body fell. Two stones, protruding from the rock wall, halted the serpentine beast's fall, sandwiching the Flame Naga's body between the rocks as it hung halfway up the cliff. Be it attacking or dodging, the Flame Naga would find it extremely challenging to do either from its current position. It could not even carry out the simple action of turning its own body right now.

Shi Feng smiled at this sight. He jumped down from his elevated position, landing on one of the stones trapping his opponent. He then started attacking the Flame Naga from behind.

It was extremely easy to kill a Flame Naga that had zero means of retaliating.

Shi Feng sent a Level 10 Chop slashing at the Flame Naga's back, earning him a scream of pain coupled with a damage of -168 above the monster's head. Shi Feng couldn't help but admit that a Level 25 Elite was truly amazing. With the level suppression, in addition to the Flame Naga's superior Defense, his attack could not even deal -200 damage even with the damage multiplier from the Flaming Sun Scripture.

Immediately after, Shi Feng followed up with Thundering Flash, Earth Splitter, Double Chop, and Thunder Flame Explosion.

A series of damages appeared above the Flame Naga's head. However, even with the damage amplification effect inflicted by Thundering Flash, the highest damage Shi Feng had dealt with a single attack was barely over -200 points. Though there was the occasional critical hit of over -400 damage, the Flame Naga had a total of 20,000 HP. Aside from Shi Feng's skills being capable of causing more than -100 damage to the Flame Naga, his normal attacks could not deal over -50 damage. Moreover, Shi Feng had activated the Ice-Blue Devil Flame's effect before his attacks.

Seeing as the freezing effect was about to end, Shi Feng threw another Basic Frost Grenade at the Flame Naga, freezing his target once more. He then resumed his barrage of attacks.

Although the Flame Naga had relatively fast regeneration, neither was the damage Shi Feng was causing to it a small amount.

Two minutes later, the Flame Naga's HP finally fell to 20%. Simultaneously, the Flame Naga released a fierce roar. Flames covered its entire body, and shortly after, its body started trembling.

Shi Feng had long since been prepared for it. Immediately, he hid behind the corner of a rock.

Boom!

Countless flying flame-blades shot out from the Flame Naga's body. These flame blades were the beast's scales, and their appearance signaled its ultimate move, Flame Bullets. The damage these Flame Bullets

dealt was a combination of physical and fire-type damage. With Shi Feng's current HP that was slightly over 1,800 points, these bullets could instantly send him into a critical condition.

However, with the iron-like rock blocking these blades for him, Shi Feng received no damage at all.

After the waves of Flame Bullets ended, Shi Feng threw out another Frost Grenade before resuming his attack.

In the end, Shi Feng killed the Level 25 Flame Naga with relative ease.

The instant the Flame Naga died, Shi Feng's experience bar increased by a small portion. Shi Feng was already Level 14, and he needed an extremely large amount of EXP to reach Level 15. His experience bar rising by a noticeable chunk showed just how bountiful the EXP the Flame Naga provided was.

The Flame Naga also dropped two Flame Crystals, one Bronze Ornament, and tens of Copper Coins.

Ornaments were the rarest of all equipment. Compared to jewelry such as rings and necklaces, ornaments were far more valuable. In God's Domain, every player could equip three ornaments at most. As of this moment, however, Shi Feng's ornament window was still a big, empty space. He truly did not imagine that he would inadvertently obtain a Bronze Ornament. His luck was simply too good.

[Scorching Heart] (Ornament, Bronze Rank)

Equipment Requirement: Strength 80

Strength +10, Agility +10, Endurance +10

Fire Resistance +3

Can be activated to cast a Tier 2 Flame Shield that can absorb a maximum of 1,000 flame damage.

Although this ornament did not offer a large increase to his Attributes, ornaments that could increase one's resistances were extremely rare. Every such ornament was valued at 6 Gold Coins or more.

"This is too great! I'm now Level 14, and I have 114 points in Strength and 131 points in Agility. If I equip this Scorching Heart, it will increase both my Strength and Agility by 10 points, just enough for me to meet the requirements of 120 points in Strength and 140 points in Agility for the Blazing Meteor!" Shi Feng was ecstatic as he held the flame-red-colored Scorching Heart.

Shi Feng did not think that he could equip the Pseudo-extraordinary Weapon within such a short period after obtaining it. If he could equip the Blazing Meteor right now, his strength would definitely receive an explosive increase. He might even reach the standards of an official Tier 1 Swordsman.

Chapter 204 - Battle Prowess of a Tier 1

If he could increase his strength to the standards of a Tier 1 Swordsman, he could easily deal with the High Lord ranked Scorching Lamia.

The Scorching Lamia had 500,000 HP. Possessing the superior battle recovery of a High Lord ranked Boss, the Scorching Lamia could recover 10,000 HP every five seconds. If players did not possess a DPS[1] of 2,000, Cela was, essentially, invincible.

This was one the reasons even an elite team of hundreds of players could not exhaust a High Lord to death.

Not to mention, the Scorching Lamia possessed frightening attacks and overly powerful skills.

If players wanted to raid Cela head-on, it would be no different than seeking their own deaths even with a team of thousands of players.

However, it would be a different story if they possessed the Flaming Sun Scripture.

Previously, before Shi Feng obtained the Scorching Heart, he had close to no confidence of successfully soloing the Scorching Lamia. He merely thought of giving it a try. In any case, he would not incur a huge loss. However, he now had some confidence in actually killing Cela.

Although Shi Feng had never experienced the might of a Pseudo-extraordinary Weapon, according to Shi Feng's estimates, it should grant him the strength of an official Tier 1 Swordsman.

Immediately, Shi Feng retrieved the Pseudo-extraordinary Weapon, the Blazing Meteor, from his bag, equipping it on himself.

[Blazing Meteor] (Throwing Weapon, Dark-Gold Rank)

Equipment Requirement: Strength 120, Agility 140

Attack Power (Value is set at Player's Strength*2)

Strength +50, Agility +65, Endurance +10

Attack Speed +5

Maximum throwing distance: 45 yards

Ignore Levels +8

Attack Speed increased by 15%

When attacking:

35% chance to ignore target's Defense.

30% chance to activate Quadruple Phantom effect, each phantom causing 50% flame damage.

10% chance to activate Knockback effect.

5% chance to activate Burning Flames effect, dealing 200 flame damage to the target every second for 10 seconds. Stacks up to 5 times.

Additional Skill: Flame God's Fury. Deals physical and flame damage to enemies within a 40*3 yard area. Deals 900% damage to the initial target, and damage reduces by 10% with each consecutive enemy hit to a minimum of 500% damage.

Cooldown: 3 minutes

The Blazing Meteor was forged by the Grandmaster Forger, Seliora. Due to the limit of its materials, it is only a Pseudo-extraordinary item possessing strength at the very limit of mortal men. The Blazing Meteor can be reforged into an Epic Ranked item after gathering Epic ranked fire-type materials.

User restriction: Ye Feng

Unable to be dropped.

Unable to be traded.

After equipping it, Shi Feng's Attributes instantly soared. His Strength reached 174 points, while Agility reached 206 points. He was only a few Attribute points away from being able to equip the Fragmented-Legendary ranked item, the Heavenly Dragon's Breath, which required 200 points in Strength and 120 points in Intelligence.

With the improvements provided by the Pseudo-extraordinary Weapon, Shi Feng's Attack Power with throwing weapons increased to 696 points, while his melee Attack Power with his right and left hand were 444 and 426 respectively. The base damage for his ranged attacks far surpassed his melee attacks. In addition, due to the Blazing Meteor ignoring +8 Levels, Shi Feng would no longer face any level suppressions, which would greatly reduce his damage, when dealing with Level 25 monsters.

As Shi Feng's Agility Attribute reached 200 points, he once again activated one of the Hidden Passive Skills, Basic Disappearance. The passive skill increased Shi Feng's Movement Speed and Attack Speed by 20% and greatly decreased his stamina consumption during a battle. When he tread water, he could travel a distance of 10 yards with a single leap. His evasion also increased by 10%.

With such a boost, Shi Feng's confidence increased once more.

"I can start clearing the place now," Shi Feng shifted his gaze towards the distant Elites and Special Elites.

Since his ranged attacks were more impressive than his melee attacks now, he would naturally avoid using his previous, inefficient battle techniques. He could simply copy the Ranger in his previous life, using the basic kiting method to kill these Naga. That way, not only would the battle be swift, but he could also guarantee his own safety.

At a spot 43 yards away, two Level 25 Elite Flame Naga and one Special Elite Flame Naga Warrior currently conversed with each other in soft tones. None of them had noticed Shi Feng's presence. In contrast, Shi Feng, currently covered in deep-blue flames, retrieved the flame-red, thin, needle-like Blazing Meteor from his waist. He aimed the Blazing Meteor at the Flame Naga Warrior standing between the other two Flame Naga, initiating his attack.

Xiu! The Blazing Meteor shot through the air, transforming into a meteor and instantly piercing the Flame Naga Warrior's forehead. Simultaneously, the Ignore Target's Defense effect and Quadruple Phantom effect both triggered upon impact.

Before that Flame Naga Warrior could even manage a scream, -1526, -758, -758, -758 appeared above its head.

Even Shi Feng dared not believe his own eyes right now. Although he had the support of the Flaming Sun Scripture, the might of this single attack was still too powerful. A single, normal attack had destroyed over 4,500 HP from the Flame Naga Warrior, which was close to one-tenth of the Special Elite monster's total HP. Shi Feng only needed to repeat this attack 11 more times to kill a Level 25 Special Elite.

In the entire God's Domain, aside from Shi Feng, there might not be a second person capable of carrying out such a feat.

Replying to Shi Feng's brutal attack, the three Naga released angry roars. They revealed sinister expressions as they charged towards Shi Feng, gradually splitting from the main force of the Naga.

When the distance between the three Naga and Shi Feng had shortened 20 yards, Shi Feng threw a Basic Frost Grenade at them. The three Naga immediately froze in place, damages of -300 appearing above their heads.

Holding nothing back, Shi Feng threw the Blazing Meteor at the three Naga relentlessly. The Blazing Meteor's effects constantly triggered, each attack dealing over -1,000 damage, while the occasional critical hit dealt over -2,000 damage.

The three Naga were helpless. They could only attack Shi Feng using fire-type spells. However, Shi Feng always managed to predict the location of their attacks, so he could dodge the attacks beforehand, never letting any of the spells land on him.

Before even two minutes had passed, the two Elite and one Special Elite monster died. They contributed a large amount of EXP and multiple Flame Crystals to Shi Feng. Possibly due to the Shadow's Blessing's effect, the Special Elite Naga even dropped a Level 22 Mysterious-Iron ranked plate armor.

Afterwards, Shi Feng repeated this process of luring and killing the Elite and Special Elite Naga.

Although the process was mind-bogglingly boring, the fatigue on his spirit lessened greatly when Shi Feng thought about the Flame Crystals and the various Level 20 to Level 25 equipment he could obtain.

Unknowingly, more than four hours had passed. Shi Feng had cleared out practically all of the Naga present in this lava field. Shi Feng had also risen to Level 15, and he was only a tad bit away from Level 16.

While Shi Feng rested, he opened the Ranking List for White River City.

Right now, the first place on the Ranking List was occupied by a Level 13 player. Shi Feng could not help his shock at this sight. How could there be someone leveling so quickly? Not much time had passed since players outside of Shi Feng's team had entered White River City. Logically, it would already be amazing for players to reach Level 11. Yet, there was actually someone that had reached Level 13? Was this person hunting monsters of a higher level as well?

Shi Feng's mouth twitched when he saw the name of this first-ranked player — Lone Tyrant. Who was this person? How come I've never heard this name before? Meanwhile, the Snow Goddess, Gentle Snow, occupied the second place on the Ranking List; she was Level 12 right now. Following closely, another Level 12 player possessed the third rank., and Level 12 players occupied the remaining top then ranks. This situation confounded Shi Feng. This leveling speed far surpassed his expectations.

Could this be due to the butterfly effect? Shi Feng wondered.

Although players' leveling speed would indeed increase after entering White River City, it shouldn't increase to such a degree.

Meanwhile, the eleventh to fiftieth-ranked players on the Ranking List were all Level 11. Reaching this level was still reasonable. If these players were all Level 12 or 13, Shi Feng would truly be speechless.

Although the first ranked player had already reached Level 13, that player could not even reach Shi Feng's shadow. If other players discovered this fact, they would definitely be shocked.

After Shi Feng reached Level 15, he had placed all his Free Attribute Points into Intelligence. He had done so to meet the requirements of the Heavenly Dragon's Breath as soon as possible. However, the points he added were only a drop in the bucket.

"It should be about time to deal with you now." After recovering to perfect condition, Shi Feng abruptly stood. He looked at the Scorching Lamia still lounging in the pool of lava, a faint smile appearing on his face.

TL Notes:

[1] DPS: Stands for Damage Per Second

Chapter 205 - Queen's Rage

Just when Shi Feng contemplated raiding the delicate and weak-looking Scorching Lamia, the entire White River City region flew into an uproar.

The cause was no other than the White River City region's Ranking List.

A Level 13 player actually held the first place.

"What is this? I've only managed to reach Level 10 and enter White River City after much difficulty, yet, there is already a Level 13 player? What did this bastard eat growing up?"

"I know, right? That Lone Tyrant fellow previously ranked in the tens, but he had suddenly shot up to first place, surpassing even the Snow Goddess!"

"Lone Tyrant is from a Guild called Dark Star. Isn't that a third-rate Guild? How could they be so strong as to surpass the Snow Goddess?"

The official forums were already in a fiery uproar over this matter, and the previous issue relating to Shi Feng had become forgotten history.

Inside the Level 10, 10-man Team Dungeon, the Dark Crow Cave.

A Black-feathered Crow with a six-meter tall body lay motionless on the ground, a pile of items sitting by its side. Among these items, there were pieces of Level 10 Mysterious-Iron Set Equipment. There were even two Secret-Silver ranked items and a large number of rare materials.

Meanwhile, standing beside this Black-feathered Crow was a fairy. This fairy possessed skin as white as snow and an appearance that could charm any mortal man. Her body was the very definition of absolute perfection. However, this fairy's eyes possessed a penetrating gaze with a boundless and intimidating chill.

This woman who seemed to transcend mortal men was none other than Gentle Snow.

System: Ouroboros has cleared the Hard Mode of Black Crow Cave. Rewarding 300 Guild Reputation.

"Snow, someone's reached Level 13 already. They're a lot faster than we are. Why don't we stop Dungeon-diving and resume leveling up?" possessing a similarly devilish body, Zhao Yueru pouted as she spoke, displeased.

After going to a Level 12 monster area while they were only Level 9, they quickly discovered that they could constantly improve their battle prowess. Although it was extremely difficult to kill those monsters, in the beginning, they rose swiftly after experiencing many near-death situations and long periods of research and self-reflection. With their battle techniques having greatly improved, they felt that killing monsters three levels higher was no longer just a pipe dream. They also felt that they could achieve the feats Shi Feng had displayed in the past, similarly obtaining an effortless victory over a great number of players.

After arriving at White River City, they immediately picked up the Daily Reputation Quests. They then looked for an extremely good leveling spot, grinding there for a period. However, due to their equipment being slightly outdated, they decided to raid a Dungeon to upgrade their equipment, making

preparations to obtain the First Clear of one of the Level 10 large-scale Team Dungeons. Otherwise, a player from a measly third-rate Guild wouldn't have surpassed them.

“Ignore him. Compared to Levels, the First Clear of a large-scale Team Dungeon is far more important. Moreover, after exceeding Level 15, it won't matter, even if we manage to clear the Hell Mode of a Level 10 large-scale Team Dungeon. Our equipment should be close to ready now, so let's start with obtaining the First Clear of a Level 10 Party Dungeon.” When Gentle Snow noticed Lone Tyrant's name occupying the first position on the Ranking List, a calm smile appeared on her pure and untainted complexion.

Gentle Snow's team members revealed excited smiles when faced with Gentle Snow's decision.

They could finally display their prowess for all to see.

After all, they had all been experts in the past virtual reality games. Throughout this period, they had constantly strived and battled against high-level monsters. During their breaks, they would research the videos of experts, especially Shi Feng's battle footage. Although the video was short, it held great significance. The more they studied Shi Feng's battle, the more shocked they became. Unknowingly, their own battle techniques also began to improve madly.

To put it another way, they had started to familiarize themselves with the realistic battle methods of God's Domain. Simultaneously, they had also grasped ahold of their body's true strength.

The Hard Mode of a Team Dungeon could not fully sate their thirst for growth. It was especially true after they familiarized themselves with their Extraordinary Condition. Right now, only Hell Mode could truly excite them.

Just like when they were in the Hell Mode of Dark Moon Graveyard, they wished to experience the feeling of having every single cell within their bodies tremble. In the past, they believed that their trembling represented fear. In reality, however, that trembling resulted from the excitement that grew in their hearts.

Meanwhile, the other large Guilds were similarly shocked by the sudden appearance of Lone Tyrant but quickly dismissed this matter from their minds.

The average players, however, were astonished. This incident had allowed the apex third-rate Guild, Dark Star, to firmly established a foothold in White River City. Even the second-rate Guild, the Assassin's Alliance, was a step behind them. None of the top ten players on the Ranking List belonged to the Assassin's Alliance. Contrary to expectations, the Assassin's Alliance had three members ranked within the top 30. One of them was the Guild Leader, ranking 18th. The second person was Stabbing Heart, who ranked 26th. Finally, the Assassin's Alliance's top Elementalist ranked at 29th.

Yet, to the majority of the players within the White River City region, having such a rank was no different than having no rank at all. The fame of having such a rank was worlds apart from that of being in first place.

Flame God's Cave.

At this moment, Shi Feng had lured the Level 25 High Lord ranked Scorching Lamia to a corner absent of any lava.

Half of the Cela's amazing prowess relied on the presence of lava. Hence, by luring her away from the lava, the raid difficulty of the Scorching Lamia instantly reduced by half. However, even with such a reduction, Cela was still a High Lord ranked Boss. She was not something average players could afford to provoke.

“Kneel before me and receive your punishment of flames!” the Scorching Lamia’s finger trembled, and suddenly, a whip of flames appeared from her finger. She then abruptly cracked her whip towards Shi Feng’s skull. The flame whip transformed into a streak of flowing light as it swung towards Shi Feng’s cranium.

Queen’s Whip!

This was the melee skill that the Scorching Lamia often used. If an MT of the same level did not possess the Flaming Sun’s Blessing, this single whip could instantly kill him. In addition, this skill was a wide-range AOE skill, and it had a maximum attack range of 25 yards. If players wished to use the advantage of numbers to deal with the Scorching Lamia, they would quickly find themselves cremated by her whip. After all, even an MT could not block this attack, let alone the other fragile classes.

Faced with the incoming flame whip, Shi Feng sprang himself into the air and threw himself to the ground. Although he easily avoided the flame whip, the whip’s flaming trail still singed Shi Feng, dealing slightly over -70 damage.

However, Shi Feng took this chance to pull quite a distance away from the Cela. He then jumped and twisted his body in the air, throwing the Blazing Meteor at the Scorching Lamia.

A red glow shot forth, accurately piercing the left arm that the Scorching Lamia was about to lift. The attack activated the rarely seen Burning Flames effect, immediately causing -754 damage and inflicting a negative status effect that caused -400 flame damage per second for 10 seconds. Simultaneously, the attack also interrupted the rhythm of the Scorching Lamia’s next attack.

“Despicable human! I will capture you and make you my pet!” Rage surfaced on the Cela’s beautiful face. Immediately, she swung her tail with all her might. Her speed abruptly soared, instantly shortening the distance between Shi Feng and herself.

“Almost...” Shi Feng took a look at the surrounding environment, abruptly halting his steps. He then turned to face the Scorching Lamia, throwing a Basic Frost Grenade at her.

Hard, iron-like rocks surrounded their current location; not a single drop of lava was visible. This terrain would greatly limit the Scorching Lamia’s most powerful skill, Queen’s Rage.

This skill allowed her to command the surrounding lava, transforming it into a wave that engulfed everything in its path. Even if Shi Feng had 123 points of Fire Resistance, he still couldn’t endure this fierce move. The Queen’s Rage was the Scorching Lamia’s ultimate team-wipe skill.

Aside from the Queen’s Rage, Shi Feng also needed to be careful of the arrows from the Scorching Snake Lady’s bow, as this attack caused a combination of physical and flame damage. The Flaming Sun’s Blessing did not provide any physical damage reduction. Hence, Shi Feng could, at most, take two hits from her arrows before saying goodbye to his life. Hence, he needed to treat them with care.

Chapter 206 - High Lord Ranked Battle

Due to the Frost Grenade’s effects, a layer of snow covered the black, charred land.

Meanwhile, the Scorching Lamia’s tail had frozen to the ground; her motions halted as a result. A hint of fury surfaced on her beautiful countenance. She raised her right hand, pointing a finger at Shi Feng.

Immediately, a large gathering of violent fire-type mana collected at her tender, jade-like finger.

This was one of Cela's skills, Flame Burst. Flame Burst had a 2-second cast time, and it was a continuous-attack skill that caused extremely high fire-type damage to the target. It could practically instant-kill a top-tier MT with full HP, and even if that MT possessed the Flaming Sun's Blessing, he would still receive a ton of damage.

Watching the flames gathering at the Scorching Lamia's fingertip grow more violent, Shi Feng immediately activated Defensive Blade. His eyes focused on the ferocious flames, and the instant she launched her attack, Shi Feng simultaneously attacked with the Blazing Meteor. He intended to interrupt, or at least delay, the Scorching Lamia's assault.

In God's Domain, players could dodge spell attacks. However, they needed an accurate grasp on the timing of the attack. Otherwise, whether dodging a second too late or too early, the attack might land on its target. As casting spells would provide the caster with a lagging advantage, the caster could gain a clear grasp of their target's movements before launching their attacks. If players dodged before the spell released, they would become an easier target. Hence, the best time to dodge a spell was the moment the spell was released.

However, once a spell discharged, it would travel to its target with blinding speed, making it extremely challenging to dodge.

Of course, if players had very fast Movement Speeds, they could utilize that speed to their advantage, preventing the enemy caster from getting a firm lock on them. When faced with the High Lord ranked Scorching Lamia, however, it was beneficial to have such thoughts.

Shi Feng sent attack after attack with the Blazing Meteor, causing a series of damages of -743, -1,502, -751, and -749. Although the damages looked awesome at first glance, to Cela's 500,000 HP, they were just a drop in the bucket. The Scorching Lamia also had a frightening battle recovery, so in reality, Shi Feng did not cause any significant damage to her at all. However, as he had triggered the Knockback effect of the Blazing Meteor, Shi Feng managed to interrupt the casting time of the Scorching Lamia's Flame Burst.

“I will burn your soul with the flames of god!” The Scorching Lamia’s smile was imposing. At this moment, the tip of her jade-like finger suddenly shone with a dazzling light, illuminating the entire cave. The temperature within the cave also increased by several folds. The light on Cela’s finger was like a miniature sun.

Suddenly, streak after streak of searing, white flames shot out from the Scorching Lamia’s fingertip.

One streak after another, the flames bombarded Shi Feng like a heavy machine gun.

The instant Cela launched her flames, Shi Feng used his evasive maneuvers. However, he was still a step too late. In the blink of an eye, one of the flames struck him, robbing the Defensive Blade of one of its limited charges.

Although the first streak hit its target, Shi Feng dodged both the second and third. The flames scraped past Shi Feng’s clothes, striking the rock wall behind him.

Boom! Boom!

The wall, which was normally as hard as steel, was as soft as water when struck by the white flames. Not to mention easily piercing through the rock wall, the flames even formed a one-meter-wide and ten-meter-deep tunnel into the rock wall. What was even more shocking was that the tunnel seemed polished. The walls of the tunnel were smooth and sparkling, giving it a metallic sheen.

This was the result of those molten white flames.

If Shi Feng had not used the Defensive Blade to block that attack, he would have evaporated out of existence.

Although this was not the first time Shi Feng had encountered this attack, he would still feel his heart skip a beat each time he witnessed this frightening power.

This was the strength of a High Lord.

A battle with a High Lord ranked Boss was no ordinary battle. Instead, it was a superhuman battle that could cause the destruction and reformation of the surrounding terrain.

When the bombardment ended, Shi Feng had exhausted the remaining charges on the Defensive Blade. However, the Scorching Lamia had halted her steps for quite a while now. Due to Shi Feng constantly throwing Frost Grenades at her, Cela could only take out her bow and attacked with her fire arrows.

Compared to the Flame Burst, these fire arrows were much easier to dodge.

Shi Feng managed to attack with the Blazing Meteor while simultaneously dodging the fire arrows, steadily depleting the Scorching Lamia's HP. However, Cela was no fool. She, too, knew how to dodge. Only, due to her frozen body, very rarely did she manage to dodge or block against an attack.

98%...

95%...

93%...

91%...

Over an hour had passed, and Shi Feng didn't even know how many times he had thrown the Blazing Meteor. In the meantime, the Scorching Lamia's HP gradually decreased, finally reaching 80%. During this time, the Scorching Lamia had cast up to nine Flame Bursts and Queen's Whips, but Shi Feng defended against all of them with either Defensive Blade or Parry. At one point, a Flame Burst nearly killed Shi Feng. Fortunately, he quickly used an Intermediate Recovery Potion, replenishing much of his missing HP.

Although constantly attacking and dodging made the battle seem tedious, it would still be extremely worthwhile if such a tedious task allowed Shi Feng to kill a High Lord ranked Boss.

A High Lord ranked Boss's drops were normally bountiful, and at the very minimum, it would drop a Fine-Gold ranked item. There was even the possibility of dropping several Dark-Gold ranked items.

Fine-Gold rank or Dark-Gold rank, players at this stage of the game could only dream of possessing either. Not to mention, before Shi Feng had even reached Level 25, he already had a reliable source for Level 25 equipment.

After landing attack after attack on the Scorching Lamia, the Burning Flames effect had stacked up to five times, causing Cela to lose 2,000 HP per second. The damage was just right to combat the Scorching Lamia's battle recovery.

Suddenly, the Scorching Lamia's HP started rapidly decreasing.

After another two hours, the Scorching Lamia's HP fell to 23%. If Shi Feng continued with this pace, the battle would conclude in, at most, one hour.

At that thought, Shi Feng's hands moved faster as he further increased his attack rate.

At this moment, Shi Feng's system communication suddenly rang; the caller was Stabbing Heart of the Assassin's Alliance.

By now, Shi Feng had already gotten used to dodging Cela's attacks after repeating the process so many times. Since he had nothing better to do, he accepted the call.

"Brother Ye Feng, I wonder if I can request your help on a matter?" Stabbing Heart spoke without adding any unnecessary flattery, getting right to the point. However, he immediately felt surprised by his own actions in suddenly seeking Shi Feng's help. After all, an expert's time was extremely valuable. Not to mention, the competition in White River City right now was far more intense than the competition in Red Leaf City in the past.

After all, when all was said and done, Red Leaf Town only had a player base 20,000 to 30,000 in the past. Meanwhile, White River City had over a million players right now. Adding to the fact that plenty of experts had gathered at White River City, the intensity of the competition there had increased by several times.

"Help? I wonder what Brother Stabbing Heart needs me to do?" Shi Feng asked.

"It's like this. I wish to invite you to raid a Team Dungeon with us. If we have the help of an expert like Brother Ye Feng, we will have a very high possibility of clearing the Dungeon." Stabbing Heart was clearly embarrassed for asking.

“Which Team Dungeon is it? Don’t tell me that you’re looking at one of the three Level 10 large-scale Dungeons?” Shi Feng was slightly astonished. He did not think that Stabbing Heart would look to him for help with a Dungeon.

Regarding the three large-scale Dungeons, Shi Feng had no intentions of involving himself with them.

After all, it would have a huge impact on the course of history.

His First Clear of Dark Moon Graveyard had already affected the progression of history. If he helped the Assassin’s Alliance obtain the First Clear of a large-scale Team Dungeon, god knew if something out of his control would happen in the future.

Large-scale Team Dungeons were worlds apart from normal Team Dungeons. Their difficulty was directly increased by two to three levels.

Even if Shi Feng gave his help, with the current state of the Assassin’s Alliance, they could not even clear the Normal Mode of the Dungeon.

Chapter 207 - Killing the Queen

Shi Feng did not want this timeline to develop out of his control. If Stabbing Heart really wanted to raid one of the three great Dungeons...

He could only sternly refuse.

Stabbing Heart shook his head, faintly exclaiming, "It isn't one of the three great Dungeons. It is just one of the 20-man Team Dungeons, the Beastman Munition Factory. That is a Level 10 to Level 13 Team Dungeon, and the equipment dropped there would be of great help to us when we raid the three large-scale Dungeons. Although we've already cleared the Normal Mode of that Dungeon, the Hard Mode is simply too difficult. We have been stuck at the first Boss all this time, so we wished to seek your aid."

Shi Feng's heart was slightly moved when he heard of the words "Beastman Munition Factory." That Dungeon did indeed possess a lot of valuable items, especially the Basic Fire Resistance Potion Recipe and the Level 10 Swordsman Set Equipment, Wind Extinguisher.

It would not be a bad idea to make a trip there for these items.

"Fine, but I have a demand," Shi Feng said.

"Brother Ye Feng, there is no need to hold back!" Stabbing Heart released a sigh of relief after hearing Shi Feng's agreement. He was deeply afraid that Shi Feng would refuse.

"I want all the Recipes and Forging Designs we obtain from the Dungeon. In addition, I want priority over all Swordsman equipment. If you can agree to these conditions, I will have no problem offering my assistance," Shi Feng listed his demands.

Stabbing Heart carefully considered Shi Feng's words. If he were the one leading the team this time, he wouldn't hesitate to agree to Shi Feng's demands. However, the leader of the team this time was the Guild Leader of the Assassin's Alliance, Cruel Sword. So, Stabbing Heart had no authority to make this decision.

“Brother Ye Feng, I have to consult with the Guild Leader about this matter. Can I give you a reply sometime later?” Stabbing Heart said with less confidence.

“Sure.” In any case, Shi Feng was not in a hurry. There was still some time before he could kill the Scorching Lamia.

After Stabbing Heart disconnected the call, he immediately went up to the Guild Leader, Cruel Sword. Cruel Sword was currently a short distance away, clearing the monsters in the Dungeon.

Based on appearance alone, Cruel Sword looked very young, and his tall and robust body seemed full of energy. In actuality, he was already 39 years old. Normally, he wore a stern expression, and he would always look at others with an intimidating and penetrating gaze. His ferocious appearance was just like that of a warrior about to enter a battlefield.

In fact, Cruel Sword was a mercenary in reality. However, he had long since retired from his squad. After his retirement, he joined the then-weak Assassin’s Alliance, and after enduring over ten years of hardships, he finally managed to turn the Assassin’s Alliance into an apex second-rate Guild, gaining plenty of support and sponsors from large corporations.

“How did your negotiations with him go?” Cruel Sword turned his head and glanced at Stabbing Heart, asking sternly.

Previously, the Assassin's Alliance had been stuck at the first Boss of the Hard Mode Beastman Munition Factory. Hence, Stabbing Heart suggested recruiting a god-ranked expert to help them. However, Cruel Sword felt that it was beneath him to do such a thing. What god-ranked expert? Everyone's just blindly overestimating him.

If it weren't for the fact that Stabbing Heart had performed extremely well in recent days and been promoted to an elder of the Guild, Cruel Sword would not have let Stabbing Heart contact Shi Feng at all.

"He agrees to come, but he has a demand. He wants all of the Swordsman equipment and the Forging Designs and Recipes that drop." Stabbing Heart carefully said, "However, I feel that Ye Feng is worth this price. After all, even the Snow Goddess greatly valued his performance."

After listening to these words, Cruel Sword's coarse eyebrows furrowed. He clearly felt dissatisfied about Shi Feng's demands.

"Boss Cruel Sword, Ye Feng is truly powerful. Without Shi Feng, the Snow Goddess, Gentle Snow, might not have even obtained the First Clear of the Dark Moon Graveyard," Stabbing Heart hurriedly said.

"Gentle Snow, is it?" Cruel Sword's resolve slightly wavered after hearing this name.

Just half an hour ago, Gentle Snow had shocked all players throughout the entire White River City region, Cruel Blade included.

Gentle Snow had taken down the First Clear of four Level 10 Party Dungeons and two Level 10 small-scale Team Dungeons. Moreover, it wasn't the First Clear of Hard Mode, but the First Clear of Hell Mode.

Simultaneously, her achievements signified the gap between her and the other Guilds growing even larger.

Moreover, Cruel Sword received information that Gentle Snow had already begun raiding the Hell Mode of a 20-man Team Dungeon. If Gentle Snow really succeeded...

She would no longer occupy the same playing field as the other Guilds within the White River City region.

"It seems that Ye Feng indeed has some capabilities. Since that is the case, agree to his demands." Cruel Sword was very curious about Shi Feng now. He wondered if Shi Feng was truly as strong as Stabbing Heart described him.

In truth, Cruel Sword did not want any outsiders participating in the Guild's expedition. However, the Assassin's Alliance's position in White River City was becoming more insignificant as time passed.

Ignoring the first-rate Guild, Ouroboros, even the third-rate Guild, Dark Star, would soon surpass them. The severity of this matter further increased due to the sudden appearance of that Lone Tyrant, who occupied the first position on the Ranking List. Dark Star then continued to successfully raid the Hard Mode of two small-scale Team Dungeons, greatly increasing their fame and surpassing the other Guilds.

On the other hand, aside from obtaining the First Clear of several Normal Mode Dungeons, the Assassin's Alliance had yet to even obtain the First Clear of a single Hard Mode Dungeon. Hence, Cruel Sword had personally organized an elite team to raid the Beastman Munition Factory. He intended to take this chance to obtain the First Clear of a Hard Mode Dungeon, increasing the Guild's influence in White River City and ending the gossip of Assassin's Alliance's inferiority to Dark Star.

Hearing Cruel Sword's command, Stabbing Heart immediately contacted Shi Feng, excited.

“Brother Ye Feng, our Guild Leader has agreed to your demands. I wonder if you can come here immediately?” Stabbing Heart asked.

At this moment, Shi Feng still battled the Scorching Lamia, so how could he possibly leave now? Making a rough estimate, he said, “I still have some matters to attend to right now. I’ll need around two hours before I can hurry over.”

“Alright, then let’s meet up at the entrance of the Beastman Munition Factory in two hours.” Although Stabbing Heart wanted Shi Feng to arrive as soon as possible, Stabbing Heart did not dare insist on the matter since Shi Feng had his own matters to attend. After all, it was already stunning that Shi Feng would willingly help them out.

“Alright. I’ll be there in two hours.” Shi Feng disconnected the call, resuming his barrage of attacks on Cela.

Just after the Scorching Lamia’s HP fell below 20%, a change suddenly overcame her previously beautiful appearance. Crimson-red sacred runes suddenly appeared on her jade-white skin, releasing a frightening magic power. Moreover, her red gemstone-like eyes released a brilliant white light.

Immediately, the Flame God’s Cave trembled. Cracks appeared on the ground, and very quickly, these cracks widened into large fissures that spewed molten magma. The lava formed a river as it moved and spread throughout the ground.

This was the Scorching Lamia’s strongest skill.

Queen's Rage!

Fortunately, Shi Feng had long since lured Cela to this location. Otherwise, the lava that spewed from the ground would not be limited to a single river; it would form a great ocean that could instantly turn tens of thousands of players into ashes, becoming fertilizer for this great piece of land.

Immediately, Shi Feng activated Gravity Liberation. He jumped up into the air, and like a cannonball, he shot forth towards a rock wall some ten meters away, successfully avoiding the incoming surge of lava.

Approximately half a minute passed before the lava fully receded. However, the land was still dyed a crimson-red, releasing piping-hot steam into the air and the surrounding environment. If an average player set foot on this land, they would lose at least 500 HP every second in the best case scenario.

However, Shi Feng was different. He had 123 points in Fire Resistance, so he could completely ignore the ground's high temperature. After he landed, he immediately resumed his attacks on the Scorching Lamia.

It was extremely exhausting for Cela to cast Queen's Rage. So, after using the skill, she would enter a period of weakness. During this period, she would not have any Attack Power remaining, and it was the best time for Shi Feng to kill her.

If Shi Feng waited for the land to recover its normal state, the Scorching Lamia would have also recovered from her weakened state. In addition, her HP would also recover to 30% or above.

The Scorching Lamia in a weakened state stood no chance against Shi Feng.

The Blazing Meteor caused over -1,500 damage to Cela with every strike, with the occasional critical hit causing over -3,000 damage.

18%... 16%... 14%... 12%...

By the time the Scorching Lamia had broken away from her weakened state, she only had 10% of her HP remaining.

In the end, the Scorching Lamia entered a berserk state, and her damage increased by several folds. However, with Shi Feng's Frost Grenades controlling her movements from beginning to end, Cela could not display her frightening might in melee combat at all.

After another ten minutes or so, the Scorching Lamia released a blood-curdling scream as her body fell to the ground.

Instantly, Shi Feng's level increased by one, reaching 17% of Level 16. The bountiful EXP even shocked Shi Feng.

Shi Feng then heard the sound of an explosion, and a large amount of Flame Crystals, equipment, and items appeared in place of the Scorching Lamia's body.

“It really is great to have the Shadow’s Blessing.” Shi Feng’s eyes slightly twitched as he looked at the shining loot scattered across the ground. It was the first time he truly felt fortunate about the 3 points of Luck. “It seems that I should get more equipment that increases the Luck Attribute in the future. I can use it specifically when killing Bosses.”

If he obtained jackpots similar to the Scorching Lamia’s as well, accumulating wealth would be a very simple task.

In God’s Domain, the term ‘jackpot’ only applied to Boss monsters, since Bosses would give out more loot than usual. Normally, the number of items dropped was double or triple the usual amount, and players looked forward to such situations the most.

Unfortunately, aside from obtaining the First Clear of a Dungeon, the chances of a Boss dropping a jackpot were abysmally low.

Depending on a player’s Luck Attribute, the chances of obtaining a jackpot would also increase. However, Shi Feng did not know the exact value each point of Luck provided. He only knew that the higher the Luck, the greater were the chances of obtaining a jackpot.

If Shi Feng’s Luck increased to 10 points, he might obtain another jackpot if he killed a High Lord ranked Boss in the future. To players, nothing was more exciting than obtaining even more high-level equipment and items.

As this was the Flame God’s Cave, the Scorching Lamia’s jackpot was extremely valuable. It was much more beneficial than killing two to three High Lord ranked Bosses.

“This is ridiculous! Just a single Scorching Lamia dropped close to half of my previous harvest of Flame Crystals!” Shi Feng was immediately shocked after he collected and arranged all the loot.

Previously, he had only obtained a total of 223 Flame Crystals from killing many Level 25 Common, Elite, and Special Elite monsters. Yet, the Scorching Lamia gave him 102 Crystals. If converted to Gold Coins, that amount would be worth 15 Gold, 30 Silvers. Moreover, this was only the price of the Flame Crystals.

Compared to the Flame Crystals, the equipment and Forging Designs dropped were much more valuable.

“Aren’t these the Flame Boots?” Shi Feng noticed a flame-red colored, delicate pair of boots. There were three gorgeous Flame Crystals embedded into each side, giving the boots a dazzling appearance.

[Flame Boots] (Plate Boots, Dark-Gold Rank)

Level 25

Defense +175

Strength +21, Agility +30, Endurance +15

Movement Speed +8

Fire Resistance +5

Additional Skill-

Flame Rush: Increases Movement Speed by 100% for 10 seconds.

Cooldown: 2 minutes

Just the value of this piece of equipment exceeded 20 Gold. In addition, Cela also dropped a Dark-Gold ranked shield.

[Light of Day] (Shield, Dark-Gold Rank)

Level 25

Equipment Requirement: Strength 130

Defense +665

Block Rate: 41%

Defend skill level +2

Strength +34, Agility +10, Endurance +32

Maximum HP +15%

Additional Passive Skill-

Guardian Heart: Reduces incoming damage from the front by 20%. In addition, all damage received reduced by 10%.

Not to mention a shield, equipment meant for MTs was usually abnormally expensive. Moreover, the Attributes of this shield were extremely beneficial. If sold, its minimum price would be at least 40 Gold.

Aside from those two Dark-Gold ranked items, there were seven Secret-Silver ranked items. Three of them were Level 25 mage equipment, two were Level 25 healer equipment, one was Level 25 leather armor, and the last was a Level 25 two-handed axe. Every piece could sell for at least 3 Gold Coins.

Meanwhile, the most precious of them all was the Raging Flames Armor Forging Design.

This was also Shi Feng's first time seeing this item.

Shi Feng was immediately stunned when he read the introduction of this Forging Design.

The Raging Flames Armor was a Level 25 Secret-Silver ranked plate armor. Although its base Attributes were ordinary, it was a very valuable item. It specifically catered to MTs when dealing with fire-type monsters. One could say that the Raging Flames Armor was the best Level 25 Secret-Silver ranked breastplate.

If utilized properly, the value of this Forging Design could exceed a hundred Gold. However, Flame Crystals were necessary to craft the Raging Flames Armor. In addition, it also needed a rare Secret-Silver ranked ore, resulting in a high manufacturing cost. However, it would be greatly desired once forged. In particular, when it was used in the Level 25 large-scale Team Dungeon, Flame's Nest, it would be frighteningly effective.

The Raging Flames breastplate gave eight points of Fire Resistance and reduced the user's flame damage received by 20%. No other Secret-Silver equipment could compare to this effect.

Aside from the equipment, there was also a flame-red-colored skill book. The words 'Flame Burst' decorated the cover. This was the same skill the Scorching Lamia had used on Shi Feng.

Shi Feng had personally witnessed this attack and knew full well the frightening might of that skill. Yet, such a skill was unexpectedly a Universal Skill that any class could learn.

Without hesitation, Shi Feng chose to learn the skill. He then called out the skill interface.

[Flame Burst]

Level 1 (Requires 100,000 EXP to upgrade to Level 2)

Channeling time: 2 seconds

Gathers the power of flames to a single point and causes 300% damage to the target.

Attack Count: 4 times

Cooldown: 5 minutes

Compared to other skills that required Skill Proficiency to level up, Flame Burst belonged to the Special Skills category. Instead of Skill Proficiency, it required EXP to level up.

Shi Feng greatly admired Cela's Flame Burst. If he could possess a similar might to the Scorching Lamia when he used the Flame Burst, he needed only a single move to instant-kill a player of the same level. Just the thought of achieving such a feat invigorated him.

However, the skill level was too low right now. It could not achieve such an effect at all.

Since his level was relatively high right now and his leveling speed was also very fast, Shi Feng did not feel much heartache towards such a small amount of EXP. Hence, he immediately supplied 100,000 EXP to the skill, upgrading it up to Level 2.

The Flame Burst's damage increased to 350%, while the Attack Count remained unchanged. There was also no change to its Cooldown. This time, 300,000 EXP was needed to upgrade the skill to Level 3. However, Shi Feng chose to upgrade it without hesitation. He needed several million EXP just to level up now, so 300,000 was not a significant amount.

Instantly, Shi Feng fell back down to Level 15. The damage of the Level 3 Flame Burst increased to 380%, while its Attack Count increased to 5 times, and Cooldown decreased to 4 minutes 30 seconds. This was a more noticeable improvement. Meanwhile, it now required 800,000 EXP to upgrade to Level 4. Yet, Shi

Feng still chose to upgrade it. The damage of the skill increased to 400%, Attack Count remained at 5 times, and Cooldown decreased to 4 minutes. The skill needed 2,000,000 EXP to upgrade to Level 5 this time.

Shi Feng similarly upgraded it to Level 5 without hesitation. The damage of Flame Burst increased to 420%, Attack Count increased to 6 times, and Cooldown decreased to 3 minutes 30 seconds. As a result of such a huge increase, however, Shi Feng had fallen to Level 14. If he wanted to upgrade the skill to Level 6, he needed to supply 4,000,000 EXP. Even if he dropped back down to Level 0, he could not raise Flame Burst to Level 6.

It seems that I can only wait until after Level 20 before upgrading the Flame Burst again. Shi Feng felt it was unfortunate. However, a Level 5 Flame Burst was sufficiently amazing already. It was certainly a very useful trump card.

Shi Feng had spent quite a sum of money on his trip to the Flame God's Cave this time. Not to mention using more than two stacks of Basic Frost Grenades, he also used the Flaming Sun Scripture. However, with such an astonishing harvest, the losses he incurred were negligible.

There's still some time left. I'll get some rest before heading to the Beastman Munition Factory. Shi Feng called out the system clock, discovering that he still had some time before the appointed time. Seizing this chance, he could get some repairs done to his equipment and store his loot into the Bank. He would return to the Flame God's Cave again in the future when he had the time.

The Boss of the Flame God's Cave had a respawn time of two days. In other words, Shi Feng would return to the Flame God's Cave to kill its Boss once every two days. Not only could he level up quickly by doing so, but he could also obtain plenty of high-level equipment. This place was sacred ground for players. It was no wonder the Ranger, who was the first person to discover this place, made a huge earning.

Outside of the Beastman Munition Factory, Cruel Blade and the others had already gathered at the Dungeon's entrance. They currently discussed their strategy to raid the Dungeon.

During the time they spent waiting for Shi Feng, they challenged the Dungeon twice more. However, the end result was still the same. Obtaining the First Clear of a Hard Mode Team Dungeon was much more difficult than they had imagined.

Although they had managed to clear the Hard Mode of a 10-man Team Dungeon, some other Guild was already a step ahead of them by the time they cleared it. Right now, only the First Clears of 20-man Hard Mode Team Dungeons were available. However, the Hard Mode of a 20-man Team Dungeon was obviously more difficult compared to a 10-man Team Dungeon.

No matter how much thought they put into it, they could not come up with any methods to clear the Dungeon. They could only wait for Shi Feng's arrival at the Dungeon's entrance. This was also a good chance for the team to get some rest.

Although Stabbing Heart had continuously recommended Shi Feng, Cruel Blade did not place much hope in him.

After all, the Assassin's Alliance was an apex second-rate Guild. Experts were a dime a dozen within the Guild. Meanwhile, they had gathered 20 experts to raid the Beastman Munition Factory, but they still died under the first Boss' feet. What difference would an additional, independent player with good techniques make?

"Guild Leader, someone's coming," one of the Guild's scouting Assassins suddenly spoke in the team chat.

Chapter 209 - Lone Tyrant

Hearing that someone approached, Stabbing Heart thought that it was Shi Feng. Hence, he turned his gaze towards the entrance.

However, the person walking over was not Shi Feng at all. Moreover, it was not just a single player, but a group of players.

This was a 20-man team. The members of this team all wore impressive equipment; practically all of them wore a mix of Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Equipment, with the majority being Mysterious-Iron Equipment. There were also a few players among them wearing Level 10 Class-specific Set Equipment that only dropped from Level 10 Team Dungeons. Although they were only individual pieces, at this stage of the game, they were definitely considered top-tier equipment to Guilds.

The leader of this team was a Guardian Knight. Judging by appearances, the man looked to be around 25 years of age. There was a nasty smile on the man's face. The man wore a mix of red and white-colored heavy-armor and carried a blood-red cross-shield and longsword.

"It can't be, right? That Shield Warrior has the complete Bloody Brilliance Set Equipment! That's a Level 10 Mysterious-Iron Set Equipment!"

"The glow from his shield and longsword show that they are both of Secret-Silver rank. How come I have never seen such equipment before?"

The members of Assassin's Alliance started a quiet discussion when they saw the leading Guardian Knight.

The Bloody Brilliance Set Equipment could only be obtained from Level 10 Hard Mode Team Dungeons. The fact that this group of newcomers had gathered a full set displayed just how powerful their team was.

“They seem to be players from Dark Star.” Making a careful observation, Stabbing Heart suddenly discovered that the Guild Emblem these players donned belong to that of the Guild, Dark Star. He then observed the leading Guardian Knight, suddenly exclaiming in shock, “He’s Dark Star’s Lone Tyrant!”

Cruel Sword’s complexion immediately turned grim at these words.

Lone Tyrant of Dark Star was currently number one on the Ranking List. In addition, Dark Star had also managed to obtain the First Clear of two Hard Mode Dungeons. Due to the contribution of these two factors, Dark Star was already like the sun at high noon, and they were currently in their heyday. Cruel Sword did not think that Dark Star would make their move so soon; they were already attempting to raid a 20-man Team Dungeon. If they really obtained the First Clear of a 20-man Team Dungeon, the Assassin’s Alliance would truly be in an embarrassing position in White River City.

After all, due to obtaining the luxury guidebook of White River City in advance, the Assassin’s Alliance had made ample preparations before entering the city itself. As a result, they enjoyed a flourishing period after they entered White River City. Many players even thought that the Assassin’s Alliance had the possibility to surpass the first-rate Guilds.

Hence, now that Dark Star was on the rise, players would naturally compare the Assassin’s Alliance and Dark Star, resulting in the Assassin’s Alliance’s status in White River City becoming very awkward.

“Oh? Isn’t this the Guild Leader of the Assassin’s Alliance? What a coincidence!” Lone Tyrant laughed as he spoke to Cruel Sword, “Unfortunately, you guys have simply wasted your time by coming here, as the First Clear of the Hard Mode Beastman Munition Factory already belongs to Dark Star.”

The other members of Dark Star similarly revealed disdainful smiles as they looked at the members of the Assassin's Alliance.

Currently, throughout the White River City region, Dark Star's influence surpassed that of the Assassin's Alliance. Moreover, Dark Star had a much shorter history than the Assassin's Alliance. The Assassin's Alliance current success lay in the fact that they had a long-established history, so the benefits they provided to their Guild members were slightly better. However, Dark Star would definitely surpass the Assassin's Alliance in the future.

"We'll see about that." Cruel Sword ignored Lone Tyrant's provocation, only coldly replying with a single sentence.

Only by personally experiencing it would one understand the difficulty of a 20-man Hard Mode Dungeon. It would be meaningless to argue with a little bastard over who would obtain the First Clear of a Hard Mode Dungeon.

When Lone Tyrant saw that his provocation had failed, he quickly lost interest and turned to leave.

At this moment, a deep and low voice resounded by everyone's ears.

"Sorry, I'm late." The person speaking was precisely Shi Feng.

As he had to repair his equipment, store his items in the Bank, and register more Hard Stones on the Auction House, he had wasted quite a lot of time before coming here.

“Brother Ye Feng, you’re finally here!” Stabbing Heart, who was originally enraged due to Lone Tyrant’s provocation, immediately cheered up when he noticed Shi Feng’s arrival. He hurriedly went up and welcomed Shi Feng.

Meanwhile, this was the first time Cruel Sword had personally met Shi Feng. He discovered that Shi Feng still used a complete Bronze Set Equipment. Shi Feng’s level and the quality of his other equipment were also indiscernible. Moreover, looking at Shi Feng’s age and appearance, he was obviously just an immature youth; he did not possess the sharp temperament of a top-tier expert at all. However, he had obtained the First Clear of the Hell Mode Dark Moon Graveyard with Gentle Snow. Coupling that with the widespread battle footage from before and the fact that Shi Feng was the first player to enter White River City, Shi Feng should possess some real skills.

However, they were not here to fight other players in the Dungeon. Although Shi Feng had impressive combat capabilities, one could not clear a Dungeon by depending on combat capabilities alone. Hence, Cruel Sword did not look favorably upon Shi Feng.

“Hahahaha! What a joke! So even the famous Assassin’s Alliance has to invite someone to raid a Team Dungeon! Moreover, you’ve even invited an independent player! It seems that the Assassin’s Alliance only amounts to this much. To think that I’ve always thought of the Assassin’s Alliance as an actual opponent, I was truly blind!” Lone Tyrant looked at Shi Feng, then turned to look at Cruel Sword again before involuntarily laughing.

“You!” Stabbing Heart wanted to flare up in rage; however, he had no counter to Lone Tyrant’s words.

After all, what he said was true.

The other Assassin’s Alliance members had also lowered their heads in shame. At this moment, their hearts harbored dissatisfaction towards Stabbing Heart. They were already disappointed with Stabbing Heart’s previous decision of inviting Shi Feng, so the humiliating situation now only made it worse. Yet, although they wished they could immediately chase Shi Feng away, they dared not voice their opinions.

After making fun of the Assassin's Alliance, Lone Tyrant's gaze shifted towards Shi Feng. Pretending to be surprised, he sneered and said, "And here I thought the Assassin's Alliance had invited some amazing person. Isn't this Ye Feng, the first player to enter White River City and the previous first place on the Ranking List?"

"I am truly sorry about this. I never imagined that you would be so easy to surpass, so I accidentally snatched away your first position. Oh? That's not right? Why can't I find your name within the top 100 of the Ranking List? It seems that there is a limit to a person's good luck. Without any real strength, one would quickly be surpassed by others. Isn't that right, Little Brother Ye Feng?"

Although Lone Tyrant could not see Shi Feng's current level, he did not think that Shi Feng was anything amazing. Otherwise, why would he choose not to display his level? There was only one possibility for such an action, and it was because he was too shameful to show his level. Shi Feng was clearly the first player to enter White River City, yet, a majority of players surpassed him in levels. So it was very logical that he would choose to hide his level in shame.

"Brother Ye Feng, let's just ignore him and enter the Dungeon." Afraid that Shi Feng would grow angry and leave, Stabbing Heart hurriedly dragged Shi Feng away from the players of Dark Star.

"The players within the White River City region have constantly used the Assassin's Alliance as a comparison to Dark Star. Previously, I had felt proud of this matter, but now, I can only feel embarrassment. Please don't associate Dark Star with you all anymore in the future. We really can't bear this sort of shame." Lone Tyrant did not care much about an expert who was already past his prime. He shifted his gaze once more to Cruel Sword, mocking him.

"An apex second-rate Guild? Pah! They aren't even comparable to a third-rate Guild!"

"The Assassin's Alliance has truly declined. If I were them, I would have long since killed myself to avoid the embarrassment. They have actually allowed a lucky noob to join their team. Did they think that, by

doing so, they could obtain the First Clear of the Hard Mode Beastman Munition Factory? Who are they trying to kid?”

“How could you say such a thing? This is known as birds of a feather flocking together! A trash of a Guild would naturally seek out a trash player to aid them! If this situation happened in our Guild, we would have long since expelled such noobs from the Guild! Allowing such trash to join our team would definitely lower our intelligence and strength!”

“Hey, you’ve got that wrong! In reality, the Assassin’s Alliance is so powerful that they are not afraid of having a noob as a team member! They could still clear the Hard Mode Beastman Munition Factory with no problems, even with such a member on their team! This is definitely something Dark Star can’t dream of comparing with!”

The relationship between Dark Star and the Assassin’s Alliance had long since been similar to that of fire and water. Now that there was such a good opportunity, the members of Dark Star took this chance to ridicule the Assassin’s Alliance.

Immediately, the atmosphere on the Assassin’s Alliance’s side became abnormally depressing. The players from the Assassin’s Alliance all resentfully glared at Stabbing Heart.

Contrary to expectations, however, Stabbing Heart did not feel any heartache due to these hateful gazes. Instead, he felt apologetic to Shi Feng. Originally, Dark Star merely directed its ridicule at the Assassin’s Alliance. Now, even Shi Feng had been dragged into this matter.

At this moment, Shi Feng could no longer stomach this situation. If this situation continued, they would have no chances of raiding the Dungeon, and he did not wish to lose the opportunity. After all, he planned to obtain the Wind Extinguisher Set Equipment and Basic Fire Resistance Potion Recipe from this trip. He did not wish to see Dark Star spoil this opportunity.

Having no better choice, Shi Feng stood out from the crowd. With pupils as deep as black holes, he gazed at Lone Tyrant. He then calmly said with a smile, "I'm very curious about something. If the nobodies that you've looked down on suddenly obtain the First Clear of the Hard Mode Beast Munition Factory a step ahead of you, then what would you all amount to?"

Chapter 210 - Eye-opener

Shi Feng's words struck Lone Tyrant and the others.

Immediately, the atmosphere became incomparably tense. Neither side spoke a single word, and both sides stood on the cusp of lashing out right now.

However, nobody intended to make the first move.

After all, everyone present understood that, if they took action right now, it would lead to an all-out war between the two Guilds. Regardless of who won and who lost in this confrontation, both sides would take heavy losses. Hence, be it Cruel Sword or Lone Tyrant, neither wished for such a situation to occur.

As both sides could no longer endure the stifling atmosphere...

"Getting the Hard Mode's First Clear ahead of us? With trash like you?" Lone Tyrant's complexion abruptly turned cold. With a ridiculing smile, he spoke with contempt, "Good, very good! Let everyone see the truth, then! I really want to see if your strength is as good as that mouth of yours!"

After he finished speaking, Lone Tyrant led his team into the Beastman Muniton Factory. Moreover, they chose to immediately start with the Dungeon's Hard Mode without warm-up or preparation. They clearly wished to prove to Shi Feng and the Assassin's Alliance just how wide the difference between them was.

"Why are they trying to act so bold? They will suffer defeat when the time comes." Stabbing Heart curled his lips, revealing a cold smile.

Without personally experiencing the 20-man Hard Mode Beastman Muniton Factory, one could not truly gauge the difficulty of the Dungeon. Otherwise, they would not have sought Shi Feng's help.

They had only chosen this method as a last resort. After all, the Assassin's Alliance was in a precarious position right now, and they were in dire need of a breakthrough. Hence, they had to obtain the First Clear of a Hard Mode Dungeon.

"That's right! Dark Star is nothing! They'll cry with regret once they enter the Dungeon!"

"Guild Leader, let's hurry and enter! We must teach those bastards from Dark Star the strength of the Assassin's Alliance!"

"That's right! Guild Leader, we must get the First Clear this time!"

The players from the Assassin's Alliance wiped away their depression from before. They all cracked their knuckles as their thirst for battle grew.

Shi Feng remained silent as he listened to everyone's enthusiasm with a faint smile on his face.

However, due to Shi Feng's actions, the Guild Leader of the Assassin's Alliance, Cruel Blade, viewed Shi Feng in a new light.

Cruel Blade considered that Shi Feng might not just be all talk.

Due to Shi Feng's provocation, the team's originally downcast mood received underwent a complete change. Right now, everyone was indignant over the injustice they had received rather than depressed, and they immediately wanted to charge into the Dungeon and slaughter the Boss within. They wanted to obtain the First Clear of the Hard Mode Dungeon, letting the players from Dark Star witness their might.

However, Shi Feng did not give much thought to Cruel Sword's renewed opinion of him.

After all, he had been a Guild Leader in his previous life as well. If one wanted to increase the unity of a team, they only needed one thing.

They needed an enemy.

In fact, Lone Tyrant was already an enemy of the Assassin's Alliance. Shi Feng merely poured some oil on the already-burning fire, further raising their fighting spirits.

Naturally, high fighting spirits were only a mental boost, and it would not help the Assassin's Alliance to clear the Dungeon.

If the Assassin's Alliance wanted to clear the Hard Mode Team Dungeon, they still needed some other key elements.

However, Shi Feng did not reveal this fact. He merely quietly joined the Assassin's Alliance's team, entering the Beast Munition Factory with Cruel Sword and the others.

The Beast Munition Factory was a dilapidated weapon manufacturing factory. Hence, the terrain inside the Dungeon was not particularly complicated. Players only needed to walk down a single path to reach the Boss.

There were a total of three Bosses throughout the Dungeon. Although the number was low, each Boss was extremely powerful. In 20-man Hard Mode Team Dungeons, the Bosses were all High Chieftain rank. Every one of them had powerful skills, and it was a normal occurrence for these Bosses to instant-kill an MT. If a team were not familiar with these Bosses' skills, failing to grasp the timing of their attacks fully, it would not be strange for a team to team-wipe over ten times. In comparison to these Bosses, however, players would have a much easier time clearing the Elite monsters within the Dungeon.

"I think that everyone should know what to do by now. However, since this is Brother Ye Feng's first time entering this Dungeon, I'll give you a short explanation on what you should expect later on. Your task is to go all-out, dealing damage, while simultaneously evading the skills of the Elite monsters. On another note, the monsters here have very high Attack Power, and they deal a ton of damage, even to the MTs. Moreover, these monsters are immune to crowd control skills. Hence, healers will be under a lot of pressure. They will have no time to heal anyone other than the MT, so you need to be careful not to pull aggro," Cruel Sword explained patiently.

"Alright, that's it for my explanation. Let's first use the four Elite monsters guarding at the entrance as practice for our coordination."

Finished speaking, Cruel Sword directed two of the team's MT to charge at the four axe-wielding Level 10 Elite Beastman Warriors.

[Beastman Warrior] (Elite Rank)

Level 10

HP 50,000/50,000

As this was a Dungeon, the monsters in here had both their HP and Attack Power greatly increased. They were much stronger compared to the Level 10 Elite monsters out in the fields.

One of the two MTs was a Shield Warrior, while the other was a Guardian Knight. Each of them held the two monsters' agro. However, when Shi Feng saw the damage these two MTs dealt to the monsters, he was immediately stunned.

A normal attack from the Shield Warrior only dealt -32 damage to the Beastman Warriors. When the Shield Warrior used Heroic Strike, he only dealt -66 damage. Meanwhile, the Guardian Knight fared even worse than the Shield Warrior. The Guardian Knight's normal attack only dealt -24 damage, while his Divine Strike only dealt -51 damage.

Both of these MTs were Level 10 players, and both of them wielded Mysterious-Iron Weapons. Even if it were a one-handed weapon, when faced with an Elite monster of the same level, it should not deal such little damage. Thus, Shi Feng was shocked by this sight he witnessed.

Although the two MTs took care to evade the attacks of the monsters, they were very clumsy. As a result, the number of attacks they received exceeded the number of times they dodged. Moreover, each time they received an attack, they needed to retreat a few steps before they could stabilize themselves.

The only fortunate thing was that the damage they received was not high; they received around -300 damage from each attack. Meanwhile, each MT possessed around 2,400 HP. With two monsters attacking each MT simultaneously, each MT received a rough total of -600 damage; a quarter of their total HP. This situation resulted in the healers suffering.

However, Shi Feng was similarly shocked when he discovered that both MTs possessed around 2,400 HP.

What the heck?!

Isn't their HP a little too high?

They both couldn't have only added their Free Attribute Points into Endurance, completely ignoring Strength and Agility, right?

However, this was the only explanation that made sense. It explained why, even though both MTs were clearly gaming experts, they required so much effort just to dodge an attack and why their damages were so pitiful. In contrast, a Level 10 Assassin, who similarly used a one-handed weapon, could deal over -100 damage to an Elite monster like the Beastman Warrior. They could even deal over -200 damage if they used a skill. The MTs' Strength was just abysmal. Their Agility was similarly too low, preventing them from dodging attacks that they could have clearly evaded.

It was obvious that the players of the Assassin's Alliance have yet to adapt to the battle methods of God's Domain. They clearly possessed plenty of expert players, yet, they were unable to exhibit their full potential. It was no wonder the Assassin's Alliance became an obscure existence during the early stages of the game. Only after half a year had passed since God's Domain's launch did they gain some achievements. If the Assassin's Alliance battled the Boss of the Beastman Munition Factory like so, Shi Feng would be surprised if they didn't team-wipe. It was truly a wonder as to how they managed to clear a 10-man Hard Mode Team Dungeon.

“I wish to say something; is that alright?” Shi Feng looked at Cruel Sword, asking softly.

Although the Assassin’s Alliance now possessed Lone Tyrant as a great enemy, the members of the team still had negative opinions of Shi Feng. They only kept their mouths shut due to his relationship with Stabbing Heart. However, if Shi Feng dared push his luck, they would not sit idle.

“Speak your mind. As long as it benefits the Dungeon raid, we will not reject it,” Cruel Sword had managed to discern Shi Feng’s capabilities somewhat. He could somewhat understand why Gentle Snow would take a fancy to Shi Feng. After all, Shi Feng indeed possessed strength.

“Can we replace the two MTs?” Shi Feng asked, holding nothing back.