

The Strongest

Chapter 311 - Absolute Control

Watching up to this point, South Wolf knew that defeat was inevitable, though he was loath to admit it, and his heart was filled with indignation.

Currently, his team had fewer than 30 players, and practically all of them were mages and healers. He alone was the only melee class alive. With such a team composition, Dark Star stood absolutely no chance against Zero Wing's core team, which currently consisted of over 30 players.

The single sword strike Black Flame had displayed far exceeded South Wolf's imagination. Not only was Black Flame inconceivably fast, his grasp of his Skills had also reached perfection, as shown by his single attack's impeccable coverage of all twelve Rangers. Such a feat required one to possess excellent control over the skill itself and the angle of attack as well.

South Wolf was no fool, and neither was he a greenhorn that had been playing virtual reality games for only one or two years. As a representative of Underworld, he had met with and recruited lots of gaming experts before. He had also participated in a considerable number of team battles, so his experience in the virtual gaming world was quite plentiful.

Naturally, he understood the strategy Black Flame had used since the start of the battle.

Black Flame made the Guardian Knights, Shield Warriors, and other plate armor classes charge forward to lure the members of Dark Star into gathering around them. The female Cleric, Violet Cloud, was pivotal to this strategy. Although on the surface her healing ability was only double that of the healers of Dark Star, the effectiveness she displayed during the team battle far surpassed that of three or four healers combined.

Violet Cloud had an excellent grasp of the battle situation. Not only could she keep Cola alive and well, she could also simultaneously stabilize several other players' HP. Throughout the battle, she performed smoothly and calmly. She was definitely not an existence to be trifled with.

Originally, Zero Wing already had powerful experts like Fire Dance, the team leader of Zero Wing's core team, and Blackie, the number one player on White River City's Ranking List. Now, South Wolf suddenly discovered that Zero Wing possessed not only Fire Dance and Blackie, Cola and Violet Cloud were definitely first-rate experts as well. Everyone else in Zero Wing's core team were also all experts.

Meanwhile, Black Flame, who had suddenly appeared, was even more terrifying. The strength he displayed far surpassed that of all those previously mentioned. The scene South Wolf witnessed was like a replay of the god-ranked expert Ye Feng slaying the hundreds of players of Martial Union.

South Wolf could not figure out why there were so many experts gathering at a newly established Guild like Zero Wing.

Even a Guild that was newly established by a major corporation could not achieve what Zero Wing had manage in such a short amount of time.

South Wolf truly wondered how Black Flame had accomplished such a feat.

Although South Wolf was shocked by Black Flame's personal strength and by Blackie, who possessed a strategic-level skill that could affect the entire battlefield...

"Black Flame, you are indeed amazing. However, the entire Silverleaf Forest is already under Dark Star's control. Although your team of 30 or so players can easily defeat an elite team with more than 100 players, do you think you can do the same against 3,000 players? You have simply delayed the time of

your demise.” South Wolf laughed coldly as he looked at Shi Feng, his current appearance making it seem as if he no longer cared about the many elite players that had died.

“Let’s go. It will be their time of death when Guild Leader Tyrant arrives.” Since his team was no match for Zero Wing, South Wolf naturally would not remain in this place and increase his losses.

The fact that he had discovered Black Flame, Zero Wing’s Guild Leader, here easily made up for the elite players he lost.

After all, Black Flame’s death would become a huge blow to Zero Wing’s reputation and prestige in White River City.

“Coming and going as you wish, do you think the Silverleaf Forest is your house?” Shi Feng smiled calmly, his eyes revealing a cold killing intent. “Since you’ve already pursued us to this place, I insist that you stay.”

“Do you think you can keep me here?” South Wolf laughed in disdain. He was an Assassin, the class that boasted the greatest survivability in the wild. If he hid himself in the dense forest, nobody would be able to find him.

“You can try. If any single one of you manages to escape today, then I will let you go.” Shi Feng waved, and all 30-plus members of Zero Wing immediately charged forward, starting their hunt of South Wolf and the surviving players of Dark Star.

The reason why South Wolf had never participated in the battle before was to leave a path of retreat for himself. This was a habit of his. After all, once he entered combat status, he could no longer use Stealth. At that time, he would only be left with Vanish to enter Stealth mode. However, Vanish was a lifesaving skill, so it should only be used at the most crucial of moments.

Looking at the enemy players charging at him, South Wolf revealed a disdainful expression. Just as he was about to use Stealth and hide himself in the dense forest...

“What’s going on?” South Wolf suddenly discovered that he could not use the skill. Like a prisoner deprived of his freedom, South Wolf frantically called out his skill bar to look for the cause of this situation.

“Boss South Wolf, we can’t use our skills! What are we supposed to do now?” the Elementalist of Dark Star asked, frightened.

Originally, they had intended to cast Ice Wall to delay Zero Wing’s charge. Now, however, none of them could use any of their skills—and an Elementalist that could not use skills was like a lamb to the slaughter. Aside from sacrificing their lives to earn a few extra seconds for their allies, they were helpless.

“Run first, talk later.” South Wolf was confused about this situation as well, and he suspected that something must have gone wrong with the system. Since none of them could use skills, they could only rely on their two feet to escape.

As an Assassin, South Wolf had great confidence in his own speed.

However, just as he was turning to escape, he suddenly discovered that his Movement Speed had been greatly reduced. Everyone else from Dark Star faced a similar situation as well.

“Just what is going on?” South Wolf started panicking as the players of Zero Wing raced closer and closer to them. However, he was simply helpless in the situation.

In the next moment, South Wolf noticed a black figure dashing past Cola and the others. Like a mad gale, the figure instantly caught up with the escaping players of Dark Star.

This person was none other than Shi Feng himself.

At present, Shi Feng’s Agility exceeded 240 points, and there were also the bonuses provided by the equipment he wore. In terms of Movement Speed, Shi Feng was definitely ranked at the apex of Star-Moon Kingdom.

Shi Feng used Silent Steps and appeared behind South Wolf like a ghost. He then said softly, “I’ve already said that you can’t escape.”

Previously, while Shi Feng was conversing with South Wolf, he had secretly switched the Aura of Fire on the Seven Luminaries Ring to the Aura of Time.

Meanwhile, the Aura of Time reduced the Movement Speed and Attack Speed of enemies within a 100-yard radius by 20%, and increased the Cooldown of their Skills by 20%. When its activatable skill, Absolute Time, was used, it would even prevent enemies within a range of 50*50 yards from using any skills or tools for 20 seconds.

After Shi Feng used Absolute Time to envelope this entire area, everybody from Dark Star could not use any skills or tools for 20 seconds. Dark Star’s current surviving members mostly consisted of mages and healers, so this restriction had truly rendered them completely helpless.

One could say that the moment South Wolf's team stepped into this region of the Silverleaf Forest, their lives passed into Shi Feng's hands.

Just what did he do? South Wolf's heart was filled with shock when he noticed Shi Feng appearing behind him.

Before South Wolf could even ponder on the subject, Shi Feng's Abyssal Blade had already left its scabbard.

Countless silver lights pierced the numerous vital points on South Wolf's body. South Wolf had only leather armor, so every one of Shi Feng's attacks managed to cause over -500 damage, while critical hits dealt over -1,000 damage. On the other hand, the Mysterious-Iron ranked chest piece South Wolf wore was like a piece of tofu. Not only was it easily pierced by Shi Feng's Abyssal Blade, each attack it received greatly diminished the armor's durability. Just three strikes had nearly reduced it to scrap already.

Shi Feng's attacks were lightning-fast, and he had brandished his sword eight times in a single series. By the time South Wolf had recovered from shock, his 2,000-plus HP was completely gone.

Suddenly, South Wolf's field of vision turned gray, while his body fell to the ground involuntarily. Even as he died, shock and confusion still filled his face.

As South Wolf had not participated in any of the battles so far, his name remained white all this time. After he died, only one piece of equipment dropped by his body. He also lost only a single level. However, were Shi Feng's attacks as simple as they looked? The reason why Shi Feng had chosen not to use any Skills, and had instead carried out only normal attacks, was to destroy the equipment on South Wolf's body.

When South Wolf died, nearly half of the equipment on his body had already turned to scrap. Now that he had dropped yet another piece of equipment, he had definitely suffered heavy losses.

Chapter 312 - Diving into Danger Alone

After South Wolf died, the members of Dark Star were like headless flies. Frightened and scared, they fled in all directions.

Zero Wing's Berserker Lonely Snow swiftly closed the gap between him and an Elementalist of Dark Star to 20 yards before using Charge to instantly catch up to and incapacitate the Elementalist. After that, Lonely Snow used Thunder Clap, Violent Strike, Suppression, and Whirlwind Slash in rapid succession, making quick work of the Elementalist.

Following closely, everyone else from Zero Wing took action as well.

Against a group of mages and healers that could use neither skills nor tools, in addition to the fact that these classes were innately slow runners, the members of Zero Wing required no time at all to finish off the surviving Dark Star members. As these players died, they left behind piles of weapons and equipment.

"Hahaha! What a fun battle! Those bastards from Dark Star think that they are so amazing, but now, all of them are dead!" Cola laughed loudly as he looked at the weapons and equipment scattered all over the ground. The frustration he had accumulated from continuously running away was completely swept away now.

Fire Dance nodded her head in agreement, a faint smile appearing on her face. She then said with a light chuckle, "This battle was indeed a good stress reliever. None of us died this time, while Dark Star lost over 100 players. After this battle, Dark Star will have to reorganize their plans to pursue us."

If they could deal with a team of over 100 elite players in such a short time, it also signified that Dark Star would be simply sending its members to their deaths if a team had fewer than 200 or 300 players. In order to reduce its losses, Dark Star would definitely consolidate its teams and at least double or triple the member count of each team.

At this moment, Blackie and the others were laughing without restraint as well.

After all, they were able to kill over 100 elite members of Dark Star. This would, without a doubt, be a huge blow to Dark Star.

“Collect the loot. Dark Star will be arriving here soon,” Shi Feng commanded.

The loot they obtained from killing the 100-plus elite members of Dark Star was extremely bountiful. They had collected close to a thousand weapons and equipment, and a majority of them were even Mysterious-Iron rank. The harvest they got from this single battle far exceeded even the harvest Aqua Rose obtained from the battle that involved tens of thousands of players.

Even Shi Feng was somewhat moved by this harvest.

Kill and plunder.

Just from this battle, they had obtained the resources required to arm an elite team of 100 players. This was precisely the reason why, in the past, many large Guilds preferred to kill and plunder the core teams of smaller Guilds. Not only could they increase their Guild’s fame and prestige by doing so, they could also make a huge profit. They could upgrade their weapons and equipment much faster this way, compared to raiding Dungeons and killing Bosses.

However, the harvest from this battle was still insufficient to offset the losses Zero Wing had suffered.

After all, the weapons and equipment of Dark Star's elites were inferior to those of Zero Wing's elite members, not to mention those of Zero Wing's core members. Every core member of Zero Wing possessed quite a few pieces of Secret-Silver ranked weapons and equipment, and some even possessed Fine-Gold and Dark-Gold ranked weapons and equipment.

"Guild Leader, why aren't you leaving?" Fire Dance looked curiously at Shi Feng who had jumped onto a large tree.

"You guys go first. I'll hold down the fort." Shi Feng was not a lord who would sit comfortably in his throne while his subordinates fought. Since he was already here, naturally, he needed to take something away from Dark Star.

"But, Guild Leader, this place is too dangerous. You're also not an Assassin," Fire Dance said worriedly.

"You guys have done enough. Let your Guild Leader handle the rest." Shi Feng waved them off, hurrying Fire Dance and the others to the designated location.

Upon hearing Shi Feng's words, everyone from Zero Wing was immediately moved.

In God's Domain, Guild Leaders who were willing to brave danger for his fellow Guild members were definitely as rare as a phoenix's feather. Not to mention, Shi Feng was currently a famous existence in God's Domain. If he were to die, his reputation would be greatly affected.

“Then, I’ll stay behind as well!” Blackie said.

“How could I be left out from such an important matter!” Cola stepped forward.

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Suddenly, everyone else started voicing intentions to remain.

“All of you, stop making a fuss and leave with me. You all will only be a hindrance to Guild Leader if you stay behind.” Fire Dance could feel the cold killing intent radiating from Shi Feng at this moment. She knew that he could no longer hold himself back. She then raised her head and looked at Shi Feng, saying, “Guild Leader, you have to be careful.”

“Rest assured, I know my own limits.” Shi Feng laughed. He then retrieved a Basic Stealth Scroll from his bag.

This scroll allowed players to enter Stealth mode. The Stealth Scroll’s effect had a duration of one hour, and as long as players did not carry out any attacks during this period of time, the scroll would remain in effect.

Shortly after Fire Dance and the others departed...

Youlan came hurrying over to this place with a huge team of more than 300 players.

“Sure enough, all of them died.”

Youlan sighed softly when she saw the ground littered with corpses. However, she was not surprised by this outcome. Obviously, the ambush before was meant to lure them into a trap. However, South Wolf had been too eager for success—which resulted in a team-wipe, as she had expected.

“Revive them,” Youlan said to the healers in her team.

Immediately, the 30-plus healers in the team started using resurrection skills.

If players died outside of a Dungeon, there were two methods for them to revive. The first method was to revive back at the cemetery. However, players were required to wait for half an hour before they could do so. The other method was to have one of the healer classes use a resurrection skill. Players could be revived immediately using this method. However, upon resurrection, players would have to wait another ten minutes before resurrection skills could be used on them again.

A short while later, all 100-plus elite players had been revived.

Meanwhile, after being resurrected, South Wolf felt fortunate over the fact that he was not a Red Name. He had only lost one piece of equipment and fallen by one Level after he died. Yet, when he discovered that most of the equipment he wore had been turned to scrap, he nearly went insane.

South Wolf had been using Level 15 Mysterious-Iron Set Equipment, which could be obtained only from a Level 15 Team Dungeon.

In order to obtain the complete set, South Wolf had expended a huge amount of time and effort. Now, however, all of them were destroyed!

Unlike Field Bosses, Team Dungeons reset only once every three days, and there were only a limited number of Level 15 Team Dungeons within the region of White River City. Gathering the complete set had taken South Wolf two cycles. If he wished to obtain the set once again, he would have to wait through another two cycles.

At this moment, Lone Tyrant arrived at the scene. He then asked, "South Wolf, what happened here? How did all of you die?"

South Wolf was someone from Underworld, so he did not particularly care how many players from Dark Star had died. He cared more about himself instead. However, the same could not be said for Lone Tyrant. The strength of Dark Star determined his future as its Guild Leader. Now, more than 100 elites from his Guild had died for no reason. The worst part was that these elites had lost most, if not all, of their weapons and equipment. The levels they lost could be recovered, but it would not be as easy to recover the equipment.

"We were lured into an ambush unprepared, and all of us got killed. However, I discovered something even more important. I don't know how he managed it, but Black Flame is now with the core team of Zero Wing. He has also become a Red Name at this point, so this is the perfect chance for us to destroy Zero Wing. Although Black Flame is very powerful, we should have no problems dealing with all of them if we send in a team of 300 to 400 players. We can still catch up if we chase after them right away."

South Wolf's words immediately allowed Lone Tyrant and Youlan to come to a realization.

“Truly an interesting person,” Youlan muttered softly, her interest towards the player named Black Flame growing.

As for Lone Tyrant, his expression turned grim upon receiving this piece of information.

Obviously, with Black Flame commanding Zero Wing’s core team, their combat power had increased to frightening heights. Also, from South Wolf’s description of the one-sided battle that took place before, Lone Tyrant also learned that Black Flame was a great expert. Not only did Black Flame possess extraordinary combat power, he also possessed a strategic-level skill. A team of 100 elite players would definitely be insufficient to deal with him. Hence, they needed to rearrange their team compositions. Each team now had to have 200 players at the very least. Otherwise, they would only suffice as cannon fodder.

“Black Flame, you’ve actually dared show yourself here. Since you’ve come seeking your own death, don’t even think about leaving this place alive today!” Lone Tyrant revealed a sinister expression. He inwardly mocked Shi Feng for his foolish actions. In order to save Zero Wing’s core team, Shi Feng had actually disregarded the dangers and barged into Lone Tyrant’s domain.

Shi Feng must not know how to write the word “death”!

Chapter 313 - Killing the Commander

“Gather everyone immediately and surround this area. I don’t believe that they can grow wings and fly away,” Lone Tyrant sternly issued his command.

The news of World Dominators' defeat had already spread, and very few in White River City did not know about the battle that took place. This result had greatly boosted Zero Wing's prestige.

If Dark Star could get rid of not only Zero Wing's core team, but Zero Wing's Guild Leader, Black Flame, also, then they could destroy the fame that Zero Wing had accumulated up until this point.

At that time, Dark Star would also garner fame themselves, killing two birds with one stone.

Naturally, Lone Tyrant would not let go of such a valuable opportunity.

Immediately, everyone from Dark Star started moving.

Previously, they had tried to cover too large an area in their search. Now that Shi Feng and the core team of Zero Wing had exposed themselves, Lone Tyrant quickly concentrated their hunt.

Soon, more and more Dark Star members gathered at the stated location in the dense forest. Shi Feng, who remained hidden in a tree, did not panic at this situation. Instead, he continued to wait for all the members of Dark Star to arrive.

"Come, come. The more, the merrier," Shi Feng inwardly chuckled as he saw that the number of players gathered had already exceeded 1,000.

Before the battle even started, Shi Feng had already considered the consequences.

If he had not come fully prepared, he would not have allowed Fire Dance and the others to obliterate South Wolf's team of elites.

"Guild Leader, our members have surrounded this part of the forest. As long as any Zero Wing's members show themselves, it will be their death," a Ranger reported as he walked up to Lone Tyrant.

"Good. Start shrinking the encirclement." Lone Tyrant laughed satisfyingly. He then looked towards Ming Sha, the team leader of the Underworld Guards, and respectfully said, "In a moment, we will have to rely on Brother Ming Sha and your men to take care of the experts from Zero Wing."

"Rest assured; Young Master Feng sent us to deal with Fire Dance and her team of experts. Although there is now an additional Black Flame added to the equation, the Underworld Guards can resolve this solution all the same. We won't let any of them escape," Ming Sha replied and nodded his head.

In order to extinguish Zero Wing's core team, Feng Xuanyang had specifically sent a team of Underworld Guards to assist Dark Star. Feng Xuanyang had gone all out on this hunt.

Every Underworld Guard was an expert that Underworld had spent many years searching for to recruit. Underworld had also spent massive amounts of resources on nurturing these experts further. Compared to Absolute Heaven, the top-tier Assassin that Shi Feng faced before, these Underworld Guards were stronger, not weaker. Meanwhile, Feng Xuanyang had sent a team of 20 of such Guards. One could just imagine the frightening might this team possessed.

Even a 100-man elite team from Dark Star was no match for this team. Also, the leader, Ming Sha, was an expert among experts. In the virtual gaming world, he ranked near the top. Regarding pure combat techniques, he was on the same level as the Snow Goddess, Gentle Snow. However, as Gentle Snow was in possession of a huge amount of resources, in terms of equipment, Ming Sha was definitely no match for her.

Originally, Feng Xuanyang had arranged for Ming Sha to go to White River City to deal with Ye Feng. However, Ye Feng was simply too elusive as if he had completely vanished from White River City. Hence, Feng Xuanyang sent Ming Sha to deal with the top experts of Zero Wing, such as Fire Dance and Blackie.

In regards to Ming Sha's strength, Lone Tyrant had personally experienced its power. Even though he was clearly above Ming Sha in terms of Levels, and his equipment was of higher quality, he still suffered defeat at Ming Sha's hands in less than twenty exchanges. On the other hand, he had only managed to reduce Ming Sha's HP by one-tenth.

Meanwhile, after taking some time to focus on upgrades, Ming Sha's equipment could now compare to Lone Tyrant's. Now, Ming Sha was mostly geared with several pieces of Level 15 Secret-Silver Set Equipment and Fine-Gold Equipment. He also wielded a Level 15 Fine-Gold greatsword, the Bone Shatterer. His equipment certainly ranked at the very top of White River City.

Lone Tyrant had estimated that, if he fought Ming Sha now, he would last ten exchanges at most before his defeat.

Now that he had so many players surrounding this area and a powerful team of experts like the Underworld Guards supporting him, even a top-tier Assassin like Fire Dance could not escape.

Just as Lone Tyrant felt confident and was about to declare that he would annihilate everyone from Zero Wing, a figure suddenly appeared in the top of a nearby tree.

"Someone's there!" Ming Sha, who possessed acute senses, immediately discovered the figure.

As Ming Sha turned his sights to the intruder, everyone similarly followed his line of sight. Indeed, in the top of the tree, they discovered a person quietly watching them.

“Black Flame!” South Wolf immediately recognized the figure, his eyes burning with rage as he revealed this person’s identity.

At South Wolf’s reminder, everyone finally realized Shi Feng’s identity. After all, Black Flame had always been a mysterious existence, and most players had never actually seen Black Flame before. Now that this intruder had revealed himself, everyone from Dark Star discovered that Black Flame was just an ordinary-looking, middle-aged man. He did not even possess the type of aura that a Guild Leader should have. No matter how they looked at him, he was only an ordinary man.

“So, it is Guild Leader Black Flame. I didn’t expect you to show yourself here. Since you have refused to walk the path towards heaven and have instead barged your way down to hell, today will be the day that you die!” Lone Tyrant laughed coldly. He then commanded, “Everyone, kill him!”

Immediately, over a thousand players from Dark Star surrounded and charged at Shi Feng. Their encirclement was tightly packed, and not even a fly could get past them.

Faced with over a thousand players charging at him, Shi Feng did not panic in the slightest. Instead, his eyes emanated a chilling glow as he glared down at Lone Tyrant, smiling faintly. It was as if these thousand-plus players meant nothing to him. Meanwhile, as the recipient of this gaze, Lone Tyrant’s heart inadvertently quivered. However, Lone Tyrant quickly dispelled this feeling because he did not believe Shi Feng could do anything to him while so many players surrounded him.

In the next moment, however, Shi Feng vanished from the treetop and everyone’s sight.

“This is not good! He’s trying to escape! Quickly, use Flare!” Lone Tyrant hurriedly shouted.

The Rangers quickly used Flare upon receiving Lone Tyrant's command, brightly illuminating the surrounding area. Within the effective range of Flare, all stealth-type skills would lose their effects. Yet, even after tens of Flares had been launched, Shi Feng's figure still could not be found.

What the players of Dark Star did not know was that, after Shi Feng had activated the Ring of Nothingness, his first task was not to escape, but to leap forward and charge towards the tree closest to Lone Tyrant. Hence, the Flares used to seal his path of escape served no purpose whatsoever.

"Damn it! He plans to kill his way over! Use Flare and shine Guild Leader Tyrant's surroundings!" When Youlan recalled the faint smile on Black Flame's face as he pinned Lone Tyrant with a glare, she instinctively felt that Shi Feng aimed to kill the commander.

Only by doing could Shi Feng possibly redeem Zero Wing's fame and prestige. At that time, even if Dark Star managed to annihilate Zero Wing's core team, it would not damage Zero Wing's reputation if Lone Tyrant, Dark Star's Guild Leader, died at Black Flame's hands. After all, even though Zero Wing only had tens of players on their side, they would still have managed to kill Dark Star's Guild Leader while under the protection of over a thousand players.

At that time, Dark Star would be the one suffering humiliation.

"Why are you all still daydreaming?! Move!" Youlan angrily shouted when she noticed that none of Dark Star's Rangers had reacted.

However, Youlan suddenly felt that something was amiss. Instead of looking towards the outskirts of the encirclement, all of these Rangers stared at the space above her. Immediately, Youlan raised her head, discovering a figure falling towards her, and this figure was none other than Shi Feng himself.

Panic surfaced on Lone Tyrant's face. He never imagined that Shi Feng would be so suicidal as to come for his life.

“Black Flame, if you wish to die then I’ll grant your wish!” The corners of Lone Tyrant’s mouth raised slightly. He then picked up his shield and sword, fully prepared to guard against Shi Feng’s attack.

“What amazing courage!” Ming Sha, who stood by Lone Tyrant’s side, brimmed with fighting spirit right now, his eyes glowing as he watched Shi Feng fall. He then retrieved the Bone Shatterer from his back and stood in front of Lone Tyrant, acting like a highly defensive wall.

Ming Sha secretly admired Shi Feng’s performance, and he deeply wished he that could properly exchange blows with this man.

However, responsibilities came first, so he had no choice but to get rid Shi Feng.

Even with Ming Sha protecting Lone Tyrant, Youlan still felt that something was off. After all, why would an intelligent and resourceful man like Black Flame carry out such a reckless action? As insurance, Youlan hurriedly commanded, “Guardian Knights, use Protection Blessing on Guild Leader Tyrant! All healers focus on healing Guild Leader Tyrant as well! Do not let Black Flame succeed!”

Chapter 314 - True Expert

When Shi Feng landed soundlessly on the ground, he was only 20 yards away from Lone Tyrant.

In the next moment, Sacred Heals graced Lone Tyrant, one after another.

Lone Tyrant was one of the top ten players on the Ranking List of White River City; he was one of the apex MTs throughout White River City as well. Although he was only Level 21 at the moment, he had over 3,700 HP, and he was not much weaker than Cola. With high HP and Defense, physical damage classes such as Assassins, Berserkers, Swordsmen, and Rangers would find it extremely difficult to kill Lone Tyrant. Not to mention, Lone Tyrant now had a large team of healers keeping him alive.

Moreover, there was also the great expert, Ming Sha, currently guarding him.

Hence, Youlan was greatly confused as she watched Shi Feng's foolish actions.

"Let me see what you are made of!"

Ming Sha smiled at the oncoming Shi Feng, and at the same time, he lifted the Bone Shatterer and slashed it down at his enemy. The Bone Shatterer was a massive greatsword, yet, Ming Sha wielded it nimbly and accurately. In a single strike, he had completely sealed off Shi Feng's path of advance.

At this moment, the surrounding melee players of Dark Star charged at Shi Feng, intending to make mincemeat of him.

Meanwhile, the mages standing a short distance away also started casting their spells. As long as Ming Sha managed to delay Shi Feng for a few more seconds, Shi Feng would receive the bombardment of hundreds of spells. Even Zero Wing's Chief MT, the Guardian Knight Cola, would lose his life if he received so many spells, not to mention a Swordsman like Shi Feng.

Yet, as if he did not see these mages readying their attacks, Shi Feng continued to charge forward, showing no intentions of slowing.

Just as Ming Sha's second strike was about to land on Shi Feng's body, however, Shi Feng's entire person disappeared. Subsequently, Ming Sha's Bone Shatterer struck only air, generating a powerful gust of wind.

The Elementals, Curse-mancers, Summoners, and all other ranged classes that were about to launch their attacks also interrupted their chanting after they lost sight of their target.

"Where is he?"

When Ming Sha failed to find Shi Feng in front of him, he could not help but examine his surroundings. Suddenly, Ming Sha felt a chilling intent coming from behind him. Spinning around, he discovered that, just like a ghost, Shi Feng had soundlessly appeared behind Lone Tyrant. If not for his acute senses, he would not have detected Shi Feng's presence at all.

After Shi Feng used Silent Steps to appear behind Lone Tyrant, he immediately activated Absolute Time. With himself as the center point, all enemies within a 50-yard radius were now unable to use any skills or tools. Shi Feng then brandished the Abyssal Blade, casting Abyssal Bind on Lone Tyrant.

Meanwhile, Lone Tyrant only felt a cold wind blowing on his back. Only after Shi Feng started brandishing the Abyssal Blade did Lone Tyrant notice that someone stood behind him. Horrified, Lone Tyrant hurriedly leaped forward, hoping to dodge the attack aimed at his back. As insurance, Lone Tyrant even intended to cast Protection Blessing on himself.

However, Shi Feng was simply too fast. He had activated Absolute Time and Abyssal Bind almost simultaneously. Discovering that he could not activate Protection Blessing, Lone Tyrant's heart grew extremely anxious. In the next instant, nine pitch-black chains bound his body, preventing him from moving even an inch.

Meanwhile, the healers standing in the distance could only watch this scene play out. With their skills locked, the most they could do was provide moral support.

“Damn.”

Seeing that Shi Feng was the only person standing close to Lone Tyrant, Ming Sha realized that he had been tricked. Shi Feng had deceived him into leaving Lone Tyrant’s side. Suddenly, a feeling that he had just been played for a fool grew in Ming Sha’s mind. This was the first time he had felt such a feeling.

Lone Tyrant was bound and completely unguarded right now. He was unable to resist in the slightest. If he, Ming Sha, had stayed by Lone Tyrant’s side, even if Lone Tyrant were bound, he could have still helped defend against attacks. Now, however, he was almost a full ten yards away from Lone Tyrant.

If this were any other day, he could have closed the distance between them using the Charge he had specifically reserved. Now, however, none of his skills would work. Even if he wanted to save Lone Tyrant, he was powerless to do so.

However, he only needed around two seconds to close a distance of ten yards. As long as Lone Tyrant could survive that long, Ming Sha was confident in stopping Shi Feng, preventing Shi Feng from dealing any more damage to Lone Tyrant.

Naturally, Lone Tyrant had considered this as well. Hence, even when faced with Shi Feng’s Abyssal Blade and Purgatory’s Shadow, he still revealed his confidence as if saying, “What can you do to me?”

He was a Guardian Knight who possessed 3,700 HP. It was simply impossible for Shi Feng to kill him in two short seconds.

Unfortunately, reality had cruelly slapped Lone Tyrant in the face.

When Shi Feng's Chop landed on Lone Tyrant, who now had his Defense reduced by 100% due to the effects of the Abyssal Bind, a frightening damage of -1,500 appeared above Lone Tyrant's head.

This single slash had erased Lone Tyrant's confidence. Now, an expression of fear decorated Lone Tyrant's face instead. Immediately, Lone Tyrant struggled to escape Abyssal Bind. However, no matter how much energy he expended, the bone-chilling chains remain unperturbed.

This was the first time Lone Tyrant had felt so powerless. He had over a thousand subordinates and a team of experts protecting him. Yet, Shi Feng regarded them all as nothing. Now, he could not even resist while Shi Feng arbitrarily slaughtered him.

Shi Feng lifted the Abyssal Blade high. In the next moment, the Abyssal Blade, which was covered in green arcs of lightning, descended, and three arcs of lightning penetrated Lone Tyrant's body.

-984, -1370, -1892.

After Thundering Flash ended, Lone Tyrant's body fell to the ground.

From beginning to end, Shi Feng had only used two moves to finish off Lone Tyrant, and the time he spent doing so had not exceeded one second. Shi Feng's Attack Power thoroughly shocked everyone from Dark Star.

Shi Feng's performance was simply stunning. Even when faced with over a thousand elites from Dark Star, he managed to kill Dark Star's Guild Leader, Lone Tyrant.

Ming Sha was also stunned by this scene. He had never imagined that Lone Tyrant would die so quickly under Shi Feng's assault.

"Everybody, get him! No matter what, do not let him escape!" Ming Sha bellowed as he felt unprecedented humiliation.

After finishing off Lone Tyrant, Shi Feng sent a chilling gaze to his surroundings. Those who received his gaze inadvertently halted their steps, and none dared to look Shi Feng in the eyes. Shi Feng was like a king that had descended from heaven; nobody dared compete with him over dominance.

Faced with Ming Sha's glare, Shi Feng simply raised his index finger at Ming Sha. He then made a hooking motion with his finger and softly chuckled.

Ming Sha's rage burned even brighter after receiving such a blatant provocation. Immediately, he lifted his greatsword and charged at his opponent.

In reply to Ming Sha's actions, Shi Feng gently waved the Abyssal Blade as he walked forward. Shi Feng had the presence of a king facing an ant's challenge, his mind appearing completely at ease.

When the two swords collided, sparks flew.

The impact of the attack forced Ming Sha to retreat multiple steps before he could stabilize himself. Shi Feng, however, had not moved an inch. The gap in strength between the two was clear at a glance.

Giving Ming Sha no time, Shi Feng instantly charged forward and brandished his sword.

One slash... Two slashes... Three slashes...

Shi Feng's attacks were like a violent gale.

Ming Sha desperately dodged and blocked the onslaught. However, each time Ming Sha was knocked back, it was very difficult for him to stabilize his form. After receiving over a dozen attacks, Ming Sha finally failed to block an attack. He received a hit to his abdomen, and the blow sent him flying.

However, Shi Feng was not done. Shi Feng's feet suddenly exerted an explosive force, creating a deep pit in the ground as his body shot towards Ming Sha like an artillery shell.

While his body remained in mid-air, Ming Sha was unable to exert any force to retaliate or dodge.

The moment Shi Feng shot past Ming Sha, he brandished his swords multiple times. Each and every attack struck Ming Sha's vital points, all of them causing over -600 damage. In the blink of an eye, Ming Sha's life was no more.

The scene dumbfounded the audience from Dark Star.

What they had witnessed was simply Shi Feng flying past Ming Sha, followed by silvery sword streaks wrapping around Ming Sha's body. By the time Shi Feng passed Ming Sha's body, Ming Sha was already dead. Meanwhile, after Shi Feng dove into the dense forest, with a few leaps, his figure completely vanished.

At this time, some of Dark Star's members finally responded and rushed in the direction Shi Feng had disappeared.

"Youlan, do we chase after him?" South Wolf worriedly asked as he looked to Youlan.

South Wolf was very clear about just how powerful Ming Sha was. Yet, such a powerful expert still died at Shi Feng's hands. Moreover, from beginning to end, Shi Feng had not used any Skills in the exchange with Ming Sha. He relied purely on techniques to kill his opponent. This was something that South Wolf had never dared to imagine possible in the past.

Now, however, South Wolf finally realized what a true expert was.

Youlan shook her head and released a soft sigh, saying, "No. If Black Flame possesses such strength, even if we chase after him, what can we actually do to him? Not to mention, our speed can't compare to his at all. We should save our energy and give up."

First, he had killed Lone Tyrant, Dark Star's Guild Leader, amidst an army of thousands. Next, while he was escaping, he managed to kill an expert like Ming Sha. This time, Dark Star had truly lost all dignity.

Even if Dark Star managed to exterminate Zero Wing's core team at a later date, it would only add on to the gossip about Dark Star.

This time, Dark Star had truly suffered a defeat.

Chapter 315 - Breaking Past the Encirclement

“Are we giving up, just like that?” South Wolf still held some resentment in his heart. After all, Shi Feng had killed him once before.

“Then what do you propose?” Youlan revealed a calm smile. She then pointed towards the direction of the Silverleaf Forest in which Shi Feng had disappeared, saying, “If you aren’t satisfied, be my guest. However, you have already fully experienced Black Flame’s horrifying might. Under that complete silencing skill, he can easily kill whoever he wants. As long as the Cooldown for that skill refreshes, he might turn around and start another massacre. At that time, the first target he’ll go after will be you.”

When South Wolf heard her reasoning, cold sweat permeated his forehead as he recalled the scene of Shi Feng killing Ming Sha before escaping. Even until now, fear lingered within him.

“But how should we explain things to Young Master Feng?” Although South Wolf feared Shi Feng, Feng Xuanyang was not someone he could afford to provoke.

“I’ll deal with Young Master Feng. Today, we experienced Black Flame’s true strength, so consider it a great harvest. As for the other matters, let’s leave those to Guild Leader Tyrant to deal with.” Youlan said as she revealed a mysterious smile. She then turned around and left.

Feeling helpless, South Wolf sighed and departed with Youlan.

Now that both Lone Tyrant and Ming Sha had died, what could he, South Wolf, possibly do? Moreover, his main task for today was to show Youlan around the Guild and allow her to assess the situation at Dark Star. Hunting Zero Wing was a side task.

At a lake nestled in the Silverleaf Forest, Fire Dance and the other core members of Zero Wing had been waiting for a long time now. However, even after so much time had passed, Shi Feng had yet to show up, causing them all to grow slightly anxious.

“Sister Fire Dance, Guild Leader still hasn’t shown up yet. Why don’t we check on him?” one of the Five Demon Generals, the Assassin, Flying Shadow asked.

In the past, Flying Shadow had been a solitary person. However, his strength could rank at the very top of Shadow. Although he had not performed any outstanding feats during the early stages of the game, he had not performed badly either. In general, he had been an average player.

In this life, however, after Shi Feng recruited him into the Zero Wing Workshop, he immediately assigned him to Zero Wing’s core team. Many in the Guild had initially voiced their opinions against this matter. However, as time slowly passed, everyone finally realized that Shi Feng’s decision was still as impeccable as always. It was not something the likes of them could hope to compare to.

Within the Zero Wing’s core team, Fire Dance had always been the publicly acknowledged number one Assassin of Zero Wing. Meanwhile, the position of number two Assassin had been undetermined. However, after Flying Shadow joined the Guild, his techniques rose rapidly with each passing battle and friendly competition. Very quickly, everyone began to acknowledge him, and now, he was considered the most powerful Assassin in Zero Wing after Fire Dance.

“No. Since Guild Leader has chosen to stay behind, he obviously is confident of obtaining victory. We will only be a hindrance if we try to help,” Fire Dance shook her head and rejected Flying Shadow’s proposal. In reality, however, she was also worried about Shi Feng.

At this moment, a black figure pierced through the brush, landing by the lakeside soundlessly.

Before anyone noticed, this black figure had arrived before them.

Fire Dance and Violet Cloud were the first to detect this figure's presence.

Instinctively, Fire Dance retrieved the daggers from her waist, preparing to meet with a great enemy.

Soon after, everyone else discovered the presence of this new-comer as well, and they too promptly readied their weapons.

Although they could not see this black figure's appearance clearly, the pressure the figure emitted was no less than a Lord ranked Boss.

"Guild Leader!" Fire Dance quickly recognized Shi Feng's appearance, and she was greatly shocked when she felt his aura.

Previously, as they had been in a hurry to escape, she had not noticed Shi Feng's change. Now that she confronted Shi Feng, face to face, she suddenly realized that Shi Feng's strength had greatly improved. Right now, even she could not determine exactly how powerful Shi Feng was. It was especially true for the sharp and frightening aura he emanated.

"It seems that all of you have improved greatly recently. You actually managed to discover me so quickly." Shi Feng examined his Guild members and revealed a satisfied smile.

Battles in God's Domain were unlike any other virtual reality game. The improvement of a person's strength was not limited to techniques and equipment. One must also possess a bestial intuition. After all, the penalty for death was not low, so such an intuition was essential when engaged in combat in the fields.

In reality, if players did not suffer death when grinding out in the fields, they could easily reach Level 200 within two years. Yet, Shi Feng had taken a decade to reach Level 200 in the past. Death was inevitable when battling in God's Domain. In the past, Shi Feng had died countless times while participating in all sorts of combat.

In God's Domain, danger always lurked around the corner. Guild wars were only a small part of the dangers in God's Domain.

Thus, it was of utmost importance for a player to nurture a bestial intuition to avoid unnecessary deaths. It was also a key to leveling up quickly.

People's lives in reality were simply too peaceful, so this bestial intuition had been completely buried deep in their bodies. However, as players experienced more battles in God's Domain, this intuition would slowly rise to the surface. Meanwhile, the rate at which players improved also correlated to how strong their intuition became, and this was one of the main factors differentiating average players from experts.

Shi Feng chose to appear so stealthily to test everyone's intuition, and the result had not disappointed him. Compared to several days ago, everyone present had improved greatly. Though, when compared to Fire Dance and Violet Cloud, everyone else's improvement paled slightly. Nevertheless, they were still much stronger than the average elite player.

After Shi Feng finished evaluating everyone's strengths, he then said with a smile, "Alright, let's leave this place. Follow me."

Leave?

This was exactly what everyone had constantly tried to do. However, it was simply too difficult to accomplish. Currently, Dark Star's forces locked down the Silverleaf Forest. With their team of slightly more than 30, it was impossible to fight their way out of the forest.

In the next moment, however, Shi Feng gave everyone an Underwater Breathing Potion. This potion allowed players to breathe underwater for half an hour. Following which, Shi Feng gulped down the Breathing Potion and jumped into the lake. He then dove into the depths of the lake.

The team copied Shi Feng's actions, drinking the Breathing Potion and jumping into the lake as well.

This lake was not just a pool of stagnant water. Instead, it connected to the other lakes found in the Silverleaf Forest.

A player in the past had accidentally stumbled on this particular secret. This player had only managed to discover this secret as he tried to catch the Silver Carp found in the Silverleaf Forest.

The Silver Carp was a precious cooking ingredient, and its flavor far surpassed the carp found in the real world. Moreover, after eating the dishes made using the Silver Carp, there was a very small chance for players to receive a permanent increase of 1 point to a Basic Attribute. Players could receive up to a total of 20 Attribute Points through consuming these delicacies. Unfortunately, the Attribute rewarded was always random. Even so, players still valued the Silver Carp.

Many players who were gourmands and wished to increase their strength would willingly spend a massive sum of money to purchase Silver Carp.

So, Silver Carp had always been short in supply, and their prices had steadily increased over time.

Back in the day, plenty of players would come to the Silverleaf Forest to fish for the Silver Carp. There was also no lack of bloodbaths due to competition over these Silver Carp as well.

Shi Feng led everyone through one underwater tunnel after another, gradually distancing themselves from Dark Star's encirclement. However, Dark Star still held Silverleaf Forest's exits. So, it was impossible for them to depart from the forest safely.

A Guild War Order could seal an area for 24 hours. During this period, no one could use Return Scrolls in this area. In addition, if enemy Guild members logged out of the game while in this area, they would receive very harsh punishment. This punishment was far more severe than even the penalty for death as it was meant to prevent players from abusing this method to avoid the war.

However, Guild War Orders had a Cooldown time of two natural days. In God's Domain, that would be 96 hours. Hence, after players managed to endure and survive through the Guild War Order's effective period of 24 hours, they could return directly to the city using a Return Scroll.

Shi Feng intended to take advantage of these underwater tunnels before anyone discovered their existence. By doing so, they could escape Dark Star's surveillance and wait out the seal of the Guild War Order.

Dark Star had a lot of members inside the Silverleaf Forest. However, due to Shi Feng's group killing one of their teams, which had consisted of over 100 elite players, in addition to Shi Feng's impossible feat of killing both Lone Tyrant and Ming Sha amidst the encirclement of over 1,000 players, Dark Star no longer dared spread their forces too thin. They even called for more reinforcements to the Silverleaf Forest. Yet, even after thoroughly searching the area where the previous battle took place, they still could not manage to locate any traces of Shi Feng and the others.

Time passed, little by little.

After his resurrection, Lone Tyrant was like a madman as he sent out all members of Dark Star to hunt Shi Feng's team in the Silverleaf Forest. His insanity also attracted the attention of the players in White River City.

Why was Dark Star sending even more players to the Silverleaf Forest?

Were the thousands of players they had sent there before not enough to deal with the core members of Zero Wing?

At this time, a new post from Black Flame appeared on the forums, and within the post, there was a video. This video bore the title:

Dark Star's Guild Leader, Lone Tyrant's death!

Chapter 316 - Shocking Star-Moon

The confrontation between Dark Star and Zero Wing had already become explosively popular on the forums.

Previously, using the name Black Flame, Shi Feng had declared that he would exact vengeance against Dark Star.

In response, those who knew of Dark Star's strength were not optimistic about Zero Wing's chances of success.

After all, everyone knew that Zero Wing had only recently established; it did not possess a significant background. However, Zero Wing was still the first Guild in Star-Moon Kingdom to possess a Guild Residence, so most considered it to have great potential. If it spent a few more months developing, it might become an existence that surpassed even Dark Star. At the moment, though, it was simply too early for Zero Wing to go against Dark Star.

Yet, sometime later, such remarks about Zero Wing completely disappeared.

World Dominators, veteran first-rate Guild, had actually suffered defeat. Moreover, the Guild had been eliminated from the competition for dominance over White River City. Zero Wing had played a significant role in achieving this feat, so it was apparent that Zero Wing was not as weak as everyone had imagined.

Hence, the moment the video of Shi Feng killing Dark Star's Guild Leader, Lone Tyrant, uploaded, it's popularity instantly grew.

In particular, the scene where Shi Feng indifferently faced off against an army of over a thousand elites and managed to kill Lone Tyrant by himself garnered huge amounts of attention.

Shi Feng's actions made it seem as if killing the enemy commander while surrounded by an army as simple as taking something out of his pockets.

A scene that was only possible in storybooks had actually occurred in reality.

In the face of Shi Feng, the Guild Leader of Dark Star was like a little kid. Even as Lone Tyrant died, he had not offered the least bit of resistance. On the other hand, just a glance from Shi Feng caused the thousands of players of Dark Star to freeze in fright. At that time, Shi Feng was like a king. Before him, everybody else could only submit.

Also, the scene in which Shi Feng killed Ming Sha as he departed was even more amazing.

Anybody could tell at a glance that the Berserker, Ming Sha, was not just an ordinary expert. Yet, even so, Shi Feng killed him effortlessly. However, this did not mean that Ming Sha was weak. Instead, Shi Feng was simply too strong.

"This Black Flame is too powerful! With his skills, he can rank on the God's Domain Experts List."

"Not likely. That's the God's Domain Experts List you're talking about. The Secret Pavilion has collected information on all experts in God's Domain to compile that list and the God's Domain experts that rank on it are all monsters. Previously, even though the god-ranked expert, Ye Feng, had killed over a hundred players all by himself, he still failed to earn a spot on that list."

The Secret Pavilion was famous in the virtual gaming world, and one could find the Secret Pavilion's presence in practically every virtual reality game available. The Experts List compiled by the Secret Pavilion was also well-received by many players. After all, by browsing through the Experts List, one could easily find information such as the major events that had occurred in God's Domain, what kind of

experts were present in the game, who the number one player was, and more. Players had no need to go through the trouble of searching for such information through the official forums.

Any player who managed earn a place on the Experts List was a target for recruitment of all of the major Workshops in the gaming industry.

Although nobody knew whether Black Flame was capable of ranking on the Experts List, undoubtedly, he had already earned his fame in Star-Moon Kingdom.

In the future, whenever people talked about Zero Wing, the first thing that would come to their minds would be Black Flame.

“Damn it! Damn that Black Flame!” Lone Tyrant burst into an uncontrollable rage when he discovered the video Shi Feng had uploaded.

His original plan to destroy Zero Wing had completely backfired, and instead, he became the laughingstock throughout Star-Moon Kingdom.

“Have we not found them yet?!” Lone Tyrant bellowed.

Dark Star had suffered a tremendous loss this time. Not only had it lost more than a thousand players to Zero Wing, but Dark Star’s fame and prestige had also been destroyed. Lone Tyrant’s reputation had gone up in flames. To make things worse, he still had to compensate World Dominators for its losses. The amount they had to pay would definitely put a dent in Dark Star’s funds, damaging the Guild’s development.

In this war, Dark Star had suffered a double loss]. However, Lone Tyrant was completely helpless about this situation.

“Guild Leader, we’ve already increased the number of people searching for them to 15,000. However, it’s as if they grew wings and flew away; even after rummaging through the entire Silverleaf Forest, we still can’t find any traces of Zero Wing. I suspect that they have long since left the Forest. Otherwise, if Black Flame and the core members of Zero Wing were still here, Zero Wing’s and Ouroboros’s forces would have carved a path of blood into this forest by now. They wouldn’t have dispersed and went on to do their own things.” Lone Tyrant’s confidant explained slowly.

Before, Lone Tyrant’s anger had blinded him, so he had not considered this. However, now that he thought it through, it was as his confidant said.

If Black Flame, Zero Wing’s Guild Leader, were still trapped deep in his enemy’s territory, how could the other members of his Guild possibly sit and do nothing? They would have charged forward in desperation. If Zero Wing had joined hands with Ouroboros, based on Dark Star’s strength, Dark Star would have no choice but to back off.

Yet, Zero Wing had not done so. Even the reinforcements Lone Tyrant had called in from White River City received no obstruction whatsoever from the other Guild. Based on Zero Wing’s inaction, one could conclude that Black Flame had indeed already left the Silverleaf Forest.

“Damn that Black Flame! We’ve wasted so much time and manpower!” Lone Tyrant’s eyes burned with anger. However, he was simply helpless against Zero Wing. It was no longer possible to deal with their enemy now.

Previously, he had the help of World Dominators to hinder Ouroboros. Now that World Dominators was out of the competition, if Dark Star wished to deal with Zero Wing, it would have to fight both Zero Wing

and Ouroboros simultaneously. Even with Underworld's support, it was still not an opponent for these two Guilds.

Suddenly, Lone Tyrant seemed to age by several years.

"Pass on my command: everybody is dismissed. Those who should rest, rest. Those who wish to level up, go level up. As for the rewards and compensations, I will issue those later." After Lone Tyrant finished speaking, as if all the strength in his body drained away, his entire person became powerless.

Soon after, everyone from Dark Star departed from the Silverleaf Forest, one after another.

As for the seal of Guild War Order, that, too, had dissipated.

When the thousands of players from Dark Star hunted Shi Feng's group, having nothing better to do, Shi Feng and the others had spent their time searching for Silver Carp at a lake.

Currently, nobody that knew how precious Silver Carp were. Moreover, now that the underwater areas of the Silverleaf Forest had yet to develop, one could find a large number of Silver Carp in the lakes in the area.

Even in the very beginning, each Silver Carp sold for 20 Silver Coins. Presently, 20 Silver was worth 3,000 Credits; it could compare to the monthly salaries of white-collared workers. By the time everybody discovered the Silver Carp's value, its price had soared from the initial 20 Silver Coins to 2 Gold Coins. To an average player, such an amount was a fortune.

During the several hours Dark Star had hunted them, Shi Feng and the others had managed to catch over 20 Silver Carp. They even discovered multiple Treasure Chests. Although they were only Bronze and Mysterious-Iron rank, it was still a considerable harvest.

“Guild Leader, as you predicted, Dark Star has released the seal on the Silverleaf Forest,” Fire Dance reported excitedly.

Although everything had gone according to Shi Feng’s plan, when everyone witnessed the area seal lifting so quickly, they could not help their astonishment. It was as if everything was within Shi Feng’s grasp.

“That’s that. However, we are now Red Players. If we aren’t nobles of White River City, we won’t have any way to enter the city safely. Most of us are already Level 20, so if we wish to upgrade ourselves further, we need to complete our class change. Let’s first wash away our Red Names. Otherwise, we can’t enter White River City to accept our class change quest.”

Shi Feng was not particularly surprised about the seal on the Silverleaf Forest releasing. After spending so much time and manpower, Dark Star had still failed to locate any of them. As long as Lone Tyrant was not an idiot, he would definitely stop searching for them like a fool.

Chapter 317 - Town Capture

“Guild Leader, our names are as red as blood right now. Most of us have killed more than ten people, while Blackie and I have killed more than a hundred each. We’ll need to waste a lot of time to cleanse our Red Names completely. By the time we do, most of the players from the other Guilds will have already reached Level 20,” Fire Dance said as she smiled bitterly.

If a player wished to remove their status as a Red Name, they needed to remove the Crime Value they had accumulated. One of the most common ways to get rid of Crime Value was to wait, as a player's Crime Value decreased over time. However, if one's Crime Value was excessively high, they needed to punish evil and promote righteousness.

However, although killing NPCs such as villains, criminals, and bandits would significantly reduce a player's Crime Value, there was no other benefit for doing so. Killing these NPCs would not provide players with any additional rewards or EXP.

Moreover, these NPCs were very few and usually scattered all over God's Domain. It would be fine if players hunted for these NPCs by themselves, but hunting as a group would be time-consuming and inefficient.

"Indeed. Let's forget about cleansing your Red Names for now. We'll raise our White River City Reputation. As long as you become nobles, entering the city as Red Names will not have significant consequences. We should have no problems taking on the class change quest," Shi Feng made his decision after some thought. Otherwise, it would take around two to three days' effort to cleanse such a high Crime Value.

"..."

Everyone fell speechless when they heard Shi Feng's decision to raise their Reputation in White River City to the degree of becoming a noble. Shi Feng made it sound as if becoming a noble of White River City was as easy as buying cabbage from the market.

It was extremely difficult for players to raise their White River City Reputation, and one needed to invest a lot of time to accumulate sufficient Reputation Points to become a noble. In this case, it would be much easier to hunt for NPC bandits.

“Guild Leader, do you have a method to increase our White River City Reputation quickly?” Blackie knew that Shi Feng would not speak without reason. Suddenly, his eyes shone with a hint of excitement as he looked to his Guild Leader for answers.

A noble of White River City!

Currently, one could count the number of players that had become nobles of White River City on one’s fingers. After becoming a noble, not only could one purchase a business stall in White River City, but one could also receive high-level quests in the City. The rewards were enough to drool over. Although the EXP rewarded was low, the monetary rewards consisted of Silver Coins, not Copper Coins.

Most importantly, nobles could receive a 10% discount when purchasing items in White River City. They could also receive a 30% discount when repairing weapons and equipment!

Currently, every time they went to repair items, they would always leave with a stomach ache.

Due to the quality of their items, the repair fees were at least six times higher than the average player’s.

If they could become nobles of White River City, in the future, they would not become poor bastards whenever they needed to repair their equipment. They might even get the chance to enter the Noble’s District.

Shi Feng rolled his eyes at Blackie, saying, “Do you really think it is so easy to become a noble?”

The team could not help their laughter at Blackie as he nearly choked from Shi Feng's reply.

"Although it is not easy to raise one's Reputation in White River City, if one wishes to increase it quickly, there is indeed a method to do so."

"Guild Leader, is there really such a method?" Cola asked excitedly. It was an absolute nightmare for him whenever he had to repair his equipment.

Out of cloth armor, leather armor, and plate armor, the repair fees for cloth armor were the cheapest. On the other hand, plate armor cost the most to repair, and normally, the fees were at least double that of cloth armor.

"Ah, there is one method: Town Capture," Shi Feng nodded, revealing a mysterious smile.

Shi Feng's announcement stunned his Guildmates. What kind of trouble was Shi Feng trying to stir?

They had just escaped from Dark Star's pursuit, yet, now, they were going to capture a town?

"Town Capture?" Cola was confused.

Although he did not know why Shi Feng suggested they capture a town, such a thing was not easy. Level 50 Elite NPCs guarded every town. There were even Tier 2 NPCs protecting them. Even with their strength combined, they wouldn't be a match for even a single Level 50 Elite NPC, not to mention a Tier 2 NPC.

“That’s right. However, we’re not going to capture just any town. Instead, our aim is Creek Town, one of the towns within the White River City region that’s occupied by evil-aligned NPCs. As long as we capture this town, we can obtain a lot of White River City Reputation Points. If we’re lucky, there might even be unexpected rewards,” Shi Feng explained. “However, it won’t be easy. I’ll need to make some preparations before we set off.”

“Just stay here and catch some fish for now. I’ll head back and make the necessary arrangements. I’ll notify you guys once I’m done.”

After Shi Feng said so, he used a Return Scroll.

Town Capture.... During the middle stages of God’s Domain, this was a commonplace activity for players.

There were plenty of small towns in God’s Domain, and a majority of these towns were not under the management of any kingdoms or empires. Instead, other forces occupied these towns. So long as players wished to establish their own empire in God’s Domain, it was a must for them to occupy towns. Meanwhile, if players wished to occupy a town, they needed to chase away the forces that occupied said town first. Only by doing so could they turn the town into their own Guild Town. They could then slowly develop and upgrade the town’s rank. It was also not impossible for players to develop a town to surpass even Star-Moon City. However, the conditions for doing so were extremely demanding, so it was very difficult for players to succeed.

Moreover, capturing a town was easier said than done.

Even if the current number one Guild in White River City, Ouroboros, went all out, they should not have any clue of how to capture a town. It should be impossible for Ouroboros to capture even the most bordered and resource-poor town.

On top of that, now that Shi Feng had unsealed the Endless Abyss, towns had upgraded their overall strength in preparation for the assault from Demonic Beasts, making it even more challenging for players to capture a town.

However, Creek Town, the town Shi Feng had chosen as his target, was slightly special. There was a Hidden Quest in White River City that would greatly reduce the overall strength of Creek Town. If the town were weakened, capture would become far easier. However, in order to accept this Hidden Quest, at the very minimum, one must first become a Viscount of White River City. Fortunately, Shi Feng just happened to be just that.

After Shi Feng returned to White River City, he suddenly became the focus of the entire city. Any players who saw him immediately began whispering to companions or strangers by their sides. Shi Feng was a celebrity right now, and everyone in White River City knew about him.

Although part of the reason why Shi Feng attracted so much attention was due to his blood-red name, the actual cause for his fame was due to the name Black Flame.

The video of the battle in the Silverleaf Forest was extremely exciting. The scene where Shi Feng had leaped high into the air to finish off Ming Sha was particularly unforgettable. Countless players had tried to mimic Shi Feng's actions. Unfortunately, average players could, at most, jump two to three meters high. Compared to Shi Feng, who had managed to reach a height of eight meters, the gap between them was simply too massive. Moreover, Shi Feng had brandished his sword six times while in mid-air, and every strike accurately landed on Ming Sha's vital points.

Through their attempts to mimic Shi Feng's actions, everyone's admiration for him grew. Everyone knew that a player's Basic Attributes determined the gap between them and others. Only after making a comparison did they know just how wide the gap was between them and Shi Feng.

"Guild Leader Black Flame! When will Zero Wing hold another mass recruitment? I've been waiting to join Zero Wing for a long time now!" a Level 17 male Swordsman asked loudly.

“That’s right! This little girl wishes to join Zero Wing as well! Big Brother Black Flame, please tell this little sister when you’ll recruit again! It can be our little secret! I promise not to tell anyone!” a beautiful female Summoner asked sweetly.

Everyone’s eagerness to join Zero Wing grew greater and greater. If Zero Wing had not announced to the public that it had temporarily halted recruitment in order to fine-tune the management of the Guild, the stampede of players might have trampled Zero Wing’s recruitment area by now.

The crowd’s enthusiasm started to make even Shi Feng grow afraid. Without a better choice, he said, “Everyone can rest assured that Zero Wing will definitely recruit for more members. Moreover, we will have even more slots available during the next recruitment. As for the time and venue, the recruitment will be held in three days at Zero Wing’s Guild Residence. I hope that everyone will show up for the registration when the time comes.”

Finished speaking, Shi Feng hurriedly escaped. If he remained any longer, he might not be able to get away.

“In three days? Great! I can use that time to improve my techniques and strength! I will definitely pass the test and become a member of Zero Wing!”

After receiving a specific time, everyone grew even more enthusiastic. They all swore to join Zero Wing no matter what.

In their minds, Zero Wing stood out like a sacred temple of experts.

Assassin Fire Dance, Guardian Knight Cola, Elementalist Aqua Rose, Berserker Lonely Snow, Curseman Black Cloud, Cleric Violet Cloud, Swordsman Black Flame, Swordsman Ye Feng, and many

other experts all belonged to Zero Wing. These experts possessed brilliant battle records in God's Domain, and they were far stronger than other Guilds' experts.

Chapter 318 - Blood Hand

Shi Feng's return immediately attracted the attention of the various powers in White River City.

When these powers learned about Shi Feng's return, in addition, his blood-red colored name, they knew that Dark Star's encirclement had failed.

Dark Star had dispatched over 10,000 members during this encounter. Yet, they still failed to annihilate Zero Wing's core members. This conclusion had greatly boosted Zero Wing's fame. Moreover, Lone Tyrant's death at Shi Feng's hands had also been a huge blow to Dark Star's reputation.

Excluding World Dominators, which had already been eliminated from the competition for the dominance over White River City, Dark Star's current reputation ranked at the very bottom of the top six Guilds of White River City. As a result, many players who had originally intended to join Dark Star now had their sights on Zero Wing instead.

As things stood, it was only a matter of time before Zero Wing surpassed Dark Star.

After escaping the attention of the passionate players surrounding him, Shi Feng immediately draped a Black Cloak over his shoulders, covering his face and hiding his name. He then hurried towards the Adventurer's Association of White River City.

On the way, Shi Feng contacted Aqua Rose and had her bring around 60 core members to the Adventurer's Association to meet up with him.

Twenty minutes later, Aqua Rose showed up at the entrance of the Adventurer's Association with the requested Guildmates.

Every one of these core members wore equipment that was Mysterious-Iron rank and above. Among them, many possessed Secret-Silver Equipment. The group looked dazzling when they stood in front of the entrance, invoking the envy and admiration of many passing players.

Although Dark Star's ambush and the battle with World Dominators had significantly damaged Zero Wing, fortunately, the Guild possessed a relatively large stock of Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Equipment to compensate for the loss. Only, some time was required to regain the lost Levels.

Meanwhile, Aqua Rose's group consisted of players that had been busy raiding Dungeons while the Guild War had taken place. They had not been able to make it in time to help.

"Big Sis Aqua, why do you think the Guild Leader called us here?" a female Cleric called Snow Goose asked curiously.

"Isn't it obvious? Dark Star caused us trouble, picking a fight. Our Guild Leader obviously wants us here to plan our payback," a Berserker said, laughing.

"That's great! The Dungeon we raided before was too far away, so we couldn't join in the Guild War. Now, I'll get to teach those bastards from Dark Star a lesson!" Snow Goose giggled as she waved her delicate fist around.

Watching this scene, Aqua Rose could not help but laugh, saying, "Snow Goose, aren't you a little too aggressive? Although the Guild Leader hasn't expressed his plans for us yet, I feel that he called us here for something else. Otherwise, if we start a war against Dark Star with the few numbers we have here, we won't even fill in the gaps between their teeth. Stop guessing blindly. In any case, we'll know what he wants us to do soon enough."

Hearing that their Guild Leader had called them here for something else, Snow Goose's mood dampened slightly. The others also revealed disappointed expressions.

Shi Feng finally arrived after Aqua Rose and the others had waited at the Adventurer's Association's entrance for a short while.

"Guild Leader, why are you still wearing a cloak? Are we not allowed to expose ourselves in this operation? Should we leave and sneak back over here?" Aqua Rose could not help her confusion when she saw Shi Feng hiding his face. At this moment, Shi Feng looked like a wanted criminal who was afraid of being discovered.

"I hadn't intended to use it. However, being too famous doesn't help me either. If I removed my cloak, I don't think I will get further than the front door of the Adventurer's Association," Shi Feng said, laughing bitterly. "Forget about it. Invite me to the team and let's get down to business. "

From Shi Feng's brief explanation, Aqua Rose imagined the comical scene of a horde of players mobbing Shi Feng. Involuntarily, Aqua Rose's lips hooked up into a bright smile. The dignified Guild Leader of Zero Wing had been fearless even against an army of thousands. Yet, now, he was actually afraid of his fans' enthusiasm.

After Aqua Rose invited Shi Feng to the team, she passed the team leader position to Shi Feng.

After becoming the leader of the team, Shi Feng immediately examined everyone's Level, and he could not help but feel proud at what he saw.

A majority of the team was Level 19, while a small portion had already reached Level 20. This was unimaginable in any other Guild. As the various large Guilds competed over the First Clear of the Three Great Dungeons, naturally, they would not hurry to level up.

In truth, the Guild's actions were similar to putting the cart before the horse. Although obtaining the First Clear of the Three Great Dungeons was important, God's Domain worked differently from other MMOs. If players paid too much attention to their gains and losses during the early stages of the game, they could easily miss other opportunities.

Take the promotion to become a Tier 1 class for example. Level 20 Dungeons specifically catered to Tier 1 classes. The only reason Fire Dance and the others had managed to clear Level 20 Dungeons was mainly due to the excellent equipment they possessed. Otherwise, it would have been extremely difficult to achieve such a feat.

Not to mention, there were still the 50-man and 100-man Level 20 large-scale Team Dungeons.

Hence, the earlier they completed their Tier 1 promotion, the better their chances were of obtaining the First Clear of the 100-man Team Dungeon.

The only benefit of obtaining the First Clear of the Level 10 Three Great Dungeons was fame among players. By obtaining the First Clear of a Level 20, 100-man Team Dungeon, however, not only could they increase their fame, but they could also encounter a great opportunity.

"Let's head to the second floor," Shi Feng said in the team chat.

Normally, nobody visited the second floor of the Adventurer's Association.

This place did not receive individual Guild players. Instead, this place was exclusive to Guild teams.

"Sister Aqua, why do you think the Guild Leader has led us here?" Snow Goose asked curiously.

"I don't know." Aqua Rose shook her head. She, too, could not see through their Guild Leader, Shi Feng. However, it was precisely because of this that she had chosen to join Zero Wing. She then continued, "However, this is where Guilds come to take on large-scale quests. I wonder what kind of great quest the Guild Leader plans to accept?"

At this time, Shi Feng sat in front of the VIP counter. With a smile, the beautiful receptionist behind the counter asked, "Lord Viscount, how may I be of service today?"

"I wish to take on a Guild Crusade Quest," Shi Feng requested.

"Okay. However, as the Zero Wing guild is only a 3-star Guild, there are only four locations available for a crusade. May I know which location Lord Viscount desires?"

The receptionist listed the four locations. They were rather remote towns, barren wastelands. However, dark forces occupied each location. Without two to three thousand Level 30 Tier 1 players, one should not even consider capturing it.

Of course, this was only in the case for attacking normally. If it were a crusade, however, the difficulty of capturing the town would significantly decrease. Even so, it was still extremely difficult. If one attempted to capture these towns with only 100 players around Level 20, it would be suicide.

“Creek Town, then.” Shi Feng was very familiar with the Crusade Quests available in White River City. He chose Creek Town, which was occupied by the Blood Hand Association, without hesitation.

Among the many dark forces in the White River City region, the Blood Hand Association was one of the weakest and smallest powers; it ranked at the very bottom. Taking on any of the other three locations, each of which was controlled by lower-middle class dark forces, would be nothing more than suicide for Shi Feng and his team. They would have no chances of successfully capturing the town at all.

“Okay. A 1-star Crusade Quest will require a deposit of 30 Gold Coins. If the quest is not completed within five days, then the deposit will not be refunded.”

Snow Goose, who currently stood behind Shi Feng, widened her delicate mouth in shock when she heard the requirement of a 30 Gold deposit.

Just what kind of quest was this? To think that they actually needed to pay a deposit before accepting the quest.... Moreover, the deposit was even 30 Gold Coins!

“Big Sis Aqua, what kind of quest is that? It actually needs 30 Gold Coins! Even if I sold myself, I still wouldn’t earn so much money!” Snow Goose said, stunned.

Snow Goose’s words left everyone speechless.

Shi Feng, on the other hand, merely revealed a calm smile as he paid the 30 Gold Coins deposit gladly. He then said in the team chat, "This is a Guild Crusade Quest. Unless one becomes a true noble of White River City, they can't even accept such a quest. Moreover, 30 Gold Coins is actually very cheap."

Cheap?

Everyone was truly speechless this time. At this stage of the game, 30 Gold Coins was practically the maximum a third-rate Guild would possess. If they could not complete this Crusade Quest, those 30 Gold Coins would be gone forever....

Chapter 319 - Windbreaker

After Shi Feng accepted the 1-star Guild Crusade Quest, he led everyone to the Twilight Temple.

The Twilight Temple was a main hub for healer classes.

Here Clerics, Oracles, and Druids could take on quests that rewarded high-level skills related to their classes.

"Guild Leader, what are we doing here?" Aqua Rose asked, confused.

"We're looking for assistance." Shi Feng smiled faintly, not bothering to explain further.

After entering the main hall of the Twilight Temple, they saw Level 180 Elite Guards crowding the temple. This hall also contained the statue of the Twilight Goddess, below which stood a Level 200 Priest dressed in red.

An Oracle advanced to Priest after reaching Tier 2. To Shi Feng and the others, a Level 200 Priest was an existence that they could only revere. At this moment, however, this Priest dressed in red took the initiative to walk up to Shi Feng and welcome him.

“Greetings, Lord Viscount,” the Priest said, fawning.

“Greetings, Esteemed Lord Priest. I wish to purchase some Water of Life. Do you have some here?” Shi Feng asked softly.

The Water of Life was the spring water taken from the Fountain of Eternal Life; it was sacred medicine in God’s Domain that could heal any wound in an instant. It could even regenerate a person’s lost limbs, so The Water of Life was extremely valuable. To NPCs, the Water of Life held great importance.

The Twilight Temple worshipped the Twilight Goddess. Meanwhile, the Fountain of Eternal Life was a Godly Relic that the Twilight Goddess had bestowed upon the Twilight Temple.

Hence, throughout God’s Domain, only the Twilight Temple could possibly obtain the Water of Life.

“Lord Viscount, Water of Life is precious. This is a gift of the Twilight Goddess to we humans, and every drop is a treasure. It is not something a Priest like myself can give to others casually, so I beg for Lord Viscount’s forgiveness,” the Priest said, appearing slightly angry. However, a Viscount was a person of relatively high status in White River City. Even if Shi Feng’s request angered the Priest, the Priest still had

to endure and hold it in. If any other player stood in Shi Feng's place right now, the Priest might have thrown them out of the temple already.

Naturally, Shi Feng knew this.

Although he had guessed that his identity as a Viscount would not get him the Water of Life, the Priest's unwavering refusal still shocked him slightly.

Shi Feng then activated the Golden Stigmata and looked at the Priest, asking, "Will this not do?"

Suddenly, twinkling golden stars appeared in Shi Feng's dark pupils. His body began to emanate a terrifying aura. In the face of this aura, the Priest felt even his soul tremble.

"You are..." The Priest was the manager of this Twilight Temple, so it was only natural that he would possess vast knowledge regarding God's Domain.

Stigmata were the War God's Temple's symbol of supremacy, and they were categorized into three different colors: silver, gold, and purple. A person capable of controlling a Golden Stigmata was definitely a core character of the War God's Temple.

"Is it really not possible?" Shi Feng asked again. In truth, he was not confident in obtaining the Water of Life.

If players wished to purchase the Water of Life from the Twilight Temple, the prerequisite was sufficient status among humans. As to what degree of status, even Shi Feng was unsure. However, characters like Weissman, the controller of a city, could definitely purchase some.

Shi Feng was not a city lord, so if he wished to purchase the Water of Life, he could only try his other identities. If it were not possible to obtain any, he would have to look for other assistance to help him with the Crusade Quest instead. After he gained sufficient status in the future, he would return and purchase Water of Life.

After some struggling, the Priest finally opened his mouth and said, "Lord Viscount, with your esteemed status, you can purchase one drop."

"Okay, I'll take it," Shi Feng replied, slightly excited.

However, his excitement confused the members of Zero Wing behind him. Wasn't it just a single drop of Water of Life? Yet, it actually caused their usually calm and indifferent Guild Leader to grow excited. Could this Water of Life possibly be an Epic item?

"That will be 300 Gold, Lord Viscount." The Priest carefully took out a small crystal vial from his pocket. Within this vial, there was a single droplet of dark-blue liquid.

Aqua Rose immediately revealed a shocked expression when she heard the required price of 300 Gold. The others were stunned as well.

However, Shi Feng was not surprised by this price. Instead, he handed over 300 Gold to the Priest without hesitation; his actions even seemed a little impatient.

Aqua Rose was speechless when she heard the price for a drop of Water of Life. There was not a single Guild in God's Domain that could possibly afford such an amount. Hence, when she saw Shi Feng hand over 300 Gold to the Priest, her disbelief was overwhelming. Although Aqua Rose had long since known that Shi Feng was rich, she never thought his fortune was this vast.

“No wonder Guild Leader said that 30 Gold was cheap before...” Snow Goose finally understood Shi Feng’s words back at the Adventurer’s Association.

Indeed, compared to 300 Gold, the 30 Gold deposit for the Guild Crusade Quest was nothing.

With 300 Gold, one could fully arm a 100-man elite team with Mysterious-Iron Equipment.

In the end, just how deeply hidden is this guy? Just how much do I not know about Zero Wing? Aqua Rose shifted her gaze to Shi Feng, a complicated feeling possessing her heart.

If Lone Tyrant of Dark Star knew about this, he would definitely regret making an enemy out of Zero Wing.

Wars between Guilds were mainly competitions in financial power.

Meanwhile, by showing off its own financial power, Dark Star had simply shown off its slight skill in front of an expert.

However, what Aqua Rose did not know was that Dark Star could have caused Shi Feng some significant problems had they really annihilated Zero Wing’s core team. After all, Blackie wielded an Epic ranked staff. The others also possessed excellent Dark-Gold items. If Dark Star had managed to obtain these items, the consequences would have been unimaginably dire.

After Shi Feng obtained the Water of Life, he hurried over to a simple, and crude, looking house located in the Slums of White River City.

In this house lived a middle-aged man with only a single arm. Originally, this man had been a powerful Tier 2 Sword Master. However, during the Great Demon War, he had lost one of his arms, and subsequently, his strength deteriorated, reverting to an ordinary citizen.

This man was Kite. Even before he had lost his arm, Kite had not been very famous in Star-Moon Kingdom. After all, he was simply a Tier 2 Swordsman, something common.

The reason Shi Feng had come for Kite was mainly that of his potential.

Five years after God's Domain had officially launched, Kite had another name.

Windbreaker!

Nobody would have thought that a one-armed man living in the Slums of White River City would, after becoming the personal guard of a player, one day grow to become a Tier 5 Titled Sword Saint. The more shocking matter was the fact that the owner of this Windbreaker was actually just an independent player with subpar techniques, and this player was simply a Lifestyle player.

However, due to the presence of this Tier 5 Titled Sword Saint, this insignificant, independent player had actually become an existence that nobody dared to provoke casually. The same went for the first-rate Guilds at that time.

Many first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds had also offered astronomical prices in order to recruit this independent player. Moreover, the prices they offered were much higher than what they would usually offer when recruiting a Tier 5 expert.

The reason being, NPCs were different from players. NPCs of the same rank were much more powerful than players, not to mention a Tier 5 Sword Saint that received a title. Kite's strength far surpassed other ordinary Tier 5 Sword Saints. If ranked according to tiers, a Title Sword Saint could be considered a Tier 5.5 class, and only Tier 6 god-ranked players could possibly suppress this Windbreaker.

"Esteemed Lord Viscount, how may I be of service to you?" Kite asked in a tone that was neither servile nor overbearing when he saw Shi Feng entering his house. Although he had become a cripple with low status, his bearing was completely different when compared to the Priest back at the Twilight Temple.

Chapter 321 - NPC Army

After Kite became Shi Feng's personal guard, he opened the crystalline bottle and drank the Water of Life within.

When Aqua Rose saw Kite drink the droplet of Water of Life, which cost 300 Gold, she could not hide her pained expression.

As for the other Guild members, they, too, gulped at the sight.

Three hundred Gold!

It was enough to outfit a 20-man team with Secret-Silver Equipment fully. Yet, their Guild Leader spent that 300 gold on an ordinary-looking and crippled NPC. They could not help their envy.

However, Shi Feng paid no attention to the others' thoughts.

In the past, Drunk Xiao had become a famous character throughout God's Domain due to his personal guard. Even when countless first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds had offered astronomical prices to purchase this guard, Drunk Xiao refused to sell.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng had only spent 300 Gold to obtain this future Tier 5 Titled Sword Saint. How was this not a worthwhile trade?

Shortly after Kite drank the Water of Life, his body suddenly emitted a bright green light. This light originated from the Water of Life. Not only did it possess frightening healing powers, but it could also remove all abnormal statuses.

A few moments later, Kite's body expelled a cloud of dark gas, and following its removal, Kite's originally pale complexion turned rosy red. The right arm that he had lost also began to regenerate at a rate visible to the naked eye.

One minute later, Kite had fully recovered.

"Guild Leader, he..." At this moment, Aqua Rose dared not believe her own eyes. She had long since developed a keen intuition, so she could immediately discover the change in the NPC named Kite.

Although Kite's clothing was still worn out, the aura he gave off no longer felt depressing; rather, it was refreshing. At this moment, he seemed like a caged lion that had broken out of its confinement, releasing a heaven-shocking roar to let everyone know of its return.

"This is the real him." Shi Feng laughed.

In the past, Drunk Xiao had gone through great pains for Kite. He had practically bankrupted himself to obtain a droplet of Water of Life.

In this life, however, Shi Feng had easily accomplished Drunk Xiao's feats. Moreover, Shi Feng had managed to heal Kite while he was still Level 30.

In the past, Drunk Xiao had only managed to obtain the Water of Life after Kite passed Level 100.

Despite having the same Growth Potential, there would be a huge difference in strength between a personal guard nurtured from Level 30 and a personal guard nurtured from Level 100.

"His Growth Potential is as shocking as expected," Shi Feng could not help but mutter happily when he examined Kite's data again.

[Kite] (Ye Feng's Personal Guard)

Gender: Male

Age: 39

Loyalty: 90

Charm: 75

Physique: 95

Wisdom: 88

Growth Potential: 94

Class: Tier 1 Swordsman

Level: 30

HP: 15,400/15,400

Attack Power: 830-960

Defense: 4,500

Attributes: Strength 384, Agility 364, Endurance 420, Intelligence 276, Vitality 280

Kite's current Attributes were worlds apart from the Attributes he had before he drank the Water of Life.

It seems that taking the Water of Life earlier has also affected his Growth Potential. Shi Feng could recall that Kite's Growth Potential in the past was 92 points. Now, it was two points higher. After 90 points, even a difference of one point in Growth Potential would create a significant difference regarding Attributes, let alone two points. These additional points would be of immense help to Kite's growth in the future.

"Kite, take these and use them for now," issuing his instructions, Shi Feng retrieved several pieces of Level 20 Mysterious-Iron Equipment and passed them to Kite. Although they were somewhat incompatible for the Level 30 Swordsman, they were all Shi Feng had at the moment. After all, Zero Wing had yet to start raiding Level 20 Team Dungeons. They had only raided the Level 20 5-man Party Dungeons.

After Kite equipped the Level 20 Mysterious-Iron items, he appeared valiant and extraordinary. His Attributes also increased significantly. His HP broke through the 18,000 threshold, his Attack Power increased past 1,400 points, and Defense reached 6,000 points. Kite's Defense far surpassed even Zero Wing's Chief MT, Cola. Kite was practically a Boss monster now.

"Let's go. We still have to recruit some more people." Shi Feng then led everyone to the Mercenary Alliance.

The Mercenary Alliance was the best place for players to recruit normal guards. The NPCs of the Mercenary Alliance were all well-trained, and they were far more reliable than the NPCs players recruited randomly from the streets.

Normal guards were different from personal guards. Players were required to pay for their services, and the prices varied depending on the strength of the NPC. With Shi Feng's current level, the strongest guards he could recruit were Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs.

A normal Level 50 guard cost 5 Silver Coins per day, and the payment would be due once every ten days.

A Level 50 Tier guard cost 30 Silver Coins per day with payment due once every ten days as well.

The difference between a normal guard and a Tier 1 guard was like the difference between a Common monster and an Elite monster; thus, the price of a Tier 1 guard was six times higher than a normal guard. Some Tier 1 guards that were more powerful would cost even more.

After arriving at the Mercenary Alliance, Shi Feng signed a contract with 48 Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs. Among them, some were melee classes, some were ranged classes, and some were healers. Of the 48 NPCs, there were six NPCs in particular that were more powerful than the others. They were Tier 1 advanced guards, and they cost 50 Silver Coins per day. Shi Feng had hired these guards for one month, and the fee totaled to 468 Gold.

Shi Feng's financial power completely eclipsed all the Guilds in White River City.

Afterward, Shi Feng led the 48 NPCs and walked through the streets, the group of Level 50 Tier 1 guards looking valiant and mighty. Many players even consciously moved out of the way, not daring to block the path of this small army of powerful NPCs.

"Crap, why are there so many Tier 1 NPCs? Did something happen in White River City?"

"No, look! Some of them aren't NPCs, but players!"

“Aren’t they members of Zero Wing? Where are they heading?”

The players quickly discovered the problem. This small army of NPCs and the members of Zero Wing were actually together. Moreover, all of these NPCs were Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs. With such a large NPC army, who, in White River City, would dare make an enemy of Zero Wing?

In the face of so many Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs, even Dark Star’s army of tens of thousands of players amounted to nothing. The level suppression alone would leave the players of Dark Star completely helpless. Not to mention, these Tier 1 NPCs also possessed many powerful Skills in their arsenal.

“Zero Wing is too amazing!”

“I heard that Zero Wing is going to recruit members again in three days! I will definitely have to apply!”

The number of players gathered on the street continued to increase, and many started recording this majestic scene. This army of 48 NPCs was more imposing than an army of thousands of players.

The combat power this small army possessed was no weaker than the total battle power of a starting town.

Although nobody knew what relationship this NPC army had with Zero Wing, the fact that Zero Wing could mobilize so many NPCs was already amazing.

Meanwhile, the news of this matter spread quickly, creating a sensation on the official forums and increasing Zero Wing’s fame once more.

The members of Dark Star wore extremely ugly expressions when they discovered about this matter. Deeply afraid that Zero Wing would lead this group of NPCs to attack them, many of Dark Star's members chose to hide in cities or towns. Some chose to remove their Guild Emblems temporarily and secretly grind monsters.

At the same time, the members of World Dominators were similarly frightened by this news, and they were also hiding, not daring to explore and level up.

Chapter 322 - Crusade Against Creek Town

Creek Town was one of the border towns within White River City's jurisdiction. The town was nestled in a desert, and it was so desolate that not even birds would come to lay their eggs.

However, such a small town was a popular gathering place for Red Names and those who walk the path of darkness.

Unlike towns, cities like White River City were managed strictly. Hence, Red Names who had often killed other players for equipment during the initial stages of the game could only find a desolate place like Creek Town to receive quests and level up.

Near Creek Town, high leveled monsters dwelled, ranging from Level 15 to Level 30, which were perfectly suitable for players at this stage of the game.

In Creek Town, Red Names crowded the streets. Most of these players were above Level 15, while only a few were below Level 15. The Blood Hand Association, a dark force, managed the town. So, naturally, the NPCs here would not kill these Red Names. On the contrary, the NPCs welcomed these Red Names. Red Names could also receive better quests depending on their Crime Value, and through completing these quests, they could raise their Reputation among the dark forces they served.

“Guild Leader, there are over a thousand players in this town. In addition to the NPCs guarding this place, I don’t think we can conquer it successfully.” After spending a long time scouting, Aqua Rose had obtained a general grasp on Creek Town’s overall combat power.

Setting aside the fact that there were over a thousand Red Names in this town, there were more than 500 NPCs guarding the town, the lowest of which was Level 50. Among them, there was no lack of Elite Guards. There was even a few Level 70 Tier 1 guard captains. If they charged in, the actual number of enemy NPCs might increase further. With only 100 players and 49 guards, they stood no chance at all.

Also, if a town were attacked, the NPCs within would not wait for players to close in on them before retaliating. Instead, all of the guards in the town would gather and fight back. Moreover, there was a huge difference between NPCs and monsters. The reason being, unlike monsters, NPCs knew how to coordinate with each other, making them far more difficult to deal with.

Furthermore, these Red Names would definitely try to take advantage of their battle with the NPCs, inconveniencing them at the very least. Moreover, these Red Names were not easy opponents. The fact that these players that could survive as a Red Name until now and possessed such a high level indicated that they had strong fighting techniques. Naturally, the equipment they used would be of high quality as well.

Killing and plundering was their main occupation in the game, so even if they were not fully equipped with Secret-Silver Equipment, at the very least, they would possess Bronze Equipment or above.

If any of these Red Names were in a Guild, they could easily become the elite or even core players of the Guild. Moreover, the frequent PKs they took part in allowed them to gain plenty of combat experience, so there was no shortage of experts among these Red Names.

To put it simply, although there were only around a thousand Red Names in Creek Town, these 1,000 or so players could easily rival 2,000 elites of Dark Star.

Thus, if they wished to conquer Creek Town, the task could only be described with one word—challenging!

“Of course, we stand no chance against them if we attack normally. However, we have come here with a Crusade Quest.” Shi Feng knew how difficult it was to capture a town. How could a Crusade Quest possibly be easy? If it were, the system would not reward players with shocking rewards and Reputation.

These Red Names were usually the bandits; they were not used to being the victims.

This time, however, it was their turn to shed some blood.

“Fire Dance, how are the preparations coming on your side?” Shi Feng asked through the team chat.

The 48 Level 50 Tier 1 guards Shi Feng had recruited were no pushovers. Although these guards could not be used to kill monsters or raid Dungeons, they could defend a town or private residence. More importantly, they could also help players complete large-scale Guild Quests. If not for this fact, Shi Feng would not have recruited so many Tier 1 guards.

However, even though all 48 were Tier 1, they were insufficient to deal with all of the NPCs in Creek Town. Moreover, Shi Feng had not intended for them to launch a frontal assault on the guards of Creek Town.

Among the 48 Tier 1 guards Shi Feng had recruited, some were Rangers and Assassins. Hence, Shi Feng had tasked Fire Dance and the others to take along one of these guards to lure the Blood Hand Association's NPCs out of town. After all, the intelligence the Tier 1 guards possessed was much lower than players. If Shi Feng allowed the Tier 1 guards to lure the enemy NPCs, they could easily fail. Yet, if players lured the enemy NPCs, due to the great disparity in Attributes, the NPCs could catch up and kill the players. Hence, Shi Feng's solution was to have players instructing the Tier 1 guards individually.

"We're all ready. We've grasped most of the basic commands, so we're only waiting for your command now," Fire Dance said with a smile.

"Good. After I initiate the Crusade Quest, all of you take action immediately. Remember not to lure the town guards too far. Otherwise, they will run back to town." After Shi Feng gave a few reminders, he then walked towards Creek Town.

Shi Feng stopped a few hundred yards before the town, taking out the Crusade Order. He then pointed the Crusade Order at the sky.

Suddenly, rays of golden light shot from the Crusade Order, and in the next moment, a golden magic array appeared above Creek Town. In the evening sky, this magic array was extremely conspicuous, and it quickly attracted the attention of many players inside the town.

A short moment later, the magic elements of this array burst open, and one after another, golden ripples spread from this magic array, enveloping the entire region of Creek Town. At this moment, if viewed from the outside, a protective, golden dome appeared, covering Creek Town.

Creek Town System Announcement: Zero Wing has started a crusade against Creek Town. Unrelated parties, please leave immediately!

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The Crusade Announcement repeated three times, and all of the Red Names in Creek Town were shocked by this notification. There was actually a Guild that dared to capture a Red Name Town.

Shortly after, all of the players belonging to the dark forces in Creek Town received another message. However, the message this time was from the Blood Hand Association. The message stated that, as long as they could successfully defend the town, all players would receive bountiful rewards. Moreover, players would receive Achievement Points for each enemy they killed. After the battle was over, players could exchange these Achievement Points for weapons and equipment.

“Zero Wing sure is kind. They have actually come to gift us money.”

“Do they think they are amazing? Since they dared to come into our territory and make trouble, we’ll annihilate every single one of them!”

The players of Creek Town’s blood boiled, their killing intent rose to new heights. Although Zero Wing shone like the sun in midsky[1] in White River City, in their eyes, Zero Wing wasn’t worth mentioning. After all, they all had impressive techniques and none of them mingled in White River City, so they had no need to fear Zero Wing’s vengeance. Even if Zero Wing tried to take revenge on them, they only needed to hide, and Zero Wing could do nothing to them.

The barefooted are not afraid of those who wear shoes. They were the hoodlums of God’s Domain, so why would they fear Zero Wing?

Inside one of the bars in Creek Town, an Assassin clothed in black currently drowned himself in alcohol. The man felt like a piece of ice to others; he exuded a chilling intent that made others instinctively distance themselves. Shockingly, this man was actually Level 20, and he all of his equipment was Secret-Silver Equipment. In White River City, this man would definitely be considered a first-rate expert.

This black clothed Assassin was stunned when he received the system announcement, the beer bottle in his hand falling to the ground.

“Zero Wing? Doesn’t that mean that Ye Feng might show up as well?” The black clothed Assassin’s lips curled upward, forming a sinister smile. “The last time, I lost to him because of equipment quality. This time, I’m going to take back everything that he owes me.”

If Shi Feng could see this Assassin’s appearance, he would recognize this person as none other than Absolute Heaven, the Assassin that he killed in the past.

TL Notes:

[1] like the sun in midsky: heyday (definition: the period of a person’s or thing’s greatest success, popularity, activity, or vigor.)

To avenge his hatred, Absolute Heaven had worked desperately to improve his techniques and upgrade his equipment. Now, even if Ye Feng were not involved in this sudden assault, he would still give the members of Zero Wing a taste of his new strength.

However, just after Absolute Heaven walked out of the bar's entrance, he discovered the golden magic array hovering in the evening sky.

This magic array was a result of the Crusade Quest's activation, and it would change the NPCs of Creek Town.

The guards that had originally been Level 50 immediately fell to Level 30, while the Level 70 Tier 1 guard captains became Level 50, the same level as Shi Feng's normal guards.

Although Creek Town's had been weakened, none of these guards delayed in taking action. The moment the warning bell rang, a storm of guards rushed out of the many buildings within the town. In moments, over two thousand guards surrounded the town. These NPCs belonged to the Blood Hand Association. At this moment, they had all removed their disguises, and the normal guards had revealed themselves as Blood Hand Association Members, while the guard captains were Blood Hand Association Elites.

[Blood Hand Association Members] (Elite Rank)

Level 30

HP 100,000/100,000

[Blood Hand Association Elites] (Tier 1 Elite Rank)

Level 50

300,000/300,000

“Why have all the guards become weaker?”

“What’s there to fear? Even if they are weaker, can Zero Wing defeat so many NPCs? Besides, we are here as well. If Zero Wing wants to attack, we’ll make them suffer the consequences.”

When the players of Creek Town discovered that the guards beside them had suddenly grown weaker, worry grew in their hearts. However, they soon rid their minds of this worry. Even during its peak, Zero Wing only had around 8,000 members. Moreover, due to the surge of players that had withdrawn from the Guild, they now had less than 5,000.

Even if Zero Wing had mobilized all 5,000 of its members, in the face of 2,000 NPCs, charging into the town would be nothing more than suicide. At this stage of the game, players had yet to reach Level 30. Furthermore, not a single player had managed to upgrade to a Tier 1 class. So, how could they possibly hope to fight against Level 30 and Level 50 NPCs? In God’s Domain, such a massive gap between levels was fatal.

“Begin!” Shi Feng commanded in the team chat.

Fire Dance and the others immediately took action, each of them commanding a Level 50 Tier 1 guard as they charged towards the Blood Hand Association’s army.

The guards Fire Dance and the others controlled were Tier 1 Rangers and Assassins. Regarding Movement Speed, they were much faster than the Blood Hand Association Members. Rangers also possessed ultra-long-ranged attack capabilities, and they could launch their attacks from 100 yards away. Hence, they were perfect for the role of a lure.

Within moments, the Red Names of Creek Town noticed several figures rushing at them with speeds that no players could hope to achieve.

In the next moment, these Rangers retrieved their longbows, nocking arrows and releasing them.

Xiu! The arrows struck their targets, several Level 30 Blood Hand Association Members, from roughly 90 yards away. Each arrow dealt over -5,000 damage to these Level 30 NPCs. If a player received one of these arrows, they would die with a single hit.

The Rangers' attack attracted the attention of the Blood Hand Association NPCs. Without hesitation, over a thousand Blood Hand Association NPCs unsheathed their weapons and charged.

Seeing this, the Rangers turned on their heels and fled. Very quickly, they had drawn these Blood Hand Association NPCs away from the city.

“Weren’t we being attacked by players from Zero Wing? Why are there Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs as well?”

The Red Names were confused. They simply stood where they were, not following the Blood Hand Association NPCs in pursuit of the Tier 1 Rangers.

Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs only needed a single hit to kill them. If they did not possess lifesaving skills, fighting such an NPC was suicide. Moreover, they were all Red Names. If they died, they would pay a severe penalty. At the very minimum, they would lose two to three levels and a majority of their equipment. Naturally, they had to weigh the costs and benefits before they took action.

Not to mention, they had never intended to charge with the NPCs since the very beginning. Instead, they had planned to take advantage of the confusion while the Blood Hand Association NPCs and Zero Wing clashed. Now, however, those NPC guards had lured away all of the Blood Hand Association NPCs. At this moment, even they began to wonder whether they should join in the pursuit or not.

Just as these Red Names contemplated their actions, the Blood Hand Association NPCs had distanced themselves several hundred yards from the town.

“This is bad. The Blood Hand Association NPCs are gone!” one of the Red Names realized the situation and shouted. “We need to go help them! If Zero Wing manages to kite and kill them, we’ll be finished!”

This player’s words shook everyone to attention. Unfortunately, these Red Names were neither a single group nor of a single heart. Most importantly, they all understood that the first person to charge into battle would also be the first person to leave. Even though they had realized how serious their predicament was, none of them were willing to take action first. Instead, they all chose to stay put and do nothing at all.

None of these Red Names had discovered that, at this time, Shi Feng had already led the remaining forty Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs in a charge from another direction.

When capturing a town, the NPCs were the not the most troublesome obstacle. Instead, it was the players residing in said town. If the players and NPCs inside the town were allowed to cooperate, without absolute strength, it would be impossible to capture the town successfully.

Hence, the most important thing Shi Feng needed to do right now was to get rid of the players; only then would it be the NPCs' turn to die.

After players died, they had to wait half an hour before they could revive at the Graveyard. Furthermore, if these Red Names died, even if they had the determination to continue fighting, they would not have the strength to present a challenge. The penalty they suffered was simply too severe.

Although the forty Level 50 Tier 1 guards did not possess as much HP as the Blood Hand Association Elites, they still had over 100,000 HP each. Moreover, the opponents they faced right now were not NPCs, but players; it would only take a single attack to kill a player instantly. When all forty Tier 1 guards charged at the Red Names of Creek Town, they were like a group of ferocious beasts as they killed everything in their path.

Although there were many Red Names in Creek Town, they were completely unable to defend themselves against these guards. Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights could take two hits at most. In the blink of an eye, Red Names died, one after another, littering the ground with bodies and equipment.

In contrast, although the Red Names attacked continuously, due to the level suppression of over 30 Levels, the damage the Red Names managed to deal was negligible. One thousand Level 20 players were required to take down a single Tier 1 guard, let alone forty guards.

With the forty guards sharing the damage from the enemy players, their battle recovery alone made up for the HP they lost. Not to mention, among the forty guards, there were also Clerics and other healer classes. A casual heal from one of these NPCs could replenish over 10,000 HP.

Within tens of seconds, over 200 Red Names of Creek Town died, while all forty guards that Shi Feng led still had full HP.

The disparity in strength caused the Red Names to despair.

“These NPC guards are too strong! We need to retreat and meet up with the Blood Hand Association NPCs!”

“You bastards from Zero Wing are shameless! You actually brought Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs to capture a town! If you have the strength to face us, don’t use those NPC guards and fight us fairly!”

...

The Red Names cursed Shi Feng at the others as they fought the NPCs.

Shi Feng could only chuckle at their words. Immediately, he instructed the NPC mages to cast their AOE spells.

Suddenly, rain of fire descended from the sky. In the next moment, thunderbolts struck down at the Red Names. When cast by the Tier 1 mages, the Tier 1 AOE spells could display their true might.

The Red Names of Creek Town died in batches. After several AOE spells landed, the battlefield fell quiet. Of all the Red Names that had resided in Creek Town, only 400 or so remained, while everyone else was dead.

This scene not only shocked the players of the town, but Aqua Rose and the others were also stunned.

A single wave of AOE spells became a nightmare for the Red Players of Creek Town.

“Run!”

Nobody knew who shouted, but every surviving Red Name agreed wholeheartedly as they fled in all directions.

“Let’s start the slaughter. A majority of these Red Names wear Mysterious-Iron Equipment. Killing one of them will profit us more than killing a small Boss. Such an opportunity will be rare in the future,” Shi Feng laughed.

Following which, with Aqua Rose in the lead, both players and NPCs chased and killed the fleeing Red Names.

When Shi Feng was the last remaining on the high slope, he suddenly opened his mouth and said, “Now that no one is around, you can come out, right?”

Shortly after the battle began, Shi Feng faintly sensed someone spying on them from nearby. Moreover, the gaze that he felt contained a cold killing intent. However, it was only a feeling, so Shi Feng had not paid too much attention to it.

After his team left, however, this feeling became much clearer. He then activated the Golden Stigmata’s skill, Omniscient Eyes. The skill allowed him to perceive everything within 100 yards, and all stealth effects were useless in the face of this skill. And as expected, Shi Feng discovered an Assassin slowly creeping up on him from behind.

However, even after Shi Feng spoke, the Assassin continued to hide.

“Do you think I am playing a trick on you?” Shi Feng unsheathed the Abyssal Blade and immediately sent a Thundering Flash behind him.

Three green arcs of lightning streaked across the air. In the next moment, a black figure suddenly appeared and swiftly dodged the attack. It was none other than the Assassin that Shi Feng had killed before, Absolute Heaven.

At this moment, shock filled Absolute Heaven’s chilling gaze. Someone was actually capable of discovering his presence from such a long distance away. This was the first time he had encountered such a situation.

Chapter 324 - Times Have Changed

So, it’s him. After not seeing him for some time, his techniques and equipment have improved quite a lot. No wonder he could get so close to me before my senses picked up on him. Absolute Heaven had left a deep impression on Shi Feng.

During the time Shi Feng had searched for the Ice-Blue Devil Flame, this expert Assassin had very nearly killed him. Afterward, Absolute Heaven had ambushed him again when he led Blackie and Lonely Snow to level up. At that time, Shi Feng’s life had hung on by a thread.

Since Shi Feng started playing God's Domain in this life, although he had made plenty of enemies, Absolute Heaven was the only person who had almost taken his life.

After such a long time, Absolute Heaven would definitely be much stronger now that he had accustomed himself with the combat style of God's Domain. If Absolute Heaven had not been careless and underestimated Black Flame, Shi Feng's alternate identity, by not concealing his killing intent, Absolute Heaven might have successfully ambushed Shi Feng.

"Now that I know you're there, you aren't going to escape?" Shi Feng revealed a calm smile as he turned to Absolute Heaven.

"Escape?" Absolute Heaven revealed a hint of arrogance on his chilling face. "I admit that you're strong. It is as expected of the Guild Leader of Zero Wing, Black Flame. According to my estimation, your strength should be on par with Ye Feng. Last time, Ye Feng only managed to kill me because of my own impatience. It was my mistake to use all of my skills on Ye Feng so early in the fight. Otherwise, with his strength, he could not even dream of killing me. Now, although I have revealed myself, do you really think that you can kill me while I still possess all of my skills?"

"Indeed, it is as you say. Unless all of your skills are on Cooldown, it will not be easy to kill a top-tier Assassin like yourself." Shi Feng acknowledged Absolute Heaven's power. However, times had changed. Although Absolute Heaven had improved, Shi Feng had also raised his strength. "Since you're so confident, why don't we make a bet?"

"A bet? Do you think that you can fool me? Originally, I intended to kill you today to show Ye Feng that I, Absolute Heaven, have returned. Since I can't kill you, you can tell Ye Feng this; when I, Absolute Heaven, wish to kill someone, that person will definitely die!" Absolute Heaven laughed coldly. He then turned around to leave.

"If you want me to pass your message on, sure. However, the condition is that you need to escape." Shi Feng activated the Seven Luminaries Ring, using the Aura of Time skill, Absolute Time. He instantly charged at Absolute Heaven.

[Absolute Time]

Prevents enemies within a range of 50*50 yards from using any skills or tools for 20 seconds.

With this skill activated, all of Absolute Heaven's skills were in a similar state as a forced Cooldown. Meanwhile, an Assassin that could not use skills was like a tiger without claws or fangs.

"You think I can't escape?"

Absolute Heaven smiled confidently in reply to Shi Feng's taunt. He then tried to use Blind on his opponent. If he could do so, he could escape from this place easily.

However, Absolute Heaven immediately discovered that he could not use any of his skills. Suddenly, he started to panic. Nobody understood better than Absolute Heaven just how fragile an Assassin was without his skills.

However, Absolute Heaven was no ordinary player. He immediately calmed himself, turning around to flee.

Absolute Heaven quickly concluded that such a powerful skill had to have a limited duration; it was impossible for the effect to last indefinitely. As long as he could drag the fight out until the duration of this effect was over, he could fly freely like a bird.

At this moment, however, Shi Feng had already appeared at Absolute Heaven's back after using Silent Steps, not giving Absolute Heaven an opportunity to run. Soundlessly, Shi Feng slashed the Abyssal Blade at Assassin. Absolute Heaven responded swiftly and used his dagger to meet Shi Feng's sword.

When the silvery gray Abyssal Blade collided with Absolute Heaven's dagger, he felt an immense pressure flowing from his dagger to his hand. That pressure then suppressed his entire body, forcing Absolute Heaven to kneel on the ground involuntarily.

Such power...as expected from the person who killed Ming Sha! Absolute Heaven silently clicked his tongue. If he had not personally experienced Black Flame's might, he would never have imagined that Black Flame's strength was actually on par with a Boss monster. At this moment, Absolute Heaven finally realized why a great expert like Ming Sha had been forced into a constant retreat and could retaliate against Black Flame.

Shi Feng brandished his sword over ten times repeatedly; each slash was as abrupt as a thunderbolt and as heavy as a mountain. Faced with this brutal assault, Absolute Heaven had no other choice but to block as many attacks as he could. However, although Absolute Heaven could reduce the damage he received by blocking with his dagger, his HP still decreased, frustrating him greatly.

Absolute Heaven inwardly cursed Shi Feng for being a despicable and shameless bastard. Shi Feng actually used force to suppress him. Shi Feng had not used any techniques and simply relied on brute force to brandish his sword. Shi Feng's way of battle, which traded a life for a life, prevented Absolute Heaven from displaying any of his techniques.

If Absolute Heaven could use his skills, he could easily escape his current predicament. Unfortunately, none of his skills would work. Despite being a powerhouse, Absolute Heaven felt powerless.

Just as Shi Feng was about to send Absolute Heaven to his death with a bombardment of attacks, Absolute Heaven suddenly felt that this situation was extremely familiar.

It was just like when he had ambushed Ye Feng. Back then, he had used a Magic Scroll to seal all of Ye Feng's skills and had even frozen his movement, turning Ye Feng into a fangless tiger. At that time, Ye Feng could only escape and had not dared confront him head-on.

Meanwhile, his current situation was almost exactly the same as the last time he encountered Ye Feng. Only, this time, the roles were reversed.

If he had known Black Flame possessed such a skill, he would never have closed in on Black Flame. Worse, he had even wasted time by chatting with his enemy, giving Black Flame ample time to set a trap for him. He had practically sought out his own death.

Hah... It seems that I'm really going to die this time. With only a thread of his HP remaining, Absolute Heaven could already see his demise. He was currently a Red Name. If he died, he would lose all of his equipment. His level would also plummet. At that time, he would no longer have the ability to exact revenge on Ye Feng.

However, just as the Abyssal Blade was about to collide with Absolute Heaven's body, it suddenly froze in mid-air.

"What? You're not gonna kill me? If you wait until I can use my skills again, you won't be able to kill me." Absolute Heaven laughed coldly as he watched Shi Feng curiously.

"As I said before, I want to make a bet with you, but you thought that I only said those words to fool you and kill you. Now that you only have a thread of your HP remaining, it will only take me a casual wave to destroy your weapon, equipment, and level. However, I'll repeat my offer. Are you interested in placing a bet?" Shi Feng asked, smiling as he returned the Abyssal Blade to its sheath.

“It seems that you’re really not trying to cheat me. Then was the fight your way of proving that you wish not to kill me, but to make a bet instead?” Absolute Heaven asked, greatly confused by Shi Feng’s actions. He could not figure out just what was going through Shi Feng’s mind.

“Of course. Otherwise, why do you think I would even bother fighting you? Does it look like I have too much time on my hands?” Shi Feng laughed bitterly.

Absolute Heaven was suddenly rendered speechless.

“What? You still don’t believe me?” Shi Feng’s expression turned cold,

“No, no! I believe you! Tell me, then. What do you want to bet?” At this moment, Absolute Heaven grew interested in the bet Shi Feng proposed.

“Bet your life!” Shi Feng said straightforwardly.

“Bet my life? Isn’t my life already in your hands?!” Absolute Heaven nearly cursed at Shi Feng.

Shi Feng shook his head, then slowly, he said, “You previously mentioned that, as long as you can use your skills, you can escape from me easily. Isn’t that right?”

“That’s right!” Absolute Heaven answered without hesitation.

Although Absolute Heaven had already witnessed Shi Feng’s frightening strength, he was still confident that he could flee from this battle.

“Simply put, I don’t believe you. So, let’s make a bet. While you can fully utilize all of your skills, we’ll see whether or not you can escape. What do you think?” Shi Feng asked with a smile.

Chapter 325 - Life and Death

“Are you toying with me?”

Absolute Heaven glared at Shi Feng, trying to figure out just what was going through Shi Feng’s mind. However, no matter how he examined his opponent, he still could not see through Shi Feng, who had currently disguised himself using the Demon Mask. Absolute Heaven could only see a middle-aged man with a faint smile in front of him. No matter how hard Absolute Heaven racked his mind, he just could not figure out what Shi Feng was trying to do.

After nearly taking his life, Shi Feng suggested gambling his life away. Was there a need for so much trouble? Wouldn’t it be easier just to finish him right now?

“Why would I toy with you?” Shi Feng laughed.

“Fine, I’ll make the bet. What will happen if I survive? What if I die?” For his own pride and honor, Absolute Heaven refused to die.

“If you escape safely, I’ll do one thing for you. If you die, you’ll have to do one thing for me. How about it?” At this moment, Shi Feng finally revealed his true intentions. He had done everything so far all for this single goal.

“One thing, huh?” Absolute Heaven considered it carefully. After giving it some thought, he looked at Shi Feng and said, “If I ask you to kill Ye Feng, will you do it?”

Absolute Heaven’s request caught Shi Feng off guard, but soon after, he let out a soft chuckle.

In White River City, everybody knew that Black Flame and Ye Feng were the two symbols of Zero Wing.

Never would Shi Feng have imagined that Absolute Heaven’s request would be something like this. He had to admit that Absolute Heaven was indeed ruthless. If the public learned that Black Flame had killed Ye Feng, it would greatly affect Zero Wing’s reputation. At the same time, it would also affect Black Flame and Ye Feng’s reputations.

However, be it Black Flame or Ye Feng, only a few core members of Zero Wing knew that both identities belonged to a single person, which was Shi Feng himself.

Meanwhile, Absolute Heaven requested that he kill himself. The difficulty of this request was indeed quite high...

“What? Didn’t you say that you’ll do one thing for me if I win?” Absolute Heaven smiled complacently. He then said, “My request is so small, yet, you hesitate?”

“No, I just didn’t think that you would make such a simple request. Originally, I thought you would want to kill me once. After all, I am the Guild Leader of Zero Wing, and Feng Xuanyang of Underworld possess a deep hatred of me. As long as you manage to kill me and pass on the recording to the higher-ups of Underworld, you will receive Underworld’s attention. Your position in the organization will soar as well,” Shi Feng mentioned.

If Black Flame died, the prestige that Zero Wing had managed to accumulate due to his efforts would crumble.

At this moment, Absolute Heaven suddenly came to a realization. He had actually forgotten about such a possibility.

The loss and humiliation Dark Star had suffered caused Feng Xuanyang's hatred of Zero Wing to soar. The Guild he had nurtured with so much effort had actually fallen into such a state. Naturally, he would not let Zero Wing off the hook. Hence, Feng Xuanyang put out a bounty to all members of Underworld stating that, as long as anyone from Underworld managed to kill the higher-ups of Zero Wing and cause trouble, the rewards would be bountiful.

As long as someone could accomplish this task, they could gain fame, status, and wealth.

If one could annihilate Zero Wing, receiving a promotion from outer member to elite member of Underworld would be a simple matter.

There were not many elite members in Underworld. They were few and far between, but those who obtained the prestigious title would also become influential in reality. Every day, there were countless outer members in Underworld working as hard as they could to become official members. Only after becoming an official member could one possibly become an elite member.

If he, Absolute Heaven, could kill Black Flame, the Guild Leader of Zero Wing, there might actually have a chance at receiving the promotion to that elite group. Even if it were not possible, at the very least, he could still become an official member.

“Alright, then. I agree to the bet. Let’s start after I have fully recovered.” Absolute Heaven directly agreed.

After a few moments, Absolute Heaven’s HP and Stamina recovered completely.

Shi Feng then took out a Gold Coin, suggesting, “I’ll toss this Gold Coin into the air. The battle will start the moment the Coin reaches maximum altitude and begins to fall. How about it?”

“Okay.”

Absolute Heaven was momentarily speechless when he saw Shi Feng use a Gold Coin as a starting signal. Was he not afraid of losing the Gold Coin? Currently, Absolute Heaven only had around 20 Silver Coins in his pockets. Even so, he was considered relatively wealthy. Yet, Shi Feng had actually taken out five times that amount and treated it like a toy.

Comparisons are indeed odious!

“Let’s start, then!”

Shi Feng tossed the Gold Coin into the air. The Coin soared upward. Only when it was around four meters above ground did its speed begin to slow, the Coin faintly showing signs of stopping and succumbing to gravity. Absolute Heaven focused his gaze sternly on the Coin. The moment it started to fall, he intended to use Blind on Shi Feng immediately. He would then activate Wind Steps and start running towards the town. In such a wide open area, if he attempted to use Vanish to enter stealth mode, Shi Feng would discover him easily. However, it would be a different story in town.

Although terrain on the way to town was complex, aside from Vanish, he possessed other lifesaving skills and tools to help him get through this distance. As long as he could reach the town and use Vanish, even if Shi Feng possessed excellent senses, it would be impossible to locate him.

However, from start to end, Shi Feng had been paying attention to Absolute Heaven. He did not even take a look at the Gold Coin in mid-air.

The moment the Gold Coin started to descend, just as Absolute Heaven was about to use Blind, Shi Feng instantly vanished. Immediately, he appeared at Absolute Heaven's back, sending a Chop towards the Assassin. The speed of this attack was astonishing, and Absolute Heaven had no way to dodge.

Absolute Heaven suddenly felt an icy feeling coming from behind him. Moreover, the Blind that Absolute Heaven had used before had lost its target, becoming ineffective. Without giving it a second thought, Absolute Heaven immediately proceeded with the next part of his plan and activated Wind Steps. When activating this skill, he would become invincible for nearly one second. Absolute Heaven took advantage of this short moment of invincibility to block Shi Feng's attack, negating all damage. Moreover, Absolute Heaven also took advantage of the impact of Shi Feng's attack to send himself flying almost six yards away, creating a relatively large gap between Shi Feng and himself.

Shi Feng inwardly praised his opponent as he watched Absolute Heaven's fleeing figure. If Absolute Heaven had not chosen to use Wind Steps and used Block instead, Shi Feng's sword would have destroyed at least half of his life. Now, as a result of his accurate judgment, not only had Absolute Heaven managed to use Wind Steps to defend the attack, but he also managed to place quite some distance between them. Moreover, due to the 40% Movement Speed buff provided by Silent Steps, Absolute Heaven managed to widen the gap even further.

Seeing this, Shi Feng used Wind Blade and chased after Absolute Heaven. In the blink of an eye, the distance between the two shortened greatly.

Shi Feng's Agility was very high. Throughout Star-Moon Kingdom, nobody that could surpass him in terms of Agility. There were also his equipment's passive skills. Nobody could match Shi Feng in terms of speed. At this place, only the Level 50 Tier 1 Assassin and Ranger NPCs had a chance at beating him.

Absolute Heaven could not help his shocked. Immediately, he retrieved a Magic Scroll from his bag.

This Magic Scroll was aqua-colored, and it looked very exquisite. It turned out that it was actually a Tier 1 Magic Scroll.

Absolute Heaven then unrolled the Magic Scroll and used it on Shi Feng.

Water Binding!

Immediately, several jets of water shot out from the Magic Scroll. The water flew towards Shi Feng, intending to wrap around him.

Shi Feng revealed a calm smile, not faltering at the slightest as he continued charging at Absolute Heaven.

The moment the blue jets of water came into contact with Shi Feng, they lost all effectiveness and disappeared.

"It didn't work?" A stunned expression appeared on Absolute Heaven's face.

That was one of the precious Tier 1 Magic Scrolls that he possessed. The Magic Scroll could even entrap a Boss monster for a short moment. Yet, it was actually ineffective against Shi Feng.

Absolute Heaven did not know that before the battle had begun, Shi Feng had already activated the Aura of Space of the Seven Luminaries Crystal. The Aura of Space granted Shi Feng immunity to all control effects. Based on the strength of a Tier 1 Magic Scroll, it was still too weak to break through the effect of the Seven Luminaries Ring.

“Damn, it seems that I have no choice but to use this thing.”

Absolute Heaven unwillingly took out a shabby-looking Magic Scroll from his bag. This was an item that he had obtained by coincidence from an underground ruin. Although the Magic Scroll looked shabby, the magic power it gave off was frightening. Even an NPC Appraiser could not identify what Tier the Magic Scroll was. However, that Appraiser estimated that the Magic Scroll should be Tier 2 or higher.

Originally, Absolute Heaven had not intended to use this Scroll. After all, he only had one. However, if he did not use it now, with his opponent’s frightening speed, Shi Feng would definitely catch up to him in no time. If that happened, he would be in big trouble.

Chapter 326 - Recklessly Wasting Resources

While Shi Feng and Absolute Heaven were occupied with their bet, a bloody storm swept through Creek Town.

Originally, over a thousand Red Names had resided in Creek Town. However, after being slaughtered by the forty NPC guards and Zero Wing’s 100-man team, less than 200 Red Names remained. No longer did

these Red Names possess the arrogance they had before. Instead, they all ran and scattered in all directions.

Before the start of Zero Wing's crusade, these Red Names had always been the ones killing and plundering the equipment of other players. Not only could they earn a fortune by doing so, but they could also enjoy watching the frightened and unwilling expressions of the players they killed. Those times were simply blissful, and their continued success only encouraged them to travel further down the path of being a Red Name.

Now, however, these Red Names had finally learned what it felt like to be on the other side of the blade and what it felt like to be a powerless weakling.

Although many among these Red Names were experts and elite players, in the end, their techniques were simply insufficient to make up for the huge difference in strength between both sides. After all, no matter how fierce an ant was, it would never be a match against a mighty lion.

"Since Zero Wing doesn't plan to let us live, we should fight to the bitter end!" a Cursemaner appealed to the other Red Names when he realized that they could no longer escape.

Some of the Red Names considered the Cursemaner's suggestion rational, and many of them decided to cooperate with each other to retaliate against Zero Wing. However, just as they turned around....

One of the Tier 1 Elementalist guards launched a Flame Explosion, instantly killing the Cursemaner who had attempted to rally his allies.

Following closely, one Tier 1 Berserker guard used Flame Charge and arrived before four Red Names. The Berserker then used Whirlwind Slash, killing all four in a single attack. After the players died, a pile of equipment littered the ground around the four players' lifeless bodies.

Seeing this, the Red Names who had originally thought of staying behind immediately changed their minds. Without hesitation, they all turned and fled towards the Blood Hand Association's NPCs who Zero Wing had previously lured away.

Although they had the option of retreating from the town, desert surrounded Creek Town. They would simply become easy targets without any cover. Only by reuniting with the Blood Hand Association's NPCs would they have a chance for survival.

If they died right now, they would lose several days' worth of effort. Even if they had already familiarized themselves with the combat style of God's Domain, they would still need around four days to recover the lost levels. Not to mention, they would also lose a majority of the equipment they owned. These consequences frightened them greatly.

Hence, these Red Names ran desperately towards the Blood Hand Association's NPCs.

Unfortunately, the Tier 1 NPC guards Shi Feng had hired had very high Movement Speeds. Aside from Assassins, none of the other Red Names could outrun these Tier 1 NPCs. Moreover, faced with these Level 50 NPCs, the Stealth of these Level 20 Assassins was completely useless. They only had a higher chance of escaping due to their high Movement Speeds.

"Big Sis Aqua, we have really hit it big this time! The items these Red Names have dropped are all Bronze rank and above, with a majority being Mysterious-Iron rank! If we sell all of these weapons and equipment for Credits, we can buy a large house at the city center!" Snow Goose exclaimed as she picked up the items dropped by the Red Names alongside the NPC guards.

"You little money-grubber! If we sell these items for Credits, we'll only suffer a loss. God's Domain has only recently begun, so both equipment and Coins are currently scarce. The various large Guilds also face a shortage of equipment. Zero Wing is only getting by because our current member count is low. By

the time the construction of the Guild Residence is complete, and we start recruiting members again, the stockpile of items we have in the Guild Warehouse would run out in the blink of an eye. Now that we have obtained so much equipment, it just so happens that we can use it to meet our urgent needs,” Aqua Rose chuckled as she flicked a finger on Snow Goose’s forehead.

At this moment, a change occurred on one of the high slopes outside of Creek Town.

A crimson pillar of light shot into the sky, attracting everyone’s attention.

Not only was the pillar of light extremely eye-catching, but everyone could also feel a great threat coming from it.

The source of this pillar was none other than Absolute Heaven’s shabby-looking Magic Scroll.

This is not good. This is the Tier 3 Magic Scroll, Phantom Beast’s Descent. Shi Feng recognized the Magic Scroll instantly.

The might of a Tier 3 Magic Scroll could not be underestimated. Even when Shi Feng was at his prime, he would still have suffered greatly if struck by the skill contained within a Tier 3 Magic Scroll, let alone the current him who was not even a Tier 1 class.

Fortunately, the skill contained within Phantom Beast’s Descent Magic Scroll was not a pure attack-type skill. Instead, it was a summoning skill. The Phantom Beast’s Descent was capable of summoning a powerful Phantom Beast to fight alongside its summoner.

Suddenly, a black magic array in the shape of a seven-pointed star appeared in the sky. Just as Shi Feng was about to kill Absolute Heaven, the magic array fired a black ray of light towards Shi Feng.

Shi Feng dared not be careless. Immediately, he activated Defensive Blade.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

After three consecutive bombardments, a large crater occupied the originally flat slope.

If Shi Feng had not activated Defensive Blade, becoming immune to nine ranged attacks or four melee attacks, he might have died.

In the center of the crater, a giant tiger sat quietly beside Absolute Heaven. This tiger's body resembled a galaxy of stars. The tiger focused its silver eyes on Shi Feng as it gnashed its teeth. It released an aura that was even more powerful than a Lord ranked monster.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, the agreement we had before said that, as long as I can escape from you, you promise to do one thing for me. I wonder, is that agreement still valid if I kill you?" Absolute Heaven laughed.

"Naturally. However, you sure are willing to part with such a rarity. Do you even know the value of a Tier 3 Magic Scroll?" Shi Feng glanced at the Phantom Beast the Assassin had summoned, inwardly pitying the loss of such a precious item.

Tier 0 players could not display the true might of a Tier 3 Magic Scroll. This was especially true for a Summoning Scroll. If a Tier 1 player used such a Scroll, the summoned Phantom Beast could easily decide the outcome of a war involving tens of thousands of players. If used by a Tier 2 player, the Phantom Beast would have no problems eradicating a large-scale town.

In Shi Feng's previous life, many Guilds had willingly spent thousands of Gold Coins to purchase such a Magic Scroll.

At this moment, however, Absolute Heaven had used such a precious Magic Scroll on this small battle. This was simply a reckless waste.

"Of course, I know. However, you are too fast. I know that I won't reach Creek Town if this continues. Compared to dying, I'd rather use it." Absolute Heaven had mourned the use of the Scroll as well. However, he no longer wished to experience the humiliation of dying once again. "Since I've already used this Magic Scroll, you can rest in peace now, Guild Leader Black Flame.

"Go! Get rid of him!" Absolute Heaven commanded the Phantom Beast as he pointed at Shi Feng.

[Nebula Tiger] (High Lord Rank)

Level 30

HP 1,800,000/1,800,000

The strength of a Phantom Beast summoned from a Summoning Scroll was determined by the summoner's level and tier. Absolute Heaven was currently Level 20, so the summoned beast would be Level 30, which was ten levels higher than himself. If Absolute Heaven were a Tier 1 class, then the

Nebula Tiger would not be just a High Lord. At the very least, it would be a Great Lord ranked monster. A Great Lord ranked monster could only be described using the word—horrifying. Hundreds of players of the same level would be no more than ants in front of a Great Lord. When such a monster was under the control of a player, it would become even more frightening and powerful.

This was also why Tier 3 Summoning Scrolls were so precious. A controllable Great Lord ranked monster could easily decide the outcome of a war involving tens of thousands of players.

Chapter 327 - Moment of Brilliance

“Aoo!”

The Nebula Tiger roared angrily, releasing shockwaves with the sound.

The Nebula Tiger’s roar echoed throughout Creek Town, causing everyone who heard it to shudder.

This was the might of a High Lord ranked Phantom Beast. A single roar could send tremors through a person’s heart.

However, the main reason the Nebula Tiger released this roar was not to shock its enemies. Instead, it was meant for its master.

In the next moment, a layer of crimson mist surrounded Absolute Heaven’s body.

This was the effect of Life Ward, a special skill gained by summoned monsters. When this skill activated, it would form a protective shield around the summoner, increasing the summoner's defense.

When all was said and done, a summoned monster was still a summoned monster. If the summoner of the monster died, the monster would also disappear. Hence, all summoned monsters would possess skills capable of protecting their masters.

When Absolute Heaven saw the effects of Life Ward, his lips immediately curled into a smile.

When used, Life Ward created a protective shield capable of absorbing 20,000 damage. Even if an enemy managed to close the distance and engage him in melee combat, they would need to expend a significant amount of effort to exhaust the Life Ward. Furthermore, Absolute Heaven possessed high combat power as well. His opponent might die before he could overcome the Life Ward.

Absolute Heaven had originally worried that Shi Feng could simply deal with him directly. However, with the Life Ward protecting him, his only fear vanished.

"Black Flame, your time of death has come!" Absolute Heaven started commanding the Nebula Tiger to attack Shi Feng.

The greatest difference between a summoned monster and a normal monster was the player's control. While under a player's control, monsters that had originally possessed powerful Attributes would become even more formidable. Not to mention, as a High Lord ranked monster, the Nebula Tiger possessed quite a number of skills. It would only take an instant for the Nebula Tiger to kill a player.

The Nebula Tiger, which was over three meters in height, lightly tapped its feet on the ground, crossing the distance of over ten yards between Shi Feng and itself in an instant.

“So fast!” Shi Feng was surprised.

The Nebula Tiger swiped its claws at Shi Feng. Although Shi Feng wanted to dodge the attack, his reaction was a step behind, and the attack landed on its target.

However, the Nebula Tiger’s attack did not manage to deal any damage due to Defensive Blade.

Seeing that its first attack had failed, the Nebula Tiger immediately brandished its claws at Shi Feng again.

After swiping its claws at Shi Feng several times, the Defensive Blade’s effect quickly broke.

Just as the Nebula Tiger’s Fatal Swipe was about to reach Shi Feng, Shi Feng barely managed to activate Parry to defend himself.

Peng!

A Level 30 High Lord ranked monster was simply too powerful. Shi Feng did not even possess a Tier 1 class yet, so it was impossible for him to stop the attack. Like a cannonball, the tiger’s attack launched Shi Feng backward.

“As expected of a great expert like Guild Leader Black Flame, you’ve even managed to block such an attack.” Absolute Heaven could not help but applaud as he watched the exchange between Shi Feng and the Nebula Tiger.

Absolute Heaven was not making fun of Shi Feng at all. Rather, he praised his enemy sincerely.

Absolute Heaven himself was certain that, if he were the one receiving the Nebula Tiger's attacks right now, he would have no way of defending himself. Most likely, before he could even use Block, the tiger would have killed him already. Yet, Shi Feng held it off.

However, Shi Feng also paid a heavy price when he blocked the attack. As Shi Feng landed, he was both physically and mentally unstable. He could no longer dodge or defend against another one of the Nebula Tiger's attacks.

The huge gap in Attributes was not something that could be made up for by solely relying on battle techniques.

Previously, Shi Feng had used overwhelming destructive force to suppress Absolute Heaven. Now, Shi Feng faced a similar crisis. It was already praiseworthy that he managed to survive for so long.

Just as the Nebula Tiger pounced at Shi Feng once more, a figure suddenly dashed over and stood before Shi Feng, blocking the Nebula Tiger's attack and saving Shi Feng's life.

Absolute Heaven was greatly stunned by this scene. The figure's speed was simply too fast, and before he could catch a clear glimpse, the figure appeared in front of Shi Feng. More importantly, this figure blocked a full-powered attack from the Nebula Tiger. It was simply unbelievable.

At this moment, Shi Feng looked at the tall figure standing proudly before him. Smiling, he muttered, "Just in time."

The person that blocked the Nebula Tiger was none other than Kite, Shi Feng's personal guard.

Kite was a Dark-Gold ranked personal guard. Moreover, he was even a Tier 1 Swordsman who had reached Level 30. Naturally, no player could compare to his strength.

Originally, Shi Feng had not planned to use Kite so soon. However, now that Absolute Heaven had summoned a High Lord ranked monster, he would meet his own death if he did not deploy Kite.

"So, it's just an NPC guard. And here I wondered who was so powerful to block the Nebula Tiger's attack. However, do you really believe a Level 30 Tier 1 Swordsman can defeat my High Lord ranked Nebula Tiger?" Absolute Heaven asked disdainfully.

Of course, since he used a summoned monster, he would not criticize Shi Feng's decision to use an NPC guard. Even so, he was still confident that his Nebula Tiger was stronger than Shi Feng's personal guard. Although both were Level 30, the Nebula Tiger was far more powerful than a Tier 1 NPC. In his eyes, Shi Feng had done nothing more than delay the inevitable.

"I admit that Kite is not a match for the Nebula Tiger, but he can hold it back for some time. Now, let's find out which will happen first: your death or Kite's." Shi Feng revealed a faint smile. He then charged towards Absolute Heaven.

When all was said and done, Kite was still a Tier 1 NPC. Although he could not defeat the High Lord ranked Nebula Tiger, he would have no problems delaying the monster for some time. Otherwise, he would not deserve the rank of Dark-Gold.

Although the Nebula Tiger tried to chase after Shi Feng, Kite once more stopped the monster in its path, annoying the beast greatly.

In just a moment, Shi Feng swiftly arrived before Absolute Heaven.

Absolute Heaven knew that with Kite present, the Nebula Tiger could not do anything to Shi Feng. Hence, he commanded, "Get rid of that guard first."

Absolute Heaven still possessed the Life Ward that would absorb 20,000 damage. He did not believe that Shi Feng could kill him so easily. Moreover, he did not intend to confront Shi Feng directly.

After giving his command, Absolute Heaven immediately turned and ran, not giving Shi Feng any chance to attack.

Absolute Heaven knew that even if the Nebula Tiger failed to kill Shi Feng, as long as he could escape and hide inside the town, Shi Feng would lose the bet.

After the Nebula Tiger switched its targets, Kite's HP started to decrease madly.

After all, the Nebula Tiger was a High Lord ranked monster. Both its Attack Power and Movement Speed were terrifying, and even Kite would sometimes fail to block the beast's attack. Whenever he was struck, he would lose close to 3,000 HP. Meanwhile, Kite only had slightly more than 18,000 HP.

However, Kite was not an ordinary guard. With a single Cross Slash, he managed to deal close to -10,000 damage. He then followed up with Frozen Slash, Windwalk, and other skills that either reduced the Nebula Tiger's Movement Speed or increased his own Movement Speed, making it harder for the Nebula Tiger to hit him.

When the tiger used Heaven Splitting Claw, Kite used Triple Spin Attack, a Tier 1 Swordsman skill. When used, the skill made the user invincible for 1.5 seconds while attacking the enemy three times. Moreover, 60% of the damage dealt would even be used to recover the user's HP. Unfortunately, Triple Spin Attack had a long Cooldown of one minute.

Kite landed one slash after another on the Nebula Tiger, and every hit dealt over -2,000 damage. In the blink of an eye, Kite had recovered all the HP he had lost.

Absolute Heaven was baffled by this scene. He had not expected Kite to be so powerful that he could actually contend with the Nebula Tiger. If the Nebula Tiger had not possessed a frightening 1,800,000 HP, Absolute Heaven suspected that Kite might actually succeed in killing the monster.

Absolute Heaven came to the conclusion that the Nebula Tiger could not finish off Kite in a short amount of time. Hence, the only way out for him right now was to escape into Creek Town.

However, Shi Feng no longer gave Absolute Heaven any chances. When only a few yards stood between him and Absolute Heaven, he used Abyssal Bind on the Assassin.

Knowing that the situation had turned out of his favor, Absolute Heaven used Vanish without hesitation, causing Abyssal Bind to lose its target. Moreover, Vanish allowed him to enter a state of Forced Stealth for three seconds. During this period, even if Absolute Heaven received any damage, he would only break Stealth temporarily before automatically re-entering Stealth once again.

Shi Feng simply revealed a smile at his opponent's actions. Shi Feng then used Earth Splitter. A sword aura immediately rushed towards the location where Absolute Heaven had stood, the attack revealing Absolute Heaven momentarily before he disappeared again. Although it was only an instant, Shi Feng had enough time to lock onto Absolute Heaven's position.

Shi Feng then used Space Movement, appearing directly above the Assassin.

Thunder Flame Explosion!

Lighting and fire descended from the skies, landing directly on Absolute Heaven's head.

Absolute Heaven responded quickly to the incoming attack and threw himself forward. Simultaneously, Absolute Heaven used Shadow Cloak to negate the damage from Thunder Flame Explosion and resist the Faint effect.

Shi Feng was slightly astonished when he saw the skill Absolute Heaven used. He never expected for Absolute Heaven to have learned even Shadow Cloak. It was no wonder why Absolute Heaven was so confident of escaping.

Shadow Cloak allowed the user to become immune to all magic damage and control effects for five seconds. It was the perfect skill for escaping.

However, Shi Feng immediately switched the Aura of Space to the Aura of Fire, increasing his damage by 30% and decreasing his target's Defense by 30%. He then cast Firestorm at the location where Absolute Heaven had disappeared from again.

[Firestorm]

Inflicts 500% damage within a range of 10*10 yards for 5 seconds.

Although Firestorm would not deal any damage to Absolute Heaven, it could still expose Absolute Heaven.

Sure enough, Absolute Heaven's figure appeared once again after the attack landed. Moreover, while Absolute Heaven remained within the effective range of Firestorm, it was impossible for him to re-enter Stealth.

Shi Feng advanced and charged at Absolute Heaven. Simultaneously, he had activated Purgatory Power, greatly increasing his Attack Speed and damage.

He then used Flame Burst at the escaping Absolute Heaven.

Covered in flames, the Abyssal Blade in Shi Feng's hand was like a miniature sun. Shi Feng brandished his sword six times at Absolute Heaven, striking the protective shield repeatedly.

Every strike dealt over -4,000 damage. His critical hits dealt close to -9,000 damage.

Even though the Life Ward protecting Absolute Heaven could absorb up to 20,000 damage, in the face of Flame Burst, Shi Feng sliced the protective shield apart like paper. His's subsequent attack after breaking the shield struck Absolute Heaven's back. The Secret-Silver Equipment Absolute Heaven wore also lost more than half of its durability from the attack. To Absolute Heaven's disbelief, his HP, which had been over 2,000, plummeted to zero. The Assassin's body fell to the ground, his weapons and equipment scattered around his body.

Although everything seemed to have happened slowly, in reality, it only lasted an instant.

The battle stunned the Zero Wing members who watched from a distance. At this moment, no words could describe their feelings.

It turned out that a battle between players in God's Domain could also be so frightening.

It was a battle that shook them to their core.

From the appearance of the red pillar of light to the end of the battle, less than 20 seconds had passed. First, there was the confrontation between the High Lord ranked monster and the Tier 1 NPC Swordsman, and then, there was the chasing battle. The spectating members of Zero Wing had only managed to catch the afterimages of two figures running towards town, with one escaping while the other pursued. As the battle continued, the appearance of lightning and fire dazzled the eyes. Finally, after the momentary appearance of a miniature sun, one person lay flat on the ground with items strewn around his lifeless body.

On the other side, the battle between the Nebula Tiger and Kite also came to an end. Now that its master was dead, the Nebula Tiger transformed into light particles and disappeared. Only Kite remained, standing there quietly and covered in numerous wounds. Meanwhile, the land surrounding Kite was in a miserable state. Pits and cracks surrounded him. One could just imagine how fierce the battle had been.

Chapter 328 - Harvest After the Battle

After the battle with Absolute Heaven came to an end, Shi Feng sighed in relief.

If not for the Seven Luminaries Ring, he might really have let the cunning Absolute Heaven get away.

This was how God's Domain worked. When players attempted to gain some achievements and make a name for themselves, they were like a boat traveling against the current; either they advanced forward or were forced backward. Today's glory might very well become tomorrow's laughingstock.

Although Absolute Heaven's growth was impressive, there was still a considerable gap between him and Shi Feng.

Soon after, Shi Feng looted the items the Assassin had dropped.

Shi Feng was inwardly astonished when he examined Absolute Heaven's items. The equipment Absolute Heaven dropped was top-tier even among Secret-Silver Equipment. Meanwhile, the daggers he dropped were Fine-Gold rank. With these items, even among the core members of Zero Wing, Absolute Heaven could still reach the middle ranks. Among the Assassins, only Fire Dance and Flying Shadow surpassed Absolute Heaven.

Absolute Heaven was a lone wolf. Yet, even without relying on the support of a Guild or an organization, he still obtained such quality items for himself. He was already an expert standing at the peak of White River City. If Absolute Heaven were not a solo player, the equipment he had possessed might not have been Secret-Silver, but Fine-Gold rank.

If Absolute Heaven had been fully geared with Fine-Gold Equipment today, Shi Feng's victory would not have been so easily secured.

"Big Sis Aqua, is that really our Guild Leader?" Snow Goose asked hesitantly; her big, round eyes focused on the figure standing proudly within the sea of fire. "He looks so much more powerful than when he appeared in the video. Guild Leader is usually a very ordinary, approachable, and gentle person. But now, even when looking at him from such a distance, I still feel overwhelmed."

“Naturally.” Aqua Rose giggled. “This is our Guild Leader: ordinary yet reliable.”

Snow Goose had been raiding Dungeons all this time, so she had only ever heard and not personally seen any of Shi Feng’s battles. Now that she had personally witnessed Shi Feng fight for the first time, it was only natural that shock filled her heart.

After all, a video could only portray so much. Only by personally experiencing something could one truly understand it.

“Alright, stop daydreaming. Clean up these remaining Red Players quickly. Over 2,000 NPCs are still chasing Fire Dance and the others, and they could obliterate our team at any moment.”

The Red Names of Creek Town had despaired when faced with Shi Feng and his NPC entourage. Now that Shi Feng had also extinguished the hope presented by Absolute Heaven and the High Lord ranked monster, these Red Names completely lost their heart to resist.

Escape?

How were they supposed to escape?

With Shi Feng’s gale like speed, even if they grew a few more legs, it still would not be enough for them to get away.

After these Red Names lost their fighting spirit, Aqua Rose and the others took little effort to clean up. They took less than a minute to deal with the remaining Red Names of Creek Town. Meanwhile, the harvest they obtained was sufficient to arm a team of 1,000 players.

Throughout this battle, although a few of their members had died and lost a level, when compared to the harvest they obtained, such loss was practically negligible. The items they obtained had easily made up for the total losses Zero Wing had suffered with surplus.

Aqua Rose was overjoyed when she examined their harvest. As the manager of Zero Wing's daily affairs, she was very clear about what these items represented.

With the addition of this batch of items, after Zero Wing finished recruiting new members, they could arm a large batch of elite players, pushing Zero Wing's combat power to a whole other level. At that time, even if Dark Star declared another war on Zero Wing, they could still deal with it without needing Ouroboros's assistance.

"Guild Leader, we've dealt with all the Red Names. We can start cooperating with Fire Dance and the others to kill the Blood Hand Association NPCs now," Aqua Rose happily reported through the team chat.

"Okay. Follow the plan and kill those Blood Hand Association NPCs. Be careful not to lure too many at once. Those NPCs are more sensitive than field monsters," Shi Feng said. "Oh, right. Send me a healer. I need someone revived."

"I'm a Cleric! I'll go! I'll go!" Snow Goose hurriedly shouted in the team chat, excitedly waving her hand.

Seeing the girl's reaction, Aqua Rose indulgently said, "Fine, off you go then. In any case, the Tier 1 guards will be responsible for killing those NPCs. Our role is to supply support."

The Blood Hand Association NPCs were all Level 30 and above, while the members of Zero Wing were only around Level 20. Among those present, only Shi Feng and Blackie possessed 10 Ignore Levels.

Everyone else could only deal minute amounts of damage to these NPCs. The most they could do was use some control skills on these Blood Hand Association NPCs.

Although these Blood Hand Association NPCs possessed a certain degree of intelligence, it was only slightly higher than normal field monsters. Otherwise, Fire Dances' group could not have lured them away.

What Aqua Rose's group needed to do was to lure the Blood Hand Association NPCs away in small batches and kill them separately. With the strength of forty Level 50 Tier 1 guards, they could easily take care of up to 300 Level 30 Blood Hand Association NPCs each time.

With a massive difference of 20 levels, the attacks of the Blood Hand Association NPCs would only deal damage in the double digits to a Tier 1 Shield Warrior guard. Meanwhile, a Level 50 Tier 1 Shield Warrior possessed over 200,000 HP. Even if dozens of Blood Hand Association NPCs attacked simultaneously, the total damage would only be a tickle to a Level 50 Tier 1 Shield Warrior. The Shield Warrior's battle recovery alone could restore most of the HP lost. Not to mention, there were still the Tier 1 healers waiting in the wings.

However, NPCs were different from monsters. The NPCs of the Blood Hand Association were very organized when they fought. The warriors that served as meat-shields[1] would stand in front, and the mages would attack from behind, coordinating their attacks with the melee fighters. The healers standing at the rear would also spam heals on the tanks. There was even one time where an Assassin from the Blood Hand Association had circled and ambushed Aqua Rose's group.

If Cola had not reacted quickly and immediately aggroed the NPC Assassin, the team would have lost at least one member to the NPC.

Compared to everyone else who the NPCs suppressed, Blackie was free and unfettered as he sent spell after spell at the Blood Hand Association. The Mavis's Guard Blackie wielded allowed him to ignore the

massive level difference completely, and each one of Blackie's attacks could deal around -700 to -800 damage to these Level 30 Elite NPCs.

When Blackie used Stars of Light, the result was simply earthshaking. A damage of over -1,000 appeared above every enemy NPC caught within the skill's range. Moreover, with each successive bombardment, the damage of the Stars of Light increased by 10%. The skill had a duration of 15 seconds, and by the time the 15th bombardment landed, the enemy NPCs were already receiving over -6,000 damage each. Some of the attacks even achieved critical hits, dealing over -10,000 damage to the enemy NPCs.

These Level 30 Elite NPCs only had 100,000 HP. They stood no chance against Blackie's Stars of Light.

After Stars of Light ended, over 200 Level 30 Elite NPCs fell to the ground lifelessly. Suddenly, everyone's experience bars started increasing madly. Some even leveled from Level 19 to Level 20. Even Blackie, who was currently Level 23, saw a huge increase in his experience bar.

Even though the EXP was shared with over a hundred players, each person still obtained a frightening amount.

Originally, everyone had only come here to kill these NPCs for the purpose of completing the Crusade Quest. Now that they had discovered the wealth of EXP in front of them, everyone started working even more enthusiastically.

After killing several waves of NPCs, everyone managed to level up to Level 20 or above. Blackie even reached Level 24. Everyone's leveling speed was simply frightening.

"Hahaha! Sister Aqua, at the rate we're leveling, Zero Wing will fully occupy the top 100 spots on the White River City Ranking List!" Blackie laughed.

“That’s a nice idea. All this time, that leveling madman Lone Tyrant had held the ninth position on the Ranking List. Although Guild Leader had killed him once back in the Silverleaf Forest, he had only fallen to tenth place. Seeing that Dark Star is so adamant in challenging us, if we kick Lone Tyrant out of the top 100 of the Ranking List, it would be a massive blow to both Lone Tyrant’s and Dark Star’s reputation. Moreover, we would also elevate Zero Wing’s fame and prestige, killing two birds with one stone.”

Aqua Rose revealed a playful smile when she considered this interesting idea.

“Okay! Let’s kick Lone Tyrant out of the Ranking List!”

TL Notes:

[1]meat-shields - Noun. (plural meat shields) (video games) A so-called "tank" whose main purpose is to hold aggro from MOBs and absorb damage. (video games) A stunned or dead enemy character used as a shield against attacks.

Chapter 329 - You Don’t Have a Choice

Shi Feng could not stop his smile when he heard Aqua Rose’s words.

In actuality, it would be a simple task for Shi Feng to let Zero Wing fully occupy the top 100 spots on the White River City Ranking List. The only reason he had not done so yet was that he was afraid of attracting too much attention and the public’s enmity.

After all, Zero Wing was currently only a small Guild. If a small Guild like theirs overstepped their bounds, every Guild in White River City would most likely team up and retaliate against them.

However, Zero Wing was no longer a weak Guild. Even if Zero Wing pulled such a huge stunt, it would only shock the other Guilds; they would not feel insulted or humiliated.

Hence, Shi Feng made no attempt to stop his Guild members' actions.

The Ranking List was the only glory for Lone Tyrant. Even if he had to exceed the Level 20 limit for the First Clear of the Three Great Dungeons, he still had to maintain his position within the top ten of the Ranking List. Lone Tyrant's obsession with the Ranking List was apparent.

Gentle Snow, on the other hand, was different. To secure the First Clear of the Three Great Dungeons, Gentle Snow had frozen her experience bar at 99.99% of Level 20. She paid absolutely no attention to the Ranking List at all.

After all, her title of Snow Goddess had originated not from her high Level, but her strength instead.

However, Lone Tyrant was not like Gentle Snow. He had relied solely on the Ranking List to gain the fame he currently possessed. It was why he worked desperately hard to maintain his spot within the top ten of the Ranking List.

Although Shi Feng had killed Lone Tyrant once already, robbing him of a level, he had managed to recover the lost EXP quickly. After all, he had large groups of players to help him level up. Currently, he had once again reached Level 21, though he still required large amounts of EXP to reach Level 22.

While Aqua Rose and the others swiftly leveled from killing the NPCs of the Blood Hand Association, the Cleric, Snow Goose resurrected Absolute Heaven.

At this moment, Absolute Heaven was overcome with disappointment. Not only had he lost most of the items he had on him, but he had also fallen to Level 16. He no longer possessed the high spirits he had before.

“I’ve won this bet of ours. Do you have anything to say?” Shi Feng asked lightly as he looked at the crestfallen Absolute Heaven.

Absolute Heaven glared at Shi Feng, clearly irritated, before turning his head away, tacitly agreeing to Shi Feng’s words.

“Hehe, it seems that someone is pouting after losing. What an unmanly person,” Snow Goose softly muttered contemptuously after discerning the general situation.

Absolute Heaven was suddenly livid upon hearing her comment. When all was said and done, he was still a top-tier Assassin. Although he was not a well-known expert, he was still a man of his word. Now that a female player ridiculed him, how could he possibly be happy? Reluctantly, Absolute Heaven muttered in a low tone, “I... I lost. Say it, then. What do you want me to do?”

“What is up with your attitude? You’ve clearly lost, yet, you still sound like an aggrieved woman. You’re making it seem as if our Guild Leader is a bully,” Snow Goose added.

“You...!”

Absolute Heaven's complexion alternated between flushed red and pale white, his blood boiling. He very nearly vomited blood out of anger. Never in his life had he been so greatly humiliated before. However, with Shi Feng standing beside her, Absolute Heaven simply could not do anything to this infuriating girl. Before he died, he had not been a match for Shi Feng. Now that he had fallen to Level 16 and lost most of his items, it was impossible for him to escape Shi Feng's grasp.

At this moment, Shi Feng spoke, "Alright, Snow Goose. Absolute Heaven is a top-tier expert Assassin. If you continue speaking of him this way, his little heart might not handle it. No matter what, you should at least show him some respect."

"Oh!" Snow Goose smiled and nodded.

Absolute Heaven nearly fainted from anger.

Seeing Absolute Heaven's ashen complexion, Shi Feng smiled faintly and said, "Since you've acknowledged your loss, I'll make it simple. I don't need you to do anything difficult. Just help me collect all the information relating to Underworld in God's Domain."

"You're insane! That's Underworld you're talking about! If they find out that I leaked important information, they will hunt me down!" Absolute Heaven never thought that Shi Feng would actually aim for such a thing.

"Oh? I didn't think you would really have such information." The Assassin's reaction surprised Shi Feng. His demand had only been casual. After all, Absolute Heaven was only an outer member of Underworld. How could he possibly possess all the important information relating to the organization? Logically, only those belonging to Underworld's middle management or above should possess the information he was looking for.

Absolute Heaven was momentarily stunned. Immediately after, he bellowed, "Black Flame, you deceived me!"

Absolute Heaven had always thought of joining Underworld's core upper management. Hence, he had collected plenty of information regarding Underworld so that he would have an easier time climbing the ranks of the organization. After becoming an outer member, he had met with Feng Xuanyang through South Wolf's introduction. Feng Xuanyang even gave him one of the reserved spots for becoming an Underworld Guard after learning of his skill. With his new status as an Underworld Guard reservist, Absolute Heaven managed to obtain even more information about Underworld in God's Domain.

Yet, Shi Feng had played him so easily.

"Since you have the information, hand it over to me." Shi Feng was extremely interested in discovering Underworld's situation in God's Domain. After all, he had provoked Feng Xuanyang. Who knew what Underworld would try in the future? Without knowing anything about his enemy, Shi Feng could not take appropriate measures. However, if he possessed inside information about the organization, the situation would be greatly different.

One who knows his own strength and that of the enemy is invincible in battle. If Shi Feng had not possessed his advantage of being a reincarnated person, Dark Star, the Guild controlled by Underworld, would have long since eliminated both him and his Guild. Hence, Shi Feng had to take preventive measures against Underworld.

Only, Shi Feng had not expected this boon to arrive so quickly.

Originally, Shi Feng had only intended to toy with Absolute Heaven for a little bit before changing his condition. His actual goal was to have Absolute Heaven report Underworld's movements within the White River City region. Now, however, things had become far simpler. He could obtain all information regarding Underworld in God's Domain directly.

“No. I absolutely will not agree to this. Underworld far surpasses your imagination. You have no idea what you are going up against. I urge you to change your request. This is not just about me. You, too, would be better off without knowing anything. Why create trouble for yourself?” Absolute Heaven said resolutely.

“It turns out that even a top-tier expert will renege on his word. It seems that I have misjudged you,” Shi Feng sighed.

“Guild Leader, I could tell that he was a scoundrel that would break his promises with a single glance. What’s the point of wasting your time arguing with him? Let’s just do away with him. Kill him every time he revives. After we kill him to Level 0, let’s see how he can survive in Underworld,” Snow Goose suggested, sporting a cheeky grin.

“You!” Snow Goose’s suggestion left the Assassin utterly speechless.

Kill him every time he revived? Was this girl really a Cleric? Could she be a demon disguised as a human instead?

“Snow Goose, how could you speak like that? As a girl, you should act gently and reserved. Kill him every time he revives? That’s simply too cruel. What will you do if you terrify him?” Shi Feng could not help but reprimand the cheeky little girl. “At most, we’ll upload the video recording the previous fight and our dialogue to the forums. It will be fine as long as we reveal this to everyone.”

“You’re right, Guild Leader!” Snow Goose applauded cheerfully.

As long as the video of the battle went viral, not only would everyone know that Absolute Heaven was a man who broke his promises, but the hidden organization named Underworld would also be exposed to

the public eye. Even if Absolute Heaven did not reveal any secrets, Underworld would hunt him down for what little he had already said.

“Black Flame!” Raging flames burned in Absolute Heaven’s eyes as he looked at Shi Feng. He only wished that he could murder the smiling demon before him right now.

“Just hand it over.” Shi Feng calmly smiled. “I have already sealed off all paths of retreat.

“You don’t have a choice.”

Chapter 330 - Shock

Shi Feng’s words left Absolute Heaven speechless.

At this moment, Absolute Heaven finally understood why Shi Feng would insist on making a bet with him. Shi Feng was clearly capable of killing him with a single hit. Yet, Shi Feng had given him hope of retaliation for this very moment.

A terrible thought suddenly emerged in Absolute Heaven’s mind.

Had Shi Feng planned to deal with Underworld all this time?

Before joining Underworld, Absolute Heaven had known that Underworld's background was unfathomably deep. It was an existence that he could not afford to provoke. After joining the organization, that thought had only strengthened; he absolutely could not make an enemy of Underworld.

Yet, now, Shi Feng dared to consider challenging Underworld. He simply did not know how to differentiate between life and death.

It would have been fine if only Shi Feng did not know how to differentiate between life and death. Yet, Shi Feng intended to drag him down as well! Moreover, the Swordsman left him with no other options. Shi Feng was eviler than a demon.

When Absolute Heaven saw that Shi Feng's finger was about to click the "Upload Video" button, he lowered his head and helplessly said, "Fine! However, I have a condition. No one can know that I gave you this information!"

"You can rest assured on this point. Since I have asked you to do such a thing for me, I will not make things difficult for you. I won't let anyone but myself look at the information relating to Underworld," Shi Feng assured and nodded.

Absolute Heaven's worries were unfounded. After all, Shi Feng was also worried about this situation becoming public, which would, in turn, allow Underworld to take precautionary actions.

"I'll send you the files tomorrow after I have compiled them," Absolute Heaven said before turning to leave.

However, Shi Feng was a step ahead and blocked his retreat.

“What? Worried that I’ll deceive you? You currently have information to use against me. What tricks could I possibly play on you?” Absolute Heaven laughed bitterly.

“You’re overthinking things. I’m just returning the items you dropped when you died. As for your levels, with your strength, you should recover quickly.” Shi Feng then took out the items he had looted from Absolute Heaven and returned them to their original owner.

After some hesitation, Absolute Heaven finally decided to receive the items before leaving.

“Guild Leader, are we really going to start a war with that mysterious organization named Underworld?” Snow Goose asked.

Based on Absolute Heaven’s words, Snow Goose could discern just how terrifying Underworld was. Even a top-tier expert like Absolute Heaven was afraid when talking about it. Furthermore, a powerful Guild like Dark Star was just a puppet of Underworld. With Zero Wing’s current strength, wouldn’t acting against Underworld be akin to smashing an egg against a rock?

“What? Afraid?” Shi Feng chuckled.

“Of course not! Our Zero Wing is invincible! How could we possibly lose to Underworld?” Snow Goose’s eyes glowed as her fighting spirit soared.

She had left Twilight Echo with Aqua Rose to create their own legacy in God’s Domain. How could they give up so easily because of a single Underworld?

Time passed, little by little. At this moment, Aqua Rose and the others were still battling against the Blood Hand Association NPCs. Even though it was night in God's Domain, spells of war illuminated the sky around Creek Town so brilliantly that it appeared to be day.

Although these NPCs provided no loot, the EXP they gave was bountiful. The members of Zero Wing were only able to kill these Blood Hand Association NPCs with such ease due to the assistance of the Level 50 Tier 1 guards. In the future, it would not be so easy for them to come across such a valuable opportunity.

As more Blood Hand Association NPCs died, the Zero Wing Guild members watched their levels soar.

The Ranking List of White River City also underwent dramatic changes.

Players from Zero Wing continuously appeared within the top 100 of the Ranking List.

The change had not been obvious at the beginning, as only a few members had entered the 90s. However, as time passed, the EXP growth of Zero Wing never stopped.

The Guild members who originally ranked within the 90s jumped into the 80s; then jumped again from the 80s to the 70s, their positions ever rising.

However, this was still not the most shocking incident.

What really shocked people was the fact that the Zero Wing members occupied every rank between 70 and 100. They had forced all others out of the top 100 ranks.

“Is this real or fake? Aren’t the members of Zero Wing too impressive? It was already amazing that they managed to occupy the top eight positions before. Now, they fully occupy the 70th to the 100th positions.”

“What did these people eat to become so fierce?”

“As expected of the Guild that I fancy!”

“If this continues, Zero Wing will sooner or later occupy all 100 spots on the White River City Ranking List.”

“That shouldn’t be possible, right? After all, there is still Lone Tyrant who ranks 10th. Although Black Flame had killed him once, he has already managed to recover to Level 21. It shouldn’t be possible to kick him out of the top 100.”

“Lone Tyrant? So what? Hadn’t he been the top player on the White River City Ranking List before? In the end, eight experts from Zero Wing still shoved him aside. Even now, he is still stuck at ninth place. Now that Zero Wing is showing its might, he might not keep his rank for long.”

“Serves him right. Who told Lone Tyrant to behave so arrogantly before? He had dared to ambush and made an enemy of Zero Wing. Now, Zero Wing is merely teaching Lone Tyrant a lesson, letting him know that his pride is worth nothing to Zero Wing. They can surpass him anytime they want to.”

Everyone was very concerned about the sudden emergence of the Zero Wing members on the Ranking List, and they all began to voice their suggestions and opinions. Many felt that this was Zero Wing's retaliation towards Dark Star.

The timing of this situation was simply too coincidental, being only a few hours after Dark Star's war with Zero Wing had ended. Moreover, Zero Wing also declared that Dark Star would pay for their actions. However, nobody ever thought that Zero Wing would take action so quickly.

"If Zero Wing really succeeds, this will become a true legend in God's Domain. Not even first-rate Guilds have managed to occupy the Ranking List of a city."

"Zero Wing rocks! Go, Zero Wing! Kick Lone Tyrant out of the Ranking List!"

Everyone in White River City highly anticipated the arrival of a legend, creating a huge commotion over this matter. The thought of a single Guild monopolizing the entire Ranking List had sent shivers down their spines. At that time, if they joined such a Guild and wore the six-winged emblem on their chests, they would definitely become the targets of everyone's admiration.

On the other hand, while the casual players in White River City were very excited over this matter, the many Guilds were not happy at all.

It had been an earthshaking matter when Zero Wing had occupied the top eight positions on the Ranking List. Yet, now, Zero Wing was actually trying to occupy the top 100 positions of the Ranking List. Just how were they, the other Guilds, supposed to continue competing in White River City?

Inside the Silverleaf Forest, leading a team of several hundred players, Lone Tyrant was desperately leveling up.

“Can someone tell me just what is going on?” Lone Tyrant demanded, irritated. He had spared no effort to raise his own level. Yet, now, as if on steroids, the members of Zero Wing leveled at a rate many times faster than himself.

Based on the Zero Wing members’ current leveling speed, it was only a matter of time before they surpassed him.

Unfortunately, nobody could answer Lone Tyrant’s question.

“You’re a bunch of trash! Go, investigate immediately! They must have found a good grinding spot! Once you find them, send someone to eliminate them! I will never allow these people to surpass me!” Lone Tyrant commanded the Guild members of Dark Star.

The only reason he had managed to lead Dark Star to its current status in White River City was that of his previous occupancy of the White River City Ranking List’s number one position. However, due to Blackie and the others, he was no longer the top player in the region. Even so, he still occupied the top ten in the eyes of the public.

If he fell out of the top 100, what else would he have?

Aside from his identity as the Guild Leader of Dark Star, there was nothing special about him.

Although Lone Tyrant was quite powerful, he knew that he could not compare with top-tier experts. If not for the massive support from Underworld, Dark Star would not have developed to its present state.

Lone Tyrant knew that, after the siege on Zero Wing had failed, Underworld started to look down on him. If he lost his only merit as well, based on how Underworld conducted business, he would not keep his position as Guild Leader for long.