

The Strongest

Chapter 541 - Terrifying Great Demon King

The Barren Ridge was a wasteland located in the Maple City Region. The land was parched and cracked; not even a blade of grass could grow here. Yellow sand choked the wind as it was lifted into the air all year long. Yet, at this moment, many players could be seen grinding and leveling in this desolate area.

The Barren Ridge was a Level 25 to Level 32 leveling map. Although it was a wasteland, various kinds of Stone Beasts lived there. Stone Beasts were Elemental Creatures made of excellent stone materials. There was a 20% chance to obtain Advanced Stones when killing these monsters, and they even had a small chance of dropping rare ores.

Nowadays, the forging industry was very popular, and many Lifestyle players who disliked combat would learn forging. Hence, all sorts of forging materials were in high demand right now. Even if the Barren Ridge did not contain treasure chests or advanced quests, many players still preferred to grind for Stones and ores here while leveling up.

The various large Guilds had monopolized the high-resource maps surrounding every city, leaving no room or access to ordinary players. If an ordinary player were discovered trespassing into a Guild-run zone, the Guild members would either chase them away or kill them on the spot.

Knowing this, ordinary players naturally avoided these high-resource maps. Instead, they could only explore ordinary maps such as the Barren Ridge.

However, after Shi Feng's last visit to the Dragon Ridge, Overwhelming Smile's members avoided the zone at all costs. Instead, they had come to the Barren Ridge to grind and level up. This resulted in ordinary players flooding the Dragon Ridge, and Maple City's ordinary players came to admire the name Black Flame.

One man was capable of forcing an entire Guild to concede. Black Flame's strength was inconceivable!

Laughing Heaven, Overwhelming Smile's Guild Leader, wanted nothing more than to hack Shi Feng into thousands of tiny pieces.

Unfortunately, even Laughing Heaven's hands were tied.

Based on War Wolf's report, Shi Feng's Base Attributes were simply too high. He was far beyond experts like them. If they wanted a fighting chance against him, they needed to upgrade their equipment and Base Attributes first. Before that happened, however, they could only try their best to keep hidden.

Of course, there were other methods they could use such as hunting Shi Feng in large teams. However, a team of several hundred players would not be enough. A single large-scale destruction spell would be more than enough to annihilate most of the team. At the very least, they needed to mobilize armies of over a thousand players. Unfortunately, Shi Feng's whereabouts were unknown. It was practically impossible to trap him with thousands of players. So, they had no choice but to endure until they possessed a strategic-level expert capable of rivaling Black Flame.

"Damn, just how long do we have to grind here?" a Level 24 Summoner from Overwhelming Smile grumbled. "Since when have Overwhelming Smile members ever suffered such a loss before? We are actually forced to this godforsaken place. Isn't he just one expert? I don't believe that we can't take him out if several hundred of us gang up on him."

"Shh! Be quiet! What if your big mouth really summons that person?" the Level 25 Elementalist serving as the team's leader warned the Summoner softly, frowning as he carefully observed his surroundings. "You were lucky that you weren't out that night. If you experienced that volcanic power, you would know that even a team of hundreds of players would be no different than ants. Moreover, not even the Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights with high HP and Defense survived a single hit from that expert."

Many among the team nodded their agreement to the Elementalist's words. Although it was currently daytime, they could still recall the madness of that night as if it had happened yesterday.

"Team Leader, aren't you overexaggerating? Although our current equipment isn't top-tier, even someone fully geared with Level 25 Dark-Gold Equipment should not be able to kill our team's Guardian Knights and Shield Warriors in one hit, right?" the Summoner replied, refusing to believe his team leader's claim.

Moments after this Summoner finished speaking, a black figure suddenly descended from the sky.

"Don't believe it?"

"Why don't you experience it yourself, then?"

The person who had flown down from the sky was none other than Shi Feng himself. The Barren Ridge was ridiculously large, and Overwhelming Smile's members had scattered across the map. For efficiency's sake, Shi Feng had no choice but to activate Wind Rider to hunt these people. When Shi Feng noticed this 100-man team from Overwhelming Smile, he had immediately flown towards them.

The instant Shi Feng descended, he switched the Aura of Wind to the Aura of Fire and launched a Firestorm from above, covering a radius of 30 yards.

Flames filled the sky, burning everything in its vicinity to ash and dust. Even the Level 27 Stone Beasts, which possessed high Magic Resistance and 5,000 HP, died with the first wave of damage, not to mention players whose HPs were below 5,000 and had zero Magic Resistance.

In the blink of an eye, less than 30 players remained of Overwhelming Smile's 100-man team.

They're too spread out. After landing, Shi Feng frowned slightly when he noticed that many had escaped his Firestorm.

However, the massive AOE had dumbfounded Overwhelming Smile's members.

"Crap! It's the Great Demon King! Split up and run! Contact the Guild Leader and notify everyone else immediately!" the Elementalist team leader responded quickly as he shouted in the team chat.

"Team Leader, what should we be afraid of? He's just one person. Watch me take care of him!" Although the Summoner was also stunned by Shi Feng's Firestorm, he quickly began chanting an incantation and summoned a Flame Beast, ordering it to attack the newcomer.

The Flame Beast was a Fire-type Elemental Creature possessing extremely high flame damage. Moreover, it also had a very powerful Skill.

Self-detonate!

When activated, the Flame Beast would self-destruct and cause 300% damage to all enemies within a radius of 10 yards. It was a considerably powerful AOE Skill. However, upon activating Self-detonate, the Flame Beast could not be summoned again for another four hours. So, Self-detonate was not a Skill that could be used to grind monsters.

“Die!”

The Summoner controlled the Flame Beast to dash towards Shi Feng.

However, when the Flame Beast was only ten yards away from Shi Feng, a streak of black light penetrated the Elemental’s body. The Flame Beast began to dissipate instantly.

“Impossible!” Terror gripped the Summon upon losing control over his Flame Beast.

The Flame Beast was the strongest Summoned Creature he could currently call forth, and it had an HP of 10,000. Yet, before it could even get close to Shi Feng, it was already killed. Even the Summoner had not seen how his Flame Beast had died...

To end the battle quickly, Shi Feng activated Defensive Blade and Purgatory’s Power, increasing his attack range and damage. To Shi Feng, the Flame Beast’s 10,000 HP and attack range of ten yards was nothing.

By the time the Summoner had reacted, he had discovered that he could not move his body. Someone stood right in front of him, and although this person hid his appearance behind a black cloak, his imposing aura and horrifically cold killing intent shattered any thoughts of resistance the Summoner had.

The Summoner was truly and thoroughly terrified.

Is this even a human...?

He finally understood why his team leader had sounded so unsettled. Just mentioning the name “Black Flame” was a huge taboo.

In the blink of an eye, Shi Feng’s figure disappeared.

Am I hallucinating? Before the Summoner could say anything, his vision began to gray. Suddenly, his body fell to the ground. When did he even attack me?

In a short moment, Overwhelming Smile’s 100-man team had been annihilated.

I’ve wasted too much time. They should have already contacted their Guildmates by now. It will probably be more difficult to find other members now. Shi Feng sighed as he looked at the loot scattered across the ground. He still had a long way to go to collect 5,000 Life Force points.

Just as Shi Feng finished gathering the drops and was about to search for the next batch of Life Force points, he received a call from Melancholic Smile.

Chapter 542 - Manager

White River City, inside the Candlelight Trading Firm’s first-floor reception hall...

Currently, the upper managers from various Guilds occupied the large reception hall. Among the Guilds present, the weakest were second-rate Guilds, while the strongest Guild was close to becoming a Super

Guild. Some of these Guilds were allies, while others were enemies. Hence, the reception hall's atmosphere was extraordinarily intense.

Even the NPC beauty receiving these people felt uncomfortable.

"I didn't think Guild Leader Snow would show up as well. It is indeed a rare sight," Galaxy Past said, laughing as he glanced at Gentle Snow sitting a short distance away. "I heard that you have a mountain of work to do back at Ouroboros and that Cao Chenghua is trying to split up the Guild. Cao Chenghua has many of his supporters stationed in Star-Moon City. Guild Leader Snow, is it really a good idea for you to be here right now?"

"There is no reason for Guild Leader Galaxy to worry. Ouroboros is getting by quite well right now. Otherwise, why would I come here?" Gentle Snow did not reveal a trace of weakness as she replied. "On the contrary, aren't you, Guild Leader Galaxy, having a bad time right now? I've heard that Star Alliance's branch in the Lion Kingdom has suffered a major loss, losing over 10,000 people in a single Guild War. In the end, you even allowed others to profit."

First-rate Guilds would usually develop themselves in several major regions. Naturally, the Star Alliance was no exception.

The Lion Kingdom was west of the Star-Moon Kingdom. Though the kingdom only occupied half as much area as the Star-Moon Kingdom, the kingdom's player population was still significant. Two first-rate Guilds and multiple second-rate Guilds constantly fought over the Lion Kingdom. The Star Alliance was one of the two first-rate Guilds. However, in order to fight over a treasure, many of the Guilds in the Lion Kingdom had gone all-out. In the end, the Star Alliance had suffered heavy losses. To make matters worse, the other first-rate Guild had snatched the treasure.

Despite Gentle Snow striking a sore spot, Galaxy Past did not grow angry. Instead, he laughed and said, "As expected of Guild Leader Snow; you really are well-informed. You truly do possess some of your brother's aura from when he controlled Ouroboros. Unfortunately, the Ouroboros of today is not the Ouroboros of the past."

Purple Eye, the beautiful female Elementalist sitting beside Galaxy Past, on the other hand, radiated an intense killing intent as she glared at Gentle Snow.

“You want to make a move?” Gentle Snow laughed. Suddenly, a frightening aura surged forth. Smiling at Purple Eye, she said, “I heard that the Star Alliance possesses five great experts, and they are Galaxy Past, Red Feather, Flourishing Willow, Flying Jade, and Purple Eye. Among them, Flying Jade is the most mysterious, and Purple Eye is the strongest. I really want to know if this rumor is true.”

“Let’s put it to the test, then!” Purple Eye provoked, showing no intention of backing off.

For a time, it felt as if the temperature in the reception hall had fallen by a few degrees.

Ouroboros and the Star Alliance were known enemies. Both Guilds had competed against each other for over a dozen years, and at this point, their rivalry would not stop until one of them was wiped out of existence. Hence, the stand-off between the two Guilds did not seem out of place to anyone watching.

The many Guild representatives promptly moved to the side, hoping to watch the fight between the two beauties.

Meanwhile, sitting at the forefront of the reception hall, a robust man resembling Zhang Fei[1] suddenly turned to the handsome and dashing youth seated beside him, respectfully saying, “Pavilion Master, this subordinate will go and remind them of where they are lest they ruin Pavilion Master’s good mood.”

Saying so, this robust man strode towards Gentle Snow and Purple Eye. Suddenly, however, a single hand halted his advance.

“Forget it. Doing nothing but waiting here is quite boring. Watching them fight will be a nice change of pace,” the dashing youth said, smiling faintly.

“Understood.”

The robust man returned to his seat.

Everyone present had seen the handsome youth’s actions. And though that high and mighty attitude of his displeased the other Guild representatives, nobody felt that the youth’s attitude was inappropriate.

This handsome youth was one of the two Pavilion Masters of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. The Pavilion had possessed the strength of a Super Guild for a long time now. It lacked a stage to display its might. Meanwhile, in the eyes of Super Guilds, first-rate Guilds were nothing but children. It was only natural that the handsome youth thought little of the others.

Just as Gentle Snow and Purple Eye were about to face-off, a loud shout suddenly echoed through the hall.

“Everyone, stay your hands!”

A clear, crisp voice swept through the crowd. When everyone turned to look at the owner of this voice, they discovered another great beauty. Unlike Gentle Snow and Purple Eye, this beauty did not possess a frightening aura. However, although she seemed somewhat ordinary, every Guild representative took her seriously.

This beauty was the Candlelight Trading Firm's manager, Melancholic Smile.

"This is the Candlelight Trading Firm, not the arena! All forms of fighting are prohibited here. If someone wishes to challenge the rules of the Candlelight Trading Firm, then I will have no choice but to send you on your way!" Melancholic Smile scolded.

Nobody doubted Melancholic Smile's power. Inside a private Shop, the manager was invincible. The manager of the Shop could teleport someone out with a single thought and bar that person from entering the building ever again.

Sure enough, she is indeed formidable! It is no wonder why she can ignore even Underworld! Galaxy Past could not help but focus on Melancholic Smile.

The upper managers of the other Guilds were similarly surprised.

They had not expected Melancholic Smile to be so fearless.

Every player here was an overlord in their own right; their status and identities were extraordinary. It was especially true for the first-rate Guilds present. Yet, Melancholic Smile had not left any room for argument. Her mighty attitude was exactly as the information they received stated, so much so that she appeared even more overwhelming than before.

At Melancholic Smile's appearance, Gentle Snow and Purple Eye glanced at each other before turning away.

Everyone had come here today to do business. Nothing good would come from provoking the Candlelight Trading Firm.

Peace returned to the reception hall, and everyone began to observe Melancholic Smile. Although she did not emit any sort of aura, there were not many people who had the courage to reproach two first-rate Guilds.

After all, the Candlelight Trading Firm was but a single Lifestyle Guild. Without any combat power of its own, it would have no choice but to purchase its materials from Combat Guilds. One could say that the Trading Firm's survival relied on Combat Guilds. Moreover, as the game progressed, the Trading Firm would require more precious materials. At that time, the Firm's reliance on Combat Guilds would grow stronger. Hence, it was not a good idea for the Firm to offend powerful Combat Guilds.

At this moment, the Dragon Pavilion Master seated at the forefront of the hall opened his mouth and said, "Miss Melancholic, since you have arrived, shouldn't it be about time to begin our discussion?"

Everyone nodded their agreement to the Dragon Pavilion Master's words.

They had waited for quite some time now, and they had only waited for so long out of respect for the Candlelight Trading Firm's prestige. Now that its manager had arrived, it was only natural that they began discussing business.

"Certainly. However, a manager like myself does not have the power to make the decisions you are all looking for." Melancholic Smile shook her head.

"What are you trying to say?" various representatives asked, curious. "Are you saying that you're not going to do business with us?"

What a joke! They had come from so far and had spent a significant sum on teleportation fees. Now that they were told that there was nothing to discuss. Was the Candlelight Trading Firm just toying with them?

Suddenly, the temperature in the reception hall dropped sharply.

Not a single person present was someone that should be easily offended. Not only were they powerful experts, but the influence they commanded was also frightening. Standing by the side, Melancholic Smile's assistant felt her legs grow weak, her complexion paling. To an ordinary player like herself, this pressure was immense.

Fortunately for the female assistant, everyone focused not on her, but on Melancholic Smile instead. However, even Melancholic Smile did not feel too well right now. This was her first time experiencing such an immense pressure, so much so that even her hand trembled slightly.

She found it astonishing. This was merely a virtual reality game, yet, she could still feel such intensity. She nearly lost her breath.

"I am only the manager of the Candlelight Trading Firm. Only my boss can make decisions regarding the business you wish to discuss. If you are really interested in working with us, then you'll be able to meet my boss if you wait for a little while longer." After Melancholic Smile finished speaking, she turned and left the reception hall.

For a time, silence overtook the reception hall.

Although they had long since guessed that Melancholic Smile was not the Candlelight Trading Firm's proprietor, hearing her statement had surprised them.

Since Melancholic Smile had been able to establish such a powerful trading firm, the force backing her would naturally be extraordinary. Moreover, nobody present had yet to uncover the tiniest bit of information about this hidden backer. One could just imagine this mysterious backer's power.

Chapter 543 - The Boss Behind the Scenes

Just as everyone inside the reception hall pondered the identity of the Candlelight Trading Firm's true boss, Shi Feng finally arrived in White River City.

Overwhelming Smile's reaction this time was really fast. I just ambushed one group, and it immediately became difficult to find any players. Shi Feng had originally intended to collect more Life Force points after Melancholic Smile had contacted him. However, he never expected Overwhelming Smile to have such decisive precautions. In the end, he had to give up on his endeavor.

It was indeed possible for a single top-tier expert to delay the development of an entire Guild. However, it was not possible for a person to single-handedly annihilate a large Guild, particularly a cautious Guild. Otherwise, many Guilds would have long since fallen into ruin.

After returning to White River City, Shi Feng noticed that both the number and quality of players had increased significantly.

"I wonder what has happened to Zero Wing's recruitment?" Shi Feng then called up the Guild System.

Shi Feng had busied himself with the Candlelight Trading Firm; he had paid no attention to Zero Wing. He had left the Guild's management to Aqua Rose and Blackie. If the two of them had not encountered any major issues, they normally would not contact him. So, Shi Feng was not all that worried that anything had happened to the Guild while he had been away.

Currently, Zero Wing was White River City's publicly acknowledged number one Guild. It stood at the very forefront in every aspect.

Although Zero Wing continued to wage war on Overwhelming Smile, and plenty of battles still occurred between both Guilds every day, with the Candlelight Trading Firm's financial support, this kind of expenditure was practically negligible. On the contrary, the ongoing war had stimulated Guild members' motivation, allowing them to improve their combat techniques continuously. They had even made a huge profit through killing their enemies, killing two birds with one stone.

Upon opening the Guild's System Panel, Shi Feng suddenly noticed that the Guild's population had greatly increased.

Previously, the member count had balanced around 40,000. Now, however, there were already more than 50,000 players in Zero Wing. Moreover, this number continued to rise.

Throughout this time, Zero Wing had never changed its recruitment standards. On the contrary, the minimum requirements had been raised further in order to increase the quality of the new players. However, instead of seeing a decline in the number of players joining the Guild, the opposite had happened.

Fifty thousand people? Shi Feng pondered the situation.

During the initial stages of God's Domain, a Guild with 50,000 members could definitely be considered a large Guild. Normally, such Guilds would split its members and develop themselves in multiple cities. Even for a major city like White River City, having 50,000 members at a time was about the limit. As for why there was a limit?

It was because there was a limit to the number of high-resource areas available. Once the player population reached a certain level, the high-resource areas would reach full capacity. Any increase in the

player population would result in the decrease in their development speed. Hence, large Guilds would usually assign their members to various cities, allowing their members to develop quickly.

Zero Wing already had 50,000 members. Moreover, the players Zero Wing recruited all had strong techniques. Even if they had not reached the standards of an elite player, they were not too far. Overall, Zero Wing was stronger than second-rate Guilds and only slightly inferior to first-rate Guilds. Not even first-rate Guilds could match Zero Wing's top combatants. Naturally, Zero Wing required more resources to strengthen itself.

It seems that I have to begin development in other cities earlier than expected.

Shi Feng had never expected for Zero Wing to develop so quickly.

His initial plan to expand Zero Wing to other cities would not have begun for another month. He had also expected for Zero Wing's member count to reach 50,000 only two or three weeks after that. Now, however, he had to initiate his plan ahead of time.

For now, however, I need to deal with the Candlelight Trading Firm's problem. Shi Feng then contacted Aqua Rose.

"Guild Leader, do you need something? I'm quite busy at the moment," Aqua Rose asked pleasantly, smiling.

She had been extremely busy while Shi Feng had been away. Fire Dance and the others had focused on their special training, so all important matters regarding the Guild had been left to her to handle. However, thanks to Shi Feng's massive daily shipments of top-tier equipment, particularly Level 30 Fine Gold and Dark Gold Equipment, and the flood of enthusiastic players who wanted to join Zero Wing, she was quite happy with her work.

Currently, Aqua Rose dared to pat her chest and guarantee that no elite members of other Guilds in Star-Moon Kingdom were better equipped than Zero Wing's members. As for Zero Wing's core members, the equipment they wore consisted of a mix of Level 25 Fine-Gold and Dark-Gold Equipment, with Dark-Gold Equipment being the majority.

If other Guilds discovered this, their eyes would pop out of their sockets.

"Someone's here to make trouble. What do you think we should do?" Shi Feng laughed.

"Who's the blind fool? They actually dare to cause trouble in White River City?" Aqua Rose was initially surprised. However, very quickly, she laughed and said, "Where are they? This lady will annihilate them this instant!"

Although Aqua Rose was very busy, her Level had not lagged behind the other core members whatsoever. It was the same for her equipment. Currently, she was Level 27 and fully equipped with Dark-Gold Equipment. The staff she wielded was also a staff exclusive to Elementalists that Shi Feng had obtained from the Twilight Treasure Chests. Although the staff's Attributes were inferior to Blackie's Epic ranked staff, her weapon's Attributes were very well-suited for Elementalists. In PvP battles, it was in no way inferior to an Epic ranked staff.

"The Candlelight Trading Firm."

When Shi Feng uttered those four words, a realization instantly struck Aqua Rose.

"Guild Leader, are we really going to do this?" Aqua Rose could not help but ask.

Currently, all players in White River City knew of the gathering of the many upper managers of first-rate and second-rate Guilds at the Candlelight Trading Firm. Presently, however, no one had discovered just who stood behind the Candlelight Trading Firm. Only a few core members of Zero Wing knew. After all, it wasn't just Guilds that were capable of setting up a Shop; individuals could do so as well. Many of the Shops set up in minor cities were mostly set up by Workshops that focused on Lifestyle classes. Not to mention, Shi Feng had also set up the Candlelight Trading Firm under the name of the Horizon Alliance, making it nearly impossible to trace back to Zero Wing.

"Everybody will learn the truth sooner or later. This is just a little sooner than we had planned." Shi Feng had never bothered hiding the fact that he had established the Horizon Alliance. It was far more convenient to manage a Shop through a Lifestyle Guild. After all, Combat Guilds and Lifestyle Guilds had completely different specializations, and the specialization of Lifestyle Guilds made them more suitable to develop Shops.

In the past, after discovering this matter, many large Guilds had promptly established a Lifestyle Guild to manage their Shops. Shi Feng had only established a Lifestyle Guild ahead of time.

"Guild Leader, leave it to me." Aqua Rose also grew excited.

Inside the Candlelight Trading Firm's reception hall...

Due to Melancholic Smile's statement, everyone inside the hall had begun to make their guesses of who might be the Candlelight Trading Firm's owner.

However, even if the boss behind the scenes was impressive, what could he possibly do against so many large Guilds?

As everyone occupied themselves with their discussions, time slowly ticked by.

“This Candlelight Trading Firm sure knows how to treat its guests. They’ve already made us wait for such a long time. Do they really think we are easily bullied?” a representative of a second-rate Guild complained.

Everyone was greatly displeased with the situation. Who were they?

They were the overlords of God’s Domain.

Moreover, they had brought both money and sincerity with them.

Yet, the Candlelight Trading Firm actually dared make emperors like them wait so long. Whoever was behind the Firm must truly be tired of living.

Meanwhile, seated in a corner of the hall, Feng Xuanyang watched the souring situation with a smile.

The Candlelight Trading Firm might have been able to get away with angering the various small Guilds of White River City, but if it angered all of these large Guilds, who would dare supply the Firm?

Without materials, the Candlelight Trading Firm would not produce a single product.

However, Feng Xuanyang's smile had not lasted long as the doors to the reception hall suddenly slammed open. In the next moment, a large group of players, roughly one hundred, marched into the hall.

These players all radiated imposing auras. Not a single one looked ordinary, and they were all Level 26 or above. Judging from the dazzling glow effect on their equipment, the most inferior equipment they had was Fine-Gold ranked, with the majority of their equipment consisting of Dark-Gold rank.

On their chests, every player wore a six-winged silver emblem. This was none other than Zero Wing's Guild Emblem.

"Sorry I made you all wait for me." Shi Feng suddenly crossed the reception hall's threshold, smiling. Sweeping a glance over everyone present, he laughed and said, "I'm the owner of the Candlelight Trading Firm, Black Flame."

Chapter 544 - Devour Everything

Zero Wing's arrival had silenced the reception hall. At this moment, practically every Guild representative in the hall focused on Shi Feng.

"Why does it have to be him?"

"So that's the case. It is no wonder the Candlelight Trading Firm set up its headquarters in White River City."

Everyone suddenly came to a realization.

However, at the same time, the upper managers of the various large Guilds reevaluated their impression of Zero Wing.

The majority of the people present had not understood Zero Wing's true strength. They had only read some reports about the Guild.

Before arriving in White River City, each Guild had investigated the various Guilds residing in White River City.

The reports had contained a lot of information about Zero Wing. Moreover, after the Guilds' intelligence agents' detailed investigation of the number one Guild in White River City, they had quite the high evaluation of Zero Wing.

Practically every agent had evaluated Zero Wing as a Guild that was above a second-rate Guild, but below a first-rate Guild. Meanwhile, Zero Wing's Guild Leader, Black Flame, was even Star-Moon Kingdom's number one expert. Up till today, Black Flame had yet to suffer a single defeat. Even Overwhelming Smile, the Guild secretly supported by Underworld, could only hold the position of number two in White River City.

When everyone had received these reports, they had simply laughed it off and placed no particular importance on Zero Wing.

Now, however, the upper managers of the various large Guilds even considered firing those intelligence agents of theirs.

Just what had they investigated?

“How can Zero Wing be so powerful?” Galaxy Past’s expression became grim when he saw the members of Zero Wing.

“Guild Leader, the woman standing beside Black Flame, isn’t she Aqua Rose?” An indescribable bitterness welled up in Purple Eye’s heart when she saw Aqua Rose.

They were old acquaintances. In the past, Aqua Rose had once invited her to join Twilight Echo. However, she had rejected the offer.

She had been greatly shocked to find out that Aqua Rose had left Twilight Echo.

Twilight Echo was an even stronger Guild than the Star Alliance. However, Aqua Rose had left it without hesitation. Moreover, she had even joined a newly-established and unknown Guild after the fact.

When Purple Eye had received this news, she even thought she had heard wrong.

She had also felt it was somewhat unfortunate. A capable gamer such as Aqua Rose had taken such a foolish route.

Now, however, it would seem that Aqua Rose’s decision had not been the wrong one at all.

A Guild with a single expert was not particularly frightening. However, it was a different story if said Guild possessed a large group of experts. Moreover, looking at the nearly one hundred people who had entered the hall, each one of them wore equipment that could rival the best equipment the Star Alliance had to offer, so much so that the best-gearred members of the Star Alliance were even inferior to some of Zero Wing's core members. Furthermore, the Star Alliance could only scrape together, at most, enough equipment to gear a team of 20 players. It was absolutely impossible for them to equip a 100-man team.

One could just imagine how powerful Zero Wing's background was.

Moreover, Aqua Rose's current equipment actually consisted of only Dark-Gold Equipment. As for the dark-red staff in her hand, Purple Eye could not even begin to imagine its rank. However, judging from the amount of pressure it emitted, it was most likely above Dark-Gold rank.

Now that Zero Wing had displayed its strength, even Gentle Snow, who was very familiar with Zero Wing, was surprised, not to mention the Star Alliance, which was also a Star-Moon Kingdom Guild.

Regarding this revelation, Gentle Snow could only reveal a bitter smile. She did not know whether she should rejoice or lament right now.

Previously, when Shi Feng had offered to annex Ouroboros, she had thought that he was being wildly arrogant. However, looking at this dazzling and imposing 100-man team, there might not be a second Guild in all of Star-Moon Kingdom capable of building up such a team.

With the two first-rate Guilds of Star-Moon Kingdom reacting in such a way, there was no need to mention the Guilds that had come from a foreign country.

“Pavilion Master, this Zero Wing seems quite amazing! It has actually obtained so much Dark-Gold Equipment. Every one of these players also seem extraordinary, with a few even radiating dangerous auras!” a blue-haired girl with bright eyes and slender eyebrows sitting beside the Dragon Pavilion Master exclaimed, giggling. Contrary to her words, her actions made it seem as if she did not take Zero Wing seriously at all.

“As expected of the number one Guild of White River City. It really does possess an impressive number of experts. The equipment it possesses is even more surprising. Only, it is a pity that such good equipment is actually being wasted on these people,” the handsome youth stated, his gaze revealing a hint of greed.

He could not help but admit that the equipment worn by Zero Wing’s members was indeed amazing. Even the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion did not have so much top-tier equipment, much less first-rate Guilds.

If he could snatch all of it away...

At that time, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion would definitely become a bona fide Super Guild. It might even become even more powerful than a few current Super Guilds.

“Pavilion Master, should I secretly rob them all?” the robust man named Blood Dragon asked softly.

“Let’s discuss it first.” The handsome youth waved his hand. Faintly smiling, he said, “Whether it is the Candlelight Trading Firm’s Intermediate Mana Armor Kits or Zero Wing’s equipment, it seems that my trip to White River City has not been wasted. If I deal with this matter properly, the Great Pavilion Master will definitely be pleased.”

“Pavilion Master is truly wise. At that time, I want to see just how the Phoenix Pavilion plans to contend with our Dragon Pavilion,” Blood Dragon laughed.

Even after silence had gripped the reception hall for some time, Shi Feng had not hurried to dive straight into business. Instead, he waved his hand and signaled Melancholic Smile.

At this moment, Melancholic Smile opened her mouth and said, “Ladies and gentlemen, if you are here to purchase Intermediate Mana Armor Kits, please follow me. As our stock is limited, the Candlelight Trading Firm intends to hold a small-scale auction exclusively for you.”

Saying so, Melancholic Smile led the way out of the reception hall.

In response, however, the Guild representatives only turned to look at each other, showing no signs of leaving their seats.

Who among them was not here to purchase the Candlelight Trading Firm, hoping to earn a massive profit through the transaction? How could they possibly come all the way here just to purchase a few measly Intermediate Mana Armor Kits?

Particularly, the Dragon Pavilion Master from the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion looked utterly uninterested in the Intermediate Mana Armor Kits.

With the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion taking the lead, everyone would naturally follow.

However, among these people, one person stood up from their seat and followed Melancholic Smile.

“Has Gentle Snow gone insane?” Galaxy Past watched Gentle Snow’s departing figure.

There were so many Guilds putting pressure on Zero Wing right now. Even if Zero Wing were strong, it would have no choice but to tread carefully when faced with so many large Guilds. Offending so many large Guilds at once would be tantamount to suicide. Anyone who had a brain would definitely choose to stay. After all, they could take advantage of the situation to rake in even more profit for themselves, and that was not something a few measly Intermediate Mana Armor Kits could hope to compare with.

Yet, Gentle Snow had actually chosen to leave...

“Don’t tell me that no one else here is interested in the Intermediate Mana Armor Kits?” Shi Feng asked as he glanced at the seated guests.

At this moment, Feng Xuanyang stood. Righteously, he said, “Guild Leader Black Flame, many of us here have journeyed from far away. We have already shown the Candlelight Trading Firm sufficient respect. If you turn us away empty-handed, our reputations will suffer.”

“That’s right, Guild Leader Black Flame! Let’s prosper together! Wouldn’t it be better if we invest into and develop the Candlelight Trading Firm together? That way, everybody can profit!” Many among the crowd began advising Shi Feng as they laughed merrily.

Among those present, aside from the upper managers of a few first-rate Guilds, everyone promptly voiced their agreement.

“Are all of you of the same opinion?” Shi Feng calmly asked.

“You could say that,” the Dragon Pavilion Master, Nine Dragons Emperor, suddenly said. “However, aside from my interest in the Intermediate Mana Armor Kits, I am also very interested in the equipment you all wear. Why don’t you state a price? I’ll buy all of it.”

Although Nine Dragons Emperor wore a lukewarm smile, his tone indicated that he would not take no for an answer.

Suddenly, the entire venue fell silent. Many of the Guild representatives sucked in a breath of cold air.

Initially, they had thought that the conditions they had proposed were sufficient. They had never expected that this Dragon Pavilion Master would be even greedier than they were. He actually wanted to devour both the Candlelight Trading Firm and Zero Wing.

Chapter 545 - Super Guild

Although Nine Dragons Emperor’s words were quite arrogant, all of the various Guild representatives present knew that this handsome youth before them had certainly earned his arrogance.

The fact that the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was hailed as a super-first-rate Guild, which was the closest existence to a Super Guild, was not without reason. Great strength had built that reputation.

In today’s era, virtual reality had long since integrated into everyone’s life. Practically everyone would come into contact with virtual reality games in some form. Meanwhile, there were countless virtual gaming Guilds.

Any Guild that the public officially recognized became a third-rate Guild. Even though third-rate Guilds were nowhere near the top of the gaming industry, they still stood out among the countless Guilds in the virtual gaming world. Not only did a third-rate Guild possess a certain degree of financial support, but it also possessed a large number of members. Normally, third-rate Guilds had also earned some form of achievement in some virtual reality games.

Standing above third-rate Guilds were second-rate Guilds. Not only did second-rate Guilds possess abundant capital, but they also possessed quite a number of experts. These experts were normally those who held some fame in the virtual gaming world. As for a second-rate Guild's member count, there was no need to even mention that. Normally, a second-rate Guild would develop itself in multiple cities simultaneously.

As for first-rate Guilds, they were normally Guilds that had been crowned as overlords in at least a dozen large-scale virtual reality games. Such Guilds generally had over a decade of history, having overcome countless, painstaking trials. First-rate Guilds had perfected expert training programs and a large network of contacts. Most importantly, these Guilds had recruited a large number of experts over the years.

Practically all up and coming experts of the virtual gaming world would be split between these first-rate Guilds. With more experts joining the Guild every passing year, there would always be a large number of experts present to support, to battle for, and to bring endless glory to the Guild.

They were existences far above second-rate Guilds.

As for Super Guilds?

They were the titans of the virtual gaming world. There were even many virtual reality games that these Super Guilds had produced personally. They also had their own research teams that were set up to study and improve a person's gaming skills. Super Guilds had no shortage of ordinary experts. Aside from recruiting some experts who possessed extraordinary talents, they would usually nurture their own army of experts.

As for the various major competitions held in the virtual gaming world, these Super Guilds organized practically all of them. Meanwhile, the majority of the top-tier experts that had emerged from these competitions every year were usually experts that these Super Guilds had nurtured.

Take Purple Eye and Aqua Rose for example. Both had been nurtured by the same Super Guild. After undergoing the sharpening of various major competitions and emerging victorious, both had become rookies of the year. They had then separated from the Super Guild they had belonged to to develop themselves separately.

In fact, this wasn't just limited to the two of them. Many well-known experts in the virtual gaming world had originated from Super Guilds.

This was the amazing part about Super Guilds.

With this aspect alone, Super Guilds were already leaps and bounds above first-rate Guilds.

Take the financial prowess backing Super Guilds for example. All Super Guilds already stood at the peak of the virtual gaming industry. In a society where virtual reality was so well-developed, the economic value of the virtual industry constantly rose. Whether it regarded financial prowess or influence, Super Guilds were not one bit inferior to international corporations. There were some Super Guilds that were even stronger.

Although the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was not a Super Guild, in reality, it was not far from becoming one. Only, the Pavilion was somewhat young. However, that was only true when compared to actual Super Guilds. When compared to other first-rate Guilds, the Pavilion's history was a lot longer than many first-rate Guilds in the virtual gaming world.

“This should be fun,” Galaxy Past said as he looked at Shi Feng standing near the door, a meaningful grin appearing on his face.

“Guild Leader, you still have the heart to make jokes? If the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion really buys out the Candlelight Trading Firm, wouldn’t we have come here for nothing?” Purple Eye asked as she frowned at Galaxy Past. She had come from a Super Guild, so she knew full well just how powerful a Super Guild’s background could be.

Although Black Flame was very strong, his strength only mattered in Star-Moon Kingdom. If he were in a Super Guild, he would be considered average.

As for the other experts of Zero Wing, a Super Guild had armies of such individuals.

Not to mention, Super Guilds also possessed plenty of old monsters. Those players were no longer considered human. Only, these old monsters would not normally appear in the public eye, so not many people knew of them.

A single flick from a Super Guild could easily annihilate Zero Wing.

If it came down to a fight, Zero Wing wouldn’t even be powerful enough to resist.

In reality, even an amazing first-rate Guild would stand no chance against a Super Guild, much less Zero Wing. At most, it could only provide a momentary struggle. This was also one of the reasons why there was only a small number of Super Guilds, despite there being a large number of first-rate Guilds in the virtual gaming world.

The only reason why Super Guilds did not go out of their way to compete with first-rate Guilds, only contending with opponents of the same level, was because they did not like bullying the weak. It was the same concept as for how an adult would not participate in a fight between children. Doing so would only harm to their reputation.

“It seems that Gentle Snow’s decision was correct. If I had known something like this would happen, I would have gone along to purchase some Intermediate Mana Armor Kits,” Galaxy Past sighed ruefully.

Once the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion purchased the Candlelight Trading Firm, it definitely would not sell the Intermediate Mana Armor Kits. Rather, it would use those kits to strengthen itself and challenge those Super Guilds.

If he wanted to buy the Intermediate Mana Armor Kits, now was his only chance to do so.

Meanwhile, sitting in the corner of the reception hall, Feng Xuanyang was thoroughly dumbfounded. The situation left him utterly speechless.

The higher-ups of Underworld had instructed him to purchase 300 Intermediate Mana Armor Kits. If the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion bought the Candlelight Trading Firm, how was he supposed to buy the kits?

Melancholic Smile entered the reception hall on the second floor with Gentle Snow behind her.

The location Melancholic Smile had led Gentle Snow to was still inside the reception hall. Only, it was situated on the building's second floor. It could be considered a VIP room of sorts. And while the occupants of the first floor could not see the occupants on the second floor, the reverse did not hold true. Not only could one see everything that went on inside the reception hall on the first floor, but one could also hear the first floor's ongoings clearly.

"Why have you brought me here?" Gentle Snow asked, surprised.

"Miss Snow, please wait a moment," Melancholic Smile said. "Guild Leader knows that you want a large number of Intermediate Mana Armor Kits. However, the supply for the kits is truly too scarce. As the demand for it is very high, he plans to hold an auction for the kits. Meanwhile, the auction will be held right here. As soon as he sends away the Guild representatives below, the auction will begin."

"Send them away?" Gentle Snow could not help but glance at the Nine Dragons Emperor.

She had seen the Nine Dragons Emperor many times before, so she knew this man's temper. He was the very definition of the word "hypocrite." If both sides were on equal footing, then there wouldn't be a problem with discussing business. However, if the other side's strength were inferior to his, only a painful slaughter awaited them.

Nine Dragons Emperor was also willing to do whatever it took to achieve his goals, and that included unscrupulous means. Hence, very few people were willing to deal with him. However, it was also this personality that had allowed him to reach the position of Pavilion Master.

In a super-first-rate Guild, it was not easy for one to reach the position of Pavilion Master. Knowing a few tricks was far from enough. One also needed strength and ability. Otherwise, one would not be able to secure their position even if they did manage to obtain it. The fact that Nine Dragons Emperor had held his position firmly for so many years spoke volumes about his strength.

“Hopefully, he wouldn’t do anything stupid,” Gentle Snow said somewhat worriedly as she glanced at Shi Feng.

Inside the reception hall on the first floor, silence filled the venue. Everyone had focused on Shi Feng, waiting for his reply despite having already guessed what the outcome would be.

“You want to buy the Candlelight Trading Firm and Zero Wing?” Shi Feng laughed. Smiling at the Nine Dragons Emperor calmly, he said, “Sure, but I want 60% of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s shares.”

Chapter 546 - Even Dragons Have to Bow

Immediately after Shi Feng finished speaking, silence overtook the venue. Every Guild representative in the hall was stupefied.

Black Flame has gone insane!

They all stared at Shi Feng with dropped jaws.

Who was the Nine Dragons Emperor?

He was the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion. He stood at the very top of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. With a single word, he could easily bring an end to the existence of any second-rate Guild in the virtual gaming world.

Moreover, the Nine Dragons Emperor was famed for being vicious and merciless.

There was once a Vice Leader of an ordinary first-rate Guild who had competed against the Nine Dragons Emperor in an auction for an item. Enraged, Nine Dragons had sent a notice to the first-rate Guild and demanded that the Vice Leader in question grovel and apologize to him, as well as return the item in question. Otherwise, he would take action against this first-rate Guild.

How could an ordinary first-rate Guild possibly hope to contend with the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion? Furthermore, the first-rate Guild in question had many competitors. Nine Dragons had only needed to give the word, and many other first-rate Guilds would have joined hands to take out the offending Guild. Having no other option, the first-rate Guild sent for the Vice Leader in question to apologize and offer the item. In the end, however, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion still annihilated the first-rate Guild, forcing the Guild to migrate to a different virtual reality game.

Currently, although Shi Feng had not outright stated that he refused to sell, the price he demanded was the same as slapping the Nine Dragons Emperor in the face.

Although Nine Dragons was one of the two Pavilion Masters of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, he only possessed less than 10%. The majority of the Pavilion's shares remained in the Great Pavilion Master's hands.

Shi Feng's demand of 60% of the Pavilion's shares was no different than demanding ownership of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and a position above even his, the Nine Dragons Emperor's.

"This Black Flame is exactly as the rumors made him out to be! He is simply fearless!" Galaxy Past could not help but voice his admiration.

Throughout God's Domain, other than those Super Guilds and a few Guilds with extremely powerful corporations backing them, there were no Guilds that dared provoke the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Even the upper echelons of Super Guilds would consider their options carefully before humiliating this Pavilion Master.

Although a virtual reality game was only a game, where there were people, there was bound to be conflict.

The Nine Dragons Emperor was the face of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Even if Shi Feng refused to give in to Nine Dragons' coercion, he should have handled the situation with a more delicate hand. Yet, Shi Feng had thrown all pretenses out the window and made a mockery of the Nine Dragons Emperor. Even if it were just for his reputation's sake, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion would now go all-out to destroy him.

Hence, Galaxy Past truly admired Shi Feng's courage.

"He should have shown some restraint and refrained from such an impulsive comeback. If he could have endured the humiliation he has suffered today in order to retaliate another day, he would have gained more of my respect. However, with him acting like a boorish fellow, Zero Wing is truly finished this time," Purple Eye said as she glanced at Shi Feng. She then turned to look at Aqua Rose, silently lamenting as she said, "It seems that Aqua Rose has still made the wrong decision. In the end, a small Guild will only ever be a small Guild. Though it might triumph temporarily, it could not make it last."

Meanwhile, in the second-floor reception room...

“Your Guild Leader has gone insane! That’s the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion! Moreover, that’s the Nine Dragons Emperor he is provoking! Just what is going through your Guild Leader’s head? Even if Nine Dragons doesn’t take offense, if word spreads, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion will definitely try to annihilate Zero Wing with everything it has to restore its reputation!” Gentle Snow exclaimed as she stared at Melancholic Smile.

Based on what she understood of Shi Feng, the man was not ignorant. On the contrary, he was quite shrewd with great foresight.

Yet, now, he had actually offended the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. She had no idea why Shi Feng had done such a thing.

“This... Even I don’t know what he is trying to do.” Melancholic Smile shook her head. She then said, “However, after hearing the Guild Leader’s words, I can’t help but feel proud. Why are they allowed to bully us, while we are not allowed to resist?”

Gentle Snow failed to think of a response.

Although he was not in the wrong, there was a price to pay for those words.

Similarly, the precondition for resisting was to have sufficient strength. Although Zero Wing was relatively powerful, it was still far from a titanic existence like the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Challenging the Pavilion at this point was simply suicide.

Meanwhile, back in the first-floor reception hall, even the Nine Dragons Emperor himself was stunned. He had never expected Shi Feng to be so foolish.

Even the heavens would laugh at such folly.

However, Nine Dragons could not find it in himself to laugh. Instead, his expression shifted slightly as a cold, killing intent flashed in his eyes. However, this killing intent quickly disappeared. In the next moment, a bright, dazzling smile appeared on the Nine Dragons Emperor's face.

"Since Guild Leader Black Flame has no intentions of selling, I won't overstay my welcome. Goodbye." The Nine Dragons Emperor smiled. He then left the reception hall with his subordinates.

Everyone else in the reception hall turned to look at each other.

What had just happened?

That's it?

Wasn't he supposed to warn Zero Wing and teach them a lesson?

"Purple, let's leave as well, then." At this moment, Galaxy Past smiled faintly as he prepared to leave the building.

“Guild Leader, are we not going to negotiate with Zero Wing? Are we just leaving?” Purple Eye asked curiously.

It had taken quite some effort to embark on this trip. After all, Galaxy Past was the Guild Leader of the Star Alliance. If he left White River City without obtaining even the tiniest harvest, he would become a laughingstock.

“It will be meaningless. If even the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion has been treated in such a way, do you think Black Flame will agree to sell the Candlelight Trading Firm to us?” Galaxy Past shook his head. He then explained, “Also, a war is going to begin in White River City, so don’t you think we should return quickly?”

“War?” Purple Eye suddenly came to a realization.

Although Nine Dragons Emperor had left the building peacefully and had not made any vicious remarks, in reality, killing intent filled his heart. It would have been foolish of him to reveal his thoughts inside the Candlelight Trading Firm.

Inside this Shop, Black Flame’s words were law. Anyone who dared spout profanities inside the building would only be sentenced to death. Only a brain-dead fool would risk that just to sate his pride.

Most likely, the Nine Dragons Emperor would notify his subordinates, instructing them to annihilate Zero Wing the moment he returned to the Black Dragon Empire. He would not give Black Flame the chance to react.

“Hahaha! Black Flame, so even you will have such a day!” Feng Xuanyang grinned like a drunk fool.

At this point, there was no doubt that the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion would obliterate Zero Wing. However, based on the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's prestige, it would abhor remaining in a small location like White River City. Once Zero Wing was annihilated, Overwhelming Smile would automatically become the number one Guild of White River City without even needing him to expend any effort.

Afterward, the various Guild representatives promptly left the Candlelight Trading Firm. Not a single Guild chose to stay behind.

At this moment, Aqua Rose turned to Shi Feng, wearing a grim expression as she said, "Guild Leader, now that you have provoked the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, the Pavilion will not let us off the hook. The Pavilion's background is also not something first-rate Guilds like the Star Alliance and Ouroboros could hope to compare with. They have countless experts in their midst. They also have plenty of great experts who are famous in the virtual gaming world.

"If they dispatch a large number of experts to ambush our Guildmates, the resulting death count will far surpass that of our war with Overwhelming Smile."

Even Underworld was already capable of dispatching over 200 battle-experienced experts, not to mention the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. The Pavilion most likely had plenty of top-tier experts as well. It was simply not an existence that Zero Wing could contend with.

"Within the region of White River City, even a dragon has to bow before Zero Wing. You should prepare. There will be fun to be had soon," Shi Feng laughed. He then left the first-floor reception hall and headed to the VIP room on the second floor.

Naturally, Shi Feng had his own reasons for slapping the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's face.

The first reason: it had felt awesome!

He was an expert who had set foot into the Flowing Water Realm. He was even geared with a complete Tier 1 Set Equipment and Fragmented Legendary and Epic ranked rings. He even wielded a Magic Weapon. So, how could he possibly concede to a Pavilion Master of a super-first-rate Guild?

In the past, even a real Super Guild had to cower in fear when facing the Midnight Tea Party, a 20-man independent team. Currently, he was in possession of weapons and equipment that were far superior to anyone else's. He also had several large-scale destruction spells. Not to mention, White River City was his home ground.

Why wouldn't he challenge a super-first-rate Guild?

As for the second reason, it was to forge the Guild.

If one wanted to improve on their skills, they only needed to do one thing.

Fight!

Experts were not nurtured through Dungeon raids, but through live battles against other players.

Overwhelming Smile was no longer a challenge, so they had to choose a stronger opponent to pit themselves against. In any case, Zero Wing did not lack money. They could afford to fight the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

Chapter 547 - Shocking God's Domain

Aqua Rose revealed a bitter smile as she watched Shi Feng's departing figure.

However, when she considered the situation from a different perspective, Shi Feng's decision was not necessarily a bad thing.

In the past, other than Super Guilds, there really weren't any Guilds that had dared provoke the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

Now that Zero Wing had made a fuss, even if they were defeated, it would be a glorious defeat. Moreover, suffering defeat in God's Domain did not equal annihilation.

God's Domain was not as simple as other virtual reality games. Thoroughly annihilating a Guild was easier said than done. It was similar to Zero Wing's efforts to chase Overwhelming Smile out of White River City. Despite having massacred Overwhelming Smile's members, not only did the Guild still reside in White River City, but it was also getting by quite well. Only, the Guild was forced to maintain a low profile, and its development had slowed significantly.

Although the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had a lot of experts, and its financial prowess was enormous, it would not be able to extinguish Zero Wing in White River City easily.

Not to mention, Zero Wing also had the Candlelight Trading Firm supplying it with Coins.

“Alright, let’s head back and prepare. White River City won’t be so peaceful from now on.” Saying so, Aqua Rose left the Candlelight Trading Firm with Zero Wing’s core members.

Meanwhile, inside the VIP room on the second floor, Shi Feng had already begun to discuss business with Gentle Snow.

“Guild Leader Black Flame, this move of yours is truly incomprehensible,” Gentle Snow said, confusion plastered on her snow-white face. She could not help but ask, “Guild Leader Black Flame, you should know that there are a total of seven first-rate Guilds competing over the Black Dragon Empire. Although two of them are not based in the empire, they have invested a significant sum into the branch’s development. Yet, despite there being so many first-rate Guilds in the empire, only the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion has a Branch Guild set up in the imperial capital. None of the other first-rate Guilds have set up their Branch Guilds there yet. Do you know why?”

“The imperial capital isn’t a nice place to live.” Shi Feng laughed.

Gentle Snow rolled her eyes. He was clearly pretending to be stupid. Helpless, she explained, “That is because the Branch Leader there is Blood Dragon, one of Nine Dragons Emperor’s most formidable generals. Blood Dragon is a violent man, and he loves battles more than anything. He also has a group of experts under him called the Blood Legion. If any Guilds refuse to submit to the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and dare to reside in the imperial capital, then this Blood Legion will come forward.

“The Blood Legion will secretly target these Guilds, going as far as to ambush the upper echelons even while still within the city limits.

“None of these first-rate Guilds wish to drop all pretense of cordiality with the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and allow others to take advantage of the situation. Hence, they had no better option but to withdraw from the imperial capital and develop in other cities.

“If the Pavilion sends the Blood Legion to White River City, it won’t be a good thing for Zero Wing.”

Shi Feng simply revealed a faint smile in response to Gentle Snow’s words.

Naturally, he knew all of this information. Moreover, his understanding of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was even more thorough than Gentle Snow’s.

The Blood Legion’s fame was not one bit exaggerated. The Blood Legion was also known as the Assassination Legion, comprised of a group of Assassins that the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion had carefully nurtured. Anyone who opposed the Heavenly Dragon Legion would oftentimes find themselves killed back to Level 0 the following day. The result would not change even if one hid inside a city.

It was not an easy feat to kill players inside a city. It was especially so for a major city. Even if one managed to kill a player, the city guards would still kill them and deliver a severe punishment. In mild cases, this punishment would be a jail sentence of several days. In severe cases, it was highly possible that the guards would first execute the player multiple times, then jail them for a dozen days or so, and finally, chase them out of and bar entry to the city. If this player dared show their face in the city, the guards would execute them on the spot.

Unless that player did not mind losing a few Levels and being locked up for a few weeks, or they no longer wished to reside in the city any longer, they normally would not take action inside an NPC city.

During the initial stages of God’s Domain, the various large Guilds already wished they could split in two to hasten their development. One could just imagine how much of a loss it would be for a Guild to have its experts locked up for days or weeks.

Every Guild treated its experts like treasures. Losing an expert for a single day could cause immense damage to a Guild, not to mention a jail sentence of a few days.

However, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion paid these consequences no mind. They had plenty of experts to go around. This was the Pavilion's strength.

"Forget it. I've already told you about the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Since you made me wait so long, may I know how many Intermediate Mana Armor Kits Guild Leader Black Flame intends to sell to me?" Shi Feng's unperturbed attitude left Gentle Snow utterly speechless. At this moment, however, her own situation did not look too well, either, so she could not be of any help even if she wanted to.

"Miss Snow, how many do you want?" Shi Feng simply laughed off Gentle Snow's worries, not bothering to offer her any explanation. However, he knew that Gentle Snow sincerely wanted to help him. He also understood that she was currently powerless to help him.

Hearing Shi Feng's question, Gentle Snow pondered for a moment before asking softly, "Do you have enough to gear a 50-man team?"

Everybody knew how precious the Intermediate Mana Armor Kits were. Even partnered Guilds were only allowed to purchase 21 kits at a time. That amount was only sufficient to gear nine players at most. Beyond that, it was extremely difficult to obtain any more kits, as all those who had managed to purchase them refused to part with them.

It was impossible for any Guild, other than Zero Wing, to obtain a sufficient number of Intermediate Mana Armor Kits to gear a 50-man team fully.

“Okay, but the Candlelight Trading Firm requires a large amount of rare materials. In the future, I will require Ouroboros to sell the majority of the materials it obtains to the Candlelight Trading Firm,” Shi Feng said.

Currently, Zero Wing was still capable of meeting the Candlelight Trading Firm’s demand. However, as the Firm developed, the materials it required would increase. At that time, Zero Wing alone would not be enough to satisfy the demand of the Candlelight Trading Firm. However, if a first-rate Guild like Ouroboros supplied the Firm, there would no longer be any problems.

“Once I return, I’ll instruct my subordinates to send you the materials.” Gentle Snow nodded in agreement. In any case, she was tight on money right now. If she could convert some of the Guild’s materials into Coins, it would help her greatly.

After Shi Feng and Gentle Snow concluded their trade, the matter of Zero Wing’s Guild Leader, Black Flame, provoking the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had already spread throughout God’s Domain.

As a super-first-rate Guild, any minor matter relating to the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion would receive the attention of the various large Guilds in the virtual gaming world, not to mention a major incident such as a Guild openly insulting them.

For a time, everyone began to pay attention to the Star-Moon Kingdom, to Zero Wing, and to Black Flame.

“Crap, Black Flame must’ve gone insane! He actually dared to slap the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion in the face! Does he not want to play God’s Domain anymore?”

“What do you know? Black Flame is super amazing! He is a titled expert on the God’s Domain Ranking List! He has his own pride, naturally, so how could he possibly hand over the Candlelight Trading Firm he had built by himself?”

“I wonder what the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion will do?”

“Isn’t it obvious? If Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion does not flatten a Guild like Zero Wing, will it still qualify to be called a super-first-rate Guild?”

News and talk of the conflict between the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Zero Wing filled God’s Domain’s forums. As for Super Guilds, they, too, had fun watching from the sidelines.

Currently, while all of God’s Domain was in an uproar, the atmosphere inside one of White River City’s high-class restaurants was extremely awkward.

“Pavilion Master, leave this matter to this subordinate. I will give Black Flame more than what he bargained for,” the robust Blood Dragon requested respectfully.

“I never expected to encounter such a blind fool in this far-off city. Now, every player in God’s Domain knows of this incident. The Great Pavilion Master has even sent me a message personally, telling me to deal with this matter as visibly as possible and show those Super Guilds that the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion is no longer just a super-first-rate Guild. Rather, it is a Super Guild that stands on equal footing,” Nine Dragons Emperor said, a bone-chilling glint flashing in his eyes. Curling up his lips, he said, “Since the Great Pavilion Master has issued the command, we cannot take this matter lightly. Notify the War Dragon Legion and have them meet us here immediately. I want to destroy Zero Wing’s Guild Residence personally!”

Chapter 548 - War Dragon Legion

“The War Dragon Legion?” Blood Dragon could not help but suck in a breath of cold air when he heard this name.

The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was divided into two Pavilions: the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion and the Phoenix Pavilion. Both Pavilions had their own strongest legions.

The Heavenly Dragon Pavilion’s strongest force was the War Dragon Legion.

The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion nurtured its own experts internally. Among these experts, only the best of the best were allowed into the War Dragon Legion.

One could say that the War Dragon Legion was the strongest legion specially established to contend with Super Guilds.

Blood Dragon had also come from the War Dragon Legion.

Who wouldn’t be shocked by the Nine Dragons Emperor summoning the War Dragon Legion?

“Pavilion Master, aren’t we just dealing with a small Guild? Is there really a need for such a commotion?” Chaos Dancer, the beautiful woman seated beside Nine Dragons Emperor, advised, “In

fact, we can rely on the Blood Legion to get rid of Zero Wing. If we expose the strength of the War Dragon Legion right now, won't we waste a trump card that we could use against those Super Guilds in the future?"

"It doesn't matter. Since joining God's Domain, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion has yet to achieve anything significant. Now that everyone is watching the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, it is a good opportunity for an excellent performance," Nine Dragons Emperor said, smiling playfully. "Moreover, Zero Wing's reputation is not insignificant. If we can finish off Zero Wing swiftly, it will serve as a shock to some of those weaklings and let everyone know that the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion is no longer a super-first-rate Guild, but a true Super Guild."

"Understood. This subordinate will notify the War Dragon Legion immediately." Chaos Dance then began contacting the War Dragon Legion.

Time passed little by little.

While the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion prepared to deal with Zero Wing, other Guilds did not idle and do nothing. Every one of them gathered their members in White River City.

For a time, experts swarmed White River City.

Despite it obviously being daytime, the number of players filling the streets surpassed even night-time. Among all these players, aside from those that large Guilds had sent, there were plenty of ordinary players who had hurried over from other cities.

Players throughout God's Domain knew about the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's intentions to take out Zero Wing.

Although this was clearly a one-sided battle, many players still wanted to witness the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's strength. Hence, many ordinary players had hurried to White River City to watch the show.

However, it was also this reason that boosted the Candlelight Trading Firm's business. Among the items sold by the Firm, Light Stones were the most popular. The Candlelight Trading Firm's income had practically recovered to its peak, earning nearly a thousand Gold in one hour.

As a result, Melancholic Smile and the others at the Candlelight Trading Firm focused fully on their work.

"Old Five, I heard that Black Flame defeated you and Old Six even after you two cooperated. This incident has not impressed the higher-ups, and they've started to look down on our Seven Ghosts. When the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion deals with Zero Wing, we need to deal with this matter properly," a thin, middle-aged man with bronze skin said seriously.

"Brother Three, rest assured; I will not damage our reputation," Fifth Ghost said, killing intent flashing in his eyes.

Previously, even though he had worked with Sixth Ghost, Black Flame still defeated them. Moreover, they had even lost all of their equipment they upon dying and had been barred from entering the game for two whole days. By now, they had both become laughingstocks in Underworld.

This time, in order to restore the Seven Ghosts' reputation, they needed to avenge themselves properly and complete the tasks the higher-ups had given them.

“All is well as long as you know it. Our task is very simple this time: assist Young Master Feng in obtaining 300 Intermediate Mana Armor Kits. It will be even better if we can obtain even more equipment and kits. However, since the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion is spearheading this matter, it is best if we keep a low-profile. So, first, let’s focus on getting the 300 Intermediate Mana Armor Kits,” the thin man, Third Ghost, said. “This time, to ensure we complete our task, I have even called Old Four and Old Seven to help us. With the five of us, we should be able to take down Black Flame easily. The only thing we have to worry about is the Pavilion itself. It is best if we form a proper plan.”

“On this point, Brother Third Ghost, please rest assured. Based on my investigations, the Blood Dragon’s subordinates, the Blood Legion, will not be involved this time; the Nine Dragons Emperor has called in the War Dragon Legion instead. Every member of the War Dragon Legion is proud and arrogant, and they usually look down on everyone else. They should not pay any attention to us should we move against Zero Wing,” Feng Xuanyang explained, smiling faintly. “As insurance, I have even had a large group of elites come over from Maple City. With such a powerful force, Black Flame will have no hope of survival.”

“Having the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion deal with Zero Wing is already overkill. Adding us into the mix, Black Flame will die with a 100% certainty. Even if he is even more powerful than we suspect, he will have to consider his options carefully. At that time, he will willingly hand over the 300 Intermediate Mana Armor Kits,” Fifth Ghost laughed coldly. “If he refuses, then I’ll give him a taste of what it feels like to wish for death.”

All of White River City’s various large Guilds, including Overwhelming Smile, considered and prepared to strike against Zero Wing while it was down, taking the opportunity to benefit from the Guild’s downfall.

Meanwhile, in a high-class bar a short distance from Zero Wing’s Guild Residence, many upper managers of Guilds had gathered.

The entire three-story building was packed full of players. Among them, first-rate Guilds fully occupied all of the private rooms on the third floor. From these rooms, one could clearly see every movement around Zero Wing's Guild Residence.

"Guild Leader, don't you think that Zero Wing is acting strangely? Even now, they are still so carefree. They have not taken any precautionary measures at all. Is this Black Flame pretending to be a fool, or is he actually one?" Purple Eye frowned as she watched Zero Wing's Guild Residence through the window.

"There's nothing surprising about this. Black Flame simply does not understand the Nine Dragons Emperor's character. Look at the people inside the bar for example. Aren't most of them members of first-rate Guilds? Meanwhile, a newly-established Guild like Zero Wing and a newcomer to the virtual gaming world like Black Flame don't know Nine Dragons' style of conduct. Thus, he continues with his carefree manner," Galaxy Past said, laughing. Downing a mouthful of Flame Beer, he continued, "The Nine Dragons Emperor is someone who conducts himself with a lofty tone and does not play his cards according to common sense. This time, he has even secretly mobilized the War Dragon Legion to deal with Zero Wing, making a fuss over a minor incident. Naturally, the only reason why he would mobilize such a powerful legion is to destroy Zero Wing's Guild Residence.

"A Guild Residence is different from a private Shop. While inside the Shop, the manager is invincible. However, it is a different story for a Guild Residence. It is slightly troublesome to deal with the Residence's hired guards, and there are also the city guards who patrol the streets. With current players' Levels and equipment, it is still impossible to resist the patrolling guards. Hence, no sane Guild would attempt to attack another Guild's Residence.

"However, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion is no trivial existence. One cannot measure by the strength of an ordinary Guild. Moreover, the Nine Dragons Emperor is no fool. I keep getting the feeling that he has some sort of trick up his sleeve. Otherwise, he would not have sent the War Dragon Legion, a trump card that he had prepared for facing Super Guilds!

"What we need to do now is wait for the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion to make its move. Once they take action and Zero Wing falls, we can begin our operation as well."

Purple Eye nodded silently.

This time, the Star Alliance had sent quite a number of elites and experts. They were not afraid that Zero Wing would not fall today. Instead, it was only a matter of how much profit they could gain.

However, the various large Guilds, including the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, was ignorant of one point.

Shi Feng was a reincarnator. Moreover, he had also been the Guild Leader of a second-rate Guild in the past. In order to survive in God's Domain's harsh conditions, he had endured relentless pain and suffering.

As far as understanding massive existences like the Nine Dragons Emperor...

The Nine Dragons Emperor, most likely, did not have a better understanding than Shi Feng.

Chapter 549 - Leave None Alive

Inside the meeting room in Zero Wing's Guild Residence...

Zero Wing's core members filled the large meeting room; everyone could feel the tension in the air.

War was imminent.

Although Zero Wing had succeeded in suppressing Overwhelming Smile in White River City, their current enemy, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, was a lot stronger than Overwhelming Smile. The two Guilds were on entirely different levels.

Every player present fully understood how severe of a situation they were in. They also knew that it was highly unlikely that they would overcome this hurdle.

Seated on the Guild Leader's throne, Shi Feng suddenly asked, "You must think that I am a fool, right?"

However, the only answer he received was silence.

Not a single person answered his question. Everyone only stared at their Guild Leader, who was shrouded in mystery, quietly.

"I know the answer even without you saying a word," Shi Feng laughed. Casual and relaxed, he said, "Everyone must think that I have gone insane, that I overestimate myself by challenging a super-first-rate Guild like the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

"Until now, aside from Super Guilds, not a single Guild dares to make an enemy of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Do you know why?"

"The reason is very simple: they are simply too strong. They are strong enough that other Guilds despair at the thought of them as an enemy!"

"I believe that you should know all that, at this time, many Guilds have already begun to prepare to take advantage of our misfortune. Every one of them is closely eyeing us like prey. There is not a single Guild out there that thinks we might come out of this on top. They all believe that we will lose without a doubt and that our names will soon be wiped from God's Domain.

"Do you know why?

"I'll tell you why! Since the very beginning, whether it is the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion or the various other first-rate Guilds, none of these people have seen us as equals. Since the very beginning, they have thought of us as weak. So, they have come to bully us, to drink our blood and eat our flesh, to destroy us!

"However, I will warn them now. They will be disappointed.

"Since there has never been a Guild courageous enough to challenge the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, then, today, we will be the first to make history! We will show everyone that Zero Wing is not a Guild they can afford to provoke! If they wish to plunder our corpses, they'll have to seek permission from the swords in our hands first!

"The battle is to the strong! Today, let us teach the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion a lesson!"

The moment Shi Feng finished his speech, everyone suddenly felt their blood boil.

None of them had ever thought that such a day would come.

Throughout the virtual gaming world, other than Super Guilds, there had never been a Guild daring enough to provoke and challenge the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. However, Zero Wing dared.

Moreover, Zero Wing's Guild Leader himself led this challenge.

"Isn't it just a super-first-rate Guild? I've long since grown tired of looking at their faces. Today, I'll use them to release some stress!" Cola laughed excitedly.

"Hahaha! Guild Leader, I've been waiting for you to say that! I'm bored of battling Overwhelming Smile constantly. The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion has arrived at just the right time. It just so happens that I can use them to test my recent improvement!" Blackie licked his lips, revealing an eager grin.

"Guild Leader, tell us how we should deal with the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion! I want to be the first one to have a go at them!" Flying Shadow said excitedly.

"This is seriously insane." Aqua Rose shook her head helplessly. In the next moment, however, she smiled and said, "But I like it!"

For a time, every Zero Wing member the meeting room talked and laughed with each other, the heavy atmosphere from before vanishing.

The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was indeed strong. However, they were not a bunch of weak and powerless noobs, either. Since the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion dared to oppress them using force, they would show the Pavilion that it had chosen a wrong opponent. They would let the Pavilion know that the opponent it was about to face was not a weak, little cub, but rather, it was a ferocious beast with sharp fangs and claws.

“If I am not mistaken, it is highly possible that the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion will strike once the sun sets. Fire Dance, how are the preparations going on your side?” Shi Feng asked as he turned to the sharp and mesmerizing Fire Dance.

Based on Shi Feng’s understanding of Nine Dragons Emperor, there was an 80% chance that he intended to destroy Zero Wing’s Guild Residence.

If a Guild Residence were destroyed, it could not be repaired within ten days’ time. Moreover, if a Guild Residence were destroyed, all members of the corresponding Guild within the city would receive a penalty.

Not only would all members lose a Level, but their EXP gain would also be halved for the following ten days. The Guild’s Popularity would drop by 50,000 points as well. Moreover, after the destroyed Guild Residence was reconstructed, the quality of the Guild Quests the Guild would receive would be significantly affected.

The best time to destroy a Guild Residence was at night.

Players’ greatest foe when trying to destroy an enemy Guild Residence was not other players, but the patrolling NPC city guards. These city guards were no trivial matter; they were all Level 150 NPCs. To players, they were nightmares. These NPCs only needed one hit to finish off the current players of God’s Domain.

However, the number of patrolling city guards would change depending on the time of day.

During the day, these NPCs always patrolled in groups of twenty. By the time night arrived, however, that number would decrease to ten. If a Guild attacked an enemy Guild Residence at night, it could

notably lessen its losses. That way, the Guild would have more combat power to spare for destroying the enemy Guild Residence.

Meanwhile, since Shi Feng dared to provoke the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, he had naturally prepared.

If one wished to destroy a Guild Residence, aside from the city guards, there were also the hired guards inside the Guild Residence to contend with. Although the hired guards were not as powerful as the Level 150 city guards, they were still genuine Level 50 NPCs.

Meanwhile, depending on the employed NPC's strength, the asking price of said NPC would vary. Tier 0 guards cost 5 Silver per day, whereas Tier 1 guards cost 30 Silver per day. When hiring these guards, one had to prepay ten days of their services.

Shi Feng was a Viscount, and all this time, he had been hiring a mix of 50 Tier 1 and Tier 0 guards to defend Zero Wing's Guild Residence. However, seeing as the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion led this assault, he had not hesitated to replace all of his guards with Tier 1 NPCs. In any case, what he had was money.

In addition, since early on, Shi Feng had told everyone in the Guild to focus on raising their Reputation. Hence, at this moment in time, there were also many people within the Guild who had high Reputation.

For example, Fire Dance, Aqua Rose, Blackie, and several other core members of Zero Wing did not lack Reputation Points. Although they had yet to become Viscounts like Shi Feng, they were Barons, and every one of them was capable of hiring ten Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs.

In total, they had over 200 Tier 1 NPCs employed right now. This was a very powerful force.

“It’s done. They all are hiding and lying in wait.” Fire Dance nodded, a playful smile appearing on her face.

Time slowly ticked by.

While everyone waited for the start of the battle, night arrived in God’s Domain.

Currently, players clogged the streets neighboring Zero Wing’s Guild Residence.

“Pavilion Master, all 1,000 men from the War Dragon Legion are in position,” a valiant and extraordinary-looking youth reported to Nine Dragons Emperor.

The War Dragon Legion was the strongest force in the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion’s arsenal. As of today, it had never been used to deal with any Guild less than a Super Guild. The legion consisted of 1,000 players, and every one of these players wore Level 25 Fine-Gold Equipment. A few even had Level 25 Dark-Gold Equipment. These legionnaires’ Levels also ranged from Level 27 to Level 28. These players were definitely at the peak of God’s Domain in terms of levels. Every member also radiated a sharp and penetrating aura.

Although the War Dragon Legion consisted of 1,000 members, they felt like an army of tens of thousands that was capable of mass destruction.

Meanwhile, among these players, the man reporting to Nine Dragons Emperor was even more extraordinary. He was the War Dragon Legion’s Commander, Martial Dragon. He was a Level 28 Berserker, and the majority of his equipment consisted of Level 25 Dark-Gold Equipment. The

greatsword he wielded was also of indiscernible quality. However, judging by the blade's capability of even tearing apart air, one could tell that it was an exceptional item with a single glance.

Aside from the War Dragon Legion's 1,000 players, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had also dispatched close to 10,000 elite players. These elite players were all Level 25 and above. It was a truly shocking sight. Only a first-rate Guild would be capable of dispatching so many elite players. Were it not for the transportation fees, this number would have most likely been several times higher.

Many players involuntarily trembled when they saw the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's war formation from afar.

This was the power of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Regarding both financial prowess and manpower, ordinary first-rate Guilds simply could not compare to the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

"Hahaha! Zero Wing is truly finished this time!" Sitting in a third-floor private room of a high-class bar, Feng Xuanyang felt indescribable joy well up in his heart when he saw the Pavilion's army.

"It's as expected of Martial Dragon, the Commander of the War Dragon Legion. I can feel that terrifying aura of his even from such a distance." Fear filled Fifth Ghost's heart when he looked at the valiant Martial Dragon.

"Martial Dragon is a true mutant. He is not human at all. Even our Boss has said so. Otherwise, he would not be capable of becoming the War Dragon Legion's Commander. If we encounter him, it is best that we avoid provoking him," Third Ghost reminded his brothers in arms.

Meanwhile, standing on the street, Nine Dragons Emperor swept a glance over the army before him. In the next moment, he waved his hand and pointed at Zero Wing's Guild Residence. Very calmly, he said, "Go! Leave none alive!"

Chapter 550 - Exceeding Expectations

Under Nine Dragons Emperor's command, the members of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion charged towards Zero Wing's Guild Residence.

The Pavilion's army's attack was organized. A majority of the Pavilion's elite players were positioned in the front of the army, whereas the War Dragon Legion occupied the middle, and the remaining elite players took up the rear.

These players were further separated into groups. However, unlike Guild wars that usually involved thousands of players, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had grouped its members into parties of six. Each party consisted of MTs, healers, and ranged and melee damage dealers: the standard compositions of a Dungeon party.

Although this militaristic configuration was not suited for a large battlefield, it was perfect for battles in narrow terrains such as a city. The army could react to all sorts of problems in a timely manner.

"It has finally begun. Purple, did you order those Assassins under you to record this battle?" Galaxy Past, who sat comfortably in a third-floor private room of the high-class bar, asked. Smiling, he stated, "This is a good opportunity to collect data on the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, particularly the experts from the War Dragon Legion. Every member of the legion is worth noting. It might come in handy in the future."

This high-class bar offered an excellent vantage point. He could see practically everything that occurred around Zero Wing's Residence. However, Galaxy Past was still not satisfied with this. He had positioned Assassins under his command in several other buildings in order to record the battle from the closest distance possible.

Just how strong was the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion?

Particularly, how was the Pavilion's strength after joining God's Domain?

Other than a few upper managers of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, nobody knew the answer to these questions.

Now that the Pavilion launched an assault on Zero Wing's Residence, it was clear to see that their strength was nothing to scoff at. Otherwise, every large Guild would have already attacked Guild Residences that they found to be an eyesore instead of letting those Guilds with little strength live this long.

Just the patrolling guards were enough trouble. The hired guards were no trivial matter either; they all were Level 50 NPCs. To current players, these Level 50 NPCs were still too powerful to handle.

However, the truly troublesome issue was the players of the Guild itself.

Zero Wing had definitely taken some precautionary measures. It was normal for around twenty to thirty thousand players to defend the Guild Residence at all times.

Even if the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had deployed the War Dragon Legion, Zero Wing's Guild Residence would not be so easily destroyed.

The Pavilion would have to reveal some of its true capabilities, and this was precisely what Galaxy Past, and all of the other large Guilds watching, wanted to witness.

As God's Domain was still in its early stages, there had yet to be any major conflicts between the various first-rate Guilds, Super Guilds, and the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. However, that would not necessarily remain the case in the future. It was better to prepare ahead of time.

Hence, the Star Alliance wasn't the only Guild to send a large group of Assassins to record the battle. Many other Guilds had also dispatched their Assassins, all of them hoping to uncover even the smallest detail about the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's background.

Meanwhile, inside Zero Wing's Residence, the Guild's members had long since prepared for the upcoming war. Every one of them stood, waiting, inside the Guild Residence.

"Guild Leader, they've arrived. Initial estimates put their number somewhere over 10,000, with the weakest among them being elite players. Their equipment is also a match for our elite members'," Aqua Rose reported.

Everyone's heart skipped a beat upon hearing Aqua Rose's report.

Although Zero Wing had 50,000 members, they only had around 14,500 elites. Yet, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had casually mustered a force of 10,000 elite players. This was simply too frightening...

"Sure enough, the Pavilion is both rich and powerful," Shi Feng laughed. This situation did not surprise him. After all, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was a super-first-rate Guild. Even though White River City was not the Pavilion's home ground, it would still be child's play for it to obliterate a second-rate Guild.

“Move out, then. Coordinate your attacks with the NPCs. Core members, your main goal is to fend off the Pavilion’s War Dragon Legion. As for the enemy elites, they are just cannon fodder. Don’t worry about them.”

“Yes, sir!”

Everyone from Zero Wing unsheathed their weapons as a single unit, preparing to meet the oncoming threat.

This time, Shi Feng did not bother to send for many members to defend the Guild Residence. The defending players consisted only of Zero Wing’s elite and core members with a total just over 14,000 players. It was not because Shi Feng did not want more people defending the Residence. Only, having more people was not necessarily a good thing.

A normal member of the Guild would only find their death by joining this battle. Moreover, the battlefield was very cramped. There was simply no way to display the advantage of numbers here. On the contrary, having too many members in the battle would only obstruct the elite members.

As the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s army was about to charge through the Residence’s entrance, the ranged classes of Zero Wing got ready to launch their spells and arrows.

If an outsider barged into the Residence without explicit permission, Guild members were allowed to kill said outsider without needing to fear any repercussions. The city guards would not take action against the Guild members. On the contrary, if an outsider attacked people inside the Residence, the city guards would rush towards the Residence to apprehend them.

As elemental mana began to gather above Zero Wing’s Residence and patrolling city guards began to charge over...

Nine Dragons Emperor suddenly shouted, "Activate the scrolls!"

Suddenly, several MTs at the forefront of the army revealed black magic scrolls that they had kept hidden for quite some time now. The MTs immediately unfurled the scrolls and activated them.

In the next moment, the elemental mana filling the space above Zero Wing's Residence started going berserk.

"Curse Scroll?" Shi Feng was genuinely surprised when he saw the magic scrolls in his enemies' hands.

Magic scrolls fit into various categories. However, the rarest had to be ones that carried Curses. This was a type of forbidden spell. All Curses possessed an astonishing might, and it was not easy to turn it into a magic scroll. Hence, it was extremely difficult to obtain even one Curse Scroll.

Yet, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had actually managed to reveal four such scrolls. It was simply inconceivable.

At this moment, however, even Nine Dragons Emperor's face twitched slightly.

Four Curse Scrolls... He had only managed to obtain these four scrolls after gathering the entirety of the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion's power. Now that he was using all of them in one go, and on a small, nameless Guild no less, even he felt the sting of the loss.

“Four Curse Scrolls. Consider this your burial, Zero Wing,” Nine Dragons Emperor smiled faintly at the dark clouds gathering in the sky.

Suddenly, black rain began to fall. As if these black raindrops had lives of their own, they attached themselves to all players caught within the spell’s vicinity.

“Dark God’s Descent!” Shi Feng paled instantly.

Although he wanted to defend against this spell, Dark God’s Descent was unblockable. Even if he had magic immunity, it wouldn’t change a thing. Dark God’s Descent was a Silencing Curse. With four of these Curse Scrolls being used simultaneously, the forbidden spell’s effective radius and duration increased significantly. It was definitely an efficient weapon for team battles.

At this moment, a Dark God status imperceptibly appeared in everyone’s status window, the duration lasting for one full hour.

In other words, within the next hour, any players within the Curse’s effective radius were unable to use any of their spells. They could not even use the tools they had inside their bags. To put it simply, players could only participate in melee combat.

The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had obviously prepared these Curses as a countermeasure for large-scale destruction spells and NPCs.

“Blood Dragon, lead some elites to pin down the patrolling guards and let Martial Dragon handle the rest,” Nine Dragons Emperor ordered. He then turned to look at Chaos Dancer, saying, “Let’s go; we’ll watch the show from upstairs.”

After receiving the command, Blood Dragon led the elite players, who were positioned at the rear line and remained unaffected by the Dark God, and charged towards the ten Level 150 patrolling guards.

At the same time, Martial Dragon shouted, "Kill! Annihilate Zero Wing! Leave not a single player alive!"

The War Dragon Legion suddenly charged into Zero Wing's Residence. As for the other elite players, they were tasked to delay the Residence's NPC guards.

When Silenced, an expert's strength stepped into the spotlight.

When the War Dragon Legion's 1,000 members charged into Zero Wing's 10,000-plus elite members, they were like wolves among a flock of sheep. Immediately, the members of the War Dragon Legion started a slaughter.

At this point, Zero Wing possessed more than 400 Tier 1 players. It had more Tier 1 players than every Guild in White River City combined.

Naturally, all those capable of becoming Tier 1 classes at this stage of the game employed powerful techniques. Even if they were not yet experts, they were not far from that hurdle. Zero Wing's members were also famed for having amazing equipment. Even if their techniques were lacking, they could make up the gap with their equipment.

In front of absolute strength, all manner of tricks were useless.

Even so, Zero Wing possessed far fewer experts than the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Not to mention, the members of the War Dragon Legion were experts who had undergone careful screening.

“Do you think we’re that easily bullied? All guards, to the lines!” Shi Feng commanded.

Suddenly, an additional two hundred Tier 1 NPCs emerged from the Guild Hall. Moreover, these Tier 1 NPCs were all melee classes.

Chapter 551 - Fleeting Scene

The originally imposing Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion members were immediately shocked by the appearance of the two hundred Level 50 Tier 1 NPCs.

Nine Dragons Emperor, who watched the battle from afar, also wore a grim expression.

“Didn’t the reports say that they only had around 50-plus NPCs?” Nine Dragons Emperor turned to the intelligence agent beside him. Snapping, he yelled, “Just what have you all been doing?! You failed to report on two hundred Tier 1 NPCs! Tell me! What is going on here?!”

A single Level 50 Tier 1 NPC was very difficult to deal with. Each one required a team of elite members to pin down. Now that there was an additional two hundred, this would greatly affect his plans.

Suddenly, cold sweat appeared on the forehead of the reconnaissance unit’s leader. He was so frightened he could not utter a single word. Originally, he had tried to think of an excuse to save himself. However, he knew full well what kind of personality the Nine Dragons Emperor had. The more he tried to justify himself, the graver the consequences would be.

“Forget it. You won’t have to do your job anymore. Someone will replace you in the future.”

Nine Dragons Emperor waved his hand, having his subordinates escort the recon leader out of the building and dismissing him from the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

“Chaos, instruct the Blood Legion to send help. With the Blood Legion’s strength, they should be able to hold back two hundred NPCs.” At this moment, Nine Dragons couldn’t care less about how Zero Wing had managed to obtain all of these NPCs. He had no choice but to involve the originally inactive Blood Legion in the battle.

“Understood. This subordinate will lead them over now,” Chaos Dancer nodded and smiled.

A short moment later, the thousand-strong Blood Legion, which had been on standby, charged into Zero Wing’s Guild Residence.

Meanwhile, the various large Guilds watching the battle from afar were also shocked by the sudden change.

“Sure enough, Zero Wing is quite capable. With so many Tier 1 NPCs, even the Blood Legion will not be able to hold them off for long. After all, each Level 50 Tier 1 NPC is the equivalent of a Level 50 Special Elite!” Galaxy Past sighed.

If any other first-rate Guild stood in the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's place right now, they would have no chance against Zero Wing.

Particularly, that large-scale Silencing spell the Pavilion had used before the battle began significantly restricted the NPCs' combat power and had even sealed Zero Wing's large-scale destruction spells. Zero Wing had lost all their advantages with just this single move.

Meanwhile, inside Zero Wing's Residence, a melee battle had broken out. The scene in the Residence looked just like a battlefield from ancient times.

Currently, the magical classes, who boasted the highest power, could only fight using their staffs...

The magical classes in God's Domain were different from other virtual reality games. They were not completely incapable of participating in melee combat, but they were not specialized in it. They possessed very few skills that could be used in a melee battle. In addition, their classes mainly focused on Intelligence and Vitality, making them even more inferior in melee combat.

At this moment, however, nobody could care less. Even the healers of either side fought each other, not to mention the other magical classes.

Compared to the one-on-one fights between the magical classes, the battles between the physical classes were intense.

Currently, none of them could use any skills or tools and had to rely solely on their combat techniques.

It was especially true for the War Dragon Legion. A majority of the War Dragon Legion members consisted of physical classes, and every one was an expert among experts. Normally, they were capable of soloing a Special Elite of the same level, and some were even capable of putting up a good fight against a Chieftain of the same level.

Elite players could become elites in the first place not solely because of their Levels being above average; it was more due to the fact that they could solo an Elite monster of the same level. Hence, they were called elite players. Meanwhile, in the eyes of God's Domain's ordinary players, experts were individuals capable of soloing a Special Elite of the same level.

As for top-tier experts, in the eyes of ordinary players, they were individuals who could contend with a Chieftain of the same level. Chieftains were normally Bosses in Party Dungeons.

Every member of the War Dragon Legion, at the barest minimum, was capable of confronting a Chieftain of the same level by themselves. Some were even capable of killing a Chieftain of the same level.

Having these experts deal with four or five elite players simultaneously was a trivial matter.

They might even be able to defeat four or five elite players without losing a single HP. It was just like how a Chieftain could easily defeat four or five Elite monsters.

In the blink of an eye, the 1,000 members of the War Dragon Legion had already killed close to 3,000 Zero Wing members without suffering even a single fatality.

If not for many of the War Dragon Legion's members and the Blood Legion holding back the Tier 1 NPC guards, Zero Wing's death count would have been much higher by now.

However, compared to the War Dragon Legion's captain, Martial Dragon, these ordinary members of the War Dragon Legion were nothing.

Martial Dragon was like a silver storm. Everywhere he passed, a rain of blood would follow. When half a dozen elite members of Zero Wing dashed up to Martial Dragon, they were instantly struck by Martial Dragon's bone-chilling and immeasurably heavy aura, their complexions turning pale and movements becoming extraordinarily sluggish. Immediately after, multiple red streaks of light weaved across their bodies, sending them flying into the air. In the next moment, blood poured out like a fountain from multiple wounds. When these elites returned to the ground, a piece of equipment dropped beside them. Their bodies were no longer capable of movement.

"The War Dragon Legion is truly frightening. There are many among them who are even stronger than I am. That Martial Dragon is especially impressive! If I fought him, I'm not confident that I could even block a handful of moves before he defeated me. It is no wonder why people are saying that the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's strength is the closest to a Super Guild. This Martial Dragon can indeed put up a fight against those old fellows," Galaxy Past stated incredulously.

Super Guilds had not become such because of their massive financial prowess or their large army of experts. The true reason was those inhuman experts that stood at the very top of the virtual gaming world.

Martial Dragon had precisely the potential to become such an expert.

"I heard that Martial Dragon is a talent that only appears once every ten years in the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion. It seems that this was not an exaggeration." Purple Eye watched Martial Dragon's figure that resembled a god of war, awe and anticipation, as well as some hints of jealousy, filling her eyes.

To experts like herself, it was an instinct to revere the strong. At the same time, she also wished to challenge those powerhouses who stood at the summit.

Martial Dragon was someone who had already obtained the right to challenge such individuals, so how could she not be jealous?

Purple Eye even considered exchanging a few moves with Martial Dragon right this instant. Even though she knew she was no match for the man, the exchange would still benefit her immensely.

If an expert wished to improve themselves quickly, they could not just rely on self-research and experimenting. They needed to fight various other experts, using the experience to learn and improve their own shortcomings. Only then could they improve quickly.

While Purple Eye focused on Martial Dragon's every move, hoping to learn something through his actions, she suddenly noticed Martial Dragon's gaze shift to another location, his eyes revealing both traces of shock and excitement.

Turning to look where Martial Dragon had shifted his attention to, Purple Eye similarly found herself shocked.

"Who is that person?" Purple Eye's small mouth widened as if she had just seen a ghost.

She had just watched three War Dragon Legion members die instantly!.

That's right. All three of them were killed in the blink of an eye. Moreover, they were the experts of the War Dragon Legion, not some noobs that could be found on the streets.

Against multiple of such experts, not even Purple Eye was confident that she could emerge victorious. Yet, that person had succeeded. Moreover, she had done so with ease.

After a moment of shock, Purple Eye was finally able to get a clear view of that player.

Possessing an alluring appearance, she wore form-fitting black leather armor that fully displayed the graceful and mesmerizing curves of her body. She also wielded two blood-red short swords that emitted dazzling flames. At this moment, it was as if she stood at the center of Zero Wing's Residence.

"That is Fire Dance?" Purple Eye dared not even believe her own eyes right now.

Chapter 552 - Envious Zero Wing

Purple Eye repeatedly rubbed her eyes and did a double take at the alluring figure.

In the end, she was 100% sure she had not seen wrong.

"Why is this so different from what was reported?"

Purple Eye had read many reports on Zero Wing. The Star Alliance had gathered on every noteworthy expert in Zero Wing. There were also videos of every one of these noteworthy experts.

Fire Dance was one of the few most noteworthy experts in Zero Wing.

Hence, Purple Eye had a very good understanding of Fire Dance's strength.

However, the data on Fire Dance had only noted her as a top-tier expert and that she was only barely able to contend with a Chieftain of the same level. Hence, Purple Eye had not placed any importance on Fire Dance at all. Only Aqua Rose could be considered a worthy foe for her; Fire Dance had not even ranked on her list.

Now, however...

Fire Dance had easily defeated three top-tier experts. How could this strength not shock Purple Eye?

It was especially true for that blade-like aura surrounding Fire Dance. Even while watching from such a distance, she could feel a sense of great danger with that aura. It felt as if Fire Dance could appear right before her at any time and launch an attack.

With such a dazzling and dangerous aura, it was difficult for Fire Dance not to attract attention. Not to mention, there were many experts present on the battlefield, and every one of them possessed the sensitivity of a mouse. These experts detected the source of the danger instantly.

Four of the War Dragon Legion members closest to Fire Dance charged towards Fire Dance simultaneously. As if they had planned this, they coordinated their actions perfectly, launching an attack from all sides.

Facing the encirclement of the four legionnaires, Fire Dance's figure swayed slightly. In the next moment, only an afterimage remained in her place, denying the legionnaires their chance to strike. Immediately, she dashed towards the closest Level 27 Assassin, the two flame-red short swords in her hands transforming into multiple blades of light that struck like vipers.

As a member of the War Dragon Legion, the Assassin was no ordinary player. When faced with this sudden attack, instead of retreating, he advanced. The Assassin quickly saw through the trajectory of Fire Dance's short swords; brandishing his own daggers, he deflected her attacks, one after another. After deflecting the swords of light, the Assassin kicked at Fire Dance.

"You're still too green!" the Assassin sneered.

Attacks were not limited to the player's weapons. A player could use their body to attack as well.

However, most players had adopted the mindset that one could only launch melee attacks with their weapons, nothing else. Hence, they would normally focus their attention on an enemy's weapons and hands. This unexpected kick right now would cost Fire Dance her life.

At this moment, however, a Berserker, who was a short distance away from the Assassin, shouted, "Little Six, behind you!"

Thanks to the warning, the Assassin called Little Six suddenly noticed that he had only kicked an afterimage.

"Behind?" Little Six suddenly felt his back grow cold. His many years of combat experience and acute senses alerted him that someone was behind him. Immediately, he tried to bend his body forward in an attempt to dodge the incoming attack.

However, Fire Dance did not use her short swords to attack at all. Instead, the instant she circled to the Assassin's back, her slender leg kicked the Assassin's thigh. Caught unprepared, the strike sent the Assassin spinning into the air. Immediately after, Fire Dance swiped her blade across the Assassin's throat. Overall, her actions were simple and direct with no wasted movement whatsoever. At this moment, she looked just like a veteran killer.

By the time the three other War Dragon Legion members caught up to Fire Dance, this Assassin had become a disembodied soul under Fire Dance's swords.

Although the entire process seemed slow, in reality, everything had happened in the blink of an eye. In the time it took Fire Dance to steal the Assassin's life, the legionnaires had only crossed a distance of ten yards.

When the three legionnaires arrived before the female player, they slid to a halt, their eyes locked onto Fire Dance's seductive body. At this moment, they no longer dared to approach this charming, yet deadly Assassin casually.

"Purple, why haven't I heard anything about this Fire Dance? She can actually slaughter three War Dragon Legion members so easily. Even now, facing four legionnaires simultaneously, she dealt with one of them swiftly. Could she be a new talent that some Super Guild has recently nurtured?" Galaxy Past asked, unable to help his shock.

As the Guild Leader of a first-rate Guild, he was very well-informed regarding the virtual gaming world. Even so, from the information he had received, there was no news about a character named Fire Dance. However, his knowledge of Super Guilds' activities was limited. As Purple Eye was someone who had come from a Super Guild, she should have a better understanding of Super Guilds.

Moreover, judging from how Fire Dance had defeated the members of the War Dragon Legion so efficiently, she definitely wasn't someone new to gaming. Normally, only experts nurtured by Super Guilds possessed such outstanding skills.

"Guild Leader, although I, too, think that she might be a new talent from some Super Guild, from what I have seen of her techniques, I can say with certainty that no Super Guild has nurtured her. Her every move looks more like she is fighting a real battle. Her attacks do not resemble combat techniques used in a virtual reality game," Purple Eye said, a bitter smile on her face.

"That makes sense." Galaxy Past nodded, a hint of jealousy surfacing in his heart.

Why was he jealous?

It was because Fire Dance wasn't the only person performing exceptionally on this battlefield. There was also the Guardian Knight Cola, the Assassin Flying Shadow, and many other members of Zero Wing. The combat power each of them displayed was extraordinary. Only, Fire Dance shone brightest of them all.

Zero Wing could not even be considered a second-rate Guild, yet it possessed so many experts. Hence, how could he not grow jealous?

"So what if Zero Wing has a lot of experts? So what if you can pick a fight with first-rate Guilds? Now that you've offended the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, today will be your last!" Watching the battle from afar, while Feng Xuanyang was envious, he also celebrated Zero Wing's misfortune.

Inside Zero Wing's Residence, although Fire Dance and the other core members of Zero Wing were wantonly slaughtering the members of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, at the end of the day, its enemy was still the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. As the strongest legion in the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion, the War Dragon Legion would not be taken down by just a few experts. Immediately, a large number of experts began to circle Zero Wing's few top-tier experts.

However, Fire Dance's situation was slightly unique from the others. Only one person came forth to deal with her. This person's appearance immediately attracted many people's attention. He was none other than the War Dragon Legion's Commander, Martial Dragon, the man that stood at the apex of the War Dragon Legion.

"You're very skilled. Join the War Dragon Legion. I guarantee that you will immediately become one of its party leaders. After some training, you can even become the Vice-Commander," Martial Dragon proposed as his gaze took in Fire Dance's figure.

The members of the War Dragon Legion were stunned.

They had never thought that Martial Dragon's evaluation of Fire Dance would be so high as to offer her the position of Vice-Commander.

The highest position in the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion belonged to the Pavilion Master, and following that was the Commander of the War Dragon Legion. As for the Vice-Commander, that person would definitely be the third most influential person within the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion. There were countless experts within the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion hoping to climb the ladder to become the Vice-Commander. And now, that position was already at Fire Dance's fingertips.

“You sure are insincere. I am the Commander of Zero Wing’s core team. Why should I head over to your side to become a measly little Vice-Commander?” Fire Dance revealed a playful smile. She was not interested in the position of Vice-Commander in the slightest.

“It seems you still do not know what significance the position of Vice-Commander holds, nor do you know the significance of the position of Commander. Then, I’ll show you just what the Commander of the War Dragon Legion is!”

Martial Dragon was not at all angered by Fire Dance’s refusal. Unsheathing his blood-red greatsword, step after step, he slowly walked towards Fire Dance. With every step that Martial Dragon took, the aura surrounding his body grew stronger.

The instant Martial Dragon reached ten yards away from Fire Dance, the latter almost retreated several steps instinctually, increasing the distance between them. At this moment, Fire Dance’s expression had become extraordinarily grim, as if she were greeting a great enemy.

“Oh? Sure enough, I wasn’t mistaken. You are able to see it,” Martial Dragon laughed, becoming more satisfied with Fire Dance.

Chapter 553 - The Difference of Top-tier Equipment

“How about it? This should be sufficient to convince you to join the War Dragon Legion, right?” Martial Dragon asked once again.

This time, instead of replying, Fire Dance quietly stared Martial Dragon.

Just what kind of monster is this person? Why did I feel that death was right before me when he was still ten yards away? After undergoing special training for a time, Fire Dance's strength had undergone a qualitative improvement. Lei Bao's training had especially helped her improve her control over her own body. Her senses had become far more sensitive as well.

Meanwhile, as Fire Dance stared Martial Dragon, she felt as if she stood before a towering mountain.

Particularly, when Martial Dragon was only ten yards away from her, it felt like that towering mountain had instantly appeared above her and physically pressed down on her. At that very instant, she felt as if her life was no longer under her control.

This feeling was different from the pressure she normally felt when facing a powerful enemy. It felt as if everything within a 10-yard radius of Martial Dragon was completely under the Berserker's control.

Fire Dance could not believe it.

She could not figure out just how Martial Dragon had achieved such a feat.

Martial Dragon was clearly a Berserker. Aside from a few specific Skills, a Berserker's normal attack range was limited to five or six yards. Moreover, the Dark God's Descent had silenced everyone, and none of them could use any Skills. Yet, Martial Dragon had an attack range of ten yards and could even inflict a feeling of impending doom.

Even Fire Dance began to wonder if she was hallucinating due to her fatigue from her recent training. However, ever since she had started playing God's Domain, her senses had not led her astray, so how could she possibly be mistaken now?

Hence, Fire Dance immediately retreated from Martial Dragon.

However, dragging on this fight was not a solution. After giving it some thought, Fire Dance gritted her teeth as she prepared to test herself against Martial Dragon.

In the next moment, Fire Dance transformed into a black shadow as she dashed towards Martial Dragon.

In terms of Attributes, Fire Dance was confident that she was superior to Martial Dragon for no reason other than the Tier 1 Set Equipment for Assassins, the Dark Melody Set Equipment, that Shi Feng had given her. After equipping this set, not only had her Attributes received a massive boost, but she was also able to display her combat power more efficiently.

In front of absolute strength, all manner of trickery was useless.

Regarding techniques, Fire Dance and the others had already improved significantly due to Lei Bao and Shi Feng's training. They could be considered super-first-rate experts. In actual combat, they were definitely superior to the ordinary members of the War Dragon Legion. They might not be able to solo a Chieftain of the same level, but they could hold their ground against one for a relatively long time. After factoring in the Tier 1 Set Equipment and their top-tier Dark-Gold Weapons, they could easily solo a Chieftain of the same level. They could even challenge a Lord.

After all, a Tier 1 Set Equipment was only inferior to an Epic Set Equipment. The Attribute increase it provided was no small matter. Furthermore, every one of them had equipped three Intermediate Mana Armor Kits. In terms of Attributes, they completely overwhelmed the War Dragon Legion's ordinary members.

Even against the Commander of the War Dragon Legion, Martial Dragon, this was the case.

The instant Fire Dance reached the 10-yard range, she turned her feet slightly, and suddenly, she split into two identical figures. It was practically impossible to tell which woman was real. The two figures then proceeded to attack Martial Dragon separately. Any ordinary player would be caught off guard and fail to react if their enemy suddenly doubled. Even an expert would hesitate. In addition, Fire Dance was very skilled. There were almost no excess movements in her attack. With lightning speed, the two Truefire Blades in Fire Dance's hands flew towards Martial Dragon's vital point and blindspot.

The various large Guilds watching the fight from afar were momentarily stupefied.

Fire Dance's speed and ferocity were unstoppable. Their eyes could not even keep up with her.

Even an expert would be finished!

However, the instant before the Truefire Blades struck Martial Dragon, a red streak flashed, deflecting both of Fire Dance's attacks. At the same time, the resulting impact forced Fire Dance into a retreat.

Is he even a Berserker? How can he draw his sword so fast? Fire Dance was forced to retreat three steps before she stabilized her body. At this moment, however, both of her hands were numb.

Berserkers were famed for their Strength, so Fire Dance did not find it surprising that Martial Dragon's counterattack had repulsed her. However, she was an Assassin, a class that was famed for its speed. She had clearly struck first, yet Martial Dragon still managed to block her attacks.

“This Fire Dance is not bad at all. Unfortunately, the gap between her and Martial Dragon is immense. It is so wide that even she hasn’t realized its extent.” Watching the fight from afar, Nine Dragons Emperor revealed a faint smile.

“Pavilion Master, how could you possibly compare that little girl to Martial Dragon? It is impressive that this little girl possesses such skill at such a young age. If she joins the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, her future will be limitless. In a few years, she might even become a second Martial Dragon.” The old man serving Nine Dragons Emperor similarly smiled.

Martial Dragon was one of the strongest combatants that the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion had to offer. He was also a rare talent that only appeared once a decade.

The virtual gaming world changed by the day, and every year, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion would recruit a large number of players with potential. Meanwhile, the fact that Martial Dragon was known as a genius that only appeared once every ten years in the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion showed just how much talent he possessed. How could a little girl, who had never been nurtured by a Super Guild, possibly compete with such an individual?

Before, although it seemed as though Martial Dragon’s block had been extremely fast, in reality, that was not the case. It was only because Fire Dance had failed to notice Martial Dragon taking half a step backward. And it was precisely this distance that had given Martial Dragon’s greatsword sufficient time to catch up to Fire Dance’s short swords.

The subtlety this half-step contained was the difference between Fire Dance and Martial Dragon.

Before Fire Dance could recall how Martial Dragon had managed to counterattack...

Martial Dragon suddenly moved.

The instant he moved, Fire Dance focused all of her attention on the Berserker's body.

Martial Dragon's movements were very fast and polished. However, this speed was slower than Fire Dance's reactions. In an instant, Fire Dance predicted the Berserker's attack route and prepared to counterattack.

Since my Strength is not a match for him, I'll use speed to face him. Through the previous exchange, Fire Dance had discovered her advantages and disadvantages against this opponent. Assassins possessed extremely high Agility. Hence, regarding Movement Speed, they were leaps and bounds above Berserkers. With that in mind, Fire Dance planned to fight a moving battle with Martial Dragon.

Fire Dance instantly dodged the attack from Martial Dragon's greatsword. She then side-stepped and sent an strike at the Berserker's neck.

Evade. Counterattack.

It was a simple attack pattern. However, Fire Dance had completed both steps almost simultaneously.

Just as Fire Dance considered following up her counterattack with another attack, her complexion suddenly paled as she felt that something was off. When her counterattack landed, she had not felt her blade slice flesh.

Unfortunately, it was too late to react.

Martial Dragon, who stood proudly before Fire Dance, had raised his blood-red greatsword and swung it down. A red blade of light flashed towards Fire Dance. The immense wind pressure generated by Martial Dragon's greatsword rolled up a cloud of dust along with a splatter of fresh blood.

In the next moment, Fire Dance flew back, her HP rapidly falling.

Fortunately, Fire Dance had a Tier 1 Set Equipment and three Intermediate Mana Armor Kits. In total, she had over 6,000 HP, even with her high Defense. Although Martial Dragon possessed frightening Strength, he could not kill Fire Dance with one hit; he could only reduce her HP by half.

Such powerful equipment! Martial Dragon was somewhat surprised when he saw Fire Dance still standing. However, he quickly discerned the reason why he was unable to kill the Assassin with a single hit.

Equipment capable of allowing an Assassin to survive one of his strikes definitely possessed powerful Attributes. At this moment, even Martial Dragon envied Fire Dance.

Even Nine Dragons Emperor, who watched the battle from afar, glared at Fire Dance enviously.

"It really is a wonder how you people from Zero Wing managed to obtain such exaggerated equipment. However, although your equipment is excellent, it will only prolong your suffering!"

Saying so, Martial Dragon advanced once more, swinging his greatsword towards Fire Dance, who had only barely recovered from her fall.

Just as the red blade of light was about to strike the Assassin...

“Who?” Martial Dragon’s hands suddenly froze as his gaze quickly swept through his surroundings.

“An expert who has awakened a Domain is actually bullying a young woman who has yet to even enter the Refinement Realm. Aren’t you ashamed?”

Chapter 554 - Overwhelming Attributes

Although this new voice was not loud, Martial Dragon’s sharp gaze immediately locked onto its origin.

In the direction Martial Dragon was looking at, a plain-looking man in armor slowly emerged the warring crowd.

Despite so many players focusing on killing each other, nobody had bothered to attack this man. It was as if none of these people had noticed him. Everyone was still focused on dealing with their own opponents.

Only when this man’s black sword pierced through the backs of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s elites, did these elites notice the man’s existence. By then, however, it was too late.

Since the war had begun, nobody had noticed that this ordinary-looking man had killed many War Dragon legionnaires and Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion elites. He was practically a god of silent death.

“One-hit Asura!” Surprise and excitement filled Martial Dragon’s eyes as they landed on Shi Feng. “Sure enough, your reputation is well deserved. You really do possess some ability.”

A technique that could allow one to move unnoticed was no trivial matter.

The concept might sound very simple, but when it came to its realization, not many could achieve it. This required a combination of special breathing techniques and footwork. Not to mention, Shi Feng even wielded this technique with such ease.

Despite having met many experts in the past, Martial Dragon had never encountered one capable of such a technique.

One could say that such a technique was extremely convenient in a group battle.

Since this technique could allow a player to avoid attention, then it could naturally be used in reverse as well, forcing others to focus on oneself.

Martial Dragon had originally intended to finish off Fire Dance with his last attack. However, due to that sudden surge of killing intent from Shi Feng, Martial Dragon felt as if someone had suddenly appeared behind him. Martial Dragon had no choice but to halt his attack in order to respond to the new enemy, allowing Fire Dance to escape with her life as a result.

“Fire Dance, go deal with someone else. Leave him to me.” Shi Feng sent Fire Dance a private message.

“Guild Leader, be careful.” Fire Dance nodded. Although Fire Dance was reluctant, she turned and moved to deal with other enemies.

Martial Dragon glanced at Fire Dance's departing figure, not bothering to chase after the Assassin. Instead, he focused his attention on the slowly approaching Shi Feng.

"What's going on with Martial Dragon?! Fire Dance was within his grasp; why didn't he finish her off before moving on to deal with Black Flame?!" Feng Xuanyang, who watched the fight from afar, shouted with frustration and confusion.

His hatred for Zero Wing ran deep, and he wanted nothing more than to kill Zero Wing's upper managers hundreds of times. If not for Zero Wing, he would not have encountered so many problems. He would have long since become the hidden overlord of Star-Moon Kingdom's Eastern Region rather than ending up in his current dire state. He even had to obey the Seven Ghosts.

"Young Master Feng, Martial Dragon is not at fault here. It isn't because Martial Dragon didn't wish to finish her off, but because he couldn't," Third Ghost said, laughing bitterly. He then explained, "Fire Dance is much faster than Martial Dragon. If she focuses on running away, even Martial Dragon cannot catch her. Not to mention, Black Flame has currently locked onto Martial Dragon. If he attempts to chase after Fire Dance, he will reveal a gap in his defense, giving Black Flame an opportunity to attack. Black Flame's combat power is astounding. He is far above Fire Dance. Moreover, that technique that makes others ignore his presence is also the perfect technique for assassinations.

"If Martial Dragon focused on Fire Dance, it is very likely that he would feel the bite of Black Flame's sword. How could Martial Dragon possibly dare to focus on Fire Dance?"

"Then, are you saying that there is a possibility that Black Flame will defeat Martial Dragon?"
Resentment boiled up in Feng Xuanyang as he listened to Third Ghost's words.

In the beginning, Black Flame had been a nobody, insignificant, while he was a member of Underworld.

Black Flame had spoiled his good fortune many times, yet, the more he fought Black Flame, the more he discovered how helpless he was against the man. At this point, he could do practically nothing against Black Flame.

Chuckling, Third Ghost confidently said, "Martial Dragon is very powerful. I only said that Black Flame had a chance against Martial Dragon while he was distracted. However, if Martial Dragon focuses on his opponent, Black Flame has almost no chance of emerging victorious."

"What do you mean?" Feng Xuanyang asked curiously.

"This is something I heard from Boss First Ghost, but it seems that Martial Dragon has already awakened his Domain. In a direct confrontation, it is simply impossible to defeat Martial Dragon. Even if we, the Seven Ghosts, worked together, it is unlikely that we could defeat Martial Dragon in a head-on clash."

When Third Ghost uttered the word "Domain," reverence appeared on his face.

Domain... Within a certain range, the wielder of the Domain could achieve absolute control. One could even count the number of raindrops that fell in their Domain.

Only by training one's five senses to their extreme limits could one reach such a realm of control. Domains were practically a myth.

Normally, only the geniuses among geniuses had the possibility of grasping such a technique.

One could say that Domains were the dreams that countless experts sought.

While Third Ghost explained the situation, Martial Dragon and Shi Feng gradually approached each other.

Thirty yards... Twenty yards... Fifteen yards...

One after another, the upper managers of the various large Guilds witnessing this war shifted their gaze towards these two players.

One was Star-Moon Kingdom's number one expert, Black Flame, while the other was the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion's top fighter, Martial Dragon. Both were peerless experts that could deter an army by themselves, so how could they possibly miss out on a battle between the two?

"Guild Leader, who do you think will win?" Purple Eye asked.

Although she was a top-tier expert herself, she had no idea what the outcome of this battle would be as she had never witnessed either of the two fight with their full power.

"I suspect Martial Dragon will win. The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion is a super-first-rate Guild. Moreover, you should have seen the strength Martial Dragon displayed a moment ago. That's a Domain!" Envy and

admiration filled Galaxy Past's gaze as he looked at Martial Dragon. "Rumor has it that Martial Dragon qualifies to compete with those old monsters, and it would seem that those rumors are true. I wonder when I will be able to set foot on that stage as well."

Purple Eye nodded in agreement.

In reality, she really hoped that Black Flame would emerge victorious. After all, there had yet to be a single first-rate Guild daring enough to provoke the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, yet, Black Flame had done just that. One could not help but admire the man.

Now, he even faced off against a combat genius like Martial Dragon.

Unfortunately, Black Flame had yet to reach that stage. Moreover, the difference in the number of experts between Zero Wing and the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was simply too huge. There was no room for Zero Wing to resist.

When there was only a distance of ten yards, Shi Feng suddenly stopped.

"Why aren't you advancing?" Martial Dragon stood proudly, his gaze fixed on Shi Feng. With a disdainful look, he asked, "Or do you intend to run away?"

Shi Feng remained silent, paying no heed to Martial Dragon's provocation.

“Since you aren’t going to come to me, I’ll go to you!” Martial Dragon brandished his greatsword and dashed towards Shi Feng like a fierce tiger, his body carrying an overwhelming momentum that pressed down on Shi Feng.

Yet, Shi Feng remained motionless as he welcomed Martial Dragon’s attack.

Martial Dragon took no time at all to cross the distance of ten yards.

Arriving before Shi Feng, Martial Dragon swung his blood-red greatsword, the weapon transforming into a streak of red light as it slashed towards its target. Martial Dragon’s attack was both simple and crude.

At this time, Shi Feng, who had made no effort whatsoever to dodge the oncoming attack, finally moved, the Abyssal Blade in his hand transforming into a streak of light as it met Martial Dragon’s greatsword.

Boom!

When the two swords clashed, a crisp low-pitched sound echoed throughout the Zero Wing Residence.

The pure exchange of blows between the two powerhouses caused even the pavement to crack and shatter beneath their feet.

Martial Dragon was abruptly forced to retreat by five steps, the numbness in his arms spreading to his scalp. Martial Dragon then shifted his gaze to Shi Feng, and what he saw left him stupefied.

Shi Feng stood steady in his original position like an immovable mountain.

The difference in their Strengths was obvious.

Chapter 555 - Winner and Loser

Black Flame pushed Martial Dragon back!

Silence!

Every Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion member within Zero Wing's Residence was dumbfounded!

Meanwhile, the players watching from afar were similarly rendered speechless, their minds repeatedly playing that scene from before.

Although neither side had used any profound techniques and had only exchanged a straightforward blow, it was precisely this simplicity that allowed everyone to see the difference between the two very clearly.

Shi Feng's Attributes were absolutely mind-blowing.

“Shit! Just what kind of equipment is Black Flame wearing?!” Feng Xuanyang’s eyes nearly popped out of their sockets at this scene.

Martial Dragon was a Level 28 Berserker. Moreover, the majority of his equipment was Level 25 Dark-Gold Equipment. The weapon he wielded was even one of indiscernible quality, but judging from its appearance, it should certainly be above Dark-Gold rank. This equipment composition could definitely be among the very best in God’s Domain. Even if Black Flame were fully geared in Dark-Gold Equipment, he would not be that much stronger than Martial Dragon.

Moreover, Black Flame was only a Swordsman, a very well-balanced class in terms of Attributes. Normally, a Swordsman’s Strength would be inferior to a Berserker’s, and his Agility would be inferior to an Assassin’s. Yet, now, Black Flame had actually managed to force back an apex Berserker like Martial Dragon with a single hit...

Just how outstanding was Black Flame’s equipment to pull off such a feat?

At this moment, Nine Dragons Emperor, who was leisurely watching the battle from afar, had an expression of immense joy on his face, his eyes fully focused on Shi Feng—as if he had just seen a peerless beauty.

Although Nine Dragons Emperor was indeed surprised at seeing Martial Dragon forced into a retreat, he was much more delighted at discovering the peerless equipment that made such a feat possible.

“Uncle Chen, order the ones below to obtain Black Flame’s equipment!” Nine Dragons Emperor instructed the old man beside him, his eyes shining brightly.

“Understood!” The old man addressed as Uncle Chen immediately made a bow and left his position.

A short moment later, the old man arrived with quick steps at the balcony of the private room, then abruptly shouted, "War Dragon Legion, listen up! Plunder every piece of equipment on Black Flame's body and leave nothing behind!"

Although the old man was quite aged, his voice was extraordinarily loud when he shouted. Practically everyone in the neighborhood had heard him.

"Is the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion stupid? Didn't they see how Black Flame repulsed Martial Dragon in a single hit? Who could possibly kill him and plunder his equipment? Also, even if they plan on plundering someone's equipment, there shouldn't be a need to announce it publicly like that, right?" some ordinary players spectating from the sidelines ridiculed.

When the members of Zero Wing heard the old man's words, they nearly spat out blood in anger.

The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was completely looking down on them.

For a time, Zero Wing's members fought with even greater ferocity.

Although the spectating ordinary players made fun of Nine Dragons Emperor's foolishness, none of the upper managers of other first-rate Guilds were laughing.

They knew full well just how powerful the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was.

Despite the currently brief duration of the battle, the death toll was already extremely frightening.

The battlefield, which initially had nearly 30,000 players, now had less than 20,000 players remaining. The majority of the survivors also belonged to the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Even the War Dragon Legion had over 800 members still alive. Overall, the Pavilion's losses were light. In contrast, Zero Wing's side...

Things were just terrible on this side. Many elite members had died, and only two hundred or so Tier 1 players remained; Zero Wing had lost nearly half of its main combat power. If not for the Tier 1 NPCs, Zero Wing's situation would be much uglier.

The gap between the two Guilds was evident at a single glance. They simply could not be compared to each other.

Black Flame repulsing Martial Dragon?

What was there to celebrate?

"These people really think Black Flame has a chance of winning!" Third Ghost sneered as he looked at the distant spectating ordinary players.

That was the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion Zero Wing was going up against, a super-first-rate Guild in the virtual gaming world. Moreover, the Pavilion had even sent out its War Dragon Legion this time around. Zero Wing had no chance of victory at all.

Moreover, Martial Dragon was a peerless expert who had grasped a Domain.

Although Black Flame had the advantage in Attributes, the gap was not so great that it was impassable.

Any expert would be able to discern this point very clearly.

Hence, Nine Dragons Emperor did not take Black Flame seriously at all and was fully intent on obtaining the Swordsman's equipment.

Inside Zero Wing's Residence, Martial Dragon and Shi Feng had already exchanged moves dozens of times.

Every time Shi Feng attacked, he forced Martial Dragon into a retreat, chipping at Martial Dragon's HP with each exchange. At this moment, Martial Dragon's HP was down to around 90%.

However, Shi Feng was not particularly happy about this situation, neither was he angry about Nine Dragons Emperor's plan to plunder all his equipment. He only felt helpless.

Although Shi Feng succeeded in suppressing Martial Dragon with his Attributes, the Berserker was, after all, an expert who had grasped a Domain. Since Martial Dragon knew that he could not win using brute force, he had gone with a softer approach to neutralize Shi Feng's attacks. Negating Shi Feng's power was practically impossible for ordinary experts. After all, Shi Feng was an expert who had already set foot in the Flowing Water Realm.

If one wanted to negate Shi Feng's power, they required inhuman levels of precision and confidence. The fact that Martial Dragon could achieve such a feat was all due to his Domain.

Of course, while Shi Feng was helpless against Martial Dragon right now, the same could be said for the Berserker. After all, Shi Feng could see through his attack trajectories; whenever Martial Dragon tried attacking Shi Feng, the latter would always take the appropriate defensive measures and force the exchange into a frontal clash between weapons.

In a frontal clash, the side with lower Strength would naturally receive damage and lose HP. Hence, Martial Dragon could only buy time.

However, Martial Dragon was in no rush. Zero Wing was vulnerable. Fire Dance alone could not turn the situation around.

This was not an arena. There was no need for players to fight one-on-one. If three to five legionnaires were insufficient, they could simply increase that number. Even if Fire Dance had powerful Attributes, the War Dragon Legion could just treat her as a powerful Boss and slowly grind her to death.

“You are the first person who has lasted this long against me. Unfortunately, this match won’t go on for much longer,” Martial Dragon said ruefully as he glanced at his surroundings.

The number of Zero Wing members still alive was rapidly decreasing. After another ten minutes or so, this war would come to an end.

This outcome was all due to the difference in the number and quality of experts. Even with so many NPCs filling the gap, they were still far from enough.

“Indeed, this battle will not last much longer.” Shi Feng’s heart ached over this situation as well. The losses Zero Wing had suffered in this war was simply too massive. Yet, instead of revealing a dispirited expression, Shi Feng smiled, saying, “However, the victor in this war will still be us, Zero Wing!”

“Do you not see the situation your Guild is in right now?” Martial Dragon could not help but laugh when he heard Shi Feng’s words.

However, shortly after Martial Dragon had spoken, the Berserker’s expression suddenly turned grave.

“An ambush?”

Martial Dragon suddenly felt a killing intent that was even more intense than when Shi Feng had revealed himself. Martial Dragon promptly tried to put some distance between Shi Feng and himself. However, Shi Feng did not allow Martial Dragon to do so, sticking closely to the Berserker at all times.

In terms of speed, Martial Dragon was simply no match for Shi Feng.

Just as Martial Dragon faced Shi Feng’s barrage of attacks, the shadow of a figure suddenly appeared behind Martial Dragon.

“Scram!”

Martial Dragon had already been on his guard against this figure. Tightening his grip on his greatsword, he swung the weapon towards his back with all his might, the weapon itself transforming into a streak of red light. Under normal circumstances, this sudden attack definitely would have caught the player, who had appeared behind Martial Dragon, by surprise.

Dang!

However, this red blade of light was easily blocked.

“You are...” Martial Dragon finally managed to get a clear look at the ambusher and was stunned.

This man had gray hair and a tall, robust body that was significantly larger than an ordinary person’s. Also, this man was not a player but an NPC.

Although this NPC was only Level 40—lower than those Level 50 Tier 1 guards—the pressure Martial Dragon felt from him was even stronger than what he’d felt from a High Lord.

However, Martial Dragon had no time to ponder the identity of this NPC, because the moment this NPC swung his sword, over a dozen wind blades flew at Martial Dragon from all sides.

Only Shi Feng knew what this Skill was.

Tier 2 Sword Skill, Wind Roar!

This Skill could not be blocked and could only be dodged. But Martial Dragon no longer had time to dodge right now.

In the blink of an eye, multiple wind blades devoured Martial Dragon, his 6,000-plus HP instantly bottoming out with not a single point remaining.

The ambusher was none other than Shi Feng's Personal Guard, Kite.

Only, at this moment, Kite had already recovered his original strength. No longer was he a Tier 1 Swordsman but a Tier 2 Sword Master, instead.

Chapter 556 - Might of a Sword Master

"He actually died, just like that..."

"That's Martial Dragon! How could someone possibly kill him with one hit?! When did that frightening NPC appear?!"

For a time, the upper managers of the various Guilds spectating the battle were stupefied.

"Commander!"

Martial Dragon's abrupt death stopped the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion members' rising momentum cold.

As the Commander of the War Dragon Legion, Martial Dragon had never died, not even once, ever since he entered God's Domain. Not even Hell Mode Team Dungeons could end his life.

The elites of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and the members of the War Dragon Legion all admired Martial Dragon greatly, using him as their role model.

One could say that Martial Dragon was the symbol of the War Dragon Legion, as well as the legion's backbone.

Now that their backbone suddenly disappeared, even the members of the War Dragon Legion were dumbfounded.

They had never once thought that Martial Dragon would die. As if adding insult to injury, he was a casualty in a war of annihilation against a small Guild.

"That damnable Black Flame! He actually has another hidden trump card!" A chilling light flashed across Nine Dragons Emperor's eyes as he glared at Shi Feng. "However, even if you have the help of a Level 40 Tier 2 NPC, you will all still perish today! Uncle Chen, head into the battlefield with Blood Dragon! Do not let Black Flame get away at all costs! The same goes for that Tier 2 NPC!"

Martial Dragon was renowned throughout the entire virtual gaming world. He was practically synonymous with the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and was also the proof of the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion's strength.

Yet, now, Martial Dragon had actually been killed in a war with a minor Guild like Zero Wing.

If news of this matter were to spread, the damage to the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's reputation would be severe.

At this moment, the only way to redeem the Pavilion's reputation was to thoroughly consign Zero Wing to history and have everyone know what the consequences were for angering the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

Presently, Zero Wing had only a small number of members left alive. On the other hand, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion suffered only minimal losses among its main experts. Although a Tier 2 NPC was mighty, fortunately, it was just a Level 40 NPC—roughly equivalent to a Level 40 Lord. With the number of experts in the War Dragon Legion, they could easily defeat a Level 40 Lord.

“Understood!” The old man addressed as Uncle Chen bowed and departed.

From an outsider's point of view, this Uncle Chen was only a butler of Nine Dragons Emperor. However, every upper manager in the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion knew that this old man with a head full of white hair was not just Nine Dragons Emperor's butler. He was the third person to command the War Dragon Legion, Dust Dragon. However, this detail was something in the annals of history.

Currently, most people had long since forgotten that this elderly man named Uncle Chen was the almighty Dust Dragon of the past.

When the War Dragon Legion received the command, they immediately went into a frenzy. They no longer bothered targeting the elites of Zero Wing. Instead, hundreds of them encircled Shi Feng and Kite.

Every one of these hundreds of experts was Level 27 or above, and they all wore top-tier equipment. Moreover, at this Level, most players had at least some equipment with the Ignore Levels Attribute. In other words, members of the War Dragon Legion would not have to worry about level suppression when fighting Kite, a Level 40 NPC.

Normally, the War Dragon Legion members could trounce a Level 40 Field Lord with just a single 20-man team. Meanwhile, hundreds of them were present right now. Blood Dragon, a Branch Leader of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, and Dust Dragon, a former Commander of the War Dragon Legion, were even leading the legionnaires personally. Even if the enemy was a Level 40 High Lord, they could still defeat it.

“Hahaha! Black Flame is doomed for sure this time! Rather than dealing a blow to the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s momentum, he has instead angered the Pavilion even more!” Feng Xuanyang could not help but chortle when he saw this scene.

“Not only is he surrounded by so many top-tier experts, but he also can’t use any of his Skills. If we Seven Ghosts were in such a situation, we would still face annihilation even if all of us worked together,” Third Ghost commented.

Everyone had originally been fearful of Martial Dragon already. Now that they saw this scene...

They finally realized just how powerful the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was.

“The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s true strength is simply too powerful. It really isn’t something we first-rate Guilds can hope to contend with. It seems that I’ll have to make some changes to our future development plans.”

Galaxy Past felt helpless as he looked at the tightly packed members of the War Dragon Legion.

Top-tier experts were individuals that large Guilds would only rarely encounter. Yet, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion actually managed to dispatch a thousand of them.

With such power, who could possibly oppose the Pavilion?

Galaxy Past had even visualized the Star Alliance being in Zero Wing's place right now.

In the end, he concluded that the Star Alliance would not fare any better than Zero Wing. In other words, not to mention the Phoenix Pavilion of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, just the Heavenly Dragon Pavilion alone was enough to annihilate the Star Alliance.

The gap between a first-rate Guild and a super-first-rate Guild was simply hopeless...

"Guild Leader, look! Black Flame has begun taking action!" Purple Eye, who was standing beside Galaxy Past, recalled him to the battle at hand.

Zero Wing's destruction was inevitable. The only thing worth watching now was seeing how many experts of the War Dragon Legion Black Flame would manage to kill.

As for escaping?

That was practically impossible. As the Guild Leader, if Black Flame abandoned his own Guild Residence to escape, he would only turn himself into a laughingstock. His only option now was to fight till the bitter end.

Either he survived by forcing his enemies to retreat, or he perished along with his Guild Residence. There was no third option.

Without hesitation, Shi Feng, along with Kite, dashed directly towards the oncoming army of experts. They did not bother taking a roundabout route to conduct guerrilla warfare.

“Has this Black Flame lost his mind?” Galaxy Past watched Shi Feng’s movement patterns with utter bewilderment.

When the enemy had the advantage in numbers, one would normally apply hit-and-run tactics to avoid letting their enemies completely surround them. Applying such guerrilla tactics would yield tremendous results especially when one’s combat power was significantly superior to the enemies’.

However, Shi Feng had actually taken the initiative to charge into the enemy’s encirclement. He was simply trying to get himself killed!

“Since you wish to die, let me grant you that wish!”

Blood Dragon revealed a sinister sneer. Back when the Curse Scrolls were used, he had been outside the effective radius of Dark God’s Descent. Hence, when Blood Dragon was only thirty yards away from Shi Feng, he immediately activated Charge. He then raised his sword, activating Heavy Chop as he swung the weapon at Shi Feng.

Meanwhile, Dust Dragon, who was a short distance away, had similarly used Charge. He had timed his Skill perfectly so that he would arrive just a moment later than Blood Dragon, preventing Shi Feng from blocking both of their attacks.

In God’s Domain, although a person might seem old, their bodies in the game remained strong. Hence, there was not much of a difference between Dust Dragon’s current combat power and his combat power back when he was still in his prime. On the contrary, his combat experience far surpassed the ordinary person’s. He was like a living fossil of the virtual gaming world. He had long since reached the realm of perfection in the control and usage of techniques.

“Looking to die?” Shi Feng could not help but smile when he looked at the two people swiftly approaching him.

Kite was no ordinary NPC. He was a Dark-Gold ranked Personal Guard, and he could easily beat up a player of the same Level and Tier.

When Kite was still a Tier 1 Swordsman, he was already capable of contending against a High Lord of the same Level.

Contending against higher Levels might be a different story, but with his strength back to that of a Tier 2 Sword Master, he could even go toe-to-toe with a Level 40 Great Lord now.

What did a Level 40 Great Lord hint at?

The Final Boss of a Level 20, 100-man Hell Mode Team Dungeon was only a Level 20 Great Lord. But there had yet to be a single person daring enough to go challenge such a monster even until now.

Out in the fields, a Level 40 Great Lord would annihilate a 1,000-man team of Level 40 players, not to mention a 100-man team.

Meanwhile, the War Dragon Legion consisted of only several hundred players. Moreover, none of them was even close to reaching Level 40 yet. They also did not possess any Level 40 top-tier equipment. Yet, they still dared to come charging over...

Their recklessness left Shi Feng speechless.

If he truly had to describe them, he would say that they were “remarkably courageous”!

The moment Blood Dragon and Dust Dragon came rushing over, Kite moved in front of Shi Feng. The Sword Master then swung his sword down at the two aggressors. Instantly, dozens of wind blades struck both Blood Dragon and Dust Dragon from all sides. In the blink of an eye, both Berserkers were lying on the ground, already dead.

Chapter 557 - Qualifications to Become an Overlord

“What kind of NPC is this?”

Nine Dragons Emperor shot up from his seat the instant he saw Blood Dragon and Dust Dragon instant-killed, an expression of shock plastered over his face.

Nobody had a better understanding than he did of Blood Dragon’s and Dust Dragon’s strengths.

Although the two of them were not a match for Martial Dragon, no one was likely to be a match for them when the two of them were working together.

Even a Level 40 High Lord would not be able to kill both of them in a single strike.

The only possibility was that this NPC was too powerful—so powerful that players simply had no way of resisting him.

“Kite, kill them all! Leave none alive!” Shi Feng no longer held back. He immediately commanded Kite to begin his slaughter.

In the past, Kite was titled the Windbreaker.

In the entire God’s Domain, very few Personal Guards possessed a title. The title itself, though, was only a title; it did not provide any bonus Attributes or contribute to the improvement of the Personal Guard’s combat power.

However, having a title signified that an NPC was not an ordinary class but a hidden class.

Some hidden classes were weak, while some were strong. Windbreaker definitely ranked within the Peak Classes. In addition, as a Personal Guard, Kite himself also possessed frightening Growth Potential. Hence, Kite had become practically invincible when going up against an enemy of the same Level and Tier in the past.

Back in the days, the Lifestyle player that owned Kite had relied on this Personal Guard to become an existence that nobody in God’s Domain could ignore. Even Super Guilds did not wish to offend this Lifestyle player casually.

What about now?

Back then, even a Lifestyle player had managed to nurture Kite into a Tier 5 Sword Saint capable of overwhelming any Tier 5 player or NPC. Meanwhile, in this life, Shi Feng was the one nurturing Kite. Not

only could Shi Feng provide greater financial support, but Kite's current Growth Potential was also higher than what he had in the past. Now, dealing with players of a lower Level and Tier was practically child's play to Kite.

After Kite received Shi Feng's command, he transformed into a fierce gale that swept across the members of the War Dragon Legion.

The Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights of the War Dragon Legion hurriedly dashed to the forefront, attempting to block Kite's assault.

Unfortunately for them, Kite was just too fast. With a simple leap, he arrived behind the Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights. He then used a Tier 2 Skill, Wind Ferret, sending all players within thirty yards flying up into the air. In the next moment, Kite began brandishing his swords, shooting hundreds of wind blades outwards like a lotus flower that pierced the bodies of the players suspended in midair.

Even though these players were Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights, their HPs still fell by the thousands. In the blink of an eye, their 6,000 or 7,000 HPs bottomed out, though a fortunate few managed to survive Kite's barrage of attacks. However, as they were too high up in the air, when they landed on the ground, the fall took away their last strand of HP...

In just a moment, the War Dragon Legion had lost dozens of members.

Seeing this scene where players fell to the ground like dumplings, one after another, everyone was utterly stupefied.

Nobody had imagined that a Tier 2 NPC could actually be this mighty. Moreover, aside from him being strong, even Kite's combat techniques were more powerful than those of many experts.

The Windbreaker is indeed amazing. It is no wonder he was able to deal with so many Tier 5 players as if they were little children in the past. Only Tier 6 God-ranked players were able to suppress him. Shi Feng was delighted with Kite's performance.

When it came to techniques, there were indeed players that could surpass Kite. Unfortunately, the precondition for this victory was that said player was similar to Martial Dragon, a peerless expert who had achieved 100% control over his own body. However, even in the entire God's Domain, such experts were as rare as a phoenix's feather.

Moreover, even if a player was superior to Kite in terms of combat techniques, as an NPC, Kite could completely overwhelm any player when it came to Attributes. In front of absolute strength, all manner of trickery was useless. In the end, the amount of strength a player could display through their techniques was limited.

It was just like how Shi Feng, despite his techniques being inferior to Martial Dragon's, was able to suppress the Berserker by relying on his Attributes. Only, in Kite's case, the NPC could trounce Martial Dragon, because Kite's Attributes were leaps and bounds above even Shi Feng's. Such great Strength was already beyond Martial Dragon's ability to withstand. Hence, Kite was able to kill Martial Dragon easily while Shi Feng could not.

In just a moment, Zero Wing had made a complete comeback from their previously disadvantaged situation.

To the War Dragon Legion, which had a member count of only 1,000, having more than a hundred of its experts killed was a significant loss. Most importantly, its casualties continued to increase.

Despite Nine Dragons Emperor's attempts to pin down Kite by sending more elite players and experts, all his efforts were in vain.

With Kite's speed, Strength, and techniques, any player that had yet to attain their Tier 2 class would not even have the qualifications to delay him. Otherwise, the many first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds in the past would not have feared him so much.

Seeing how Kite was casually slaughtering the members of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, the spectating upper managers of the various large Guilds were dumbfounded.

"With such an NPC guarding their Guild Residence, no Guild is capable of threatening Zero Wing!" Galaxy Past muttered as he looked at Kite. He then shifted his gaze towards Shi Feng, who was leisurely observing the battle from the sidelines, his eyes filled with both admiration and envy.

Although the status of a first-rate Guild might seem preeminent, in reality, there was a massive gap between a first-rate Guild and a Super Guild. If the Star Alliance managed to anger a Super Guild in the future, a repeat of today's scene was highly likely.

However, if the Star Alliance had an NPC like Kite guarding its Guild Residence, at that time, it would possess the qualifications to pick a fight with a Super Guild.

Although they still could not afford to provoke a Super Guild, they would no longer have to live in fear like they currently did.

As long as a Guild's Residence remained, and as long as the Guild still possessed a large sum of funds and Coins, then it would be a cockroach that would not die.

In the virtual gaming world, it was not the powerful who were considered strong. Instead, it was those who managed to survive and was not afraid of any enemy that were deemed to be strong. After all, only by surviving would there be hope.

It was just like how those Super Guilds had managed to survive until now. In the past, there were far more powerful existences than these Super Guilds. Yet, in the end, didn't they end up failing as well?

Meanwhile, although Zero Wing was still weak right now, it already possessed the qualifications to become an overlord in God's Domain.

Hence, how could Galaxy Past not admire Shi Feng?

"Purple, once we return, immediately mobilize the entire Guild! Our Star Alliance needs an NPC like that as well!" Galaxy Past's eyes were filled with desire as he looked at Kite.

"Mhm!" Purple Eye silently nodded in agreement. However, instead of looking at Kite, she was currently focused on Aqua Rose. At this moment, her eyes were filled with mixed feelings.

Time slowly passed by.

The battlefield grew more intense with each passing moment. Currently, only a small number of players from Zero Wing remained alive. As for the Guild's most precious Tier 1 players, less than a hundred remained alive. This time, however, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was not having a good time, either.

Due to Kite's appearance, coupled with Shi Feng silently helping out his Guildmates, the War Dragon Legion's numbers fell sharply. Currently, less than 400 legionnaires remained alive...

"Retreat! All of you, retreat!" Nine Dragons Emperor sent a command to the members of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, no longer able to stomach this battle.

"Pavilion Master, Zero Wing is about to be destroyed. Are we really going to retreat right now?" Rage had long since overwhelmed many of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's upper managers fighting in the battlefield. The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's prestige and reputation were also at stake here. How could they possibly be willing to retreat at a time like this?

"I said retreat! Are you unable to understand that?!" Nine Dragons Emperor suddenly said in a low tone, his gloomy voice chilling even his surroundings.

Nine Dragons Emperor wanted to continue fighting this war as well.

He even wished he could personally step onto the battlefield. However, he was a Guild Leader. He needed to consider the bigger picture.

Although their side still seemed to possess the numerical advantage, in reality, they were already at a disadvantage. If this situation continued, instead of Zero Wing being destroyed, they would be the ones facing complete annihilation.

In order to cut their losses, they had no choice but to retreat right now.

“Understood!”

“Retreat!”

“All members, retreat!”

The members of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion could only sigh in dejection. Under the command of the upper managers, they swiftly withdrew from Zero Wing’s Guild Residence.

Chapter 558 - After the War

“Won!”

“We won!”

Everyone from Zero Wing was incomparably excited, and they all began cheering loudly one after another.

Throughout this entire war, nobody had expected them to win. Even the large Guilds watching from afar had long since made preparations to take advantage of Zero Wing’s misfortune.

Originally, other than Super Guilds, nobody else dared to oppose the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. However, they had dared.

Moreover, they had even defeated the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

They had achieved a feat that no Guild had ever imagined was possible.

“The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was actually defeated, just like that...”

The various large Guilds spectating this battle fell silent.

Other than shock, everyone felt amazement.

Despite the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s overwhelming power, in the end, all those elite players and frightening top-tier experts suffered defeat at the hands of a single NPC guard.

“After we return, we must focus on developing our Guild’s guards.”

Galaxy Past had an excited expression on his face as he watched the retreating members of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

The true strength of a Super Guild was something no ordinary Guild could ever hope to comprehend. Only first-rate Guilds like them would know some secrets about Super Guilds.

Although the opponent Zero Wing had defeated this time was not a Super Guild, the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's strength was already on a par with those Super Guilds'. Since Zero Wing could repel the attack of the Pavilion, it could naturally repel the attacks of Super Guilds as well.

Most likely, nobody in the entire God's Domain had thought that...

The first Guild capable of going toe-to-toe with the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion would not be a first-rate Guild but a recently established Guild like Zero Wing, instead.

However, this was still not the most exciting part.

The most exciting part was that Zero Wing had shown everyone present the hope of contending against a Super Guild.

In virtual reality games, the result of a war between Guilds usually depended on players. However, God's Domain was different. Here, NPC guards could also determine the outcome of a Guild War. In other words, the advantage a Super Guild possessed was no longer an insurmountable hurdle.

If a Guild's players could not repel an attack, they could just fill the gap using NPCs.

At this moment, Galaxy Past wasn't the only one planning to focus on nurturing his Guild's NPC guards. The upper managers of the various large Guilds had also grasped this point. They all had the notion of developing their NPCs once they returned.

As long as their Guild Residences had an NPC like Kite protecting it, then their Guild Residences would be impregnable. That way, they could disregard those powerful Super Guilds. They could develop their Guilds however they pleased.

Although the members of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion were swiftly withdrawing, Shi Feng had no intention of letting them off the hook. Instead, he immediately expanded on his victory, killing as many as Pavilion members as he could.

Every player present was an elite or above. The quality of the equipment they wore on their bodies went without saying.

Each additional death was equivalent to obtaining another piece of good equipment.

During the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's withdrawal, Shi Feng and Kite managed to kill several hundred more players, obtaining a bountiful harvest—particularly of the Life Force points Shi Feng collected.

“Damn it!” Nine Dragons Emperor's heart bled when he saw his Guild's elites and the experts of the War Dragon Legion dying one after another. “Black Flame, just you wait! Sooner or later, I will definitely claim this debt! You won't be as lucky the next time we meet!”

After the war ended, Zero Wing's members also began collecting their spoils of war.

Both Guilds had suffered an immense death toll in this war. However, during the intense battle, nobody had the time to pick up loot. Hence, plenty of equipment littered the ground right now.

This sight stirred greed and jealousy in many of the spectating Guilds. However, not a single Guild player dared to steal some equipment for themselves. The same held true even for the Assassins who were in Stealth.

A large number of NPCs still stood guard near these drops, and everyone had already witnessed just how powerful these NPCs were. Naturally, nobody wanted to donate their own equipment to Zero Wing.

At the same time, word of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's defeat spread at the speed of light.

Practically all the discussions on the official forums mentioned this incident.

"It can't be, right? The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion actually lost?"

"You must be joking!"

"The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion really lost. I have firsthand video documentation here, and you can have it for just 50 Credits!"

A majority of the players in God's Domain was incredulous of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's defeat.

The Pavilion, which had remained unshakable all this time, had actually been defeated. It was a rout. Even the Pavilion's most powerful War Dragon Legion had lost over half of its members. The damage the Pavilion had suffered this time was simply incalculable.

Star-Moon City, inside Ouroboros's Guild Residence:

"Snow, Zero Wing actually won against the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, just like you guessed it would." Zhao Yueru's unblemished face was full of surprise when she received the latest news regarding the war between Zero Wing and the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

"There's nothing surprising about this," Gentle Snow said, a bright smile appearing on her face. "Black Flame is no fool. Moreover, he has never done anything he was not confident about. Since he dared to pick a fight with the Pavilion, he naturally had basis for his confidence. Only, I never imagined that the source of his confidence would be so powerful."

"We're in luck this time. Since we're allies with Zero Wing, those Elders whom Cao Chenghua is planning to pull to his side will have to carefully reconsider their actions," Zhao Yueru laughed.

Moments after Zhao Yueru said these words, the doors to the meeting room opened, and a few gorgeously dressed middle-aged men and women entered.

Seeing the arrival of these few people, Gentle Snow could not help but smile bitterly as she shook her head.

“Fate truly knows how to toy with people.”

These men and women were none other than Ouroboros’s few highly skilled and influential Elders. Normally, these Elders paid little heed to the matters of the Guild, focusing only on grinding, leveling up, and raiding Dungeons. Even Cao Chenghua dared not offend these Elders casually.

Previously, Gentle Snow had tried inviting these Elders for a discussion on some matters. However, they had simply ignored her overtures.

Now, without even requiring her invitation, these people had taken the initiative to come looking for her.

This situation left Gentle Snow speechless. Back then, she had only decided to become Zero Wing’s ally to repay her debt to Black Flame. Now, however, it would seem that she was growing even more beholden to him, instead.

“Guild Leader Snow, we truly apologize for before. The few of us have been busy raiding Dungeons all this time, so we failed to meet up with you. Now, however, we are already clear on the Guild’s situation. The few of us here have unanimously decided to support you fully. If Cao Chenghua dares to try to split up Ouroboros, he will have to go through us first before he can do so,” the leading Shield Warrior declared, chuckling.

Now that Zero Wing had defeated the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, a super-first-rate Guild, its fame and status in God’s Domain were naturally far different from before.

Prior to Zero Wing’s appearance, the upper managers of various large Guilds were secretly doing their best to forge connections with Super Guilds to increase their authority inside their own Guilds.

Many large Guilds had even taken the initiative to curry favor with Super Guilds to obtain the protection of these Super Guilds. That way, if other Guilds wanted to make a move on them, these Guilds would have to think twice before taking action against them. After all, nobody wished to incur the anger of a Super Guild.

Meanwhile, now that Zero Wing had defeated the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, the consequences were obvious.

In the future, Zero Wing might very well become another super-first-rate Guild.

When a man became powerful, those near him could ride on his coattails to success as well.

Since Gentle Snow was an ally of Zero Wing, that meant that Gentle Snow had the support of what amounted to a super-first-rate Guild. As long as one was not a fool, they would know which side they should choose.

White River City, Zero Wing's Residence:

"Guild Leader, I've already tallied up the results of the war. Here are the statistics," Aqua Rose said, a smile on her face as she handed over a list of data to Shi Feng.

"How could there be so many?! We've really made a fortune this time!" The corners of Shi Feng's lips twitched slightly when he looked at the list.

Chapter 559 - Growing Stronger

The number of equipment on the statistical list exceeded 20,000. Most of the equipment originally belonged to the Zero Wing members who had participated in the war, so those had to be returned. In addition, they had to take into account the reward for killing enemy players as well as death subsidies. However, even after deducting all the necessary expenses, they still had over 5,000 pieces of equipment remaining.

Initially, Shi Feng thought Zero Wing would only gain a slight profit from this war. After all, Zero Wing's army of over 10,000 elites had practically suffered complete annihilation; only a few hundred elites remained alive at the end of the war. As for the Tier 1 core members, only several dozens survived.

The compensation for the losses of over 10,000 elite members and hundreds of core members was astronomical.

Having a surplus of more than 5,000 pieces of equipment surpassed Shi Feng's expectations entirely.

"We are fortunate that the Pavilion members' equipment is of excellent quality, unlike the previous battles we fought before when there were barely enough spoils of war to go around, even though our losses were not significant back then." At this moment, Aqua Rose was overjoyed.

The Guilds they had fought in the past were much poorer compared to the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. The enemy Guilds back then consisted mostly of ordinary players, with only a small number of elite players; the equipment they could drop was naturally of low quality. Bronze and Mysterious-Iron Equipment was considered top-tier goods for those Guilds. Now, however, the enemies they had killed were the elites and experts of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Naturally, the items they dropped were on an entirely different level in terms of quality.

The majority of the equipment worn by the Pavilion's elite members was Level 20 Secret-Silver Equipment, with the weakest being Level 20 Mysterious-Iron Equipment, and the strongest being Level 20 Fine-Gold Equipment. As for the members of the War Dragon Legion, all the equipment they wore was Level 25, with the majority being Level 25 Fine-Gold Equipment, and the weakest being Level 25 Secret-Silver Equipment. A few legionnaires even had Level 25 Dark-Gold Equipment. Naturally, the items they dropped were astounding.

Currently, Level 20 Bronze Equipment was being sold for around 20 Silver. Even Mysterious-Iron Equipment sold for around 40 Silver only. However, the prices for Secret-Silver Equipment was a different story altogether.

With the difference of just one rank, the price increased from around 40 Silver straight up to around 90 Silver. If it were Secret-Silver Equipment meant for MTs, the price would go further, up to 1 Gold 20 Silver.

This disparity was mainly due to the sheer difficulty in obtaining Secret-Silver Equipment.

In Level 20, six-man Party Dungeons, even at Hell Mode, there was only a fixed chance for Secret-Silver Equipment to drop. Only ten-man Hell Mode Team Dungeons would drop Secret-Silver Equipment with 100% certainty, with a small chance of dropping Fine-Gold Equipment.

Most players in God's Domain were just beginning to raid Level 20, ten-man Team Dungeons, and the number of teams that could raid Hell Mode was very low. With the tight supply of Level 20 Secret-Silver Equipment, it was only natural for prices to be a lot higher.

As for Level 20 Fine-Gold Equipment, its prices were even more inflated. Each piece of such equipment sold for at least four Gold. Normally, only 20-man Hell Mode Team Dungeons would drop Fine-Gold Equipment with 100% certainty. Meanwhile, there was only a fixed chance for one to drop in Hard Mode. Hence, Fine-Gold Equipment was much rarer, and its price much higher.

If Level 20 equipment was already like this, there was no need to mention Level 25 equipment.

For equipment, although an increase in one rank was equivalent to an increase in five Levels, Level 25 Secret-Silver Equipment was much more expensive than Level 20 Fine-Gold Equipment. At present, each piece sold for five Gold or more.

Moreover, the supply of Level 25 Secret-Silver Equipment on the market was extremely limited. People usually circulated such equipment within their own inner circles, and players would have to rely on their connections to purchase one.

As for Level 25 Fine-Gold Equipment, they were considered the best equipment currently available in God's Domain. Setting aside the fact that nobody would sell such equipment in the first place, if there were some available for sale, the price would be at least fifteen Gold.

Currently, among the 5,000-plus pieces of equipment in Shi Feng's hands, there were over 2,000 pieces of Level 20 Mysterious-Iron Equipment and over 2,000 pieces of Level 20 Secret-Silver Equipment. As for the remainder, over 600 pieces were Level 20 Fine-Gold Equipment, over 400 were Level 25 Secret-Silver Equipment, over 150 were Level 25 Fine-Gold Equipment, and a total of twelve pieces were Level 25 Dark-Gold Equipment.

If converted to Coins, all this equipment would be worth more than 10,000 Gold.

After fighting a single war, Zero Wing had made a pure profit of over 10,000 Gold. Any Guild would be celebrating after such a harvest. Not to mention, even if a Guild had 10,000 Gold, it would not be able to obtain so many pieces of equipment.

If a Guild wished to develop quickly, other than having experts leading its members, it was also essential to have equipment in the Guild's Warehouse. The amount of equipment a Guild possessed determined the number of members it could sustain. Now that Shi Feng had received such a huge influx of equipment, he could definitely advance Zero Wing further, absorbing even more members into the Guild.

"Guild Leader, should I place the equipment into the Guild's Warehouse?" Aqua Rose asked.

"Organize them and place the ones with good Attributes into the Guild's Warehouse. Hand over the remainder to Melancholic for sale," Shi Feng instructed after giving her question some thought.

A majority of the current players had already reached Level 20 or above. Those who hadn't reached Level 20 were either new to God's Domain, or just ordinary Lifestyle players.

Meanwhile, all the elite members in Zero Wing were Level 25 or above, whereas ordinary members were either Level 23 or Level 24. Hence, their demand for Level 20 equipment was not particularly high.

Level 20 equipment was currently considered mainstream equipment in God's Domain. Its popularity just happened to be at its peak. After more time passed, Level 20 equipment would grow obsolete and lose its value. Hence, now was the best time to sell their excess equipment and maximize their profit.

Currently, the Candlelight Trading Firm continued to expand every day. However, the variety of goods the Firm sold was still insufficient.

There was a limit to the number of players the Firm could attract just by relying on the Intermediate Mana Armor Kits and Light Stones. Only when the Firm could sell good equipment in large quantities would it truly be able to hold its ground in Star-Moon Kingdom.

In Shi Feng's previous life, many trading firms would sell the Bronze, Mysterious-Iron, Secret-Silver, Fine-Gold and even Dark-Gold Equipment produced by its forgers. Only by following that example could the Candlelight Trading Firm maintain its Shops' competitiveness.

Soon after, Shi Feng logged out of the game to rest.

Time passed slowly.

On the day after the great battle...

The atmosphere surrounding White River City was no longer oppressive like before, and many players on the streets had begun talking about yesterday's war.

"Damn! I can't believe that, while I was at work during the day[1], the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion was actually defeated!"

"I know right? Zero Wing is OP now. If even a super-first-rate Guild is helpless against it, it would be even more impossible for other Guilds."

"It is a huge pity that you did not get to watch that battle. That Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion really deserves its title as a super-first-rate Guild. The number of experts they sent over yesterday could easily overwhelm any first-rate Guild! However, Zero Wing still came out on top! Nobody could have imagined that they actually had such a powerful NPC guard; that one NPC killed hundreds of top-tier experts all by himself! My eyes nearly fell out when I saw that scene back then!"

“Now that Zero Wing has defeated the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, it will definitely become even more powerful in the future. I heard that Zero Wing has begun mass recruitment again. I failed their test the last time. I wonder if I can pass it this time?”

“Previously, I thought about trying to join a Super Guild. Now, however, it seems that there won’t be a need to do so. I’ll go with you to apply for the test.”

The independent players filling the streets and alleyways of White River City talked fervently about Zero Wing, a fire of anticipation burning in their eyes.

These players felt proud just thinking about residing in the same city as Zero Wing, a Guild capable of contending against the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion. Compared to those flamboyant first-rate Guilds, Zero Wing was far more powerful.

In reality, such a reaction wasn’t limited to just the players of White River City. The independent players of many other cities, other kingdoms even, began migrating to White River City one after another, every one of them hoping to join Zero Wing.

In just half a day’s time, Zero Wing completely recovered to its original strength. The number of elite players Zero Wing had right now was even higher than before the war with the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion.

TL Notes:

[1] Reminder: daytime in reality is nighttime in God’s Domain. The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion attacked during the night.

Chapter 560 - Times Have Changed

Normally, the Guilds involved in a Guild War would have to undergo a protracted recovery before they could regain their peak.

However, after Zero Wing's miraculous victory over the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, its prestige throughout the entire Star-Moon Kingdom soared. At this moment, not even the few first-rate Guilds based in Star-Moon Kingdom were a match for it.

As a result, a large number of independent players swarmed to White River City in order to join Zero Wing.

In no time at all, Zero Wing went from being an ordinary Guild with 50,000 members to a large Guild with over 80,000 members. Moreover, this was after Zero Wing increased the difficulty of its recruitment test. Most importantly, this number was still rising rapidly, with no signs of slowing down at all. Zero Wing's development speed rendered the various large Guilds in Star-Moon Kingdom speechless.

Currently, Zero Wing could already be described using the term "overcrowded."

All of this was a result of Zero Wing's future becoming limitless.

Previously, although Zero Wing had attracted quite a lot of attention due to its various feats, at the end of the day, it was merely another small Guild that was a dime a dozen in God's Domain. It was an existence that would disappear in an instant should it accidentally anger a large Guild. Hence, when

independent players were choosing a Guild to join, the first ones they would consider were definitely those large Guilds instead of Zero Wing.

Now, however, the situation had changed. Firstly, Zero Wing was already an existence that did not need to fear any other Guild. Secondly, the treatment and benefits Zero Wing provided surpassed even those of first-rate Guilds. Thirdly, there were all sorts of top-tier equipment available in the Guild's Warehouse. Just looking at the wide array of equipment would make one drool. Not to mention, the Guild Residence also had a large number of Private Rooms available for rent.

Whether it was in terms of leveling speed or equipment upgrading speed, Zero Wing was much faster than every other Guild.

With so many advantages, everyone would naturally hope to join Zero Wing.

"Aren't you guys being too arrogant?! You defeated the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's raid only once! Among the large number of independent teams out there, the combat power of our Flying Eagles team is definitely ranked above average! We will be highly valued even if we join a first-rate Guild! Yet, now that we are trying to join Zero Wing, only two of the ten of us managed to pass your test! Aren't you looking down on us a little too much?!" a Level 24 Guardian Knight demanded angrily.

"That's right! We hurried over to this place from far away and have spent a lot of money on teleportation fees, all because we want to join Zero Wing! Can't you lower the difficulty of the test by just a little bit?" a Level 23 Ranger complained.

At the recruitment hall inside Zero Wing's Residence, many players were voicing their discontent over Zero Wing's recruitment test.

This situation was giving Aqua Rose a huge headache as well. She could not understand why Shi Feng suddenly decided to raise the requirements despite these already being very high before—even higher than those of first-rate Guilds. Yet, now, Shi Feng raised that bar even further. He was practically trying to drive players away from the Guild...

“Guild Leader, there are countless Guilds in God’s Domain, and all of them are frantically trying to recruit members. Now that we have defeated the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, we have the perfect opportunity to develop quickly. If we don’t take this chance to recruit a large number of players while we are still popular, it won’t be as easy to do so in the future. Can’t you lower the conditions a little?” Aqua Rose asked.

Most of the players who had come from other cities were relatively skilled players back in their own cities. However, in order to better develop themselves, they had come all the way to White River City specifically to join Zero Wing. One could say that these players were the cream of the crop of other cities, and rejecting them right now would be such a pity.

“I won’t change this condition no matter what. Besides, I didn’t invite them over; they came of their own free will. In any case, the condition is there. Once they pass it, they can naturally join the Guild. If they fail, there is nothing we can do about it. Zero Wing’s resources are limited. Our Guild isn’t a garbage collection station.

“Moreover, Zero Wing is taking the path of the elite. There is no meaning in recruiting in bulk.” Shi Feng showed no signs of regret at all. Slowly, he explained, “You have seen it for yourself. During the war with the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, the War Dragon Legion nearly annihilated all our elites. If we did not have a large number of NPC guards to assist us, the War Dragon Legion might have wiped us out. Hence, what we need to do now is not to increase the number of members we have but to improve the quality of our members.”

Aqua Rose fell silent upon hearing Shi Feng’s words.

The gap between the two sides in that war was simply too vast. Not to mention the War Dragon Legion, even the standard of the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's elite members was significantly higher than Zero Wing's. Had the gap been smaller, Zero Wing would not have suffered such massive losses.

"Indeed, my mind must've been clouded before. I'll carry out your orders immediately, then." After Shi Feng's lecture, Aqua Rose finally realized that she'd had her head in the clouds out of joy from their victory.

Zero Wing had always been taking the path of the elite. It was precisely because of this that the Guild's members managed to improve their strength so quickly. Despite having only 50,000 members, there were over 13,000 elite members in the Guild. This was a very frightening ratio.

Moreover, Zero Wing's success in developing from a small Guild with only several thousand members to a Guild with more elite members than even a second-rate Guild was all because every Guild member received a significant share of the Guild's resources.

Following which, Shi Feng handed over all Zero Wing-related matters to Aqua Rose while he went to his forging room in the Candlelight Trading Firm.

The demand for Intermediate Mana Armor Kits was just too high. The kits he had made several days ago were nearly sold out now, so he had to replenish the inventory immediately.

During this period of time, Shi Feng had been constantly busy developing the Candlelight Trading Firm, so he did not have time to do anything else.

Notably, the time limit for his Epic Quest, Darkness Descends, was nearly up.

Fortunately, the Candlelight Trading Firm was already well-developed, and its fame had already spread throughout the entire kingdom. It would not take long to accumulate 30,000 Gold.

While a sea of players was applying to join Zero Wing, the situation on the Candlelight Trading Firm's side was also getting out of hand.

Currently, White River City was flourishing. It was no longer inferior to Star-Moon City. Moreover, during this period of time, the Candlelight Trading Firm had begun selling equipment in large quantities, enjoying great popularity from the public. As for the Overwhelming Trading Firm, it had already been left in the dust by now.

Inside the lively Candlelight Trading Firm, the various large Guilds that had originally been planning to take advantage of Zero Wing's misfortune had all gathered here once again. This time, however, no one displayed the arrogance they had before, and they were all following the rules of the Trading Firm to the letter.

"Guild Leader, do you really think Black Flame will be willing to meet us this time?" Purple Eye asked as she looked at Galaxy Past.

"Since he has opened a trading firm, he will naturally want to do business. However, I am also not sure of Black Flame's personality. Previously, he challenged the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion without hesitation. This time, he might really ignore us outright," Galaxy Past laughed bitterly. "If I had known things would end up like this, I would have followed in Gentle Snow's footsteps before. I heard that Gentle Snow managed to purchase quite a number of Intermediate Mana Armor Kits, and they have long since made preparations to raid 50-man large-scale Team Dungeons."

Not only had the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion suffered a crushing defeat, but Nine Dragons Emperor was also forced to bring the War Dragon Legion back to the Pavilion's main headquarters to recuperate. If even the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion ended up in such a state, ordinary first-rate Guilds like them stood no chance against Zero Wing at all. Now, the only thing they could do was wait.

Shortly after Shi Feng began forging Intermediate Mana Armor Kits, Melancholic Smile entered his forging room.

"Guild Leader, many upper managers from first-rate Guilds have come to the Candlelight Trading Firm. This time, they wish to meet and have a proper discussion with you. When you will have the time to do so?" Melancholic Smile asked softly.

"They're finally here?" Shi Feng stopped what he was doing. Revealing a faint smile, he said, "Let's head over there and take a look, then."