

The Strongest

Chapter 73 – Demon Mask

Shi Feng was slightly shocked at seeing the series of notifications.

Ten thousand EXP was not considered much to a Level 4 player like himself. It only raised him to 27% of Level 4, and there was still quite a distance away before he became Level 5.

On the contrary, it was the other rewards that caused his eyes to shine.

Just by killing an extremely foolish Elite Demon, he was able to obtain an ample amount of Reputation as payback. Shi Feng truly did not dare imagine it was real.

Reputation was extremely precious within God's Domain. There were very few Quests that could raise a player's Reputation, and even those Quests would only increase a minuscule amount.

As long as a player's Reputation was sufficiently high, they would be able to receive high-level Quests that were normally unavailable. Players would also be able to purchase items that were not normally for sale, such as Bronze Equipment, special potions, and so on. At the same time, there would be discounts when purchasing items, and NPCs would have a favorable impression of you. All in all, there were many benefits brought about by Reputation.

After a player's Reputation reached a certain degree, they could also become a Noble.

In God's Domain, Nobles were considered amongst the privileged class, and they enjoyed plenty of benefits. Being a Noble was also a symbol of status. If a Commoner were to anger a Noble, the consequences would be severe. A light offense would result in imprisonment, while a heavy offense would result in execution. Hence, players did not dare offend Nobles. So much so, that even if a Noble were to beat up a Commoner inside a Safe Zone, the Guards would pay no heed to the commotion. This was the gap between statuses.

This was also the reason Shi Feng was so shocked.

Now that he possessed the title of Noble in Red Leaf Town, he would be able to do things with much more convenience in the future. Shi Feng then thought of several high-level Quests that only Nobles could accept.

"What function does this Demon Hunter title have?" Shi Feng called out the System Interface, taking a look at the information about the Demon Hunter title.

[Demon Hunter]

A brave warrior and an exorcist of demons who is revered by others. Wherever you go, you will possess a status equal to a Noble. You are the grim reaper who is feared by all beings affiliated with darkness. In a 100-yard radius, monsters affiliated with Darkness will have their Attributes reduced by 10%. At the

same time, attacks you deal towards monsters affiliated with Darkness will have a 10% increase in damage.

“Crap, this title is just too awesome,” Shi Feng became slightly excited after reading the introduction to the Demon Hunter title.

If a person did not have a considerable understanding of God’s Domain, they would have no understanding of the significance of this title. It was similar to how a dog would not know the value of a gemstone.

Shi Feng only became a Noble in Red Leaf Town after his Reputation there had reached 100 points. However, this title was only limited to Red Leaf Town. After leaving the Red Leaf Town, nobody would acknowledge him as a Noble.

Of course, if Shi Feng were a Noble of White River City, he would be acknowledged as one throughout the area under the administration of White River City. The title had a much wider range of application. Compared to a Noble of a Town, the difference between the two was obvious at a glance.

Meanwhile, a Demon Hunter would have the status of a Noble in every region. This meant, that even after leaving Star-Moon Kingdom, Shi Feng would still be acknowledged as a Noble in other countries. It should be known that not every country was friendly with each other. There were even some who were enemies. If Shi Feng wanted to do a Quest in another, he would have to go through many difficulties and even be discriminated against. However, with this title, he would no longer be discriminated against by NPCs. This was the true value of the Demon Hunter title. Compared to it, being a Noble in Red Leaf Town was no longer worth mentioning.

Shi Feng picked up the equipment dropped by the demon’s doppelganger.

[Demon Mask] (Special Item)

Upon wearing it, the user can disguise himself as another person. Disguise cannot be broken without using a high level observing skill.

“Truly a good item. The 6 Gold I spent was definitely worth it.” Shi Feng happily stored the Demon Mask. This item was an artifact meant for robbing houses. Although he wouldn’t do such a thing, it would not hurt him to use it for other matters.

“Adventurer, the ceremony has ended. Carrying out this ceremony has greatly weakened me, so I am going to White River City to recover for some time. If you wish to know more information about the Bible of Darkness, then find me there along with my payment. I will be waiting for you.” Currently, Sharlyn appeared to be very delicate, her previous shrewdness completely gone. After saying her piece, she immediately activated a Teleportation Circle and went to White River City to recover.

Shi Feng was inwardly shocked as he watched Sharlyn’s beautiful image departing.

The Moon Drip ceremony this time was definitely not as simple as he previously thought. Otherwise, a Divine Official, which was a Tier 3 Job, would not be so greatly weakened. Even Shi Feng felt as though he would be able to defeat Sharlyn right now. One could imagine just how weakened Sharlyn was.

“Forget it; that’s none of my business. Now that the curse has been dispelled, and my Attributes have recovered, I can finally start speed-leveling. The earlier I reach Level 10, the earlier I can activate the Teleportation Gate to White River City.” Shi Feng shrugged his shoulders, no longer minding the matters of great characters. A small character like him still had many matters to take care of. To build up from nothing, many things needed to be done. Forget competing with those Guilds; just being paid attention to by a Great Demon had caused him enough headaches. He was not so leisurely as to pay attention to other matters.

Following which, Shi Feng departed from the Library. He headed to the Chef’s Association to take a look at Violet Cloud’s current progress.

Red Leaf Town, Trade Area...

Just after setting foot in the Trade Area, Shi Feng discovered something fishy.

Now that the sun had risen, logic dictated that players should have gone out to level up. Yet, the streets were currently filled with players who were holding discussions with each other. In short, it was extremely lively. It was as if a festival of celebration was being held. From time to time, Shi Feng could also see some of the upper echelons of large Guilds running about the streets, shouting. They were urgently shouting, “Purchasing game currency; the greater the amount, the more we’ll pay.”

If it were any other time, Shi Feng would not think much of it. However, the street was currently filled with various players purchasing game currency. Now, that was something abnormal.

What happened?

The big shots from Guilds were actually loosely buying game currency from average players. According to reason, these Guilds would have their own money-farming teams or a signed contract with money-farming specialists. In such a way, they would be able to obtain a lot of game currency. However, their current actions meant the game currency supplied by the money-farming teams was insufficient.

Originally, Shi Feng was still fretting over the problem of how he would get these Guilds to spend their money. Now, however, it would seem that he had done something unnecessary.

With a wave of his finger, Shi Feng called out the Virtual Trade Center. He wanted to investigate the current trade conditions.

“Hell, what sort of situation is this? All of it is sold out already!” Shi Feng discovered that the remaining 2 Gold 70 Silver he registered had all sold out. Now, over 15,000 Credits were being transferred to his bank account.

Consequently, Shi Feng then took a look at the sales condition of other God’s Domain game currency.

Currently, the highest price for 1 Silver Coin had reached 72 Credits, while a majority of the people were buying them at 68 Credits. The current price had increased by no small margin.

Just as Shi Feng was rejoicing over having sold all of his Gold Coins, a cursing voice came from behind him, breaking his good mood.

“Boss, this bastard’s the one. The day before yesterday, I saw him casually taking out 10 Silver Coins. He must definitely be rich. Now that our Guild is in such a need of money, if we don’t make this brat bleed a

little, there will be no justice for me being locked up for so long,” Drifting Blood said with a cold smile as he pointed towards Shi Feng, a group of players following behind him.

“Brat, you were the one who had attacked my brother?” looking towards Shi Feng, the person referred to as ‘Boss’ snorted as he asked.

Shi Feng turned around, his brows wrinkling after taking a look.

The person referred to as ‘Boss’ was comparable in size to Cola. He had a fierce-looking face, and he seemed to be around thirty years of age. In Shi Feng’s previous life, he once crossed paths with this person. Similarly a Swordsman, the person was named Ironsword Lion. He was one of the finest experts in Martial Union, and his strength was extremely powerful. During those days, their two Guilds had fought over monsters on several occasions, and Ironsword Lion killed Flaming Tiger twice throughout those confrontations. Ironsword Lion caused Shi Feng’s party major losses, and they had no choice but to flee in dejection.

Even Stabbing Heart of Assassin’s Alliance suffered defeat at the hands of Ironsword Lion. From then on, Ironsword Lion’s name was widely spread, allowing Martial Union to rise to a third-rate Guild.

Shi Feng intended to say something, but he was interrupted by Ironsword Lion.

Ironsword Lion looked at Shi Feng’s scrawny body. Although the equipment on Shi Feng was of good quality, Shi Feng himself did not possess the air of an expert, and furthermore, he did not possess a Guild Emblem. Ironsword Lion determined that Shi Feng was just a leisure player and that he must’ve bought some equipment just to show off. Immediately, Ironsword Lion proudly said, “Little brother, since you’ve beat my underling, pay up 20 Silver Coins, and this matter will be over. Otherwise, don’t blame my sword for being merciless.”

Chapter 74 – Ironsword Lion

It would be a miracle not to attract attention, getting involved in a robbery in the middle of the bustling Trade Area.

As expected, just after Ironsword Lion finished speaking, a crowd of players surrounded them to get in on the fun.

“Huh, isn’t that Ironsword Lion from Martial Union?”

“Is he awesome or something?”

“You don’t say! Why don’t you look at his level and equipment? He’s one of the rare few Level 5 experts, and he is wearing at least 6 pieces of Bronze Equipment. I’ve also seen the weapon in his hand before. It’s called Knight’s Longsword, a very awesome weapon amongst Level 4 Bronze Weapons. Moreover, he previously killed a lot of players outside the town, earning him a lot of glory.”

“Che... they’re just relying on numbers to bully others. How can that even be considered being skillful? If they’re that good, they should fight those large Guilds. At most, they can only bully newbies. They’re even asking that guy for 20 Silver Coins; isn’t that just going overboard? Gaming experts would only have 3 or 4 Silver Coins on them, not to mention carrying 20. They are clearly forcing him into a corner.”

“Shh! Speak softer! That Ironsword Lion isn’t bullying people with numbers. His strength is the real deal. Previously, he was a top-tier expert in a Wuxia virtual reality game, but he was compelled to transition to God’s Domain. Yesterday, he kill-stealed[1] outside of town with other players and single-handedly defeated all four of them. Those four players were not noobs but gaming veterans. They are stronger than us by at least a few leagues. If Ironsword Lion were to hear you, then tough luck, buddy. At that time, your only way out would be to delete your account and start all over again...”

Listening up to this point, the surrounding players all sucked in a breath of cold air. They no longer dared spout baseless gossip, their eyes sending pitiful gazes towards Shi Feng. Of all the people Shi Feng could provoke, he had chosen to provoke an expert. Moreover, an expert that covered up the shortcomings of his subordinates. Unless Shi Feng deleted and recreated his account, he would definitely have to pay the 20 Silver Coins. However, leveling up to Level 4 was a difficult task. If Shi Feng chose to delete his account, then two days of his effort would be wasted. The average person would rather pay up than delete their accounts.

“This guy is just meeting one misfortune after the other. If it were normal times, he would just have to spend a few Credits to collect the 20 Silver Coins. Now, however, not only are the prices for God’s Domain game currency ridiculously high, but it is also extremely hard to buy any.”

“Right! Seeing such a high buying price, even I am thinking of selling my game currency. However, going with this trend, the prices will still increase in the future. I want to stock up a little more, putting them up for sale later on.”

Just as the surrounding players were lamenting over Shi Feng’s bad luck, at a stall by the street, several players were quietly watching Shi Feng. These players all wore luxurious equipment on their bodies, and each of them carried a faint smile on their faces.

“Brother Stabbing Heart, should I go lend a hand? That way, Ye Feng will have to owe us a favor,” a male Cleric that resembled a skinny monkey asked as he looked at Stabbing Heart.

Stabbing Heart fell into deep thought. He felt that the Cleric’s words were logical. Indeed, Shi Feng had very powerful techniques, and he was also acquainted with a great character like the Snow Goddess. However, Ironsword Lion was a brutish expert. He also had the support of his Guild. Overall, Shi Feng was definitely in a disadvantageous situation. If Stabbing Heart were to lend Shi Feng a helping hand, Shi Feng would definitely be grateful to him.

The favor of a great expert was extremely valuable. Often, a great expert such as Shi Feng was necessary for clearing a large Dungeon. However, without good relations, such experts would usually pay zero heed to invitations, and some would go so far as to look down on them in contempt. Who did you think you are? Have you not received any education?

“Go, we definitely must go. However, let us wait for a while. Our value will only stand out in a crucial moment. It is also a good chance to let those plebeian Guilds know of our might,” Stabbing Heart softly said, a cold glint flashing in his eyes.

After spending so many years within the virtual gaming world, Stabbing Heart understood a single principle. Every additional expert he befriended was an additional path he could take in the future. What’s more, Shi Feng was a great, hidden expert that was acquainted with the Snow Goddess. If he were to antagonize instead of befriending Shi Feng, he would be digging his own grave. He would be creating a great enemy for himself in the future.

Alas, a small Guild was doomed to remain a small Guild. After mingling about for so many years, they did not even possess the eyesight to differentiate an expert from average players. It definitely wouldn’t be long before natural selection eliminated them.

When the moment came, Assassin’s Alliance would kill the chicken to warn the monkey[2], utilizing Martial Union to raise their influence in Red Leaf Town.

“Little fool, weren’t you so awesome? How come you’re acting like a fool now? I’ve said before that I would return, and when that time came, it would be your time of death. If you obediently hand over 20 Silver Coins right now, you can continue mingling about. Otherwise, delete your account and start all over again.” Standing behind Ironsword Lion, Drifting Blood watched Shi Feng stand there in silence. He felt immensely pleased with himself, thinking Shi Feng had become afraid. However, such a reaction was only natural. Boss Ironsword’s strength was a profound mystery, and even ten of himself would not be a match to Boss Ironsword. If a mere leisure player like Shi Feng were to meet the tyrannic Boss Ironsword, he might have already been shocked dumb.

“Enough, Drifting Blood. I’m not an evil tyrant, nor do I wish for more trouble. These 20 Silver Coins can be considered as a lesson to him. I want him to know who he should and should not provoke.” Ironsword Lion looked Drifting Blood in the eye, then turned towards Shi Feng and proudly said, “You don’t have to worry, either. I, Ironsword Lion, am a person who holds true to my words. Hand over 20 Silver Coins, and as long as you don’t provoke Martial Union, we will not find trouble with you.”

Hearing Ironsword Lion say so, Shi Feng really took out 20 Silver Coins from his bag, the silvery glow given off by the coins attracted people’s hearts.

At this crucial period of the game, 20 Silver Coins were extremely hard to procure, even if one spent Credits to purchase them. As for taking out 20 Silver Coins in one go...

“Crap, brat, you really are rich! So, what Drifting Blood said was indeed true. How about we become friends, and I’ll cover for you in the future. Anybody who provokes you will be provoking Martial Union,” Ironsword Lion was greatly shocked at seeing the 20 Silver Coins, gulping down his saliva. Even he did not possess 20 Silver Coins right now. He did not imagine that Shi Feng, a leisure player, could bring out 20 Silver Coins. With that much money, Ironsword Lion would have much more confidence in competing for the Glimmer Chestplate Forging Design.

When the surrounding players saw all these Silver Coins, their mouths all gaped wide in shock.

Shi Feng was truly rich. He was definitely a tycoon.

Some of the upper echelons of large Guilds also had their eyes turn red after seeing this scene. Ironsword Lion's luck was truly good. He was able to meet a Brother Tycoon just by simply searching for a player.

"How could it be?" From afar, Stabbing Heart's expression was one of incomparable shock after witnessing Shi Feng's actions.

However, what Stabbing Heart was shocked about was not the amount of money. Instead, he was shocked by Shi Feng's unexpected action. Even if Shi Feng could not win in a fight against Martial Union, this place was currently a Safe Zone; nobody would dare to take action in here. After leaving the Town, with Shi Feng's skills, escaping was definitely not a problem. So, just why did Shi Feng compromise and offered up 20 Silver Coins?

"You wanted 20 Silver Coins, right?" Shi Feng asked Ironsword Lion with a smile.

"Mhmm, let's trade." Noticing that he had lost his composure, Ironsword Lion immediately turned serious.

Just as everyone was watching Ironsword Lion with envy...

An incomparably pitch black longsword pierced through the pit of Ironsword Lion's stomach. Ironsword Lion's HP was instantly reduced by over 100 points. Just as the person himself wanted to resist, he had discovered many chains binding him, preventing him from even moving a muscle.

Shi Feng calmly pulled the Abyssal Blade out from Ironsword Lion's stomach. He then followed up with a Chop and an Earth Splitter, his sword slashing down on Ironsword Lion's body. As a result, Ironsword Lion's HP madly fell without any signs of stopping.

The might of a Magic Weapon was incomparably shocking, even more so when coupled with a Level 6 Chop and a Level 4 Earth Splitter. Killing a Level 5 Swordsman fully geared with Bronze Equipment was a truly simple matter, not to mention that Shi Feng had been the one to take the initiative and carried out a sneak attack. Even an expert would fall under such circumstances.

These two attacks took all of Ironsword Lion's HP. Ironsword Lion did not even get the chance to retaliate before letting out a pitiful cry, his body falling to the ground, never to move again. Then, his body turned into starlight, vanishing and leaving behind a piece of equipment.

"Who else wants it?" Shi Feng fixed his gaze on the members of Martial Union, giggling as he asked.

The entire street of the Trade Area suddenly became deathly silent. Not a single person was able to mutter a word.