

## The Strongest

### Chapter 87 – Flame Blade Dance

Gentle Snow and Little Song started luring monsters from two sides. Before they even came close to the 30-yard range, the monsters discovered the two of them. The monsters' eyes flashed a red glow, all of them turning their heads and staring at the intruders.

“Alert! Alert! Intruders detected!”

After the alarm rang out, all of the Mechanical Golems and Mechanical Warriors within a 40-yard radius were alerted. The surrounding Mechanical monsters locked onto the two players, and within a moment, the two were being chased by hundreds of Mechanical Golems and Mechanical Warriors. Zhao Yueru was secretly shocked at seeing this. Fortunately, she did not rashly act and lure the monsters. Otherwise, they would definitely party-wipe. “Big Brother Black Flame, there won't be a problem luring the monsters in such a way, right?” Zhao Yueru saw that Gentle Snow and Little Song were both being chased closely after by the Mechanical army. If they had not run away in time, they might have already been dead by now.

“Relax. With the Speed Scroll in effect, these Mechanical monsters won't be able to catch up to them,” Shi Feng said confidently.

After some time, as expected, not a single one of the Mechanical monsters caught up to the two. Everything happened just as Shi Feng predicted. After luring all the surrounding Mechanical monsters, the two of them circled the large, empty crater, while the Mechanical Golems and Mechanical Warriors chased them without stop.

The two of them were very adept at luring monsters. Within a short moment, they had merged the two waves of Mechanical monsters into a single wave.

Inwardly, Zhao Yueru was speechless. She, too, had a Speed Scroll. However, this item was just too expensive. Even if it was her party members, each of them only possessed one Speed Scroll for the purpose of saving their own lives. She never imagined that Shi Feng could easily take out two of them. Moreover, he was only using it to lure monsters. It was truly an extravagant use. However, it was true that, with this added Speed Scroll, the two of them were able to lure all of the monsters safely.

Now, though, the real problem had arrived. After luring so many monsters, how were they going to deal with them?

They did not possess any AOE magic, and even if they did, they would not dare to use it. Doing so would cause disorder to the control of Hatred, as their MT did not learn an advanced skill such as Crowd Mock. At that time, everyone would just die.

Shi Feng naturally knew the question everyone was thinking. However, he only revealed a mysterious smile as he walked forward.

“In ten seconds, both of you lure all the monsters to the center,” Shi Feng said in the party chat.

“Understood,” Gentle Snow answered. Finished speaking, Shi Feng took out a delicate, dark red scroll, then spreading it open in one go. Incantations were written throughout the inside of the scroll. Just the light coming from the incantations was enough to cause the fire mana in the surroundings to surge.

After seeing this, even an amateur would know that the item Shi Feng took out was not simple.

As an Elementalist, Zhao Yueru’s face was filled with shock. Just what kind of Magic Scroll was this? The Magic Scrolls sold by the Magic Shops were definitely unable to create such a feat. Just the incantations alone were enough to cause the fire mana of the surrounding area to gather quickly, becoming incomparably violent.

Such a gathering of fire mana was even stronger than the Fire Dragon’s Roar she used by several times. If Shi Feng were to release it, who knew how strong it would be? At this moment, Shi Feng activated the Magic Scroll and pulled out the Abyssal Blade.

Suddenly, the fire mana collected above the Magic Scroll poured down like mercury, and streak after streak of flames over ten meters in length penetrated the Abyssal Blade. Magnificent flames then burst out of the Abyssal Blade’s form, suddenly transforming into a sword of flame. It faintly released the cry of a phoenix, resounding throughout the surroundings.

Naturally, everyone noticed such a vast and mighty power.

Nobody thought Shi Feng would actually still have such a hidden ace in the hole.

In fact, Shi Feng did not wish to use this Tier 2 Magic Scroll. He would have one less after every use. Moreover, Shi Feng had only harvested four such items from all of Moonlight Forest. Now that he had used one, he only had three remaining.

At this time, Gentle Snow and Little Song had already lured all of the Mechanical monsters to the central region of the crater. They then ran towards Shi Feng.

The Mechanical monsters were coming in closer and closer, 40 yards... 30 yards... 20 yards... 10 yards... However, Shi Feng had still not taken any action. He was only standing there, silently, with his hand holding the dazzling and burning-hot sword.

Just as Gentle Snow and Little Song ran past Shi Feng, Shi Feng abruptly took action, slashing out his burning blade. Tier 2 Magic, Flame Blade Dance! In the blink of an eye, Shi Feng’s slash released countless crimson flames. The scorching flames were like an ocean, instantly swallowing the entire Mechanical army. The cone-shaped flames burned everything in a 60-yard distance to ash.

Even if the Mechanical Warriors had 3,000 HP, they were still unable to withstand the damage from this move as they all turned into a pile of scrap metal. Meanwhile, Shi Feng’s experience abruptly increased by a large chunk, rising to 37% of Level 6. The other party members had also broken through from Level 5, one after another, all of them reaching Level 6. Their leveling speed was just too awesome. Everyone’s gazes then went towards the loot littering the ground, joy immediately rushing up to their heads. Shi Feng was just too awesome! He used a single move to kill Level 9 Elite monsters instantly. Although he depended on an external item to do so, being able to obtain such an item was still proof of his ability.

If they were to go through this process again several more times, they would be able to reach Level 10 at any minute!

At this moment, Gentle Snow, as well, was rejoicing at her choice to aid Shi Feng in his Quest. Just the EXP they obtained alone profited them big time. "Big Brother Black Flame, what kind of Scroll did you use? It was actually so powerful," Zhao Yueru blinked her eyes at Shi Feng, asking curiously.

"A Tier 2 Magic Scroll," Shi Feng casually said. "Big Brother Black Flame, where can I buy it?" Zhao Yueru was captivated by the this Magic Scroll after seeing its destructive capabilities. It would be worth it even if she had to spend 10 Silver Coins to buy one.

Shi Feng shook his head, saying with a smile, "This item can't be bought. It will only appear by chance when opening a high-grade Treasure Chest."

"Oh..." Zhao Yueru was slightly disappointed. Shi Feng might have spat out blood if he knew Zhao Yueru thought of buying the Tier 2 Magic Scroll for only 10 Silver Coins.

Nobody would sell a Tier 2 Magic Scroll. That was because this item was just too valuable. If used at a crucial point, it was possible to create a comeback situation. In Shi Feng's previous life, there were many large Guilds who offered two to three Gold Coins for Tier 2 Magic Scrolls but still failed to purchase any.

If it were not due to the importance of this Quest, Shi Feng would not have been willing to use this Scroll.

Gentle Snow originally wished to find out more about the Magic Scroll, as this item was truly too useful. However, after hearing Shi Feng's tone, it was clear that he was feeling heartache over having used the item. Even the rich and overbearing Chief Forger was feeling heartache. One could just imagine how rare this item was.

However, when Gentle Snow heard that she could obtain such an item from a high-grade Treasure Chest, she thought to herself that she would let the players from her Guild make a note of it.

Following which, everyone else started cleaning up the loot. There were plenty of Elite monsters amongst the over eight hundred Mechanical monsters, so there were many items dropped. Amongst them, there was no lack of Level 7 to Level 8 Common Equipment. There were even over thirty pieces of Bronze Equipment and several skill books.

"You killed all these monsters, and we were not of much help. So, we won't be taking any of the equipment or skill books." Gentle Snow traded all the items to Shi Feng after she finished arranging the loot.

However, the Shield Warrior started drooling when he looked at all the equipment for MTs. He was extremely reluctant to part with them. However, he also did not dare have any objections to give everything to Shi Feng. "You all helped out quite a lot. Let's split according to Job requirements. As for these skill books, I'll be taking them." Shi Feng only kept all of the skill books because he discovered a special skill, Precision Throw, amongst them. This skill was extremely useful to him. As for the Bronze Equipment, they were worth but a few Gold Coins, so they were not as valuable to him. The equipment he was currently wearing was the Silvermoon Set Equipment. Shi Feng did not plan on changing

equipment while he was below Level 10. As for Blackie and the others, he would obtain equipment that would better suit them.

Although the equipment did not serve much purpose to Shi Feng, they were very useful to Gentle Snow.

"I would feel embarrassed if I were to accept them vainly. How about I purchase all of them? I currently don't have enough game Coins on hand. Could I pay using Credits?" Gentle Snow, not wishing to owe Shi Feng a favor, softly asked.

"Paying with Credits is fine as well," Shi Feng was naturally very willing.

In a short moment, Gentle Snow had transferred 50,000 Credits to Shi Feng, enriching Shi Feng quite a lot once more. "What about the remaining Mechanical Knights? Are you going to use a Magic Scroll again?" Gentle Snow looked towards the over a hundred Mechanical Knights guarding the large gate, asking in anticipation. "A Tier 2 Magic Scroll can't get rid of them. Moreover, I don't need to kill them to enter into that place. I just need to lure them away." When Shi Feng heard Gentle Snow saying so, his forehead couldn't help but sweat. Tier 2 Magic Scrolls weren't just some kind of cabbage he could waste. "Leave it to me, then." Gentle Snow looked at the terrain and entered into deep thought. She felt that there should be no problem in accomplishing the task.

"Here are some Speed Scrolls and Return Scrolls. As long as you run out of the crater, they will not continue chasing. After leaving the battle, you all can use the Return Scrolls to leave this place," Shi Feng explained and took out several Scrolls.

Seeing that they were about to part from each other, Zhao Yueru felt unwillingness in her heart. She did not know why, but she could feel a sense of ease and security when she was with Shi Feng. "Big Brother Black Flame, let's add each other as friends! We're going to enter a Level 5 Dungeon tomorrow, so how about you come and join us?" Zhao Yueru suddenly said. Gentle Snow was faintly astonished. She looked at Zhao Yueru with a helpless smile. However, she felt that this was not really a bad choice. With Shi Feng around, their chances of clearing the Level 5 Dungeon would be even greater.

"Er..." Shi Feng did not think that this Witch would actually want to add him as a friend. Moreover, she even invited him to dive into a Dungeon. This behavior of hers right now was just way too different from before.

"We can add each other as friends, but I have some things to do tomorrow. We'll dive into a Dungeon together when I have time in the future," Shi Feng tactically rejected the invitation. After all, he couldn't suddenly multiply himself into two people. As for the matter of adding each other as friends, Shi Feng possessed another independent circle of friends after donning the Demon Mask. So, others would not be able to discover any issues.

"Let us add each other as friends then," Zhao Yueru softly bit her lips. She was slightly disappointed that she would not be able to dive into a Dungeon with Shi Feng immediately. However, it was still good that she could add him as a friend. She would be able to contact him more easily in the future.

System: Do you wish to accept Flaming Moon's friend request?

Shi Feng hit accept, and the name Flaming Moon entered Black Flame's Friend Window.

Afterward, Shi Feng headed towards the left side of the gate.

At this moment, Gentle Snow had already arrived at the gate's right side, prepared to lure the Mechanical Knights. "Elder Sister Yueru, let us leave first. We can just leave the rest to Elder Sister Snow," Xiao Yue'er softly said when she noticed that Zhao Yueru remained motionless. "I got it." Zhao Yueru, after taking another glance at Shi Feng's back, turned around and left.

Seeing that Shi Feng was ready, Gentle Snow activated the Speed Scroll and rushed at the Level 10 Mechanical Knights.

Halfway there, the eyes of Mechanical Knights in front of the large gate shone brightly. Their enormous bodies started moving, and all of them had their eyes focused on Gentle Snow. Gentle Snow immediately halted her steps. She then turned around and escaped. The Mechanical Knights bellowed in rage as they moved their large figures, chasing after Gentle Snow.

Only when all of the Mechanical Knights left did Shi Feng hastily run towards the large steel gates.

Although Gentle Snow had lured the Mechanical Knights away, the amount of time they could be lured was limited. Moreover, they would not fall for the same trick the next time, so Shi Feng had to seize the opportunity.

Arriving at the large gate, Shi Feng found a moss-covered keyhole. He then inserted the broken obsidian crystal given to him by Blackbeard. The fortress' key had already been stored away for almost a millennium. Blackbeard also mentioned that the key might not be able to open the gates. However, it was still worth a try.

Chapter 88 – Advancing to Intermediate Rank

After inserting the obsidian key, there was no reaction from the steel gate. It was still as unmoving as ever.

At this moment, a message arrived from Gentle Snow. She told Shi Feng that the Mechanical Knights had suddenly stopped chasing her and were quickly returning.

"Crap, it can't be, right? The key really doesn't work?" In a fit of rage, Shi Feng abruptly sent a punch towards the keyhole.

Since he could not use the simplest way to enter, then he could only use the more dangerous method to enter.

Di... Di... Di...

Suddenly, a dazzling golden light radiated out from the keyhole. Countless energy runes flashed on the pair of three-storied gates. After which, the gates slowly opened, letting out ear-piercing creaking sounds.

Seeing that the Mechanical Knights had already hurried over, while a gap fit for a person had opened between the pair of gates...

Without hesitation, Shi Feng pulled out the obsidian key, and the gates stopped moving instantly. Following which, Shi Feng squeezed himself through the gap between the gates.

System: You have discovered the Steel Fortress Barrutia.

The two-storied tall Mechanical Knights tried to rush in through the gates. However, the gap between the gates was just too narrow for them to pass through. In addition to the gate's immense weight, the Mechanical Knights could only bombard attacks at the gate outside. Unfortunately, their actions were not one bit useful.

"I'm inside." After Shi Feng sent a message to Gentle Snow, he carefully headed forward along the gigantic steel pathway.

On the other side of the Ruined Lands...

"Snow, how is he?" waiting by the side, Zhao Yueru asked when she saw Gentle Snow running in her direction.

"No problems. He's already inside.

"However, this Quest is truly dangerous. I've roughly estimated the Mechanical Knight's strength just now, and I've discovered that these Mechanical Knights are completely different than other Special Elites. They can swiftly block my attacks, in addition to instantly returning with a counter attack. If it wasn't for my quick reaction, I might have died just now."

"If we do not possess a skill that could continuously deal large amounts of damage, even if we could kite them around, we would still be helpless against these Mechanical Knights. Instead, we would just be piling up our own corpses." Gentle Snow sat down and took out some refreshments, eating and drinking to recover. Currently, her mind filled with the battle scenes from before. It was truly a thrilling situation. Just by receiving the shockwave, which resulted from the Mechanical Knight's pike striking the ground, she lost over 200 HP. If the weapon hit her directly, the consequences would be inconceivable.

After listening to Gentle Snow's words, for reasons unknown, Zhao Yueru released a relieved breath.

"Alright, stop dreaming. We'll be grinding Birdmen in the canyon. The loot and experience here are quite good, so we should be able to quickly surpass those top-tier experts," After recovering, Gentle Snow stood up and commanded.

Meanwhile, inside the Steel Fortress, Shi Feng was advancing carefully. Signs of rust and corrosion covered every inch inside the fortress. There were only flashing fragments of light inside, barely allowing Shi Feng to see the path clearly.

After walking for quite some distance, Shi Feng did not discover any danger. There was only the occasional sound of dripping water and the rumbling sounds of machines operating. Even though more than a millennium had passed, a majority of the machinery here still functioned normally. One could clearly see just how advanced the techniques the Dwarven civilization possessed were.

After passing through the large hallway, Shi Feng arrived at an area with a humongous smelting furnace. The surrounding steel walls around the furnace were linked together with steel stairs, and at the bottom of the furnace was an endlessly deep pool of water.

However, Shi Feng did not head along the stairs towards the next exit. Instead, he leaped and jumped towards the pool.

Halfway down, Shi Feng activated Gravity Liberation. His falling speed sharply reduced, his body slowly descending like a feather.

During his descent, Shi Feng suddenly noticed a passage on the walls. The passage could barely allow a person to enter. However, the information Shi Feng had collected in his previous life did not mention such a passage. Hence, Shi Feng slowly floated over, accurately landing in the hidden passageway.

“There is actually a Treasure Chest here! Did none of those people notice it last time?” Shi Feng discovered that, in the deepest part of the passageway, there was a large pitch black steel chest. Many runes were carved onto the chest, and a glance was enough to tell it was not just a simple chest.

After observing it in detail, Shi Feng determined that the chest was a Mysterious-Iron Treasure Chest. However, Shi Feng did not rush to open the Treasure Chest. Instead, he used Phantom Kill, allowing his doppelganger to go over and take a look.

Just as the doppelganger started activating the Treasure Chest, the surrounding steel walls shot out countless flying arrows. The doppelganger was killed in an instant, giving Shi Feng a scare. Fortunately, Shi Feng had made it a habit to be cautious and prudent when in God’s Domain. Otherwise, he would have really died.

Such types of traps were normally one-time uses. However, Shi Feng did not rush. In any case, the chest wouldn’t run away, so he might as well wait until Phantom Kill’s Cooldown finished, then use his doppelganger to open the Treasure Chest.

This time, the doppelganger had managed to open the Treasure Chest safely. With no more dangers present, Shi Feng walked over to the Chest and took out its contents.

Inside, there was a Mysterious-Iron ranked Blackstone Shield. It was absolutely a top-tier Level 10 Shield.

[Blackstone Shield] (Mysterious-Iron Rank)  
Level 10

Equipment Requirement: Strength 25

Defense +69

Defend Rate 29%

Strength +7, Endurance +10

HP +200

After equipping, all damage received from the front will be reduced by 10%.

There was also a Mysterious-Iron Mastery Book. When used, players would randomly receive 10 to 50 Free Mastery Points. This item was several times rarer than the Blackstone Shield. That was because Mastery Points could last a player forever, while the Blackstone Shield could not.

“Hopefully my luck won’t be too bad,” Shi Feng slightly prayed before selecting to use the Mastery Book.

Following which, the System started displaying a pile of random numbers ranging from 10 to 50. As long as Shi Feng yelled ‘Stop,’ the final number to appear would be the number of Mastery Points he would obtain. It was something similar to Russian Roulette.

In Shi Feng’s previous life, many experts collected various kinds of Mastery Books to increase their Weapon Mastery. However, Mastery Books were just too rare, and even with money, one may not necessarily be able to buy it. Most players that obtained a Mastery Book would use it instead of selling it. After all, it was extremely hard to obtain a single Free Mastery Point.

Shi Feng had once seen a person who was fortunate enough to obtain a Fine-Gold Mastery Book. Many players looked at that person with immense envy, and some were even willing to spend a million Credits to buy the Mastery Book from that person. However, that person refused to sell and instead, used the Mastery Book for himself. The range of Free Mastery Points provided by the Fine-Gold Mastery Book was between 30 to 200. Originally, everyone thought this fellow had very good luck. However, that person only obtained 31 Free Mastery Points, in the end, becoming a laughing stock to everyone. The points he obtained was no better than a Mysterious-Iron Mastery Book.

Looking at the numbers constantly spinning, Shi Feng’s heart madly thumped, not knowing what number would come out.

“Stop!” Shi Feng shouted.

The wheel of numbers abruptly halted, and Shi Feng peered open his eyes and took a look.

32 points.

A relatively good number. Shi Feng had just effortlessly obtained 32 Free Mastery Points, which was the equivalent of the Free Mastery Points he would obtain by leveling up to Level 20.

Shi Feng opened his One-handed Sword Mastery Window.

Currently, his One-handed Sword Mastery was still at 20 points, placing him at the level of Basic Swordsman and increasing his Base Damage by 10%.

If including the 8 Free Mastery Points he obtained for leveling up to Level 5, and the 5 points he had remaining from before, he now had a total of 45 Free Mastery Points.

Shi Feng immediately added 30 Mastery Points to his One-handed Sword Mastery. Instantly, his One-handed Sword Mastery rose to the level of an Intermediate Swordsman, increasing his Base Damage by 15%. As for becoming an Advanced Swordsman, he was still 50 points away from doing so.

Although it was just a 5% increase in Base Damage, it should not be taken lightly. This Base Damage would be magnified many times after factoring in the bonuses from Skills. Often, the gap present between a top-tier expert and a normal expert was due to the difference in Base Damages. At this stage of the game, there might only be a fragment of experts who have reached Basic Mastery. Shi Feng had already reached Intermediate Mastery, leading them by a lot.

Just as Shi Feng was about to continue advancing deeper into the Steel Fortress, the fortress’ alarm rang out.



