

The Strongest

Chapter 881 - 3-star Promotion Order

As the golden glow engulfed Shi Feng's body, the rest of the team experienced the glow as well. Some even experienced the phenomenon twice, their Levels launching from 40 to 42.

The bountiful EXP that the Mutated Dragon had provided stunned them all.

Even at their Level, the Mutated Dragon had awarded them enough EXP to level up at least once. They had just saved several days of effort.

"Success!"

"We won!"

Everyone cheered as they looked at the motionless Mutated Dragon.

The Mutant had been far stronger than any monster they had faced before. They shouldn't have survived it at their level, yet they had defeated it. Although they had relied on Shi Feng's strength, they were excited.

Some of their excitement was also due to the system notification they received after the Dragon had died.

System: Congratulations! You have received the "Dragon Slayer" title. Wielder of this title will gain a 10% increase to their Humanity Reputation.

Although this title did not affect their combat power, many players dreamed of the buff it provided.

In God's Domain, Humanity Reputation was crucial.

Aside from the fact that one needed a certain amount of Reputation to purchase Land and housing, higher Reputation allowed players to enjoy discounts when repairing or purchasing items in NPC cities. After reaching the highest achievable Reputation, one could even enjoy a 40% discount.

Although players were discovering more methods of earning Coins, players still needed more.

Aside from purchasing Consumables and some luxury items, such as delicious food, most of a player's money went to repair fees. Moreover, as players equipped higher quality and leveled equipment, the repair fees increased.

With a 40% discount in cities, a player could save a large sum of money.

Moreover, as players gained more Levels, raising one's Reputation in a single city would not be enough. Many high-resource leveling spots were quite far from starting cities; traveling back and forth was inconvenient. If a player wanted to level up quickly, they needed to have high Reputation in multiple cities.

However, Reputation was not easy to obtain. Even until now, players still had headaches over gaining Reputation in their respective cities.

Now that these players had the Dragon Slayer title, they wouldn't have to put in as much effort. It was especially true for independent players.

However, the team was more interested in the Mutated Dragon's loot.

The Mutated Dragon had dropped over ten items!

Needless to say, such a powerful monster's loot would be astounding. It would not surprise any of them if it even dropped an Epic item.

Watching Shi Feng collect the items, one after another, they nearly drooled.

However, White Night had promised Shi Feng that he could claim all of the drops. Hence, they could only watch enviously.

"Look; is that an Epic Weapon?"

"Crap! Look at that Magic Scroll! It can concentrate Mana naturally. It should be a Tier 3 scroll at the very least, right?"

"That design is huge!"

Although these players realized that the items belonged to Shi Feng, they still wanted to know what they were.

As Shi Feng picked up the scattered Coins and items, he noticed a purple-gold, diamond-shaped token. A single word had been engraved on this token.

Promotion!

As expected of a Dragon, its loot is awesome. Shi Feng tried to calm his excited heart as he looked at the token. If not for White Night and the others' presence, he would have laughed like a maniac.

This Promotion Order was no ordinary Promotion Order; it was a Shop Promotion Order. Moreover, it wasn't a 2-star Shop Promotion Order, but a 3-star Shop Promotion Order.

In God's Domain, even 2-star Shop Promotion Orders were extremely difficult to obtain.

Throughout Star-Moon Kingdom and its neighboring kingdoms, no other trading firm, aside from the Candlelight Trading Firm, possessed a 2-star Shop. Only the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion in the Black Dragon Empire had a 2-star Shop. Moreover, the super-first-rate Guild had only obtained it a few days ago.

Current players had no hopes of getting their hands on a 3-star Shop. To obtain one, players would need to kill a relatively high-leveled, high-tiered Field Boss, open a high-rank Treasure Chest, or complete the Challenge Quest.

Obtaining a 3-star Shop Promotion Order from a Field Boss was unrealistic, as only Level 50 or higher Tier 4 Field Bosses had a chance of dropping them.

As for Treasure Chests, the Promotion Order would only appear in Dark-Gold Treasure Chests found in Level 50 or above maps.

As for the Challenge Quest, its difficulty approached that of a Legendary Quest. The money required just to accept the quest would send cold shivers down the spine of any large Guild in God's Domain.

Take the 2-star Shop in the Black Dragon Empire for example. The Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion had accepted the Challenge Quest to promote that Shop. However, the super-first-rate Guild had challenged the quest three times before it succeeded, and each challenge had cost 6,000 Gold. Ordinary Guilds could not afford that right now. Only super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds might have enough to take on the Challenge Quest.

Although promoting a shop to 3-star status was exceedingly difficult, any Guild that could afford the fee would make an attempt.

After all, there was a qualitative difference between a 3-star Shop and a 2-star Shop.

The greatest difference was that, when a Shop reached 3-star status, its 1-star Shops could be promoted to 2-star status. This one aspect was more than enough to throw the various large Guilds into a frenzy.

Aside from this, a 3-star Shop offered far more functions than a 2-star Shop.

After reaching 2-star status, a Shop would gain access to the Special Workshops. At 3-star status, a Shop would gain access to the Basic Meditation Room.

As the name suggested, the Meditation Room was a space that allowed players to process their thoughts. Moreover, due to the dense Mana inside the Meditation Room, players could maintain a clear state of mind, allowing them to better-exert their abilities. The Special Workshop, on the other hand, only altered the environment to adjust one's mood.

Of course, the Meditation Room also offered every function a Special Workshop possessed, allowing a player to alter the room's environment.

This was the main reason why the various Lifestyle Masters in the past had surged towards high star-ranking Shops. A positive work environment was crucial to Lifestyle players.

However, there were two downsides to the Basic Meditation Room in 3-star Shops.

The first was the cost. To maintain the Mana density inside the room, one needed to spend a lot of Magic Crystals. Maintaining the Mana density for a day cost a total of 300 Magic Crystals. The price of a single Magic Crystal had already reached 25 Silver. A total of three hundred crystals was the equivalent of 75 Gold Coins. Hence, Meditation Rooms were only used to produce high-valued items.

The second drawback was its scarcity. At 3-star status, a Shop could only offer three Basic Meditation Rooms. For an establishment like the Candlelight Trading Firm, that was far from enough to satisfy its Advanced Lifestyle players.

Forget it. It's better to not have one at all. Melancholic can worry about it later. Shi Feng chuckled. He then stored the Promotion Order. Currently, he was eager to return to White River City and promote the Candlelight Trading Firm there to 3-star status.

Among the many items that had dropped, there were also two Tier 3 Magic Scrolls, four bottles of Exotic Potions, and three Forging Designs. The rest were weapons and equipment. Among these items, the most valuable, outside of the Promotion Order, were the two Epic items. One was a scale-covered shield, engraved with divine runes, while the other was an aqua robe.

Chapter 882 - Uncrowned Sword King

The Guild's MTs are quite lucky this time. Shi Feng smiled at the scaled shield covered in divine runes.

A shield was an integral part of an MT's equipment. A good shield could elevate an MT's strength significantly.

On the market, MTs' shields were always the most expensive equipment. They were worth at least double that of a weapon of the same rank and Level.

[Dragonscale Shield] (Shield, Epic Rank)

Level 40 - Level 100

Equipment Requirement: Strength 600

Attributes adjust according to user's level.

Defense +4,020 (Level 40)

Block Rate: 39%

Strength +84, Endurance +107

Magic Resistance +20

Defend Skill +2 Levels

When equipped:

Strength and Endurance increased by 10%.

All Skills +1 Level

Ignore Levels +10

Additional Skill-

Dragonscale Body: Forms an energy shield around the user's body, increasing Defense by 200%, HP by 300%, and recovery ability by 500% for 30 seconds.

Cooldown: 30 minutes

Additional Passive Skill 1-

Sturdy: Halves received impact and reduced damage received from the front by 15%.

Additional Passive Skill 2-

Light Weight: Increases shield movement by 20%.

The Epic ranked Purification Robes also had high Attributes. However, it was far less valuable than the Dragonscale Shield. As for the other pieces of equipment he had obtained, they were either Level 50 Dark-Gold Equipment or Fine-Gold Equipment. It was still too soon for current players to equip them.

This should be White Night's quest item. After Shi Feng tidied up the dropped equipment, he discovered a glass bottle.

The bottle contained a black liquid; it was none other than the Mutated Dragon's original form.

Although the bottle did not have a label, its introduction stated that it was a "Specimen of a Mutated Life." Other than that, there was no information.

After considering the matter, Shi Feng handed the bottle to White Night.

"This is..." After White Night saw the glass bottle, surprise colored his expression.

"Take it. Even if I keep it, I can't use it." Shi Feng laughed.

The Mutant Specimen was useless to him. On the contrary, if he gave it to White Night, he could earn a favor from the Ranger. If he came across any trouble in the future, he could even ask for White Night's help.

"Thank you. If you encounter any issues in the future, just say the word. I'll help out to the best of my abilities." White Night accepted the glass bottle without hesitation. The item was simply too important. Without it, he would fail his quest. If that happened, his account would be crippled. He would have to spend a long time to regain his strength. "Would it be convenient for you to reveal your name, sir? We can add each other as friends so that we can contact each other easily in the future."

Hearing White Night's logic, the other Owl members' jaws dropped.

Since he had joined God's Domain, White Night had never added anyone as a friend. Various bigshots from Super Guilds were no exception.

"Ah, right. I haven't introduced myself." Shi Feng took off his Black Cloak and revealed his Black Flame appearance. "My name is Black Flame."

After Shi Feng revealed himself, every witness fell silent.

They stared at Shi Feng's face.

Shi Feng looked to be in his thirties. He had a firm face with faint stars flashing in his eyes. His aura felt so profound that those around him felt oddly drawn to him.

"You are Zero Wing's Sword King, Black Flame?" Frozen Dream's delicate face revealed her disbelief.

God's Domain's players often discussed the God's Domain Experts List.

Practically everyone was familiar with the great deeds of the list's various experts.

The name "Black Flame" was a particularly hot topic.

Black Flame's rise had been intensely fast. The Secret Pavilion had even given him the title "Sword King." How high had his evaluation been to become the king among Swordsmen? When the Secret Pavilion had updated their Experts List, many Swordsmen experts had complained about the Pavilion's decision. Even Owl's many Swordsmen had been dissatisfied, declaring that they would challenge Black Flame to teach him a lesson.

Now, however, it would seem that the title of "Sword King" had not been an exaggeration. They even wondered if Black Flame's rank on the God's Domain Experts List was a little too low...

The strength Black Flame had just displayed had far surpassed the Secret Pavilion's evaluation.

Even some of the Swordsmen, who had previously intended to challenge Black Flame, were dumbfounded.

"Strong Slash, didn't you say that you wanted to challenge Black Flame? This is your chance!" A few of the Owl members teased their companion, grinning at a youth in silver light armor.

In terms of strength, Strong Slash ranked 15th among their adventurer team. Although his battle records weren't necessarily stunning, he was undefeated in their home city's Underground Arena. He had already won 99 battles with a perfect winning streak. His defeated opponents even included large Guilds' well-known experts.

Back when Strong Slash had declared that he would challenge Black Flame and defeat him, nobody had doubted the youth's words.

After all, Strong Slash's combat standards had reached the second stage of the Realms of Refinement, the Flowing Water Realm. With his Skills and equipment, it was not impossible to contend with a Void Realm expert.

"I said 'in the future,' not now!" Strong Slash rolled his eyes at his laughing companions. If he challenged Black Flame, someone who had just stood against the Mutated Dragon and won, it would not even be a fight. It would be a miracle if he survived even one of the Sword King's attacks.

The players laughed when they heard Strong Slash's response.

"My name is White Night, the leader of an adventurer team. Guild Leader Black Flame, if you need help with anything in the future, just call me." White Night had also begun to size up Shi Feng, shock filling his heart.

Only now did he understand why Zero Wing had risen to power so quickly and had grown strong enough to challenge God's Domain's major powers. With such a powerful leader, what did Zero Wing need to fear?

Following which, White Night and Shi Feng added each other as friends.

"Since Team Leader White has said as much, I happen to have something that I need your help with in one or two days." After giving it some thought, Shi Feng continued, "Recently, our Guild has tried to raid a certain area, and we urgently need experts. We need roughly 30 players."

Favors should not go to waste. It was wise to use them frequently to increase a bond between two parties.

Moreover, he required the help of a group of experts to raid the Holy City of Titan's entrance trial. His strength alone was not enough to pass the trial.

"Alright. When the time comes, just say the word. I'll lead a team over." White Night did not hesitate to agree. On the contrary, Shi Feng could see anticipation in his eyes.

A place that even Black Flame had trouble raiding... It must be immensely difficult. Moreover, he really wished to experience Black Flame's world.

After both sides agreed, White Night led his team, departing from the valley. Shi Feng, on the other hand, approached the Silver Dragon that had stood by the side all this time.

"Young hero, thank you for accomplishing my long-cherished dream." At this moment, the Silver Dragon appeared extremely weak. Even speaking seemed laborious.

"I only did what needed to be done," Shi Feng politely replied.

The Silver Dragon then took out a flashing, golden Magic Scroll and said to Shi Feng, "This Magic Scroll will take you to the shrine where the stone tablet sleeps. However, the shrine is very dangerous. With just your current strength, you will not survive. It is best if you go there only after you have achieved your Tier 2 class. At that time, you will have somewhat higher chances of obtaining the stone tablet."

Saying so, the Silver Dragon handed Shi Feng the Magic Scroll. It then flapped its wings and left the valley.

Before Shi Feng could examine the golden Magic Scroll, a system announcement reached his ears.

System Announcement: System upgrading. Please prepare to log out. The estimated duration is 40 hours.

System: You have ten minutes remaining to log out. Please prepare to log out.

Chapter 883 - New System

Shi Feng was momentarily stunned when he heard the system announcement.

Isn't the fourth evolution happening a little too soon?! Shi Feng frowned deeply.

This was not good news for God's Domain's players. Every evolution the Main God System underwent increased the realism and difficulty of the fights against monsters.

Moreover, this was the first time Shi Feng had seen a system upgrade require 40 hours.

Generally, system upgrades only lasted from 12 to 24 hours. Even in the past, none of the upgrades had needed more than 24 hours to complete.

However, Shi Feng did not have time to consider the situation. He only had ten minutes left to log out of the game. He needed to find a safe location quickly.

After the Mutated Dragon's death, the Dark Sanctuary over the valley had begun to dissipate.

Either due to the Silver Dragon's absence or some other reason, many monsters began to appear in the previously scarcely populated valley. Moreover, these were not low-leveled monsters. The lowest among them was Level 30, while some were even Level 45. Among them, there was no lack of Elite monsters. To current players, monsters of this Level were still dangerous opponents.

Finally, after finding a stream without nearby monsters, Shi Feng logged off.

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The morning sun shone brightly. Suddenly, the virtual gaming cabin in the room opened, and Shi Feng climbed out.

Compared to when Shi Feng had first entered God's Domain in this life, he was much stronger and more muscular. He had also grown slightly taller. In addition, his aura had changed tremendously. He gave off a calm and comfortable aura, which attracted others.

"Since this system upgrade will be so long, God's Domain must be chaotic right now." Shi Feng smiled. He then instructed the AI housekeeper turn on the television.

Just as Shi Feng had predicted...

Many television programs were already covering God's Domain's system upgrade.

After a period of development, God's Domain's influence on the real world had gradually expanded. In addition, the mass-production of God's Domain's virtual reality helmets had begun, which resulted in the helmet's continuous price drop. Now, more and more people could enjoy God's Domain. Gradually, God's Domain had become a big part of most people's lives.

Moreover, the game's advertising had grown, with the game's biggest selling point being the various lifestyles and entertainment it offered, in addition to its ability to extend one's lifespan.

Although technology constantly improved, there was still a limit to how much it could extend a human life.

Meanwhile, God's Domain could indirectly extend the human lifespan, allowing everyone to enjoy nearly double their natural life expectancy. This alone attracted many people. Furthermore, the game played a medicinal role.

The current technology in the field of medicine had reached a very high level, and most diseases could be cured. Unfortunately, even now, disabilities remained unconquered. However, upon entering God's Domain, blindness, deafness, or amputation did not matter; these people could live an ordinary life.

As Shi Feng understood it, after widespread promotion, many ill people had joined God's Domain. Many of them even refused to leave the game world.

"The following report regards God's Domain's latest change. The game's official developers have expressed their sincerest apologies regarding players' dissatisfaction with the latest system upgrade. They have also explained why this upgrade requires so much time. There are two main reasons for this.

"The first reason is that the Main God System has collected sufficient data and can undergo another system upgrade.

"The inclusion of the Mind Space system is the second reason. This system will attract even more people to this virtual reality game in the future, turning it into a true second world!"

When the reporter mentioned this, Shi Feng was taken aback. He couldn't believe what he had just heard.

Didn't this new system only launch two years after God's Domain's release? Shi Feng glared at the holographic screen's message.

The Mind Space System was also known as the Realm of God.

In the past, during God's Domain's first year, the game had been very popular. However, its influence on the real world had been limited. The most the game had achieved was the expansion of the virtual gaming industry's influence on the real world, growing from a niche industry to a household concept.

However, the Realm of God's appearance had pushed God's Domain to its peak as an industry.

Due to the Realm of God, any God's Domain player could create their own virtual space. If players did not want to play the game, they could enter their virtual spaces for some rest and entertainment. While in a private space, they could adjust the environment to their liking. However, the more realistic the environment and the larger the space was, the more resources one needed to pay. One could even go as far as adjusting the flow of time inside their personal space.

As far as Shi Feng knew, one could adjust the flow up to ten times that of natural time.

In other words, ten days in one's personal space was the equivalent of a single day in the real world. Hence, theoretically, it was possible to extend one's lifespan by up to ten times. Meanwhile, while in one's personal space, a player's body would remain at its peak health. Age would not limit their enjoyment.

Due to this reason, God's Domain had become irreplaceable in the real world. Countless people had gone crazy over this new system. To enjoy longer lifespans, some wealthy tycoons had even paid an exorbitant price to construct their own space. God's Domain had truly raked in the money once it released the Realm of God.

In Shi Feng's previous life, he, too, had set up his own space and often invited his friends for get-togethers.

However, Shi Feng's space had been quite average. He had only increased the time flow by four, and the space had only been roughly as large as a football field. Even so, he had earned the envy of many ordinary experts.

Constructing a personal space was not as simple as establishing a Guild Residence, where one only needed to purchase a plot of Land and invest some Coins. To construct a personal virtual space, one needed memory!

Players could not simply construct a personal space because they desired it.

Sustaining a personal space placed a heavy burden on the system. The more luxurious and spacious the space was, the more memory its support required.

In God's Domain, memory had a different, well-known name.

Mana!

Constructing a personal space required Mana. However, it required more than just a little. Players could not use the low-quality Mana from Magic Crystals. Rather, one needed Seven Luminaries Crystals!

However, Seven Luminaries Crystals were insanely rare in God's Domain. This was clear just by looking at Star-Moon Kingdom. Throughout Star-Moon Kingdom, one could only find Seven Luminaries Crystal in the capital.

Furthermore, Seven Luminaries Crystals were astonishingly expensive. An ordinary expert could only look on, powerless, with their measly finances. If an ordinary player got their hands on a few, selling them, they could live the rest of their lives without any concern for money.

This was why Shi Feng had been so excited when he had reached the Forgotten Lands and encountered the Seven Luminaries Mountain in the God's Grave. Unfortunately, his strength had been limited. He hadn't been able to leave that area with a single, small chunk.

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After the news report regarding God's Domain ended, Shi Feng ate a casual meal. He intended to check on the newcomers Lei Bao had been training during this time.

Zero Wing could not compare to Super Guilds, where the latter had a perfect expert nurturing system and no shortage of talents.

Fortunately, Zero Wing now had the Big Dipper Training Center to support it, providing an excellent training environment.

Shi Feng had a few of Zero Wing's newcomers sign a series of agreements and directed them here to undergo special training. They were the experts that Zero Wing nurtured internally. Unfortunately, Zero Wing's funds were limited. It could not afford to train enough newcomers. To a large Guild like Zero Wing, these few were like a drop in the bucket.

Shi Feng's female assistant, Liang Jing, suddenly called him and reported, "Master Shi Feng, a gentleman named Yuan Tiexin has arrived, looking for you. He claims to be an acquaintance of yours. Do you wish to meet him?"

He sure moves quickly. Shi Feng smiled faintly. "Have him wait for me in the main hall's reception room. I'll head over right away."

Chapter 884 - Empress Purple Jade

The Mind Space System's sudden launch in God's Domain had massively impacted the real world.

Shi Feng could clearly remember that, when this system had launched in his previous life, the world had gone crazy over it.

Before the new system had been revealed, very few major corporations and financial groups had been willing to invest into God's Domain. Most only wanted to observe. Take the Big Dipper Training Center for example. Although the corporation's higher-ups had known about God's Domain, none of them had paid particular attention to the game. Instead, they had focused on developing the training center itself. The other corporations within the city shared similar thoughts. After all, without any clear signs of profit, who would recklessly invest in the game?

However, when the new system had been implemented, these individuals could no longer resist. Every one of these corporations had invested into God's Domain, hoping to get a share of the pie.

Due to these people, the cost of Coins had undergone massive inflation. Shi Feng had even earned a small fortune by taking advantage of the price increases.

Considering the situation, Shi Feng immediately called Melancholic Smile and Aqua Rose, instructing them to start purchasing large sums of Coins as soon as they could log back into God's Domain. The more Coins they amassed now, the more profit they could earn in the future.

Inside Big Dipper Training Center's reception room, a middle-aged man lounged on a sofa made of soft, white tiger leather. On either side of him stood a man and a woman. Both this man and woman only looked to be around 18 or 19 years old. However, they both carried a martial artist's aura.

"Uncle Yuan, this Shi Feng fellow is too arrogant. He has made us wait for so long. Even Big Dipper's Director wouldn't dare to neglect us like this," the young man wearing blue, martial arts robes said impatiently, frowning deeply.

Although the Secret Pavilion was different from Super Guilds, it still had significant influence in the real world. Moreover, the Pavilion had recently agreed to collaborate with a few international corporations, elevating its status. Every single corporation within this city would be more than eager to gain the Pavilion's favor.

Yet, even after venturing this far for a personal visit, not only had Shi Feng not welcomed them himself, but even after over ten minutes, Shi Feng was nowhere to be seen. He wasn't taking them seriously.

"We're not in a rush. In any case, he hasn't refused to meet us," Yuan Tiexin said, chuckling. "Moreover, we are the ones who want to collaborate with Zero Wing. A small wait doesn't matter. You are still too brash. This is why the Guild Leader told you to temper yourself. You should learn from Wen Hua."

At Yuan Tiexin's words, the male youth turned to the beautiful woman standing on the other side of Yuan Tiexin, falling silent.

He wasn't qualified to respond.

There were three great geniuses among the experts the Secret Pavilion nurtured internally. The most popular among the three was Cold Autumn as he had broken through the Half-step Refinement Realm at such a young age and had officially entered the Refinement Realm. Wen Hua, who had joined a little before Cold Autumn, followed closely behind.

Even the Secret Pavilion's old monsters repeatedly praised Wen Hua's combat talents. They all concluded that her chances of reaching the Domain Realm were quite high.

People like them constantly pursued the Domain Realm. However, entering the Refinement Realm was already extremely difficult, not to mention reaching the Domain Realm. Those who did so were incredibly rare, even in Super Guilds.

The fact that these old monsters' evaluation had been so high spoke volumes about their high opinions of Wen Hua.

If the young man attempted to compare himself to Wen Hua, the difference between them was like the difference between heaven and earth. He simply could not hold a candle to her.

As Yuan Tiexin finished speaking, Shi Feng walked into the reception room with Liang Jing.

"I apologize that I've made you wait," Shi Feng said as he sat across from Yuan Tiexin. When he glanced at the man and woman beside Yuan Tiexin, he was momentarily surprised, though he did not reveal it.

Shi Feng recognized the great beauty beside Yuan Tiexin.

Empress Purple Jade!

Although her appearance was slightly different from her game avatar, the difference was minor. However, she still looked very young and immature. The arrogant aura that she had possessed in the past was also absent.

Shi Feng was familiar with Purple Jade because he had learned Void Steps from her. He had lost count just how many times he had watched her battle videos. Even if her physical appearance was slightly different, he still recognized her with a glance.

Why is she here? Shi Feng wondered.

As Shi Feng understood it, Purple Jade was one of the Secret Pavilion's Three Great Geniuses. The Pavilion's upper echelons had favored her, and her status within the Pavilion had been on par with the Guild Elders. To put it bluntly, her position was not any lower than Yuan Tiexin's. Why did the Secret Pavilion allow such a gem to come here? Moreover, she stood by the side as if she were a bodyguard.

Although Shi Feng had hidden his observation, it had not escaped the notice of an old fox like Yuan Tiexin. Noticing Shi Feng's reaction to Wen Hua, Yuan Tiexin's mouth hooked up into a smile.

Their Guild Leader had sent Wen Hua for the sole purpose of shocking Zero Wing.

Recently, Zero Wing had gained too much momentum. Not only was the Guild rapidly developing, but the Guild's performance in the Dark Arena had also been stunning. Zero Wing did not appear to fear any Guild. If the Secret Pavilion wished to collaborate with Zero Wing, they had to slow Zero Wing's progress, teaching the upstart Guild that entities such as themselves were not as simple as they appeared. By doing so, they would have an easier time negotiating.

However, Shi Feng's perception had surprised Yuan Tiexin somewhat. He had not expected the youth to notice Wen Hua's strength so quickly.

"May I know what business you wish to discuss with me?" Shi Feng asked after recovering from his surprise.

"Didn't I tell you that the Secret Pavilion views Zero Wing favorably? To put it simply, I've come here seeking cooperation. Hence, I'd like to ask you to introduce us to Guild Leader Black Flame, or one of the Guild's upper echelons who has the authority to approve such decisions," Yuan Tiexin slowly explained.

"Seeking cooperation?" Shi Feng continued, asking, "Excellent. What kind of cooperation does the Secret Pavilion have in mind?"

"We are interested in cooperating with Zero Wing in secret. Can you make a decision like this? If not, don't stick your nose where it doesn't belong," the male youth snapped.

Yuan Tiexin made no attempt to rebuke the youth's words, only watching the situation play out. It was no doubt that he, agreed with the youth's words, thinking that Shi Feng was just a busybody. Although Yuan Tiexin felt that Shi Feng had great potential, qualifying to preside over the affairs of Zero Wing's Workshop at such a young age, in the end, he was only a part of Zero Wing's middle management. He did not qualify to join discussions of cooperation between Guilds.

Fortunately, Shi Feng did not allow the young man's tone to rile him. After all, to outsiders, he only appeared to be a member of the Guild's management team.

"I understand your concerns. However, I do possess the authority to make a decision on any matter of cooperation you wish to discuss. If you don't believe me, you can contact our Guild Leader in God's Domain." Shi Feng shook his head and laughed.

Yuan Tiexin was slightly stunned by Shi Feng's response. For a time, he was at a loss for words.

Either Zero Wing was daring enough to use a new talent, or the Guild had no one else for the job...

Just how much faith must one possess to allow someone so new to God's Domain to make such important Guild decisions?

The fact that Zero Wing had developed into its current state showed that the Guild possessed a powerful background. Anyone that claimed otherwise was either lying or a blind fool. Generally, the various upper echelons of such a powerful organization would be, at least, in their thirties. Any exception was either a frightening talent or someone with a very powerful background. However, Yuan Tiexin had investigated Shi Feng thoroughly, and no matter how he looked at the results, Shi Feng was neither.

"May I know your game ID?" Yuan Tiexin asked softly.

Chapter 885 - Guild Secret

When Yuan Tiexin had met Shi Feng for the first time, he had investigated the youth thoroughly.

The results had surprised the old man.

Shi Feng was just an ordinary person. Even when he joined God's Domain, he had used a trial helmet.

Yet, somehow, after entering God's Domain, Shi Feng had risen to become one of Zero Wing Workshop's managers.

Although Yuan Tiexin admitted that Shi Feng possessed some skill and fighting strength, he was too young.

Hence, Shi Feng's claim had surprised him.

He is a core member of Zero Wing, huh? Wen Hua, who had remained cold and indifferent, shifted her gaze towards Shi Feng. She had never imagined that the currently flourishing Zero Wing would allow someone who was only a few years older than her to join the Guild's top management.

Initially, she had not wanted to take part in the negotiations. However, upon hearing that she might meet Zero Wing's Guild Leader, Black Flame, she had agreed. She wanted to see just what the legendary Sword King Black Flame looked like. If possible, she might even find an opportunity to spar with the man. Now, however, she was disappointed.

"My game ID?" Shi Feng laughed. He then said, "I am Ye Feng in God's Domain."

"You're Ye Feng?" Yuan Tiexin's expression immediately grew hard. He simply could not believe this. Hurriedly, he asked, "Are you really Zero Wing's Ye Feng? The Ye Feng that led the Asura Battle Team?"

"Impossible! You're so young! How could you possibly be Ye Feng?!"

Yuan Tiexin wasn't the only one surprised. The male youth and Wen Hua's eyes both went wide with shock as they stared at the ordinary-looking man before them.

The name "Ye Feng" might not mean much to ordinary experts. They might not even know this name at all.

However, among God's Domain's major powers, almost everyone knew the name. This was particularly true for the Secret Pavilion, which was known for its information network. The Secret Pavilion had even created an exclusive database that collected information on Ye Feng.

Based on what they knew so far, although Ye Feng looked young, no one believed it.

No youth in his early twenties could reach the Void Realm. He should be at least 24 or 25.

Even so, he was considered an extremely talented individual.

God's Domain's various major powers also suspected that Ye Feng had been secretly nurtured by whatever major power stood behind Zero Wing. Otherwise, he never would have defeated the Battle Wolves' Wolf King Sirius. Meanwhile, even now, Ye Feng's identity was shrouded in mystery.

They would never have dreamed that...

The Shi Feng before them was actually the Ye Feng who had caused such a commotion among God's Domain's major powers.

"I'm young?" Shi Feng scratched his head awkwardly as he glanced towards Wen Hua. Wen Hua was only 19 years old, while he approached 22 years old. Yet, she had called him "young."

"I didn't mean it that way. I just don't believe that you are Ye Feng," Wen Hua replied seriously, shaking her head.

She was most proud of her age and strength. Within her age group, no one could stand, shoulder-to-shoulder, with her. She did not even take the Pavilion's number one genius seriously.

However, if Shi Feng had truly defeated Sirius at such a young age, his talent was truly terrifying.

Even she could not afford to take him lightly.

Hearing Wen Hua's honesty, Shi Feng was momentarily at a loss for words.

It had never crossed his mind that they would refuse to believe him even when he revealed the truth. If he told them that he was also Black Flame, they would, most likely, deem him a con artist...

"I'm truly sorry for Wen Hua's rude behavior," Yuan Tiexin apologized as he tugged Wen Hua's sleeve and sent the girl a glance. He then returned his gaze to Shi Feng, smiling as he said, "I have come here representing our Guild Leader, and we would like to keep the subjects of our talks absolutely secret; hence, Wen Hua has spoken out of hand. Since we've confirmed that there are no issues, let's discuss business."

Although Wen Hua had fallen quiet, her interest in Shi Feng grew. A passion fighting spirit filled her eyes when they landed on Shi Feng. He felt as if she would challenge him to a duel at any moment.

If Wen Hua's past admirers could see this, they'd probably tear Shi Feng apart.

Understanding Yuan Tiexin's intentions, Shi Feng looked towards Liang Jing and said, "Liang Jing, head down for now."

Liang Jing sighed helplessly as she left the room. Truth be told, she was very curious about who Yuan Tiexin and his companions were.

Rather than fear or awe over Shi Feng's identity as a martial arts master, the two youths had been shocked by his game ID.

After watching Liang Jing leave the room, Yuan Tiexin adopted a serious tone as he said, "You are aware that the various Super Guilds and super-first rate Guilds in God's Domain have their own expert training programs, correct?"

"Mhm, I know a little about it. After selecting a few talented youths, these Guilds have them sign an agreement and put them through a training regimen, helping them become peerless experts." Shi Feng nodded.

These powerful Guilds' internal nurturing programs were no secret. However, the majority of virtual gaming Guilds could not establish their own programs.

"You are correct. But, that is only on the surface. Regarding cost, many first-rate Guilds could easily do the same," Yuan Tiexin said, smiling.

"You're saying that it is not a matter of funding?" Shi Feng was slightly surprised.

As he understood it, one needed a specialized training venue and expert instructors to nurture expert players. In addition, one needed a large supply of advanced Nutrient Fluids. All of these aspects required money. Without sufficient capital, it was simply impossible to nurture a large number of experts.

"That's right; it's not an issue of capital. A simulated training system is far more important. This is a system that the various Super Guilds and super-first-rate Guilds have developed on their own. They have collected information on countless experts with this system, and with it, can allow their newcomers to spar with the simulations at any time.

"Think about it. Which has not had to experience countless life-threatening battles to reach their current status: a real martial artist or a virtual gaming expert?"

"The main reason behind the Secret Pavilion's transcendental status in the virtual gaming world is our dabbling in the sales of information on various gaming experts, a practice that other Guilds rarely implement. With this information, one can realistically reproduce these experts in their simulation training system.

"You understand now, right?"

"No matter how much capital those first-rate Guilds manage to obtain, as long as they do not possess the simulation training system, they can't progress, and they will never become true powerhouses in the virtual gaming world.

"I believe that you are aware that there are multiple first-rate Guilds in the virtual gaming world that are even stronger than a few super-first-rate Guilds, yet they have failed to be recognized as super-first-rate Guilds themselves. The reason for this is their lack of a simulation training system."

Yuan Tiexin's explanation had shocked Shi Feng once more. At the same time, Shi Feng now had answers to many of the issues he had faced before.

"Meanwhile, there is a defining difference between a Super Guild and a super-first-rate Guild."

Chapter 886 - Guild Legacy

"Uncle Yuan, this is our Guild's biggest secret. If you just reveal it ... there will be consequences, right?"
Wen Hua warned, shocked by Yuan Tiexin's decision.

To ordinary Guilds and independent players, the simulation training system was a major secret.

However, first-rate Guilds who wished to further themselves already knew this.

As for the difference between super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds, only Super Guilds and several transcendental powers knew the truth. Even super-first-rate Guilds had no clue as these Guilds assumed that the difference lay in overall strength accumulated over the years.

"Don't worry about it. In any case, it impacts our cooperation." Yuan Tiexin waved his hand, signaling that there was nothing wrong with revealing the truth.

Shi Feng was at a loss for words.

This was the first he had ever heard of such things.

He had never thought that there was actually such a defining difference between first-rate Guilds and super-first-rate Guilds. Moreover, there was an unknown difference between super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds. It would seem that these colossal organizations had not remained standing over so many years for no reason.

All this time, Shi Feng had assumed that the difference between Guilds only lie in their member and expert count. Now, however, it would seem that there was more to the story.

"The main reason why super-first-rate Guilds fail to gain recognition as Super Guilds is insufficient Guild Legacy[1] completion rate," Yuan Tiexin said, a hint of envy flashing in his eyes as he mentioned "Guild Legacy completion rate."

"Guild Legacy?" Shi Feng drew a blank. This was the first time he had heard this term.

"It's expected that you do not know of it." Yuan Tiexin then explained slowly, saying, "I previously mentioned the simulation training system. However, there are also differences between each Guilds' simulation training system. Although the information super-first-rate Guilds' training systems collect is nearly the same that Super Guilds collect, Super Guilds' training systems possess complete legacies that can help players reach the Domain Realm. Super-first-rate Guilds' legacies, on the other hand, are incomplete and can only help one reach the Void Realm. This makes it extremely difficult for the top-tier experts in super-first-rate Guilds to cross that final threshold."

"That is why there are so few experts capable of reaching the Domain Realm in super-first-rate Guilds." Shi Feng suddenly came to a realization.

The gap between a Void Realm expert and a Domain Realm expert was massive.

Moreover, as players' Levels increased, combat techniques became extremely important. It was especially true if one wanted to obtain top-tier equipment. The Main God System would provide all sorts of trials, and these trials tested a player's strength.

"That's right. This is the biggest difference between super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds." Yuan Tiexin nodded. He then added softly, "After many years of gathering information and working to improve ourselves, the Secret Pavilion has finally completed our Guild Legacy. As an upstart Guild, Zero Wing's background is too shallow. It lacks the resources to nurture experts efficiently. Zero Wing doesn't have a chance of competing with super-first-rate Guilds, much less Super Guilds.

"Moreover, even if Zero Wing successfully established its own simulation training system, its operation is very costly. It requires the latest High-level Energy. I believe that you understand just how difficult it is to collect High-level Energy. Like the S-rank Nutrient Fluid, one cannot purchase it with money alone.

"The Secret Pavilion is trying to expand and requires a large number of talented players. We believe that Zero Wing has great potential, and we have decided to invest in Zero Wing. In exchange for 50% of Zero Wing's shares, not only will we supply significant funding, but we will also offer various support using the Secret Pavilion's connections. This will allow Zero Wing to rise instantly and significantly. Furthermore, we will provide twenty slots for our training system. Your Guild wouldn't need to create its own system," Yuan Tiexin explained temptingly. "You might not think that twenty slots are a lot, but the Secret Pavilion has also invested in other large Guilds. Even for first-rate Guilds, we only provide ten."

The male youth beside Yuan Tiexin was shocked when he heard the offer include twenty slots.

His performance in the Secret Pavilion was already quite impressive. Even so, he had barely earned a slot for himself.

Currently, the Secret Pavilion only had 300 or so slots for its simulation training system. It did not have enough resources to sustain any more than that, yet, they were actually offering 20 slots to Zero Wing. This proved that the Pavilion's upper echelons were highly optimistic about Zero Wing's potential.

The Secret Pavilion is really going all-out. It's actually willing to offer so many generous benefits. Although Shi Feng did not fully understand the significance of these twenty slots, seeing Wen Hua's and the male youth's reactions, it was obvious that these slots were extremely valuable. However, he had his own plans. "I apologize, but Zero Wing rejects your offer."

"Rejects? Why?" Yuan Tiexin unconsciously rose from his seat. "Even first-rate Guilds hunger for an offer like this. Moreover, the Secret Pavilion is only asking for 50% of Zero Wing's shares. We will not involve ourselves in Zero Wing's management or development. As long as Zero Wing obtains these twenty slots, with the potential the experts in your Guild, it should not be long before they reach the Refinement Realm. At that time, you will have the foundation to expand to other countries. Zero Wing might even become a super-first-rate Guild in the future."

"Fifty percent of Zero Wing's shares is simply too high," Shi Feng responded as he shook his head. "However, I am very interested in your simulation training system. I would like to buy a few slots. Is that possible?"

The Secret Pavilion's price was indeed tempting. However, Shi Feng was very familiar with just how frightening major powers like the Secret Pavilion could be. With even 30%, the Secret Pavilion could take control of Zero Wing in the future.

The only way Shi Feng could accept this offer was if the Secret Pavilion offered a portion of its own shares in exchange. However, this was clearly not possible. Hence, Shi Feng did not bother asking.

"You want to buy a few slots?" Yuan Tiexin shook his head, laughing. "Kid, you're taking the training slots too lightly. Do you know how intense the competition for the training slots is within the Secret Pavilion? We don't even have enough slots to satiate our own members, much less sell them to other Guilds. How can we possibly sell any slots to Zero Wing?"

"What if I offer a high price?" Shi Feng laughed.

"A high price? Are you talking about Epic items?" Yuan Tiexin's smile grew even brighter when he heard Shi Feng's comment. "Shi Feng, you know that, at the end of the day, weapons and equipment are external components. Even if Epic items are quite rare, they are not nearly as important as training slots to the Secret Pavilion."

"What if I offer a large stock of Strengthening Devices and Bronze Mounts?" Confidently, Shi Feng said, "I believe that you have already heard about the Mind Space System on the news. I suspect that you know the value of this system. This system is one of the driving forces behind major corporations investment into God's Domain.

"If the Secret Pavilion obtains a large stock of Strengthening Devices and Bronze Mounts, it will surely gain an advantage over the various Super Guilds."

Chapter 887 - Black Card

"Are you serious?" Yuan Tiexin was visibly moved.

The Strengthening Device had only appeared on the market recently, and there were still very few available. Not only could it extend a player's time in combat, but it could also help players save meaningless travel time and some repair fees.

Various large Guilds were also hungering after Bronze Mounts.

Unfortunately, obtaining a Bronze Mount was immensely difficult; even the Secret Pavilion only had a few thus far. By the time the Guild members reached Level 40, most of the Guild's experts would only have Common Mounts. One should not underestimate the difference between a Bronze and a Common Mount. Although a Bronze Mount was only slightly faster than a Common Mount, the former could assist players in battle. It could significantly impact a player's combat capabilities in the field.

As for Guild Mounts...

Various Super Guilds already had a massive headache over obtaining the Stable Design, much less taming a Mount.

Meanwhile, Zero Wing's Guild Mount was one of the major reasons for the Secret Pavilion's optimistic view of the Guild.

Zero Wing's advantage would surface as God's Domain's players reached Level 40. With the Secret Pavilion's resources, Zero Wing could quickly expand into the several surrounding countries and stand to rival super-first-rate Guilds. Without its potential, the Secret Pavilion would not have approached an upstart Guild with no background with such a generous offer.

"Of course. I'm just not sure if the Secret Pavilion is interested," Shi Feng said, laughing.

"It seems I have underestimated Zero Wing once again. I had not imagined you had such a card." Yuan Tiexin scratched his head awkwardly. If Shi Feng had offered anything else, the Secret Pavilion would've undoubtedly rejected the offer. There would be no room for negotiation whatsoever. However, the Pavilion was interested in the Strengthening Devices and Bronze Mounts. "I'll need to consult with our Guild Leader."

"Sure." Shi Feng understood that Yuan Tiexin did not yet qualify to make such important decisions.

Yuan Tiexin then left the reception room alone, returning after fifteen minutes or so. His gaze, which had been hesitant, was now firm.

"I've contacted our Guild Leader about this. We will provide five training slots. However, you need to give us 100 Bronze Mounts and 10,000 Strengthening Devices in return. There is no room for negotiations on this," Yuan Tiexin said in determination.

"You guys sure are asking for a lot. It's not a guarantee that we will be able to nurture five Domain Realm experts." Shi Feng frowned slightly. Although the simulation training system was valuable, it was not that valuable.

Based on the current market price, a Bronze Mount was worth roughly 300 Gold. However, while there was a demand for Bronze Mounts, their supply was practically nonexistent. Nobody would truly sell a Bronze Mount. Even if one offered 500 Gold, one might not find a seller. After all, they were simply too rare, even rivaling Epic items.

Yet, the Secret Pavilion wanted 100 Bronze Mounts. Even with a conservative calculation, the total value would be at least 50,000 Gold!

As for the Strengthening Devices, based on current market value, 10,000 devices was worth roughly 100,000 Gold. All in all, the Secret Pavilion was asking for 150,000 Gold!

Even to first-rate Guilds, 150,000 Gold was astronomical. Even if the Secret Pavilion were a transcendental power, this sum was massive. It would take the Pavilion several days to gather so much money.

Moreover, even if one had 150,000 Gold, purchasing so many Mounts and Strengthening Devices was impossible, yet the Secret Pavilion had asked for exactly that in exchange for only five training slots.

They were essentially asking Zero Wing to foot the bill for their members' training.

"There are only so many training slots available each year. The few we have aren't even enough for our own use. Even I am surprised that our Guild Leader has agreed to sell any." Yuan Tiexin spread his hands in a helpless gesture, showing that this was not his will, either.

"It's not that Zero Wing doesn't have these resources; I just want ten slots. Uncle Yuan, you understand that, now that the Mind Space System has launched, this is the best opportunity to gather as many advantages as possible. If you don't take the opportunity to do so now, it will be far more difficult in the future." Yuan Tiexin's response had not angered Shi Feng. Chuckling, he continued, "Moreover, these ten slots don't really matter to the Secret Pavilion. Even with the ten slots, you aren't guaranteed to nurture more Refinement Realm experts. It is even more unlikely that you will successfully nurture a monster with a Domain. On the other hand, by losing these ten slots, the Secret Pavilion will have a headstart over the other major powers. It will also be easier in the future to attract major corporations' investments. Isn't that so?"

When she heard Shi Feng's logic, Wen Hua shot him a contemptuous look.

The man was speaking as if the training slots were worth nothing at all when, in fact, countless first-rate Guilds yearned for an opportunity like this. How could anyone compare them to cabbages that one could buy on the street? Limited High-level Energy sold annually. The money the Secret Pavilion spent to obtain what they needed each year was astronomical.

However, Shi Feng paid no mind to Wen Hua's gaze.

He understood how much influence the Mind Space System had on the world's major corporations. As long as the Secret Pavilion obtained a high-ranking personal space, it would not have to worry about attracting investors. If the chance to gain a headstart presented itself, God's Domain's major powers would fight over it like wolves.

Yuan Tiexin was shocked when he heard Shi Feng's words. He had never dreamed that Zero Wing had hidden its strength so deeply. Despite the Secret Pavilion having exhausted all of its resources to collect Bronze Mounts, they currently had less than 30. Yet, Zero Wing could offer 100 without hesitation, not to mention the highly sought-after Strengthening Devices.

"This is..." Originally, Yuan Tiexin had intended to refuse, attempting to force Shi Feng into lowering his price. However, as he watched Shi Feng get up from his seat and prepare to send them off, he quickly changed his words and continued, "I'll need to discuss this further with my Guild Leader."

Yuan Tiexin had to admit that Shi Feng had caught on to the Secret Pavilion's Achilles' heel.

Yuan Tiexin finally understood why Zero Wing had left its Workshop's management to a youth like Shi Feng. The boy was as cunning as an old fox.

With no better choice, Yuan Tiexin left the room to contact his Guild Leader once more.

After a lengthy period, Yuan Tiexin reentered the room. Sighing, he looked at Shi Feng and said, "Our Guild Leader has agreed to your demands. However, there is a condition. You need to give us the items within five days."

"Impossible. Bronze Mounts and Strengthening Devices aren't cabbage. I can only guarantee ten Bronze Mounts and 2,000 Strengthening Devices within the first five days. You will receive the remaining items within twelve days." Shi Feng shook his head.

Currently, he did not even have one Bronze Mount. Manufacturing the Bronze Mounts required time. It was simply impossible to produce all 100 Mounts in five days.

However, after completing Titan City's entrance trial, in addition to the Meditation Rooms and Special Workshops, it should be possible to achieve that number within twelve days.

"You..." Yuan Tiexin felt cheated by Shi Feng. However, regret was pointless now. The Bronze Mounts and Strengthening Devices were simply too important. "Fine, then. Let's establish a contract now."

After both parties signed the contract, Yuan Tiexin placed ten of the twenty black cards he had prepared beforehand on the table.

"These ten login cards are proof of identification needed to login to the simulation training system. They are effective for one year. Take care of them. If you lose them, we cannot replace them. You can access the Secret Pavilion's latest training space through the virtual gaming cabin," Yuan Tiexin reminded. "However, take note of one thing. It is best to prepare a few bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluids. The burden the various high-level battles in the training space have on the human body is no laughing matter."

After saying so, Yuan Tiexin's party left the reception room, leaving only Shi Feng and the ten black cards in the room.

As Shi Feng stared at the black cards on the table, excitement welled up within him. After suppressing his emotions as much as he could, he called out for Liang Jing, who stood just outside the room, saying "Liang Jing, call Fire Dance and the others here."

Chapter 888 - Simulation Training System

Outside the Greenwater Villa, a long, black hovercar was quietly parked at the entrance.

"Isn't this a limited-edition Pioneer?"

"It is so cool! I've heard that there are only 1,000 of these luxury sedans around the world. I never thought we would see one in our third-tier city."

"This is amazing. The Pioneer's fuel alone is extraordinary. It can't use any kind of normal fuel."

Passersby began to gawk and chat as they noticed the car in front of the villa.

As they wondered what kind of powerful individual had arrived, Yuan Tiexin's group emerged from the automated door. Suddenly, a robust man, standing over two meters tall, rose out from the Pioneer; he was so naturally intimidating that everyone trembled involuntarily when they saw him. The robust man wore a black suit with a silver shield logo embroidered on his left lapel. The silver shield bore three stars.

Everyone at the training center understood the fighting world. They immediately knew that the man before them was a fighting expert.

"A silver shield logo? Isn't that a bodyguard from the Guardian Group?"

"Guardian Group? That's an international, first-rate security agency, isn't it?"

"He seems to be a 3-star bodyguard. Even people from the city's top corporations can't hire one of them. Who are those people?"

As the passersby watched in shock, the bodyguard respectfully opened the Pioneer's door for Yuan Tiexin and his young companions. After Yuan Tiexin's group took their seats, the bodyguard returned to the front passenger seat.

Following which, the roar of the Pioneer's engine echoed throughout the area, stunning everyone present.

Who are they? Why would such important individuals seek out Shi Feng? Liang Jing was confused and surprised as she watched Yuan Tiexin and his people depart. I'll have to let Director Xiao know about this.

Not just anyone could hire the Guardian Group's bodyguards. Even the Big Dipper Corporation did not qualify to hire a 2-star bodyguard, only allowed to employ a 1-star bodyguard. Only major international corporations could afford 3-star bodyguards.

"Uncle Yuan, why did Guild Leader agree to give away ten slots?" Wen Hua asked. "The price the Star Alliance offered us was only worth ten slots. On the other hand, we gave Zero Wing the same without obtaining a sliver of its shares..."

"This is the Guild Leader's will. As for the Guild Leader's thoughts, even I don't know. However, the items Shi Feng offered are extremely important to the Secret Pavilion." Yuan Tiexin then shook his head and continued, "Fortunately, we didn't lose too much. If we help nurture Zero Wing's experts, we'll see even more interesting matches in the Dark Arena in the future."

"Interesting?" Wen Hua chuckled. "I recall that the Asura Battle Team's next opponent is the Evil Dragon Battle Team. Although there are a few experts in that team, overall, they are significantly weaker than the Glorious Lions Battle Team. Even if Shi Feng doesn't participate himself, the Asura Battle Team can win easily."

"Hahaha! Wen Hua, you're not seeing the big picture. If the latest system upgrade had not happened, the Evil Dragons would lose without a doubt. However, after the Mind Space System's launch, the various large Guilds are rushing to gather money and resources. Naturally, they will not ignore the opportunity to make a fortune in the Dark Arena," Yuan Tiexin said meaningfully.

"But the Evil Dragons don't have backing from any Super Guilds. It will be difficult for them to present fighters on the same level as Zero Wing's experts." Wen Hua was very interested in the Asura Battle Team. Hence, she had investigated their next opponent, hoping for another exciting match. However, the outcome had disappointed her.

"I don't expect you to know. The corporation backing the Evil Dragons has hidden itself quite well. Even we only discovered it a few days ago, but it turns out that said corporation had invested in the Miracle Guild in secret. When it comes time for the Dark Arena match, the Miracle Guild will make its move."

Winning will not be easy for the Asura Battle Team," Yuan Tiexin said, a hint of anticipation flashing in his eyes. "If the Asura Battle Team can force Miracle to display its true strength, the Secret Pavilion will benefit."

"The Miracle Guild? That Miracle Guild actually agreed to give away a portion of its shares?" Wen Hua exclaimed in surprise.

Although the Miracle Guild was not a Super Guild, it was in no way inferior. However, its Guild Legacy was incomplete. Hence, it had failed to become a Super Guild. However, it was still stronger than the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion, who could not yet rival Super Guilds.

"Haven't you wanted to witness Ye Feng's battles personally? This is a good opportunity to do so." Yuan Tiexin then handed Wen Hua a list of names. "Mad Sword Miracle Dragon, who you've wanted to defeat, might even make a move."

Shortly after Yuan Tiexin's group left, Shi Feng handed the black cards to Fire Dance and the others.

"Guild Leader, what's this for?" Fire Dance, who wore short-sleeved sportswear with her long hair draped over her shoulders, asked curiously.

Fire Dance wasn't the only one curious about the black cards. Cola, Violet Cloud, Flying Shadow, Ye Wumian, Rampant Blade, and Blackie were also confused.

"This? This is a treasure," Shi Feng laughed. "Haven't you all wanted to strengthen your combat techniques? This can help you do so quickly. However, how much you actually learn will depend on you."

Following which, Shi Feng explained how to use the black cards and sent them to their rooms to try.

The purpose behind the cards surprised them all. However, Shi Feng's procurement of them surprised them more. Excitement overtook them as they looked at the black cards in their hands. They had yearned to improve their combat techniques. It was especially true after watching Fire Dance break through into the Refinement Realm.

After everyone left, Shi Feng quietly returned to his own room.

To the Secret Pavilion, the ten training slots might not be significant, but to Zero Wing, they were a timely blessing.

Although the Secret Technique tablet could enable players to grasp profound combat techniques, which players could then utilize to improve their other combat techniques, the tablet's flaws were obvious. Players needed to learn to make Intermediate Magic Arrays. This was achievable within a short time. Moreover, the tablet could only be used once a month. It was not nearly as efficient as the simulation training system.

It was especially true for Fire Dance, Violet Cloud, and Aqua Rose, who possessed vast potential. They only lacked combat experience. If they could enter the simulation training system, even Shi Feng could not imagine how much these girls would improve.

Moreover, the simulation training system was useful to him personally.

He was currently stuck at the Void Realm. He had no idea whatsoever how to take the next step. Fortunately, the simulation training system could guide one to the Domain Realm. Shi Feng was satisfied with the cost he had paid due to this fact alone.

On the surface, although it seemed as if he had paid a massive price for the black cards, that was limited to market price. Of course, the production cost for the Bronze Mounts and Strengthening Devices wasn't one-tenth of their market price.

Throughout this time, he had also been training frantically in the real world. He had already pushed his body to its very limits and could not improve any further. Even Lei Bao had been surprised by his progress, looking at him as if he were a monster.

Shi Feng understood that his body was no longer a limiting factor. Only, he did not know what was. After all, he had never truly interacted with any of those old monsters and relied on himself to fumble and improve.

After refilling the virtual gaming cabin's Nutrition Solution, Shi Feng inserted the black card into the machine's card slot. He then lay in the cabin and launched the system connection, accessing the simulation training system.

Chapter 889 - Battle Points

After Shi Feng closed his eyes, the system's mechanical notification sound rang by his ears.

Password confirmed. Mental link is stable. All systems operational. Do you wish to login?

Login.

Once Shi Feng silently agreed to the connection, darkness engulfed his surroundings, and he felt as if his body had fallen into a bottomless pit.

In the next moment, however, Shi Feng felt a weight on his body. The sound of galloping horses and carriages moving reached him. He also heard voices.

"This is... God's Domain?" Shi Feng was surprised when he opened his eyes.

Western-style buildings rose up around him. Traffic covered the surrounding streets, and he could see many pedestrians wandering about wearing armor and carrying weapons. It felt as if he was in God's Domain.

The only difference Shi Feng noticed was his current appearance. Rather than his usual armor, he wore commoner's linen clothing. He did not possess a single weapon. Physically, he appeared exactly as he did in reality.

His system interface was also different. Although the method to call up the interface was the same, he only had options to log out, adjust the pain settings, and a clock that displayed real time. There was nothing else. Neither his HP bar nor name was displayed.

Moreover, he felt very weak. In terms of the Basic Attributes of God's Domain, Shi Feng felt as if they were all set at roughly 100 points.

These were the only differences from God's Domain that he noticed.

"Look, another newbie has arrived."

"There sure are a lot of newbies these past few days."

"I heard that our Secret Pavilion has been implementing some major plan and has recently been annexing other Guilds. The upper echelons must've promised training slots to those Guilds in return."

"Hah... What a waste. We fight tooth and nail every day just for one slot. Aside from eating and sleeping, we spend all of our time training. These people, on the other hand, obtain a slot without any effort. They sure have it good."

"I know, right? The training system isn't easy to mingle in. These people are wasting their time and our resources by coming here."

Several people sitting beneath a gazebo outside of a bar began chatted merrily as they watched Shi Feng. These people looked relatively young, only around 20 years old. However, they wore lavish clothing. Rather than linen, they donned exquisite silk clothing.

As if they wanted Shi Feng to hear their conversation, these people did not bother to control their voices as they considered. Their tones were contemptuous when they spoke of players from other Guilds such as Shi Feng.

I wonder where Fire Dance and the others are? I should find them before we start researching this simulation training system. Shi Feng paid no attention to these people's belittling comments. However,

he did feel a headache begin when he noticed that the training system lacked a communication function.

Although this place seemed like a city in God's Domain, it was much smaller. This place was roughly the size of a town. Shi Feng also noticed a massive fortress looming in the city's heart. He could probably see the very edges of the city from the top of that fortress.

Just as Shi Feng was about to head to the fortress to investigate, a deep, heavy voice came from behind him.

"You have just arrived today, right?"

Shi Feng turned at this question, noticing three people, similarly dressed in linen clothing, approaching. The two men and one woman looked to be around 20 as well. Meanwhile, the person that had called out to him was a tall, powerful looking man. The man smiled and gave off a friendly aura.

"That's right. Do you have some business with me?" Shi Feng nodded.

"Hello; my name's Kong Haoran, and these two are my friends, Huo Zhengyang and Du Xin," the man named Kong Haoran introduced, smiling. "Like yourself, we belong to other Guilds and have recently arrived. We aren't like the people from the Secret Pavilion, who have been in here for over a month. As a newcomer, if you aren't careful, you might suffer."

"Suffer?" Shi Feng grew curious. He then asked, "Isn't this place meant to gain combat experience and nurture techniques?"

"In the beginning, we thought the same," Kong Haoran said, shaking his head. "However, after being here for some time, you'll learn that things aren't as simple as the people from the Secret Pavilion made it out to be. You can't just spar with top-tier experts as you wish.

"The training system mimics God's Domain. The more powerful a simulation expert you choose to fight, the more energy the system consumes. The Secret Pavilion can only get its hands on a limited amount of High-level Energy. There is simply not enough to go around. Not to mention, the Secret Pavilion has expanded its influence recently and has increased the number of available training slots for its system, straining the system's energy consumption. Hence, the Pavilion introduced a Battle Point system to cope. With these Battle Points, one can choose their opponent. Of course, the more powerful an opponent is, the more Battle Points you have to spend.

"A lot of newcomers don't know about this yet, so the Secret Pavilion's veterans scam them. If one loses the starting Battle Points they receive, it becomes harder to earn Battle Points in the future."

Hearing Kong Haoran's explanation, Shi Feng came to a realization.

It's no wonder why Yuan Tiexin was so willing to hand over those ten slots. So, the Pavilion still had such a card to play. Shi Feng inwardly cursed the Secret Pavilion's Guild Leader for being a sly, old fox.

However, after giving it some thought, Shi Feng realized that it was actually quite reasonable.

He had been a fool to think that he could fight monster-level experts stored in the system's database without limit and gain a wealth of combat experience. Such a generous opportunity wouldn't exist.

"Thank you for your warning," Shi Feng said as he looked towards Kong Haoran. He then introduced himself, "My name is Shi Feng."

"No need for thanks. Those of us from other Guilds need to look out for each other. Otherwise, the Pavilion's people will just bully us all." Kong Haoran waved his hand. "The Secret Pavilion's bunch came here over a month before we arrived. Moreover, they enjoyed the Secret Pavilion's nurturing before this. Their combat standards are much higher than ours."

"Newcomers are given 100 Battle Points initially. You can use these points to purchase a starter pack at the fortress. This starter pack lets you spar against ten different, extraordinary experts for three days. You can use them to familiarize yourself with the battles here. Otherwise, you can practice against the free opponents in the fortress. However, you probably won't learn anything from the freebies."

"There are two methods to obtain Battle Points. The first is to participate in the ranking matches; you can also place bets with other players before a duel. Some of the veterans trick many of the clueless newcomers. As a result, they lose their 100 starting points, just like that."

After Kong Haoran finished explaining the simulation training system, he led Shi Feng to the Battle Fortress.

However, as Shi Feng's group was about to enter the fortress, they heard a loud commotion from the fortress's main hall.

"Quick, come and take a look! Another newbie is challenging a veteran!"

"Damn! These guys sure are quick! Why can't I ever find these newbies?!"

Inside the splendid hall, over a hundred people crowded around a large screen suspended in the air.

"This newbie sure is unlucky."

"He actually challenged a veteran without undergoing the beginner's training."

"All newbies are like that. They think that they can defeat Violent Bear just because they are strong in their own Guilds. Does he really think the Battle Points are that easy to earn?"

Everyone began to chat merrily as they watched the screen. Such fights had become entertainment to flavor their lives.

As for a newcomer's chances of defeating these veterans?

Their only answer was a meaningful "Hehe."

"Sure enough, Violent Bear is bullying another newbie. He only recently finished conning the last one, and he's already at it again," Kong Haoran sighed ruefully when he noticed another battle brewing.

"Didn't they say that it was the newcomer who challenged that Violent Bear fellow? Why would you say that he's conning the newcomer?" Shi Feng asked curiously.

"It's like this: while newcomers only have 100 Battle Points, Violent Bear will gamble 500 Battle Points. Almost everyone who has come here is a top-class expert in their own Guild. Either that, or they are people with vast potential. Such people are typically quite confident of their strength," Kong Haoran explained. "However, they have forgotten that the Secret Pavilion's experts aren't ordinary either. Only the Pavilion's leading fighters can earn a slot in this training system."

"There is a huge possibility that these people will become members of the Secret Pavilion's middle management in the future. Moreover, even before they entered this training system, they were all strong enough to be top-class experts in any first-rate Guild. After training in here for over a month, their combat standards have grown significantly.

"Violent Bear is quite strong. Among the 350 training members, he ranks 141th. Newcomers shouldn't try to provoke him."

Shi Feng agreed with Kong Haoran.

In God's Domain, first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds lived in two, completely different worlds. A player known as a genius in a first-rate Guild might just be an extra in a Super Guild. In fact, the majority of the most outstanding newcomers each year were either from Super Guilds or super-first-rate Guilds.

Even if an outstanding newcomer emerged in a first-rate Guild, it would be due to their innate frightening talent alone. Gentle Snow would be one such example.

"This is interesting," Shi Feng muttered, smiling as he watched at the image on the screen.

On the large screen, a man taller and more robust than even Cola stood to one side. The man wielded a battle axe and had chosen the Berserker class. Meanwhile, Shi Feng recognized the man standing across from the Berserker; it was the Elementalist Red Feather from the Star Alliance. Red Feather looked

exactly as he did in God's Domain. It was clear that he had not modified his appearance when he had joined God's Domain, unlike Shi Feng, who looked quite different in God's Domain.

In the recent update of the God's Domain Experts List, Red Feather had been ranked 934th. Although his rank had fallen slightly due to the emergence of new experts, he should not be underestimated.

The simulation training system mimicked God's Domain's classes to near-perfection. However, in the training system, everyone's Basic Attributes were normalized and their Levels set to 30. Their equipment did not provide any additional Attributes either, and the Skills they possessed were limited to their class's Basic Skills. There were no special Skills in this system. The fights here relied on one's techniques.

As soon as the battle began, Red Feather launched a fierce assault on Violent Bear, using Frost Arrows to attack and Ice Walls or Ice Spheres to hinder the Berserker's movements. Ordinary experts would not be able to cope with such a two-pronged approach.

However, Violent Bear remained unperturbed. Not only could he easily evade the Frost Arrows, but he had also utilized his evasive maneuvers to shorten the distance between himself and the enemy Elementalist. This situation forced Red Feather to retreat repeatedly.

In just ten seconds, Red Feather had lost half his HP. In contrast, Violent Bear had only lost around 10% from blocking a few Frost Arrows and Fireballs with his axe. Moreover, Red Feather had exhausted his Blink charges and was now at the Berserker's mercy.

In Shi Feng's opinion, Red Feather had performed quite well. If he had faced an ordinary expert, he would have long since emerged victorious due to his unending assault and Ice Walls. Unfortunately, Violent Bear was no ordinary expert.

Ordinary experts lacked sufficient physical control. Against Red Feather's attacks, they would busy themselves with dodging and blocking. Violent Bear, on the other hand, had excellent control over his

body. He could make the necessary movements during crucial moments, easily avoiding Red Feather's accurate attacks while closing in on his enemy, slowly, but surely, forcing the Elementalist into a corner.

Even before the battle had begun, the outcome had been determined.

Red Feather currently had yet to reach the Half-step Refinement Realm. He simply stood no chance against Violent Bear, someone who had reached the Refinement Realm. The difference between their combat techniques was like the difference between heaven and earth. With both sides having equal Attributes and no special Skills or tools, Red Feather had no chance of winning.

Sure enough, in less than half a minute, Violent Bear approached Red Feather with a Charge and claimed the Elementalist's life with a Whirlwind Slash.

"Hahaha! Little noob, consider the 100 points you've lost as a tuition fee. When you have points again, I welcome a rematch." The man known as Violent Bear smirked at the angry Red Feather disdainfully after teleporting back to the main hall. He then turned around and exclaimed, "Ah, this feels great! With these 100 points, I can face a decent opponent again."

"You..."

Red Feather wanted to charge at the Berserker. However, Purple Eye held him back.

"Red, you're no match for him right now. He has already reached that realm," Purple Eye advised sternly, her voice containing both helplessness and excitement.

Although she was slightly stronger than Red Feather, her strength was limited. There was still a massive gap between herself and Violent Bear.

In the past few years, she had followed Galaxy Past around and had defeated many well-known experts. She acknowledged that she had improved significantly since leaving her Super Guild. However, she had never imagined that she would still suffer defeat against the internal experts that God's Domain's major powers nurtured.

Refinement Realm experts, which were extremely rare in God's Domain, were abundant here...

Yet, even a Refinement Realm expert like Violent Bear only ranked 141th here. Purple Eye finally understood just how terrifying the virtual gaming world's giants were. What she had seen in the past had only been the tip of the iceberg.

As Violent Bear approached the exchange counter, his gaze landed on Shi Feng. He immediately walked up to the Swordsman, smiling brightly as he said, "Oh? I've never seen you before. You must be new to the training system, right? Interested in a match against me? If I win, I want your 100 points. If you win, I'll give you 500. What do you think?"

"I'll teach you how precious the Battle Points here are. Those ranked beyond 300th place only get 20 points each day; 50 points if you rank between 201st and 300th, 100 points if you rank between 151st and 200th, 200 points if you rank between 101st and 150th, and 300 points if you rank between 51st and 100th. And don't even dream of reaching the top 50 ranks.

"How about it? With 500 points, you can spar against top-tier experts for an entire day."

Kong Haoran stepped forward and growled, "Violent Bear, that's enough of you."

Chapter 891 - Newcomer's Nightmare

Violent Bear's explanation of the daily Battle Point allotment was correct.

However, it had been a petty move from the Secret Pavilion.

It was true that there were a total of 350 slots for the simulation training system this time. It was also true that the training system was a holy ground for rapid improvement. However, to face a decent opponent for a day, one needed at least 100 points. Even so, that was only enough to afford a Half-step Refinement Realm opponent. To obtain 100 points or more each day, one needed to rank within the top 200.

Among the 350 people participating in the training system this time, 200 happened to be the Secret Pavilion's members.

These elites, whom the Secret Pavilion had nurtured, had already displayed relatively high combat standards. Now, they had received over a month's head start in this training system. To put it simply, the members from other Guilds had no chance of claiming any of the top 200 positions.

Meanwhile, those who ranked between 200th and 300th place could only afford to practice every other day.

To newcomers, this was a nightmare.

When they first joined the training system, they ranked below 300. Receiving only 20 points each day, newcomers had to wait for five days to fight a decent opponent. If they did not purchase the 100-point starter pack, they would have to waste even more time to familiarize themselves with the training system's battles.

Individuals could only purchase the starter pack once, and among the ten experts within the starter pack, eight were Half-step Refinement Realm experts, and two were Refinement Realm experts. If newcomers trained with these experts for three days, they could improve their techniques significantly. This way, they could qualify to fight for one of the top 300 rankings. Although joining the top 200 would be difficult, it wasn't entirely impossible.

While the Secret Pavilion's members could face Half-step Refinement Realm experts once a day at the very minimum, members from other Guilds could only face one every other day at best.

As for challenging Refinement Realm experts, that required 200 points. Those in the top 200 only needed to wait two days, while they needed four. As time passed, the difference between both sides would only grow.

"Shi Feng, don't let him trick you! Your starting 100 points are crucial!" the elegantly beautiful Du Xin advised.

Newcomers like them could not contend with Violent Bear. Even those in the Refinement Realm had difficulty defeating the Berserker. After all, Violent Bear had reached the Refinement Realm a long time ago. Experts who had just reached the Refinement Realm could not compare to his physical control.

Although Du Xin did not know which Guild Shi Feng originated from, she knew that even first-rate Guilds' top-tier experts were no match for Violent Bear.

"Kong Haoran, I'm not talking to you right now. I'm offering a sincere invitation to this little brother. I'm sure he isn't a scaredy cat like you are, afraid of challenging me even once. In the end, you can only boast your strength in your little Guild," Violent Bear sneered. Although the man scolded Kong Haoran for his incompetence, his words were meant for Shi Feng. "Little brother, you agree with me, right?"

"Even if he does lose, it's just 100 points. As long as he ranks among the top 300, he'll earn those points back in two days. Although he won't be able to face a decent expert during that time, at least he can still challenge the ranking competition once a day and practice against the normal simulated experts. Kong Haoran, you're just exaggerating to scare him.

"Since you don't want the newcomer to fight me, why don't you try your luck instead? You've already been here for five days, after all.

"I'll even handicap my Attributes by 10%. If you win, I'll give you 800 points. If you lose, you just need to give me 100. How about it? Do you dare to accept my challenge? If not, get lost. Letting a coward like you in here was a waste of a precious training slot."

Kong Haoran turned ashen as he glared at Violent Bear.

However, he hadn't been able to utter a single word. It's not that he feared a fight, it's just that he had other uses for his points. Yesterday, one of his companions had joined the system and fell for a veteran's provocation. In the end, that companion of his had lost their points. Today, he had finally accumulated 100 points and planned to buy a starter pack for that companion. If he lost a match to Violent Bear now, his companion would have to wait several more days before getting their starter pack.

"Tch. You're a coward till the end," Violent Bear cast a disdainful look towards Kong Haoran when the man turned to leave.

"Fellow brother, aren't you being insincere? You're willing to lower your Attributes and raise your bet to 800 points, yet against me, not only did you not offer to use a handicap, but your bet was also only 500 points," Shi Feng said softly as he glanced at Violent Bear.

"Oh? You want a match?" Violent Bear's gaze shifted back to Shi Feng, and he began to size up the Swordsman. Laughing, he continued, "Sure. If you want to fight me, I'll offer you the same terms."

Following which, Violent Bear led Shi Feng to the battlefield.

"Why is he so impulsive? Didn't he see how miserably Violent Bear beat his previous opponent?" Du Xin asked, slightly frustrated.

"He might've done it because he didn't want Violent Bear to continue humiliating me," Kong Haoran responded, feeling somewhat guilty as he watched Shi Feng depart.

After interacting with Shi Feng for some, he could tell that Shi Feng was not impulsive. Moreover, he had not seen any anger or pride within Shi Feng's gaze. On the contrary, he had appeared extraordinarily calm as he challenged the Berserker. This showed that he was aware of Violent Bear's strength and had only challenged the man after considering it calmly.

...

"Violent Bear is so lucky. He's going to haul in 200 points in one day. With this, he can take on a Refinement Realm expert for an entire day."

"However, that newcomer is pretty smart. He got Violent Bear to lower his Attributes by 10%."

"Violent Bear has already set foot into the Refinement Realm. Against a newcomer, a 20% handicap wouldn't change anything, much less 10%. Without also having reached the Refinement Realm, that newcomer doesn't stand a chance."

Everyone in the main hall had their gazes glued to the massive screen, envy flashing in their eyes as they watched Violent Bear.

"Red, don't you think that newcomer looks kind of familiar?" Purple Eye asked. As she watched Shi Feng on the screen, she felt as if she had seen him somewhere.

"Familiar?" Red Feather's loss vexed him, so he was in no mood to pay attention to the new duel. However, after Purple Eye's comment, he shifted his gaze towards the screen. Immediately, he fell into deep thought as he muttered, "Indeed. He does feel familiar, but I can't recall where or when I've met him before."

As Purple Eye and Red Feather watched Shi Feng, Shi Feng's duel with Violent Bear began.

The battlefield was set in a desert. It was a standard, open battle with no terrain to benefit either player.

Shi Feng had chosen the Swordsman class for this match, while Violent Bear stuck with the Berserker. However, Violent Bear had reduced his overall Attributes by 10%. In terms of Strength, he was roughly on par with a Swordsman of the same Level.

As the battle began, Violent Bear used Charge at Shi Feng.

"Brat, I'll show you just how powerful I am!" Violent Bear tightened his grip on his battle axe and swung the weapon at Shi Feng violently. Although the axe did not seem to move quickly, it vanished halfway to Shi Feng.

Second Acceleration!

Violent Bear was quite confident of his melee combat capabilities. Even with reduced Attributes, with his Second Acceleration technique, he could defeat a Swordsman of the same Level easily. Even a melee expert who had also reached the Refinement Realm would find it immensely difficult to block his attacks, not to mention a newcomer like Shi Feng.

Chapter 892 - Breaking the Norm

"So fast!"

"His attack disappeared!"

"What technique is that?"

Many of the spectating newcomers were shocked when Violent Bear's battle axe suddenly disappeared before their eyes.

However, when Red Feather witnessed this, wrathful flames flared in his eyes.

"That bastard! He held back against me!" Red Feather clenched his fists as he glared at Violent Bear on the screen.

If Violent Bear had used this move against him, the match wouldn't have even lasted 30 seconds.

Although the newcomers in the hall were surprised, the Secret Pavilion's veterans were indifferent. They were used to seeing this move.

"Does he really need to be so serious against this newcomer?"

"He might want to end the battle quickly. But this newcomer sure is unlucky. He's forced to realize the disparity between us so soon after entering the training system. I'm guessing his confidence has shattered by now."

As the various fighters discussed the fight, Violent Bear's battle axe struck Shi Feng, again and again, leaving the Swordsman with no opportunity to catch his breath.

Dang! Dang! Dang!

After a series of over a dozen strikes, Violent Bear's expression darkened. He then retreated, glaring at the unharmed Shi Feng.

Just who is he? Violent Bear suddenly felt an immense, heavy pressure weigh down on him.

Second Acceleration was an attack technique that utilized afterimages to trick the enemy. Even an expert of the same standard would struggle to defend against his attacks, yet Shi Feng had blocked every slash and hack. However, this was not why Violent Bear had retreated.

As he had swung his axe, Shi Feng's sword had met his blade as it began to accelerate, preventing him from gathering enough momentum in his weapon. As a result, Shi Feng's sword easily deflected his axe, forcing the Berserker into a passive state.

However, Shi Feng had no intentions of giving Violent Bear any time to rest.

Dashing forward, he directly sent a Chop towards Violent Bear, his body void of excess movement. In the next moment, his sword vanished. The spectators only saw a flash of white light leave Shi Feng's hand.

Violent Bear panicked. He could not even see any afterimage of Shi Feng's sword. However, he instinctively used Whirlwind Slash.

Unfortunately, Violent Bear had been too late.

Before he could begin to execute Whirlwind Slash, Violent Bear saw a flower of blood bloom on his chest. His Whirlwind Slash only began after the blood had blossomed. However, before his spinning axe could strike Shi Feng, the weapon stopped as if it had struck a wall, scattering sparks. The sudden halt forced the Berserker back a step.

Before Violent Bear could catch his breath, however, more blood began to bloom across his chest, one after another. His HP drained away like flowing water.

In the end, as the seventh flower of blood scattered across the sandy ground, Violent Bear fell motionless...

As the battle ended, Shi Feng obtained 800 Battle Points, pushing his total points to 900.

"What did he do?!" Many of the Pavilion's elites shouted in their confusion. "Why is Violent Bear dead?!"

Today, Shi Feng broke the norm of newcomers' helplessness against veteran bullying...

Violent Bear had clearly been on the offensive throughout the match, yet he had retreated, and Shi Feng had given chase, spilling the Berserker's blood.

Seeing the gashes decorating Violent Bear's body, it was obvious that the Berserker had been cut. However, none of them had seen even an afterimage of a sword leave Shi Feng's hand, striking Violent Bear.

A deathly silence overtook the main hall. Everyone stared at Shi Feng, who was just returned from the battlefield, with dumbfounded expressions.

"Ye Feng! That's right; he is Ye Feng!" After seeing Shi Feng's attack, Red Feather realized where he had seen that familiar face. Moreover, while there were some differences between Shi Feng's and Ye Feng's appearances, there were also some faint similarities.

Purple Eye also recognized Shi Feng.

The invisible attack had also been familiar... Purple Eye couldn't think of anyone, aside from Ye Feng, who used that technique.

"Why is he here?" Purple Eye was astounded. She couldn't believe her eyes.

Ye Feng might not be very famous among God's Domain's general populace, but to first-rate Guilds and the game's major powers, the young man's name reverberated like thunder.

Purple Eye had already been stunned when she had watched the battle video from the Dark Arena. Now that she had seen Shi Feng fight personally, even her soul trembled.

In the Dark Arena battle, Shi Feng's fast attacks had been understandable as he possessed Attributes that could even overwhelm an old monster like Sirius. Currently, however, he had the Basic Attributes of a Level 30 player and lacked any bonuses from weapons or equipment. Even so, his attacks were still too fast to see with the naked eye. Who could possibly defend against those attacks?

Purple Eye finally understood that Shi Feng had not won against Sirius because of excellent equipment. His personal strength was, in fact, on par with those old monsters.

...

When Shi Feng returned to the main hall, the Secret Pavilion's members no longer looked down on him. Only fear filled these elites' eyes. On the other hand, the newcomers originating from various Guilds cheered.

The Secret Pavilion's members had constantly bullied and suppressed them. Now that the Pavilion's Violent Bear had been beaten with just a few moves, why wouldn't they feel liberated and excited?

"Shi Feng, you... how are you so powerful?" Kong Haoran asked, stuttering nervously as he watched Shi Feng walk over.

Huo Zhengyang and Du Xin, who stood beside Kong Haoran, also stiffened as the Swordsman approached.

An expert!

He was an absolute expert!

Even if Shi Feng were a member of a transcendental existence like the Secret Pavilion, he would still be considered a top-class expert.

They had always looked up to such monstrous experts. They had never dreamed that they would, one day, meet such an existence.

When they thought back to how they had conversed and laughed merrily with the man, treating Shi Feng as if he were their junior, they were incredibly embarrassed.

"You never asked." Shi Feng laughed.

"You let us make fools of ourselves. If others learned that we met you like this, they would split their sides with laughter." In the end, Kong Haoran was not ordinary. He quickly adjusted his mood. Moreover, in his opinion, Shi Feng was actually quite friendly. He wasn't like those aloof, arrogant apex experts.

Huo Zhengyang and Du Xin also relaxed after a moment and resumed their conversation with Shi Feng.

When the others inside the hall saw this, they envied Kong Haoran and his friends.

They all dreamed of a friendship with a powerful expert like Shi Feng. If they could gain some pointers from an expert of his caliber, they could push themselves to the next level.

"Ah, right. What's up with the ranking competition? Don't tell me we have to face everyone here every single day?" Shi Feng had heard all he needed to about Battle Points. However, he didn't have a clue about the method of earning them. If he had to duel so many people each day, he would waste too much time. Moreover, he didn't have that much time to spend in the simulated training system.

Chapter 893 - Battle Tower

Kong Haoran and his companions laughed when they heard Shi Feng's question.

There were a total of 350 people in the simulation training system. If they had to fight so many people every day, they would die from exhaustion. Not to mention, no one had that much time to waste.

After all, every person here was a professional gamer. They spent most of their energy in God's Domain. A player's strength did not only rely on combat standards and techniques. Weapons, equipment, and tools also factored into a player's combat power. Otherwise, players wouldn't pursue better weapons or equipment.

"The simulation training system's ranking competition isn't a competition between players. Rather, it depends on your results in the Battle Tower. The Battle Tower is somewhat like the Divine Colosseum's Trial Tower," Kong Haoran explained. He then pointed towards the large portal in the middle of the hall, saying, "That's the Trial Tower that decides our ranks."

"The Battle Tower has a total of seven floors. The higher the floor you reach, the more Combat Points you will earn. In the end, the system uses the Battle Value to determine our ranks. Inside the Battle Tower, everyone's Attributes are normalized. However, you can only enter the tower once per day, and the ranks are determined every midnight. Generally, you must be prepared before challenging the tower. Otherwise, you'll likely be eliminated and waste your chance."

"So, that's how it works." Shi Feng could not help his growing interest in the Battle Tower. He shifted his gaze back to Kong Haoran and asked, "Which floor have you guys reached so far?"

"This..." Kong Haoran scratched his head. Awkwardly, he replied, "We're still on the first floor."

"Is it that difficult?" Shi Feng asked in surprise.

He could tell that Kong Haoran's combat standard was quite high. Although the man was no match for Red Feather, he was not far off. In a first-rate Guild, he would be considered a top-class expert there.

In terms of the Divine Colosseum's Trial Tower, Kong Haoran would be a sixth-floor expert at the very least, yet such an expert was stuck on the Battle Tower's first floor. How difficult was this tower?

"In truth, all of the newcomers are stuck on the first floor. Only the Pavilion's group have reached the second floor. Violent Bear, for example, is on the second floor. However, he ranks among the top of those on that floor," Kong Haoran explained. "The experts who have reached the third-floor rank within the top 100. Their ranks practically never change. The most we can do is fight for the top 200 spots. The top 100 are monsters.

"The Battle Tower's difficulty has been set incredibly high. I really don't know why the Secret Pavilion made seven floors. I've heard that, even so many years after the Pavilion created this training system, nobody has the seventh floor. The highest record is the sixth floor."

When they spoke of the tower's difficulty, both Huo Zhengyang's and Du Xin's expressions twisted into something ugly.

They were their Guild's prided geniuses in God's Domain. Countless players looked up to them, yet upon joining this simulation training system, they had been stuck at the bottom of the food chain. Although Kong Haoran had entered the top 300 ranks, it was beyond these two, and they were limited to a pitiful 20 points each day.

"The record-holder has only reached the sixth floor?" Shi Feng was even more surprised.

A transcendental power like the Secret Pavilion should have a few old monsters who had, at the very least, reached the Domain Realm, yet even they had only managed to reach the sixth floor. It was hard to imagine just how difficult the seventh floor must be.

As he learned more, Shi Feng's curiosity about the Battle Tower grew.

Since Shi Feng currently had 900 points, he had no interest in the starter pack. At the very least, he needed a Void Realm Expert as a decent opponent. However, simulating Void Realm experts required 1,000 points. As for Domain Realm experts, facing them cost 2,000 points.

Following which, under Kong Haoran's guidance, Shi Feng entered the Battle Tower.

As Shi Feng entered the Battle Tower, news of his overwhelming victory over Violent Bear spread like wildfire.

After all, this was the first time a newcomer from another Guild had defeated a Secret Pavilion elite. Furthermore, Violent Bear was an expert that ranked among the top 150.

Many people, curious about how well Shi Feng would fare in the Battle Tower, rushed to the Battle Fortress to watch.

"Since this brat had easily defeated Violent Bear, he shouldn't have any problems reaching the third floor. If he does, someone's going to get kicked out of the top 100.

"How can that be? The third floor isn't easy to reach. Moreover, Violent Bear had handicapped 10% of his Attributes in that battle."

"Damn, which Guild did that guy come from? He's so strong. If he reaches the third floor, he'll place a new record."

"Mhm. I recall that the best record an expert from a different Guild had set on their first try was the second floor. However, that person is a true genius. Even the Pavilion is trying to recruit them."

The Battle Fortress's main hall exploded with commotion as everyone focused on the ranking lists before the Battle Tower. Even now, people streamed into the main hall, all talking about Shi Feng.

For a time, Shi Feng was the fortress's focal point.

"Quick, look! Isn't that Wen Hua?!"

"Why is she here?"

"Are you kidding me? Is she here to watch Shi Feng? Who is this guy?"

As everyone discussed Shi Feng, a beautiful woman in purple-red martial artist robes appeared in the hall. Instantly, the focus shifted towards her.

Everyone's, including Kong Haoran's group and Purple eye, who rested in a corner, jaws dropped.

Most people in God's Domain might not recognize the woman, but in this simulation training system, Wen Hua was a celebrity. Everyone knew about her.

Why is she here? Did she discover Shi Feng's identity as well? Watching Wen Hua slowly walk into the hall, becoming the center of attention, an indescribable sense of jealousy and admiration welled up in Purple Eye's heart.

In terms of appearance, Wen Hua could even stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Snow Goddess of Ouroboros, Gentle Snow. In terms of talent, however, Wen Hua surpassed Gentle Snow by leaps and bounds.

Wen Hua was very young, much younger than Gentle Snow.

To experts, age was a form of capital. Some people could reach the Refinement Realm at the young age of 18, while others only did so after turning 20. Although there was only an age difference of two years, this time gap could determine how far a player would go.

Although both were considered geniuses, the difference in talent was massive.

If one reached the Refinement Realm at the age of 18, there was a high chance for them to reach the peak of the virtual gaming world during their lifetime. They would likely become an old monster, becoming a Domain Realm expert in the future. However, those who managed to enter the Refinement Realm at the age of 20, without any special opportunities, would, at most, become an ordinary upper echelon in some Super Guild.

Meanwhile, at the young age of 17, Wen Hua had reached the Refinement Realm. Currently, at 19, she had reached the peak of the Flowing Water Realm. The Pavilion's old monsters commented that Wen Hua was lacked inspiration and could break through to the Void Realm at any moment.

A 19-year-old Void Realm expert would have endless opportunities in their future. The Secret Pavilion had treated Wen Hua like a rare, precious seedling and spared no expense to nurture her. The Pavilion's old monsters often offered her pointers. She was likely to become the Secret Pavilion's future heir.

Meanwhile, such an amazing woman had actually shown up to watch a newcomer. Why wouldn't this be shocking?

Chapter 894 - Sword Meister

Ignoring all the stares directed at her, Wen Hua took a seat near the Battle Tower's portal and selected to spectate Shi Feng's progress inside the tower. Being a spectator allowed her to see everything happening inside the tower clearly; however, this spectator mode cost Battle Points.

Moreover, the number of points required by the system was not low: a total of 300 points to spectate a person; the system would automatically give 200 of these points to the fighter. For the newcomers and the members of the Secret Pavilion, this was a price that none of them was willing to pay.

Paying 300 points to spectate anyone—aside from the experts ranked within the top 50—would just be a big waste of their points, especially for a newcomer that barely anyone knew about.

Shortly after Wen Hua sat down, a young man exited from the training field's portal. When this young man spotted Wen Hua, he hurriedly made his way over to her.

"Eh? Isn't that Cold Autumn? Why is he here?"

"I heard that he's been training like a madman ever since his trip to Star-Moon Kingdom. He must've received some kind of stimulation there. Now, he spends nearly all of his spare time fighting inside the training field."

The members of the Secret Pavilion were shocked when they saw Cold Autumn, who had appeared out of the blue, walking over to Wen Hua.

The Three Great Geniuses of the Secret Pavilion were individuals that were usually very hard to meet, yet two of them had actually shown up in the Battle Fortress. It was truly a rare sight to behold.

"Sister Wen Hua, why do you suddenly have time to come here?" Cold Autumn asked when he reached Wen Hua. After taking a seat, he continued, "Didn't Uncle Yuan say that you are going to challenge Sanctuary's Gale Sword Meister, Ruthless Sky? Aren't you going to rest and prepare for that battle? No matter what, he is one of Sanctuary's eight Sword Meisters.

"I've heard that Ruthless Sky has made significant advances recently, and his rank on the Experts List has already gone up from 131st to 117th. Moreover, he even replaced one of his weapons yesterday, and the higher-ups suspect that it could be an Epic Weapon. This will increase his combat power even more."

Sending a glance at Cold Autumn, Wen Hua said in a casual tone, "I know all that. Even so, I will still defeat him."

Compared to her upcoming battle, she was more interested in this battle of Shi Feng's.

Previously, she had viewed Shi Feng's battle with Sirius many times. However, at the end of the day, a video recording was still a video recording. The experience was far from comparable to watching in person.

Originally, she had intended to come here only for a little training. She never thought that after arriving, she would hear news of a newcomer defeating Violent Bear. Moreover, the name of that newcomer was even "Shi Feng." As a result, this situation greatly piqued her interest.

Just like Shi Feng, she was a Swordsman player. If she wanted to increase her combat experience, it was naturally best for her to learn from a fellow Swordsman.

Only, there were not many Swordsmen in the Secret Pavilion and even fewer that she could seek guidance from. At this moment, these people could no longer help her improve any further. Hence, she had opted to challenge the famous Swordsmen in God's Domain. Now that a Swordsman who had managed to defeat Sirius had appeared, she obviously could not let the opportunity to observe him fight slip by.

If it was possible, she even wanted to have a match against Shi Feng.

Following which, Wen Hua returned to observing Shi Feng's battle quietly.

Just who is this person? He is actually able to rouse Sister Wen Hua's interest! Cold Autumn was baffled. If he were to spread the word of this matter, it would most likely shock the entire Secret Pavilion.

Thinking so, Cold Autumn suddenly selected the spectator mode as well. Moreover, the person he chose to spectate was the newcomer Shi Feng.

Three hundred points might be a lot to an ordinary expert of the Secret Pavilion, but to him, it was still barely acceptable.

"Damn, this is just insane! Two of the Great Geniuses are actually spectating Shi Feng's battle!"

"This can't be real, right? Isn't he just a powerful newcomer? Even reaching the third floor is a problem. Is it really worth spending 300 points to watch him?"

The mouths of the players in the main hall hung wide open as they watched Wen Hua and Cold Autumn quietly sitting beside the Battle Tower's portal.

"Damn it!" Purple Eye clenched her fists as she looked at Wen Hua and Cold Autumn. "It would be great if we had come here a few days earlier. It's just impossible to gather 300 points right now."

She knew who exactly Shi Feng was. If she missed this opportunity to witness his battle, who knew when she would get another chance?

"Why don't I go borrow some points? I heard that aside from duels, the members of the Secret Pavilion will also loan Battle Points. However, we'll need to pay an additional 30% interest when paying back the points," Red Feather said, gritting his teeth.

Purple Eye promptly nodded in response. Compared to paying an interest rate of 30%, being able to watch this battle was much more important.

This scene bewildered the members of the Secret Pavilion. They could not understand just what kind of attraction Shi Feng held to rouse the interest of not only the Pavilion's geniuses but also the newcomers.

Inside the Battle Tower, Shi Feng was currently standing in the middle of an endless plain with a total of 49 Prairie Lions and one Prairie Lion King surrounding him.

[Prairie Lion] (Elite Rank)

Level 30

HP 60,000/60,000

[Prairie Lion King] (Special Elite)

Level 30

HP 200,000/200,000

System: Defeat all monsters to progress to the next floor. Every Prairie Lion killed will reward you with 1 Combat Point, and killing the Prairie Lion King will reward you with 10 Combat Points.

No wonder Kong Haoran's group weren't able to clear the first floor, Shi Feng thought as he swept a glance at the lions besieging him. He then took a look at his own Attributes. Currently, his Attributes were roughly equal to those of a Level 30 Swordsman geared in Bronze Weapons and Equipment. Right now, he was the very definition of an ordinary player.

The difficulty of defeating this pride of lions would be extremely high.

Moreover, this place was an endless grassland, offering no terrain whatsoever that players could take advantage of, which further increased the difficulty.

"Roar!" the Prairie Lion King bellowed angrily and advanced.

Simultaneously, the Prairie Lions surrounding Shi Feng pounced at him as well.

An ordinary player would usually panic if faced with attacks coming from all sides. They would instinctively attempt to rush out of the encirclement. As for expert players, they would choose to fight while retreating, slowly but surely killing these monsters.

However, Shi Feng did neither of these things. With an ordinary Level 30 player's Attributes, he simply had no chance of outrunning the Prairie Lion King. On the contrary, attempting to do so would place himself in a disadvantageous situation.

Facing the incoming pride of lions, Shi Feng began brandishing the twin swords in his hands.

In the next moment, countless streaks of sword light flashed around Shi Feng, forming a barrier of sorts around him. Any lion that came at him would have their joints struck by Shi Feng's swords. Although Shi Feng's Strength was insufficient to repel the Prairie Lions, he still managed to deflect their attack trajectories slightly.

Seen from afar, the half-dozen Prairie Lions attacking Shi Feng appeared to be intentionally circling the Swordsman, their attacks all landing on thin air.

As these Prairie Lions moved past Shi Feng, a streak of sword light would strike at their bodies, causing over -1,500 damage to the Elite monsters.

As the battle continued, the Prairie Lions died one after another.

This person is clearing out the Prairie Lions so quickly! Cold Autumn was filled with shock as he observed this scene. Just who is this person?!

He knew full well just how hard it was to deal with these Prairie Lions. Simply dodging their attacks was very exhausting, yet Shi Feng was actually toying with these Elite monsters like they were kittens right now. Despite Shi Feng having the same Attributes as he did when he challenged the first floor, Shi Feng's clearing speed was at least double his.

These Prairie Lions posed no threat to Shi Feng at all. Only the Prairie Lion King, whose speed was much faster and Strength was much greater than the Prairie Lions', presented a challenge for Shi Feng. However, utilizing his positioning to guide the Prairie Lions, Shi Feng turned the Prairie Lions into shields for him, having the Elite monsters receive all the attacks of the Prairie Lion King, instead. After each successful block, Shi Feng would also follow up with a counterattack, each of his blows dealing over -1,200 damage to the Special Elite.

The Prairie Lion King's HP fell at a rate visible to the naked eye.

In the end, the Special Elite died without even managing to land a paw on Shi Feng, its body lying motionless on the ground.

Meanwhile, the players present in the main hall of the Battle Fortress suddenly fell silent, every one of them staring at the Record Board of the Battle Tower's first floor with a dumbfounded expression.

At this moment, the first floor's original fastest clear record of 47 minutes 27 seconds had actually been broken.

Chapter 895 - Unstoppable Record

"How is he so fast?!"

An uproar broke out in the main hall the instant the players saw the record broken. None of them dared to believe it was true.

The clear record for the Battle Tower's first floor had stood for a very long time now.

Most people required nearly two hours to deal with the monsters on the first floor, taking at least double the record time. Even the personal bests of the Three Great Geniuses of the Secret Pavilion were relatively far away from the record clear time. Yet, Shi Feng had broken it easily.

37 minutes 24 seconds!

Everyone grew extremely curious as to what had happened inside the Battle Tower when they saw this new record. Just what did Shi Feng do to clear the floor so quickly?

"Sister Wen Hua, just who is this person?" Cold Autumn could not help but ask when he saw this new record.

The Battle Tower's record had remained unchanged for many years now. Even if someone could surpass it, the person capable of doing so definitely should not be a young man like Shi Feng. Nevertheless, a newcomer originating from another Guild had beaten the best record by over ten minutes.

"You've also seen this person before," Wen Hua replied, chuckling.

"I've seen him before?" Cold Autumn grew curious at these words. However, he could not figure out where he had seen Shi Feng before.

"He is Ye Feng, the apex Swordsman who defeated one of the Wolf Kings of the Battle Wolves," Wen Hua added, her words invested with strong fighting spirit. When she had only seen Shi Feng's battle videos before, she merely thought of having a match with him. Now, however, what she wanted to do was surpass the man. However, what she had to do first was defeat Sanctuary's Gale Sword Meister.

"He is Ye Feng?" Cold Autumn gaped as he took in Shi Feng's youthful appearance.

Even though Shi Feng looked relatively young in God's Domain, Cold Autumn had thought that Shi Feng's true age should be around 25 or 26. Now, however, it would seem that the man was only 21 or 22 years old. He was not that much older than Wen Hua, yet he had already managed to defeat the legendary Sirius. Although he had relied mainly on his equipment advantage and Skill advantage, a win was still a win.

"Sister Wen Hua, aren't you being a little too mean? Since you already knew he was that Ye Feng, why didn't you tell me? I nearly missed out on a big opportunity to spectate one of his battles," Cold Autumn grumbled. Inwardly, however, he felt thrilled. At the cost of just 300 Battle Points, he got to spectate the battle of an expert like Shi Feng. This was an opportunity that could not be bought even with money.

"Everyone has their own opportunities. If you miss it, then you can only consider yourself unlucky. Just like the time when the Glorious Lions went up against the Asura Battle Team. Who knew that the battle at that time would become one of the most memorable battles in the Dark Arena?" Wen Hua sighed as she shook her head. "Alright, enough talking. Focus on watching. We won't get another chance like this as easily later on."

While Wen Hua and Cold Autumn were chatting, many of the Secret Pavilion's members had also gritted their teeth and chosen to spend 300 points to spectate Shi Feng's battle.

A person capable of breaking the record of the first floor definitely possessed extraordinary abilities.

After just a short moment, the number of people spectating Shi Feng's battle grew to a total of 13, instantly increasing Shi Feng's Battle Points to 3,500.

...

Inside the Battle Tower, when Shi Feng progressed to the second floor, he was transported into a dark nest. Visibility was very low, and his vision only extended to 10 yards at most. He could also hear rustling coming from all around him, the sounds being hair-raisingly creepy.

Although there aren't a lot of monsters on the second floor, roughly only 20, this dark environment makes it much more difficult to evade the attacks of these monsters. I also had to attempt and train on this floor many times before I got used to this environment. Cold Autumn revealed a smile when he saw Shi Feng standing still after arriving on the second floor.

Although he was not present on the battlefield, his viewing angle was not that far from Shi Feng. Moreover, as a spectator, he had a much clearer view of the battlefield than Shi Feng, and his field of vision was nearly three times that of Shi Feng's.

At this moment, 19 Elite ranked Nightwalker Tarantulas and one Special Elite ranked Ghost Tarantula had Shi Feng completely surrounded.

[Nightwalker Tarantula] (Elite Rank)

Level 30

HP 70,000/70,000

[Ghost Tarantula] (Special Elite)

Level 30

HP 240,000/240,000

Shi Feng could get two Combat Points for every Nightwalker Tarantula he killed, while the Ghost Tarantula would give him a total of 40 points if killed. The points these monsters gave were much more than those for the monsters on the first floor.

With a visual range of 10 yards, players would have an exceedingly short time to react to any attacks from the Tarantulas. Here, even taking a breath at a wrong time could result in one's death.

Even if players were just going up against monsters of the same Level, the difficulty of the second floor was significantly higher than the first floor's. Hence, the number of experts that had managed to clear the second floor among the participants of the training system this time around was extremely low. Even a Refinement Realm expert like Violent Bear had failed to clear it.

To Shi Feng, however, this floor was child's play.

After reaching the Void Realm, even having his sense of sight weakened would hardly affect his combat power. Although Shi Feng could not visually perceive the situation beyond ten yards, the vibrations and sounds passing through the air allowed him to pinpoint the positions of all the monsters within the nest. Before the monsters even got to ten yards of him, Shi Feng had already started taking appropriate countermeasures.

Compared to the lions on the first floor, the massive tarantulas on the second floor were much easier to handle. Although the tarantulas were slightly faster than the lions, their Strength was weaker.

Up to the moment the battle ended, none of these tarantulas had landed a direct hit on Shi Feng even once. Only the Ghost Tarantula's high Attack Speed managed to force Shi Feng to block its attacks a few times, inflicting a small amount of damage as a result.

Shi Feng's evasive maneuvers and attacks completely mesmerized the spectators of the battle. Shi Feng had fought the monsters as if he was just taking a leisurely walk through the park.

Aside from these feats...

Shi Feng had also broken the clear record of the second floor. The original record time was 32 minutes 54 seconds whereas Shi Feng's clear time was 27 minutes 35 seconds.

Following which, the number of people spectating Shi Feng's battle increased by 15, boosting Shi Feng's Battle Points further by 3,000.

The third floor was a fiery hell. The majority of the ground on this floor was scorching red. Stepping on a patch of red immediately imposed burn damage. Only the areas scorched black were safe. However, there were very few of such areas in this fiery valley. Players would have their movement greatly restricted while fighting on this floor.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng's opponents for this floor were drastically different from his previous ones. Although there were only ten monsters on this floor, all ten of them were hovering around in the air.

[Flame Falcon] (Elite Rank)

Level 30

HP 60,000/60,000

[Flame Eagle] (Chieftain Rank)

Level 30

HP 900,000/900,000

"They say that the third floor is a major threshold, and until now, only a few experts have managed to clear the third floor. Just how far will he be able to go?" Looking at Shi Feng remaining motionless, many people began wondering how he would avoid the attacks of the Flame Eagle.

A Chieftain was much stronger than a Special Elite. Dodging attacks from such a monster was already extremely difficult, to begin with, not to mention the various constraints the environment placed on Shi Feng's movements. Without a proper method to cope with the Flame Eagle, Shi Feng would very quickly lose his life on the third floor.

This is rather interesting. It's no wonder they say that the Battle Tower plays a crucial role in guiding one through the various combat realms. As Shi Feng took in his surroundings and the Flame Eagle hovering above him, he suddenly understood what was going on in the Battle Tower.

Chapter 896 - Skyrocketing Points

The Secret Pavilion had another name for the Battle Tower: the Tower of Guidance.

From what Kong Haoran shared, the Battle Tower could help a player grow—all the way up to grasping a Domain.

Previously, Shi Feng only partly believed these words. Now, however, he no longer doubted them.

In order to be considered as having reached the Refinement Realm, one needed to have excellent control over their own body and be able to flexibly and naturally vary the amount of strength their body exerted.

The Flowing Water Realm required one to perceive and observe the opponents. One had to be able to distinguish their opponent's thoughts and carry out appropriate responses in advance by observing the opponent's minute movements. To put it simply, one needed to be able to react before their opponents even acted.

The Void Realm demanded a certain amount of control over one's surroundings. Instead of merely judging the environment through vision alone, one needed to push their five senses to the very limits and rely on these enhanced senses to determine all movements occurring in the background.

The goal of the Battle Tower's first floor was to have players learn how to control themselves, using the pressure of facing a large number of lions to learn how to adapt nimbly to sudden changes.

The second floor was meant to improve a player's instantaneous observation powers and snap judgment.

The third floor served to improve a player's perception and judgment of distance. Accurately judging distance was a challenging task. However, as long as one managed to achieve this, they would be considered to have officially entered the Flowing Water Realm.

Shi Feng had to admit that the guidance provided by the Battle Tower was very on point. It was no wonder that Super Guilds could nurture such a large number of top-tier experts.

The Flame Falcons and Flame Eagle hovering in the sky had no intention of giving Shi Feng too much time. Letting out screeches that echoed throughout the entire valley, the fiery birds spat out scorching flames in Shi Feng's direction in unison.

"It will be difficult for him to clear the third floor."

Among those present inside the Battle Fortress were quite a few people whose progress stalled on the third floor. Hence, they were very clear on how difficult this floor was.

Not only would one receive flame attacks from all directions, but the valley floor would also change at random. Places that were originally safe zones could turn into a danger zone in the next second. One constantly needed to pay attention to their footing while on this floor.

Moreover, there were no objects in the area that could serve to block the flame attacks of the monsters.

One could just imagine the difficulty of the third floor. Not to mention attacking the flying monsters, the majority of the players who reached this floor would generally fail to cope properly, and ultimately died to either the scorching ground or the flame attacks.

"What is he trying to do?"

Everyone suddenly noticed that, despite seeing the ten streaks of flames coming at him, Shi Feng actually chose to remain standing still.

Just as the flames were about to devour Shi Feng, the Swordsman suddenly strode forward, his body leaving behind numerous afterimages as he moved about the small platform he was on. In the next moment, one streak of flames engulfed the afterimages Shi Feng left behind. After all ten were gone, Shi Feng was standing back in his original position completely unscathed.

"How is this possible?!" Cold Autumn was momentarily stupefied.

Although he had yet to reach the third floor himself, it was obvious to him that were he the one going up against these flame attacks, aside from running and dodging, he would have no other method to retain his life. The distance the flame attacks were launched from was simply too short. He would have absolutely no way to avoid that many attacks in the limited maneuvering space available. As for blocking the flame attacks with his weapon, that would be utterly impossible. He would need a complete set of Mysterious-Iron Equipment—at the very least—to avoid taking any damage from blocking the attacks of the Flame Falcons. Blocking the attacks of the Flame Eagle would require him to be fully geared in Secret-Silver Equipment at the minimum.

However, the system armed them with only a set of Bronze Equipment in the Battle Tower. Trying to defend against the flame attacks would be suicidal.

Now, even while standing in that small area, Shi Feng had actually managed to avoid all the flame attacks. It was as if these flames were intentionally circling his body.

"This is impossible! There must be something wrong with the system! How can he dodge all those attacks in time at such a close distance?!" The players spectating Shi Feng had long since gone into an uproar. Almost all of them had shouted the same thing.

No matter how they wrapped their minds around it, dodging so many attacks from such a close distance was not feasible. The only possibility was that an error had occurred with the system. Otherwise, how were they supposed to explain the earlier scene?

Wen Hua, however, did not feel any surprise at the outcome of that onslaught.

Everyone was basing their judgments only on the distance the flames were coming from. However, they had forgotten that they were living in a three-dimensional world. Aside from horizontal and vertical distance, one also should not forget depth. On the screen, it might seem as if all ten flame attacks came over similar distances. But in reality, the distance each attack needed to travel was different. As all ten attacks were launched simultaneously, the times at which the attacks reached Shi Feng would differ slightly. Meanwhile, Shi Feng had utilized the small time difference in the arrival of the attacks to systematically evade them one after another.

The one part about this scene that annoyed Wen Hua, however, was that she had not noticed the slightest bit of haste or anxiety in Shi Feng's movements. The man had casually dodged the attacks as if he was just taking a leisurely stroll, his actions containing no excess movement whatsoever. Wen Hua even felt a shiver go down her back when she looked at how smooth and natural his movements were.

The numerous surprised gasps coming from the spectators immediately attracted the attention of those resting in the main hall, every one of them looking at these several spectators in confusion.

"What's up with them? Aren't they just spectating a battle? Is there a need to go so crazy over it?"

This curiosity now tempted many more people who were reluctant to part with their points. Such a commotion had never occurred before, even when the upper echelons of their Guilds fought in the Battle Tower.

What exactly was going on inside the Battle Tower?

Just as everyone was hesitating over whether or not to spectate Shi Feng's battle, a middle-aged man dressed in luxurious red-black martial arts robes entered the hall. With quick steps, this middle-aged man walked up to the portal of the Battle Tower. After finding a quiet place to sit in, the man then chose to spectate Shi Feng's battle.

"Damn! This is madness! This is simply madness!"

"Why has Elder Yuan come over as well? Isn't this a training system meant to nurture youths with potential?"

"He couldn't be here to..."

All the bystanders suddenly thought of a possibility when they looked at Yuan Tiexin quietly sitting down and calling out his system interface. However, none of them could accept this shocking thought of theirs.

Those who had still been hesitating immediately looked for seats and chose to spectate Shi Feng's battle.

Instantly, the number of people spectating Shi Feng increased to 63.

Those who lacked the points to spectate were all stupefied by this scene. Even when the upper echelon of the Secret Pavilion came to challenge the Battle Tower, the number of spectators would be around this number, at most. Moreover, today was a day when many people were busy with their own matters and had not come to participate in the training system. Otherwise, the number of spectators right now would definitely rise even higher.

"Just who is Brother Shi Feng?" The shock Kong Haoran was feeling right now at this sight was many times more intense than what he felt when he had faced off against an army of over 100,000 elite players.

"I would be set for life if I could have this many people spectating my battle." Huo Zhengyang could not close his mouth as he saw this scene.

Just how many Battle Points could he earn if he had this many people spectating his battle as well?

Even if he fought against a Refinement Realm expert every day, those points could last him for two whole months.

On the third floor of the Battle Tower, Shi Feng repeatedly dodged the flame attacks sent at him. Even when the terrain changed, he managed to reach a safe zone immediately. Occasionally, he would also attack with a flying dart. Although the damage he caused was low, only -500 points or so, none of the monsters in the Battle Tower had the battle recovery ability. Hence, he could slowly but surely wear down these monsters.

Following which, one Flame Falcon's HP continuously decreased. The battle had already fallen under Shi Feng's complete control.

That's enough experimentation. It's about time things ended. He then threw out the last dart that took away the final strand of HP of a Flame Falcon.

As a result of one Flame Falcon dying, the number of attacks Shi Feng had to face at a single time decreased from ten to nine, making dodging the attacks much easier for him.

With no suspense whatsoever, he whittled down the remaining Flame Falcons and Flame Eagle, once again easily clearing a floor.

Only, as Shi Feng was not playing a ranged class, his attacks were a lot less effective compared those of ranged classes. Hence, he had not managed to break the record clear time for the third floor. Even so, he still stupefied all his spectators.

The reason for everyone's shock was because Shi Feng's clear time for the third floor was only marginally slower than the current record holder's. If his ranged weapon had been slightly better and he had learned a few more good Skills, he could've easily broken the record.

Following which, Shi Feng entered the fourth floor of the Battle Tower. This was also the highest floor the current batch of trainees had reached.

Chapter 897 - Silent Hell

"This person is strong! It was worth spending all those points to spectate him!"

"This is my first time seeing someone clear the third floor so easily! This shows that he has still not reached his limits! At this rate, he might even be able to clear the fourth floor and become the first person among this batch of trainees to reach the fifth floor!"

"That's impossible. This is the fourth floor we are talking about. Even the top experts of our Guild are still stuck there. Even if Shi Feng is amazing, it is simply impossible for him to match up to the top experts of our Guild."

"I guess you're right. Our Guild's top experts all stand at the peak of God's Domain. There are probably only a handful of youths who can surpass them."

Just as the spectators were discussing Shi Feng's battle, Shi Feng himself set foot onto the fourth floor.

Unlike the second and third floors, which had vile environments, the fourth floor was elegant and serene. Trees and shrubberies surrounded Shi Feng. There was also a pristine lake nearby.

"This is..." Shi Feng observed his surroundings, his expression turning slightly serious.

Although his surroundings looked very peaceful, Shi Feng could not ignore a sense of crisis in his mind. The worst part about this hunch was that he did not know what triggered it.

Even though he was standing still and doing nothing, this sense of crisis was looming closer and closer.

Could they be stealthed monsters? Shi Feng thought of a possibility.

Or to put it in another way, it was the only possibility.

This sensation he was feeling right now was as if numerous top-tier Assassin experts were staring at him. However, no matter how skilled and silent the Assassin might be, as long as they were a player, Shi Feng would more or less be able to find traces of them through sight and hearing, yet neither of these two senses of his had picked up anything.

He discovered them so quickly! Wen Hua was somewhat surprised to see Shi Feng's expression turning a little guarded.

The fourth floor of the Battle Tower had another name to it—Silent Hell.

It had a total of eight Elite ranked Void Assassins and one Chieftain ranked Null Assassin.

[Void Assassin] (Elite Rank)

Level 30

HP 50,000/50,000

[Null Assassin] (Chieftain Rank)

Level 30

HP 200,000/200,000

Although their HPs were very low, these monsters had a special characteristic: they remained in a permanent state of nothingness. Their bodies existed in a completely different space, so one's senses of sight, hearing, and smell could not detect these monsters no matter what.

Only when these monsters launched an attack would their real bodies manifest. However, they would appear for only a very short time, around one second at most. Aside from this brief period, attacks directed at these monsters would be completely ineffective.

The difficulty of the fourth floor had left everyone who had managed to reach the fourth floor in this batch of trainees utterly helpless.

Setting aside the fact that the attacks of the Assassins were lightning fast, just the fact that the attacks were launched at such a close distance made dodging them nearly impossible. Or to put it in another way, it was simply impossible for someone with the Attributes of an ordinary Level 30 player to evade those attacks.

Even if one managed to dodge those kinds of attacks, failing to counterattack in time would eventually lead to death from overexhaustion.

Back when Wen Hua herself had reached the fourth floor for the first time, she had died completely unaware of what had happened. And even now, she was still stuck on this floor. Only the monster-like existences of the Secret Pavilion were able to contend against the Assassins on this floor. So far, just a few people throughout the entire Guild had managed to clear the fourth floor.

I wonder just how far you will be able to go? A bright smile appeared on Wen Hua's face as she quietly observed the Swordsman.

She had a feeling that, if she could observe Shi Feng clearing this floor, she might be able to break through that barrier that was preventing her from improving.

Under Wen Hua's gaze, Shi Feng started moving. Without hesitation, he dashed up to a nearby tree and placed his back against the large tree. This way, he no longer needed to pay attention to attacks coming from behind. He just needed to keep an eye out for attacks coming from 180 degrees in front of him.

"Damn, so you can do something like that as well?!" Everyone spectating this scene was stupefied.

They had never thought to utilize the terrain in such a way.

The effort an expert needed to expend to defend against attacks coming from just 180 degrees was many times less than attacks coming from all 360 degrees. With the energy saved, one could better perceive and concentrate as well. Moreover, dodging attacks would become much easier.

However, as soon as Shi Feng stood in front of the large tree, a silvery-white dagger suddenly appeared before him, directly slashing at his neck.

So fast! Surprised, Shi Feng instinctively sidestepped.

With the speed of the attack as well as the short distance it was launched from, if Shi Feng had not responded instantly, he would have gotten struck without a doubt. Fortunately, he had already reached the Void Realm, so he could feel the movements in his surroundings.

Although the appearance of the dagger was very sudden, the moment the weapon materialized, it would more or less generate some fluctuations in the air, which gave him sufficient warning and allowed him to carry out preventive measures.

In the next moment, the snowy-white dagger brushed past his neck and left a deep scar on the tree behind him.

Close on the heels of that first attack, fluctuations appeared from two more places. Meanwhile, the position of these fluctuations came from the direction he had sidestepped to.

Shi Feng tightened his grip on his twin swords and hurriedly slashed at the locations the two fluctuations originated from.

Peng! Peng!

Two crisp sounds echoed throughout the entire forest. The sparks generated were also extraordinarily eye-catching.

"Crap, isn't he too amazing? How did he manage to detect those attacks?"

The spectators' mouths all fell wide open when they saw the sparks flashing before Shi Feng. As bystanders, they had a much clearer view of the situation than Shi Feng. However, even after looking for a long time, they failed to detect anything peculiar about the locations he had attacked; there was just empty space there. Nevertheless, Shi Feng succeeded in very accurately blocking two strikes. They all felt that Shi Feng was not human but a monster in human guise, instead.

How are his attacks so fast?

Wen Hua was inwardly shocked when she saw this scene, her mind constantly replaying Shi Feng's previous actions.

Setting aside how Shi Feng had managed to detect the location of the attacks, just being able to execute such quick counters from such a short distance was simply unbelievable. This was definitely not a feat an ordinary human being could accomplish.

Her dynamic vision was among the best in the entire Guild. Even if it were a baseball moving at 160 kilometers per hour, she would be able to clearly see and count the number of rotations the ball was making.

For attacks that no one else could see even the afterimages of, she could make out some afterimages. Although they would be extremely vague, she would still manage to see a small portion of the attack.

However, Shi Feng's slashes were completely different. Normally, when an attack was launched, the speed of the attack would start from zero and slowly accelerate up to maximum speed. However, through some unknown technique, Shi Feng's swords had gone from a standstill to moving at maximum speed instantly. There was no acceleration process in between whatsoever.

Following which, Shi Feng brandished his swords dozens of times, blocking every attack sent at him. Not a single scratch could be found on his body. Instead, the constant clangor of metal surrounded him.

Seen from afar, Shi Feng appeared to be training his swordsmanship all by himself.

As more time passed, Shi Feng grew accustomed to blocking the attacks of the Assassins.

Time to end this! Shi Feng swept a glance at his surroundings, his lips curling up in a smile.

At this moment, he no longer bothered to block the dagger striking at him. Instead, as if he had already anticipated this attack, his body smoothly sidestepped while his right arm swung at the location the dagger appeared from.

Soon after, a streak of greenish blood stained the grassy ground.

Chapter 898 - Unseen Improvement

-1,327.

The instant this damage emerged, a blurry figure also appeared, the dark-green HP bar above the figure's head shortening slightly.

A moment after the HP bar showed up, however, the figure disappeared once more. Even when Shi Feng tried launching another attack at the same position, the only thing his sword hit was air.

There's only a 1.3-second period for a counterattack. That really is short. No wonder so many people have failed to clear this floor. Shi Feng was slightly surprised. He had never expected these monsters to have such a characteristic as well.

Originally, it was already very difficult to grasp the attack trajectories of these monsters. Moreover, there wasn't just one monster attacking him. Based on Shi Feng's perception, at least five monsters were attacking him. Yet, not only did he have to dodge the attacks of these monsters, but he also needed to launch a counterattack within such a short timeframe. This greatly increased the difficulty of clearing the floor.

Having no better choice, Shi Feng could only continue silently blocking the attacks while searching for opportunities to counterattack.

He often had to block over a dozen attacks before he got the opportunity to launch a counterattack. If he failed to grab this opportunity, he would have to block another dozen, or even two or three dozen, attacks.

If an ordinary person were standing in Shi Feng's place right now, they would surely feel bored at the moment. Shi Feng, however, was actually joyous.

He could not help but admit that the guidance provided by the Battle Tower was indeed excellent.

All unawares, Shi Feng had focused his full concentration on detecting the spatial fluctuations. As a result, the sensitivity of his five senses heightened while his grasp of his surroundings constantly deepened.

It was normally impossible for one to encounter situations where subtle spatial fluctuations appeared around oneself.

Hence, being able to hone his perception to such a fine degree right now was like a dream for Shi Feng.

Time passed quickly. Even when Shi Feng had an opportunity to counterattack and deal damage to the Void Assassins, he did not take action. After all, this here was the best place for him to train right now.

As his perception improved, Shi Feng became increasingly sensitive to the subtle fluctuations caused by the Void Assassins.

Initially, these weak fluctuations felt no different from tiny raindrops hitting his skin. Although he could feel them, his perception of them was not that clear. As a result, even when his body felt these fluctuations, his brain dismissed them as negligible. However, after sensing the fluctuations for thousands of times, his awareness of them intensified. Now, these fluctuations felt more like little pebbles hitting his body, instead, the pain more than sufficient to grab his attention. Even without his brain making any conscious decisions, he would instinctively react and turn towards the direction the fluctuations came from.

It's no wonder super-first-rate Guilds and Super Guilds can nurture so many apex experts and even monsters that grasp a Domain. Sure enough, they are not existences that even well-funded first-rate Guilds can threaten, Shi Feng inwardly sighed emotionally.

He had profited massively from the trade with the Secret Pavilion this time.

If not for this trade, he most likely would have remained unaware of just how frightening the major powers of God's Domain were.

Although he currently had a Secret Technique tablet and even an Epic Guild Quest that could send him to the Ancient Battlefield, the Holy Land for Experts, neither of those things could even compare with the Battle Tower.

The value of the Secret Technique tablet lay in the fact that it allowed players to learn advanced combat techniques, which would, in turn, greatly increase their combat powers. The improvement in combat standards was only a bonus. Whether players could actually gain inspiration from learning the combat technique was a different matter altogether.

As for the Holy Land, although Shi Feng had never been there before, based on what he had heard about the place, the improvements one could gain there should be roughly equal to, or even inferior to, those from the Battle Tower. However, as the number of people the training system could accommodate was limited, the Holy Land seemed very valuable. Otherwise, the major powers of God's Domain might not even bother to compete over entry to the Holy Land.

"What a pity. I thought he would clear the fourth floor as well. Now, it seems that it isn't possible. At the rate at which he is counterattacking, his Stamina and Concentration will run out before the battle is over."

"Didn't I say so already? That place is the Silent Hell. If even so many of our Guild's top experts can't clear it, how could a newcomer like him possibly clear it?"

"But the fact that he has lasted for so long is already plenty amazing. This is my first time seeing someone survive this long against those monsters."

"Indeed. The attacks of those monsters are simply impossible to predict. If it were up to me, I'd probably be dead in less than five seconds. Moreover, among our batch of trainees, not a single person has managed to last as long as Shi Feng on the fourth floor. With this, he can be considered the number one player among us."

Without anyone noticing, Shi Feng had risen to become the first ranking player in everyone's hearts. At this moment, the members of the Secret Pavilion no longer looked at him arrogantly, all of them feeling only admiration for the Swordsman.

Just as everyone had thought that Shi Feng's limit was the fourth floor...

Two streaks of green blood suddenly appeared before Shi Feng, the Void Assassin that had its body exposed losing close to a total of 2,700 HP.

That should be enough practice. There's no point in continuing this training. Let's go to the fifth floor to take a look, then. After deciding so, Shi Feng adjusted his breathing and finally launched his counterattack.

After a long period of tempering himself with the Void Assassins, Shi Feng could already react to the fluctuations they caused without paying deliberate attention to them. He could now place more of his concentration on dodging and attacking, instead. Although he could still improve slightly if he continued tempering himself, his remaining Stamina did not permit him to do so.

Moreover, compared to tempering his perception of the surrounding space, he was currently more interested in finding out what sort of trial awaited him on the fifth floor.

"What's going on? Shouldn't his Stamina and Concentration have declined significantly? Theoretically, his counterattack rate should gradually drop. So, why is it now increasing?" The spectators were all shocked to see Shi Feng behaving as if he had just taken a dose of stimulants.

However, what no one knew was that, after undergoing that period of tempering, Shi Feng's combat standards had received significant improvements.

If before he had to focus three-fourths of his concentration on sensing the spatial fluctuations, he now needed to use only one-third of it to do so. This change allowed Shi Feng's attack rate to increase over threefold.

In less than ten minutes, Shi Feng had defeated all eight Void Assassins, leaving only the Chieftain ranked Null Assassin, which had not moved at all since the start of the battle.

The instant the eighth Void Assassin died, the Null Assassin finally took action.

The instant the Null Assassin struck, Shi Feng nearly lost his life.

The Null Assassin's attack was exceedingly fast, and its Strength was extremely powerful. It was simply impossible for Shi Feng to evade the Chieftain's strike even though he had managed to sense it coming. Reacting quickly, Shi Feng launched an attack of his own at the Null Assassin's dagger, using the force of the impact to deflect the dagger's attack trajectory slightly so that it struck air, instead.

So strong. Shi Feng inwardly felt fortunate as he looked at his still-trembling arm.

If not for him requiring less concentration now to detect the spatial fluctuations and being able to invest more attention into attacking and evading, he would've most likely fallen to the Null Assassin already.

He dodged it? Yuan Tiexin was astounded as he looked at the unmarked Shi Feng.

He had expected Shi Feng to suffer miserably when the Null Assassin took action.

The reason for this assumption of his was because he understood just how powerful the Null Assassin was. Although he, too, was a Void Realm expert, he had suffered hundreds of defeats at the hands of the Null Assassin. Only after a long period of arduous training did he manage to defeat the Null Assassin. Moreover, even until now, his win-rate against the Null Assassin was still not 100%. Hence, he never imagined that Shi Feng would actually manage to deflect the Null Assassin's attack on his first try.

The scariest part about the Null Assassin was its first attack. If one could avoid its first attack, the subsequent battle would become much simpler.

Sure enough, after a short adjustment period, Shi Feng launched his counterattack on the Null Assassin, continuously dealing damage to the Chieftain. In the end, after a dozen minutes or so of strenuous battle, he depleted the Null Assassin's 200,000 HP.

"What?!"

"He cleared it, just like that?!"

All of the spectators were stupefied as the Null Assassin's corpse appeared on the ground.

Until now, not a single person among their trainees had conquered the Silent Hell.

Although they knew that some of them would eventually clear the fourth floor, they never expected a newcomer from another Guild to do so.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng's success caused an uproar among the other players in the main hall.

Many people began to regret their decision to not watch Shi Feng's battle. If they had done so, they might've learned something, allowing for minor breakthroughs. After all, every expert had their own strengths and weaknesses. If the other party's strength made up for what they lacked, they would gain some insight from watching the battle.

"Hahaha! You guys have seen it now, right? I'm not weak. It's that Shi Feng is too strong! Among our batch, he ranks at the very top. With my abilities, how could I possibly be a match for him?" When Violent Bear saw Shi Feng clear the fourth floor, excitement replaced his previously defeated expression. He then turned to the fighters who had laughed at him and proudly proclaimed, "If you guys think I'm weak, why don't you challenge him, rather than spout bullshit from the sidelines?!"

Suddenly, the players who had previously mocked Violent Bear fell silent.

Thinking back to the Berserker's battle against Shi Feng, although Violent Bear had lost quite a few points, he had actually profited from the fight against an expert like Shi Feng.

Usually, for those with lower standards, it was impossible to find an opportunity to fight trainees who had reached the fourth floor. The latter despised fighting them. Violent Bear, on the other hand, had, unintentionally, scored a fight against an expert like Shi Feng. If Violent Bear gained even a fragment of inspiration from that fight, the 800 points he had lost would've been worth it.

If possible, they were willing to spend five or six hundred points, eight hundred points, for a match against Shi Feng. However, this opportunity had obviously passed.

The fact that Shi Feng had secured first place in the ranking competition meant that he no longer lacked Battle Points. Furthermore, why would Shi Feng need to fight them?

On the Battle Tower's fifth floor...

As soon as Shi Feng arrived, he felt a massive mental suppression weigh on him. This mental suppression was many times stronger than the Abyssal Blade had exuded when he executed a Skill. He felt as if he stood before a Tier 5 monster, suffocating. His body's reaction speed and mobility were also heavily restricted.

Aside from this oppressive pressure, he noticed that he stood in a dimly lit cave. Steam filled the cave, feeling like a massive sauna. The steam also hindered Shi Feng's vision.

Aside from Shi Feng, five giant snakes with dark gray bodies and three heads each slithered in the steamy cavern. The snakes amber eyes glared at Shi Feng.

[Three-headed Snake] (Special Elite)

Level 30

HP 150,000/150,000

Before Shi Feng could adapt to the environment here, the five Three-headed Snakes moved.

Inside the rubble-filled cave, Shi Feng's mobility was restricted. The Three-headed Snakes, on the other hand, treated these obstacles as if they didn't exist. They moved through the cave like flowing water, easily overcoming the various obstacles in their path with unaffected speed. In the blink of an eye, all five snakes arrived before Shi Feng.

After the five Three-headed Snakes surrounded Shi Feng, they began to spit needles of corrosive venom at the Swordsman. The venomous needles rained down on Shi Feng like thin rain. In this steamy environment, it was simply impossible to detect them with the naked eye. Shi Feng could only determine the attacks' trajectories by the fluctuations in the air.

However, there were simply too many needles.

A single Three-headed Snake had spat over a dozen needles. With five Three-headed Snakes surrounding Shi Feng, he faced was over 70 attacks.

An ordinary person would have their hands full with just five of these attacks. Now, there were over 70. Moreover, even one of these attacks was more than enough to injure Shi Feng heavily. The fifth floor's difficulty was clear to see.

Even if Shi Feng were at his peak, he could never defend against so many attacks. He needed to rely on quick movements to reduce the number of attacks he received. Only by doing so would he have any chance of survival. Moreover, not only were his reactions slowed right now, but he was also surrounded by a vial environment. With so many obstacles, it would be very easy to trip and fall if he moved too quickly, which would then open holes in his defense.

However, even knowing this, Shi Feng chose to run. If he simply stood there, the numerous attacks would claim his life.

As expected of the Battle Tower's fifth floor. This isn't any place for ordinary human beings. Shi Feng brandished his twin swords to deflect the venomous needles as he ran.

Although these needles did not contain much force, there were many of them. Even after Shi Feng ran, he had to face nearly forty needles. With his blurred perception, a single mistake would result in the venomous needles finding their mark.

Although each needle only dealt around -500 damage, Shi Feng only had several thousand HP.

Following which, as Shi Feng ran through the cave and evaded the needles, his HP rapidly decreased.

In the blink of an eye, Shi Feng's HP reached zero, his body falling to the ground. In the end, he was teleported out of the Battle Tower.

Even after Shi Feng returned to the main hall, the spectators around the Battle Tower's portal were still in a daze.

The fifth floor was absurdly difficult. Just watching the rain of venomous needles pelt Shi Feng made a chill run down their spines. There was also that massive mental suppression to contend with. If they had to fight in such an environment, they wouldn't even last two seconds before becoming porcupines. However, Shi Feng had managed to last over ten seconds before succumbing to the near-invisible needles. If not for those attacks being so hard to detect, Shi Feng could've survived for much longer. He might've even put up a good fight against those Three-headed Snakes.

Is this his current strength? After Cold Autumn exited spectator mode, he looked around him, a faint chill crawling down his back.

Fortunately, he had experienced that battle as a spectator. Had he been fighting, against that oppressive pressure, he would have been paralyzed; all he could have done was wait for death to take him.

As for Wen Hua, after seeing the difference between herself and Shi Feng, she wasn't afraid in the least. On the contrary, she brimmed with fighting spirit, the corners of her lips lifting into a bright smile.

Although she could clearly feel just how massive the gap was between them, she had obtained tremendous insight from watching Shi Feng's fight.

Previously, she had concentrated on a singular question: why were Shi Feng's attacks so fast?

However, after a long period of observation, she more or less gained some inspiration.

Every time Shi Feng attacked, his body began to move even before his sword did. By relying on his body's movements and energy transfer, his sword had already been accelerating for a brief period by the time he moved his arm. Hence, when Shi Feng actually swung his sword, the sword seemed as if it instantly transitioned from a standstill to maximum speed.

Although the theory sounded simple, one needed a degree of physical control that was beyond the scope of ordinary humans to accomplish this feat.

Of course, Wen Hua had a lot of confidence in herself. She believed that, if Shi Feng could do it, there was no reason that she could not.

Chapter 900 - Challenge

Inside the Battle Fortress's main hall, a group of newcomers in linen clothing suddenly emerged from the training field's portal.

"The combat system here is really impressive. Those simulated experts felt like the real deal. They are all so powerful. Even in a one-on-one, they still suppressed me." When Blackie spoke about the combat training he had just experienced, he wore an amazed expression.

When he fought the starter pack's first eight experts, he has some hope of triumphing against them. However, the last two experts were absurdly powerful. They had defeated him easily, leaving him without any power to resist.

"It's a pity that there are so few experts in the starter pack. I wish we had more variations," Flying Shadow sighed. "The Secret Pavilion is fraudulent. Just fighting those ordinary experts costs 100 points per day. If we can't rank among the top 200, we won't be able to afford them every day."

Although he had only fought for a few hours against the starter pack's ten experts, he had learned a lot. If he could face all kinds of experts over time, he would gain combat experience with flying speed. He might even reach the Refinement Realm after a short period.

"That should be enough training for us today. We still have to challenge the Battle Tower and raise our ranks," Fire Dance stated. Although she didn't want to waste their starter packs' duration, it was more important to raise their ranks first. If they didn't, they would be stuck with 20 Battle Points per day.

After they had entered the training system, they had learned a lot about the Battle Tower and the Pavilion's veterans from the other newcomers.

To put it simply, it would not be easy to enter the top 200 ranks with their current strength.

Furthermore, Fire Dance aimed for the top 150 ranks. Only by entering the top 150 would she receive 200 points each day, which would allow her to face one Refinement Realm expert per day. If she were stuck among the top 200, she would have to wait two days to challenge a Refinement Realm expert.

As for the starter pack's experts, the first eight weren't even a warm-up for her. Only the last two experts had made her work for her victory. Even after dozens of matches with those two experts, her win-rate was only 50%.

On the other hand, the Secret Pavilion's top 150 experts had at least an 80% win-rate against the starter pack's Refinement Realm experts.

With her current standards, it would be a relatively difficult task to enter the top 150.

At the same time, she was very excited. There were only a handful of experts in Star-Moon Kingdom that could pose a challenge. In the simulation training system, however, there were crowds of such experts waiting for her.

"Big Sis Fire, look; for some reason, a lot of people have gathered over there." Violet Cloud pointed out as she looked towards the Battle Tower's portal. Curiously, she asked, "What are they doing?"

When they had arrived at the Battle Fortress, not many people had been present. Now, however, over a hundred people had crowded the main hall.

"Ah, someone seems to be leaving the tower," Cola said as he saw the portal flash with white light. The figure of a man then stepped out of the portal.

After a moment, they recognized the familiar figure.

A large crowd had huddled around the portal. As soon as Shi Feng emerged, everyone turned towards him.

They looked at Shi Feng as if he were a monster, curiosity and horror flashing in their eyes.

Shi Feng was simply some newbie that had joined the training system today, yet, he had set foot onto the fifth floor. The Secret Pavilion's members had already been in the simulated training system for over a month. For some, this wasn't even their first year. Yet, they were all still stuck on the Battle Tower's fourth floor. Hence, Shi Feng's achievement was difficult for them to swallow.

"Doesn't he look just over twenty? He actually reached the fifth floor at such a young age. Even among all the geniuses throughout our Secret Pavilion's history, he should rank near the top, right?"

"Yeah, he should rank within the top 20."

"Between Shi Feng and Wen Hua, who do you think has more talent?"

"Do you even need to ask? It is certainly Wen Hua. Even our Guild Leader can't stop praising her talent, claiming that she ranks among the top 10 throughout the Secret Pavilion's history."

When Fire Dance and the others overheard the conversation, they were momentarily at a loss for words.

They did not know whether they should celebrate or smile wryly.

While their heads still ached about obtaining a better rank, Shi Feng had already become number one in the ranking competition...

Meanwhile, before Shi Feng even had the chance to relive the battle on the fifth floor, he heard the sound of an emergency notification. Shi Feng was then forcefully ejected out of the training system and forced into Sleep Mode.

No one was surprised about Shi Feng's sudden disappearance. They all thought that he had logged out to avoid their pestering. Moreover, training in the Battle Tower was very taxing. Almost everyone had to log out and rest after challenging the tower.

Inside the luxurious bedroom, Shi Feng climbed out from his virtual gaming cabin, the machine continuously beeping.

A single tempering session in the Battle Tower consumes so much? Shi Feng could not help his surprise when he saw the virtual gaming cabin's depleted Nutrient Solution tank.

Before he had entered the training system, he had made sure to refill the cabin's Nutrient Solution storage and had drunk a bottle of A-rank Nutrient Fluid.

The depleted Nutrient Solution was one thing; however, he was extremely hungry. Moreover, his entire body felt drained.

This emptiness felt similar to when he had broken through the limits of his mental strength for the first time.

It's no wonder why Yuan Tiexin had warned me to prepare S-rank Nutrient Fluids. Ordinary people can't afford to play around with this training system. Shi Feng, more or less, understood why Yuan Tiexin had suggested caution. It seems I'll have to prepare some more S-rank Nutrient Fluids from now on.

While inside the Battle Tower, he had pushed his five senses to their brinks for a long time. In God's Domain, however, he usually didn't need to. It was especially true after one reached his standard.

While fighting at one's peak, the brain would be extremely active. This would increase the body's energy consumption. If one did not replenish the lost energy afterward, the consequences would be unimaginable. It was even possible to destroy one's own body.

Now that Fire Dance and the others had begun their training in the simulation training system, they needed enough nutrient supplements after they emerged. Otherwise, their bodies would suffer.

However, it was extremely difficult to obtain the best-performing S-rank Nutrient Fluid. Only transcendental powers like the Secret Pavilion, which were influential in both the real world and the virtual world, could obtain large quantities. As for a foundationless Guild like Zero Wing, it could, at most, obtain a few bottles. Furthermore, each bottle was very expensive.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng needed the Coins he had on hand to keep the Guild functioning, and he had not liquidated any funds recently. As for the Credits he had on hand, Liang Jing had already used them to purchase training facilities. Currently, he was almost broke.

It seems I'll have to turn some of the Coins or items into money for now. Shi Feng sighed helplessly. Truthfully, he did not wish to exchange any of the game's resources for Credits. After all, doing so would impact the Guild's development. However, nurturing a group of top-tier experts was far more important right now.

Just as Shi Feng pondered selling the resources of God's Domain, Liang Jing barged into his room, looking worried.

"Master Shi Feng... something has happened!" Liang Jing said, panting. With her hand over her chest, she continued, "A group of people has suddenly arrived to challenge our training center. Several instructors have been injured. From what I have heard, this group defeated Master Chen Wu before arriving. They are demanding a match against you. They claim that there will be consequences if their demands aren't met."

"Challenge? Who are they? What do they look like?" Shi Feng recalled a faint memory after hearing these words.