

## The Strongest

### Chapter 89 - Barrutia's Core Area

"Alert! Alert! There is an intruder in Area F! Activating self-defense system!"

Before Shi Feng could celebrate his gains, a bucket of cold water dumped over his head by this loud voice. He did not think that there would be such a trap after opening the Treasure Chest.

Just after arriving at the passage's exit, Shi Feng discovered that the passages leading to the other areas of the Steel Fortress were all sealed off, preventing him from entering. Meanwhile, the water level of the pool below started rising, and according to its speed, it would not be long before the passage flooded.

Without hesitation, Shi Feng took out a bottle of Underwater Breathing Potion, drinking it. The potion allowed players to breathe underwater for 20 minutes. Following which, Shi Feng immediately leaped into the pool, diving towards the deepest region.

After swimming down for over ten minutes, Shi Feng finally saw a dark passage. However, the water currents from there flowed rapidly, and it would not be easy for Shi Feng to approach the passage. After spending a long period, and drinking a second bottle of Underwater Breathing Potion, Shi Feng managed to crawl his way towards the passage entrance with much difficulty.

Following which, he was washed away by the rapidly flowing water, his body unable to move as the current continuously pushed him along the passageway. After flowing along the water currents for several minutes, Shi Feng was thrown out of the passage and landed in another large pool.

Near a wall of the large pool, some stairs spiraled upward. As long as he went up these stairs, he would arrive at the core of the fortress.

Shi Feng swam towards the stairway. He then looked at the time. It was almost 8 o'clock in the morning now, and since locating the Titan's Heart was not accomplishable in a short amount of time, Shi Feng immediately called out the System Interface and chose to log out.

Upon waking up early in the morning, the first thing Shi Feng did was train his body. This action had long since deeply ingrained in his bones.

However, he could clearly feel that his body was different from yesterday. His body no longer felt stiff, and instead, it felt extremely refreshed. The positive effects of the C-rank Nutrient Fluids he drank were evident. The fluid was slowly altering his body's condition.

Strike the iron while it's hot.

Shi Feng then started working out, doing sit-ups, pushups and other muscle-strengthening actions. After working out for over an hour, Shi Feng still did not feel tired. On the contrary, his body felt comfortably warm, as if there were an inexhaustible amount of energy within him.

However, he did not continue training his body. Instead, he went downstairs to have a meal. Desperately working out was not necessarily a good thing. It needed to be done in moderation, as overworking his body would only yield opposite effects.

After going through a night's struggle, the Gold Coins he sold and the Credits he obtained from Gentle Snow filled his current bank account with over 200,000 Credits. A night of his efforts was worth two months of salary of an executive from a big company. This was the power of God's Domain that had

turned around the virtual economy. After a year, becoming rich overnight in God's Domain was not a strange affair whatsoever.

Unfortunately, not many enterprises had discovered this fact yet. By the time they did discover it, they would have lagged far behind those companies that invested in God's Domain in the beginning.

After eating, Shi Feng made a trip to the bank. He specifically retrieved 30,000 Credits, intending to buy the virtual reality helmets he rented. Otherwise, if he were to leave it and forget about it, he would eventually be forced out of the game. At that time, he would have to wait until the next working day before handling the necessary procedures and only after could he continue playing. Currently, the game was in a sprinting stage. If Shi Feng were to fall behind by a day, it would be extremely difficult for him to catch back up.

It was also a good chance for Shi Feng to invite Blackie out for a stroll. If Blackie always hid inside his dormitory, his body was bound to have problems.

There were very few people on the streets of the university early in the morning. There were only some sports societies doing their morning exercises, warming up for their work out later on. Watching these university students that radiated youth, Shi Feng felt an unreal feeling. It was as if the ten years he spent battling in God's Domain were just an illusion, an illusion that would vanish with just a touch.

Walking along the roadside, Shi Feng admired the university campus as he headed towards Blackie's dormitory. He was experiencing the sceneries on the campus that he paid no attention to in his previous life.

As he was about to enter into Blackie's dormitory, Shi Feng heard sounds of laughter coming from within.

"Blackie, weren't you extremely confident in getting into Shadow Workshop before? I've been waiting for you for several days now, so why haven't I seen you there yet?"

“Wu Yi, haven’t I already said it before? I joined another Workshop, so I didn’t participate in Shadow’s test.”

“Blackie, don’t try to trick me. Where in the entire Jin Hai University is there another Workshop? What is it called? How many members does it have? Who established it? Can you tell me that? If they treat players well, I might even decide to join!”

Being asked in such a way, Blackie suddenly realized that Shi Feng did not actually tell him the name of their Workshop. As for the number of members... taking everything into account, there were exactly 6 people. Not to mention having a Workshop to play God’s Domain, they possessed absolutely nothing right now and were even riddled with debt.

“Blackie, stop being obstinate. I know that you didn’t pass Shadow’s test. If it really is no good, then let Brother Wu plead for you. In any case, Brother Wu is currently an official member. Who knows; you might be able to become an outer member of Shadow. At the very least, you could continue playing God’s Domain, and earning two thousand Credits a month should not be a problem. Don’t forget, the trial period for the virtual gaming helmet is only ten days. After this period, you will not be able to continue playing the game,” Blackie’s fellow dorm mate sneered.

“It can’t be, right? What kind of Workshop can’t even afford an official virtual gaming helmet? Isn’t that just too pitiful?” Wu Yi pretended to be shocked. He then clapped Blackie’s shoulders, saying with a sigh, “Even the outer members of Shadow are given an official helmet. Official members even receive an advanced helmet that’s worth 20,000 Credits. Your Workshop is just ripping you off. Who started the thing? I’ll demand justice for you.

“Why don’t you mingle with me from now on? I can guarantee that you’ll obtain an official helmet. By the time I become a core member of Shadow, I guarantee that you’ll be able to live in luxury. You should know that Young Master Lan has already invested five million Credits in Shadow. I heard that he has invested another two million now. If you enter Shadow, your future will be limitless.”

“Wu Yi, I’ve already said it. I won’t be joining. I’m currently getting by very well,” Blackie quickly rejected.

“Blackie, you should know that there aren’t many such chances. Shadow Workshop is the best Workshop in Jin Hai University. If it weren’t for the fact that you’re already Level 5 and we’re classmates, I wouldn’t even be looking for you.” Wu Yi patiently persuaded, “You keep saying that you’ve joined some other Workshop, but you have to tell me at least the name, right? Must you keep lying to a classmate in such a way?”

“What? Don’t tell me that this Workshop doesn’t even have a name?”

“Even if it doesn’t have a name, you must know which person established it, right? Nowadays, even nobodies dare to make Workshops, so you musn’t be tricked. Shadow Workshop has an upright business sponsoring it, and there is also a contract to ensure that you won’t starve to death at the very least.”

Wu Yi was all praises about Shadow. It was as if one would become an elite in society just for entering Shadow Workshop, becoming the envy of others.

However, Blackie had long since seen through Shadow. He did not have even the slightest favorable opinion towards Shadow. He only blamed himself for having a big mouth, showing off to others that he had already risen to Level 5. As a result, the information was found out by Shadow Workshop, and they had sent Wu Yi, his classmate, to recruit him.

However, how could he so easily betray Shi Feng and join Shadow? He was only able to obtain all of his current achievements by relying on Shi Feng. Even if he had to suffer hardships right now, he still believed that Shi Feng would lead him towards the path of success.

At this stage of the game, all the Level 5 players were experts. To Shadow Workshop, which was currently lacking experts, Blackie was an alluring beauty. So, naturally, they were itching to try and recruit him, turning him into one of their belongings.

At this moment, Shi Feng opened the door, taking a step into the room.

“I am the nobody that established the Workshop. I wonder what kind of opinion you have?” Shi Feng looked towards the robust Wu Yi, speaking coldly.

## Chapter 90 - Starting from Zero

As Shi Feng entered and spoke...

“Who are you?”

Wu Yi was slightly startled, his eyes evaluating Shi Feng. Shi Feng wore a cheap-looking white-blue sporting wear. Although his imposing manner gave Wu Yi chills down his back, after seeing that Shi Feng was not even wearing a quantum watch on his wrist, a hint of disdain entered Wu Yi's eyes. In this day and age, even the slightly wealthier students all possessed quantum watches. Wu Yi determined that Shi Feng was not one of the wealthy children and that he was in a similar situation as Blackie.

“Brother Feng, why are you here?” Blackie's expression was slightly panicked. He was worried Shi Feng would misunderstand and think he was trying to job-hop, “Brother Feng, I really didn't seek out Shadow. I've also rejected them, but Wu Yi won't stop annoying me about it.”

When Blackie's classmates saw him panicking and explaining, they were all puzzled at the identity of this new arrival.

Blackie had already risen to Level 5 in God's Domain, so he was definitely an expert. Many Workshops would fight over for him, treating him as an important guest. Even Shadow sent someone over to recruit Blackie. If the upper-echelons of Shadow met Blackie, they might also act very cordially and treat him with respect.

However, Blackie had respectfully addressed the stranger in front of them as Brother Feng, confusing them. Could the person in front of them be some famous person in their school? However, no matter how they wracked their brains, they could not think of such a person present in their university.

"I know," Shi Feng sent Blackie an expression that told him to be at ease. Shi Feng then looked towards the man named Wu Yi and laughingly said, "I'm called Shi Feng, and I am the nobody who established the Workshop you just mentioned. Didn't you wish to know the name of my Workshop?"

"I can tell it to you. The Workshop's name is Zero Wing. It means that everything has to start out from zero and to spread your wings and soar. If you don't have any other matters, please return and tell your boss not to try poaching the members of other Workshops. He is better off taking care of his own lands, lest they fall apart without him even knowing what happened."

Hearing Shi Feng saying so, Wu Yu couldn't help but reveal a sneer as he laughed.

"As expected, even a nobody knows how to start a Workshop. Why don't you take a look at yourself? Do you think you can start a Workshop just by announcing it?" Wu Yi narrowed his eyes, mocking, "Do you know how large our Shadow Workshop is? Do you know how many members our Shadow Workshop has? Do you know who is backing our Shadow Workshop? Do you know how much our Workshop has invested? Do you still think that we need to poach members from worthless Workshops like yours?"

“Just based on the fact that you guys are still using the trial helmet to play the game shows how dirt poor you are. Did you think that, just by being full of zeal, you could establish yourselves in God’s Domain and earn money? All the Workshops that have tried to establish themselves in God’s Domain have at least invested several millions of Credits. Meanwhile, you have no money, no members, no facilities, and not even the most basic of assurance. So, what right do you have to compare to us, Shadow?”

“If you kneel down and beg me right now, I might even put in a few good words to Brother Lan. If you pay up some ten or twenty thousand Credits, you might be able to join the Workshop. How about it? Think about it; this is a rare chance for you.” Wu Yi smiled savagely. He then shifted his gaze to Blackie, coldly saying, “Shadow is already giving you a lot of respect by sending me here to recruit you. As long as you join, you’ll immediately receive the treatment of being a core member, and your monthly salary will be at least 5,000 Credits. It is hundreds of times better than staying in a Workshop that is barely surviving.”

When Blackie’s several dorm mates heard of this treatment, all of them had expressions of shock on their faces. They did not think that playing God’s Domain would be so rewarding. Compared to those city white-collar workers, Blackie’s salary was much higher. Suddenly, the gazes they used to look at Blackie changed. They no longer looked down on him; rather, their gazes now filled with envy and admiration.

They were only several months away from graduating from the university. Right now, they were still having headaches over finding jobs. Meanwhile, Blackie had someone personally coming to his door to recruit him, and the other party had even offered a minimum monthly salary of 5,000. As the saying went, ‘comparisons are odious.’

If they had known about this earlier, they would have properly played games and gave God’s Domain a try. They might have even become experts. They would not have had to chase after girls for their four years in universities and been looked down upon by those girls. If they managed to earn money, beauties would be lined up for their choosing.

However, after listening to Wu Yi, Blackie, instead, started laughing. Wu Yi actually dared to make fun of the Workshop Shi Feng had started, calling it worthless, and even wanted to make Shi Feng kneel before



him in order to join Shadow. He was retarded. The Snow Goddess is even paying attention to Brother Feng, and she even wanted to recruit Shi Feng!

Who was the Snow Goddess?

She was the Vice Captain of the first-rate Guild, Ouroboros. She was the publicly acknowledged Goddess of the virtual gaming world. Compared to Ouroboros, Shadow Workshop was not even worth a dime.

Seeing Wu Yi's mood sour, Blackie sneered at him and said, "Wu Yi, even if you exaggerate it to no end, my decision will remain unchanged. Although Zero Wing Workshop has just started, I believe that our future achievements will definitely be greater than Shadow's. I advise you to leave Shadow a little earlier and join our Zero Wing Workshop. I'll ask Brother Feng for a favor. If you kneel and apologize to him, who knows, you might even be able to become a member of Zero Wing!"

Blackie's dorm mates were shocked upon hearing him. His declaration confused them greatly. In the end, which Workshop was truly the awesome one?

Could it be that, nowadays, choosing the Workshop that couldn't even afford an official gaming helmet was the right choice?

"You... You are simply unreasonable!" Wu Yi was almost speechless with anger. Blackie actually used his own words to make fun of him. If it weren't for Brother Zhang instructing him that he definitely must invite Blackie, he would have long since left. It was against his expectations that Blackie would have a brain defect, throwing away a good future and insisting on mingling in a gutter-like place. "Blackie, I am only reminding you because I value talent. Our Shadow is currently trying to annex the 45th ranked Workshop in Jin Hai City, Hungry Wolves Workshop. When Shadow succeeds in doing so, we will rank at the top of all of Jin Hai City. If you were to miss this chance now, there would be no more chances for you in the future."

Wu Yi shot a glance at Shi Feng, coldly saying, "Meanwhile, your Workshop can't even afford the official gaming helmet. How do you plan to play God's Domain in the future? It would be better if you joined Shadow. A great future is awaiting you here."

Faced with such a brazen way of poaching people, even if Shi Feng's temper were much cooler, he would still get slightly angry.

Since they were fated to battle each other, then battle it was!

"Who said that our Workshop couldn't afford the official gaming helmet?" Shi Feng took out the 20,000 Credits from his pocket, casually throwing it on the table, saying, "I previously decided that starting a Workshop would be too sudden, and I was never able to decide which type of official gaming helmet I would buy. So, I was only using the trial helmet as a temporary replacement. However, today, I'm here to give Blackie the money to buy an advanced gaming helmet.

"But really, it's not that I'm trying to criticize Shadow, but aren't you guys being too cheap in poaching for people? The salary I'm giving Blackie is 20,000 Credits minimum. Your Shadow is so rich, and has invested so much, yet, the salary you're offering is only a minimum of 5,000 Credits?"

When Blackie saw the shining-white Credits on the table, he turned to look at Shi Feng astonished eyes. Nobody was more knowledgeable of Shi Feng's financial condition than he was, so how was he able to suddenly throw down 20,000 Credits? Could it be that... Shi Feng robbed a bank?

The others in the dormitory swallowed their saliva when they saw the Credits scattered across the table.

Usually, Blackie remained hidden and did not seem like anything special. They did not think that his monthly salary would be 20,000 Credits. It was no wonder why he refused to join Shadow Workshop. After all, Shadow was only offering him 5,000 Credits, four times less than his current earnings. Even an idiot would know which side to choose.

What was even more unthinkable was that Shi Feng, who was wearing a suit of cheaply-looking sportswear, was actually a Brother Tycoon.