

The Strongest

Chapter 941: Complete State

Suddenly, the Three-deaded Demonic Ape King roared and stomped the ground violently.

Boom!

The ground shattered instantly, a shockwave spreading from the Grand Lord. Cola currently had less than 20,000 HP. Not wanting to risk his life, he activated Protection Blessing to reduce the AOE Skill's damage. Even so, he still received close to -8,000 damage from the attack. Other players who stood within 60 yards of the three Bosses also received varying damages, with the farthest players receiving the least amount of damage. Even so, the team's ranged players still received nearly -6,000 damage each...

Immediately after using the Skill, the Ape King slapped at Cola. The Guardian Knight hurriedly raised his shield to block the attack; the impact forced him back three steps before he stabilized himself, his HP dropped by almost another 5,000 points.

In the blink of an eye, Cola had less than 5,000 HP remaining. If not for Protection Blessing, he would've died already.

However, after the Ape King's attack, several heals blanketed Cola, one after another, raising his HP to just over 20,000.

Meanwhile, Fire Dance had already circled to the Grand Lord's back. She then thrust Thousand Transformations into the dirt. Suddenly, water began to spew from the ground.

“Go!” Fire Dance smoothly swung Thousand Transformations at the Demonic Ape King.

Water Binding!

The water that had pooled around the Ape King’s feet transformed into a rope, binding the Grand Lord’s limbs and body tightly. No matter how many times the Ape King broke the water rope, the latter always reformed around the Grand Lord’s body, slowing the Boss so much that it couldn’t hit Cola properly.

Even when the Ape King’s attacks struck Cola, it only dealt around 70% of its normal damage due to the watery restrictions. The Ape King was no longer a threat to Cola.

“What a powerful Skill! It can even affect a Great Lord!” Everyone was stunned when they saw the Demonic Ape King’s combat power decrease significantly.

While everyone was still dazed, Fire Dance executed an even more surprising move.

As Fire Dance swung her short sword through the air, a water whip emerged from the ground and lashed at the Ape King’s fist.

Boom!

Although the whip shattered upon impact, The Ape King’s attack had also stopped.

Following which, Fire Dance swung again, summoning another water whip that lashed at the Ape King's back. A damage of over -10,000 points immediately appeared above the Grand Lord's head, stupefying her teammates.

"What Skill is that?" Youlan's mouth twitched involuntarily as she watched Fire Dance's attacks.

Fire Dance stood still as she swung her two blades, yet she had restrained the Demonic Ape King without help.

Oddly enough, no one on the battlefield was more surprised than Fire Dance.

She had never imagined that the Skill she had learned in the Titan Library would be this powerful. She had only upgraded Water Binding to Tier 1, Level 1, yet the Skill could already partially subdue a Grand Lord. If the Skill were upgraded to Tier 2, it could suppress a Grand Lord completely.

"Good. Everyone, focus your full power on the Ape King!" Shi Feng excitedly ordered after watching Fire Dance's performance with her new Skill.

In God's Domain, Skills generally fell into three categories: Attack Skills, Healing Skills, and Control Skills. However, there were also Domain Skills. However, this type of Skill was extremely rare, and players usually only discovered them after reaching Tier 4.

This was also one of the reasons that there was such a huge strength gap between Tier 3 and Tier 4 classes.

However, the Domain Skill Fire Dance had learned also had a glaring flaw—the Skill’s user could not move while using Skill. Moreover, the Skill’s duration wasn’t very long. Based on Shi Feng’s guess, it would be a miracle if the Skill lasted ten minutes. Hence, they needed to deplete the Ape King’s HP while Fire Dance was engaged with her Skill.

With Fire Dance’s assistance, fighting the Demonic Ape King became much easier.

The Ape King’s Defense could not compare to the King of Corrosion’s. It was also a Dark Creature. As a result, even without activating a Berserk Skill, Shi Feng’s attacks easily dealt around 20,000 to 30,000 damage.

When Fire Dance’s Water Binding ended, the Demonic Ape King only had 50% of its HP remaining.

As the Grand Lord’s HP had dropped to 50%, Shi Feng commanded, “All DPS, distance yourselves from the Ape King and attack the other Two-headed Apes! Healers, focus on your Mana! Use a potion as soon as the Cooldown is over! Don’t try to conserve them!”

When the Demonic Ape King’s HP fell to 50%, it would target a random player, executing Charge and forcing the player into a Fainted state before launching a barrage of rapid attacks. The Grand Lord’s Charge was far more powerful than a Berserker’s, and even an MT with an active Lifesaving Skill had little hope of survival against such a vicious assault.

Unless the targeted player had a Skill such as the Elementalist’s Ice Barrier that could grant them a long period of damage immunity or they managed to dodge the Ape King before it reached them, only death awaited the Grand Lord’s victim.

However, if players dealt with the Two-headed Demonic Apes first, when the two Great Lords’ HPs fell below the 70% threshold while the Grand Lord’s HP was above that, the Great Lords would enter a Berserk state, their damage and Attack Speed increasing by 30%.

Hence, for safety's sake, after reducing the Ape King's HP to nearly 50%, he shifted the team's attention towards the Two-headed Apes. Once the two Great Lords were almost dead, they would then return to deal with the Grand Lord. However, to achieve all of this, the team's positioning and coordination needed to be precise. Moreover, as this would be a long battle, the healer's Mana usage would be put to the test.

As for the Three-headed Demonic Ape King's situation, Shi Feng had four other Guardian Knights support Cola.

At Tier 1, Level 1, Protection Blessing had a Cooldown of 3 minutes, 30 seconds. At higher levels, that Cooldown would drop. As every member of the team was an expert, their Skill levels were very high. Including Cola, all five of the team's Guardian Knight had roughly a three-minute Cooldown on their Protection Blessings.

When Cola had taken on the Demonic Ape King, Shi Feng had used Life Bloom on the Guardian Knight. Life Bloom had a duration of 40 seconds and a Cooldown of 1 minute, 30 seconds. After including the healing from three healers, Cola had been practically invincible during Life Bloom's duration.

Once Life Bloom's Cooldown ended, the other four Guardian Knights would take turns casting Protection Blessing on Cola. Protection Blessing had a duration of 20 seconds, so Cola only needed three to tide him over until Life Bloom was ready once more. With Protection Blessing, even without Shi Feng's Life Bloom, Cola would not die. If necessary, Shi Feng was also prepared to activate a Lifesaving Skill to help Cola survive the Ape King's attacks, reducing the pressure on the Guardian Knight. With this, they formed a solid defensive cycle.

Time passed quickly. The Three-headed Demonic Ape King had been pinned down during the entire battle. As for the two Level 45 Great Lords, they weren't a challenge for Shi Feng's team in the least. Very quickly, the two Great Lords' HPs had dropped below the 5% threshold. Shi Feng then delegated one party to pin the Great Lords while everyone else attacked the Ape King.

When the Demonic Ape King's HP fell below 50%, it finally activated its Charge.

Despite Shi Feng's warning, the Ape King was simply too fast. In the end, the Ape King's targeted Assassin had died instantly. During its Charge, the Ape King also collided into three others, two of which died and one had been gravely injured. Unfortunately, the injured player was a Shield Warrior...

Chills ran down the players' spines as they received a blow to their morale.

As the Ape King's HP gradually decreased, the team lost members.

By the time the Ape King had 10% HP remaining, only 64 team members were standing. Fortunately, the survivors familiarize themselves with the Ape King's Charge, decreasing the number of fatalities with each subsequent Charge.

"Roar!"

As these players wondered if victory were within sight, the Demonic Ape King hammered on its chest as its entire body turned red; it was entering its Berserk state. Its fist then slammed into Cola's Shield, instantly burying Cola up to his waist in the ground.

Even with Protection Blessing, Cola still received close to -9,000 damage. As a Healing Beam struck Cola from one side, the Ape King's next punch struck from the other. This time, the rest of Cola's body sunk into the ground, his HP instantly falling below 50%.

As everyone thought that the Ape King would punch Cola again, the Grand Lord swung its arms at the nearby players. Immediately, several players transformed into streaks of white light and disappeared...

The Ape King's Strength left the players dumbfounded.

"The Boss doesn't have a lot of HP left! Give it everything you've got! Blackie, cast Guardian of Light on Cola!" Shi Feng hurriedly shouted.

After saying so, Shi Feng activated Heavenly Dragon's Power and Thunder God's Descent before attacking the Ape King with everything he had. Fire Dance also used Illusory Power.

At this moment, the team went into a frenzy as they desperately fought to kill the Demonic Ape King.

Many also began to hurl powerful Magic Scrolls at the Grand Lord.

7%...

5%...

3%...

As the Ape King's HP decreased, the team dwindled. Very quickly, only 40 or so players remained standing. When the Grand Lord's HP fell below 1%, the team finished off the two Great Lords. However, even with less than 300,000 HP, the Demonic Ape King's might rained despair over the team.

Even with Dragonscale Body activated, the Ape King still killed Cola.

“Kill it!” Shi Feng used Flame Burst. However, in its complete state, the Demonic Ape King’s Defense was too high. Both Shi Feng and his doppelganger had only managed to deal a total of 120,000 damage.

When the Ape King only had 100,000 HP remaining, there were less than 20 survivors. However, the most their attacks dealt was around -1,000 damage, with a majority of them only dealing hundreds of damage.

The Ape King’s last 100,000 HP felt like an insurmountable wall.

When the Grand Lord only had 50,000 HP, only ten players were still alive. Even White Night was beginning to lose hope.

Suddenly, the Ape King’s gaze fell onto Shi Feng. Without hesitation, Shi Feng activated the Aura of Earth’s Activatable Skill, Absolute Defense.

The Ape King’s sudden punch sent Shi Feng flying over 30 yards away. Even Shi Feng shuddered when he felt the Grand Lord’s tremendous Strength. Fortunately, the Ape King could not penetrate Absolute Defense.

Seeing Shi Feng survive its attack, the Ape King grew furious. It charged at Shi Feng before whaling on the Swordsman.

However, throughout Absolute Defense’s five-second duration, the Ape King could do nothing to Shi Feng. All its rage-fueled attack did was buy more time for the team’s other survivors.

Suddenly, Shi Feng retrieved a pitch-black Magic Scroll from his bag. Sensing the horrific Mana radiating from the ancient scroll, the Ape King shrunk back in fear, panic shining in its eyes.

It seems that I will have to use this after all. Reluctance flashed in Shi Feng's eyes as he looked at the black scroll.

He had obtained this from the Epic Treasure Chest he got from Phoenix Rain. He had spent a lot of Mana Stones to open that Epic Chest, yet it had only contained two items. Among them, one had been the black scroll in his hands.

Chapter 942: Beastmaster's Compendium

Chapter 942 – Beastmaster's Compendium

The remaining team members noticed the scroll the moment Shi Feng took it from his bag.

“What's that?”

“Why is it radiating so much Mana?!”

The instant the black scroll appeared, it released a daunting pressure. The flow of Mana around them froze under this pressure.

If it could display such power before its activation, it was hard to imagine just what kind of Magic Scroll it was.

Even Youlan, Bloodsucker, and White Night, people who knew a lot about God's Domain, had never seen anything like this.

In the end, we still have to use it? Aqua Rose sighed, clearly reluctant when she saw the scroll.

In Zero Wing, only she and Shi Feng knew what items he had obtained from the Epic Treasure Chest.

In God's Domain, even Fine-Gold Treasure Chests were extremely rare. Generally, they were only found in special, hidden locations. As for Dark-Gold Treasure Chests, it was unlikely for a player to stumble across one even in the most resource-rich hidden locations or ruins.

Hence, one could just imagine how precious an Epic Treasure Chest was.

A Magic Scroll from an Epic Treasure Chest would be just as extraordinary.

Currently, the strongest known Magic Scrolls in God's Domain were Tier 3 Magic Scrolls. However, the scroll in Shi Feng's hands was a Tier 4 Magic Scroll.

However, this scroll was not why Shi Feng kept his the Epic Treasure Chest and the items he had obtained from it a secret. Rather, he had done so due to the other item the Treasure Chest had given him.

The Beastmaster's Compendium!

Although it was an ordinary parchment book, every Guild dreamed of having their own.

As Guild players reached higher levels, their need for Mounts would also increase by the day. Hence, the Guild Mounts' importance was self-evident. However, nurturing Guild Mounts was more important.

Common Mounts could not satisfy the members of the various large Guilds, yet upgrading a Common Guild Mount was far from easy. Even if the base Mount were a 5-star Mount, players only had a 70% chance of upgrading it from Common to Bronze rank, a 30% chance to upgrade it to Mysterious-Iron rank, and a 3% chance to upgrade it to Secret-Silver rank.

If the Mount a Guild captured was a 3-star Mount or below, its upgrade chances were even lower.

However, with the Beastmaster's Compendium, Guilds could craft medicine that increased the promotion success rates. Moreover, the boost was quite high. Even a Basic Beastmaster's Potion could increase the success rate of upgrading a Mount to Bronze rank by 10%, Mysterious-Iron rank by 5%, and Secret-Silver rank by 1%.

If others knew that Zero Wing possessed the Beastmaster's Compendium, every Guild in God's Domain would target them. Furthermore, to produce the Basic Beastmaster's Potion, one needed to become a Master Alchemist at the very least. Hence, they needed to keep the compendium a secret.

When Aqua Rose had seen the Beastmaster's Compendium, she had been utterly stupefied. If Phoenix Rain had known that the Epic Treasure Chest she had given away had not contained Epic Weapons or Equipment, but the Beastmaster's Compendium instead, she would have even been content to wait six months before she could open it.

...

After a pause, the Demonic Ape King started to hammer its fists at Shi Feng in fear, the powerful impacts forming large crater that was eight meters deep and forty meters across. Because of this, the team's survivors were forced to attack the Grand Lord from a distance.

"It's no wonder why so many teams called it Hell's Gatekeeper. With this horrific Strength, even a team of Tier 2 players wouldn't defeat it," Shi Feng muttered to himself, smiling bitterly.

However, no matter how hard the Ape King struggled, it was for naught. Shi Feng only needed one second to activate the Tier 4 Magic Scroll, and Absolute Defense would last for another two seconds. The Ape King could not stop Shi Feng.

Shi Feng unfurled the scroll and began to chant the recorded incantation.

Immediately, everything within 300 yards of Shi Feng froze. Aqua Rose and the others, who stood some distance away, couldn't move at all; only the Demonic Ape King could move. However, the instant the Grand Lord saw Shi Feng unfurl the Magic Scroll, it turned and fled.

Youlan and her companions were flabbergasted.

A powerful monster like the Demonic Ape King was actually running away from a Magic Scroll. No one would ever believe this...

“You want to escape?” Shi Feng chuckled at the Demonic Ape King, who was already 30 yards away from him. “Can you get away, though?”

With Shi Feng at the Spell’s epicenter, black fog rose from the ground across 300 yards in every direction. The fog then flowed into every body in the area.

As Aqua Rose and the others were allies, they did not feel affected by the black fog. However, as if it had been submerged in a muddy swamp, the fleeing Ape King slowed rapidly until it eventually stopped. No matter how hard it struggled, it could not move an inch. In the next moment, the black fog formed ropes that bound the Grand Lord’s limbs and body.

“Isn’t this the Domain Skill that I used earlier?” When Fire Dance saw the familiar ropes, her Water Binding Skill came to mind. Only, Water Binding was significantly weaker than this black fog. Moreover, Shi Feng could move the black fog as he wished.

The Tier 4 Domain Skill Dark Madness is superb! Shi Feng controlled the black fog as if it were an extension of himself.

In the past, one such Tier 4 Domain Skill had been precisely the reason he had been forced to let a Tier 4 NPC rob him.

Of course, not every Tier 4 class had a Domain Skill. However, any player, NPC, or monster that managed to grasp one would undoubtedly stand at the peak among Tier 4 classes.

Let's test out its power. After activating Divine Providence, Shi Feng waved his hand at the Demonic Ape King.

Suddenly, four black whips appeared around the Demonic Ape King. The whips then proceeded to batter the Ape King.

The restrained Grand Lord couldn't defend itself against these whips at all. When the first whip struck the Ape King's tough hide, the Grand Lord's skin split, revealing flesh. The Ape King cried in agony as a damage of over -30,000 appeared above its head. Before the third whip landed, the Demonic Ape King's HP dropped to zero, its body falling lifelessly to the ground.

"So strong!"

"That Skill is terrifying!"

Youlan and the others gaped at the fallen Ape King. Even Bloodsucker and White Night, who had fought through many large battles, were shocked.

Their attacks had only dealt around -1,000 damage. Moreover, that was the damage of a critical hit. However, one black fog whip had dealt over -30,000 damage with a single strike...

After the Demonic Ape King died, the survivors' Levels soared. Shi Feng and his companions rose to Level 44 on the spot, with some even closing in on Level 45.

The Demonic Ape King had provided far more EXP than the King of Corrosion.

However, the remaining team members were far more interested in the Demonic Ape King's loot.

Despite Shi Feng's Divine Providence, the Demonic Ape King had dropped fewer items than the King of Corrosion. In total, the Grand Lord had only dropped five items and some Gold Coins.

Chapter 943: Holy Weapon

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Chapter 943 – Holy Weapon

After the Demonic Ape King died, the sound of a system notification entered the ears of the survivors simultaneously.

System: Congratulations! You have obtained the First Kill of the Three-headed Demonic Ape King. Rewarding "Trial's Hero" title.

This is the reward for getting the Demonic Ape King's First Kill? This was the first time Shi Feng heard of the title. He then clicked to check its information.

[Trial's Hero] (Title)

When title is in use, Reputation with the Holy City of Titan increased by 10%. Movement Speed and all Basic Attributes increased by 20% while within the area of Titan City.

A pity. Shi Feng could not help but sigh as he swept a glance at the nine remaining players on the team. Including himself, only four of the survivors were Zero Wing members.

The third stage of the entrance trial was different from the previous two. The system directly disqualified any players killed here and sent them out of the trial. Hence, only the survivors received this title.

Moreover, this was the reward for getting the First Kill of the Demonic Ape King. In the future, others wouldn't be able to obtain this title even if they killed the Grand Lord.

With this title, they would have a much easier time should they attempt the entrance trial again in the future.

A 20% increase in Attributes was already equivalent to a mini Berserk Skill. Excluding the effects of Skills and equipment, even MTs like Ye Wumian and Turtledove could surpass Cola if they received such a huge boost.

Unfortunately, only Fire Dance, Aqua Rose, and Violet Cloud had managed to reach this point. There were no MTs among the survivors of Zero Wing.

Even so, this was still a good outcome. The Trial's Hero title increased its user's Reputation by 10%.

In Titan City, there was nothing that could be better than this reward.

Following which, Shi Feng shifted his attention to the loot dropped by the Demonic Ape King.

As he appraised the items dropped one after another, he could not help but sigh repeatedly.

"Leader, how is it?" Aqua Rose could not help but ask curiously.

The Demonic Ape King in its complete state was definitely the most horrific Boss she had ever gone up against. Even the King of Corrosion they faced before was no comparison to it. If not for Shi Feng using the Tier 4 Magic Scroll in the end, they would've team-wiped for sure. They wouldn't have the luxury of sitting down and resting here right now.

"Much better than the King of Corrosion's. Of the five items, two are Growth-type Equipment." Shi Feng chuckled.

[Life Talisman] (Necklace, Bronze Rank)

Level 40 – Level 90

Equipment Requirement: Intelligence 300, Vitality 200

Intelligence +21, Vitality +27, Endurance +22 (Level 40)

Casting Speed increased by 10%.

Healing effects increased by 15%.

Additional Passive Skill-

Light of Life: Select up to eight allies within a 30-yard radius and heal them for 30% of player's Intelligence once every 3 seconds.

Additional Active Skill-

Life Connection: Select up to five allies, connecting and sharing their HPs. Life-connected targets receive a 20% increase in healing effects.

Duration: 30 seconds

Cooldown: 5 minutes

A possession of the Life Priest Irene, the Life Talisman was made using the Stone of Life, which formed from the tears of the Goddess of Life. The Life Talisman contains immense Life Force. However, due to contamination by the power of darkness, it is greatly weakened. A large amount of Magic Crystals and

EXP is needed to purify it. Can be purified five times. (The first purification requires 200 Magic Crystals and 300,000,000 EXP)

[Crimson Moon] (Greatsword, Bronze Rank)

Level 40 – Level 100

Equipment Requirement: Strength 600, Agility 400

Attack Power +975 (Level 40)

Strength +102, Endurance +36

Ignore Levels +5

When attacking, has a 30% chance to trigger Boiling Blood, increasing Strength Attribute by 500 points for 10 seconds, and a 15% chance to cause 200% damage.

Additional Passive Skill-

Blood Domain: Within a radius of 30 yards, the presence of any creatures with less than 50% HP will increase wielder's Strength by 100%.

One of Titan City's thirty-one Holy Weapons, its strength has been greatly weakened due to battle damage. Fortunately, the Holy Weapon's core remains intact. A large amount of Magic Crystals and EXP is needed to repair it. Can be repaired five times. (The first repair requires 1,000 Magic Crystals and 500,000,000 EXP)

Everyone gasped upon reading the statistics of the items.

Both pieces of Growth-type Equipment were clearly far from ordinary, particularly the greatsword, Crimson Moon. Despite being only Bronze rank, the Strength Attribute it provided surpassed even that of Epic Weapons. Crimson Moon was an entirely Strength-oriented weapon made purely with destruction in mind.

Strength-wise, not even Shi Feng's Killing Ray could compete with Crimson Moon. Most likely, only Fire Dance's Thousand Transformations was superior to it. However, the former was a Fragmented Legendary Weapon, while the latter was currently still a Bronze Weapon.

While these two items were indeed shocking, what truly grabbed Shi Feng's attention was a dilapidated crimson crystal ball. Despite its appearance, the crystal radiated faint Divine Might. Everything in the displayed information of the item was listed as "Unknown"; the result was the same even after Shi Feng used Omniscient Eyes.

However, Shi Feng knew what exactly this crystal was.

This was no longer his first time to encounter such an item.

God Crystal!

This was something even a Tier 4 Sky Knight had died trying to obtain. It was simply not an item that ordinary mortals could control. If not for the God Crystal being damaged, causing it to lose most of its power, he wouldn't even be able to touch the crystal right now.

Shi Feng had never imagined that he would encounter yet another God Crystal.

The last time the blue crystal ball devoured a God Crystal, it had transformed into the Legendary ranked Holy Grail. However, as the Holy Grail had been destroyed by the God of War, it was still in a damaged state right now. Even so, it was still a Legendary item. The power it possessed was not something that a Fragmented Legendary item could compare to.

One could see just how amazing a Legendary item was from the fact that the current Holy Grail could upgrade an item up to a maximum of Fragmented Legendary rank.

If he obtained this God Crystal, he would be able to repair the Holy Grail further.

Obtaining Growth-type Equipment or an Epic item would pale in comparison to being able to upgrade the power of a Legendary item.

The other two items that dropped, aside from the two pieces of Growth-type Equipment and the God Crystal, were extraordinary as well. One was a Secret-Silver ranked summoning flute, while the other was a Tier 3 Summoning Scroll.

Currently, even Bronze Mounts were extremely rare in God's Domain, not to mention Secret-Silver Mounts. The latter was most likely much more valuable than even an Epic item.

As for the Tier 3 Summoning Scroll, even Super Guilds would only have a few of these things. Its rarity was even greater than Epic items'.

"There are a total of five items. It won't be possible to split them equally. How about we bid for the last item?" Shi Feng suggested to Youlan.

Every single one of the five items was extremely valuable to a Guild. It was natural for neither side to be willing to let the other side get an additional item. Hence, bidding for the last item would be the fairest solution.

"No need. If not for Team Leader Ye Feng using that precious Magic Scroll this time, we wouldn't have been able to defeat the Ape King. I'll let you choose three items first. Our side will be fine with taking the rest." Youlan shook her head, rejecting Shi Feng's goodwill.

After witnessing Zero Wing's strength, she put much more importance to forming a friendly relationship with Zero Wing than to gaining these items.

Chapter 944

Honorary Citizen

Youlan's determined answer slightly surprised Bloodsucker.

Of the five items, aside from the unknown, dilapidated crystal, the other four were priceless. One would be hard-pressed to find these items in Raven.

The Secret-Silver Mount, in particular, was extraordinarily rare. Only Super Guilds or super-first-rate Guilds had any chance of getting their hands on one or two.

He had never imagined that Youlan would actually be so generous as to give Shi Feng first-pick of three items.

While he could understand Youlan's train of thought, if the choice were his, letting Shi Feng choose up to three items, rather than giving the Swordsman the first three picks, would be the limit of his generosity.

Among the five items, it went without saying which three were the most important.

The three included the two pieces of Growth-type Equipment and the Secret-Silver Mount. They had no information on the dilapidated crystal whatsoever. One could not use it even if they obtained it. As for the Tier 3 Summoning Scroll, while it was very valuable, there was no guarantee that it could help defeat a Boss or to obtain a Growth-type or Epic Equipment. At best, it could aid in team battles between Guilds or when raiding a town.

However, Youlan's decision had not surprised War Wolf, who had also survived the tough battle.

Outsiders had no idea about Underworld's internal situation or Youlan's current position within it. However, after witnessing Zero Wing's power, War Wolf was even more certain that they needed to strengthen their relationship with the Guild.

To elevate their fame and position in Underworld, many upper echelons had spent a lot of effort to curry favor with various Super Guilds. For example, the numerous Underworld upper echelons were trying to get close to Pantheon. Unfortunately, the Guild wouldn't give Underworld the time of day.

After all, Underworld was only a coalition of organizations with some influence and capital. It was slightly stronger than an ordinary first-rate Guild. However, the organizations' authority was scattered, and it was much harder to unite its members under one banner than it was in a first-rate Guild. Every upper echelon in the organization had their own motives, each trying to nurture their own forces and Guilds.

Overwhelming Smile was the combined effort of four Underworld upper echelons.

Although Zero Wing could not compete with Pantheon in terms of background, the same could not be said for its main force. With such a powerful team, they could acquire top-tier weapons and equipment just as fast as any Super Guild. This was clear based on the equipment Zero Wing's members wore.

Moreover, Zero Wing was situated in Star-Moon Kingdom. If Overwhelming Smile could improve its relationship with Zero Wing, they might be able to ask Zero Wing's members for some help in the future. Perhaps they could assist each other when raiding monsters that one alone could not handle or trade raid information. After all, weren't Underworld's upper echelons trying to do the same with Pantheon for those very reasons?

"I'll take you up on that offer." Shi Feng also understood Youlan's intentions. Without hesitation, he chose the God Crystal and the two pieces of Growth-type Equipment.

As for the Secret-Silver Mount, it wasn't nearly as valuable as the Growth-type Equipment to Zero Wing. Moreover, he had the Beastmaster's Compendium. As long as he had a sufficiently skillful Master Alchemist, it was only a matter of time before he nurtured the Guild Mount to Secret-Silver rank.

The Tier 3 Summoning Scroll held even less appeal to him.

He had the Bible of Darkness. Once he was promoted to his Tier 2 class, he could easily summon Tier 3 Demons. Even now, it was possible to summon a Tier 3 Demon with Aqua Rose's Song of Beatrice. Although this Tier 3 Demon would be weakened, they could use it as a meat shield.

After both sides finished splitting the loot, Shi Feng passed the Life Talisman to Violet Cloud.

Violet Cloud was already a powerful healer, and after equipping the necklace, her healing abilities would rise further.

Once the remaining team members had rested, Shi Feng led them up the mountain.

Although the group encountered many monsters on their way into Titan City, these monsters were no threat to Shi Feng's team. After only three hours, these players arrived at the Holy City's entrance.

Titan City's gates were 100 meters tall. The surrounding walls climbed to 300 meters. When Shi Feng's group arrived before the city's entrance, they looked like ants.

Many divine runes had been engraved into the massive steel gates. When Shi Feng stepped within 500 yards of the gates, he felt an immense pressure wash over him. It felt as if these gates were the jaws of a gigantic monster.

Clouds drifted above the city. However, these clouds were not ordinary; Rather, they consisted of Mana. One could imagine just how dense the Mana was in the Holy City of Titan.

The instant Shi Feng's group arrived before the gates, one of the two 200-meter tall Titan statues standing guard on either side moved.

"Outsiders, congratulations on reaching the Holy City of Titan. For clearing the entrance trial, you will be awarded 100 entrance tokens. You may use these entrance tokens to teleport to Titan City's Teleportation Hall without undergoing a trial. Every token will grant you three days in Titan City. Use them well." After the Titan statue had spoken, it waved its arm and formed 100 black iron tokens before Shi Feng and the others. "If you wish to enter the city now, you may do so using teleportation array to the side without expending an entrance token."

After the Titan statue fell silent, the team members heard the sound of two system notifications.

System: Congratulations! For being the first team to clear the entrance trial, you have been awarded 110 Titan City Reputation Points.

System: Congratulations! Your Titan City Reputation has reached 100 points. Your status in the Holy City has been upgraded to Honorary Citizen. You will now receive the benefits of an Honorary Citizen while in the Holy City. You may now stay up to five days with each visit to the Holy City.

"Why is there a time limit when in Titan City?" Youlan frowned.

Originally, she had thought that, once she gained the slots to enter the city, her Lifestyle players could remain in the city until they became Advanced Forgers or Alchemists. She had not realized that each token only had a duration of three short days. It was impossible for an Intermediate Forger or Alchemist to reach Advanced rank within such a brief time.

This meant that each Intermediate Lifestyle player would need multiple tokens to reach Advanced rank.

She had never expected this development.

“Let’s head inside and take a look for now,” Shi Feng suggested. The revelation had not surprised him. Youlan and the others had simply hoped for too much. They had thought that, by obtaining the entrance slots to Titan City, they could nurture a small army of Advanced Lifestyle players without a care in the world.

God’s Domain wasn’t that nice. Otherwise, Master Lifestyle players wouldn’t have been so rare in the past, even more exalted than Tier 4 players.

This was also why he had prioritized the First Clear.

Only by becoming an Honorary Citizen could one prolong their stay by two days. If one’s Reputation rose further, their allotted stays would also be extended. Of course, the benefits of becoming an Honorary Citizen weren’t limited to an extended stay.

At Shi Feng’s words, Youlan quickly adjusted her mood and nodded before following Shi Feng to the teleportation array. She wanted to know if the team’s sacrifices had been worth the rumored benefits of Titan City.

Chapter 945: Holy Land of Players

The Holy City of Titan was not like other cities. As soon as Shi Feng and the others emerged from the Teleportation Hall, they were stunned by what they saw.

Buildings that were hundreds of meters tall had been erected all over the city, looking very much like a modern city.

Various Lifestyle NPCs roamed about the streets. In God's Domain's NPC cities, players did not often encounter Master Lifestyle NPCs. Here, however, it was hard not to.

Yet, the Mana density was the most shocking aspect of the city.

Just by standing on the street, everyone felt an indescribable serenity. Their minds were astonishingly clear.

"This is a fantastic place to rest. This is a perfect place to relax and unwind after an exhausting day in the real world," Aqua Rose muttered to herself as she inhaled the pleasant air.

Even a Dark Player like Bloodsucker found himself nodding in agreement.

“Alright, snap out of it. Let’s investigate the Lifestyle Association first,” Shi Feng said, chuckling at his companions’ reactions.

In the past, many people had dreamed of vacationing in Titan City. Unfortunately, very few could afford such a luxury.

Following which, the team rode an advanced horse carriage and headed for Titan City’s Lifestyle Association.

There were three buildings that stood out in Titan City, and one was the Lifestyle Association’s floating island. Titan City’s ten saints had created this special island and suspended it above the city’s western area. Players could take the floating elevator in the spire to reach the island.

When Youlan and the others saw the massive island above the 400-meter tall spire, they fell silent.

Youlan had initially assumed that the Lifestyle Association in Titan City would only be slightly better than those in kingdoms and empires’ capital cities. Now, however, it would seem that there were more differences than she had thought. Calling this Lifestyle Association the ‘Holy Land’ for Lifestyle players was an exaggeration.

Shi Feng could not help but smile at Youlan’s shock.

In the past, even Grandmaster Lifestyle players had dreamed of visiting the Holy City of Titan, and not without reason.

Upon entering the spire, Youlan immediately approached an NPC to inquire about this place.

“Hello, miss. How may I help you today?” the metal robot, which stood over three meters tall, asked from behind the front desk.

“I wish to rent a Workshop. Can you give me an introduction?” Youlan asked.

Immediately, the front desk robot began to explain the various Workshops available.

However, the NPC robot’s introduction was very brief. It conveyed far less information than what Shi Feng knew. Even so, it was shocking enough the first time players heard it.

The Lifestyle Association was divided into three areas, namely the lower layer, the middle layer, and the upper layer.

The lower layer referred to the spire area. Workshops ranging from Basic to Special rank were found there. However, unlike the Workshops in other NPC cities, the Mana density in these was much higher. The Special Workshop here was even superior to the Basic Meditation Room in 3-star Shops.

Of course, its rental was very expensive.

Renting an Advanced Workshop for one day cost 10 Gold, while Special Workshops cost 25 Gold per day. This was an astronomical amount to ordinary Lifestyle players.

Meanwhile, the middle layer referred to the ordinary buildings on the floating island. The island had various Research Rooms, ranging from Basic to Advanced rank, but not limited.

Research Rooms were different from Workshops in which they stored large amounts of data that players could use to research and invent their own designs.

It was commonly known that, to reach the rank of Master, Lifestyle players needed to create their own items. Moreover, they needed to create relatively high-ranking items. This was far more difficult than producing an item from an existing design.

With these Research Room, Advanced Lifestyle players would have a much higher chance of becoming a Master Lifestyle player.

It was also precisely this reason that the Holy City of Titan had been known as the Holy Land for Lifestyle players. In the past, countless Lifestyle players had spent spend hundreds of Gold to get a slot into the Holy City. However, no Guild would be foolish enough to sell their slots. Only those top-class adventurer teams would sell entrance tokens. However, the various Guilds normally bought these tokens. Independent Lifestyle players had no hope of obtaining their own.

Of course, with such high benefits, the Research Rooms' rent wasn't cheap.

A Basic Research Room alone cost 200 Gold per day, though players of any status could rent one.

As for the Intermediate Research Rooms, each cost 500 Gold per day. Moreover, one needed to be an Honorary Citizen to rent these rooms. Furthermore, loaning the room to others was forbidden.

At Advanced rank, the Research Room cost 1,200 Gold per day. Only Titan City's nobles were allowed access to these rooms. This was one of the reasons that Shi Feng had been so desperate for the Holy City's Reputation Points. Without sufficient Reputation, he couldn't rent an Advanced Research Room regardless of how much money he had.

In reality, even without the Reputation requirement, the rental cost was enough to deter most Guilds at this stage of the game. However, if one calculated the cost carefully, they would realize how inexpensive the rooms were. If a Guild nurtured a Master Lifestyle player as a result of renting one of these extortionate Research Rooms, that player could bring the Guild far more profit than the rental costs.

Above the middle layer area was the Sacred Tower in the island's center. Only players who were major nobles in Titan City were allowed to enter the tower. As far as Shi Feng knew, the players that had access to the Sacred Tower had been as rare as a phoenix's feather in the past; most of them had been Grandmaster Lifestyle players, standing at the peak of God's Domain's Lifestyle players.

As for what the Sacred Tower contained, even Shi Feng didn't know.

As the NPC robot introduced the Lifestyle Association's various benefits, everyone, except for Shi Feng, gasped.

"NPCs are really skilled thieves!" Even Bloodsucker and White Night, people who had paid no attention to Lifestyle classes, were shocked by the Research Room's prices.

Renting an Advanced Research Room for a day cost as much as an Epic item. Even Super Guilds couldn't afford this.

Youlan paled upon hearing the NPC robot's explanation.

Even the Workshops' rent was astonishing.

If she calculated the cost of nurturing twenty Lifestyle players, each person could spend six days in Titan City. If she allowed all twenty to use Special Workshops, the rent alone would cost 3,000 Gold. After factoring in the material costs, the total would even endanger a first-rate Guild. Furthermore, she would have to use her own money, and there was still no guarantee that all twenty players would reach Advanced rank within those six days.

Chapter 946: Magic Light Set

While Youlan's head ached over how much it would cost to nurture Advanced Lifestyle players, Shi Feng wandered to the sales counter.

Aside from renting Workshops, Lifestyle Associations also sold designs and recipes for the various Lifestyle classes. Titan City's Lifestyle Association was no exception.

Moreover, compared to the other Lifestyle Associations in kingdoms and empires, Titan City's designs were more valuable.

Reaching Titan City was not easy.

By focusing her attention on nurturing Advanced Lifestyle players, Youlan missed Titan City's true value.

Like Blackwing City, Titan City sold many exclusive items. One could say that these items were Titan City's specialties. However, players needed to explore to learn more.

"Sir, how may help you?" the NPC robot standing behind the counter asked.

"I wish to purchase forging designs," Shi Feng stated.

"Understood. Here is the information you've requested," the NPC robot responded before passing Shi Feng a list.

It was a list of the available forging designs.

Elsewhere, one would be hard-pressed to find an NPC selling Secret-Silver Equipment forging designs. Here, however, purchasing one was easy. Meanwhile, Shi Feng eyed the Magic Light Set Equipment Forging Design, which was unique to Titan City.

This was one of the top-ranking sets among Level 50 set equipment.

Due to the system's evolution, Level 50 had become a great divide for players. Not only could players begin class-changing to their Tier 2 classes, but equipment would also receive huge Attribute increases. Moreover, Level 50 and above monsters had significantly reduced drop-rates.

Currently, even Guild elite players strutted around in the latest Fine-Gold Equipment. However, once players reached Level 50, this would no longer be possible. Even Secret-Silver Equipment would become a luxury, much less Fine-Gold rank. As a result, Forgers' status would rise exponentially.

The Magic Light Set could be divided into three ranks: Secret-Silver, Fine-Gold, and Dark-Gold.

Titan City's Lifestyle Association sold the forging designs for all three ranks. This was a benefit that no other Lifestyle Association offered. Of course, their prices were maddeningly high.

The Secret-Silver rank forging design cost 300 Gold, the Fine-Gold design cost 900 Gold, and the Dark-Gold design cost 3,000 Gold. The Dark-Gold design cost as much as an Epic Weapon. Among the three, any player could purchase the Secret-Silver version, while Honorary Citizens or higher could buy the Fine-Gold rank. As for the Dark-Gold version, one needed to be a Titan City noble to buy their own.

However, there was one detestable fact about the designs and recipes available in Titan City; they could neither be sold or traded to other players once they had been purchased. Hence, even if non-Lifestyle players earned sufficient Titan City Reputation, they would not be able to profit from the city's designs and recipes.

Of course, Shi Feng also had no intention of reselling the Magic Light Set Forging Design. Even if he could, other forgers would struggle to craft the set.

After all, the set's required core material was a Mana Stone. Even in 100-man large-scale Team Dungeons, Mana Stones rarely dropped. Producing weapons or equipment with one was incredibly expensive. Their production volume would also be limited. Furthermore, the set's forging success rate wasn't high.

The Magic Light Set had six set pieces. At Secret-Silver rank, forging the set needed a minimum of six Mana Stones, with each set piece requiring one. At Fine-Gold rank, the amount of required Mana Stones tripled. At the Dark-Gold rank, the cost rose to insane heights as the set required a minimum of 60 Mana Stones.

The Epic Treasure Chest that Phoenix Rain had obtained had only needed 88 Mana Stones to open. Even so, Phoenix Rain had given up on the Treasure Chest due to how much time and effort it would take to acquire 88 Mana Stones.

As for Shi Feng, even with the Philosopher's Stone, he needed to invest 50 Magic Crystals to synthesize one Mana Stone. Based on market value, each Mana Stone cost 10 Gold to produce.

Fortunately, Magic Crystals were not a problem for Shi Feng. Shi Feng only regretted that he couldn't purchase the Dark-Gold rank design.

If he could equip the plate armor classes of Zero Wing's main force with the Level 50 Dark-Gold ranked Magic Light Set, the team would be invincible.

Unfortunately, this dream would remain a dream.

In his previous life, even after players had reached Level 50, first-rate Guilds' main forces had been lucky if they wore a few pieces of Fine-Gold Equipment. Level 50 Fine Gold Set Equipment was nothing more than a dream.

Following which, Shi Feng spent 900 Gold to purchase the Fine-Gold ranked Magic Light Set Equipment Forging Design.

After the team had spent several hours strolling around Titan City, Youlan and War Wolf returned to White River City and started preparing their Lifestyle players and required funds. Shi Feng did not linger, either, as he also led his team back to White River City.

Although Shi Feng had wanted to complete a few Reputation Quests before he left, the Candlelight Trading Firm could no longer wait. The trading firm desperately needed Advanced Lifestyle players. They also had to face the issue of manufacturing the Bronze Mounts. He could not afford to waste much time in the Holy City.

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While Shi Feng had been gone, many changes had occurred in White River City.

Not only had the tension of the Abyss Invasion alleviated, but more players had also gathered in the city. Currently, the city's streets were packed with players. This looked nothing like a city in decline.

"Why are there suddenly so many outsiders here?" Aqua Rose was slightly surprised by the scene that had greeted her.

Although Zero Wing and the Candlelight Trading Firm's recruitment campaigns had attracted quite a few of players to White River City, they hadn't attracted this many. She could even see Guild players from other kingdoms and empires.

Aqua Rose wasn't the only person surprised by this development. White Night and Bloodsucker were also stunned.

Players generally gathered in a city's center, yet, rather than heading towards the central district, the players arriving through the Teleportation Hall rushed towards White River City's Slums. Regardless of which city, players avoided the Slums.

Yet, the opposite was occurring in White River City.

While players flooded the city, White River City's Guilds were in an uproar.

They had all believed that White River City had been finished. Even if Zero Wing tried to utilize its recruitment campaign to increase the city's population, no one could change its fate. However, a new building had appeared in the city's Slums, and it had changed everything.

Chapter 947: Mysterious Shop

Translator: Hellscythe_ **Editor:** Vampirecat

Chapter 947 – Mysterious Shop

The moment Shi Feng left the Teleportation Hall, he saw dozens of 100-man teams rushing towards the Slums. A few among them immediately attracted the attention of the surrounding players.

The reason for such attention was these teams' all-female composition; there was not a single man among them. Such situations seldom occurred in the virtual gaming world. Moreover, the woman leading these teams was also extraordinary.

The woman was dressed in a set of crimson mage robes that gave off a faint impression of scorching flames. In her hand, she held a silvery-white crystal staff that constantly drew the ambient Mana, causing illusions to appear around it. She was even Level 40, a level which could rank her at the very top even in empires.

However, compared to her dazzling equipment and level, her appearance and bearing held an even greater attraction for the surrounding players. She carried herself as if she was the empress of this space; one could not help but want to submit oneself to her rule.

"Huh? Doesn't that Guild Emblem belong to the Hundred Flowers Palace of the Dark Night Empire?"

"Lucky! I actually got to see the Frostflame Goddess Cleansed Rue! This trip to White River City was definitely worth the money!"

When the male players on the street saw Cleansed Rue, they all fell into a reverie.

The title of Frostflame Goddess was not one that Cleansed Rue had long possessed. Cleansed Rue herself was a female player who had become famous in God's Domain just recently. However, due to her superb combat power and beautiful appearance, many male players treated her as a Goddess.

The reason why Cleansed Rue was known as the Frostflame Goddess was her extreme skill in fire and ice Spells, which she had used to defeat over a dozen well-known experts in the virtual gaming world. Recently, she had even triumphed over the Guild Leader of a first-rate Guild, her victory instantly solidifying her Guild's rule over Silver Pine City, the seventh most populous city in the Dark Night Empire.

After that famous battle, she received the rank of 173rd in the latest update of the God's Domain Experts List.

Meanwhile, aside from the Hundred Flowers Palace, Shi Feng also spotted many teams belonging to other first-rate Guilds. With just a single glance, he already noted four first-rate Guilds—an impossible sight even in Star-Moon City.

“Guild Leader, I'll carry out an investigation right away,” Aqua Rose hurriedly whispered to Shi Feng. She, too, found this situation perplexing. She was prepared to head to the Slums personally to find out just what was capable of attracting the interest of so many large Guilds.

“No need,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head.

“But...there are so many Guilds coming here.” Aqua Rose was somewhat surprised that Shi Feng would actually have so little interest in such a huge incident.

“All of this is part of my plan. Zero Wing's members just need to watch from the sidelines,” Shi Feng explained secretly. “Don't let others know of this matter.”

Before he headed to Titan City, he had sent Melancholic Smile to purchase some Lands in the Slums on the sly. The Guilds and players in White River City paid practically no attention to the city's Slums, and nearly all of the Lands there were still ownerless. Hence, these Lands were very cheap and easy to purchase.

After purchasing the Lands, he had constructed a Shop there. He then had Melancholic Smile set up the Teleportation Magic Array inside the Shop; the location tied to the magic array was the teleportation point he had previously set up at the Twin Towers Kingdom. After that was done, he had hired a group of high-intelligence NPCs to manage the Shop as well as ordered them to keep any information regarding the Shop an absolute secret. To outsiders, all information regarding the Shop would only appear as “Unknown,” preventing players from finding out if an NPC or a player owned the Shop.

Afterwards, he had Melancholic Smile spread rumors of a Shop that had appeared in the Slums of White River City—a Shop with a teleportation array that could send players directly to the Twin Towers Kingdom where players could freely kill low-level abyssal monsters to earn Honor Points. After that was done, he just needed to wait patiently for things to develop on their own.

The Ancient Abyssal Book was simply too dangerous. He absolutely could not allow others to find out he possessed the book.

It would be very easy for others to make a connection between the teleportation array and the Ancient Abyssal Book. Although not many should know about the secret of the Abyssal Book at the moment, Shi Feng did not wish to take any risks. Keeping his identity hidden while earning money through the collection of teleportation fees would be much safer.

As an extra precaution, he didn't set up a Teleportation Shop in just White River City. Cities in the Black Dragon Empire and the Purple Thorns Kingdom also had them. All countries affected by the Abyss Invasion had such Shops set up in them, only the teleportation fees charged in these two countries were much higher than White River City's. As a result, ordinary players who could not afford frequent teleportations would choose to come to White River City, instead.

However, Shi Feng never expected that, in less than a day's time, so many people would've already come to White River City. Moreover, everyone was highly interested in killing the abyssal monsters in the Twin Towers Kingdom.

Aqua Rose was briefly stunned when she heard Shi Feng's explanation. She was very curious about what method Shi Feng had used to attract so many players and Guilds.

Although she did not investigate, she still managed to catch the gist of the situation from conversations of players on the streets.

This sudden development greatly tempted the members of Shi Feng's team.

Currently, if one were to point out what the players of God's Domain were most interested in, the first would have to be Mounts, while coming in second would be the new class.

Although the official game developers had only given a brief introduction of the new class, the strength of this new class was simply unbelievable. It was definitely the top pick for players who loved both melee and ranged battles.

Growing impatient, White Night and his group said their goodbyes to Shi Feng and directly rushed towards the Slums.

However, before White Night left, he also sent Shi Feng a friend request. Through this trip to Titan City, Owl's relationship with Zero Wing had deepened further.

After White Night's group left, Bloodsucker's group also grew hesitant.

Originally, they had planned to awe Zero Wing with their ability, making Zero Wing aware of the Raven Guild's power, so that they could negotiate from a stronger position later on. However, after seeing Zero Wing's performance today...

Bloodsucker's confidence was severely shaken.

It would've been fine if their party was inferior to Shi Feng alone, yet the ones that surpassed them in damage-dealing were not just two or three people. After such an unsightly performance, Bloodsucker would find it very difficult to negotiate for a higher price. However, he was also somewhat reluctant to settle for just 20%. If he returned to the Guild with such a poor result, the upper echelon would no doubt hold him accountable for it.

Had he known that Zero Wing's main force was actually this strong, he never would've chosen to have his party perform alongside Zero Wing's main force.

After arriving at the reception room of Zero Wing's Residence, the Assassin Kirin could not help but look at Bloodsucker and ask, "Boss Blood, what should we do now?"

As a member of Raven, he always held the Guild in high esteem. He looked down on even Super Guilds. However, after witnessing Shi Feng's horrific strength, for the first time ever, he felt an overwhelming sense of defeat.

Before, they had confidently declared their strength to Shi Feng. Now, however, they were nothing more than jokes.

"I don't have any ideas, either. Let's just contact the Guild Leader for now," Bloodsucker replied, shaking his head. If possible, he really wished he could stop his past self from speaking so boldly. At the very least, he wouldn't be at a complete loss for words right now.

Chapter 948: Rapid Development

Translator: Hellscythe_ **Editor:** Vampirecat

Due to the presence of the Teleportation Shop, a large number of players had gathered at White River City. In less than a day, White River City's player population skyrocketed past Star-Moon City's, becoming the most populous city in Star-Moon Kingdom.

As soon as Shi Feng returned to Zero Wing's Residence, he received the statistics reports made by the Guild members.

These statistics drew on the latest information gathered from White River City's City Hall.

Just recently, White River City's player population broke past six million. A large majority of the capital cities of the kingdoms in God's Domain did not even possess such a large population. In reality, though, most of these newcomers had migrated from various cities in Star-Moon Kingdom.

Meanwhile, as a byproduct of the flood of players, the Candlelight Trading Firm's business flourished. Even the quality of the players Zero Wing recruited continued to rise.

Originally, the Guild had lowered its recruitment criteria significantly in consideration of its expansion plans towards the Black Dragon Empire and the Twin Towers Kingdom. However, with the player population of White River City skyrocketing, Zero Wing had no choice but to gradually raise its recruitment criteria again.

Even so, Zero Wing still managed to recruit over 10,000 players in less than a day.

Such a number might not be a lot to large Guilds, but Zero Wing walked the path of the elite. The overall strength of these 10,000 new recruits could easily surpass the 50,000 new recruits of other Guilds.

Due to this sudden increase in members, Aqua Rose was swamped with work as soon as she returned to the Residence. She needed to arrange these newcomers right away into parties and teams as well as assign them Dungeons to raid. Unlike independent players, Guild players could not raid Dungeons as they wished. Their team members would also change frequently.

Generally, Zero Wing's Guild teams consisted of a mix of veterans and new members. Such a combination allowed newcomers to get their equipment up to standards and integrate themselves into the Guild quickly. Having veteran members guiding newcomers also gave Aqua Rose a better grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of these newcomers. After gaining a sufficient understanding, she would then have to assign them to more appropriate teams.

"Guild Leader, at our current recruitment rate, if we don't move some members to other cities soon, our Guild members' levels will lag behind other first-rate Guilds' before long." Aqua Rose had a huge headache when she looked at the report in her hands.

Due to the Abyss Invasion, abyssal monsters now occupied many high-resource areas in Star-Moon Kingdom. This situation had severely affected the leveling speed of Zero Wing's Guild members. The recruitment of so many players meant that leveling speed would become even slower.

"I understand. Start making the necessary arrangements to send 50,000 members to develop at the Black Dragon Empire's Lake Heart City. During this period, I'll try to have the Guild Residence at Lake Heart City constructed as quickly as possible. Once it's ready, they can use the Guild Transfer Scroll to teleport there directly." Shi Feng also understood Zero Wing's current predicament.

However, he also did not have a better solution.

This was the problem with an upstart Guild without any foundations. It was especially so for a Guild that had developed as rapidly as Zero Wing had.

Unlike other Guilds that had already existed for several or even dozens of years, Zero Wing did not possess the luxury of starting its development in multiple cities. These long-established Guilds could simply split a large and unexpected influx of new members among the various cities under their influence.

Upon hearing Shi Feng's decision, Aqua Rose immediately started making the necessary preparations. It was going to be a huge job to decide which teams they would send over to the new Branch Guild.

Seeing how busy Aqua Rose was, Shi Feng suddenly felt a little embarrassed.

Although Zero Wing was gradually moving towards the top of God's Domain, management of the entire Guild depended mainly on Aqua Rose alone. Moreover, management of the Guild involved the core secrets of the Guild. He could not assign the job to some random person he did not trust. Although he wanted to help out, he was already bogged down with his own matters.

Meanwhile, Fire Dance needed to manage the Guild's main force, while Blackie had to deal with the matters of the Workshop. Suddenly, Shi Feng discovered that he had nobody he could put to use.

At this moment, the various flaws of an upstart Guild were quickly coming to light.

"It seems that I'll need to find some trustworthy managers." Shi Feng had already considered this matter before. Although he had thought of having some of the core members manage the Guild, none of them were particularly suited for the role. Moreover, all of them were busy improving themselves. After all,

Zero Wing's internal competition was extremely intense. If one wanted to receive better treatment, they needed to earn it with their own strength.

Anyhow, he had already set his sights on a suitable candidate.

Liang Jing!

During this period, he had occasionally let Liang Jing handle some matters relating to Zero Wing's Workshop, and she always dealt with them excellently. She was much more amazing than even Shi Feng himself, someone who had served as the Guild Leader of a second-rate Guild for many years. Not only was she knowledgeable, but she was also very efficient. Blackie would even often seek guidance from her on various problems.

If he could have Liang Jing manage the Guild, she would lighten Aqua Rose's burden as well. At the very least, Aqua Rose would not try to run away as soon as she saw him the way she did right now.

However, there was one problem with having Liang Jing manage Zero Wing.

Liang Jing was an employee of the Big Dipper Training Center.

The Guild's manager needed to be someone from Zero Wing.

"It seems I'll need to find time to have a chat with Liang Jing." When Shi Feng considered the Guild's present situation as well as the problems that would crop up in the future, he felt an even greater need to poach Liang Jing.

While experts were necessary for a Guild to develop, managers were similarly important. Otherwise, it would simply be impossible to operate a Guild with so many members.

In truth, aside from Liang Jing, he had another candidate in mind.

White Night!

White Night was strong not only in combat but also leadership capability, if not stronger.

When they were fighting against the Demonic Ape King, he had led the members of the team as if they were his own arms and legs. Even Shi Feng had no choice but to admit defeat against him in that regard.

In the past, under White Night's management, Owl had gradually grown into one of the top adventurer teams in God's Domain, an existence on par with the Midnight Tea Party. One could see just how capable White Night was from this feat.

If Shi Feng could recruit White Night into Zero Wing, Zero Wing would definitely rise by another level.

However, Shi Feng could only take it slowly regarding White Night's matter. In the past, White Night had rejected even the offers of Super Guilds without hesitation; Zero Wing would not fare any better at the moment.

After Shi Feng finished dealing with the various Guild affairs, he hurried to the reception room of the Residence.

“Sorry for the wait,” Shi Feng apologized when he saw Bloodsucker, who had been waiting for him for quite some time now.

“It’s fine. I’ve also just received instructions from our Guild Leader,” Bloodsucker said. “May I know if Elder Ye Feng has some time to spare right now?”

“Time?” Shi Feng stared at him, somewhat confused by this question.

Before giving a reply, Bloodsucker took in a deep breath. In a very serious tone, he then said, “Our Guild Leader wishes to have a personal chat with you and hopes that you can come meet him.”

After reporting Zero Wing’s information back to the Guild, he had been shocked to hear that Raven’s Guild Leader wanted to meet with Shi Feng.

Kirin had also been surprised by this news. Less than ten people in the entire Raven Guild had ever seen the Guild Leader’s appearance before. Even Kirin himself had never personally met the Guild Leader, his conversations with the man limited to voice calls. However, just the means displayed by the Guild Leader so far had already inspired a worshipful mentality towards him in everyone in the Guild. Hence, Kirin found it truly inconceivable that their Guild Leader was actually willing to meet personally with Shi Feng.

Chapter 949: Entrance Token

Translator: Hellscythe_ **Editor:** Vampirecat

“Right now?” Shi Feng asked, feeling somewhat curious as he looked at Bloodsucker.

The Guild Leader of Raven, Bloodfang, was a mysterious existence in God’s Domain.

Even in the past, Shi Feng had only heard of the man’s name. He had never seen a picture of the man.

Yet, now, the high and mighty Guild Leader Bloodfang had suddenly asked to meet him. If this situation had happened in the past, it would definitely trigger a huge commotion.

“Yes. Our Guild Leader has said that some things cannot be expressed in words. It will be more convincing if you see them with your own eyes,” Bloodsucker explained, nodding.

Back when Bloodsucker heard Guild Leader Bloodfang’s request to meet, he himself had been shocked.

As a top-tier expert of the Raven Guild as well as an upper manager of Raven, he had only ever spoken with the mysterious Guild Leader of Raven through voice calls. To date, he had never personally met the man.

For an outsider like Shi Feng to actually receive an invitation to meet for a discussion, one could see just how much importance the Guild Leader placed on Zero Wing. This situation made even Bloodsucker envy Shi Feng slightly.

“Alright, then. This reason is indeed tempting.” Shi Feng was also very curious as to what Bloodfang wanted to show him. “However, I still need to deal with some matters first, before I can follow you all. It’ll take me a few hours, roughly, to finish.”

“No problem. Guild Leader has already said that he is willing to wait for Elder Ye Feng’s visit.” Bloodsucker unconsciously breathed out a sigh of relief when he heard Shi Feng agreeing to the meeting.

The Guild Leader had already stated that he wanted to meet with Shi Feng no matter what. Moreover, the sooner, the better. It would be best if they could meet before the match between the Asura Battle Team and the Evil Dragons Battle Team.

Although he did not understand why Guild Leader Bloodfang was in such a hurry, he did not try to delve into the man’s thoughts.

Following which, Bloodsucker left Zero Wing’s Residence, intending to stroll around the city while waiting for Shi Feng to tie up his matters.

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Meanwhile, at the Slums of White River City, the originally desolate streets of the area were currently packed with a sea of players. Well-equipped 100-man teams loitered everywhere, the members of these teams all wearing discontented expressions.

“Just how long are we supposed to wait?! We’ve already been waiting for over half an hour here already!”

“Half an hour? Our team has already been waiting for nearly an hour already!”

The various teams gazed helplessly at the simple house in the distance.

While this house looked very simple, it contained the teleportation array that could send players straight to the heart of the Twin Towers Kingdom. However, the number of players this teleportation array could accommodate at a single time was limited, while the number of players wishing to earn Honor Points was a lot. Before long, the queue to use the teleportation array had already meandered through several streets.

Among the teams waiting to use the teleportation array, a beautiful woman riding atop a black panther looked towards the Level 39 female Assassin who had just run up to her, and asked, “Frozen, what did you manage to find out?”

This black panther was over two meters tall and looked just like a large-scale jeep. It was a very eye-catching sight on the street.

However, compared to this black panther, its owner commanded even more respect.

The beauty riding atop the black panther was none other than the Vice Guild Leader of the Hundred Flowers Palace, Cleansed Rue.

“I’ve already checked everything. All nearby Lands suitable for constructing a Guild Residence have already been bought by someone. In addition, the few strategic locations that can be used to set up a Store have similarly been bought by someone,” the Assassin named Frozen Pearl reported softly.

“These people sure move quickly. Have you found out who bought them?” Cleansed Rue frowned slightly.

After receiving news of this Teleportation Shop, she had immediately gathered a team and hurried over. She had even prepared a large sum of money to construct a Guild Residence in White River City. This way, their Guild members would not have to waste money on exorbitant teleportation fees and could simply teleport to White River City using the Guild Transfer Scroll.

The new class would be very beneficial to their Guild in future struggles. Hence, they need to nurture a large number of this new class.

Moreover, aside from exchanging for a new class, Honor Points also had other uses. There were only benefits to be had from grinding abyssal monsters.

The only problem was the teleportation fee. The Dark Night Empire where their Guild was based was somewhat distant from Star-Moon Kingdom. They had spent several hundred Gold just to transport 300 players to White River City.

If their Guild were to send thousands of players over, the expenditure would definitely reach frightening proportions. Nevertheless, if their Guild wished to have an advantage at the Twin Towers Kingdom, it was naturally better to send as many members over as possible. Hence, it was imperative for them to establish a Guild Residence in White River City.

“I have yet to find out. The buyers have all kept their identities hidden,” Frozen Pearl replied, shaking her head.

“They’ve hidden their identities?” Cleansed Rue smiled. “Send some people to these locations to leave a message saying that our Hundred Flowers Palace sincerely wishes to purchase Guild Residence Land and that we hope they can contact us. If there are any movements from those landowners, notify me immediately.”

Generally speaking, any Guild that managed to secure these Lands would be more than eager to boast about their successful acquisitions. They definitely would not conceal it. Since the owners of these Lands chose to keep their identities a secret, that meant that they had purchased these Lands not for personal use but for resale. Their silence also showed that they were still waiting for the right price.

Although Cleansed Rue did not know who would possess such great insight to actually discern the value of these Lands so quickly, she had no intention of wasting time waiting for these landowners to sell these Lands.

Currently, the sooner they obtained nearby Guild Land, the sooner they would be able to dispatch more Guild members to the Twin Towers Kingdom.

Even if the price was astronomical, she needed to purchase the Land as expeditiously as possible.

“Understood!” Frozen Pearl nodded. She then led her subordinates to the nearby Lands that were suitable for constructing a Guild Residence.

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Inside one of the Basic Meditation Rooms of the Candlelight Trading Firm, all Intermediate and Advanced Lifestyle players of the firm were currently gathered.

Several hundred players were present in the room. These players made up a large portion of the Intermediate and Advanced Lifestyle players in the entire Star-Moon Kingdom. This was especially true for the Advanced Lifestyle players.

Nowadays, the various large Guilds throughout God's Domain were placing more and more importance on Lifestyle players. Currently, the treatment an Advanced Lifestyle player received was already on the level of core members.

At this moment, however, all these Advanced Lifestyle players were quietly seated at one side, all of them unconsciously holding their breaths as they looked with yearning at the black iron tokens placed on the table.

These tokens were none other than the entrance tokens Shi Feng had obtained from Titan City.

Chapter 950: Competition between Trading Firms

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Chapter 950 – Competition between Trading Firms

"I've already explained the purpose of these Titan City Entrance Tokens," Shi Feng said as he toyed with the entrance token in his hand. He then took a look at the crowd before him, feeling very satisfied with the eagerness they all displayed. "So, what will your decisions be?"

He had sacrificed plenty in order to obtain these entrance tokens. He had used even his most treasured Tier 4 Magic Scroll.

In the past, each Titan City Entrance Token had sold for over 300 Gold at auction, the token's price sometimes reaching even 600 Gold. It was not something ordinary players could afford.

Moreover, even if they managed to obtain it, they still needed sufficient funds for expenditures in Titan City. Otherwise, there would be no point in visiting the Holy City.

Generally, large Guilds were willing to purchase the entrance tokens for a high price only if they were trying to get an Advanced Lifestyle player to the Master rank or have some Lifestyle Master produce a new creation. Sending Lifestyle players of Intermediate rank and below to the Holy City would just be a colossal waste.

However, Shi Feng couldn't care less now.

It was simply impossible for current Lifestyle players to reach the Master rank. Even with the aid of the Research Room, there was no way a forging genius like Cream Cocoa could become a Master Forger within a short time.

Achieving the Master rank required all Lifestyle classes to produce original creations. To do so, one needed extensive knowledge of all sorts of materials. The Glimmer Chestplate Shi Feng had managed to create early on was merely the result of dumb luck. If he had to create a new piece of equipment right now, the likelihood of success was practically nil.

Just creating the Bronze ranked Glimmer Chestplate was already a miracle. Not to mention, the quality of the items one needed to produce to become a Master was much higher.

To become a Master Forger, aside from needing a ton of Forging Proficiency, one also needed to create three Mysterious-Iron items and one Secret-Silver item. Hence, the number of players who could successfully become a Lifestyle Master was extremely low—less than one out of 100 Advanced Lifestyle players.

It was precisely because of this reason that the Holy City of Titan had become holy ground for Lifestyle players in the past. Countless Advanced Lifestyle players dreamed of entering the Holy City to further their careers. The various large Guilds also tried to purchase the entrance tokens at all costs.

Anyone who managed to become a Lifestyle Master would become a core component of the trading firm they belonged to.

After all, Lifestyle Masters could produce items unique to themselves. Moreover, one's success at becoming a Master also proved that their research into the various materials related to their class had already reached a certain level. In the future, they would have a much easier time producing new items and thus plenty of opportunities to make money. Hence, the various large Guilds had treated Master-ranked players with great respect.

“Well?” Melancholic Smile urged in a stern tone as she looked at the Lifestyle players before her. Tapping the contract placed on the table, she continued, “If you wish to improve yourselves further, you'll have to sign this contract. Otherwise, the trading firm definitely will not give this precious opportunity to you.”

“But if we sign this contract, it'll be equivalent to us selling ourselves to Candlelight. We won't have any chances to leave Candlelight at all in the future. Moreover, you are even requiring us to go full-time. We need some time to consider this matter properly.” A few Intermediate Lifestyle players voiced their opinions.

In their eyes, God's Domain was only a game. If they fully dedicated their lives to God's Domain, who would guarantee that they wouldn't starve to death in the future?

In addition, the conditions listed in the contract were extremely demanding. The contract barred its signatories from working elsewhere within the next decade. They wouldn't even be able to delete their accounts and start all over again. As this was a system-enforced contract, unless they decided to stop playing God's Domain altogether, there was no escaping these conditions.

Moreover, even if they chose to work elsewhere a decade later, they needed to first delete their accounts before doing so.

"I won't force you. However, you all must understand that it was extremely difficult to obtain these tokens. If you spend only half a day's time in God's Domain, you will simply be wasting these tokens. Not to mention, if you suddenly decide to just up and leave later on, wouldn't all those resources I have invested into you go to waste? You all should know that any resource capable of helping you further advance your skills is priceless in God's Domain. There might not be another opportunity after it is used up.

"The contract already states very clearly that after you go full-time, you will enjoy benefits equivalent to the core members of Zero Wing. Aside from a monthly salary of 10,000 Credits, you will also receive commissions for the items you produce. I believe that you all aren't signing this contract just for that little bit of income, right?

"You should know very well that the treatment offered by Candlelight is also at the very top of the industry. I am a busy person. Ten minutes. I will only give you all ten minutes to consider."

Shi Feng also understood the concerns these people had. Even so, they still had to sign the contract if they wanted to receive the opportunity to visit Titan City.

Moreover, he had already presented them with very generous conditions. The offers of other Guilds simply could not compare to the resources he could provide. If the Advanced Lifestyle players of other Guilds had a 1% chance of becoming a Master, then those on his side had a 5% chance at the very least.

In the past, as Shadow was a small Guild, it had not placed a lot of restrictive conditions on the Advanced Lifestyle players it hired. In the end, after investing a large quantity of resources into these people, those who managed to become Masters simply up and left for other Guilds, and there was nothing Shadow could do to stop them from leaving.

There were just too many headhunters in God's Domain. As the importance of Lifestyle players grew, the conditions offered by these poachers would likewise improve. Nobody could guarantee that these Lifestyle players would not fall prey to the temptations.

Moreover, based on the investigations he had asked Aqua Rose to carry out, quite a few Advanced Lifestyle players of the Candlelight Trading Firm had already received overtures from headhunters.

He did not wish to risk such an important matter on the morality of these Lifestyle players.

"Right. I forgot to mention this before, but not everyone present will be qualified to sign the contract. You'll have to look for Melancholic and take a test first," Shi Feng said as he looked at the silent Advanced Lifestyle players. "Also, you lot aren't the only ones allowed to take the test. Melancholic, notify everyone in the trading firm. Tell them that, as long as they pass the test and sign the contract, they will have the qualifications to use the Meditation Room in the future."

Other Guilds might have difficulty nurturing Advanced Lifestyle players, but to the Candlelight Trading Firm, this was an easy feat to accomplish.

Other Guilds might find Advanced Lifestyle players rare, but not him.

The Intermediate Lifestyle players of other Guilds would've long since reached the Advanced rank had they joined the Candlelight Trading Firm. After all, the Candlelight Trading Firm was the first to possess Special Workshops. The trading firm also had a large number of rare designs.

If these people weren't willing to sign the contract, he would rather place his resources on lower-ranked Lifestyle players.