

## The Strongest

### Chapter 97 - Gathering of Heroes

Dark Moon Valley, Dark Moon Graveyard.

Countless tombstones stood around a dilapidated chapel. In the midst of night, one could hear wails of agony coming out from the tombstones. Meanwhile, Kobold Assassins roamed the dark and hidden locations around the broken down chapel.

This place was the most famous location of Dark Moon Valley.

Due to this place being the closest and the first twenty-man Team Dungeon activated near Red Leaf Town, it held high importance to the many Guilds stationed in Red Leaf Town. Compared to the previous six-man Party Dungeon, the various Guilds were paying the most attention to this Team Dungeon.

That was because Team Dungeons and Party Dungeons were different. Not only was the difficulty for Team Dungeons higher, but the equipment that dropped from them was also better. Moreover, only by clearing a Team Dungeon would a Guild be able to prove their strength. Aside from that, there was a gigantic Glory List beside the Teleportation Gate of every Team Dungeon. On it, the names of the Team and players who obtained the First Clear for the Dungeon would be listed for latecomers to admire.

Of course, aside from the First Clear, the record for the fastest to clear the Dungeon would also be recorded, with the reserved record set at three hours. As long as a team surpassed the record time, their names would be recorded. However, this record was not permanent, but only temporary. As long as another team could obtain an even shorter record time, they would replace the current holders of the record.

Currently, players filled all of the Dark Moon Graveyard. Aside from the various large Guilds from Red Leaf town, there were plenty of temporary groups attempting to challenge this Team Dungeon.

“Wow! It’s just as expected of the competition for the First Clear of the Team Dungeon. The equipment on these guys is just too gorgeous! Our temporary group has no chance of competing against them at all.”

“That’s only natural. Why don’t you look at just how many times these Guilds have cleared the Level 3 to Level 4 Party Dungeons? Even the team belonging to the weakest Guild here would have seven to eight pieces of Bronze Equipment on each party member. Look at Martial Union over there; all of their members are wearing Bronze Equipment. Their leader, Ironsword Lion, is wearing the Wolf Fang Set Equipment that can only be obtained from the Level 4 Dungeon, Black Wolf’s Den.”

“Ironsword Lion’s equipment could be considered quite good amongst the unrated Guilds. However, look over there at the third-rate Guild, Heaven’s Crowns. The equipment on their elite team’s vice-leader, Passenger of Wind, is the Spirit Wind Set Equipment obtained from the Level 4 Advanced Dungeon, Ghost Fortress.”

The players of temporary teams gazed at the equipment of the Guild teams in envy. They spoke about the items as if enumerating their own family’s valuables, and the more they spoke, the more drool leaked out from the corner of their mouths.

Only the Elite parties of Guilds could clear those high difficulty Party Dungeons. Unaffiliated individuals like themselves could only look on with envy.

Just as everyone was sighing in admiration at the equipment of these elite teams, Stabbing Heart of Assassin’s Alliance led a group of players over. The equipment of the group was extremely unified. All twenty players wore the same Level 4 Bronze Equipment. Amongst them, the two silver daggers hung around Stabbing Heart’s waist looked extraordinarily radiant.

“Crap, it can’t be, right? Those are Gemini’s Thorns that only drop from the final Boss of the Hard Mode of Ghost Fortress,” an Assassin who was a dagger-fanatic cried out in shock.

Suddenly, the team leaders and upper echelons of the other Guilds all cast sidelong glances over to Stabbing Heart.

This design and color were exactly the same as the information displayed on the official announcement.

“As expected of a second-rate Guild; the Assassin’s Alliance’s strength cannot be taken lightly. They managed to clear the Hard Mode of Ghost Fortress without anyone noticing. Meanwhile, until now, we have merely killed off the first Boss of Hard Mode,” Passenger of Wind sighed with regret.

“Humph! So what if they managed to clear the Hard Mode? We will still start from the same starting point from now on. The difficulty of a Team Dungeon is not something a Party Dungeon can compare to. Clearing it depends more on the commands given,” Ironsword Lion wrinkled his brows, snorting in disdain. He believed that his own techniques were no weaker than Stabbing Heart’s. If he had not been ambushed by that Ye Feng, causing him to lose a level, the party he led might have been able to clear the Hard Mode of Ghost Fortress.

“Interesting,” when Shadow’s leader, Zhang Luowei, heard the discussions of the other Guilds, a faint smile appeared on his face. He was immensely arrogant, as if he did not place importance on any of these players.

The various Guilds present were unwilling to comply with each other. After all, God’s Domain had only recently begun; nobody would know what the future would bring. The Assassin’s Alliance was only this powerful due to their strong initial foundation. However, the First Clear for the Dark Moon Graveyard could not be obtained just by relying on a strong foundation. At best, the Assassin’s Alliance would only have a minor advantage over the other Guilds.

The First Clear of this Team Dungeon this time around was considered a shuffling of power in Red Leaf Town. Whoever obtained the First Clear would increase their prestige in Red Leaf Town, improving their Guild's development. It would have a great effect on attracting new players to join their Guilds.

Everyone looked at the time. There was still over twenty minutes before the opening of Dark Moon Graveyard. They all stood by a side, patiently waiting.

"Sister Snow, this place is really lively!" Xiao Yue'er giggled, pulling on Gentle Snow's delicate arm as she took a look at her surroundings.

Gentle Snow nodded. She looked around with an indifferent face, her expression as cold as ice. She did not pay any attention to the Guilds present. Instead, she was looking for a certain someone.

Although Gentle Snow and her group kept a low profile when they arrived at the Dark Moon Graveyard, everyone's sights still unconsciously turned towards the group; including the upper echelons of the various Guilds.

They still possessed the chance to compete in the case of second-rate Guilds. However, it was but a fleeting dream for them to compete against a first-rate Guild. The main reason being the gap between a first-rate Guild and a second-rate Guild was just too wide. Not only was there a difference in the number of players in the Guild, but there was also the difference of the quality of players and fundings.

Just by standing in this place, Gentle Snow caused a great pressure to loom over the upper echelons of the many Guilds present. As for the cause for this pressure, aside from the disparity between their Guilds, the disparity between personal strength was also one of the causes. As long as one played virtual reality games, they would certainly know of the Snow Goddess. However, this name was not praise for Gentle Snow's stunning complexion, but for her frightening strength.

“As expected of the Snow Goddess. The equipment on her body is likely the most top-notch equipment available to players at this stage of the game,” Stabbing Heart inwardly admired the silver-red battle armor that Gentle Snow wore.

This was the Flame Light Set Equipment that could only be obtained from the Level 5 Advanced Dungeon, Lava Cavern. The Assassin’s Alliance was never able to clear this Dungeon. Moreover, this Flame Light Set was a Mysterious-Iron Set Equipment that would only drop from the Hard Mode of the Dungeon.

The Set Equipment was much better than any other equipment, not to mention the crimson-colored Flame Spirit Greatsword in Gentle Snow’s hands. That was a Level 5 Secret-Silver Two-handed Sword. The weapon itself could easily overwhelm his pair of Mysterious-Iron ranked Gemini’s Thorns.

The pressure this set of equipment gave off to the other experts present was enormous. In addition to Zhao Yueru and Xiao Yue’er’s Mysterious-Iron Equipment, Gentle Snow’s group practically flattened everyone else at the Dark Moon Graveyard. How were these experts supposed to compete against Gentle Snow’s group now?

“Why isn’t he here yet?” after taking a look around, a faint layer of frost appeared on Gentle Snow’s face as she was unable to discover Shi Feng’s figure anywhere.

“Hahaha! Snow, that guy must’ve known that he would just humiliate himself, so he didn’t dare show up. Why don’t we just call a few more members over?” Zhao Yueru stuck out her impressive twin peaks, laughing delightfully.

Gentle Snow gave Zhao Yueru’s words some thought. The First Clear for the Dark Moon Graveyard was extremely important. If Shi Feng really was not coming, then she should be making some preparations ahead of time.

Just as Gentle Snow was prepared to contact her subordinates, Shi Feng and his party ran over.

“Sorry, I’ve made you all wait,” Shi Feng scratched his head, apologizing.

Although he hurried over, the distance was just too far. Moreover, they had met a Level 5 Extremely Rare Elite on the way here, so they had wasted some time...

## Chapter 98 - Whetstone Recipe

After not meeting for just more than a day, Shi Feng discovered that Gentle Snow and the others of her group had changed their equipment. All of them were wearing gorgeous equipment. The Level 5 Flame Light Set Equipment all of them were wearing was the best team equipment currently available.[a][b]

With this equipment, as long as the team leader commanded properly, they would definitely conquer the Normal Mode of Dark Moon Valley after familiarizing themselves with the Dungeon.

Regarding the Dark Moon Graveyard...

Even if Shi Feng now possessed a full suit of Silvermoon Set Equipment, he still had quite a lot of requirements. For instance, the Advanced Whetstone Recipe. This was the strengthened version of the Whetstone. The Recipe for this item could only be obtained from Team Dungeons. Moreover, only Bosses of the Dungeon would have a chance of dropping it.

“You still remembered to come...

“That’s enough. Since you’re already here, leave your party, and we’ll reform the group.”

Zhao Yueru originally wanted to taunt Shi Feng, but Gentle Snow stopped her a step earlier.

Gentle Snow was still slightly angry from before, but after sweeping a glance at Shi Feng, she shockingly discovered that Shi Feng had reached Level 6.

Currently, the Level 6 players in all of Red Leaf Town were top-tier players.

Previously, when she met Shi Feng, his level was nothing special. It was just below average. Now that he was able to catch up to such a degree, one could see that Shi Feng’s leveling speed was extremely fast. As for Blackie and the others standing behind Shi Feng, all of them were Level 5. They were also fully geared with Bronze Equipment, and such a standard was relatively good amongst temporary teams.

Shi Feng’s party then disbanded, all of them joining Gentle Snow’s team.

All of the surrounding Guilds and players saw Shi Feng join Gentle Snow’s team. Judging from the equipment of Shi Feng’s party, it was obvious that Shi Feng and the others were not members of Ouroboros. However, it was extremely odd that they were still able to join Gentle Snow’s team and enter the Dungeon together.

The equipment worn by Shi Feng’s party did not seem very high-leveled. They wore only scattered pieces of Bronze Equipment, not that different from the equipment of a temporary team.

This was the important struggle for the First Clear of a Team Dungeon. Was Gentle Snow so confident in being able to easily obtain it that she'd invite a group of people like this?

Only Stabbing Heart knew of Shi Feng's strength. Now that both powerhouses had joined, the competition for the First Clear of the Dark Moon Graveyard had just become much harder.

"Brother Zhang, that's the brat that set up our men," Flaming Tiger hatefully commented when he saw Shi Feng.

"So, it is him?" Zhang Luowei raised his brows. He could not help but pay more attention to Shi Feng. He then said in a deep tone, "Since he has some connection with the Snow Goddess, try not to stir up trouble with them in the future. I don't wish for us to go against a first-rate Guild right now."

Being able to wipe out Flaming Tiger's group, and having a connection with the Snow Goddess, this person was not that simple. He still needed to do some investigations of this person. If this person had just joined the Snow Goddess by chance, he would definitely make this person pay for his actions.

"Yes, I understand, Brother Zhang." Flaming Tiger glared at Shi Feng, only gritting his teeth as he answered.

However, it was a different situation on the side of Martial Union.

Every member of Martial Union could not help but wish they could get rid of Shi Feng right that instant. It was especially true for Ironsword Lion.



Previously, he put out the word that he would kill Shi Feng back to Level 0. Now that he saw Shi Feng had already reached Level 6, one level higher than Ironsword Lion, himself, he felt extremely humiliated.

“What is that group of Assassins doing? They actually allowed him to wash away his Red Name, and even rise to Level 6.” Just the fact that Shi Feng was standing in this place, unscathed, caused the light on Ironsword Lion’s face to fade. His face turned crimson from anger, saying, “Immediately contact the party of Assassins. What exactly is going on here?”

“Boss, what’s up?” one of the Assassins standing guard in front of the Hotel asked.

“What’s up?” Ironsword Lion nearly suffocated from anger when he heard those words. He bellowed, “I told you all to pay attention to Ye Feng, yet, what have you all been doing?”

“Boss, we’ve constantly been keeping an eye out for him. However, Ye Feng has not set foot outside the Hotel. I’m guessing that he must be afraid,” the Assassin said, puzzled.

“You’ve constantly been keeping an eye out for him? Then you tell me; who is this person that I am looking at?” Ironsword Lion sent a screenshot, asking coldly.

“Impossible! We’ve really been constantly keeping an eye out for Ye Feng, and he never came out!” The Assassin, immediately dumbfounded, looked at the screenshot.

“You’re a bunch of rubbish that can’t even keep watch over a single person! Get out of Martial Union immediately! I don’t wish to see you any longer!” rage completely flooded Ironsword Lion’s mind. Shortly after, he turned to glare at Shi Feng, saying to his subordinate, “Call some men over, as many as you can. After they’re done with the Dungeon, I want him dead immediately.”

“Boss Ironsword, this wouldn’t be a good move, right? No matter how you put it, he still has some connection with the Snow Goddess. If we create a bad relationship with Ouroboros, it would be detrimental to the development of our Guild,” a Druid said.

“Out in the streets, we live by depending on our reputation. Now that someone has stomped our reputation to the ground, who cares about anything else?” Ironsword Lion said in disdain, “So what if she’s the Snow Goddess? She still hasn’t met this daddy right here. I don’t believe that a stupid skank like her could do much to me. If she knows how to be tactful, I can still give her some face. If not, then I’ll kill her back to Level 0 as well.”

“Boss is right! God’s Domain just has slightly more players. How prestigious was it during those years that we swept across Martial World? Now, we can also sweep across God’s Domain just like before. What should we be afraid of?”

The players that had constantly followed Ironsword Lion all voiced out their agreements, all of them releasing the aura of a mad dog from their bodies.

In their opinion, one had to be fierce when playing virtual reality games. Compared to Wuxia games, God’s Domain merely had more players. Moreover, they had to take into consideration so many problems every single day. What good was worrying about each and every little thing? Won’t everything be solved if they just killed these first-rate Guilds into submission? They had only depended on being fierce to succeed in the previous Wuxia game they played, and it would be the same in God’s Domain.

Only the Druid, who had only recently joined, helplessly shook his head.

These people were insane!

Shi Feng did not notice the movements of Martial Union. He only discussed the matter of cooperation with Gentle Snow.

“The items dropped from the Dungeon will be distributed according to Job requirements. If both sides require the same equipment, then there should be no problem if we just Roll for it, right?”

“We don’t have any problems with the distribution of equipment. However, I want priority over the recipes and materials for Lifestyle Jobs.” Shi Feng’s goal in coming here was the Advanced Whetstone Recipe, while equipment didn’t really matter to him.

“You! Don’t forget that we are the ones who will be carrying you through the Dungeon! Moreover, do you know how valuable the recipes for Lifestyle Jobs are?” After hearing Shi Feng’s words, Zhao Yueru stamped her feet in anger, bellowing like a fierce tigress.

The other members of Gentle Snow’s team were also feeling aggrieved. Shi Feng and his party were just a group of wild players[1]. They were already extremely benevolent by Rolling to distribute the equipment. Despite that fact, Shi Feng was still trying to take advantage of them.

“Brother Feng, your request is going slightly overboard. In any case, our equipment is slightly weaker than theirs, and even just clearing the Dungeon would be a problem for us. So why don’t you change your requirements?” Blackie advised.

Although their equipment was very good, compared to the Set Equipment of these people, they were clearly still a step behind. Being able to Roll for equipment was already a good condition. Going further to compete over recipes for Lifestyle Jobs... Nobody would be willing to concede to such a request.

To put it bluntly, even without them joining, Gentle Snow's team could similarly clear the Dark Moon Graveyard.

Shi Feng shook his head. He would not mind if it were any other recipes. However, he would not concede even a single step for the Advanced Whetstone Recipe. He also could not reveal any specifics to avoid attracting the suspicion of others. After all, before a Team Dungeon was conquered, the Official Website would not reveal any information about its drops.

Twenty-man Dungeons would only refresh once every three days. There were only that many Team Dungeons nearby, and every one of them was extremely precious. The earlier Shi Feng obtained the Advanced Whetstone Recipe, the earlier he would obtain an advantage over the other players. To a Workshop like theirs that lived on the edge, they had even more reasons not to concede.

Gentle Snow, who had an ice-cold expression, also opened up her mouth this time around, saying, "Recipes for Lifestyle Jobs are extremely important to our Guild. Your request, I cannot agree to it."

TL Notes:

[1] wild players: players that are unaffiliated to any Guilds.

[a]From the last chapter, I honestly had the impression that only Gentle Snow possessed this Set Equipment... as for "team equipment", that's what the author wrote. I refuse to capitalize it though... Sooner or later, he's gonna bring some shit like Guild equipment or party equipment...

[b]lol

