

## The Strongest

### Chapter 43 – Book Of Forging

Shi Feng took the key to the Intermediate Forging Room and went up the second floor, ignoring the flirting young lady.

The first floor of the Forging Association only had Basic Forging Rooms, whereas Intermediate Forging Rooms were located on the second floor.

When compared to the first floor, there were far fewer people on the second floor. There were only NPCs walking around. Players would not come to this place at all. Also, there were only twenty Intermediate Forging Rooms, unlike the Basic Rooms, which numbered at fifty.

Shi Feng entered the Intermediate Forging Room. The room was much larger and refined. The facilities available were also better than the Basic room, especially the Hammer and Flame. These two items were not simple at all.

Shi Feng held up the silvery-white hammer that was placed on the iron-woven felt.

[Hundred Refinement Hammer] (Bronze-rank)

Forging Items: When Forging, the success rate is increased by 3%.

Requirements: Strength 4

Just this Hundred Refinement Hammer alone was hard to obtain by players. The best hammers NPCs sold were Common Hammers. Those hammers did not increase the success rate of Forging. As for stealing this Hundred Refinement Hammer, it was an impossible task. Items that belonged to the Forging Room could not be taken away by players.

The Flame here was extraordinary as well. Instead of the usual scarlet, yellow color, the Flame here burned with a scarlet, green color. It was not a common Flame, but a Mysterious Flame.

Shi Feng took a look at its description.

Scarlet Devil Flame (Tier 1 Mysterious Flame)

Special Item: Possesses extremely high temperatures. Items smelted with the Flame will have higher purity. When refining potions or forging items, there will be a definite increase in success rates.

Mysterious Flames were rare and powerful Flames. These Flames had varying strength, and they could be categorized into nine tiers. The first tier was the weakest, whereas the ninth tier was the strongest. However, even a first tier Mysterious Flame was not something that could be easily obtained by players.

Due to the Mysterious Flame's rarity, its price within God's Domain was extremely high. Including the fact that both Potion-making and Forging required Mysterious Flames, the prices of Mysterious Flames had become even more shocking.

There was once a Tier 4 Flame that caused tens of first-rate Guilds to fight over it. After the death of millions of players, the Flame finally ended up in the hands of the World Dominators. Not long after, a Master Potionmaker in World Dominators rose to become a Grandmaster Potionmaker, increasing the influence of the World Dominators by a large leap.

Shi Feng had a great yearning within him when he looked at the burning Mysterious Flame. It was the thirst of a Forger.

Just when Shi Feng was in deep thought, he suddenly recalled a matter.

On the second month of God's Domain's operation, the third-rate Guild, Glorious Light, had discovered a Tier 2 Mysterious Flame, Ice-Blue Devil Flame. The Flame was found in the Hundred Ghosts Forest, and its discovery induced great envy into the other Guilds. At that time, there were a lot of Lifestyle players who had applied to join Glorious Light, allowing the Guild's power to abruptly increase and becoming the tyrant of a small City. However, there were also many Guilds who gathered information in secret, wanting to obtain a Mysterious Flame for themselves. Naturally, Shadow was no exception to this.

Shadow had discovered the location and method of obtainment of the Mysterious Flame from Glorious Light's inner circle. Unfortunately, such Mysterious Flames only appeared once, never appearing again after they were gone. This discovery caused many Guilds to waste their efforts.

As he was thinking about the Ice-Blue Devil Flame, Shi Feng suddenly started having intentions towards this Mysterious Flame. If he could make it his own, it would definitely be of great help to him in the future when he started his own Guild. Moreover, the Flame would be of great help in pushing Shi Feng to become a true Forger[1].

However, Shi Feng still needed to hash out a proper plan to obtain the Ice-Blue Devil Flame. He needed to prepare many things before he could obtain the Flame.

Following which, Shi Feng took out the Garrison Armor's Forging Design. Without wasting time, he immediately chose to learn it.

System: You have learned how to forge the Garrison Armor.

Afterward, Shi Feng placed all the needed materials onto the stone table. Then, he took out the immensely precious Book Of Forging and started to forge.

Shi Feng was a Basic Forging Apprentice. His success rate for forging a Level 0 Common Equipment did not exceed 20%, and after a successful forging, there was a 40% chance for him to obtain 1 Proficiency Point. If Shi Feng were to forge the Garrison Armor, a Level 3 Bronze Equipment, his chance of success would not exceed 5%. Successfully forging a piece of Bronze Equipment would bring an additional bonus, which was a 100% chance to obtain 2 Proficiency Points.

However, 1000 Proficiency Points were needed to become an Intermediate Forging Apprentice. Obtaining such a large amount of points required equally large funding to support it. There was no way for a Lifestyle player to support such a large sum of money by themselves.

The Forgers in Guilds all started out by forging Common Equipment. There was not a single Guild who would allow these Lifestyle players to forge Bronze Equipment right off the bat. To begin with, they didn't even possess a Forging Design for Bronze Equipment, and even if they did, they wouldn't carry out such an action. The success rate of a Basic Forging Apprentice was just too low, and the materials needed were just too expensive. A single failure would cost 1 Silver Coin or more. It was a loss that not even Guilds could handle. Moreover, they couldn't even collect that many materials to make the equipment.

However, Shi Feng did not have such worries. He had the Philosopher's Stone, so he did not lack in resources. Furthermore, the materials needed to make the Garrison Armor were cheaply-priced. It only required 5 bottles of Magic Essences, 5 pieces of Bronze Ore, and 20 pieces of Copper Ore. The cost of making the Garrison Armor was only 80 Copper Coins. When compared to the cost of making other Bronze Equipment, it was at least 20 Coppers cheaper. The Garrison Armor also had very good Attributes, so it was extremely welcomed. Shi Feng wouldn't have to be troubled over figuring out how to sell it.

The most important thing was the Book Of Forging.

The Book Of Forging could increase the success rate of forging Common Equipment by 70%, Bronze Equipment by 50%, Mysterious-Iron Equipment by 30%, Secret-Silver Equipment by 20%, Fine-Gold Equipment by 10%, Dark-Gold Equipment by 5%, and Epic Equipment by 1%.

With such Attributes, the Book Of Forging could allow a player to become a Master Forger easily and unimpeded.

Basic Forging Apprentices originally had a 20% success rate at forging Common Equipment. Including the 70% from the book, the success rate would become 90%. Further including the facilities of the Intermediate Forging Room and removing the possibilities of mistakes, the success rate of making Common Equipment was 99% or higher. Unless the player was a pig[2], failure was impossible.

The Book Of Forging's frightening abilities could clearly be seen from this.

As for the Garrison Armor, Shi Feng had a 5% success rate for making it. Including the 50% from the book, the 3% from the room's facilities, and also the effects of the Mysterious Flame, Shi Feng now had a 60% success rate for making the Garrison Armor. Not to mention Bronze Equipment, even if Common Equipment had a 60% success rate, it would still drive Forger players mad. Such a high percentage for success was something unimaginable to Forgers.

Following which, Shi Feng started slowly making the Garrison Armor according to the Forging Design's requirements. He first smelted the Copper and Bronze Ore in the fire. After being in the fire for five minutes, the ores started to melt and form a lump. Afterward, Shi Feng added in the Magic Essence, letting it burn for another minute before removing the red-hot ore and placing it onto the metal felt. The ore's scorching hot temperature caused Shi Feng to sweat. However, Shi Feng did not dare be careless, as the following process was the most important part.

After finishing the preparations, Shi Feng held the Hundred Refinement Hammer and readied it to hammer the fiery ore.

Dang... Dang... Dang...

Sparks flew in all directions. The hammering sounds echoed throughout the wide Forging Room.

Shi Feng struck every hit with careful precision.

In his previous life, Shi Feng did not learn Forging. He only learned the Gathering skill. However, he still knew quite a lot about Forging. After all, he had conversed with a Master Forger quite often, so he was knowledgeable to the degree of not making certain low-level mistakes.

After hammering the ore over a hundred times, Shi Feng felt that it was perfect. Shi Feng wiped away the sweat on his forehead, carefully selecting the crimson ore's interface and clicking the Complete button.

Following which, the red-hot ore started transforming. Within five seconds, it had transformed into a silvery-gray colored armor. On the surface, there seemed to be nothing wrong with it. However, equipment's successful forging did not just depend on its appearances; there was also its quality. Quality included the equipment's Attributes and rank.

Bronze Equipment that was badly forged would have their ranks decreased to Common, or their base Attributes would not be up to standards.

Hence, Shi Feng selected the information of the armor, checking whether it was a success or a failure.

TL Notes:

[1]a true Forger => this part is referring to the ranks for a Forger i.e. Forging Apprentice -> Forger -> Master Forger -> Grandmaster Forger

[2]Unless the player was a pig => An idiot

Changed Ice-Fire Devil Flame to Ice-Blue Devil Flame as of 07/12/2017

Chapter 44 – Change

Although Shi Feng could handle failure, there was nobody who was willing to squander their money for no good reason. So, Shi Feng was, more or less, slightly nervous.

After Shi Feng selected the option to check the armor's information, three words appeared on the panel: Identification in progress.

The red loading bar slowly increased. The System was currently determining the statistics of the equipment.

After three seconds had passed, the System finished identifying the armor and revealed the armor's information.

[Garrison Armor] (Bronze-rank Plate Armor)

Level 3

Equipment Requirement: Strength 10

Defense +22

Strength +2, Endurance +2

HP +150

Durability 35/35

Additional Ability-

Defensive Power: reduces damage taken by 3%.

Restricted to Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights.

System: Garrison Armor has been successfully forged. Forging Proficiency increased by 2 points.  
Obtained 800 EXP.

“Great! It even has an Additional Ability, Defensive Power.” Shi Feng was extremely happy when he saw the Additional Ability on the Garrison Armor.

He never imagined his first try at forging a piece of Bronze Equipment would be a success. He even obtained so much EXP. It was no wonder why the Master Forgers in his previous life never went out to grind, but their levels were not a bit low. Not only had the Garrison Armor forged met the standard Attribute values, but it also possessed an Additional Ability.

Originally, the Garrison Armor did not possess Defensive Power. However, when the Forger exhibited extraordinary skill, coupled with the presence of the Mysterious Flame, there was a chance for an Additional Ability to appear on the equipment. In such occurrences, the price of the equipment would be increased to another level.

Shi Feng took his time sizing up the Garrison Armor, feeling the texture of the silvery-gray metal and admiring its eye-catching design. The average piece of Bronze Equipment was absolutely no match for it. Shi Feng was very satisfied with his creation.

Currently, Common Equipment was still the mainstream equipment for players. Even if players were to reach Level 6 in the future, it would not be a surprise to find them wearing only Common Equipment. After all, it was too hard to obtain Bronze Equipment. As for the Elite parties, just having one to two pieces of Bronze Equipment was considered being blessed.

The Garrison Armor could be used by both Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights. If Shi Feng were to sell the armor, the Elite parties would definitely welcome it. After all, the quality of an MT's equipment could ease the difficulty of conquering a Dungeon a lot. Even if Shi Feng were to set the price at 4 Silver Coins, these parties would still buy the armor, regardless the cost.

As for the Defensive Power of the Garrison Armor, its benefits towards a party's MT went without saying. Shi Feng would not accept anything lower than 5 Silver Coins for this armor.

With his first experience at successful forging, Shi Feng continued forging Garrison Armors.

However, Shi Feng took out the Hundred Refinement Steel this time. He wanted to know what effects the steel would have when it was used to forge equipment.

Within ten minutes, the second Garrison Armor took form.

However, the color on this Garrison Armor was different than the previous one. Instead of having a silvery-gray color, it was pitch-black now.

After going through three seconds of identification, the System displayed the statistics to Shi Feng.

[Garrison Heavy Armor] (Bronze-rank Plate Armor)

Level 3

Equipment Requirement: Strength 14

Defense +25

Strength +2, Endurance +4

HP +150

Durability 40/40

Additional Ability-

Defensive Power: reduces damage taken by 5%.

Restricted to Shield Warriors and Guardian Knights.

System: Garrison Heavy Armor has been successfully forged. Forging Proficiency increased by 2 points. Obtained 1,000 EXP.

System: Due to your Forging Genius, Forging Proficiency has been increased by an additional 2 points.

Currently, Shi Feng had completely forgotten about the additional Proficiency Points that his Forging Talent gave him. Instead, his eyes were fixated on the Garrison Heavy Armor. The Attributes on the armor were already comparable to a piece of Level 3 Mysterious-Iron Equipment. The price-tag on it was at least 10 Silver Coins.

Shi Feng never imagined that the Hundred Refinement Steel would create such large changes. Shi Feng had no choice but to admit that the item given by a Master Forger was not ordinary. Unfortunately, Shi Feng only had nine pieces of Hundred Refinement Steel remaining.

Naturally, now that Shi Feng knew the effects of the Hundred Refinement Steel, he would not simply squander them away. He would set them aside and use them when he had good equipment to forge.

Two hours quickly passed by. Shi Feng forged Garrison Armors without stopping during this time. He had obtained a total of 23 pieces of Garrison Armor, but he also failed to forge four pieces.

Shi Feng was very satisfied with the result. A single, successfully forged Garrison Armor could easily remedy the loss of the four failures.

At the same time, Shi Feng himself had also risen to Level 3. His current level was not that far from the expert players. Moreover, his Forging Proficiency had increased to 44 points. Such an increase was at least four to five times faster than those Forgers that belonged to Guilds.

Following which, Shi Feng left the Intermediate Forging Room and arrived in front of the Auction House.

He immediately auctioned off the 11 pieces of Garrison Armor that did not possess Defensive Power, their base prices set at 4 Silver Coins. As for the Garrison Armors and Garrison Heavy Armor that possessed Defensive Power, Shi Feng placed them aside for now. He wanted to let these Guilds and Elite parties have a taste of the armor first. That way, the remaining Garrison Armors could be sold at an even better price.

Afterward, Shi Feng set up a stall in the Trade Area, casually yelling out. Following which, many players ran over to Shi Feng, selling their Stones and Magic Essences to him. After purchasing the materials for half an hour, Shi Feng took a look at the time. It was near nightfall in God's Domain. The monsters at night became much more powerful and killing them became much more difficult. This period was not suited for leveling, and Shi Feng should rest as well.

Currently, he was still using the Virtual Gaming Helmet, not the Virtual Gaming Pod, to play God's Domain. The Virtual Gaming Pod could provide the energy and nutrients required by the player's body at any time. It could also stimulate the body's muscles, preventing the body from weakening due to playing God's Domain for long periods.

Shi Feng's finger tapped and clicked, calling out the System Interface and choosing to log off.

Currently, within the cramped rented apartment, the sunlight had long since seeped through the windows and scattered throughout the room. The temperature within the room was also starting to rise.

Shi Feng took off the gaming helmet. He lifted up his body and stretched.

After more than ten hours of inactivity and lying on the bed, Shi Feng's body was numbed throughout. He needed to move around before he could return to normal.

Shi Feng started doing push-ups, sit-ups, and other forms of basic training.

In this extremely materialistic age, body training had already become indispensable in one's life.

After tens of years of constant research, scientists have managed to obtain a huge breakthrough in strengthening the human body and prolonging its lifespan. Mankind could now retain their youth for a longer period. The breakthrough also increased the average lifespan of a person to one hundred years old. At the same time, scientists had pointed out the necessity of working out the body.

Henceforth, the age of exercise had arrived.

In current times, sports tournaments and fighting competitions were the attention of the public eye.

Just in the university alone, there were already plenty of sports societies and martial arts societies, and they were very welcomed by the students.

In the current society, those who did not possess a trick up their sleeves would be looked down upon. On the other hand, those celebrity athletes and martial arts experts were absolutely revered. In the university, there was never a lack of beautiful women surrounding the distinguished athletes and students who often participated in mixed martial arts competitions. As for pretty boys, their time has long since faded from popularity.

In his previous life, Shi Feng did not pay much attention to his body. As a result, he nearly caused its destruction. By the time he wanted to train his body, he was no longer young. Even if he had trained with all his might, the effects would not be great.

In this life, Shi Feng would not be the same as before, naturally. He would not solely pay attention to God's Domain, ignoring his body's training.

After training for half an hour, Shi Feng's entire body was covered with sweat. It looked as if he had just taken a shower. Just when he was about to dine on his cooked instant noodles, his phone started ringing.

Shi Feng looked at the contacting person. Unexpectedly, it was the usually silent female class monitor, Zhao Ruoxi.

"Class Monitor, what's up?" Shi Feng asked after answering the call.

According to Shi Feng memories, aside from attending classes, Shi Feng never had any contact with the female class monitor. Within the four years, Shi Feng had spent in the university, he had not spoken over a hundred sentences with Zhao Ruoxi.

"Shi Feng, hurry over to school. I failed to notify you of this because you do not live in the male dormitories, but now I'm telling you. At 11 o'clock, there will be an important matter being announced at Teaching Block 3, Classroom 401."

Shi Feng looked towards the electronic clock on his table. It was already half past ten right now. He answered, "Alright, I'll go there immediately."