

The Strongest

Chapter 51 – Competition at the Auction House

Shi Feng called out the Search Panel, immediately entering the words 'Hard Stone.'

Suddenly, rows of information appeared on the semi-transparent screen.

In a single glance, Shi Feng could see over a hundred stacks of Hard Stones being sold. There were many players selling them. When Shi Feng saw a stack of Hard Stones selling for 1 Gold Coin, he felt such a player must have been driven insane by poverty. Immediately, Shi Feng filtered the display to show prices from lowest to highest.

After adjusting the display, the cheapest stack of Hard Stones still cost 26 Coppers. After deducting the processing fees of the Auction House, players could still receive 25 Coppers. As expected, the prices were a lot higher than normal.

However, Shi Feng still had to buy them. He could afford them as long as the price was below 30 Coppers.

Suddenly, the number of Hard Stones available on the Auction House had been reduced by a large half. The remaining ones were all selling for 30 Coppers and above, and there was no spendthrift who would buy them.

After looking at Hard Stones, Shi Feng casually took at the miscellaneous section.

Shi Feng's eyes abruptly shone. There were actually Card Sets. Moreover, there was a large number of them. There was some chance for monsters to drop these Card Sets; however, the drop rate for it was extremely low. There was not even a ten thousand to one chance for one to drop. Monsters below Level 10 were able to drop twelve Card Sets, and they were divided into two ranks: Bronze Rank and Mysterious-Iron Rank.

Warriors had Steel, Crusaders, and Insanity.

Weapons Specialists had Chaos, Vengeance, and Hurricane.

Healers had Divine, Nature, and Noble.

Mages had Element, Fool, and Demon.

These twelve Card Sets each represented the twelve different Jobs. Every set had nine cards in them, and each card had a number behind them. As long as a player could gather a complete set, they could exchange it for a piece of Set Equipment for the respective Job.

Back in those days, a majority of the players did not know what these Card Sets were for. Moreover, there was no introduction for these Card Sets. Players, at that time, simply kept these Card Sets in their

bags or sold them at the Auction House. Only when the Normal Mode of the fifty-man Level 10 Dungeon near the city was cleared, did these players discovered there was actually an NPC that would trade for these Card Sets. Depending on the rank of the Card Sets, they could be traded for either Bronze or Mysterious-Iron Set Equipment.

These Set Equipment were absolutely marvelous. A Bronze Set of Equipment could rival an entire regular set of Mysterious-Iron Equipment, whereas a Mysterious-Iron Set of Equipment could rival an entire regular set of Secret-Silver Equipment. So, these Card Sets that nobody cared about before suddenly turned ragingly popular overnight. Every card was sold at an astronomical price. Even so, many Guilds were still frantic over them, constantly purchasing them.

Meanwhile, there were hundreds of Card Sets currently displayed in front of Shi Feng, yet there was actually nobody who wanted them. Each card was being sold at no more than 5 Coppers, and even the maximum was 7 Coppers.

Shi Feng bought them clean without hesitation. Shi Feng did not think much of the cost. What's more, they would not increase in value even, if he had left them in his bag. Using the money to grow money, now that was the way of the king.

After Shi Feng was finished with collecting Hard Stones and Card Sets, he was left with no more than 14 Silver Coins.

Following which, Shi Feng searched for skill books through the Search Panel. To determine a player's strength in God's Domain, other than looking at their equipment, the number of skills they had learned was another factor. If a player possessed many skills, they could have a large variety of attack patterns to use in battle. An expert Swordsman could usually utilize more than twenty skills in battle, whereas first-rate experts could use more than forty skills in battle. As for the top-tier experts, they did not need to be mentioned.

Shi Feng was a first-rate expert, yet, he possessed less than ten skills. His condition was truly pathetic...

However, there were very few skill books currently being sold. Under normal circumstances, players would usually use skill books on themselves or trade them for a skill they were able to use.

Shi Feng went through more than ten pages in one go. As long as he saw a skill usable by Swordsmen, he immediately bought them. When Shi Feng arrived at the final page, his mind turned blank.

"Are you kidding me? Even [Defensive Blade] is being sold?" Shi Feng went wild with joy.

The Defensive Blade was a Swordsman's powerhouse skill. It was also a sure-kill skill when dealing with Mages. However, the skill also had a damnable drop rate. Even in his previous life, Shi Feng only managed to get his hands on the skill after he was well over Level 40. Shi Feng truly did not imagine he would be able to see it now.

Although the selling price was slightly high, 6 Silvers was still acceptable to Shi Feng.

Shi Feng immediately placed a bid of 7 Silver Coins, not wanting to waste too much time.

Very quickly, Shi Feng bought the skill for 7 Silver Coins.

With the current purchasing power of 7 Silver Coins, Shi Feng could buy five to six Basic skill books. However, Shi Feng spent them all on Defensive Blade without batting an eyelid.

In addition to buying the Rare Skill, Defensive Blade, Shi Feng also purchased three Common Skills: Observing Eyes, Windwalk, and Earth Splitter. On another note, while Shi Feng was joyous over his purchase, the situation at the Auction House started turning frantic.

The logistic members of the various Guilds were all crimson to their ears, their rage soaring to the skies.

“Crap, 9 Silver Coins still isn’t enough to get this equipment?! Which rich Guild is it that bade 10 Silver Coins?”

“You animals, why don’t you take a look at my side? Someone’s already bid 10 Silvers and 65 coppers. These people are absolutely insane. I’ve only brought 10 Silver Coins with me. What should I do now that I can’t complete my task?”

“Abominable! They’re hiding their names and placing only these few pieces of equipment on auction; how can I even snatch one?!”

These people were the logistics members of unrated Guilds. They were on the brink of insanity when they saw the larger Guilds’ bid, each higher than the other. The most abominable person, however, was the creator of the equipment. Every time, this person only auctioned a few pieces of equipment. Previously, the competition over the equipment was already sufficiently intense. However, the Garrison Armor being auctioned right now had even better Attributes, and their numbers were even less. The money they brought along to bid was absolutely insufficient; so how were they going to fight for the equipment?

“It can’t be, right? Are there that many tycoons? Someone actually bid 11 Silvers.” Shi Feng’s joy reached the tips of his brows when he looked at how the Garrison Armor’s price continuously increased. Within moments, the money he spent before had all been recovered, to the extent that it was more than before.

Suddenly, Shi Feng thought of the Defensive Blade. The average player definitely had no chance of obtaining such a rare skill for Swordsmen, whereas Guilds would not sell it, even if they obtained it. The skill must have been sold by a certain Guild to collect funds to buy the Garrison Armor. It’s just that their actions once again benefited Shi Feng.

Within moments, all seven Garrison Armors had their prices increased past 11 Silvers. Such a price shocked even Shi Feng, himself. Where did so many powerful Guilds suddenly come from? With the financial resources of such Guilds, they ought to not spend that much money on a piece of Bronze Equipment.

However, what Shi Feng did not know was, after he had placed the Garrison Armors on auction, the logistics members of various large Guilds reported the situation back to their Guild Leaders. Previously, these Guild Leaders saw the MT of other Guilds tanking Special Elites with the Garrison Armor. These MTs were able to allow the other players to attack the Special Elites with ease, obtaining various skill books and Bronze Equipment, Mysterious-Iron Equipment even. At such a sight, the eyes of these Guild Leaders had long since turned red with envy.

Unfortunately, they had no solutions to this matter. They wished to let the Lifestyle players of their own respective Guilds forge this equipment, yet they did not have the Forging Design for it. They also wished to contact the player who had forged these Garrison Armors, yet this player had hidden his name, preventing any means of contact. Their only choice was to watch on, helplessly. Now, however, the Garrison Armor, this time, even possessed Defensive Power. They definitely must buy it. Hence, these Guilds started gathering funds immediately.

“Do you hear me; you definitely must get it! Immediately bid 13 Silver Coins! I want to see who else dares to bid.”

“What? Is it already at 13 Silvers? Bid 13 Silvers 50 Coppers. I don’t believe there is a Guild that is wealthier than us.”

There were over a hundred Towns under the influence of White River City, and there were hundreds of Guilds continuously bidding for the Garrison Armor. After half an hour, all seven Garrison Armors were auctioned off, with the lowest being sold at 14 Silvers 60 Coppers. Shi Feng earned more than one Gold Coin in an instant. Seeing how fervent these people were, Shi Feng took the chance to place the Garrison Heavy Armor on auction, setting its starting price at 16 Silver Coins. Following which, Shi Feng left the Auction House.

It was still night, and there was about half an hour before sunrise. It was very unwise to go out and level right now, so Shi Feng went to the library in Red Leaf Town first. He wanted to have a better understanding of the diary, which contained elvish words, he obtained from the Hell Mode of the Deathly Forest. He might even obtain a new find.

Chapter 52 – Holy Sister

The journey to Red Leaf Town’s Library was very dangerous. If a normal player went there, there was a 30% chance for that person to die once. As for the remaining seventy percent, he would die many times.

Hence, before heading to the Library, Shi Feng stored all the Hard Stones and the Philosopher’s Stone into the Bank. The Philosopher’s Stone would drop after death. If Shi Feng had unexpectedly died on the way to the Library, then it would be a major loss.

Following which, Shi Feng took out the four skill books he bought previously and chose to learn them.

[Observing Eyes]

Able to see clearly unknown and concealed targets. There is a fixed chance to detect target’s weak point.

Cooldown: 40 seconds

[Windwalk]

The user is wrapped in wind; Movement Speed increased by 30%. There is a 50% chance to avoid damage from ranged attacks. Duration of 10 seconds.

Cooldown: 2 minutes

[Earth Splitter]

Requires: Sword

Causes 30 base damage to target after use, and based on the period of charging power between 0.2 seconds to 3 seconds, a maximum of 300% weapon damage can be increased. Attack range of 8 yards.

Cooldown: 1 minute

[Defensive Blade]

Requires: Sword

Normal attacks range increased by 10 yards after use. Able to block up to a maximum of 6 ranged attacks or 3 melee attacks. Duration of 25 seconds.

Cooldown: 3 minutes.

With these new skills, Shi Feng's survivability and attack potential greatly increased; thus, the danger of him going to the Library was no longer great.

Red Leaf Town's Library was distanced far from the Trade Area. It was located in Red Leaf Town's Slums.

The Slums were the second most popular location after the Trade Area. There were all sorts of people there, and it was a place where crooks mixed with the honest folk. It was also the favorite visiting location of some players, and this was due to the Slums' alternative name.....

Paradise of the Fallen!

The moment Shi Feng entered the domain of this paradise, from the corners of the street, he discovered eyes filled with greed directed at him. These were the rats hidden in the darkness, the ones unaccepted by the light, and the wanderers of hell's boundaries.

There was bound to be a portion of players in God's Domain that was different from ordinary person. They were neither interested in conquering Dungeons, nor were they interested in the excitement that came from adventuring and risking one's self. The only thing these players were interested in, was banditry. They would kill other players and plunder their equipment; then, they would sell it to others for a high price, making a bountiful amount of money.

During daytime, these players would hunt for and plunder the players with good equipment. At night, they would return to the Slums to dispose of their stolen goods then party with the money they just earned. They would brag about their harvest to display their own strength, using the chance to elevate their position in the Slums. Ordinary players would never set foot in this place. If they did not possess sufficient strength, the only result would be a return via death. The reason being this location was not protected by the Guards.

Shi Feng simply glanced at the players hidden at the corners of the street. He discovered the indicators for all of these players were colored red. It was clear to see that they had done many kill-and-plunder deeds...

Within God's Domain, Red Players were not allowed to enter guarded areas. The equipment drop rate upon death for these players were also increased, and the penalty for death may be increased up to a maximum of 300%. Moreover, they would be apprehended and jailed by the Guards if they were to enter guarded areas, and the duration they were jailed depended on their Crime Value. However, even with all these disadvantages, there were still many players who had chosen to go down this path. After all, the rewards came very quickly this way. Red Players also had a place they could stay in Red Leaf Town. For example, the Slums. Moreover, if one wished to receive a good Quest in the Slums, one had to be a Yellow Player or even a Red Player.

Regarding these players who lived on the edge of a knife, Shi Feng paid no attention to them. He immediately headed towards the main road of the Slums. On both sides of the street, there were quite a few flirtly ladies dressed in revealing clothes. When they noticed the clothing Shi Feng was dressed in, they started flinging coquettish glances at his direction. They wanted to spend a pleasant night with Shi Feng, earning some Coin along the way.

"Little brother, are you here for some fun? Come over here to big sister. Big sister guarantees that you will have a pleasant night," an alluring lady dressed in vibrant red leather clothing blocked Shi Feng's way.

Shi Feng immediately used Observing Eyes.

[Sharlyn] (Elite Rank)

Level 8

HP 1200/1200

"Hahaha, Sharlyn, you're trying to sneak a bite again. How can you not invite us to such a happy occasion," a group of robust and fiendish men walked over, each of them carrying a cold grin on their faces.

"Is this a robbery?" Shi Feng took a look at his surroundings, calmly asking. He discovered himself already surrounded by NPCs. There were also a few Red Players by the corner of a broken house, sneers on their faces.

In God's Domain, it was very common for players to be robbed by NPCs. Moreover, it was also not Shi Feng's first time being robbed by NPCs. The incident that left the deepest impression on him was when he was at Creation Mountain Range. It was there that he was robbed by an NPC Warlord. At that time, Shi Feng could only helplessly pay out a road toll.

Currently, before him, there was a Level 8 Elite NPC in addition to a group of Level 7 Common NPCs. It was a scene very commonly to the Slums, but Shi Feng had nobody to blame but himself for coming to this place.

"Brat, since you look like an upright person, we won't trouble you too much. Hand out 5 Silver Coins, and we'll let you pass. Otherwise, we'll personally take action," a scarred man said with a sneer.

“Then come over here and get it,” Shi Feng sneered as he pulled out the Abyssal Blade.

If you were to pay the road toll, then congratulations. Not only would you lose your money, but you also had to lose your life. You would lose at least a piece of equipment that was on your person. This was the reason why normal players had a 30% percent chance of dying once in the Slums. If you wanted these NPCs that wandered the boundaries of darkness to uphold their promise, there was definitely something broken with your brain.

Sharlyn’s attractive face revealed a trace of malevolence.

“Brat, you are courting death!” a Level 7 blade-wielding man rushed at Shi Feng.

Shi Feng stabbed the Abyssal Blade towards the man without hesitation.

Double Chop, Chop, Thundering Flash, Earth Splitter... Sword slash after sword slash pierced through the man’s neck and heart. With a body fully geared with Bronze Equipment, combined with the Abyssal Blade’s Attack Power, Shi Feng’s attacks had immediately reduced the man’s 750 HP down to zero.

“Still want to continue?” Shi Feng glanced at the surrounding NPCs, sneering.

The NPCs were all shocked by Shi Feng. They all parted and gave way to Shi Feng, one after another. Meanwhile, the players hiding in a corner were also shocked. Shi Feng had killed off a Level 7 NPC in just a few moves. This player was just too strong! Naturally, these players would not find trouble with a player whom they knew was strong. In the Slums, strength was everything. Stealthily, these players left the scene of the incident.

Only Sharlyn stayed behind with an interested expression.

“Little brother, you are really powerful. You’ve made big sister truly admire you. I wonder where you are headed? Big sister can guide you there and save you a lot of trouble, whereas you only have to pay a very small price,” Sharlyn walked towards Shi Feng, offering with a calm smile.

“No need to trouble yourself. I’m familiar with the way to the Library,” Shi Feng did not wish to get entangled with these NPCs. He only wished to search for clues regarding the Elven diary.

Sharlyn smiled with even more joy when she heard Shi Feng decline.

“I am the Librarian, Sharlyn. You can ask me matters regarding the Library. There is no one more familiar with it than myself,” Sharlyn puffed out her prided twin peaks, smiling sweetly.

“Isn’t Red Leaf Town’s Librarian a Holy Sister?” Shi Feng did not believe her.

“Oh? Are you talking about this?” Sharlyn took out a set of nun’s clothing and changed into it within an instant. Suddenly, her wild demeanor completely vanished. She was like an angel that had descended to the world, incomparably divine. Her presence made others desire repentance before her.

At the same time, the information that Sharlyn displayed had changed.

[Holy Sister Sharlyn] (Divine Official)

Level 20

HP 10,000/10,000

Shi Feng was also shocked. What kind of situation was this? Even NPCs had a side job?