

The Strongest

Chapter 83 – Second Meeting

Physis Canyon, a paradise on earth, it was a place filled with lush green vegetation. Multiple streams of water flowed through the canyon, while flocks of birds flew in the sky above. The forest, as well, was filled with the sounds of hundreds of birds squabbling with each other.

Although this place was beautiful, right now, there was not a single player that came here to level up. After all, the highest leveled player right now was just Level 6. Normally, they would be safely leveling up in Level 6 or Level 7 areas. Physis Canyon was a Level 8 monster area, and Level 9 monsters could even be found in the inner areas. For a short period, there wouldn't be any players coming to disturb this place.

More importantly, Shi Feng was here for the Unique Quest "Steel Fortress Barrutia." This Quest was extremely important for him to establish his future Guild.

In Shi Feng's previous life, the player who completed this Unique Quest, just by relying on the Quest rewards alone, increased a second-rate Guild's standing to first-rate. However, now that Shi Feng had received this Unique Quest, he would use it to benefit the Guild he would establish.

After entering the canyon, Shi Feng used the Demon's Mask to alter his own appearance. He transformed the silvery-white Silvermoon Set Equipment into a suit of shining pitch black Set Equipment. It could be called the Blackmoon Set Equipment. Shi Feng also altered his face into one of an older gentleman, his age around 26 to 27. He then donned a black cloak, his face hidden within the cloak. At first glance, his appearance exuded a strong sense of mystery, allowing others to think he was a man with a story.

Shi Feng's get-up was somewhat similar to the Night Ranger[1], only he had two longswords hanging on his back rather than a simple black bow. Moreover, Shi Feng was not of the Night Elf race.

Now that Shi Feng had disguised himself, nobody would be able to recognize who he was. Even with Gentle Snow's discerning eyes, it was impossible for her to recognize him.

Arriving at the meeting location, Shi Feng discovered Gentle Snow and her group had yet to arrive.

Shi Feng called out the System Notifications, taking a look at the sales condition of the Forging Designs this time around.

"Sold out already?" Shi Feng looked at the series of notifications, his eyes almost shining.

There were over ten notifications from the Auction House, and every one of them notified him that he had an increase of around 3 Gold Coins.

Shi Feng auctioned a total of 20 pieces of Forging Designs, yet, they were sold at an average price of 3 Gold Coins. One could just imagine how desperate these Guilds were. However, compared to the price of 3 Gold Coins, these Guilds that bought the Forging Designs could also, very quickly, earn that money back. God's Domain had only officially started three days ago. Along with the increase in time, there would be more and more people joining God's Domain. The number of new players might even exceed that of the old players. These new players were the main consumers, and the supply Level 3 Glimmer Chestplates would be unable to meet the demand. In a short period, the value of the Glimmer Chestplate would not depreciate, and instead, its value might even increase.

However, Shi Feng's goal had already been met, so he no longer planned to make more Glimmer Chestplate Forging Designs to earn money. Right now, his bag was holding over 50 Gold Coins. These Coins were the entirety of the fluid funds of more than ten large Guilds. If Shi Feng were to use all of it to operate a Guild, how formidable would this be? Unfortunately, money was not the only thing needed to operate a Guild.

Shi Feng took out 20 Gold Coins and registered them on the Virtual Trade Center. After all, he couldn't just keep all those Gold Coins on hand. If he did that, he would be throwing money away. Based on the selling price right now, these 20 Gold Coins were worth 180,000 Credits.

Shi Feng did not imagine things would go so smoothly. He earned so many Credits in just three short days. However, if he wanted to start a good Workshop, such a small amount of money was still insufficient.

To start up Shadow Workshop, Lan Hailong invested five million Credits from the start. In the following month, he even invested over ten million Credits. One could just imagine how much money it took to start up a Workshop, not to mention a Guild with thousands or tens of thousands of members. However, after the Workshop and Guild were established, things would be greatly different.

To a Guild, hundreds of thousands of Credits was nothing.

Shi Feng still needed to earn a lot of money.

Hence why Shi Feng had chosen to work with Gentle Snow secretly.

"Are you Black Flame?" a voice as crisp as a jade falling to the ground came from behind Shi Feng.

Shi Feng turned around, discovering Gentle Snow's beautiful figure walking over while sizing him up. Although it was their second time meeting, he was still unaccustomed to Gentle Snow's attentive gaze. In a slightly deep tone, Shi Feng said, "Correct. I am."

Hearing Shi Feng's answer, moreover receiving the information proving Black Flame's identity, Gentle Snow's beautiful eyes focused. She secretly used an Observation skill.

Suddenly, Gentle Snow stared blankly. She was unable to discern Shi Feng's name. The information only showed him as an unknown Level 5.

Gentle Snow originally thought that Black Flame only had good forging skills, many lucky encounters, superior strategies, and relatively good gaming skills. She never imagined that Black Flame's gaming skills were not just the average kind of good. He was definitely a top-tier expert. Otherwise, he would not be able to obtain such a high-grade item.

Special Items that could hide a person's identity, even Ouroboros did not possess a single one of such an item. They had also never heard of any other first-rate Guilds obtaining one. Meanwhile, not only did the mysterious man in front of her possess such an item, but Gentle Snow could also feel a powerful strength emanating from the equipment he was wearing. Even though the equipment's special effects were hidden, a single glance at the equipment's delicate make and the magical markings circling it told Gentle Snow that it was a set. In fact, Black Flame's equipment might not be any worse than hers. Her equipment was obtained through the efforts of the Elite party behind her. How much time had they spent obtaining them? How did the man in front of her obtain such good equipment?

Gentle Snow attentively gazed at Shi Feng. She was even starting to suspect whether or not Black Flame was a player or the leader of a mysterious organization. Otherwise, how would he possess such financial and physical resources to carry out all those tasks? His title of Chief Forger was even publicly acknowledged by the players of Star-Moon Kingdom. Just carrying out tasks such as forging and organizing would take up most of his time, so how was it possible he obtained such a good set of equipment?

"Hello, I am called Gentle Snow, First Vice Leader of Ouroboros." Gentle Snow stretched out her jade-white hand in a very formal manner. It was different from the casual meeting when Shi Feng first met her, where she regarded Shi Feng with a superior attitude.

The party members behind Gentle Snow were all shocked. They never imagined their leader would actually take the initiative to shake hands with someone else.

Was this older gentleman in front of them that powerful to necessitate such formality?

Zhao Yueru, who stood behind Gentle Snow, was constantly sizing up Shi Feng with her beautiful eyes. Prior to this meeting, Shi Feng's series of performances had caused her to become very interested in him. Now that she was meeting him in person, she discovered that Shi Feng's entire body was exuding a mature and calm feeling, causing others to pay attention to him inadvertently. Now that even Gentle Snow had given her approval, Zhao Yueru had a faintly better impression of him.

"Hello, you can address me as Black Flame." Not wanting to act too aloof, Shi Feng shook hands with Gentle Snow. He discovered that her hand was very soft and smooth as expected. If Blackie were to know of this incident, he would most likely shake Shi Feng's hands, then not wash them for three days.

The reason why Shi Feng did not completely alter the Silvermoon Set Equipment's appearance was to awe and intimidate them. Seeing the satisfying results, Shi Feng got right to the point and said, "I have contacted you this time to cooperate with your Ouroboros. I wonder what your opinion of this is?"

"Of course, we welcome it very much. If you are willing to become the Chief Forger of our Ouroboros, just state your price," Gentle Snow said with confidence. She guessed that Shi Feng would demand an exorbitant price. However, as long as they could successfully poach Shi Feng, then everything would be worth it. Moreover, with her current influence, satisfying Shi Feng's appetite was no problem at all.

"Miss Snow, I think you are misunderstanding something here. I will not be joining your Guild. Instead, I will be using an equal status to cooperate with your Guild. If Miss Snow is unable to make this problem clear, we do not need to continue this discussion."

Finished speaking, Shi Feng turned to leave.

TL Notes:

[1] Night Ranger: a Special Elite found in the Deathly Forest Dungeon, mentioned in Chapter 25.

Chapter 84 – Horizon Alliance

Seeing as Shi Feng was about to leave...

The members from Ouroboros were stupefied. There was actually a man who would treat Gentle Snow in such a way. He even discarded the chance to work with Ouroboros without hesitation.

Zhao Yueru panicked, her words caught in her mouth. She almost wanted to hold back Shi Feng and mediate between them. Even the wise Gentle Snow had yet to speak. If Zhao Yueru took action herself, her standing out might cause the situation to worsen. So, without a better choice, she just pulled on Gentle Snow's arm, secretly reminding her.

However, what Zhao Yueru did not know was that Gentle Snow was similarly stupefied.

She did not imagine that Shi Feng's goal from the start was not to join Ouroboros but to cooperate with them on equal standing. However, did Shi Feng have the qualifications to do so?

Ouroboros was not as simple as it looked. It was a colossus in the virtual gaming world. The resources in its possession were not something an average player could imagine. To be able to cooperate with Ouroboros with equal statuses, at the very least, they needed to be a first-rate Guild equally.

On the other hand, the man before Gentle Snow wanted to cooperate with Ouroboros on equal standings as if it were a matter of course.

For him to be so confident, did this man truly have some sort of hidden power standing behind him?

This was also not an impossibility. Being able to carry out this series of matters, in addition to obtaining such a set of equipment, was not something a person could do within such a short period. Black Flame definitely possessed the support of a great power. That's the only way he would be capable of causing the vicious competition that was happening right now. According to their Guild's statistics, the income Black Flame obtained from selling the Forging Designs exceeded 60 Gold Coins. Meanwhile, the fluid funds of a first-rate Guild right now did not exceed even 3 Gold Coins. If this money were utilized properly, it would allow a first-rate Guild to surpass the other first-rate Guilds instantly. Becoming a Super-Guild would not be a problem.

Suddenly, Gentle Snow felt chills crawl down her spine. As the Vice Leader of Ouroboros, she actually failed to notice such a great hidden power.

However, for a power to be unknown to her, one could just imagine how deep this power hid. Fortunately, she was able to discover it now. Whether they were a friend or a foe remained unknown.

“Please wait.” Gentle Snow urged Shi Feng to stay, saying, “You, too, should know that our Ouroboros is a first-rate Guild. There are not many powers out there who possess the qualifications to work with us. If you can prove that you have the ability and capital and that your proposal would bring Ouroboros great benefits, then we can come to an agreement.”

“Humph! Ouroboros sure does have a very big tone. You should know that the first-rate Guilds that I can choose to cooperate with aren’t just limited to you.” Shi Feng turned around and looked at Gentle Snow, acting as if he did not place Ouroboros in his eyes at all. Afterward, he took out one of the Level 10 Mysterious-Iron Equipment Forging Designs that he bought from Blackbeard, waving it in front of Gentle Snow’s face. He then said with a sneer, “I wonder what thoughts you will have after seeing this? Do you think I have enough qualifications?”

“How could it be?!” Gentle Snow could not believe what her eyes were seeing. Her heart was filled with extreme shock, “How did you obtain a Level 10 Mysterious-Iron Forging Design?”

Right now, even the Level 3 Glimmer Chestplate Forging Design was being fought over insanely. The value of the Forging Design in Shi Feng’s hands right now simply could not be imagined.

To the Elites of a Guild, the Level 3 Glimmer Chestplate Forging Design was not particularly useful. The main purpose of a Guild obtaining it was just to earn money and nurture their own Forgers, increasing the advantage that their Guild possessed over others. However, when compared to the Forging Design that Shi Feng was currently holding, the Glimmer Chestplate Forging Design was not even worth being mentioned.

Lead by one step, then lead to every other step. This was the natural law of the virtual gaming world. Every Guild knew of this law.

“Trade secret. Don’t think too much about it.” Shi Feng kept the Forging Design, “If there aren’t any other matters, then I’ll be leaving.”

It was absolutely impossible for Gentle Snow to allow the person in front of her, who possesses a Level 10 Mysterious-Iron Equipment Forging Design, to leave. Moreover, to allow him to cooperate with another first-rate Guild. If she were to allow the other first-rate Guilds to obtain him and mass-produce these pieces of equipment, equipping every Elite member with it, then the competition for the Kingdom’s Capital would no longer be necessary.

“Alright, I agree. State how we should cooperate then.” Gentle Snow grit her teeth, yielding to Shi Feng in the end.

“Hehe, but I don’t wish to cooperate with you anymore.” Shi Feng said in a deep tone.

“You?!” Gentle Snow’s expression suddenly turned cold. However, very quickly, she calmed back down. She no longer had her high and aloof attitude, her face revealing a calm smile as she said, “I apologize for my previous poor manners. I wonder if you can reconsider? Our Ouroboros is willing to pay double the price of the other Guilds.”

Shi Feng nodded his head, saying with a smile, “Alright then, seeing as you are so sincere.”

After this scene, everyone else thought that they had heard wrong. The incomparably proud Snow Goddess actually surrendered. Moreover, she even apologized for her previous behavior. How terrifying was this Black Flame?

Currently, Zhao Yueru's eyes were shining as they looked at Black Flame with admiration. She knew full well how proud and intelligent Gentle Snow was. Since meeting her, Zhao Yueru had never seen a person who could make Gentle Snow apologize.

"I wonder how you wish to cooperate?" Gentle Snow sent a glare towards the snickering Zhao Yueru behind her, then looked back at Shi Feng and asked.

"It's very simple. I am planning to establish a loose Lifestyle organization called Horizon Alliance and recruit all sorts of Lifestyle players. You just need to help me advertise it and spread its influence, and I'll give your Guild a discounted price. I'll even sell you equipment and tools that are unavailable to the public," Shi Feng unhurriedly said.

"You really want to establish such an organization?" Gentle Snow was slightly shocked. Although she did not think highly of Shi Feng, the terms he stated were very attractive.

Zhao Yueru's eyes widened in shock. She unbelievably looked at Shi Feng, feeling he was too insane.

After everyone else heard Shi Feng, they all thought that Shi Feng simply had too much money to waste. He was actually trying to establish such an organization.

Shi Feng's plan was truly outrageous. It was utterly impossible to unify all the Lifestyle players. The financial resources, physical resources, and manpower required to carry out such a feat were simply too great. Every Guild has been nurturing their own Lifestyle players. Moreover, they only recruited the Elites among them in order to avoid wasting resources. That meant that the leftover Lifestyle players were just mob characters, and there wouldn't be a big effect if all of them gathered together. The resources needed to nurture these Lifestyle players were even more needless. There was not a single Guild out there who was willing to bear such a price.

Of course, if it were to succeed, the profits would be truly unimaginable.

"You don't have to worry about this. When the time comes, I will naturally notify you to help me advertise the organization and spread its influence. In any case, you all don't have anything to lose. Of course, I will give you all some remuneration in advance. Ten Glimmer Chestplate Forging Designs should be enough for your Guild to nurture quite a few Forgers." If Shi Feng were to advertise the organization himself, not to mention how much time it would waste, the effects would not be that great. He would need a lot of time to increase the organization's influence. However, it was a different story if Ouroboros were the ones advertising the organization. They could practically cover the entire Star-Moon Kingdom, greatly shortening the process of gathering influence.

Gentle Snow gave Shi Feng's offer some thought. It was not much work for them to do the advertising. They could also obtain ten Glimmer Chestplate Forging Designs now, allowing them to widen the gap between Ouroboros and the other Guilds. They would also be able to nurture a large batch of Lifestyle players, earning even more Coins. As for the matter of establishing such a Lifestyle Alliance, nurturing Lifestyle players in large batches meant it was a process of constantly spending money. It wouldn't be long before such a plan would collapse. Nurturing Lifestyle players was an extremely tough task. If Shi

Feng did not possess the resource and financial support from a large Guild, it would be very hard for him to obtain any achievements.

Following which, Gentle Snow signed a contract with Shi Feng, stating that she was willing to help Shi Feng spread his organization's influence throughout the entire Star-Moon Kingdom. After doing so, Shi Feng must repay her with a hundred pieces of Level 10 Mysterious-Iron Equipment. At the same time, Ouroboros will be able to purchase equipment and tools from Shi Feng at the discounted price.

Gentle Snow looked rather happy after receiving the ten Glimmer Chestplate Forging Designs. She passed the Forging Designs to an Assassin, letting him take the Forging Designs back to the Guild. Then, she looked towards Shi Feng, inviting him, "I see that the number of Humanoid Monsters is quite high here. Although their levels are slightly higher, it is a good place to level up. Why don't you level up with us? It would be much faster than leveling up by yourself."