

Armipotent 1021

Chapter 1021

"Do you think so? Maybe I just don't want to tell my name to random people that come to me."
Tang Shaoyang shrugged.

"You..." The blue-armored guy was about to approach Tang Shaoyang, but Natasa stopped him. She said nothing as she pulled him back and whispered, "What are you doing? Why are you provoking people out of nowhere? Remember where we are, we are not in our territory anymore, and the people here are from the top eleven factions. We don't want to fight any of them right now!"

"There's no way that dude can escalate the situation into a war between factions. Look at his equipment; he does not wear any. He must be a watchdog from one of the eleven factions," The blue-armored man secretly glanced at Tang Shaoyang. There was not a single piece of equipment, a black coat, a black shirt, and black pants.

Natasa rolled her eyes, showing her frustration, "Why does he need to wear his equipment in a place with no monster? Alright, I have enough of you. Let me do the job, and can you wait for me with the others there?"

The guy was clearly annoyed being told to walk back. He secretly glanced at Tang Shaoyang, and Natasa knew him too well. She immediately called her friends, signaling her friend to come over. The red and black armor came over, "Keep a watch on him. We paid a huge price to reach here, and I don't want his arrogance to ruin our sacrifice!"

"Come one with us, Alkis." The black armored man pulled the blue armored man. Then he whispered to Alkis, "Why do you keep annoying her if you like her? That's a minus point. There's no way you are jealous of a random stranger she just met, right? Calm down and take it slow. Girls don't like possessive men."

Natasa returned to Tang Shaoyang, "I apologize for my friend. He's usually not like that."

"It's fine. However, I have a reminder for you newcomers. The fight is prohibited inside the tower area, or else you will be expelled from the area for a month." Tang Shaoyang told Natasa one tip with his still flat tone. "If you want more information about the tower. You can find it at the entrance."

Natasa stood there for a while, digesting the information she had just received. She seemed to forget what she wanted to ask.

"If you have nothing else, then I will take my leave," Tang Shaoyang walked away, heading back to the empire's district. He got the information these people were the new faction that arrived at the Dimensional Tower, not part of the other ten top factions. That was the reason he was willing to help them a little.

On the way back, Tang Shaoyang realized how important these houses were. Not so important for the eleven factions that got here with the portal, but it was so important for the factions that did not come with the portal. They could not go back anytime, and they would be stuck here to clear the Dimensional Tower.

"Wait.... Isn't this a chance for us to earn more coins?" The thought of money lingered in his head after entering the eleventh floor. "We can open a shop or maybe buy all the districts and sell all of them at a higher price?"

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Tang Empire Capital, Tang, Conference Room

Tang Shaoyang immediately held a meeting as soon as he returned. Everyone was surprised to see him return earlier. He told them what the eleventh floor was, and though he was unsure of the whole purpose of the seventh floor, he described what they got from the eleventh floor.

"We don't have a problem getting more coins. We have Sis Li Shuang to secure our finances, but we need to think of a few measures against the other worlds. If you said this was not their first experience with the dimensional, this is a big trouble for us. Not only do they have advantages in knowledge about the eleventh floor and above, but they must be stronger than us as a whole," Zhang Mengyao voiced her concern regarding the future fight in the dimensional tower.

She felt like the coin was a secondary issue as the main issue was how the other three worlds in the Starter City would treat them, "According to you, Allurion and Egunov might not be hostile toward us, but Mellanainia might be hostile. We need a countermeasure against Mellanainia."

"May and may not be hostile. We will find out about it tomorrow." Tang Shaoyang shook his head. "How to make a countermeasure against the force we know nothing about. What we need is not a countermeasure, but a change in focus...." He paused midway.

Everyone in the room looked at Tang Shaoyang, waiting for him to finish his words.

"I want to say that we need to focus our main force on the dimensional tower, but I remember why we focus our main force on expanding our territory." Tang Shaoyang explained with a sigh.

The empire focused on the exploration team to clear out the zombie outside there that might be a threat to the empire. That was to prevent the same incident where they lost one exploration squad to a zombie who

The Elven Kingdom and the native of the Gigante Forest were still focusing on settling down on Earth, on the new world. He could not fully utilize them yet. Even though they were his vassals, he did not want to force them to do something they did not want.

Aki, the Dark Tremor, the rat beastmen who had mind control ability, raised his hand. "Beast Coven is ready to assist Your Majesty's expedition in the dimensional tower."

The Beast Coven was Alton's former group, the group the old man created for his vengeance, which was later defeated by Tang Shaoyang. Aki took the name, and the beastmen from the Gigante Forest was part of the Beast Coven with Aki as the leader. The rat might not be the strongest from the Beast Coven, but he was chosen by Tang Shaoyang to be the beastmen representative.

"We have settled down, and we are ready to join the battle anytime."

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"I don't think that's the issue, no?" Wei Xi looked at the others. "The issue is that they might be on another level compared to us since they have experienced more than once or maybe twice of the

Dimensional Tower. I don't think mobilizing our main force will do any help against the other three worlds."

"I agree with him. On top of that, it seemed the other three worlds had united their world under one banner. Not only might they be stronger than us, but they also win in numbers." Cao Jingyi agreed with her husband's concern.

"I don't think that's a concern for us." Tang Shaoyang shook his head. "Their worlds might have experienced the dimensional tower, but not the people. If they are strong, why would they choose to enter Sky Tower instead of a higher rank tower? My guess is they are sending their weaker force to train them, so we don't need to worry whether they are stronger or weaker than us."

"That's just my assumption, but we will find it soon, no? However, we need the strength to establish ourselves in the starter city, no? If we appear to be weaker than them, do you think they would want to have a friendly relationship with us? No, they want to dominate us instead, and maybe they will try to take over our world instead."

"As I said, we can't make a countermeasure against the force we don't know of," Tang Shaoyang scanned all the people in the room and continued. "I have two plans. Plan A is to show our full strength. If we are not strong enough to stand side by side with them, then we will proceed to Plan B. Plan B is to completely abandon the dimensional tower and focus our force on expanding our territory on Earth. I feel like we need to unite Earth just like what Mellanainia, Allurion, and Egunov did before attempting the dimensional tower once more."

Zhang Mengyao furrowed her brow as she did not like plan B at all. She felt like plan B had deviated from Tang Shaoyang's original plan to establish the empire. He told her that the empire was to protect, not to conquer. Of course, it was a different matter if the other factions attacked them first, but she was not keen on the idea of conquering the other factions.

"Do we really have to unite the Earth just because the other worlds do it?" Once more, Wei Xi voiced his concern. Not that he did not understand why Tang Shaoyang wanted to do so, but he felt like it was an unnecessary step.

"I thought we didn't need to do so either, but the God of Undead incident and the fact that the other worlds can invade our world changed my mind. We don't know how they will invade Earth; we can't prevent the invasion from happening." Tang Shaoyang told everyone his concern.

"It does not explain why you want to unite Earth. It's not that I am against your idea, but I just don't want a bloody war when we are barely surviving from the thing called a game. The other factions will not give up just because we are stronger than them. The worst scenario, our aggression would turn all of them against us." Cao Jingyi opposed the idea of uniting the earth.

"We can't prevent them from invading Earth, but we can prevent the other factions from working together with the people from the other worlds who try to invade Earth. Do you think the World Union will refuse the idea of uniting the world even if that means they have to work together with the other worlders?" Tang Shaoyang expressed his worries.

The World Union once tried to form a World Government, using oppression by uniting the big factions. They tried to force the weaker factions to submit, but it failed because The Tang Empire dominated the Earth Tournament. If the other worlders give such a proposal to the World Union, they most likely accept the proposal.

"Of course, that's just plan B. If the three worlds in the starter city are not hostile toward us, then we don't need to worry about uniting the world. I don't want to do such an exhausting project as uniting the world, but if that's our only choice, then we have to do it."

Cao Jingyi fell silent for a moment, thinking about what Tang Shaoyang had just told her. If the invasion did really happen, there was a high chance it would happen. If that happened, they had to fight the other worlders and also the other factions from Earth.

"I agree with Your Majesty. I don't think leaving the other factions alone is a good idea for us. The war is inevitable, sooner or later. They might not dare to fight us right now, but once they believe that they are stronger than us, they will declare war to take what is ours." Marshal Alton supported Tang Shaoyang's general plan.

"It's still too early to make the decision. Just like His Majesty said, we need to attend the meeting first before thinking of the far future. If they treat us as equal, then there's no need to worry about uniting the world." Virion joined the conversation. "We need to focus on the meeting. The fact that they have experienced more than one dimensional tower makes us overthink. For example, we need to choose who will follow His Majesty to the meeting, and I have an idea for that."

"His Majesty said that beastmen and elves are part of Allurion, so Sir Moonsong and I can accompany his Majesty to the meeting, so we can gain a positive impression from Allurion."

The Chief of the Moon Tribe, Moonsong, was the strongest beastmen, so he was the best candidate to accompany Tang Shaoyang to the meeting. Virion might not be the strongest elf, but he was also the best candidate since he was the King of the Elven Kingdom. He should know more about elves than anyone else in the room.

Virion's opinion gained everyone's support. They agreed that they thought far further into the future instead of focusing on the meeting.

"I suggest taking Lu An for possible assassination, Marshal Alton, and Zaneos in case a fight breaks out." Kang Jiayi, Commissioner General of TEIS, followed up with the remaining suggestion. He recommended the strongest individual.

"Let's change Zaneos for Zhang Mengyao instead. We still don't know yet how the Divine Church will react to a demon, so it's better for Zaneos not to join the meeting for the time being." Tang Shaoyang made adjustments for the last person.

Chapter 1023

The meeting for the four worlds was approaching. In that interval, Tang Shaoyang sent Li Shuang and her people to manage their territory in the starter city. The empire needed someone to design the territory and where to put the residential building, market, and the future building too. At the same time, Wei Xi and the others would choose the people to enter the dimensional tower for the eleventh floor.

"Do I have to wear this?" Tang Shaoyang looked in the mirror. White shirt and deep blue vest inside, deep blue suit outside, and deep blue long pants. Kang Xue was on the side, putting on the black bow tie, which he did not like. "Can I wear the normal tie instead? I don't like this tie."

"Yes, you have to wear this because this is an official meeting. You are the emperor, so you can't look shabby, and yes, we can change it to a normal tie if you don't like this one." Kang Xue nodded and got a new tie for Tang Shaoyang.

"You look very good in this attire. I don't understand why you don't like it." She nodded while admiring Tang Shaoyang in the mirror. She felt like he was twice as handsome when he dressed up like this.

"The attire is stuffy for me. I feel like my movement is restricted, just uncomfortable." Tang Shaoyang had a frown on his forehead as he stared at the mirror. Sure he looked good, but he did not really care about looks. Clothes meant to be comfortable to wear, and this one was not comfortable to wear at all.

"That's why this is called business attire. It will give a good impression to the people you speak to, and people will respect you more if you dress up well." Kang Xue shook her head as she found it funny to hear the disgruntled Tang Shaoyang. She took the long coat, a long black coat with the Tang Empire symbol on the back.

"Your favorite coat, Your Majesty." She joked while putting the coat on Tang Shaoyang. It was a plain long black coat with a gold line at the edge. The symbol was two dragons, which formed a circle with the wings flapped open and a sword facing down in the middle of the two dragons. The symbol itself was golden-red.

With the last piece of attire, Tang Shaoyang was ready to depart to the starter city. Kang Xue accompanied him to the portal that led to the Dimensional tower. Aleesa, Moonsong, Marshal Alton, Zhang Mengyao, and Lu An were waiting for him.

As he entered the portal, the five stared at him in a daze. It was a surprised stare as if they were not expecting him to appear like this. The stares started to make him uncomfortable. "Where's Virion?" It was Virion that was supposed to accompany him, but the Elven King was nowhere to be seen.

"I will be replacing him, Your Majesty. Since the meeting is meant to showcase our power, it will be better for me to accompany you instead." Aleesa explained the last-minute change.

Tang Shaoyang nodded. "There's no requirement for how many people can accompany me. Call Virion to join us." He did not tell the reason why he insisted Virion join.

Of course, he had a reason for that. He believed that the reason Virion volunteered to join him was that Virion wanted to know more about the eleventh floor. With how things transpired between them, The Elven King had lost his trust in him. So he wanted Virion to be included in the meeting with the other three worlds. He did not want Virion to feel like he or the Elven Kingdom was being isolated after the incident.

[I will call Sir Virion right away, Your Majesty] Origin responded.

"So... Why only me who dresses up?" Tang Shaoyang walked next to Aleesa and Zhang Mengyao. The five people had their armor as if they were going to a battle instead of a meeting.

"Of course, they are coming as a bodyguard, so they should wear their equipment, of course." Kang Xue was the one who replied. "You are the face of the empire, so you should dress up."

"I told you, didn't I? Fighting is not allowed in the starter city, so I don't think you guys need to wear the equipment. We are not going to fight anyone even if they turn hostile toward us." Tang Shaoyang rolled his eyes.

"We are tight in time, Your Majesty. I don't think we have time to dress up." Marshal Alton interjected. Despite the flat expression, Tang Shaoyang could perceive the unwillingness of the old man to dress up.

'Why are you bringing Virion with us?' Zhang Mengyao whispered. She was the one who proposed the last-minute change. The reason behind the last-minute change was that she was afraid that Virion would secretly contact the people from Allurion since there were elves there. After what happened recently, her concerns were not unfounded. She was afraid that Virion would use this chance to betray them by working with the elves from Allurion.

Tang Shaoyang smiled instead of agreeing with her. "We have to trust him if we want him to trust us, no?"

"What if he betrays us? A wise man said it is what it is." He made a joke over something serious, but he was genuine with what he said to Zhang Mengyao. The only way to gain the Elven Kingdom's trust once more was by trusting them.

It did not take for the Elven King to arrive at the portal room. From the look on his face, Virion was rushing over, and a little bit of sweat could be seen on his face.

Tang Shaoyang felt like he had made the right decision to bring Virion. The Elven King truly wanted to get involved more in the important affair of the empire. That way, Virion would feel that the Elven Kingdom was not isolated by the empire and that the Elven Kingdom was important to the empire by involving them in a big affair like this.

"Thank you for inviting me to join the meeting, Your Majesty." Virion bowed his head.

Chapter 1024

The group arrived at the main plaza at the dimensional tower area. It was more lively than usual as the usual empty plaza was now crowded with people.

Tang Shaoyang subconsciously activated his [Spirit Eyes], trying to find out what happened. It was unusual for this place to be crowded. He soon figured out what happened through [Spirit Eyes]. The crowd originated from the entrance to the dimensional tower. A quarrel happened at the entrance, and it was between the Uprising Guild and the newcomer Olympus.

Meanwhile, Lu An did not really care what happened. "Don't block the way. We are going to enter the tower!" The young man started to shove people, making a path toward the entrance. Marshal Alton followed the young man, shoving people, but the old man did not yell.

Lu An's move certainly provoked the crowd. "What are you doing, brat!?" An angry man yelled at Lu An.

The young man meant business as he immediately released his killing intent. Lu An spread the killing intent instead of directing it toward the young man. Killing intent was similar to aura, something Lu An gained after killing many monsters and people. The crowd immediately stepped away from the young man, terrified by Lu An.

Zhang Mengyao and Aleesa were on his left, while Virion and Moonson were on his right. They truly acted as a bodyguard, forming a barrier so one could get close to him. Deep inside, Tang Shaoyang was embarrassed, but he kept his composure, maintaining his flat expression.

The crowd belonged to Olympus, and most of them did not know who he was. However, they were smart enough not to block the group after Lu An released his killing intent. They were approaching the entrance, and the argument became clearer.

The argument was between the leading figures of the Uprising Guild and Olympus. Tang Shaoyang saw the power ranger confronting Zander and the other three men on the side. He heard a whole argument. The conclusion was the Uprising Guild bullied the newcomer. That was the perfect sentence to explain the whole situation.

"How come I never heard of such a rule before?" Tang Shaoyang interrupted the heated argument between Zander and Alkis, the blue-armored guy. Of course, he did not mean to help the guy; he just did not like how the Uprising Guild acted. On top of that, these guys were blocking the path to the entrance.

All the people present turned toward Tang Shaoyang. Zander's face turned ugly at the sight of Tang Shaoyang's group. At this time, the ten factions knew that the Tang Empire was the strongest among the eleven VIP factions. There was no need for them to fight because the dimensional tower's progress told them all.

The Tang Empire was the first one to clear the first ten floors. Zander had experienced the seventh floor, and he was well aware of how hard each floor was. The fact that the Tang Empire managed to clear the first ten floors much faster than any of them was proof that the Tang Empire was not some force they could fight against.

The ten factions were cautious of the Tang Empire. There was no conflict between the factions ever since the World Union and their allies attempted to fight Zhang Mengyao. The ten factions were well aware that they could not fight each other to establish themselves because they did not want the Tang Empire to take that advantage to fight against them all. So, it had been peaceful until today, a new faction emerged. The first faction that managed to reach the tower without teleportation.

Zander's plan was to force the newcomer to submit to his guild. He used force because he wanted to absorb the new factions before the other factions returned from their respective floor. The newcomer did not have teleportation, so if the newcomer tried to escape, they could fight them outside the city. That was the fastest way to absorb the new faction by using force, but his plan was foiled if the Tang Empire intervened.

"Please don't intervene in our guild's matter, Sir Tang. These people disrespect our guild leader, so we ought to teach these newcomers that they can't do whatever they want here." Upendo, Uprising Guild's Vice Leader, responded to Tang Shaoyang politely with a slight bow.

"We will be late to the meeting, Your Majesty. Should I kick them out of the entrance?" Lu An had become more impatient as he offered a violent solution.

Zander and his guild members were completely blocking the entrance. They did not give space to pass through even though Tang Shaoyang and the group headed toward the tower. Lu An's hand reached for the sword in his waist, getting ready to fight.

Zhang Mengyao flicked her finger at the back of Lu An's head. "You will get us kicked out of the town, and we will not just be late but can't get to the meeting."

Tang Shaoyang shook his head and walked toward the entrance. "I don't care what happened, but you all should stop playing around. We need you to reach the eleventh floor as soon as possible. It's not the time for us to fight with each other. Starting on the eleventh floor, we will be fighting against the other worlds. Don't you remember that Earth is not the only one inside the tower? There are twenty-four other worlds inside, and you will meet them on the eleventh floor."

The Uprising Guild's members split up, creating a path for Tang Shaoyang to pass. Zander furrowed his brow, looking toward Tang Shaoyang's group. He thought of what Tang Shaoyang had said just now, and he did not expect to hear that from the strongest faction.

Zander perceived that as an invitation to work together, and he got new information. He remembered that the Sky Tower accommodates twenty-five worlds. They had to fight against the other twenty-four worlds to get the resource in the dimensional tower. That was a piece of important information for the Uprising Guild, who had just finished the seventh floor.

What surprised Zander even more, was the fact that the strongest faction was asking his guild to work together. It showed even the Tang Empire was not strong enough for the eleventh floor.

Zander furrowed his brow deeper. If the Tang Empire had a hard time on the eleventh floor, then his guild would do worse for sure. 'I need to plan something for the eleventh floor. I have to upgrade my force to another level or maybe more than that if we want to survive on the eleventh floor.'

Chapter 1025

"Let's leave." Zander ignored Olympus and walked away from the tower.

"What about them...." Upendo tried to call his leader, but he got a stern glare from his superior. He shut his mouth and followed Zander.

"Where...." Alkis was about to call Zander out, but Natasa was faster to take action. She elbowed him. "Shut up!"

As the Uprising Guild left the entrance to the tower. Natasa broke up. "Can you not speak? Every time you speak, you bring trouble to us! You keep mindlessly provoking others without thinking of the consequences at all!"

"They mocked us! They insulted us! How can you let them do that without doing anything? We have to defend our honor regardless of who they are!" Alkis did not back down. His face turned red, not willing to admit his mistake.

"That pride of yours will get us all killed. Are you aware of that? Does your pride more important than your life?" Natasa had enough of Alkis's antics. "Not just you try to act up against the Uprising Guild, but also the Tang Empire."

She saw the same man in a different attire than the earlier group of six. She overheard the Uprising Guild whisper. They were murmuring about the Tang Empire and the Emperor when the group appeared. That was enough clue for her to know that the man was from the Tang Empire, not just a normal member, but the emperor himself. The man she met yesterday in the plaza was the emperor of the Tang Empire, and Alkis almost clashed with the emperor.

"Don't you remember the man with the suit just now? He was the same man we met yesterday, and he was the emperor of the Tang Empire. If you don't stop doing stupid things, you will put us in danger!"

As soon as she brought up the Tang Empire, the others were immediately alarmed as they turned toward Alkis.

The white-armored man spoke up. "We do need to speak before we start our run in the dimensional tower." While he said that to everyone, Alkis was aware that the words were directed toward him.

"I agree with Natasa in this matter, Alkis. Our pride is nothing compared to our lives, and we need help from the other factions to clear the tower because we don't have a portal. Food is not an issue since we can hunt the beasts outside, but we need their help with our equipment. We can't just antagonize any factions here, especially not the Tang Empire, or else we will get isolated by the other factions too."

The white-armored was the leader of Olympus, Vaso Galliades. His words had more weight on Alkis than Natasa. Vaso's concern was not groundless as he had met with First Order Guild's leader, Herman Bonivido. The only guild that was willing to give them more information about the dimensional tower.

At the end of their conversation, Herman warned him not to get on the Tang Empire's bad side. The First Order Guild's leader told him that no one dared to oppose the Tang Empire, including the ten big factions. Once Olympus had an odd with the Tang Empire, the other ten factions would not dare to help them. From Herman's reminder, it was clear that the Tang Empire had established itself as the strongest faction here. His faction was done for if they offended the empire.

"I..." Alkis still tried to defend himself, but Vaso shook his head. "I understand your feelings, but please understand our circumstances, Alkis. We are not strong enough to stand side by side with the top eleven factions. We don't have a portal like theirs that can connect to our main base. We have limited force, while the eleven factions can transfer their force anytime through the portal. Regardless of how strong we are, we can't beat them, especially when the other factions have more numbers than us."

Vaso then turned toward the other three vice-leaders. "We will put a hold on our expedition into the tower."

Olympus' members nodded understandingly as they turned around, leaving Vaso and Alkis.

"I understand your feelings. I am also frustrated when the other factions look down on us, but the only way to change that is to get stronger. We have to get stronger if we want other people to respect us, and that's our main purpose in coming here. Be patient; it's just a matter of time until we catch up with the top eleven factions." Vaso said in a small voice to Alkis. "I have confidence in our potential, in your potential. I just need you to be patient until then, Alkis."

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The group of six arrived at the starter city. Tang Shaoyang spoke up not to help Olympus, but he genuinely wanted to cooperate with the other guilds once they reached the eleven floor. Once everyone arrived here, it was not about factions anymore, but between worlds. He hoped for the other factions' cooperation instead of conquering the earth for himself. It was not that easy to unite

the earth under one faction, after all. So he tried to stop the conflict between factions; though the others did not have a good impression of the empire, he still wanted their cooperation.

Tang Shaoyang led the group out of the small dome, and he continued to the main road to the meeting place. But soon, he realized the others did not follow him. He turned around; Zhang Mengyao, Lu An, Marshal Alton, Moonsong, Aleesa, and Virion were looking around, looking at the empty region with weird stares. It was the same look when he discovered the empty region.

"We don't have time to go sightseeing, but you guys can continue the sightseeing after the meeting." Tang Shaoyang cracked a joke. There was nothing to see in this empty region, after all.

"No, it's just weird to see an empty area that looks abandoned but well-maintained." Zhang Mengyao muttered in a low voice while the others agreed with her, nodding in agreement. It was the same reaction when Tang Shaoyang arrived for the first time.

The group departed from their region toward the Administrative Building where the meeting was, the only neutral area in the starter city. The administrative building was guarded heavily by heavy-armored guards under three different flags.

"It seems we are lacking compared to them." Tang Shaoyang whispered in a low voice upon noticing the hundreds of guards.

The guards exuded a strong aura around them, and all of them were cautious of each other despite knowing the fight was not allowed inside the city. However, the attention shifted to the approaching group of six.

As Tang Shaoyang approached the stairs, three guards in dark-gold armor blocked the path. "Halt! State your name and origin!"

Chapter 1026

Tang Shaoyang looked up at the back of the guard who held a flag, a black flag with a golden symbol. It was a sailing ship with waves on the side and a map in the background. Below the ship stated which faction the guard belonged to, the Giteron Dynasty.

"Do I have an obligation to answer your inquiry?" Tang Shaoyang did not give the guard an answer as he answered the question himself. "I don't think so. And just a reminder, in case you forget, this is not Giteron Dynasty's territory."

"But also not a place that nobody likes you can visit, especially today." The guard sneered back.

"Oh, really? I don't recall such a rule when I enter the Administrative Building?" Tang Shaoyang shrugged and proceeded to walk past the guard.

Of course, the guard would not let Tang Shaoyang through. He sidestepped, blocking Tang Shaoyang once more. "You can't enter the building. Important nobles of the Giteron Dynasty are inside, and I won't let nobody like you with unknown origin get too near to my Lord. Our duty is to protect...."

Tang Shaoyang cut the guard off mid-sentence. "Do you have a brain dead? Do you think I will try to kill the unknown nobles from an unknown origin? Getting myself kick out of the city by doing something idiotic, what about you say."

Tang Shaoyang wasted no time anymore to entertain the guard as he forced his way up to the stairs. Since the guard did not move, their shoulders collided, pushing the guard to the side. A red alert flashed in front of his eyes, a warning from the system. The System warned him that he and his faction would get kicked out if he attacked the other players inside the city.

The Giteron Dynasty's guards immediately pulled out their swords, readying themselves for a battle.

"Ignore those fools. It would be best if they attack us first, so we don't have to deal with these people ever again once they get kicked out of the city." Tang Shaoyang's words were for his guards.

Aleesa, Lu An, Zhang Mengyao, Virion, Alton, and Moonsong were ready to fight back. They retracted their action upon hearing the order but remained on guard.

However, Lu An was not the only one who received the warning; the guard also did. When the other guards tried to encircle Tang Shaoyang, and his group, the leader of the guard stopped them

As the group reached the entrance, Tang Shaoyang saw a familiar face. Arnor Ollsen, the noble guy from the Giteron Dynasty, who Tang Shaoyang met earlier at the entrance of the Earth's territory.

"You just insulted the knight of the Giteron Dynasty!" Arnor declared in a strong tone, focusing his gaze on Tang Shaoyang.

"Did I?" Tang Shaoyang raised his right eyebrow. "But I am just stating a fact."

"As expected of a Barbarian. You don't apologize after making a mistake, and you don't have manners." Arnor's gaze became even more intense. "Do you know that by insulting the knight, you are also insulting the Giteron Dynasty? Is this a war declaration from Earth?"

Tang Shaoyang let out a chuckle as he found it funny. "Does that mean if I insult you as a human, I also insult myself because I am a human? If your knights throw an insult at each other, does that mean your knight is also insulting the Giteron Dynasty? Isn't that funny?"

He shook his head as he tried to walk past Arnor. Of course, the guy would not let Tang Shaoyang enter the building after that exchange. Arnor stood right in front of Tang Shaoyang, thirty centimeters away, before their body touched. The guy stared at Tang Shaoyang with an intense gaze and did not bother to hide the emotion. He was angry that Tang Shaoyang dared to make fun of him.

"Can I assume not just the Giteron Dynasty that does not want us to join the meeting, but also the Federation of Allurion?" Tang Shaoyang also saw Ivert, the messenger from Allurion who invited him to the meeting. There were also a few knights from the Divine Church. Maybe because the exchange was entertaining for them, they did not interfere.

Tang Shaoyang felt like he had enough and thought he could use Allurion to get away from Arnor's annoying pester. He felt like if this continued, he might kill Arnor.

"Our duty is to escort Saintess. We don't care what happens between you two!" The knight of the Divine Church replied even though Tang Shaoyang did not speak to them.

"Tch, you surely think highly of yourself, Earth barbarian." Arnor let out a chuckle. "Do you think you can survive on the eleventh floor and above by yourself? You are surely arrogant, even though this is your first time entering the Dimensional Tower. That's right, we don't need Earth in this meeting. You can leave!"

Ivert, who did not wish to get involved, let out a sigh. His eyes kept glancing at Virion and Aleesa because both were an elf. However, he was not in a hurry to interfere as he waited for Tang Shaoyang's response. Deep inside, he agreed with Arnor that Tang Shaoyang was too arrogant for a first-timer.

From the look of the situation, the Giteron Dynasty tried to make things difficult for Tang Shaoyang. He did not want his involvement to make the relationship between the Giteron Dynasty and The Federation of Allurion turn worse. At least, it was not worth an attempt for Tang Shaoyang.

While Tang Shaoyang could endure all of this, not for Lu An. The young man had a short temper, and he had enough that these people kept looking down on his brother. As his anger reached his head, his killing intent spread out. The thick and terrifying killing intent terrified the people around him.

Arnor immediately walked backward, but soon his back hit the stone door. The knights of the Divine Church jumped away from Lu An, and Ivert did the same. The strong killing intent shocked everyone, thinking that a fight would break out.

Tang Shaoyang flicked Lu An's forehead. "I told you not to do anything reckless if you want to follow me. Have you forgotten already?"

"I am just trying to scare these annoying pests. They act high and mighty but get scared over something like this. And look, my method is working. The annoying pest is no longer blocking our path." Lu An shrugged.

Chapter 1027

Lu An had a hidden meaning; it was to provoke Arnor to attack them. If Arnor reacted by attacking them after sensing the killing intent, he could kick not just Arnor but the whole Giteron Dynasty. That was his real intention, getting rid of the annoying guy.

Arnor would not take that action kindly. He was about to burst out in anger, but the stone door opened. Three people came out one elf, a knight in white armor, and a human. The killing intent reached inside, so the three came out to check what had happened.

The human was someone Tang Shaoyang knew, Reinar Thamsen. The guy who helped Tang Shaoyang, but also the reason why he spoke in public that this was Earth's first dimensional tower.

Reinar glanced at Arnor and then looked at the dressed-up Tang Shaoyang. He observed the group, and it did not take him a long time to realize that Tang Shaoyang was more than a mere scout.

Meanwhile, the bearded knight approached the knights of the Divine Church, and the elf approached Ivert. They clearly wanted to know what happened.

"I don't need to ask to know what happened." Reinar let out a sigh and approached Tang Shaoyang. "I apologize on his behalf. I put too much trust in him not to cause trouble."

Tang Shaoyang waited for a while before responding with a nod. "Apology accepted."

"I assume you are not coming as a scout but a representative of Earth?" Reinar asked with a smile. He was glad that Tang Shaoyang was not unreasonable to continue the dispute.

"I am not representing Earth, but the Tang Empire." Tang Shaoyang corrected Reinar. He purposely corrected it to mislead Reinar and the others. If he said that, his words implied that the Tang Empire

had united the Earth while they did not. He was not lying either because he was indeed representing his empire, not the earth technically.

"I see." Reinar nodded. "Since the problem is solved, let's come in. We will start the meeting soon."

Arnor was, of course, not planning to back down so easily, but Reinar threw a gaze at Arnor. The former grinding his teeth, enduring the humiliation. He looked away from Reinar and entered the building.

Reinar told Tang Shaoyang, who came to join the meeting as they entered the building together. None of the leaders from the other three factions came to the meeting. The Giteron Dynasty was represented by the Thamsen Household, and Tang Shaoyang got to know that the Thamsen Household was a Marquis of the Giteron Dynasty. The head of the Thamsen Family led the Giteron Dynasty for this dimensional tower.

Meanwhile, the highest order of the Federation of Allurion also did not attend the meeting. The federation was led by a council, and none of the council members were in this dimensional tower. It was the same for the Divine Church; the Pope gave his authority to the Saintess to lead the church in this dimensional tower. No leader from the three factions attended the meeting.

That was big information for Tang Shaoyang. It told him that his guess was not wrong. The other factions took the Sky Level Tower as a way to nurture their weaker forces. Trial of battle was the best way to hone and train their soldiers, after all. Tang Shaoyang also believed this was the most effective method.

Reinar led them to the area with four tables. Four rectangular stone tables, forming a square with three chairs for each table. "This is Ea- the Tang Empire's table."

"Thank you." Tang Shaoyang nodded and took a seat. Zhang Mengyao took the chair to his left, and Virion took the chair to his right. Aleesa, Lu An, Moonsong, and Marshal Alton stood behind them.

Tang Shaoyang observed the other tables. He did not think that the others would bring more guards than him. Ten individuals stood behind the three representatives, exuding a strong aura. Reinar took a seat next to the old man with the thick white beard of the Giteron Dynasty's table.

Not long after he took the seat, the representative from the Federation Allurion broke the silence and led the meeting. "Thank you for sparing your time to come to the meeting. There's a lot to talk about, but before we get to the main topic, shouldn't we start it with an introduction?"

The federation's representative was a beastman. He did not have fur on the skin, but the whisker and the furry ears were so obvious not to recognize him. He had yellow eyes, yet sharp like a wolf. His voice was gentle and pleasant to her, yet full of confidence.

"My name is Redvers Scovel, Federation of Allurion's Prime Minister VI. I am managing the sixth world of the federation; hence it's Prime Minister VI." The beastman smiled, revealing his sharp teeth. His gentle voice was a contrast to his intimidating outlook.

Redvers was so proud when he told everyone that the federation controlled six worlds. It was as if he was announcing that the federation was the strongest faction among the four.

Tang Shaoyang was surprised by that. Six worlds, it was a tell how strong the federation was by conquering six worlds. The Giteron Dynasty only had two worlds, and he did not know anything yet about the Divine Church.

After Redvers sat down, the old man with a thick white beard stood up. "I am the Giteron Dynasty's representative for this tower. My name is Augusto Thamsen, a Marquis of the Giteron Dynasty." Simple and clear, and then the old man sat back.

It was Tang Shaoyang's turn. He stood up. "My name is Tang Shaoyang, Emperor of the Tang Empire. This will be our first dimensional tower." He followed Augusto's method, which was simple and clear. The stares became even more intense after he announced that he was the Emperor.

Next was Divine Church's turn, and the white-robed figure stood up. She pulled off the hood that covered her features. Behind the hood was silver-white-haired beauty with golden eyes. Her appearance was surely eye-catching, and she had the look of a Saintess; at least, her look gave off that kind of vibe.

"I am the representative of the Divine Church. My name is Marisha, Saintess of the Divine Church for the third world." She smiled, which captivated most of the men around.

However, the womanizer Tang Shaoyang had a slight frown as he looked at the Saintess. Not because the beauty did something wrong to him but because of his absurd high sense, sensing hostility from the Saintess. Not just the Saintess, but he also sensed slight hostility from the other knights too. It baffled Tang Shaoyang because he felt like he never offended the Divine Church. In fact, this was his second interaction with them. There was no hostility in their first meeting, which caught him off guard when he sensed the hostility this time.

Chapter 1028

Tang Shaoyang could tell it was hostility because he received it often when he met the people from the other factions. He could easily detect the hostility, which was masked with a smile. The confusion hit him for a moment, then he tried to think of the cause of the hostility.

'Is it because of the beastmen? Or the elf?' Tang Shaoyang thought Moonsong or Aleesa and Virion might be the root of the Divine Church's hostility, assuming the Divine Church has something against the non-human race. The Divine Church might be a belief that detests non-human races since religion could really have extreme commandments.

"I am grateful for accepting the federation's invitation." Redvers took over the conversation after Saintess Marisha finished. "As everyone knows, there are another twenty-one worlds in this Sky Tower, making it up to twenty-five worlds, including us. We have a lot of competitors, and I am thinking of reducing those competitors."

It was something that everyone was aware of, but no one interrupted Redvers. "First, I want to talk about the alliance. I propose we establish an alliance, no fight between us, as we cooperate in fighting the other worlds. Why an alliance? Because I don't want us, from the same starter city, to fight each other. If that happens, the other worlds may use that chance to destroy our city. If our city is destroyed, we will lose our foothold and might lose our chance to get further to the upper floor."

"Of course, it's not easy to destroy the starter city. Usually, no one has an interest in destroying a city because they have to pay a huge price to destroy a city, but again, if we fight each other, the other worlds from the other cities might use our infighting to destroy our city. In order to prevent that from happening, I propose an alliance. The alliance does not mean we share the resources we got. We are still rivals, and we still compete for resources, but we will use a special way to resolve

the conflict if that happens. This way, we will reduce the casualties. We don't fight to the death if we fight for the same resource."

Zhang Mengyao and Virion observed the other representatives. None of them had any reactions, indicating they should have known about this before the meeting. The explanation was meant for those who were the first-timers for the dimensional tower.

"Before we talk further about the alliance, like how we resolve a conflict for the resources. I want an answer for each of you, whether you agree or not, about the alliance. If you are against the idea of making an alliance, there's no use in continuing the talk. So how is it?" Redvers scanned the others, waiting for their responses.

Arnor Ollsen was the first one to raise his hand. The young man sat next to Augusto Thamsen, meaning he held some responsibility for the Giteron Dynasty's side. "I do agree if three of us, The Giteron Dynasty, The Divine Church, and The Federation of Allurion, establish an alliance, but I don't agree to include the Tang Empire into the alliance. I don't believe they have any use for us if a battle breaks out against the other starter cities. Instead of making an alliance with the Tang Empire, I would rather we look at the other starter cities and make an alliance with them instead. They are too weak to stand equal with us."

Arnor Ollsen was targeting The Tang Empire for sure, but he was not blindly speaking out without reason. His reason was rational, and the fact that Augusto Thamsen did not stop Arnor indicated the old man agreed with Arnor. However, the Giteron Dynasty did not expect how the federation to respond to the objection.

"The Tang Empire will not have any use for the alliance? Can you elaborate more, Sir..." Redvers paused as he looked toward Arnor. Arnor did not introduce himself yet before, so he did not know to whom he spoke.

"My name is Arnor Ollsen of the Duke Ollsen." Ollsen twitched his lips a little when Redvers asked his name. He felt like he was embarrassed even though his family was of higher status than the Thamsen Family. "Do I need to elaborate on why the Tang Empire is useless for the alliance? I think we all know that this is the Tang Empire's first dimensional tower. That means they don't have the same resources as we have. I do believe our magic knowledge, equipment, and skills are more advanced than theirs. They are much weaker than us, and I disagree with establishing an alliance with the Tang Empire."

Redvers nodded, acknowledging Arnor's reasoning. The Prime Minister then glanced toward Saintess Marisha instead of responding to Arnor. "What about the Divine Church?"

"We agree with the Giteron Dynasty, but we don't mind establishing an alliance with the Tang Empire, but we have conditions for them to join the alliance. First, If a battle against the other starter cities breaks, the Tang Empire will be the vanguard whether we are defending or attacking. Second, the Tang Empire had to share fifty percent of what they got from the eleven floors with us. Third, If any of us happens to compete for resources with the Tang Empire, the Tang Empire has to give up the resource. The Divine Church must have priority over the Tang Empire. If the Tang Empire agrees with those three conditions, then the Divine Church agrees to establish an alliance."

Tang Shaoyang looked toward the Saintess with a bewildered look. There was no way he would agree with those absurd conditions, which meant the Divine Church also did not want the Tang Empire to join the alliance. It was just that the Divine Church did not blatantly reject the Tang

Empire into the alliance. If this was the old Tang Shaoyang, he would no longer remain in his seat. He would leave the meeting directly, but that was not how an emperor should act; at least, he thought so.

Tang Shaoyang remained silent as he looked toward Redvers. He did not want to say anything until he heard the federation's response first. If the federation agreed with the other two factions, then there was no reason for him to stay here any longer. He would not join the alliance if there was no benefit for the empire.

"I see." Redvers nodded once more before looking toward Tang Shaoyang with a smile.

"Unfortunately, I have to agree with them, Sir Tang. Are you willing to join the alliance with those three conditions?"

Chapter 1029

Tang Shaoyang kept his mind cool, calm and collected. He quickly realized the invitation to the meeting was about the Tang Empire's subordination to the alliance. Even though none of them did openly say it, the three factions threatened him and the empire indirectly. If he did not join the alliance, that meant they were enemies outside the city, three worlds against one world, three factions against one faction. If the Tang Empire did not agree with the unfavorable conditions, the Tang Empire was making enemies of the alliance.

Tang Shaoyang let out a chuckle. He was so naive to think he could talk his way out to make a friendly relationship with these three factions. He was so naive; the strong did not really care about the weak. The only thing the strong wanted was to take advantage of the weak. They wanted to exploit the Tang Empire in the name of the alliance.

The current situation reminded Tang Shaoyang of when he was still a street thug when he was so helpless when the people above threatened him. The disgusting feeling returned, the feeling where he had to bow his head while suffering. He was put in a situation where he had to agree to those unfavorable conditions.

In the next moment, his smile disappeared, and he looked straight to Redvers. The invitation was not out of goodwill. The federation was meant to humiliate the empire, not to ask for work together, as he thought. The federation wanted to put the empire where the empire was supposed to be as the first timer, as the weaker faction. The meeting was to tell the empire who was the boss in the city.

"Unfortunately.... No, it's not unfortunate, but it's fortunate that I manage to see everyone's true color from the first day." Tang Shaoyang's expression turned somber. "Good to know, and I think this will be the end meeting for our side. We will never agree to such absurd conditions."

Tang Shaoyang stood up and turned around. There was no hesitation for him to make such a decision. As he planned, if things didn't work out for the dimensional tower, he would completely abandon the dimensional tower. He would rather change his focus to something else, no matter how much resource the tower had to offer for them, rather than suffer under these people.

Redvers was surprised by Tang Shaoyang's swift decision. It was out of his calculation that the Tang Empire immediately walked out as soon as the Tang Empire was offered unfavorable conditions. That was not his original plan. The scenario in his mind was that the Tang Empire would try to negotiate the terms. The Tang Empire shared thirty percent of the resources; that was his aim.

"Are you sure about this, Sir Tang Shaoyang? Your decision will not just delay the empire's growth but also make your people suffer." Redvers Scovel tried to speak it out with the Tang Empire. He did not want to miss the free resource from the first timer.

Tang Shaoyang halted his steps and turned his head toward Redvers. "While I was not expecting to be treated like this, I am ready for the worst, and so are my people. As for whether my people will suffer or not, we don't know that yet, no? We will soon find out who will suffer." After saying that, he headed out without giving the others a second look.

At this point, Tang Shaoyang regarded everyone as enemies from now on. Arnor Ollsen was the only one who showed how happy he was and how this turned out. An alliance with the Tang Empire was the last thing he wanted from the meeting, and he had successfully kicked out the Tang Empire from the alliance. He had his own plan for Tang Shaoyang and the Tang Empire.

Redvers furrowed his brow as he did not like the outcome. The Tang Empire now had become a hidden piece that might disrupt his dimensional tower expedition. He did not know how strong Tang Shaoyang was because he could not use any skill, including detection inside the city. He could not measure the gap between them. However, with how defiant and confident Tang Shaoyang was, it further worried him even more.

If this expedition did not go well, he might lose his Prime Minister position. That was the last thing he wanted. 'Since you won't submit, then I will just make you disappear. Getting rid of them might be the only choice right now. Be safe than sorry.'

The meeting continued with just the three factions. During the meeting, none of them mentioned anything about the Tang Empire. The three factions were not bothered by the walkout since they assumed the Tang Empire was a weak force they could ignore.

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"I was not expecting you to be that aggressive." Zhang Mengyao took a seat and commented. She was talking about the Tang Shaoyang confrontation with the guard and the Giteron Dynasty.

"Maybe that's the reason they want to exploit us?" She did not mean to blame Tang Shaoyang for what happened but made a guess why the three factions tried to exploit them.

Tang Shaoyang shrugged his shoulders. "Maybe, but imagine if we appear meek when those guards try to humiliate us? Don't you think we will be treated worse than that?"

The meeting did not go in their favor. However, just like Tang Shaoyang said earlier. It was good to know how the three factions treated them earlier rather than getting stabbed in the back. That was much worse.

Marshal Alton agreed with Tang Shaoyang as the old man nodded in agreement. After returning from the meeting, Tang Shaoyang immediately held another meeting. The meeting was to discuss their next step when the barrier of the starter city disappeared and how they would face the three factions.

"I hope to get information from them about the eleventh floor mechanics, but we fail on that." Tang Shaoyang started the meeting, getting the attention of the others. "We lack information, so we need to get information as much as we can before making our next move." He turned toward Lu An. "I want the Intelligence Division to focus on the eleventh floor for the time being. I want to know

what we can get from the eleventh floor, then we will talk about whether it's worth continuing the eleventh floor expedition after considering the risk."

"Yes, Your Majesty." Lu An replied instantly. Even though gathering information was his least favorite job, he was ready to execute the task given to him by Tang Shaoyang. The thing he wanted to do the most was to assassinate each member from the other factions one by one after what happened earlier, but he held back. Unless it was an order, he would hold himself back from doing so.

"The second thing we need to do is some tests with how strong the other factions are. With how they treated us earlier, a fight is unavoidable against them, so we need to know how strong they are generally. We need a meticulous plan for this one. I need your ideas on how we will find out the other faction's strength. If they are too strong for us, our only choice is to abandon the dimensional tower."

That was Tang Shaoyang's main concern. He could not just come out and fight them out to measure their strength. He was the strongest individual in the empire, so his way of measuring how strong the three factions might not be accurate for his main force. The power gap between him and the Tarrion was too big for him to test out the other factions personally.

"Third, do you think we need to work together with the other factions for the eleventh floor?" Tang Shaoyang raised the third issue. The factions he was talking about were the ten factions from the earth. He really considered working together with the ten factions to defend against the three enormous factions on the eleventh floor. His main focus was the three worlds from the same city instead of focusing on the other twenty-one worlds on the same floor.

Chapter 1030

The starter city's barrier was supposed to vanish in a few hours after the four factions' meeting. Tang Shaoyang himself was waiting for the barrier to disappear as he wanted to find out what he could get from the eleventh floor. That was right; he was trying to explore the eleventh floor by himself.

After the meeting, the Tang Empire decided to send only the Intelligence Division only to explore the eleventh floor. They wanted to avoid a fight. Hence the Intelligence Division was the best division to send out to explore. With their stealth ability, it should not be hard to avoid the other faction's eyes.

Meanwhile, Zhang Mengyao tried to unite the other factions for the eleventh floor. After the meeting, the Tang Empire decided to work together with the other factions. That was the best option since a conflict against the Allurion Federation, the Divine Church, and the Giteron Dynasty was inevitable. If they fought for something, a fight to the death was the only way to solve the issue. So, having more people on their side would be the best.

The tricky one was to find how strong the three factions were. They had not thought of anything to measure the three faction's strength.

Tang Shaoyang leaned his back against the stone wall, closing his eyes while waiting for the barrier to disappear. There was a countdown on the gate, and it was four minutes and thirty-two seconds until the barrier disappeared. As long as there was a barrier there, no one could see anything outside the city. He chose the north gate since that was the closest to the Earth's territory in the city.

Of course, he was not the only one waiting at the gate. In fact, a big force of the Giteron Dynasty was also waiting for the gate to open. Hundreds of knights stood in line near the gate, but silence ensued as no one spoke.

"Look, who is this? Aren't you the scout from Earth?" The mocking voice broke the silence.

There was no need for Tang Shaoyang to open his eyes to find out who was speaking. He knew whose nasty voice belonged to Arnor Ollsen. Arnor should have known already that he was The Emperor of the Tang Empire, yet he still called Tang Shaoyang a scout. It was clearly a provocation.

"Tsk, how can the empire put a deaf as a scout?" The nasty voice rang right next to Tang Shaoyang's ear.

Tang Shaoyang opened his eyes and stared at the young man in front of him, who had a smug expression. Arnor seemed to be very happy, thinking he had managed to screw over the Tang Empire in the meeting. He thought it was his interference that caused the Tang Empire to be put in a tough spot, but Tang Shaoyang was well aware that the federation tried to take advantage of Earth for their benefit from the start.

"I thought nobles would have some noble etiquette, but some are no different than a beggar with no manner." He almost took out his battle-axe in annoyance, but he managed to hold back. It would be a disaster for him if the Tang Empire was kicked out of the Starter City. The three factions would hunt them to level up their Authority.

Arnor's lips twitched a little bit after being called a beggar. That was a direct insult to the descendant of the duke. However, he reminded himself that he could kill Tang Shaoyang outside once the barrier disappeared. He told himself to calm down, refraining from taking out his swords. Both were holding back, and it did not stop Arnor from annoying Tang Shaoyang.

"You surely have a big mouth for someone who is about to die?" Arnor grinned, but the grin froze when he saw Tang Shaoyang laughing at his provocation. "You can still laugh? I think I understand why a madman like you rejects the beneficial offer from the federation. There's something wrong with your head."

"Maybe you should go to a doctor to check if there's something wrong with your head instead. You are the madman to think the federation's offer is beneficial." Tang Shaoyang shook his head while giggling. "If there's nothing wrong with your head. I kinda pity Ollsen Family to have such a natural fool descendant."

"You..." Arnor just could not get used to such a direct insult.

"Will I die? Maybe I will die someday, but will I die in your hands? It will never happen, not even in your dream." Tang Shaoyang grinned at the young man, who was fuming.

The countdown was over, and the barrier slowly disappeared. The noise of the metal gate being opened made Tang Shaoyang turn his attention to the gate. As the barrier disappeared, he could now see outside the city. The gate was connected to the road, and the road led toward the forest.

'Hmmm. I should go to the administrative building first before going outside.' Tang Shaoyang just remembered about the quest. He hoped to clear some quests while exploring outside by himself. He wished to level up The Tang Empire's Authority to level 2, and he might get something useful from

it. The Profession Building, for example. That was his aim, for now, to increase the empire's force as a whole.

'Having a Magic Tower is not bad. Maybe I can create a mage army from a single tower.'

Tang Shaoyang completely forgot about Arnor as he walked out of the gate. As soon as his feet stepped onto the dirt road, he sensed a danger from behind. He activated his movement skill and rushed forward, dodging whatever came at him. He turned around after avoiding the fatal hit on his back and discovered Arnor where he had just stood.

"Tch. I thought they would be hunting me discreetly." Tang Shaoyang clicked his tongue. He was not expecting the Giteron Dynasty would hunt him down openly like this.

"Not bad. You can dodge my sneak attack, but that's because I haven't used my skill yet." Arnor licked his lips as he retracted his sword, eyeing Tang Shaoyang like a predator looking at its prey.

Tang Shaoyang shrugged and activated the detection skill on Arnor. He wanted to know at least Arnor's rank before fighting the guy. Arnor was so confident by himself, and he was afraid that he was facing a Primordial Rank or even Legend Rank.

[Name: Arnor Ollsen; Rank: Epic]

First, Tang Shaoyang expected that Arnor might have some magic tool that would ward off the detection skill. Second, he was expecting Arnor Ollsen to be at least Myth Rank, one rank above him since the guy was from a Duke Family.

Tang Shaoyang thought this was his chance to get rid of the annoying Arnor for eternity. He noticed the knights remained inside the city instead of rushing toward him. He could use a surprise attack and kill Arnor.

'No. This is too easy.' There was something that just did not feel right. He trusted his guts and activated [Spirit Vision]. 'Tch. It seems like everyone is here. Do they want to see me fight against Arnor?'

Tang Shaoyang saw a few groups inside the city, watching him and Arnor. He even found Reinar Thamsen. Reinar did not try to stop Arnor, meaning it was their intention to test him out. Even the Saintess of the Divine Church was also watching him, and a few beastmen were also present.

'It should be fine for me to kill Arnor without using my Integration and Bloodline Transformation... No, I don't want them to know even the slightest of my ability in exchange for a fool's life. They need to pay a high price to find how strong I am.'

Tang Shaoyang smirked and turned around. He did not say anything to Arnor as he flew to the sky.

Arnor was caught off guard, not expecting the Emperor would run between his tail. He was stunned for a moment before starting to give orders to his people. "Shoot him! Don't let him escape!" However, it was too late because Tang Shaoyang had become a small dot in the sky.

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Reinar Thamsen watched the small dot in the sky with a frown. He also did not expect Tang Shaoyang would escape instead of fighting back. Even though Tang Shaoyang came from a weaker world, Reinar felt like he needed to investigate a little bit about Tang Shaoyang. Especially with how confident Tang Shaoyang decided to walk out during the meeting instead of negotiating the

terms with the federation to be part of the alliance. That alarmed him a little bit; there must be something that made the Tang Empire confident to refuse to join the alliance.

"Did he notice?" Reinar muttered in a low voice.

"I don't think so, Young Master. I don't think a mere Ancient Rank will notice our watch, not especially when Young Master Arnor is actively provoking him." The person next to Reinar responded. "I think the Emperor is still hoping to have a good relationship with us even though the Tang Empire is not part of the alliance."

"I hope that is the case." Reinar nodded.

"Should we send a group to tail the Emperor, Young Master? We can afford to send a group of six Ancient Ranks to test him out." The person next to Reinar voiced an idea. "It's still too early for a conflict against the other worlds from the other cities. Since we are in Alliance, there's nothing to be worried about even if we send six Ancient Ranks."

Reinar contemplated for a moment as he glanced toward the direction of the Saintess. He was surprised to find a Saintess here, such a prominent figure from the church; trying to figure out Tang Shaoyang's strength made him curious. Then he recalled it was the Divine Church who suggested the idea of proposing unacceptable conditions for the Tang Empire to join the alliance. It seemed the Divine Church had something against the Tang Empire.

"No. We send three Ancient Ranks, but instead of tailing the Emperor. We should tail the Divine Church instead. It seems the Divine Church wants to kill the Emperor." He pointed toward the Saintess' direction. Ten of the Holy Knights were leaving the city stealthily, following Tang Shaoyang's trail. "We have someone to test out how strong the Emperor is. If the Divine Church can kill him easily, then there's no need to maintain our relation with the Earth's people. In fact, we can target the Earth for Dynasty's third world."