

Armipotent 1051

Chapter 1051: Decision - Part 2

Marshal Alton clapped his hand once he heard everyone's opinion for their next move. Everyone in the room agreed to the war against the Divine Church.

"Good, we are in one thought. The next thing is we will divide our tasks." Marshal Alton then looked at Zhang Mengyao and Kang Xue. Both were the only His Majesty's wives that held a high position to attend the meeting. "I want you two to return to earth to stabilize the situation."

Before Zhang Mengyao and Kang Xue could raise an objection, Marshal Alton went ahead with his reasoning. "As you know. The others in the member list can check, and they may find out that His Majesty has fallen. That's the worst scenario, and I want you two to take care of the potential trouble if that really happens. Because if this becomes a big issue, you are the second person in command that will succeed the leadership. We can't afford for His Majesty's legacy to get destroyed!"

Zhang Mengyao wanted to object, but she had nothing to say. She could not bring any advantage to the army. While she might be the Supreme Commander, she lacked experience compared to Marshal Alton. She was not the strongest individual here, but Marshal Alton and Vice Marshal Moonsong were. Strategy? She lacked the experience of war, let alone coming up with a strategy.

On top of all of that, Marshal Alton was right. The Tang Empire lost its leader, the emperor. The empire needed someone to assume the position temporarily until the next emperor was chosen. The news of the emperor's fall might bring additional chaos.

"Do you agree, Supreme Commander Zhang?" Marshal Alton asked for her decision.

"Yes, I agree. I will return to earth with Division Head Kang Xue." Kang Xue let out a sigh. She really wanted to join the fight, but her role in the empire was too important for her to ignore the potential trouble that might happen to the empire.

"Good. We can be at ease with Supreme Commander Zhang taking over the command of our home." Marshal Alton led the conversation to the next topic, strategy. How they should fight the Divine Church. "I agree with Vice Marshal Moonsong's idea" The old man pointed his finger at Chief Moon. "I want to avoid the frontal battle as much as we can. That way, we can control the flow of the battle and avoid the casualties."

The meeting continued, and it ended an hour later. Zhang Mengyao and Kang Xue retreated to the earth while a big flock of Tarriors entered the Dimensional Tower. The big movement surprised the other factions. Some factions tried to find out what happened, but everything was tight-lipped.

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Saintess Marisha sat behind her table, reading the movement report from his subordinates. She was at ease after receiving the report that the Tang Empire's emperor had died. She became increasingly worried after a squad of Executioner Knights failed to kill Tang Shaoyang. One of the biggest threats for the eleventh floor disappeared, and her only concern was now the federation.

Marisha put the report in her hand and read the new one. She furrowed her brow after skimming over the report in her hand. "It's another late return from the squad that scouts the new area. This is the sixth squad...." She muttered in a low voice.

She then glanced over at the piling report on her left and took all of them. She skimmed over ten reports, and all of them were the same. Returning late was a normal occurrence for scouting duty, but if everyone returned late, that meant there was something wrong.

"Is there someone outside?"

Someone opened the door as a maid entered the room and bowed. "Yes, Saintess."

"Call Captain Ruben for me. Tell him it's an emergency!"

"Yes, Saintess." The maid bowed once more before leaving the room.

Saintess Marisha was kinda annoyed that none of her subordinates noticed the fishy situation happening within the scout teams. It was clear that something had happened, and they needed to send the strongest squad to find out the real situation.

"Everyone is so useless. Can't they use their heads a little bit?" She expressed his annoyance as she tried to read the report in detail.

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Toward the west of the starter city, far to the west

Lu An wiped the blood from his sword before sheathing the sword back. Right before him, five white-clothed individuals bathed in blood with their heads separated from their bodies. He then glanced to the back. There was another pile of bodies with the same attire. Their heads were also separated from their bodies.

The white-clothed was the scout team from the Divine Church. Each of the scout teams was followed by three individuals from the Intelligent Division. Thanks to his anticipation, they managed to track them one by one and killed them all.

"Collect the heads!" Lu An ordered his subordinates before looking at his two assistants, Viona and Yeon Hee. "How far is the next group from our location?"

Marshal Alton's strategy was quite simple. They just needed to eliminate all of Divine Church's forces outside the city, reducing their numbers before the final confrontation. The one Lu An's team just killed was the seventh group, tallying the number to a hundred and forty people. Each group comprised twenty scouts.

"The next group is twenty minutes away from our current location to the north. However, there is an error with our calculation. We missed the timing to intercept the big group. Should we chase the big group, or should we continue with the most effective path?" Yeon Hee furrowed her brows as she read the message relayed by the three individuals who followed the big group from the Divine Church.

"There's no need. Send the message to Sir Alton. We will leave the missing fishes to Sir Alton and Sir Moonsong!" Lu An waved his hand.

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Marshal Alton scratched his nose, ignoring the question from the leader of the Holy Knight. "The leader is Ancient Rank, Five Epic Ranks." Those were the ranks of the notable figures in the group. The old man turned toward Chief Moon. "People start to gather. I want to avoid the big confrontation for now. We should finish this quickly."

"On your mark, Sir Alton." Moonsong nodded.

Chapter 1052: Declaration of War

Marshal Alton shook the sword, throwing the blood that stained his sword. He sheathed the sword back and looked toward his comrade, Moonsong. The two figures stood among the dead bodies of the Divine Church's knights. By the time they finished all the knights off, a crowd had started to gather at the gate.

Marshal Alton and Vice Marshal Moonsong turned around and headed back to the city. "If the Divine Church's knights are mostly on that level, I think the Tarrion can fight them tow in tow, no?" Chief Moon voiced his thoughts after the one-sided slaughter.

The Ancient Rank and the five Epic Ranks stood no chance against the two. They got killed by them within the first minute they started to attack the knights.

"Don't underestimate our enemy, Moonsong. We haven't seen their full force yet." The old man shook his head. If all the knights were on the level, they just fought. The Tang Empire could win an all-out battle. However, they did not know much about the Divine Church. They did not know how strong the Saintess was, and they did not know how strong the knight that always accompanied the Saintess was.

The crowd at the gate opened the path when the two unknown Legend Ranks returned to the city. No one dared to look at Marshal Alton and Moonsong. Whispers spread in the crowd, wondering where the two Legend Ranks came from.

"What's the meaning of this!? Why do you kill the knights of the Divine Church!?" A melodious voice containing anger rang in the air. Another group of Holy Knights led by Saintess Marisha blocked Marshal Alton and Moonsong. "Is this a war declaration from the federation?"

Saintess Marisha immediately assumed the two figures were from the Federation of Allurion. She thought that only the federation was capable of sending two Legend Ranks out. She thought that the federation was showing their dissatisfaction because of their actions, where the God Ranks from the Divine Church meddled in this tower. Never crossed her mind that Alton and Moonsong were part of the Tang Empire because the Emperor was just an Ancient Rank.

Marshal Alton maintained his pensive expression, looking the Saintess in the eyes. "Are you trying to create a misunderstanding to keep your innocence and shift the blame on us? A declaration of war? Didn't you start all of this? You attack our Emperor, and you still have the nerve to say this is a war declaration from us?"

"This is quite disgusting coming from a Saintess," Moonsong added at the end.

Saintess Marisha was surprised to hear the response. She did not expect the two individuals in front of her to be part of the Tang Empire. It was ridiculous that two Legend Ranks served an Ancient Rank. It just did not make sense, but she did not think the two would lie either. There was no point

in the federation to frame the Tang Empire because the Divine Church and the Tang Empire were already at odds.

Marshal Alton released his aura, and Saintess Marisha was caught off guard. She subconsciously moved to the side, further from Marshal Alton. Captain Ruben and his subordinates immediately came forward to protect the Saintess.

There was no further conversation as Marshal Alton and Moonsong walked between the knights of the Divine Church. It did not just shock Saintess Marisha but the people who came to watch. No one expected that the two Legend Ranks were part of the Tang Empire. Who would expect an Ancient Rank Emperor would have two Legend Ranks as his subordinates?

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Saintess Marisha was in a daze for a while. She snapped out of his daze when Captain Ruben nudged her. A deep frown formed on her forehead as she turned around, leaving the crowd behind, as returned to her territory.

The Saintess returned to her room with Captain Ruben following her. She massaged the space between her eyes. "This does not make sense. How come that Ancient Rank heathen have strong subordinates?"

Captain Ruben was Primordial Rank, and she was Myth Rank. Even though she was a Saintess, her level was quite low. She rarely left to raise her level, as most of her work was done behind the table. Of course, Captain Ruben was not the strongest in the Divine Church. There was one Legend Rank High Priest, and also six Primordial Rank High Priests followed her in the expedition. Quite a strong force, but it was still lacking compared to the two Legend Ranks.

"And we don't know if those two are the only Legend Ranks in the Tang Empire." She was frustrated, and deep inside, she blamed the gods. She just did not dare to say it out loud. If not for the Gods' order to hunt the emperor of the Tang Empire, she would not be in such a hard situation.

"Can we ask for more reinforcement?" Captain Ruben voiced his suggestion. He also felt like it would be hard for them to continue their expedition without taking care of the Tang Empire first.

Saintess Marisha shook her head in frustration. "I don't think the Pope will agree. We just lost a squad of Executioner Knights, and this is just Ancient Rank Tower. They will rather put more resources into a higher-rank tower. The reason we choose the Ancient Rank Tower is to train the young knights. We need to recall...." Her words paused as she looked at the unread papers to her left. She finally realized why the scout knights returned late. Those scouts did not return late, but they would never return. The Tang Empire hunted them down as a form of retaliation.

"Let's cease all our activity for now and recall all the knights outside. I am afraid the Tang Empire is hunting them down." Saintess Marisha sent her order to Captain Ruben. "Ah, also call all the high priests for me. We need to talk about the issue right away. We have to find an idea to get out of this tough situation together."

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"Now they find out that we have been hunting their men outside the city." Moonsong walked side by side with Marshal Alton, returning to their territory. "We will proceed to the next plan."

Saint Marisha called up a meeting with the Alliance, the Federation of the Allurion, and the Giteron Dynasty. Since she could not ask the main church to help her with her current predicament, she still had the alliance to help her. She wanted the alliance to side with her to war against the Tang Empire rather than throwing all her resources to kill the Legend Rank.

The Saintess was confident that the other two factions would help her. After all, it was a Legend Rank. Getting rid of the Legend Rank would reduce the competition. The Giteron Dynasty and the Federation of Allurion would be interested in doing that together.

Augusto Thamsen of the Giteron Dynasty and the Prime Minister of the federation's sixth world attended the meeting due to respect for the Divine Church. However, things didn't go as the Saintess predicted.

"I will be blunt; our alliance is not a military alliance, so the federation will not help the Divine Church to fight the Tang Empire." Augusto Thamsen was the first one to give her a response. "The alliance means to solve the competition between us so we will not suffer casualty in case the other starter cities attack us. Your proposal contradicts the main purpose of our alliance."

"It's unfortunate that the federation also can't help the Divine Church to fight the Tang Empire. We are still in the early phase, and I don't want to use my army to fight the faction from the same city." Prime Minister Redvers shot a glance at the Saintess. "Also, you never consulted the alliance to initiate the war against the Tang Empire, and now you want to involve us in the war you started?"

'I am being too naive to think these old geezers will agree with me. Of course, they will not want to help me. They want us to fight at each other, weakening our force so they can take advantage of it in the future.'

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Everything was black as soon as he got his consciousness back. He could not feel, see, or even sense anything. He felt like he was just a blob of consciousness. No hands, no body, no eyes, nothing.

'Where am I?' Tang Shaoyang asked himself.

[Void!]

Simultaneous answers rang in his head. He could still communicate with his spirits despite his condition. All the spirits gave him the same answer, convincing him he was inside the void.

'Is it the same Void Energy that I used early?' The void he knew was the Void of Energy he had just learned by integrating with Zara.

[It's different. You are now in the realm of the dead, where the dead spirit resides. It has nothing to do with my Void Energy.] Zara answered.

'Does that mean I am dead, dead? Now I have to wait for someone to summon me as a spirit like you guys?' Tang Shaoyang paused for a moment before realizing something fishy. 'Wait a minute. If I am dead, dead. How am I still able to communicate with you guys?'

'If I can still communicate with my spirits, then I am still alive? Does that mean [Seven Souls] work?'

[Seven Souls] was a skill that gave him seven lives. At least, that was his understanding because he had no way to confirm the skill. Once he died, he would be resurrected and come back stronger, ten percent stronger. It was an overpowered skill if that was the case, but he had never had a chance to test it out until now.

That was right; the reason he decided to fight to the death against the three God Ranks was a gamble. Instead of running away from the God Ranks, he fought them until death. That was the only way to avoid these God Ranks from hunting him continuously. Eventually, the Divine Church would turn toward his empire if they failed to 'kill' him. So he risked everything with [Seven Souls] and fought the three God Ranks; he fought with everything he had for once.

Tang Shaoyang was surprised that he managed to hold his ground when he used [True Dragon] and the double integration. He thought of killing the God Rank with that, but it still failed. It was not because he did not have the power but because his body failed to contain the power. He lost the fight to himself. His body was not strong enough for the double integration, and also because of the integration with Avyn. As a result, his body disintegrated, and he died.

[Do you want to activate [Seven Souls]?]

Not long after Tang Shaoyang gathered his thoughts, a system notification popped out in front of him. That confirmed his guess that [Seven Souls] worked perfectly. Despite the notification, Tang Shaoyang chose to ignore the message. He did not want to come back right away.

'I have to wait longer. I am afraid they are still there to get my corpse or something. Let's wait to be safe.'

[You have gone crazy trying that!] Rosalie indignantly said in Tang Shaoyang's head. She was quite angry that her master was so reckless to make such a decision.

'I don't have any choices, Rosalie. If somehow I manage to escape from them. If you were in my position, I bet you would make the same decision, no? You were once a ruler too.'

Tang Shaoyang hit right at Rosalie. The former could not refute Tang Shaoyang for that. If she was in the same situation, she would do the same thing. Especially when she had a chance to return alive. She would take the chance and fight the three God Ranks.

[But why don't you return immediately, Master? I am afraid the Divine Church will still target the empire.] Yu, the Ancient Alchemist, who was forcefully returned to the Spirit World, voiced his concern. [Without you, the empire might fall into chaos. People will fight to replace you.]

'Obviously, I can't return to the empire. Even if I want to return, I have to return with a new identity, not as Tang Shaoyang. If the Divine Church finds out that I am still alive, they will send more God Ranks to hunt me down. And I don't know if Gungnir will stay longer or immediately returns, so I can't return now. I am going to wait at least another three hours or even a day before activating [Seven Souls].'

Tang Shaoyang was concerned that Gungnir or the other God Ranks were staying to check if he was still alive or dead.

'But how am I supposed to know how long I have been staying here? It seems there's no concept of time here?'

Chapter 1054: Gamble - Part 2

"Huuu.... A fantastic battle happened here...." Two figures walked into the devastated land where Tang Shaoyang battled Windra and Gungnir. One man and one woman, walking side by side, were inspecting the surroundings. "Which God came this time? Do you feel something, Lulu?"

The man had dark armor and a sword on his back, while the woman was accompanied wearing a mage outfit while holding a staff in both her hands. She inspected the surroundings thoroughly, making not to miss a single under her observation. She raised her right hand at him, telling him not to speak for a while.

"Lightning.... Wind.... Black fire...? Void? And unknown energy...." The mage muttered in a low voice. "This is interesting. Can you watch around, Roman? I want to identify this unknown energy."

"Sure. But please say something if you want to leave the area. If you are a hundred meters away from me, I don't think I can protect you from whatever caused this." Roman nodded as he also looked around, looking for something for himself.

"There's no need for you to worry. Those God Ranks won't return, or else the Divine Lightning will kill them. They stayed too long here, and the System will not take that kindly." Lulu waved his hand.

"But what about those hypocrites gods' enemies? If their enemies could last this long, that means their target is quite strong.... Oopsie, I found something. I will be right back." Roman moved toward the thing that reflected the sunlight. He was pretty sure it was a piece of equipment. In the next second, he arrived before the thing he discovered.

A big blade and a broken battle-ax. The battle-ax shaft broke into three pieces, and the blade cracked. The battle-ax needed some repair, but the big blade was perfectly fine. Roman took the blade without hesitation.

[Titan Blade]

Grade: Myth

Bonus Attribute: +10% of the wielder strength!

Additional Skill: [Mana Breaker]

"Jackpot! I finally got to upgrade my sword." Roman yelled out in surprise, not expecting to find a treasure in this devastated terrain. The reason he came here was under the guild's request, investigating what happened here, but he got a huge jackpot as his sword was Epic Rank equipment.

Roman was about to wield the blade, giving a swing test, but then a hand grabbed the blade. He subconsciously held the blade tightly, not wanting to give up the treasure. At the same time, he looked up at who tried to steal his precious treasure.

A man, butt naked, was right before him, trying to steal his trophy. Roman looked up and found some oddities in this man. The black hair was common, but not the eyes. The left eye was black, and the right eye was white. The pupil was not the human one but a beast, and it was purple in color. He noticed the slit pupil who was oddly similar to a beast.

Roman slowly scanned the body, trying to identify the individual in front of him. The body was well built with packs, and then he saw the vital part which amazed him. Every part of the man in front of him was the same as his, except one part was different in size.

"This is mine!"

Roman then heard the man's voice, containing an aggressive tone. However, he did not let the weapon go. "I found it first!"

"So? I own the blade. It does not matter if you find this first! This is mine!"

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'How long have I been here? Does anyone know?' Tang Shaoyang asked the spirits. He lost all his senses, and he would not count himself how long he had been here. That was a silly thing to do.

[Long enough for those people to leave the tower. I think it's safe for you to leave.] Zara responded.

[Do you want to activate [Seven Souls]?]

Tang Shaoyang activated [Seven Souls], and the first thing that came into his sight was a man inspecting his Titan Blade. He was annoyed that God Ranks, out of nowhere, tried to kill him, and now another person tried to steal his weapon. He reached for the blade. "This is mine!"

"I found it first!" The thief talked back.

"So? I own the blade. It does not matter if you do this first. This is mine!" Tang Shaoyang put more force in his hand, trying to take the blade with force. Before he could take it, a fireball loomed over him. Only then he noticed there was someone else aside from the man.

Tang Shaoyang released the grab from the blade and reached the man's neck. And then he raised the man to the air, putting the man as a shield against the fireball. The man struggled to break free with one hand while holding his treasure.

Roman could feel the heat on his back; the fireball was approaching. It forced him to let go of the blade as he tried to break the grab. He quickly realized that he did not have enough strength to beat the naked man.

"Damn it." Roman cursed as he braced himself for the incoming ball. "I wish for you to treat me to a drink for firing me a fireball, Lulu!" Those were his last words before the fireball hit his back. It exploded as the fire engulfed Tang Shaoyang and Roman.

Lulu prepared the second spell to cover her comrade to retreat. She thought her fireball would be enough to free Roman, but she was wrong. As the fire died down a little bit, it revealed the two figures in the same position. Roman was still in the air, on the naked man's hand. Then she witnessed her friend getting slammed to the ground.

"Kuarghh!"

Tang Shaoyang ignored the man as he picked up the Titan Blade from the ground. There was no hesitation for Tang Shaoyang to go for the second target. He rushed toward the mage.

At the same time, the mage shot her prepared spell, Thunder Strike. As soon as she released the second pull, she retreated and prepared the third spell. However, she was too late for the third spell.

The naked man slashed her Thunder Strike with a blade, and following that, the man teleported right in front of her.

The naked man grabbed her neck and raised her into the air. Killing intent surrounded her, suffocating her. Lulu felt like the death door was right in front of her, and she could tell that the naked man would really kill her without hesitation.

"Release her if you don't want to die!" Roman put the tip of his sword at Tang Shaoyang's neck.

Chapter 1055: Starter City #5 - Part 1

"Do you want to make a bet? Will you kill me first, or will I kill her first?" Tang Shaoyang challenged the man.

Lulu was struggling as the grip became stronger, making her hard to breathe. However, despite being hard to breathe, she secretly sent signals to Roman. She made a mouth movement, speaking without the noise. 'Do it in five....'

"Okay, I will give the blade to you. You can have it, but you release her." Roman tried to negotiate things out while also buying time for Lulu.

'Five....' As Lulu finished the count, a blue barrier was created around her. At the same time, she opened her mouth and breathed out fire. Roman also followed with a quick swing toward Tang Shaoyang's neck.

Roman thought the surprise attack would work, but he was surprised when he sensed his sword met with resistance. A clanking noise rang in the air, indicating his sword was blocked by the blade. Realizing his sword was blocked, he got away from the naked man who was engulfed in fire, retreating five meters away.

"Aren't you going to save your girlfriend?" Tang Shaoyang's voice came out from the fire.

Roman's eyes widened in surprise, seeing Lulu, who was still struggling in the naked man's hand. The naked man received the fire with his body, and yet nothing happened. He was surprised because Lulu was not just using any spell but a dragon tongue spell. The fire was not a normal fire, but dragon fire, yet the naked man was unscathed.

Lulu's struggle weakened as she hardly breathed. Tang Shaoyang slammed the petite woman to the ground with no mercy. The barrier cracked, then he raised the Titan Blade and was about to slash the blade down toward the helpless mage.

"We surrender! Don't kill her! We surrender!" Roman threw his sword away and knelt down. There was no hesitation in his action to surrender. "I will give you everything I have, and I will do anything for you. Please don't kill her! I beg you not to kill her!"

Lulu was not his lover, but there was something else that made him go to this extent to save Lulu. Roman realized that the naked man was much stronger than him, and he deemed it impossible to save her by himself alone. This was the only choice he had.

Roman then heard something fall next to him, followed by coughing. He was about to turn to the side, but then a force pushed his head down. Tang Shaoyang's right foot pushed Roman's head to the ground. "Become my dog, then I will spare yours and your girlfriend's life."

"I am sorry, sir, but she is not my girlfriend. And I don't want to be a dog either." Roman was not upset that someone had stepped on his head. Instead, he was quite calm and relieved that the naked man had spared Lulu. He proceeded with the negotiation.

"I thought you would do anything. Guess I am wrong. Does that mean we have no deal?" Even though Roman did not see it, he could project it in his head that the naked man swung the blade in the air. He could feel the breeze from the swing.

"Yes, I will be your dog as long as you spare her life, sir." Roman gave up the negotiation to get his right as a human and surrendered to the stupid deal. As soon as he agreed to the deal, the pressure on his head disappeared. He raised his head and looked at the naked man, and it put him in an awkward situation because his head was on the same level as the naked man's donger.

"While it's just the three of us, I suggest you dress up, sir." His face looked at the naked man's face, but his eyeballs kept moving between the donger and the face. He just could not resist seeing the big donger.

Tang Shaoyang looked down and realized that he was butt naked. He was not aware that he would be revived without clothes. However, he could not protest about it as it made sense that he was resurrected naked. He flicked Roman's forehead. "Turn away."

Roman followed the order and turned around while secretly glancing at Lulu. The woman was still struggling, getting her breath. He let out a sigh of relief that everything turned out to be alright. At the same time, his mind spun around, trying to figure out the naked man's identity.

'Is he the target of the God Rank? But he is just an Ancient Rank. There's no way an Ancient can fight the God Rank to this extent, and he should not be alive if he fought the God Rank. But he is absurdly strong for an Ancient Rank. The dragon magic also does not work on him.'

"You can turn around now." Hearing the cold voice, Roman obediently turned around. The man was dressed in strange clothes instead of armor. Black thin cloth with another jacket outside and long black pants. It was not something one should wear, not when one was outside the starter city. But then he realized that only meant one thing, the man was confident that he did not need to wear armor.

'Stupid of me. The dragon fire can't even burn his skin. What's the use of armor?'

"What's your name? And where are you from?" Tang Shaoyang looked at the broken Dragon Destroyer in his hand. He was fond of his battle-ax, and it broke apart after the battle against the God Ranks. Not surprised since the battle-ax was not even Epic Rank equipment.

"My name is Roman, and she is Lulu Mistovel. I am from the Starter City #5, and we are part of the Karian Adventurer Guild." Roman answered truthfully. Of course, he replied in detail, hoping the man in front of him got the clue. He threw the name of Mistovel and also Karian Adventurer Guild, hoping the man would recognize the name so he could be freed.

"Lead me to your starter city."

Chapter 1056: Starter City #5 - Part 2

Tang Shaoyang opened the Communication System. The first thing he needed to do was to confirm his safety to the people of his empire. He did not know how long he stayed in the Void Realm, and

he was not aware of the situation back there. He sent the message to Zhang Mengyao, explaining the situation and why he decided not to return.

The reply came in an instant, then his message inbox burst with messages. Mostly from his girls, but he saw Wei Xi, Lu An, Yu Shun, and much more sliding into his inbox. He had no time to reply to them one by one, but he sent one more message to Zhang Mengyao.

First, he handed the empire to her care while he went into hiding. He did not want the Divine Church to find out that he was alive and sent another God Rank to hunt him down. Second, another reason he did not return was that he did not know the direction back to Starter City #4. He ran blindly and went too far, so he did not have a way to return even if he wanted. Lastly, he told her his plan to go to another starter city. The plan was that he wanted to reach Primordial Rank before searching his way back to the empire. He felt like that was the only way to ensure his safety from the God Rank. The second bloodline from the trial would help him a lot in fighting God Rank.

The main concern was that Zhang Mengyao was afraid that another rebellion would arise. The reason for the previous rebellion was that Tang Shaoyang rarely showed himself to the public, making the new people that joined the empire disregard the emperor. She was afraid that the same thing would repeat.

Tang Shaoyang looked up at the bright sky, following the two adventurers. It was not like he had another choice because he really could not show up in public. If the Divine Church sniffed out that he was still alive, it would be worse than the previous encounter. Those God Ranks would know that he had something to save himself from death, and who knew those God Ranks might have something that could prevent his resurrection for the second time.

"He seems in a lot of trouble? Can we take this chance to escape?" Roman whispered to Lulu as they led the way. Even though he agreed to be the dog, there was no contract or oath. There was nothing that prevented him from escaping.

The ash-pink-colored hair Lulu glanced to the back, noticing Tang Shaoyang indeed looked troubled. She was in a different situation than Roman; there was no agreement between her and Tang Shaoyang. She just resented the man for hurting her before, but nothing else. She had a little bit of a grudge, but not to the point that made her want to kill the unknown man. In fact, she was at fault for attacking the man because Roman and the man tried to fight for the blade.

"If you think you can escape from him, then you can go. I think he's strong enough to escort me back safely." Lulu replied and waved her hand at Roman as if Roman was a wild cat, and she tried to chase him away.

"Your father will strangle me to death, and your brothers will hunt me down," Roman replied with a fake frightening expression. "But why do you want to stay with him? He's dangerous. You know that he will not hesitate to kill you if you displease him. I know very well what kind of person this man is."

"If you are done with your discussion, we can pick our pace!" Tang Shaoyang's flat voice interrupted the two adventurers' conversation.

Even though they picked up the pace, it was not possible to reach Starter City #5 within one day, and they had to sleep in the wild once.

"It's best if we look for a safe area and spend the night there instead of continuing the journey. A lot of strong beasts are hunting in the night, and our journey will be delayed a lot more, Boss." Roman suggested taking a rest after a whole day's march.

Noticing the boss frowned, Roman immediately continued. "The time difference is not that much, Boss. If we continue now, we will arrive in the city by tomorrow evening because we have to fight the strong beasts eventually. If we continue the journey tomorrow morning, we will arrive at the city by night without risk."

Roman made a bonfire after securing a safe area, eating beef jerky while looking at his boss in jealousy. His boss was sitting in a strange bed yet looked comfortable, holding a hot meal from the inventory. What made him jealous was the food, the aroma made him get hungrier, and he only had tough beef jerky. With how the man put a distance from him, Roman did not dare to ask for a meal from his boss.

The following morning, Roman looked exhausted. Even though he proposed to get a rest, he did not get the rest. His stomach was rumbling all night, and thanks to that, he did not sleep. They departed earlier in the morning, and as Roman promised, they arrived at the city by night.

Different from Starter City #4, the one in front of him is located in the middle of the grassland. Despite the dark night, the city illuminated the grassland. That was right; the pillar on the city wall glowed brightly.

"We are only the only starter city with five worlds, and we are from Karian," Roman explained as they entered the city. He hoped to find more information about Tang Shaoyang by telling that, wishing to know where Tang Shaoyang came from. However, his effort went futile as Tang Shaoyang did not give the response he wanted.

There was no guard at the gate since the barrier was enough to protect the city from the hostile, and there was no regulation that the players from the other cities could not enter. Tang Shaoyang entered Starter City #5 without any trouble.

"Since this is an early start, there's nothing much outside the world's territory." Roman continued, realizing he did not get the response he wanted. "Do you want to visit Karian's territory?"

Chapter 1057 Karian Adventurer Guild Master - Part 1

Roman explained the situation in Karian, which surprised Tang Shaoyang. Karian was different from the other worlds he knew so far, where only one faction ruled over. Karian had multiple factions, over twenty factions, in fact. Karian Adventurer Guild was one of the biggest factions, the top five factions in Karian.

The world was ruled by different factions, coexisting to help each other. Of course, while some factions worked together, there were some factions that were hostile to each other. It was the same as what was happening on Earth right now, where multiple factions ruled different regions. The difference was that Karian Adventurer Guild had multiple access to nine different worlds.

The guild set up the branches between the nine worlds and grew so big, and yet, the guild still was still weaker compared to the number one and number two powerhouses in Karian, The Holy Kingdom, and the Varuman Empire. The other two factions that were on the same level as the Karian Adventurer Guild were the Mistovel Family and The Karigan Family. Both families were independent factions, but their number was small.

The Mistovel Family was known for their dragon magic and the fact they were dragon's descendants, which made them able to use Dragon Tongue. Meanwhile, the Karigan Family was known for their Martial Arts, and two of the Karigan Family were the top powerhouse in Karian, the Sword God and the Martial God.

Roman was so excited to tell the tale of the Karian to Tang Shaoyang as they headed toward the Karian Adventurer Guild quarter in the city. Since Tang Shaoyang entered the territory with Lulu and Roman, no one questioned Tang Shaoyang's identity even though he looked foreign.

"We have been telling you about our world; why don't you share about your world?" Lulu squinted her eyes at Tang Shaoyang. During the journey, she had been keeping a watch on Tang Shaoyang, especially those purple eyes. She felt those eyes were similar to the ones that belonged to her brother, with just a color difference. Her brother, who inherited more dragon traits, having golden dragon eyes, made her brother the genius of the Mistovel Family. She sensed something similar, but there was a mixed malice energy that confused her.

"My world? There's nothing special about my world. In fact, this is my world's first dimensional tower." Tang Shaoyang told the truth, but he knew that these two would not believe him. They would believe more that he was hiding something from them, which was why he replied so.

Sure enough, Roman and Lulu did not believe him even though that was the truth. It could be seen from their expression. Roman let out a sigh. "While I am inviting you to our territory, our Guild Master wants to meet you. He wants to determine that you are not a threat to the Karian Adventurer Guild."

"Tch, he does not even tell us his name." Lulu did not mind showing her displeasure. She had arrived back in the city, so there was nothing to be afraid of. The city was her turf.

"I understand." Tang Shaoyang ignored the sulking young lady and nodded in agreement toward Roman, showing no aggressiveness to the two compared to their first meeting. He never intended to kill the two adventurers, as his aim was to get to another starter city to avoid the Divine Church.

'Not just that. It seems I have to hide my identity here as well. That Holy Kingdom sounds suspicious. They might be related to the Divine Church, or they might have a connection to the Divine Church.'

Tang Shaoyang's suspicion was not groundless as he found out that he was being hunted down because of Antorias. He heard it directly from Gungnir's mouth that they got information about him from Antorias. Even Antorias, who was known as the God of the Undead, had a connection to the Divine Church, so he could not be careless if he did not want to get hunted again by those God Ranks.

They arrived at the Karian Adventurer Guild quarter. Of course, how Karian's territory filled with buildings showed the disparity of power between his world and the other worlds. He had not visited the Giteron Dynasty, the Federation of Allurion, and the Divine Church, but there should not be that much difference.

Adventurer Guild was not a foreign thing to Tang Shaoyang. This would be his third time encountering an adventurer guild. As he entered the quarter, it seemed the adventurer guild had a similarity. The first floor was a typical open bar where the adventurers gathered and had a drink. He could see the quest board to the right side and the counter bar with a female attendant behind it.

The bustling first floor was not something new for Tang Shaoyang. The other adventurers greeted Roman and Lulu. He understood why the other adventurers were being respectful to Lulu. The woman came from a prestigious family, but it seemed Roman was quite a famous adventurer as well, with how the other adventurers respected him.

Roman showed a proud expression toward Tang Shaoyang, just like a puppy showed off to its master. "I am one of twenty S Rank adventurers that join the guild in this tower."

"Good boy." Tang Shaoyang commended, causing Roman to freeze while Lulu let out a chuckle.

Roman turned around and led the way without saying anything anymore. He realized there was nothing for him to show off, not especially when he was defeated by the unknown man. He picked his pace as he did not want the other adventurers to know that he was defeated by Tang Shaoyang.

The Guild Master's office was on the topmost floor, the fifth floor. Once they reached the door, Roman gestured toward Tang Shaoyang to enter the room alone. "I have told everything what I know about you to my Guild Master."

Tang Shaoyang shrugged because Roman actually knew nothing about him. There was nothing to be worried about. He opened the door and entered the room. By the time he closed the door, he had realized how small the room was for a Guild Master.

A table and a chair before the window, and another set of couches and a table in front of the work table. An old man sat behind the work table, caressing his white beard while having his eyes closed. The old man did not say anything as he kept caressing his beard. Tang Shaoyang shrugged and sat on the couch.

"Who told you to sit?" The old man's voice rang in the room.

Chapter 1058 Karian Adventurer Guild Master - Part 2

"No one." Tang Shaoyang replied with ease.

"Then why do you sit? Don't you know some manners?" The old man opened his murky eyes, meeting Tang Shaoyang's gaze.

"I can say the same to you. You invite me, yet you are ignoring your guest. Don't know some manners, old man?" Tang Shaoyang shrugged. "Since you don't want to talk with me, then I will take my leave."

"Aren't you afraid that my people will hunt you down for disrespecting the Guild Master?" The old man smiled. His voice was calm; there was no emotion in it. However, it was something he was capable of for sure.

Tang Shaoyang let out a sigh and stood up. "Go on. Tell your people to hunt me down." After saying that, he turned around. He did not want to continue the meaningless conversation with the Guild Master. He thought of staying here while achieving his goal, but it was no longer possible if the Guild Master was someone like this old man.

"Please wait, young man. That's just an old man's joke," The Guild Master called out, but he noticed that Tang Shaoyang did not stop his steps. "I apologize for testing you. I just want to confirm whether you are the person that was hunted by those nasty God Ranks or not, and I get the answer."

Deep inside, Tang Shaoyang wanted to stay and have a talk with the old man. However, he did not want to fall for the trap; at least, he thought so. Again, he did not know if the old man related to those God Ranks or not. Antorias' involvement in his predicament made it hard to trust anyone despite the temptation.

"Don't you want to know the identity of the person who tried to kill you, young man? Even though I can't be compared to those God Ranks in power, I have the information you want. Why don't we start a fresh conversation from the beginning?"

Tang Shaoyang had already opened the door. However, instead of leaving the room, he closed the door and returned to the couch once more. He had a smirk on his lips, but of course, he had his reason to stay. He kept his Dragon Sense up and sensed that the old man did not have malice toward him. In fact, he sensed anxiousness when he was about to leave, and he felt the sincerity in the old man's emotion.

The old man stood up from the chair and let out a chuckle. "It seems you have succeeded in tricking me." He shook his head and sat on Tang Shaoyang's opposite, offering his hand toward Tang Shaoyang. "My name is Gortham, Karian Adventurer Guild Master for the ninth main branch."

Tang Shaoyang reached the old man's hand. "I am Ying." He replied with a fake name.

However, the experienced Gortham immediately realized it was a fake name. There was nothing he could do, and he understood why the young man in front of him was using a fake name. The old man caressed his beard once more. "I am sorry for earlier. I don't mean to be rude to my guest, but I just want to confirm if you are the person that those God Ranks aimed for."

"Even though you are not being honest with me, I know you are their target." The old man continued. "How? Because I don't see the fear or hesitation when I say that my guild will hunt you down."

That was the Guild Master's aim. Seeing that the young man showed no fear when he said the guild would hunt the young man, he immediately got the answer he wanted. The young man fought the God Ranks and survived, so why would he be afraid of his guild in the Ancient Rank tower. That was how the old man determined the young man in front of him was the target of the God Ranks.

"If I recall correctly, there are a few God Alliances that are still hunting." Gortham kept caressing his long beard, keeping the secret of why those God Alliances were hunting people from the lower realm. "The Underworld, Abyss, Hades, Nirvana, The Celestial, and The Holy Sanctum. Those six God Alliances are known for their nastiness, going down to the lower realm and hunting people like you."

Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brows at the word God Alliance. "What do you mean by God Alliance?"

Gortham paused for a moment and stared at Tang Shaoyang in surprise. The fact that the young man did not know what God Alliance was surprised him. "I see, so you are the latter." The old man came to a realization. "There are only two reasons for them to hunt you. First, you offended them. They are quite prideful, so if you offend them, they will hunt you down. Second, they hunt the people from the lower realm if they find that you might be a threat to them. If they determine you as a threat because of your ability, they will not hesitate to kill you even if they have to break the

system's rules. Since you know nothing about the God Alliance, it means you have something they fear."

Gortham's face gleamed brightly. "This is interesting. It makes me curious about what you have for them to hunt you down. There are a few speculations in my head since this is not the first time, but what makes them fear you even though you are just Ancient Rank." The old man scanned Tang Shaoyang from top to bottom.

"I bet you have something scary with the fact you don't die even after facing the God Rank." The old man waved his hand with a big smile on his face. "This is good for me, actually, so you don't need to worry about me betraying you. The Adventurer God Ranks also have our own alliance, The Adventurer. Most of the adventurers who achieved the God Ranks, including the other adventurers from the other worlds, join The Adventurer Alliance. We have our own alliance, and we stay away from those nasty alliances that keep meddling with the lower realm. The fact that I can befriend someone like you will benefit The Adventurer in the future if you can reach God Rank, of course."

"Don't worry, I am not asking you to join The Adventurer, but we hope to befriend someone like you. Just say it is no risk investment from us, and I think I know why you come to this city. You want to continue to explore the eleventh floor under a new identity, right? The Karian Adventurer Guild can help you with that."

Chapter 1059 God Alliance - Part 1

Tang Shaoyang's frown deepened. It was too good to be true, and he could not take the old man's words seriously. Of course, his Dragon Sense only found sincerity behind the old man's words. There was no malice but genuine excitement after knowing his situation. It was weird, but he understood the old man's intention, making a connection with him.

"There's nothing free in this world. What do you want in exchange for forging a new identity for me." Even though he tried to hide the fact that the God Ranks came down for him, the old man found out about it already by himself. Instead of hiding it, he tried to make a deal.

"As I said, I just want to befriend you. We ought to help each other as a friend, no? You are in a difficult situation right now, so I can help you. However, if the Karian Adventurer is in trouble, I hope you can help us too." Gortham smiled, showing his teeth. "Since you can escape from the God Ranks. I believe you are in the top hundred strongest in this tower. I think you can be a big help to the Karian Adventurer Guild?"

"Top hundred? Not the top ten?" Tang Shaoyang blurted out. He just fought the God Rank, the highest rank that was available in the system.

The old man laughed at the bold claim while shaking his head. "You are overestimating yourself. There should be hundreds of people who could escape from the God Ranks. I am talking about escaping, not fighting tow in tow."

Gortham raised his right hand. "Please wait for a moment. I will ask my people to issue a new identity for you." The old man communicated with his people, looking at the screen that was invisible to Tang Shaoyang. It was not long, less than a minute, before the old man focused back on his guest.

"Why don't we continue our conversation while waiting for your Adventurer ID?" Gortham's hand moved to his beard and started to caress his beard once more. "However, I become even more

curious about what you have for those God Ranks come after you. It must be more than a mere artifact. Can you give a clue?"

Tang Shaoyang was in a dilemma. He did not mind giving a clue and let the old man make a guess for himself. However, this was a trust issue. He also wanted to make a connection with a force from the other world, but he did not want to share the secret with someone he just knew.

"Come on, I am not asking for a specific thing. I just want to know whether it has anything to do with your class, your talent, or even your bloodline." The old man's eyes turned sharp when he mentioned those three. He tried to find it based on Tang Shaoyang's expression, but there was no reaction from the young man.

"Hmmm.... It's about the class, huh!?" Gortham closed his eyes as a few classes appeared in his mind. "There are five classes that I know those God Ranks fear, but let's stop talking about it since you are uncomfortable. Let's find out who wants you to die. If you can give me the names, it will be easier, but if you don't know their names, then you can tell me about their ability. It should not be hard to find them, but it takes longer. I believe you want to pay them back, right?"

"That's perfect. I overheard their conversation, and I know them all." Tang Shaoyang was glad that Gortham did not dig further into his secret.

"What? Three? They sent three God Ranks just for you?" Gortham was surprised that three God Ranks failed to kill or capture the young man. He realized that the young man in front of him had more potential than he thought.

"Yes. One of them is actively chasing me, while the other two seem to focus on the lightning that comes after them. Isn't that how those God Ranks operate?"

"This is more interesting than I thought. Can you tell their name?" Gortham seemed to be more excited the more he found the actual situation.

Tang Shaoyang could not tell what excited the old man, but he had not sensed any malice from the old man yet. "Gungrir with lightning dominant ability, Windra with wind dominant ability, and Lasius with a bow."

"Ah," The old man clapped his hand. "They are from Nirvana Alliance. They establish themselves as the God of humanity, creating absurd religion in many worlds. But this is weird; I don't sense any demonic energy from you.... Those people only come for the people affiliated with the demon or undead."

"What about Antorias?" Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow deeper. "Antorias, the God of Undead. I overheard they knew about me from Antorias, who tried to wreak havoc in my world, but I defeated him before he could do that? Does Antorias also part of Nirvana Alliance?"

"Huh? Antorias also has his part in your predicament? This is weird. As I said, those God Ranks from Nirvana love to pose themselves as True Gods that will lead humanity even though they are just humans with more power. Antorias is the God of the Undead, so he should be their enemy instead.... Wait, Antorias is part of Abyss if your information is shared by the Abyss. It means you have something that both sides feared." Gortham realized he had narrowed down what Tang Shaoyang possessed that scared the God Ranks.

Tang Shaoyang's value increased a lot in Gortham's eyes, and he realized that if Tang Shaoyang could really reach God Rank, then this young man could really help The Adventurer in the God Realm.

"If that's the case, you really need to hide your identity until you reach the same level as them. If you have something Abyss and Nirvana feared, that means you might have something the other four God Alliances also feared. In the worst scenario, the other God Alliances might also want you dead. However, Ancient to God Rank, that will take years, if not hundreds of years."

"You have a rough path ahead of you, but I can help you with the small things. The Adventurer alliance will not get involved unless you are part of the Adventurer Guild. However, it seems you are already part of another faction, so the only thing I can help you with is the small things you need for your survival. If the six God Alliances discover your real identity and catch you, we will pretend that we don't know you."

Chapter 1060 God Alliance - Part 2

Tang Shaoyang squinted his eyes, observing the sly old man before him. The old man wanted to be friends with him and assumed he had a big future ahead. However, Tang Shaoyang could tell this meant a business deal more than anything else. If the six God Alliances mentioned earlier were involved, the old man would not stick with him, which has the opposite meaning of being a friend.

The old man wanted to be friends with the future Tang Shaoyang. Tang Shaoyang, who achieved the God Rank, not the current Tang Shaoyang. That was what the old meant by no-risk investment. It was not hard to understand the old man's stand; not something he should be upset about. That was how the world worked.

"Then you have the deal, Old Man Gortham. I will help the guild within my capability, but I will not risk my life for the guild." Tang Shaoyang agreed to the friendly deal with the Karian Guild Adventurer.

Gortham was astonished for a moment before he quickly understood what Tang Shaoyang referred to. The old man smiled. "That's the deal."

"Then, while waiting for my guild card, can you explain more about the God Alliance?" Tang Shaoyang did not really care about their future relationship. The thing he worried about the most right now was the potential that the God Ranks kept hunting him down. Even though he could not do anything to these God Ranks, he still wanted to know more about them, preparing for the future.

'He doesn't know about the God Alliance, which means his faction does not have a God Rank yet. However, the fact that Nirvana and Abyss work together for him is proof that he does really have the potential to be a threat to the God Ranks. It might be possible that this young man comes from a new realm, meaning this is his first Dimensional Tower.'

"Since you know about the God Rank, then I have to start it with how being a God Rank." Gortham smiled. "You should be aware by now that you have to pass a trial to reach the next rank, right?"

Tang Shaoyang responded with a simple nod.

"The same with the God Rank, but it's a different trial. I can say that the System is more than cruel for the last trial to reach the God Rank. The Demi God Rank that qualified for the trial will face each other, killing each other in order to reach the peak, the God Rank."

Tang Shaoyang was not surprised by that as he already knew about that from Avyn. However, Avyn did not know the origin of why the other God Ranks were hostile to the Spirit Contractor Class. It could not be explained except that the class was too strong.

'Huh?' Gortham was surprised and confused as he did not see any reaction from the young man. There were two possibilities why the young man kept his expression flat. First, that was his nature, cold and unfazed. Second, the young man already knew about the last trial despite being Ancient Rank which was absurd considering the young man did not know anything about the God Alliance and the God Realm. 'I can't really read him.'

"Once you achieve The God Rank, there's a realm where every God Rank can travel, and it's called The Realm of God. As its name refers to, it's a realm where the God Ranks gather. That's the place where an alliance between God Ranks forms. In the end, it's the same with our world, but the scale is much higher. They fight for resources up there, for artifacts, for their belief, for their pride, and to keep themselves alive. Hence God Alliance is formed." Gortham explained. That was the simple way to explain the God Alliance.

As Gortham said, it was the same with the faction in their perspective worlds. The faction was the alliance, and the dimensional tower and territory were the resources they fought for.

"You want to know more about the God Realm, huh?" The old man shook his head with a smile on his face. "That's the only information I can share with you. You need to find out anything else by yourself, like what kind of place God Realm is. Unless you have a solid reason for me to share it with you. Anything about God Realm has nothing to do with you being hunted by The Nirvana and Abyss, so telling you about the God Realm does not really help you with your current situation."

Tang Shaoyang shrugged and took out the broken Dragon Destroyer. "Since you don't want to tell me about the God Realm because it does not help me with my survival, you can help with this, right?" It was just another word telling the old man that he wanted to help to repair the Dragon Destroyer. Again, even though he had a better weapon, he was fond of his battle-ax. That was his first weapon, and he still wanted to use it.

"That's your aim, huh?" Gortham took the broken battle-ax. He could not identify the weapon's grade, but he could tell the quality of its material, and he found something that amazed him. He could tell the mix of the dragon scale on the blade. That surprised him to find a weapon made of dragon scale. "I can help you repair your weapon, but I don't think we have the right material for it. Dragon Scale is not something you can easily find, and no one is crazy enough to sell such precious materials." Gortham handed back the Dragon Destroyer.

"Can't it be repaired with different materials? It does not have to be Dragon Scale, but maybe materials at the same level of the Dragon Scale or slightly lower than dragon scale." Tang Shaoyang was reluctant to part with his battle-ax. He would do anything for it to be repaired. Of course, he could save it for now and ask the dwarves to repair it once he returned. However, it would take too long. "The price does not matter. I can afford it."

"It's a pity to add other materials to repair it, why don't you make a new one instead? We have a good blacksmith, and it should not be hard to make something similar." Gortham offered a different option.