

## Armipotent 1181

### Chapter 1181 Skill But Not Skill

Tang Shaoyang caught the scroll and read the content. The oath was exactly what the woman told him, if he decided to join they had to help each other, share information, must keep the secrecy about the alliance, not leak the member's identity, and so on. The oath was forced to help the other God Ranks that needed help with his best, which was reasonable. He could not just join and just expected help from the others and refused to help the others by saying: "I am not capable of this and that."

However, there was the last point that caused his expression to turn cold. There was the condition, he must fulfill two favors from each member of the White Mystery. Meaning, he owed two favors for each member and could not refuse their request. Even though the point said the request was not something unreasonable such as leading him to his demise, but he must, the word "must" was important, meaning he could not refuse the favor. In the end, it was the same as an order from his superior. It was no different than him being their subordinate, but they worded it nicely with a favor, thinking that could trick him to take the oath.

The Chaos Fire burst out from Tang Shaoyang's hand, burning the scroll. He looked at the mysterious woman, "It's indeed too good to be true. I will pretend I have never heard about this White Mystery. That's my answer."

"Fool! Do you think you can survive the God Ranks that are after you!" The mysterious woman raised her voice. She was clearly upset that the scroll was burned. Not that the scroll was a precious scroll, that was just a normal scroll, not valuable. However, she was upset by the way Tang Shaoyang rejected her, the blatant disrespect despite coming here to help him.

"That's not my problem, not yours. I think you are crossing the boundary between us. I don't need your pity! And I will not become your slave!" Tang Shaoyang replied coldly.

"Fool! You are so foolish For someone who relies on his skills, you are so foolish to reject the invitation! You will regret this, Tang Shaoyang!" The mysterious woman's figure slowly faded before she completely disappeared.

That baffled Tang Shaoyang for sure, especially when the woman talked about the skills. The skills were akin to a blessing from the system, making him capable of what seemed impossible before. He did not understand why she said such nonsense.

[I think I understand what she means. Have you tried to use your skill without activating the skill?] Karoen suddenly spoke in his head.

That was a confusing statement, using a skill without activating the skill. That threw him off, "What are you talking about, Karoen?"

[Let me give you a simple example. There's a skill called fireball, but you can perform a fireball without learning the skill. That's what it means to not rely on your skill, I think.]

"Do you mean that I have to learn to use [Blink] without activating the skill? What's the difference? Also, what's the point?" This got Tang Shaoyang confused even more. Activating the skill was a

shortcut, the easiest way to use an ability. The thing he needed to put up at another level was his control over his skill, at least that was what was in his mind.

[It indeed will cause you some inconvenience for Blink because what you need is a short activation, but if you use it as a skill, there's a cooldown, no? What if you can use Blink without a cooldown?]

Tang Shaoyang was struck with a realization. If he could learn Blink without activating the skill, the cooldown would not apply, meaning he could use Blink continuously. The only time he needed to use Blink continuously was in the fight against the God Ranks. What if he could use it without a cooldown, he might have a chance to kill one of the God Ranks.

[Or maybe Thousand Blast skill. You can control the destructive power of your blast if you can use it without the skill. If you don't want to kill your opponent you can reduce the power, or you can maximize your strength if you want to crush your enemy into pulp. Another thing is Mana Shroud or is it Divine Cloak now? You have good control over your Heavenly Energy, so that should be easier for you to learn. You can add a twist to the skill, like making a flow on your energy, so it will not just block the attack, but also reflect the attack. If you explore more into it, I believe you can do a lot of things with that skill.]

[There are so many variables for some simple skills but useful. That's the advantage of learning the skill manually. But yeah, the biggest advantage of learning the skill manually is the cooldown. It is hard, especially for you who have no basics, but I advise you to learn using an ability without the skill. Of course, for some skills, you can't learn them manually like your Spirit Integration, Spirit Fusion, and a lot more about your Spirit Contractor's skills.]

That was a good thing to know, but as Karoen said, learning the skill manually was very hard. He lacked the foundation, and he did not know where to start. The basic thing like Divine Cloak might be easier to learn, but for something like Blink and other movements, steps would be hard.

"Does it work like the Nine Heavenly Gates?" Tang Shaoyang realized that the thing he learned from the Nine Heavenly Gates was similar to what Karoen told him. They were abilities but not skills. There was no notification from the System that what he learned was a skill, "Maybe the basic thing was the innate energy? Let's explore it slowly later. Our focus will be climbing up the tower for now. I am still far off from the God Rank anyway."

He was currently Myth Rank, there were three more ranks above him before he could participate in Astral Battle. Then he needed to gather at least ten God Shards to advance. From his progress, the next trial should be at level 6000.

"Are you done talking with your spirits and ready for the twelfth floor?" Rosalie asked from the side. She had been listening to the monologue for a while and barely understood anything.

"Alright, my Empress, let's head to the twelfth floor," Tang Shaoyang let out a chuckle.

[Do you want to teleport to the Twelfth Floor? Yes/No?]

## Chapter 1182 Twelfth Floor

Tang Shaoyang blinked his eyes, surprised at what was in front of him. The moment he tapped yes, he was teleported. He was now on the top of the stone platform, inside a building that was similar to

the temple. He assumed the temple because he saw people dressed as priests, many of them. Their appearance attracted the attention of the priests in the hall for a moment before they continued whatever they were doing.

"Welcome to the City of Tarkon, Player from outside the tower," A priest with a white robe and three red stripes on his waist approached and greeted them with a slight bow.

"How do you know we are players?" Tang Shaoyang returned the greeting with a question. He could be the native too, but it seemed the priest was prepared with the question.

"Because, we, the natives of the tower, could not move between the floors unless the players brought us with them. So, only the player can move between the floors."

The priest answered patiently with a smile on his face, "Do you have more questions, Sir?"

Tang Shaoyang felt weird about the way the priest talked to him. His tone is calming and pleasant to hear. That weirded him out for sure, "No." His answer was short yet clear.

The priest nodded his head, "Then I will lead you to the temporary lodging until you find your place to stay, please follow me. Tarkon City...."

The priest told them what kind of place Tarkon City was. The city was known as a battle fortress because the city was neighboring the Territory of the Beast Kingdom and also the Demon Kingdom. The human had been in a war with the two races. It was just the three-way wars, human, demon, and beastmen. The war had been ongoing for almost two hundred years, and they were in a war until now.

The priest then explained how the Players could climb to the thirteenth floor, the most important the priest told him so far. There was a system called Tower Coin. He could gain Tower Coin by killing the Beastmen and the Demon. One million Tower Coin for access to the thirteenth floor. Of course, access to the thirteenth floor was not the only thing that could be traded with Tower Coin, but many other things.

The priest told him about the resources, artifacts, and more. The resources, he or his faction could not buy the resources permanently, but they were given a certain amount of time to access the resource. For example, Tarkon City has a Grade IV Iron Mine, and they could exchange the Tower Coin to have their people mine the iron for a certain amount of time. Or the faction could also buy such a war mount. The Tarkon City bred a war mount called Steel Horse. As its name implies, the horse had a steel skin which boosted the horse's defense. And more things could be traded with the coin.

The war mount was indeed quite tempting for the factions to build up their army. Of course, fighting the demon and the beastmen was not the only way to earn Tower Coin. There was an organization called Player Guild. The players could work there to gain Tower Coin as the native often posted a request, from menial requests to escorting requests posted by the native merchant.

There was a whole system established on the twelfth floor, much more organized than the first floor. The introduction here was also very clear. The priest explained the thing they needed to know as they arrived at the house.

"The temple will provide free lodging for seven days, that's including your three meals a day. After seven days, you have to pay for the lodging and the food," The priest added as he unlocked the house with the key.

"Is there a chance for us to be teleported to the beastmen territory or the demon territory?" Tang Shaoyang asked. That was important for sure.

The humans had been at war against those two, and if they were teleported there, that was the same as a death sentence. That meant he needed to find a way so his people could be teleported to human territory. He would forbid them to go to the twelfth floor if that was the case until he figured out how to be teleported to the human city.

"Ah, don't worry about it, Sir. It's the war of the native, so they will not attack the players on their own unless you attack them first. We are aware of the consequences of angering the players, and we don't want to attack the players. So if the human player gets teleported to the demon territory or the beastmen territory, they will get the same treatment as you, Sir. We will also give the same treatment to Demon Player or Beastmen Player that come to our city." The priest entered the house and handed the key to Tang Shaoyang.

"However, you still must be careful even if you are in human territory, Sir. While we, most of the natives have accepted the tower as our home, not all of us have the same idea. There is a group that still wants to get out of this tower, and that group might be hostile toward the players. You should be careful of that group, Sir."

"Do you have more questions for me, Sir?"

Tang Shaoyang shook his head, storing the key in his inventory. The key was not that important because he saved the valuables in his inventory. He did not need to worry about the thief.

"Then I will take my leave. If you have more questions, you can find me or ask the other priests. Enjoy your rest, Sir," After that, the priest left the house.

Tang Shaoyang was relieved that the native was not hostile to such a setting. He had encountered the same setting before in the first ten tutorial floors, minus the Tower Coin. There was also a hostile group against them, so it was not a surprise for him.

However, there was a fishy thing behind this war. The demon and the beast welcomed the players regardless of their race, but there was a big chance that there would be a clash between the players. Especially when the players chose to enlist to fight in the war. The easiest way to obtain the Tower Coin was by killing the native, after all.

## Chapter 1183 Mercenary Tang - Part 1

"What do we do now? Focus on climbing up to the tower, or do you want to do a bit of exploring?" Rosalie asked, taking the seat next to the window. The house was in the temple district, so there were not many people outside aside from the priest.

"If we want to explore more, the Player Guild will be a better choice for us. If we want to climb up faster, enlisting as the mercenary in the frontline will be a better choice. I am fine either way."

Completing requests from the native would give them the chance to explore other areas and cities. The priest said that each city had different resources, meaning they could exchange the Tower Coin

for the thing this city did not have. They could even go to the Demon and Beastmen's territory if they decided not to be involved in the war.

However, the war was where the resources Tang Shaoyang needed the most. The war was the source of his level, the only way for him to level up faster. The decision was obvious, the war.

"We will join the war. What I need is not the resources, level. I need to reach Legend Rank faster," Tang Shaoyang made the decision, "But if you want to explore the tower, you can wait for Zaneos and Zowen. Though I am not sure if you can meet them right away."

"No, I will follow you whatever your decision is. The boss floor is not strong enough to force me to use my bloodline transformation, so I am looking for more opponents to test my actual strength," Rosalie shook her head. She did not really care about exploring the tower. The thing she wanted the most was to help him, doing whatever she could to lessen her burden even if it was just a little.

"Then we have decided to enlist," Tang Shaoyang did not ask Lu An. That little brother of his would follow him for sure. That was the reason Lu An followed Rosalie to meet him. If Lu An wanted to explore the tower, he would be doing it by himself already.

Tang Shaoyang ended up taking out the key for the house once more, "That means we have to return the key again." To enlist, they had to meet with the Union. The Union was the replacement of the government for the human, it was similar but also different, and Tang Shaoyang did not bother to find more information about this Union. He just needed to know that this Union was the entity that governed the human side, there was no need to get involved further unless it was needed.

The group of three headed out to meet with the priest, asking the way to the Union Office while at it.

"This is the recommendation letter from the temple. They will know that you are the player with this, and it will make things easier for you. Please don't lose the letter, Sir." The same priest gave Tang Shaoyang an envelope with an intricate seal on it, "I will have a young priest to lead you to the Union Office."

The priest came over to the priest that just passed by, instructing the young priest to lead them to the Union Office. It seemed the red stripe on their robe indicated the rank among the priests. The young priest did not have the red stripe on his robe. There were other priests with one or two red stripes, and there were none with four stripes.

The young priest led the group out of the temple district. The people were respectful to the priest even though he was just a young priest. They greeted the priest with a slight bow and smile. Walking through the paved street, passing by the medieval type of building, they arrived in front of the five-story building. The big sign and golden word "Union" on it was a clear indication that they had arrived in front of the Union Office. The young priest bowed his head and then left them.

Tang Shaoyang opened the door and entered the office. There were two security guards, wearing full plate armor and a sword on their waist right to the next door. They had their hands forward and questioned Tang Shaoyang, "Who are you? What do you need in the Union Office?"

There was a long counter, divided into five sections with five clerks in each section. They were supposed to talk with the clerk, but it seemed the guards found them suspicious of their outfits and

stopped them at the entrance. The guard's voice was not that loud, but clear enough for everyone in the lobby to shift their attention toward the entrance.

Tang Shaoyang took out the recommendation letter from the priest as that would solve the problem faster, "We are players. The priest who received us told us to come here if we want to enlist."

The security guards' faces flashed with surprise. It was a surprise because Tang Shaoyang and his group were the first group of players. The guards scanned the group, three people and two pets. One of the guards frowned, suspicious of the group. It was known that to climb up to the twelfth floor, the players had to defeat the boss-level monster and its minion. The guard found it hard to believe that three people defeated the boss. However, the recommendation letter was proof that the three were players. The seal was real, no one could copy the unique seal made by the temple.

The suspicious guard looked at his friend, "Wait here. I will lead them to Manager Fier." The other guard nodded.

"Please follow me. You are the first group of players in the city."

Tang Shaoyang followed the guard to the third floor through the wooden stair. They arrived in front of the door with Manager Fier's sign on it. The guard knocked on the door three times, and a man's voice came out of the room.

The guard led them to the room, and inside, there was a man that looked like in his mid-forties, scribbling through the paper. Hearing the sound of the door opening, the man raised his head, pushing his glass up a little bit to see his guests. He looked surprised when the guard came to him.

"They are the first group of players who arrived in our city, Sir."

The look of surprise was replaced with an understanding, nodding his head, he stood up from the chair, "I will take care of the rest, Guard Noyo." The guard bowed, then he left the room.

Manager Fier smiled at Tang Shaoyang, gesturing to them to take a seat on the comfortable couch while he took a seat on the opposite.

"My name is Fier, General Manager of Tarkon Union," He introduced himself with a polite smile, "If you are here, does that mean you want to enlist as the mercenary?"

"Yes," Tang Shaoyang replied, short, nodding his head.

"Before we start with that, can I see the recommendation letter from the temple? Is not that I doubt your identity as a player, but it's rare for three players to defeat the boss. Also, it's the nature of my job to ensure you are safe to enlist."

## Chapter 1184 Mercenary Tang - Part 2

Manager Fier read the letter and nodded. He gave the letter back afterward, "You can hold it if you want. That can be handy if someone doubts your identity as a player."

"Then let's proceed with how to enlist. Without a doubt, we need your help in the frontline to fight the demon and the beastmen, but we have a procedure for recruitment. It will not affect your plan to enlist, but it may affect your earning."

"You can show your rank to us, and we will determine your mercenary rank to determine your pay. For example, if you are an Epic Rank, you will be promoted directly to an Elite. You will get paid one hundred Tower Coins per hour as an Elite as long as you are on duty in the frontline. Of course, if you don't want to reveal your rank to us, you can start at the bottom as the Rookie. There's no hourly wage for the Rookie, but you can raise your rank based on your contribution on the battlefield."

There was no need for Tang Shaoyang to ponder as he directly made his decision, "We will start from the bottom." There was no way he would show his information to these people. Especially when there was a group of people that were hostile to the players.

There was a reason for the native wanting him or the other players to reveal their rank. It was because the System did not bestow them with Detection Skill, a skill that was exclusive to the player. Manager Fier did not know Tang Shaoyang's rank right now, and Tang Shaoyang wanted to remain that way. Of course, he understood why The Union wanted to know his rank. That way The Union could station them at the right place.

Manager Fier nodded understandingly and took out three wooden badges with the word Rookie on them, "These are the badges. You need the badge to keep updating your contribution. Please drop your blood on it, and it can be proof of your identity as well."

Tang Shaoyang followed the instruction, biting his thumb, and he dropped the blood on the wooden badge. The badge absorbed the blood, and his name appeared on the badge. Lu An and Rosalie followed after him.

Manager Fier briefed them on how the mercenary system worked for the Union. They were paid based on their contribution, and the way to contribute was to kill their enemy for sure. There was a new interface that appeared after dropping their blood on the badge, and also a new identity interface that only worked on the twelfth floor.

[Enemy Slain: 0]

[Name: Tang S | Affiliation: Union | Mercenary Rank: Rookie]

The identity did not show his full name, and there was no crucial information shown in that. Then Manager Fier briefed them on how to rank up. Killing one hundred enemies would rank them up to Intermediate Rank, and they needed to kill a certain number of enemies to get to the next rank and so on. The rank was followed by Rookie, Intermediate, Advance, Elite, Master, Elite Master, and Grandmaster.

After briefing the general about the mercenary and their duty, Manager Fier led them to the Captain Soldier who would lead them to the frontline.

"Your timing is quite good. Captain Borun returned a few days ago to bring the new recruit to the frontline. If you are a few days late, you will have to wait for another month before the next recruitment," Manager Fier was quite friendly in their conversation, willingly explaining a lot of things to them instead of leading them silently.

Soon they arrived at the training ground, which was the place for testing the new recruit. However, Manager Fier did not lead them to the testing arena, directly to the platform where a man with a

thick beard was watching the test. The man with a thick beard glanced at Manager Fier before scanning Tang Shaoyang and the other two. A frown formed on his forehead.

"Good afternoon, Captain Borun. I bring you good reinforcement, the players who just arrived in our city. They want to enlist in the frontline."

When Manager Fier mentioned the players, the frown on the man with a thick beard disappeared. He was pleasantly surprised by the news. His gaze fell on Tang Shaoyang who looked the strongest among the three, but the frown returned as his eyes set on the young man and the delicate woman. Not that he had a prejudice against the woman or the young man, but it was just common sense that these two would fall into the category of burden.

"Have you confirmed their identity?" Captain Borun opened his mouth. His voice was rough yet deep, asking Manager Fier.

"Yes, I have. They have a recommendation letter from the temple. You don't need to worry about it," Manager Fier answered patiently.

"What about their rank?"

"They decided not to reveal their rank, so they will start as Rookie."

The frown on Captain Borun deepened hearing that, clearly displeased with that. However, there was nothing he could do with the Union's policy. He could not refuse the players who wanted to enlist. That was the rule he could do nothing about it. The thing that displeased Captain Borun the most was that he also could not test the players. That would be tricky because if the players were strong enough, he could station them in the crucial position of the frontline.

"Alright, understand. You can leave, Manager Fier," Captain Borun accepted the new recruit.

"I wish for your success in the frontline," That was Manager Fier's parting words before he left the training underground.

"Alright, what position do you want? The vanguard or logistic division?" The question was meant for Rosalie and Lu An. Captain Borun felt like the two were suitable for the logistic soldier.

"We want the Vanguard," Tang Shaoyang replied.

"What about the two behind you?" Captain Borun asked again. Even though Tang Shaoyang used "we" when he replied, Captain Borun still asked again. The Captain was still in doubt about the two's capabilities.

"They will follow me to Vanguard."

"I am asking them, not you," Captain Borun was already in a bad mood with how poor quality this month's new recruit was, so he was quite snappy.

"I want to stay as a Vanguard!" Lu An and Rosalie gave the reply, not willing to start a conflict on their first day. However, Lu An's eyes never left Captain Borun.

"Bwahahaha..." The answer invoked laughter from the men behind Captain Borun. They were the five experienced soldiers who followed Captain Borun to bring the new recruit to the frontline.



"What can a snotty brat like you do in the frontline? Become food for the beastmen? Or fertilizer?" Another soldier followed in tune, and sonorous laughter filled the air.

"Also, a hot woman like you should stay in bed instead of going to the battlefield. What about warm —" Before the third soldier finished his words, Tang Shaoyang's figure disappeared. He did not use skill, he was just too fast for the soldier and Captain Borun.

Tang Shaoyang caught the soldier's neck, lifting the soldier into the air. Their eyes met, "Finish your words!" He said it in a cold voice, telling the soldier to finish his words.

"Why don't you finish your words?"

#### Chapter 1185 The Frontline - Part 1

The Soldier could not finish the words even if he wanted to when his neck was being choked like that. It was hard for him to breathe, let alone speak. His face turned red from the lack of air. The other soldiers drew their swords, but before they could do anything, there was a force that pushed them down. The other four soldiers fell to the ground as if there was something that pushed them down.

The metal armor started to make crunching noise, a sign there was an invisible force crushing the soldiers. The stone platform cracked as the force pushed the soldier down. The ground started to shake from the force.

"He-help..." One of the soldiers managed to call out. The soldier realized that they might die if this continued.

Captain Borun snapped out from his shock, turning around and trying to save his soldiers. However, before he could reach his soldier, he sensed the heavy force on his body, pushing him down to his knees. His knees broke apart the platform as his pauldrons started to get crunched.

From the entrance of the training, Manager Fier ran quickly. His face paled at the situation, noticing that Captain Borun and the five soldiers were paralyzed on the ground. Even Captain Borun was helpless against the player.

"Please stop, Sir Tang. They are soldiers with no manners. I hope for your understanding and forgive them if they insulted you and your friends," Manager Fier raised his voice from afar, trying to resolve the situation before it turned bloody.

Even though he was not clear about what actually happened, Manager Fier could picture what happened here. It must be the soldiers who provoked the players first. If the players wanted to start a war or take over Tarkon City. They did not need to wait until now. They should have done it from the start when The Union was not aware of their appearance.

Tang Shaoyang raised his left hand, signaling Rosalie to stop his Gravity Force.

"Tch, at least let me crush the person who talks filthy about me," Rosalie pulled off her Gravity Force, stopping the destruction of the stone platform.

Captain Borun breathed heavily as he was relieved from the crushing force. Sweat covered his face and soaked his back. He thought he was going to die for sure. Not because of the Gravity Force, but because of something. He could easily escape from the Gravity Force, he sensed something chilling

on his neck. His instinct told him that if he escaped from the Gravity Force, he would die. That was why he chose to endure the Gravity Force.

Meanwhile, Tang Shaoyang put down the soldier in his hand to the knee, lifting the soldier's head up before pulling the tongue out. He formed a blade with his Heavenly Energy and cut the tongue.

ARGGGHHHH!!!

The soldier let out a gurgling scream as his mouth filled with blood. With a strike to the neck, the soldier passed out, "That's the price for insulting my wife." He then turned around to kneel to Captain Borun, lifting Captain's chin with his finger, "I don't want to do this, so I am asking for your cooperation. You do your task as the soldier, and I will do what I need to do as a player, climbing up the tower. Then we will part ways later and never meet again, okay? I don't want to kill any of you, so please control your subordinate properly, okay?"

Captain Borun nodded his head furiously in response.

Manager Fier called his subordinates who followed him, gesturing to them to lead the players to their temporary lodging, "Please follow my people to your temporary lodging, Sir. We will inform you when it is time to depart to the frontline." He forced a smile and also forced to be more respectful because the player had shown what they were capable of.

Manager Fier was relieved that Tang Shaoyang did not pursue the matter anymore. They listened to him, following his subordinates. After Tang Shaoyang left, Manager Fier turned toward Captain Borun, "Can't you do your job properly, Captain Borun? You can't even manage your soldiers well."

"Whether these players are stronger than you or not, you can't openly insult them in front of their faces like that! What if their faction comes for our city? Can you take responsibility for that?"

Manager Fier was angry, and he made sure that Captain Borun was aware of that.

"This is why I hate to work with a bunch of uneducated and ignorant people like you guys. Don't even know the general information about players yet try to act haughty just because you fight in the frontline," Manager Fier really vented out his anger at Captain Borun. Then he let out a sigh at the end, "Fortunately, Sir Tang is not unreasonable to demand your head or something. Let this be a lesson for you, Captain Borun. Don't provoke the players unless they crossed the line. If that's the case, the Union will stand behind you."

After saying his pieces, Manager Fier left the training ground with a dropped shoulder. Clearly, this would make Tarkon City's relationship with Tang Shaoyang or the faction behind Tang Shaoyang sour.

\*\*\* \*\*

Tang Shaoyang was not that mad. That was why they did not kill them, but he also made sure that no one would insult him or his women. That was one of the many reasons for his pursuit of power, so no one could look down on him and insult his lovers again. Not that he encountered that many times, but he would not allow that to happen in front of him.

Thanks to his antics, the Union provided him a luxurious room and the best service. The room and the food were free until they departed for the frontline which was in three days. Captain Borun was halfway to recruiting more people to join the frontline. Level and Class were not the only thing they

factor in recruitment, but also their experience in fighting. That was why the soldiers were testing the new recruit in the training ground.

During those three days, Manager Fier gave them a full service, including information about the frontline. Even though Tarkon City was bordered by Demon and Beast Kingdom's territory, the city was quite safe because the city and the border were separated by many fortresses where the battle took place.

There were around twenty-two fortresses, twelve fortresses toward the Demo Territory and ten fortresses toward the Beast Kingdom's territory. The fortress was a strategic location where the force that held the fortress would hold an advantage in the war.

In those three days, Tang Shaoyang strolled around the city, enjoying his little break with Rosalie while gathering some information regarding the city. It seemed the city was fully focused on the Alchemist product and Smithy Product. Understandable since the city was next to the border where the war constantly occurred. Blacksmith to maintain the equipment or make the new equipment, and healing potion was a crucial product that might win the war.

Three days quickly passed, and the day for them to depart arrived. They gathered in the training ground, and they would march together to the frontline. The trip was around a week in march with two break times a day. That was too slow for Tang Shaoyang, but he could not just fly either to his destination. That would be an arduous and boring journey.

## Chapter 1186 The Frontline - Part 2

The boring journey was to be expected, moving from one fortress to another one and making a camp in the wilderness in between. They encountered no wild monster, the road was safe, and just like that they wasted seven days for the trip.

Tonight was the last night. Captain Borun announced that they would arrive at their destination by tomorrow evening at the latest. Sitting in front of the bonfire that he set up in front of his tent, Tang Shaoyang chewed the jerky in his mouth. The salty jerky taste had grown on him, and he would chew the jerky all the time during the trip.

"I am going to sleep first, Brother," Lu An entered the tent, assuming a sleeping position. However, Tang Shaoyang said that his little brother had been going out so often at night. It would be a piece of cake for him to sneak out without being noticed. The strongest here was Captain Borun, who was an Epic Rank. Even the Captain could not detect Lu An, so Lu An had been going out by himself every night.

There were no monsters approaching the road, but there were still a lot of monsters inside the forest. Lu An had been hunting those monsters to cope with his boredom. The monsters were not that dangerous, mostly level 500.

Tang Shaoyang looked up at the moon. They were inside the tower but there was another sky inside. He had never thought about this before, but each floor was considered a world by itself.

"What are you thinking about?" Rosalie asked. She did not enjoy the beef jerky, but she saved some lunch boxes. She was enjoying her food and noticed Tang Shaoyang staring at the sky.

"I am thinking that we are inside the tower, but I can see a similar sky. That weirded me a little...." The couple chatted as they enjoyed their food.

Meanwhile, the other recruits watched Tang Shaoyang and Rosalie from a distance. That was right, there was a certain distance formed between their tent and Tang Shaoyang's tent. Everyone had heard what happened to Captain Borun, and no one wanted to offend the players who were not even afraid of Captain Borun. Mostly, they were scared because the players were much stronger than Captain Borun himself.

Ignoring the distant stare, Tang Shaoyang and Rosalie finished their food and entered the tent. There was no action inside the tent. He did not want to be watched by these monkeys of course, so they just went to sleep and continued their journey the next morning.

They arrived at the fortress by late afternoon. The group was approaching the back side of the fortress, but everyone could smell the burning flesh permeated in the air. The closer they got to the tall wall of the fortress, the stronger the smell was. It was obvious the smell was recent, meaning a battle broke out in this fortress. The Union was attacked by either the demon or the beastmen, they would find out the answer soon. They arrived at the gate, but no one guarded the gate.

Tang Shaoyang used his Spirit Eyes to ensure that the fortress had not fallen yet. There were still people inside, a lot of people were taking a rest with a few guarding the broken gate at the other side.

Captain Borun had to slam the gate with his fist, then the people inside realized the reinforcement had arrived. The person who opened the gate let out a cheerful shriek, hugging Captain Borun. The reinforcement was around three hundred people, but these three hundred did not have the power of the three hundred people the soldiers inside the fortress. That was because the new recruits were inexperienced, but it still made the guy happy. It seemed it had been hard.

The state of the fortress was much worse than the city for sure, but it was much worse than Tang Shaoyang though. The moment he entered the fortress, the burning smell was mixed with the bad body odor, causing Tang Shaoyang, Rosalie, and Lu An to frown at the bad smell. Especially for Tang Shaoyang who had a sharp nose, this was bad. He would rather smell the burning flesh than stay inside the fortress.

They were led to the supposed to be a barrack, but it was actually no different than a slum. The main building and the lodging were worn out as if it would break at any moment.

'I guess they did not bother to invest more money in this fortress because it can be taken anytime?' That was Tang Shaoyang's guess.

Captain Borun and the person who welcomed Captain Borun approached Tang Shaoyang.

"Hello, welcome to Varil Fortress. I have heard from Borun that you are players," Captain Borun's friend smiled, offering his hand for a handshake.

Tang Shaoyang reached his hand and nodded, "Tang."

"My name is Brond, one of the four Captains in this fortress," Brond nodded, "You are the first player, so I don't know the assignment for the players. Please follow me, I will lead you to meet our General."

"I will take care of them, you take care of the new recruits, Borun,"

Tang Shaoyang followed Captain Brond to the other side of the fortress, the side that was much better. While the building was not new or luxurious, it was well-maintained. There was less smell too, which was much better. The smell was still bearable on this side. They were led to the General Office, and there were four people inside the office.

Two were in red uniforms, sleeping on the couch while one man sat behind the table, reading the report given to him by the girl next to him who seemed to be the General's secretary.

The General raised his head when he heard the sound of the door opening. He was topless, and there was a mark left behind by dried blood, showing his jacked muscles.

"What do you need, Captain Brond!?" The General asked in a stern voice.

"I am bringing the first group of players, Sir. They are the first players who come to Tarkon City and decide to enlist." Captain Brond straightened his back and replied loudly, waking up the two sleeping people.

"Why are you so loud, Brond!? You are disrupting my sleep!" The two people woke up from their sleep, yelling at the poor Captain.

"I am sorry, Vice General!" Captain Brond bowed his head.

However, the focus was on Tang Shaoyang when the players were mentioned. The General immediately stood up from his seat, approaching Tang Shaoyang with a big smile.

"Finally, we have some reliable recruits. Welcome to Varil Fortress, and I appreciate your willingness to help us. My name is Muril, and you don't need to address me by my title because you are not part of the army. You can just call me by name," General Muril was more flexible. Tang Shaoyang liked the guy.

"You can call me Tang. She is Rosalie, and he is Lu An." Tang Shaoyang introduced his team.

However, General Muril's eyes fell on the two little guys on Tang Shaoyang's shoulders, "What about these two lit... What about these? Aren't you going to introduce them too?" He was quick to catch up that Wrath and Greed were not just ordinary pets.

## Chapter 1187 Varil Fortress - Part 1

"They are my companion and can help in the battle," Tang Shaoyang nodded, confirming General Muril's guess about the beast.

Wrath opened his right eye, then he closed it again as if he was not interested in the human. As for Greed, he was not interested in the conversation between the humans, keeping his eyes closed despite the noise.

General Muril nodded and brought Tang Shaoyang to the couch where the Vice General slept earlier. They got into the business as they sat down on the couch.

"Can I see your badge?" He asked about the badge. There was no change in his expression at the sight of the wooden badge. After inspecting the badge a little bit, he returned the badge.

"I would like to ask again, do you want to reveal your rank? This is for the sake of our defense. As you know, we got attacked last night by the Demon and the Beastmen. I need to know your strength

to place you in the right position." General Muril believed that Tang Shaoyang and his friends were strong, or else, they would not be on this floor.

Tang Shaoyang shook his head, "I don't want to reveal my rank, and you can treat us based on our rank."

"Yo, newbie, why don't you just reveal your rank? There's no need to be ashamed of your rank, and if you are worried you will be placed in a dangerous location, then you don't need to worry. I can protect you," The Vice General who stood to the right of General Muril spoke out, grinning as he looked Tang Shaoyang in the eyes. He had the look of a man in his early thirties, with brown hair, and sharp eyes.

Tang Shaoyang completely ignored the man, looking at General Muril. The man was clearly not worth speaking to, but General Muril also said nothing. He understood General Muril's train of thought.

General Muril wanted to use his Vice General to probe his strength. That was why he did not stop his subordinate from provoking Tang Shaoyang. But Tang Shaoyang was not easily getting baited as he could see the whole picture. Also, he could tell why the man provoked him.

The Vice General was attracted to Rosalie, and he wanted to use this chance to humiliate Tang Shaoyang, showing that he was a superior man to Tang Shaoyang. That was the reason why he came after Tang Shaoyang, and Tang Shaoyang was aware of that because the two Vice Generals never stopped looking at Rosalie.

The Vice General got angry and jumped right in front of Tang Shaoyang, "Are you deaf, newbie!?" He raised his voice right to Tang Shaoyang's face.

"If you want to use your subordinates to probe my rank, then you make a mistake, General Muril. I will kill your subordinate if you don't control him!"

That totally angered the Vice General and he raised his fist. However, before he could launch his punch, General Muril moved first. He grabbed his subordinate's waist and pulled him backward. The Vice General crashed to the wooden wall as his scream rang, blood sprayed all over. Then a hand fell on the table.

General Muril sensed the young man's movement. That was why he pulled his subordinate. He was prepared to stop the fight, but he was still too late for that. He was angry regardless of who was at fault, but then his eyes met with Tang Shaoyang's eyes. That gaze forced him to control his anger and kept the feeling for himself.

His instinct, who had experienced countless battles, warned him that the man in front of him was a death flag. That was just a sharp hunch that he must avoid the fight at any cost. He raised his right hand to stop his second Vice General, "Treat his wound. I will take care of this issue."

The second Vice General glared at Tang Shaoyang and gritted his teeth. He was ready to jump into the fight at any time, but he ended up following the order.

"You are too heavy for just a simple argument, Tang," General Muril's tone hardened, telling the players that he did not like what Lu An did to his Vice General.

"I have warned you."

"But still, if you are superior to him, you can just knock him down instead of killing him."

"I have warned you," Tang Shaoyang repeated the same answer, but he added a question at the end, "Why?" That was a simple question, but that caught General Muril off guard.

"Why can't you just follow the procedure, such a simple procedure yet you make it so complicated. If you just follow that simple procedure, this will not happen. Why?" Tang Shaoyang really did not understand General Muril's thought, "You can just treat us as new recruits and deploy us as you should, but why are you doing this?"

"Are you afraid that I will take your position or what? You, soldiers, are really ignorant just like Manager Fier said. We are players. After we achieve what we should achieve here, we will leave this place. I just need your cooperation. You do your parts, and we will do our parts, it's that simple, really. What's the point of knowing my real rank? Or perhaps, are you part of the group who want to get out of the tower?"

General Muril was lost for words. He wanted to establish the hierarchy of who was the person in command here. That was a common thing when someone strong came to the fortress. But again, what was the point of doing that when Tang Shaoyang and his friends had not done anything wrong?

"Hah..."

Tang Shaoyang let out a long sigh, and he took back what he had said about General Muril. In the end, he did not really like Muril. All of this was pointless and stupid, and this would delay their hunt to gain enough Tower Coin.

"I am really really considering changing sides at this point. I think Demon or Beastmen are less complicated than overthinking fool humans. What do you guys think?" Tang Shaoyang asked Rosalie and Lu An.

## Chapter 1188 Varil Fortress - Part 2

General Muril bowed his head, "I apologize for my unprofessional act, Tang."

"You and your friends will be appointed to watch over the east gate. The gate is broken because the Demon and the Beastmen launched a surprise attack. We need special attention to the east gate while the soldiers are taking a rest. You will guard the east gate until the sun sets." General Muril talked as if nothing happened between them.

"Why don't you do this from the start?" Tang Shaoyang shook his head and stood up from the couch. He was not expecting the answer, and his curiosity remained unanswered because General Muril avoided the question.

"My secretary will lead you to your lodging," General Muril signaled his female secretary who was watching everything in a daze. She had heard about players, including her ancestor who was also a player. It did really catch her off guard with how these people clashed. She could not see the

movement with her eyes. What she saw was the Vice General tried to punch the man, but the Vice General's hand was cut instead.

The miss secretary snapped out of her daze when her superior called her up. She immediately came over, "You lead them to the decent lodging."

"Yes, Sir," Miss Secretary bowed her head before turning toward Tang Shaoyang, "Please follow me, Sir."

The trouble Tang Shaoyang had to face got them decent lodging instead of staying at the worn-out lodging with the other new recruits. The lodging was not far from the office, and it was actually a house with three rooms as the Miss Secretary gave them a tour of the fortress such as where the cafeteria was, the place to repair their weapon, a supply barrack, and so on. Even though the fortress was in bad shape, the fortress had everything it needed.

After the short tour, Tang Shaoyang went to the east gate. Miss Secretary took the initiative to accompany them to the gate. Mostly she wanted to make sure there was no more accident. She realized that the red-haired girl was a beauty, and that beauty might invoke a bloodbath in this fortress. She came along to warn the other soldiers not to touch the players, not openly but he emphasized that they were General Muril's VIP.

Meanwhile, back to the General Office

"Why are you letting them go, Sir?" The Vice General who got his hand cut, asked his superior indignantly. He could not accept that they were left unpunished after cutting his hand. Even though the injury was not fatal and recoverable, it was still painful and hurt his pride. His missing hand was halfway recovered as the flesh squirmed, forming a new hand.

General Muril shrugged, "What do you want me to do? They are clearly stronger than us. Prolonging the matter will not benefit us in any way as they may defect to the other side." He looked casual for someone who was just angry at his subordinate. He was quick to accept that Tang Shaoyang was not someone he should fight.

General Muril raised his hand, "There's no but. Your hand will return to normal in a few minutes anyway, so don't pursue the matter anymore. Don't even dare to have a thought on the woman! This is a warning from me!"

The two Vice Generals clearly could not accept the outcome, but they said nothing since it was useless. They could not convince General Muril.

\*\*\* \*\*

The day was uneventful. There was no attack from the demon and the beastmen as they ended up staying on top of the wall, staring at the remains of the battlefield. Lu An had been complaining about how boring it was, but Tang Shaoyang took the duty seriously to avoid further conflict. He was tired of the unnecessary conflict, and if he was right, the demon and the beastmen would attack the fortress once the sun was down.

The east gate was packed with soldiers as the gate was the most vulnerable side compared to the other three gates. Tang Shaoyang had a chair, putting his feet on the crenel, enjoying the night



breeze. The soldiers became more respectful because of Miss Secretary. That was how he got the chair.

General Muril came over, accompanied by the two Vice Generals. He came with a patterned leather outfit and a big battle-ax on his back. The two Vice Generals wore full plate armor with a sword on their waist. They came next to Tang Shaoyang, "Our scout just confirmed the demon and the beastmen's forces are coming. It seemed they formed a temporary alliance to take down Varil Fortress." General Muriel informed Tang Shaoyang.

"Finally we get some action, hah," Lu An was the most excited one with the news.

"No, we will give up the fortress and retreat. They outnumber us and with the breached gate and the state of the fortress. We can't win the battle, and even if we win the battle, we will lose too many people," General Muril made an unexpected decision.

Lu An was about to protest, but Tang Shaoyang raised his hand, "We will cover the back, but can you leave one person to guide us? We don't know the area well."

General Muril cast a glance at Tang Shaoyang, but he could not guess what was inside the man's head. He decided to agree with Tang Shaoyang, "I will leave Captain Brond behind. Good luck, Tang."

General Muril and the two Vice Generals went down from the wall. They really planned to abandon the fortress as the other soldiers started to get down from the wall. That was a rational decision. Looking at the fortress' condition, Varil Fortress was not the most important fortress for The Union. They would reinforce the fortress if that was the case.

"Are we really going to retreat, Brother?" Lu An asked with a frown. His tone told how he did not want to leave, but if it was Tang Shaoyang's order, he would listen.

"Of course, not. We will defend the fortress, just us. That way, we can get more Tower Coins instead of sharing the monster with these soldiers," Tang Shaoyang would not run from the battle.

Not long after, Captain Brond came up to the wall, meeting with the group, "Shouldn't we stay at the other side gate, Sir?"

"No, we will stay here. Keep the fire, so they are not suspicious that we abandon the fortress. We will be the bait for the others to retreat," Tang Shaoyang made up an excuse, a believable excuse even though Captain Brond looked unsure about the plan.

If they stayed at the east gate, there was a chance that their retreat path would be cut by the enemy. But he did not say it out loud. The rumor that Tang Shaoyang defeated the Vice General already spread out like wildfire in this small fortress. Even though no one could confirm it, the proof was the hole in the General Office. That was the reason he became more respectful and formal by calling Tang Shaoyang sir.

The logistic member and the non-combatant were the first ones to leave with the supply, followed by the new recruits that Captain Borun brought this later afternoon. Two minutes after the last soldier left the fortress, the demon, and the beastmen's army approached the fortress.

"The enemy is coming. Prepare yourself," Tang Shaoyang stood up from his chair as his Spirit Eyes watched over the area, then he smiled, "Interesting."

#### Chapter 1189 Almost Flawless Performance - Part 1

Tang Shaoyang found it interesting because he found a group of thirty people outside the south gate, hiding behind the trees. They had armor and were equipped with a weapon. The group was hiding in a formation, surrounding the road. They seemed to be waiting for someone to ambush them, but his group was the only one in this fortress. He then glanced at Captain Brond as their target might be this guy.

"What!? We are going to fight?" Captain Brond was surprised to hear that from Tang Shaoyang. He was instructed to be a guide by General Muril. He agreed with no complaint since he admired the players' bravery to stay as the back guard. However, he did not agree to fight the demon and the beastmen. It was suicidal no matter how strong the players were.

"You can stay here, and you can run if you are in danger. No one asks you to fight... No, don't fight! You stay here or you run after your General. I don't want you to take my share," Lu An waved his hand, telling Captain Brond to leave. He did not want another pair of hands to compete with him. Rosalie, Wrath, and Greed would take a big chunk, so he did not want another one joining the fight.

"You guys can go on a rampage. I will keep a watch on him," Tang Shaoyang waved his hand.

Wrath opened his wing and flew up high. The little guy checked the incoming assault, then he flapped back to Tang Shaoyang's shoulder and closed his eyes. He was not interested in the fight.

Meanwhile, Greed had long gone from his shoulder. Then the sky brightened with five big fireballs, coming down toward the incoming armies. Lu An also disappeared after Tang Shaoyang said they could go on a rampage.

"You are not interested in fighting?" Tang Shaoyang touched Wrath's head with his index finger, caressing his head. It was rare for the Golden Dragon not interested in the fight. He was usually competitive against Greed, but not this time.

Wrath just enjoyed the rubbing before giving a slight shake, indicating he did not want to fight, "But Why?" He could not help but ask the dragon.

"They are too weak, too weak to the point that fighting them has no meaning. It's not fun anymore when they just stand there when I burn them."

The answer was a surprise, weak or strong opponent, Wrath always wanted to join the fight. That made him curious about how weak the incoming forces were. He stood up, coming closer to the edge to get a closer look. The night did not really obstruct his vision, but there was no enemy that was close enough for him to use Detection. They were too far for him to use the skill.

The painful roar and shrieks rang in the air as the demon and the beastmen died. Rosalie, Lu An, and Greed made sure the enemy did not come closer to the wall. The Flame Empress also had come off the wall, rushing toward the thousand of enemies.

"I can't really tell, too far," Tang Shaoyang lost interest and returned to the chair, assuming the most relaxing position. Meanwhile, Captain Brond slowly came to the edge, looking toward the golden

fire ahead of him. He saw the shadow of the demon and beastmen ran while the fire consumed them. He could not see what the young man did, but he was in shock that the enemy army could not even reach a hundred meters range of the fortress.

"This...." His mouth gaped open, blinking his eyes a few times. It was too surreal; it felt like a dream. Last night they struggled to defend the fortress, yet a group of three managed to hold it down, not even letting the enemy come close to the wall.

Captain Brond slowly turned his head toward Tang Shaoyang. He wanted to ask something, but no words came out. Looking at the battlefield that was barely visible to his eyes, he wanted to know these people's real rank. However, he knew it was rude to ask, and he might accidentally offend the players. That was the worst scenario for him, angering these people. However, curiosity pushed him as the words were at the edge of his tongue. He really wanted to ask the question in his head, but he had enough to hold. He stood there, watching the golden fire spread out.

Ten minutes passed, and Captain Brond sensed the cat that always slept on Tang Shaoyang's shoulder, standing next to him. The cat stood on the merlon, licking his paw. Captain Brond stared at the cat, wondering where the cat came from.

Greed gave Captain Brond a glance, and he fell on his butt with his eyes widened in shock. Just now, he felt like he was dead when his gaze met the cat. It felt like his heart stopped beating for a moment there.

"He's an ally. Don't scare him. Haven't you eaten enough?" Captain Brond heard Tang's voice, but he did not dare to say anything at that. He was scared of the cat, realizing it was more than just a cat.

"Does the demon taste awful? Then you should go for the beastmen,"

That was a casual conversation between the cat and the owner, yet it made Captain Brond sweat. His back was soaked with his sweat as his legs shook. He slowly got back on his feet, leaning toward the rail to support him. The poor Captain Brond just got back on his feet, then Lu An appeared right in front of him, giving him a huge scare. Especially when the young man was covered in blood. His hair was dyed by the blood and half of his face was covered in blood as well.

Plop!

Captain Brond fell on his butt once more as his legs gave out. Lu An regarded the man as an air, not even giving Captain Brond a glance. He rushed toward Wrath with a big smile, "Thanks for not joining the battle, Wrath. There are only five Ancient Ranks, and Greed took two of them. I will get less share if you join too."

Rosalie also returned, slowly descending from the sky to the wall, "It's around two thousand armies, and we don't take that long to finish them off. Should we call General Muril to go back here?"

Captain Brond realized the fight did not last that long. It felt like the fight had just started, but the three figures who were supposed to be on the battlefield had returned. Listening to their conversation, it seemed the fight was over. It was hard to believe, especially for someone like him who had stayed on the frontline for years. It took him eleven years to be a Captain, and he had

become a Captain for almost three years. He had almost fourteen years of experience, and this was still hard to believe.

The curiosity gave him a little bit more strength, pushing himself back on his feet again. Captain Brond then looked toward the direction where the battle took place. The golden fire was still raging out there, but he could not hear anything aside from the breeze and the fire that cracked, burning the tree and the surrounding. The roar and the shriek could not be heard anymore, and he could not sense the incoming enemy anymore. Their presence was gone.

#### Chapter 1190 Almost Flawless Performance - Part 2

"I agree. Let Captain Brond chase after the group. They should not be far off by now," Lu An agreed with Rosalie's idea. But he did not want to be the person to chase General Muril's group.

Tang Shaoyang shook his head, pointing toward the south, "We have more guests waiting for us outside there," He had been watching the group of thirty people. They were patiently waiting at the same location, convincing him that they were here to ambush him or Captain Brond.

Rosalie and Lu An gave a quick glance to the south. Captain Brond also followed where the finger pointed at.

"There's no need to check on them. We can just meet them and let's see who is their target," Tang Shaoyang then turned toward Captain Brond, "You follow us."

The group came down from the east wall, heading toward the south, "There are thirty people hiding in the trees, laying an ambush, but we don't know their target." As he mentioned the target, he looked at Captain Brond, "Do you have an enemy outside there who wants to kill you?"

Tang Shaoyang did not hide the situation from Captain Brond. He needed the guy to stay alive, after all. He explained and tried to figure out who this group tried to ambush.

Captain Brond was shocked by the revelation. Not expecting the guess he talked about was an enemy who was ready to ambush them. He furrowed his brow and understood why Tang asked him. He thought about it for a while, but then he shook his head.

"No? I don't think I have any enmity against anyone. Not to the point that we want to kill each other."

"Not to the point you want to kill each other, but does that mean you have a dispute with someone?"

"I do... A few days ago, during our operation, I disobeyed Vice General Marco's order to save one of my subordinates. He was angry and Vice General Andar told me to apologize, but I didn't because I did something I was supposed to do, saving my subordinate. I refuse to apologize, and Vice General Marco beat me up, but I think there's no way he wanted to kill me, no?" Captain Brond felt like it was not a problem where they would go against each other for their lives. It crossed the line for a disagreement between them.

"Vice General Marco? Is he the guy with long hair and a scar on his chin?" Tang Shaoyang did not know which one Marco and Andar were, but one of the Vice Generals was within that group. Even though they had their face covered with cloth, he could see through.

"Yes, that's him," Captain Brond confirmed with a nod.

Vice General Marco was the same person who provoked Tang Shaoyang in the General Office.

"And he is one of the thirty people, but we are not sure yet if he comes after you or me. This group might be a group that wants to capture the players to get out of the tower. So here's the plan, you will go alone first, and we will follow you closely. If you are in danger, we will come to help, but if they don't attack you, that means they are the group who target the players."

That was a simple plan to determine who the ambusher came for. Simple and easy to execute.

Captain Brond looked like wanted to refuse the idea but swallowed his words back. He nodded in response as he left through the south gate by himself. Tang Shaoyang, Rosalie, Greed, and Wrath hid in the shadow of the knight with the help of Lu An, following Captain Brond from a distance.

Captain Brond entered the forest area cautiously, looking around at the trees. Then Captain Brond entered the range of the ambusher. Not at the ideal range, but he had entered the range of the ambush. He took more steps but even more cautiously, slowing down his pace. Then the thirty people came out of the trees and landed around Captain Brond.

Captain Brond was shocked by the ambush, falling on his butt before screaming, "Help me, Sir Tang. Please help me!" The desperate voice rang in the forest, and the ambushers looked around, trying to find the person that Captain Brond called.

Tang Shaoyang did not come out from his hiding spot. No one came to help Captain Brond. The guy was surrounded by thirty people, screaming for help. However, no help came from him.

"You son of b\*tch! You lied to me!" The plea turned into desperation as he started cursing Tang Shaoyang, but it was no use. The funny part was that the ambushers had not done anything yet to him, and he had not tried to fight back either. He remained on the ground, cursing.

Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap!

The clap resounded in the air, and the ambushers turned toward the noise. It was not far from the main road, three people stood there, clapping.

"Your performance is almost flawless. If only you prepare for such a situation, you have a chance to trick me," Tang Shaoyang still clapped his hand, amused by the performance.

He was not suspicious of Captain Brond back in the fortress, and his plan was not to save Captain Brond immediately. He told Captain Brond half-lies and half-truths and would come to save him if Captain Brond was in danger. Captain Brond was not yet in danger, and if this Vice General Marco came for Captain Brond for the grudge. Vice General Marco would try to kidnap Captain Brond and maybe vent his frustration on Captain Brond before killing the guy. The plan was to follow him and save Captain Brond when he was in danger.

However, he became suspicious of Captain Brond after the guy entered the forest area. He walked at a normal pace at first, but he slowed down once he entered the range of ambush. That was the most suspicious one because he never told Captain Brond the exact location of the ambush. Suspicion remained as suspicion, but his suspicion was proved right when the ambushers came down.

Thirty people yet none of them tried to knock down Captain Brond or even attacked him. They landed perfectly around him but did nothing. It became clear that the ambush was for him, and Captain Brond was part of the ambushers. They were the hostile group that wanted to get out of the tower.