

Armipotent 1191

Chapter 1191 The Heavenly Gate's Technique

Everything made sense even though Captain Brond tried to portray himself as a coward. The Captain easily got scared and fell when Greed suddenly appeared out of nowhere. However, it did not make sense for someone to be promoted to Captain if he was scared just because he was surrounded by the enemy, not even fighting back. That was such an obvious lie. If Captain Brond was just a normal soldier, Tang Shaoyang might be less suspicious.

"Does that mean General Muril is part of your group as well?" Tang Shaoyang asked, curious if everything was planned by General Muril. General Muril was the person who recommended Captain Brond to be their guide. Everything could be planned by that one person.

"Don't hold back! We must go all out if we want to capture them!" Captain Brond stood up, pointing his sword at Tang Shaoyang. The sudden command caused confusion for a moment because these people did not get to witness Tang Shaoyang's group kill the demon and beastmen's army.

However, it was too late because Rosalie increased the gravity around them. It was so easy because they clumped in one spot. All thirty-one people fell flat to the ground with some of them held up on their knees. Then the shadow flashed toward the group. Just like a sword, the shadow cut through their necks with some of them having their bodies split up.

Lu An did not waste the golden chance presented before him, killing at least twenty people in the blink of an eye. Two people used their bloodline transformation, trying to get away from the gravity field. Marco was one of them as his skin turned green, his height doubled, and his hair turned gray. He had the resemblance of a troll with tusks protruding out of his mouth. The other one was covered in brown fur as his body also got bigger. This one had a resemblance to the bear.

"Leave the ones with bloodline and Brond alive, Lu An," Tang Shaoyang was afraid that Lu An would kill them all. He needed them alive to get more information from them to decide his next plan. To be exact, he needed to know what these people had planned. This should be not the only thing they thought of.

Lu An was about to kill the remaining people, but then Greed came out of the shadows with its big maw. He swallowed at least five people, eaten alive by the Dark Predator. Lu An changed his target to the other three people he could kill, but then a giant maw popped out from the shadow, sweeping the remaining three into the maw. Then Greed returned to Tang Shaoyang's shoulder, sitting there, licking his paw.

Captain Brond watched everything in terror. He could not really see how the three took down the army, but now he could picture how over a thousand army was destroyed. His legs went weak, scared for real this time. It was not an act to deceive Tang Shaoyang, but genuinely scared that his friends died like that before his eyes.

The two Ancient Ranks could not get out of the gravity field because the gravity field followed them. Rosalie had good control of the two in the Bloodline Transformation. It was not that hard when she had unlimited mana, so she did not need to conserve her mana, at all.

Tang Shaoyang raised his hands, warming up his fingers. He then raised his hand at Rosalie, signaling her to free the two. He wanted to have a fight with no help, trying his Nine Heavenly Gates. The First Heavenly Gate was to build up his foundation and body to use Heavenly Energy. The Second Heavenly Gate increased his control over the Heavenly Energy, making the energy purer, and expanded his Dantian further. The Third Heavenly Gate was where he started to learn a new technique.

The third gate was called Heavenly Steps, and there were three movement techniques included. First, Heavenly Stride. Second, Heavenly Illusionary. Third, Heavenly Ethereal Shift.

The two were bewildered that they were suddenly freed from the gravity field that restricted their movement. The two exchanged glances and had a tacit understanding, fighting Tang Shaoyang if escape was impossible. Totally different from Captain Brond who had given up.

Meanwhile, Tang Shaoyang used Heavenly Ethereal Shift. It was similar movement as a blink but superior to a normal blink as the technique left an afterimage behind. In Marco's eyes, Tang Shaoyang was still standing on the same spot but in fact, Tang Shaoyang was already in front of his friend.

The fourth Heavenly Gate - Heavenly Force. The first technique was Heavenly Crushing Strike. It was a punch that contained unimaginable power. The second technique was Heaven Shattering Palm, and the third technique was Heavenly Crushing Grasp.

Tang Shaoyang executed the second technique, Heaven Shattering Palm. Sending his palm to the man's chest. His hand movement was refined. It looked slow, but it was actually very fast and the man could only watch the golden palm projection hit his chest. The man's chest dented inwardly in the shape of a palm, sending the man flying as blood spurted out of his mouth.

Marco turned his head toward the scream and realized Tang Shaoyang already moved. The still-after image disappeared, and he saw Tang Shaoyang's back. He did not hesitate to rush at Tang Shaoyang who showed the back open for him. Just as he thought the broadsword in his hand was about to slice Tang Shaoyang. Tang Shaoyang's figure split up into ten. The ten Tang Shaoyang spread out, surrounding him as his sword cut past the illusion.

That was the Heavenly Illusionary technique, splitting into ten illusions, and he could switch his position with any illusion at any time. Tang Shaoyang then grabbed the confused Marco's shoulder from behind and used Heavenly Crushing Grasp. The flesh along with the bone was crushed by Tang Shaoyang's grasp and the blood sprayed from his grasp. The bone and the flesh mixed together in his palm, turning them into mush.

"ARGGGHHHHH!!!"

The dark and quiet forest was filled with Marco's screams. His enhanced body with the bloodline transformation was easily crushed by Tang Shaoyang who did not use his Bloodline Transformation. Everything was pure the work of Heavenly Energy.

Chapter 1192 Unexpected Guest

Tang Shaoyang clicked his tongue, shaking his head in disappointment, "Tch, this is not enough. They can't hold up until I use the Sixth Heavenly Gates."

Lu An then returned with the man who was sent flying by Tang Shaoyang, putting the dying man next to Marco. Vice General Marco had stopped screaming, breathing roughly while holding the excruciating pain. Even with his Troll Bloodline, the regeneration on his body was much slower than usual. Trolls were known for their regeneration ability, but this was still too slow.

"Alright, now you three can choose a painless death or painful death," Tang Shaoyang grinned, turning his head toward Captain Brond who was on his knees.

"Hiiikkhh!"

Brond was too scared to meet Tang Shaoyang's gaze. He fell backward on his butt, letting out an unmanly shriek, shaking his head furiously.

"You are the unlucky chosen one. Do you want to tell me something? Maybe we can start with, where can I find the other people that were part of your group?"

Since they had clashed, they might as well have exterminated the whole group to prevent future trouble. They would stay for a while on the twelfth floor to save up the Tower Coin for access. Different from the eleventh floor where the whole faction got access to the twelfth floor upon defeating the boss floor. The twelfth floor worked individually, so if the other members wanted to climb up to the thirteenth floor, they had to work on their own to gather the Tower Coins.

"Hah..." Vice General Marco let out a chuckle, "You might escape from tonight's ambush, but you will face the Union's wrath. You are doomed anyway. The Union will capture you, and our people inside The Union will take you away. You can't escape from our grasp!"

Tang Shaoyang nodded his head, but he wondered how they would frame him, "Thank you for telling, but how are you going to frame me?"

Vice General Marco replied with a sneer, refusing to answer. But then Tang Shaoyang formed two blades with Slayer Energy. The two blades pierced Marco's both thighs through to the ground, pinning his legs to the ground. He screamed in pain, wanting to pull out the blade but his hands were wasted.

Tang Shaoyang shook his head and squatted in front of Brond, the only one that was still intact, "Now, do you want to tell me? Or do you want to suffer like him too?"

"I will tell you everything! I will tell you everything!" Brond assumed a kneeling position, planting his face on the ground.

"Good. What does he mean by 'I will be captured by The Union?'" Tang Shaoyang needed to know the real situation first.

"We killed General Muril and frame you! Vice General Andar is running back to the city with General Muril's dead body. You will be the target of The Union for killing General Muril. He is from a distinguished family and has a high status in The Union."

Captain Brond gave an unexpected answer. General Muril was not part of the hostile group, and he was a victim of this hostile group too. Everything looked like planned by General Muril, but he was killed as well by the hostile group.

"Hmm, that's indeed tricky. We can cooperate with The Union to prove our innocence, but it's troublesome and takes time," Tang Shaoyang turned his head to Rosalie and Lu An, "What do you guys think? Should we switch sides?"

"That will be tricky too. We have killed their army, and it's not a small number of troops. Do you think they will accept us? Even though the natives will not be openly hostile against us, we have done the deed," Rosalie thought their situation was really awkward.

"That's true..." Tang Shaoyang held his chin, observing Brond while thinking of how to salvage the situation, "What about your base? Do you have a base? And where's your leader? Maybe we can resolve the situation if we bring their leader's head to the Union, no?"

"We don't have a base. Our organization communicates with letters, and we don't know what our leaders look like. A letter came a few days ago, telling us there would be a group of three players coming to Varil Fortress. We don't even know our leaders' names. They are using aliases in the letter," Brond replied immediately.

"This is not as easy as I thought," Tang Shaoyang stood up. It was not because he was afraid of the natives, but because they needed to rely on the natives to climb up. There was a clear restriction on this floor which was the native, "Unless there's another path to reach the thirteenth floor."

"There might be another path to the thirteenth floor, but I don't think we can find it easily unless we run rampant, kidnapping one of the influential figures of the Union and interrogating them. That would be more troublesome and unnecessary trouble, more troublesome than clearing out our name," Rosalie was not fond of the idea, brute forcing their way up to the thirteenth floor. The thing that concerned her the most was that she was afraid Tang Shaoyang would fall deep in his guilt for slaughtering the other people. It happened a few times when he thought of himself as a monster, and she did not want the story to repeat itself.

Tang Shaoyang let out a sigh. Things did not go smoothly. It was so simple and easy to climb up the tower, but it seemed that lady luck was not on his side ever since he arrived on the twelfth floor.

"Buhahaha...." Marco who had been enduring the pain, released a laughter. He laughed at Tang Shaoyang's predicament, considering this a win even though he was forced to kneel on his knees with two blades in his thigh.

"Noisy," Tang Shaoyang sent his Heaven Shattering Palm at Marco's head, and his head exploded into a pulp. Each part of his head, in and out, scattered around as the laughter ceased. He then looked at the dying Ancient Rank. He did not use Heavenly Crushing Strike at his full power, yet it still left the man dying. The bloodline was too weak for them to endure the Nine Heavenly Gate.

"Tch, I forgot to ask where they got the bloodline from. We might have a way to get a bloodline supply for the Tarrior," Tang Shaoyang forgot his initial intention of leaving Marco alive. He wanted to ask where they got the bloodline from, "They might get it from the trial, but this guy does not have a bloodline." Brond did not have a bloodline since he did not use the bloodline transformation.

He looked at the dying man, not willing to waste his healing potion just to ask where this man got the bloodline. He ended up crushing the dying man's head just like he did to Marco, leaving Brond alone. The Captain's body shook after witnessing the player's brutality. The two men were

powerless to resist and with a swing of sword to the neck, they would die. However, the player chose to kill the two in the most brutal way.

"What about you? Do you know where to get a bloodline?" Tang Shaoyang turned his attention back to Brond, causing the guy's body to shake even more.

"I know how to get you a bloodline," Before Brond could reply, a feminine voice rang from the darkness, replying to Tang Shaoyang's question.

Chapter 1193 Entering The Demon's Territory - Part 1

A figure emerged out from the forest, wearing all black with her face covered in black cloth, revealing only her red eyes that shone in the dark. The dark eyes and red pupils were the characteristics of the demon, meaning she was from the demon's side. The goat horn further confirmed that she was a demon.

"I know how to get the bloodline with one condition, join the Demon King's force," The demoness maintained a safe distance.

'It seems I am having too much fun with my new technique that I don't sense her presence,' Tang Shaoyang realized his mistake. He was too focused on the one in front of him and lowered his guard, 'And a Myth Rank, huh?'

"Join as a mercenary?"

"Yes. We want you to change to our side and fight for us instead of the human."

"Then we have more to talk about," Tang Shaoyang did not mind switching sides rather than taking more effort to prove his innocence in this troublesome situation, "How does it work with the demon faction? Do we need to kill your enemy to get the Tower Coins?" Of course, he was not going to accept the offer immediately. He needed to confirm whether it worked the same or different with The Union.

"Yeah, it's the same. We will pay you with Tower coins, and your pay is based on how much the demon faction's enemy you kill, including the human. You can exchange the Tower Coins with the bloodline you are looking for and also a portal to the thirteenth floor," The demoness explained.

"Alright, there's no need for me to go through this meddlesome situation if it worked the same with the demon faction," Tang Shaoyang agreed to change aside. He did not care if he had to kill a fellow human. It was not about morality but the safety of his people. He had to keep going up, raising his power as much as he could to prevent a future disaster. He was so determined that it did not matter even if he turned into a monster if that was the price he had to pay to protect his people and his loved ones.

"Follow. You need to sign an agreement. That's an assurance in case you betray us just like you betray The Union," Her tone was cold even though it was she who tried to poach him to her side. It seemed the demoness did not like the way Tang Shaoyang easily switched sides.

"Agreement?" Tang Shaoyang did not care if the demoness liked him or not. It did not really matter to him. What mattered the most was the Tower Coin and the thirteenth floor. He did not need to please someone he just met, "The Union did not ask me to sign any agreement."

The demoness was surprised before her surprise turned into a frown, "It seems they trust you that much, huh? I don't care what happened between you and The Union. If you want to join the Demon Faction, then you must follow the rules!" Her tone remained cold, even colder as she misunderstood into thinking that Tang Shaoyang did not want to sign the agreement.

Tang Shaoyang shrugged, "I never said I would not sign the contract." Then he looked down at Brond who had been listening from the side for a while.

The man had stayed still as the thought of taking the chance to escape during the conversation was never crossed his mind. He realized that he had no chance to escape from Tang Shaoyang, accepting his fate as a prisoner or even a slave.

"That means you are not needed anymore," Tang Shaoyang raised his fist and was about to use Heavenly Crushing Strike to top the man's head.

"Please don't kill me!" Captain Brond slammed his head to the ground, "I will do everything for you! Please don't kill me!"

At the same, the demoness also stepped in, "Stop! Don't kill him!"

The Heavenly Energy that gathered in his fist dispersed, canceling the technique.

The encounter ended up with Tang Shaoyang switching sides to the demon faction. Tang Shaoyang followed the demoness to the demon's territory. Brond also followed them, his body was shaking.

Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow as he entered the demon territory. The thick Dark Energy in the air was a factor he did not consider when he chose to side with the demon faction. That could be harmful to Rosalie and Lu An. He was fine with the Dark Energy permeated in the air since he had demon blood in his vein, but it would be different for Rosalie and Lu An.

Tang Shaoyang stopped his steps which led the demoness to stop her step too, turning around and sending an inquiry gaze. Asking with her expression why did he stop?

He ignored the demoness' gaze, turning toward Rosalie and Lu An, "Do you guys fine with the Dark Energy? If it brings a harmful side effect, it's not too late for us to back down."

"It's surely unpleasant, but this dark energy is not enough to harm me. My bloodline cleanses the dark energy in my body, so there's no need to worry," Rosalie shook her head.

"I am fine too," Lu An nodded. He did not feel unpleasant, and the Dark Energy barely affected him.

"Ah, I forgot to give you the mask," The demoness realized her mistake as she took out a mask made of black wood. It was just a plain mask with no carving except for the two holes for the eyes. She tossed four masks for each of them, "That will help you to push the Dark Energy away from you. That's a simple artifact we prepared for the non-demon players."

Brond was the first one to put the mask on. He put it in a hurry as it seemed the Dark Energy had a big effect on him. Rosalie and Lu An also put on the mask for different reasons. Lu An felt like the mask was cool, giving off a mysterious vibe around him. Rosalie wanted to get rid of the unpleasant feeling from the Dark Energy.

Tang Shaoyang then remembered the two little guys on his shoulder. He looked at them, and they seemed unaffected by the Dark Mana. He could see with his Dragon Eyes that the Dark Mana was repelled by the dragon, and it seemed the Dark Energy had no effect on Dark Predator.

It was a long journey even after a full day, they had not reached their destination yet. They had been moving without resting from one night to another night. They ended up sleeping in the wild for the night because of Brond who looked sickly and weak ever since the guy entered the demon territory.

The reason the demoness wanted to bring Brond with them was to use him to find the human fortress' weakness. Extracting information from man as much as they could to use it against the human. And it seemed Brond was known for knowing the human's territory in detail. That was why the demoness wanted to have Brond alive.

On the third day of their journey, Brond's condition got worse. It seems the dark mana had entered his system and poisoned him. It was not a simple matter to resolve mana poisoning. The healing potion did not work on Brond, and the demoness had to carry Brond on her back as they picked up their pace.

On the fourth day, they arrived at the deeper part of the demon's territory, the demon faction's main fortress, the central of the command for the demon faction.

Chapter 1194 Entering The Demon's Territory - Part 2

The fortress was far above the Varil Fortress. The twenty-meter-tall black steel wall gave off a domineering impression at first glance. It gave off the feeling that it was impossible to breach the wall.

The demoness increased her speed at the sight of the fortress. Brond seemed to be dying if he did not receive proper treatment anytime soon. He was an important chess piece of the demon faction, and the demoness did not want her effort to go to waste after carrying the disgusting human on her back.

"Open the gate! It's Valky!" There was no guard outside the gate, and the gate was closed tight. She yelled and landed a kick which created a loud noise, echoing to the air.

The small door was opened as a squad of demon armies surged out from the small door with their weapons. They seemed not to hear the yell, but the kick alarmed them, thinking it was an enemy attack.

"Idiot! It's me, Valky. Make a way! I need to meet Commander Gustav right now!" The demon raised her voice, scolding the demon soldiers.

It seems she had a high status within the demon faction as the guards made a path for her. They made a path for her, but the demon soldiers blocked Tang Shaoyang's path with their spears. They crossed the door with their spears as the others pointed their spears at the group.

"Idiot!" The demoness kicked the soldier closest to her, sending the demon soldiers flying past Tang Shaoyang, "Can you use your brain? They obviously come with me."

"But we have to follow the procedure, Shadow Squad Leader, Valky. We can't let suspicious humans into our main fortress without a proper inspection. Especially when you want to bring them to meet Commander Gustav. We can't allow that," Another demon came out of the door.

The demon had a singular horn on its forehead, green eyes, and dark skin. He wore a robe with something similar to a suit inside. His eyes first landed on the dying Brond before shifting his gaze to Tang Shaoyang's group. He was the Guard Captain for the main fortress.

Killing intent surged out from the demoness as her aura flared out wildly. She stood before the Guard Captain with just a few centimeters separating their faces, "Don't try to play your authority game with me, Lacos! If he dies here, I will make sure to convince Commander Gustav to execute you!"

Brond obviously would be the key for them to enter the human territory. His knowledge would be crucial for their invasion. The route between the fortress, where The Union's food supply was, and also maybe finding a strategic location to create an opening for an ambush and so on. There were so many things they could do with Brond who feared death. This was a rare opportunity for the demon faction, and she was not going to let a mere Guard Captain spoil her plan.

"This is mutiny! How dare you—" The Guard Captain could not finish his words as Tang Shaoyang grabbed the demon's mouth, covering the mouth, and held it tightly to ensure the demon could not speak anymore. Of course, he was doing it because the demoness seemed to have a higher authority than the demon in his hand.

"I have been wasting my time almost two weeks just traveling from a city to a fortress, and from a fortress to another fortress. You better not waste my time I will make sure not be able to speak again," He could crush the jaw but chose not to.

"Lead the way!"

Tang Shaoyang was not in a good mood when he barely made any progress in twelve days. He was not going to deal with this nonsense anymore. He would choose his way to get rid of the annoying obstacle.

The Guard Captain tried to speak but his voice was muffled, barely forming any word. Then he tried to use a gesture, signaling his subordinate to attack Tang Shaoyang. However, the demon soldiers were afraid of the demoness as they did not move an inch from their spot.

Tang Shaoyang dragged the Guard Captain with him, following the demoness. It seemed the demoness had a higher status as the other demon soldiers did not make a move even though the Guard Captain was dragged by the human.

Not just the defense was much better, but the inside of the fortress was much better than the Varil Fortress. He did not smell anything unpleasant and all buildings were in good condition. Maybe because this was the main fortress, but this looked like a small settlement that was built for its defense.

The demoness led them to a four-story building which was the alchemist's workshop. To Tang Shaoyang's surprise, the one who worked as an alchemist was a human. The demoness told the clerk what happened to Brond and told them to cure him. Then she left Brond behind, leading Tang

Shaoyang to the small mansion at the center of the fortress. There was another shorter wall, five meters and it seemed made with the same black steel as the fortress wall.

The guard merely glanced at the Guard Captain, but they did not stop Valky from entering the mansion. Entering the lobby, they went to the left-wing building, the main hall where the commander received his guests.

They entered the hall where a demon was already sitting at the end of the hall. Sitting straight, wearing a red tunic with a black vest, and had a glass of wine in his right hand. He gave a shake of his wine as he watched the demoness coming closer.

Valky bowed her head and called, "I have returned for important information, Commander Gustav."

"I will listen to your report, but can you ask your human friend to release my Guard Captain first. He might die if you keep holding him like that," Commander Gustav's voice echoed in the hall. His voice was tranquil and toneless, it was hard to read his mood to see his Guard Captain in such a situation.

Tang Shaoyang released his grip without Valky telling him to. He used Detection on Commander Gustav. That was the first thing he did when he met with this commander.

[Name: Gustav Colvile | Affiliation: Artamao Kingdom | Rank: Primordial]

Chapter 1195 Let's Do It The Extreme Way - Part 1

The Artamao Kingdom was the kingdom that ruled the demon territory. Different from The Union led by a council that comprised many people. The demon had one leader, the Demon King.

"Now, before we get to the report. I want to know what my Captain Guard did to deserve such a treatment?" When Tang Shaoyang thought the Demon Commander would not bother with this, Commander Gustav brought it up.

"Because he tried to prevent me from doing my duty," The demoness answered instantly.

The Captain Guard was massaging his jaw, but he immediately spoke when he heard the demoness' words, raising his voice slightly louder than Valky, "I am doing my work. They have to follow the procedure to enter the fortress. That's my duty as a Captain Guard!"

"But you know one of them suffered from mana poisoning, and he needed immediate treatment. Also, do you think I will bring a bunch of assassins to the center of command? Do you doubt my loyalty to The King, Sir?" The last question was directed toward Commander Gustav.

Commander Gustav seemed to realize the issue. He squinted his eyes at the Captain Guard. The latter was flustered at the gaze, "I am just following my duty as the Captain Guard, Sir."

"Leave!"

"Y-Ye-Yes, Sir!" The Captain Guard said no more, leaving the hall in a hurry.

"I want to hear the important news that forces you to return here," Commander Gustav returned his serene gaze at Valky.

"I have one bad news and two good news. The bad news is that our army that is supposed to take Varil Fortress is annihilated along with the Caracius Kingdom's beast army."

Commander Gustav frowned deeper at the bad news. The coalition of the two thousand armies was supposed to take the fortress easily. He was confident of that with the Varil Fortress' condition.

"Did The Union send a reinforcement?" That was the only logical cause of the annihilation. One Myth Rank and five Ancient Ranks along with two thousand forces. That should be enough to take the Varil Fortress. In fact, they were overkill, yet the army was annihilated.

"I think they send a reinforcement, and they are the reinforcement," Valky gestured toward Tang Shaoyang's group.

Commander Gustav slammed the armrest of his chair, breaking it into pieces as he stood up from the chair, "What's the meaning of this, Squad Leader Valky!?" Along with the shout, he released the fierce aura, suffocating the room with his terrifying aura. Though it barely affected Valky and Tang Shaoyang.

"This demon is so annoying. He is so noisy, should I eat him, Master? He looks tasty, I think," Greed, who awoke from his sleep, muttering in annoyance. His voice echoed in the hall, and Commander Gustav and Valky's attention shifted to the black cat. Both looked surprised at the talking cat.

Tang Shaoyang flicked Greed's forehead, "Don't do anything weird. I don't want to make days of trips to the beastmen's territory. We have wasted so much time on this ridiculous trip." Then he looked at Commander Gustav and Valky, "You guys can continue your conversation."

"They are players, Sir Gustav. I took them from The Union because The Defiance wants to capture and frame them for killing General Muril. They are willing to work for us now," Valky explained, "I bring them here because I can only get the contract from this fortress."

It was known there was once a civil war on the human side as the human divided into two groups. The people who were willing to take this floor as their home, and the second group who wanted to go out of the tower; The Union against The Defiance. The only way for them to get out of the tower was the players, after all. The Union did not want to be hostile against the players which could bring total destruction to them. In the end, The Union defeated the Defiance even though they failed to root the Defiance to the root.

Commander Gustav calmed down, but the demon soldiers barged into the hall. The aura and the slamming noise attracted the soldiers on guard. The demon soldiers looked confused because nothing happened inside the hall. But they saw the breaking part of the chair, but there was no fight and Commander Gustav was not in danger.

"Leave!" Commander Gustav ordered the soldiers as he returned to his seat.

"What about the second good news?" Commander Gustav made no comment about the players, but he clearly did not like Tang Shaoyang. There was a little bit of hostility in his gaze. Maybe because they annihilated the demon army before coming here, but Valky mentioned that, telling The Commander that the players were reliable.

"We managed to capture one of the Defiances, and he was familiar with the human territory's terrain. We can use him to our advantage, and maybe, we can try to get into Tarkon or maybe

Buldorak. I leave him at the Alchemist to treat his mana poisoning." That ended up with Valky's report.

However, the issue was not over yet as Commander Gustav shifted his attention to Tang Shaoyang, "What about you? Why do you want to fight for us, the demon, instead of the human?"

Tang Shaoyang clicked his tongue, "Tch, I don't care whom I fight for. We fight to climb the tower, not for the demon, not for the human, or not for the beastmen. We fight for ourselves! If we know another way to climb up the tower, then we will not be here. Just make your decision, will you accept us or not?"

He was annoyed with how the natives made things complicated. Whether human or demon, both are the same. They just needed to know that he was a player and proceed with the recruitment so he could start earning some Tower Coins. If he had to assume that one enemy was the same as one coin. That meant he had to kill a million, and the group needed three million. It was not that hard considering the rank of the people they encountered, but the issue was the number. Where could they get three million to kill?

"Welcome to the Artamao Kingdom," Commander Gustav grinned ear to ear, "If that's the case. I have a duty ready for you. I will reward you with one million each if you can take down the Buldorak City."

Chapter 1196 Let's Do It The Extreme Way - Part 2

It was Tang Shaoyang's turn to frown. He knew nothing about this Buldorak City. How far was the city from here, how many fortresses they had to fight to reach the city, and why the demon targeted Buldorak City? More than that, he felt like this was a trap for them.

Tang Shaoyang let out a sigh as he could not come to a decision. If that was a trap, meaning Commander Gustav expected them to die there. He was not sure if the commander was prepared to pay if Gustav expected them to die. This demon might not pay them even if they succeeded in taking the Buldorak Kingdom.

Tang Shaoyang for sure had a trust issue after what happened with the Adventurer Guild. He was not going to trust the commander, "I have to refuse if that's the case."

"Huh!?" Commander Gustav was surprised the players refused all of a sudden, "But why?"

Valky did not look surprised by the refusal, just shaking her head slightly.

"I don't trust you because this is not how it is supposed to work, no? This is more like a trap you set up for us."

"I think you don't care who you work for, but why do you suddenly care? Also, don't you want to go to the higher floor as fast as you could? I am giving you the chance to make it happen. And if you refuse my offer, who will you work for? The Caracius Kingdom?" Commander Gustav grinned wider, "We are in a temporary alliance with them, and I will make sure you will not be accepted by them. They might come after your life since you also killed their army. You have no choice but to accept my offer if you want to go to a higher floor!"

Tang Shaoyang fell silent for a moment, glancing at Valky. The demoness made no comment about this. It seemed the decision of hiring the players was in the hands of Commander Gustav.

Tang Shaoyang let out a sigh, then met with the demon commander's eyes, "We don't have a choice? We actually have two choices in my hand. It's just that the choice is troublesome and takes a lot of time to achieve our goal. The first choice will be taking your head and bringing your head back to Tarkon City. That should be enough to clear up my name. Ah, we have a hostage from Defiance too. That should be enough for The Union to trust me."

"The second choice would be more troublesome. I will not kill you. I will save your head for the last and let you witness how I destroy the demon kingdom! I want to see your expression when you realized that your dumb decision caused the fall of the kingdom! I am leaning more toward the second choice because my patience has run out! I need to vent out my anger a little bit and killing demons will make me less guilty! A win-win choice for me."

Tang Shaoyang meant it when he said it. It was not a threat. If he could not get to the thirteenth floor the normal way, then he just needed to force the demon kingdom to give him access to the thirteenth floor. It's just that he did not know how big the demon kingdom was as it might take them a few months or even years to destroy the demon kingdom.

Commander Gustav's grin fell while Valky immediately created a distance from Tang Shaoyang. She would be the first target if things went to the south. She was not expecting all of this, and she also did not understand what Commander Gustav tried to achieve by doing this, 'Don't tell me Gustav wants to capture the player to go out of the tower?' The thought crossed her mind.

"Buahahahaha..." Commander Gustav laughed, taking the threat as a joke. That was right, in his eyes, the threat was a joke. How could three people take the whole kingdom? That was just not possible.

Tang Shaoyang glanced at Rosalie and Lu An, "Let's do it the extreme way? Or do we want to try the beastmen first?" He consulted the two since they were moving as a group, he wanted to hear their opinion.

Lu An grinned ear to ear, "This takes me back to the days we just met, and the idea of taking a kingdom with just the three of us is quite exciting." That was right, Lu An was excited that they would fight the whole kingdom. This was the reason he wanted to follow Tang Shaoyang.

"I will follow your decision. It's not impossible for us to take this demon kingdom if their strongest person in the army is just Primordial Rank," Rosalie did not share the same excitement as Lu An, but she agreed with the extreme idea. Even if things went wrong, they could go back to the eleventh floor, "I am also quite a bit annoyed by them. Let's do it."

Tang Shaoyang tapped Wrath's and Greed's heads, "Go outside and run havoc. Get them busy while I capture the commander."

Wrath woke up, stretching out his legs while Greed was eyeing Commander Gustav, "Can I eat him, Master?"

"You can, but not now. We need him alive for him to see what he has done for his kingdom."

"Tch, what a pity. I feel like the demon outside tastes awful just like the demon army I ate," After saying that, Greed disappeared from his shoulder.

"That demon girl is Myth Rank, so I will her for you, Sis Rosa. I will look for my prey outside. There must be a few Ancient Rank outsides," Lu An also left the hall, disappearing into the shadows.

Wrath returned to his original size, destroying the mansion with his massive body as he flew to the sky. Commander Gustav and Valky were shocked that the lizard turned into a Golden Dragon. They were not expecting that the small lizard was a dragon, and the one who shocked the most was Commander Gustav. Before he could see his kingdom fall, he started to regret his decision. He intended to kill the players who had killed his army. There was no way he would let the people who killed his soldiers stay alive.

Buldorak City was part of The Union, the command center for the Union. Taking down Buldorak City could mean the fall of The Union. He did not think the players are capable of doing it because the strongest human stayed in Buldorak City, the Legend Rank Knight. He wanted to send the players to their death.

Chapter 1197 Let's Do It The Extreme Way - Part 3

Valky had disappeared as the dragon broke the ceiling, but Rosalie did not move from her spot because she knew Valky was still inside this hall. The assassin-type enemy had the advantage against Elementalist like Rosalie in one on one. However, Rosalie did not falter or show fear against Valky. Not that she underestimated her opponent, but because she was confident she could kill the demoness.

The Flame Empress slowly walked away from Tang Shaoyang, giving him space to fight against the Demon Commander. She stood near the entrance, watching Tang Shaoyang's back while remaining on alert. There was nothing she could do to make Valky out unless she lured the demoness out. That was what she was doing right now, giving an opening for Valky. She pretended not to notice Valky in this room, and it worked.

Boom!

Rosalie heard the crashing noise from behind. She turned around with a grin as she managed to catch the little rat. She set up the Gravity Barrier to the maximum force around her. The Gravity Barrier caught Valky off guard with how the demoness crashed into the ground on her chest.

The Flame Empress wasted no time as the golden flame pillar burst out from the ground, engulfing the demoness in the fire.

"ARGHHHHHHH!" Valky's scream echoed through the hall. A few seconds later, the scream stopped abruptly as Valky's figure melted like a candle.

Rosalie furrowed her brow, realizing Valky was not dead. There was no notification about leveling. Killing Valky who was in the same rank should give her around fifteen levels to forty levels. But there was no notification, meaning Valky managed to escape.

"Tch, what a waste to let her escape. She will not come again for me. I missed my chance," While she had a solution to neutralize Valky's assault, she did not have the suitable skill to chase after the assassin. She let the demoness escape.

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Back a few minutes

Demon Commander Gustav did not expect the players would be this crazy to fight him in this main fortress and decided to fight him instead. It was a lie if he was not nervous upon seeing the dragon that destroyed the ceiling. If the player could tame a dragon, meaning the player was too strong. Regret remained as a regret, and he needed to get out of this situation first.

'Can I win against him?'

"Help me to stall him, Valky," He was about to ask Valky to help him, but the latter had disappeared and did not know where to.

"Do you need time to get your weapon and armor? I don't mind waiting for you," Tang Shaoyang wanted to beat Gustav when the demon commander was at his full strength. That was the way to deliver the most painful despair.

"You will regret this," The Demon Commander took out his armor, putting it on his body as he held a spear in his hand.

Meanwhile, Tang Shaoyang also put his stance, something he learned from the Nine Heavenly Gates. He put both hands forward with his right hand slightly higher than his left. The instruction was to put his dominant hand higher, and in his case, his right hand was the dominant side. The Heavenly Energy wrapped around his hand.

The Demon Commander did not waste his chance upon seeing Tang Shaoyang not use a weapon. He felt like he had the upper hand with the spear. His figure blurred as he thrust his spear into Tang Shaoyang's chest. The spear was enveloped with dark energy, spiraling around the spear. It was fast, but not fast enough to trick Tang Shaoyang's eyes. As the spear reached his range, he slapped the spear with the back of his hand.

Not only did he deflect the trajectory of the spear, but the Heavenly Energy caused Gustav's dark energy to disperse. He almost lost his balance but he managed to recover and leaped back. The frown on his forehead went deeper as he was confused about what happened with his attack.

Commander Gustav was pretty sure that the smack had no power with how slow the human moved his hand. However, that was enough to throw him off balance. The bizarre thing was that his accumulated dark energy in the spear dispersed.

"ARGHHHHHHH!"

The scream snapped out of his thought and looked toward the source. He saw Valky was burned alive by the red-haired woman. That shocked him even more, confused how Valky could get caught. The Shadow Squad Leader was the second strongest individual in this fortress, yet she was caught by a mage at that.

"Tch, what an amateur. You should never look away from your opponent."

Hearing the voice, Commander Gustav turned the voice. Tang Shaoyang was right in front of him along with a golden palm projection. Tang Shaoyang's palm hit Gustav's chest plate. The plate

armor dented inwardly, leaving a palm mark as Commander Gustav was sent flying backward, crashing into the wall as the rubbles fell on him.

"Don't tell me he died from that one palm. I have controlled my Heavenly Energy to make sure he did not die," Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow. That would have foiled his plan if he accidentally killed Gustav. Fortunately, his concern did not come true as a figure came out of the rubble.

Gustav was still alive, and he used his transformation skill. The white fur along with the pattern on the fur and also his face, his bloodline was related to the white tiger. His body became bigger, twice as big as before.

"What a coincidence," Tang Shaoyang smiled, "I don't have a suitable sword, so I will skip the fifth gate. Let's try the sixth Heavenly Gate."

Sixth Heavenly Gate, Heavenly White Tiger. It was a technique where he borrowed the power of the Heavenly Beast, White Tiger. The image of White Tiger faintly formed behind him, readying himself to fight and receive the incoming attack.

Commander Gustav's figure suddenly split into six. The six Gustav made six different movements, attacking him from six different angles.

"That trick will not work on me," Tang Shaoyang turned round, opening his back to the six figures. That was because he knew all the six figures were an illusion, fake. The real one was right behind him. He used the Heavenly White Tiger's first technique, Heavenly Roar.

Tang Shaoyang sent his fist forward to meet with the tip of the spear. As soon as his fist touched the tip of the spear, the tiger's roar resounded in the hall. Along with the deafening roar, Commander Gustav's body was sent flying backward once more. His body crashed onto the wall, but it did stop there as his body flew out of the mansion from that single punch.

"It seems the sixth gate is quite overwhelming," He was not expected to send the man flying even though he minimized the output as he did not want to kill the Demon Commander. On top of that, Gustav was in his transformation skill, yet, Heavenly White Tiger still overwhelmed the demon commander.

"This is quite overpowering, huh? I wonder which one is stronger between Slayer Energy and Heavenly White Tiger?" He could not help but compare both with how strong the technique was. Of course, Slayer Energy had superiority like how it could prevent the enemy from healing, even the God Rank had to be wary against Slayer Energy. He did not want to use it quite often as It might cause him trouble.

Tang Shaoyang walked out of the hole that was made by Commander Gustav's body. Rosalie walked next to him and said, "This is quite disappointing. They are quite weak despite being a high rank. I easily catch Valky, and you beat the commander with two attacks."

That was true. The natives were quite weak even though they were high-rank. Normally, Primordial Rank would last dozens of moves against him, yet the demon commander was so easy to beat.

The two followed the trail left behind by Commander Gustav, and they quickly found the demon commander, lying on the ground on his back. His spear was thrown quite far from him, and his breathing was quite rough as he kept staring at the sky.

The scream and roar filled the fortress as chaos ensued. Wrath, Greed, and Lu An created the whole mess in the fortress, slaughtering the demon soldiers in their sight.

It was a lie if Commander Gustav did not regret his decision to oppose the players. He just did not expect the players would be this strong, so strong that made him helpless.

"Not yet, not yet. You can't die yet," Tang Shaoyang came over, holding the demon commander's cheek with his left hand, forcing the demon to open his mouth. Then he used his right hand to pour the healing potion into Gustav's mouth forcefully, "You can't die yet, Gustav. You need to see the demon kingdom's future."

Before the healing potion could work, Tang Shaoyang cut Gustav's four limbs. The demon screamed in pain, but the wound was closing as the potion started to take effect. Soon the bleeding stopped as Gustav huffed roughly. His eyes were full of hatred, gazing at Tang Shaoyang. If his gaze could kill, Tang Shaoyang might die a few times already.

"Hah..." Tang Shaoyang let out a sigh, "If you don't try to do anything weird, this will never happen. Why do you people keep doing something stupid like this? Human and demon are the same,"

Gustav's wound closed up after his rant. Tang Shaoyang picked up the limbless guy by the neck like he carried a cat. Then he brought Gustav up to the sky, letting the demon witness what happened in this fortress. The place known for its defense was getting torn apart.

Chapter 1198 Demon King - Part 1

Valky was on the other side of the wall, witnessing the strongest fortress in the demon kingdom was demolished by three individuals. The buildings were on fire, and the demon soldiers' roars and screams filled the air. Never crossed her mind this would happen a few minutes ago, and she was the one who brought these people who destroyed this fortress.

She was not in a good condition to help too. Half of her face was burned, the skin in her right-hand bulbing, recovering from the burn. She also almost died.

"I know you can escape from Sis Rosa," Then she heard a familiar voice from the side. She recognized the voice, the youngest man of the three players.

Lu An stood six meters away from him, holding a red sword in his right hand. Blood dripped from the sword, an indication the young man had killed many demons with the sword. He expected Rosalie would not be able to kill Valky, and he had been waiting outside while looking for the demoness. It was not because Rosalie was not strong enough, but because of Valky's ability. Valky would not be able to kill Rosalie for sure, but it should not be an issue for her to escape too. His prediction came true, and here, he found his real target.

"You are quite weak for a Myth Rank, not even realizing that's an illusion," Valky heard the voice from behind her. The red sword pierced her chest and her eyes widened. Then Lu An who stood six meters away, his figure slowly dispersed into the shadow.

"I think you are underestimating me too much, youngster," Valky's figure melted as she appeared behind Lu An. She was holding a black dagger, swinging toward Lu An's neck, "I will at least take your life before leaving."

The black dagger reached the neck, but Valky could not feel the resistance as the dagger went through the neck. There was no blood or flesh, but the figure was just a blurred shadow. That was just another illusion made of shadow.

Lu An came out from below her, immediately grabbing Valky's neck. At the same time, the shadow surged up toward Valky's legs, reaching up to her waist. That locked her up, preventing her from using the same technique as before when she escaped from Rosalie and Lu An's initial attack.

"It seems it was you who underestimated me," Lu An smiled, "Do you have any last words? I guess not," He did not wait for her answer, of course, swinging his sword to the jaw, intending to kill the demoness in one hit.

A pair of feather wings burst out from her back as the shadow locked her up and was dispersed. With a single of her wing, Lu An blew away from her. She used her bloodline transformation. Her eyes turned yellow while her pupil turned black. Her eyebrow turned feathery and grew longer.

Lu An stabilized, getting on his feet. The grin on his face grew wider, getting more excited, "This is what I have been waiting for. I don't like killing a helpless chicken."

"Tch. It seems it was a mistake to appoint you as the head of the Intelligence Division is a mistake," Tang Shaoyang landed right before Lu An followed by Rosalie. He did not expect Lu An to be a battle maniac like Karan.

"I think he learned that from you," Rosalie commented. She could tell that Tang Shaoyang had a big influence on the young man. Even though she did not stay as long as Zowen as his spirit, she could tell that her man was a quite battle maniac. It was just some time he could overthink it which Lu An did not have.

Valky's eyes fell on the figure in Tang Shaoyang's hand. She expected Commander Gustav to be defeated, but she did not expect him to be captured this fast. The limbless demon was the leader of the demon army, the strongest demon after the Demon King himself, yet Gustav stood no chance in front of this player. It did not take that long for her to figure out that the player might be stronger than the demon king.

"You have two choices. Be my subordinate or be killed!" Tang Shaoyang raised his hand, signaling Lu An not to fight her for a moment. That was the reason he interfered after noticing the fight through the Spirit Eyes. He figured out that he needed her as a guide. No one could do a better job than her since she should know more about the demon territory than the other demons.

"Don't! Don't listen to him, Valky! Remember His Majesty's generosity for you and your family! You can't betray him! Don't you dare betray him! Go die, Valky! Kill yourself if you don't want to be like me!" Commander Gustav yelled despite his situation.

"What a weird way to persuade someone," Tang Shaoyang was amused, "What's your choice!?"

Valky wanted to run away the moment Tang Shaoyang came, but she hesitated. She did not know if she could escape from Tang Shaoyang or not.

"What's you get for me? There's no way you expect me to work for you just because you threaten my life," The demoness replied. There was something she wanted from Tang Shaoyang based on an answer which was easily understood.

"VALKY! YOU DARE TO BETRAY HIS HIGHNESS!?" Gustav let out a furious roar, calling her name. But the roar was less intimidating with his condition. That was nothing, just a barking dog in front of Valky.

"Family... It seems you have a family you treasure. Your life and your family, that should be enough, right?"

"That's not enough."

Tang Shaoyang raised his eyebrow, "I don't think you are in the position to negotiate here, Valky."

"So what? What's the point of you not killing them if the next players that come here will kill them?" Valky sneered, "I am not that stupid. You want to destroy the demon kingdom, and if the kingdom is destroyed, who will protect my family from the players and the humans? You, destroying the demon kingdom is no different than the demise of all demons in this realm!"

Chapter 1199 Demon King - Part 2

Tang Shaoyang thought about what Valky said, then he realized that might be the doom for all demons. First of all, the player would not take the demon's side for sure if they knew the demon had been weakened to such an extent by him. Second, the Artamao Kingdom would become an easy target for The Union and The Caracius Kingdom. With or without players, the demon would lose the war. He had broken the balance between the three forces by taking down this fortress and also the Demon Commander.

Valky took her chance when she noticed Tang Shaoyang hesitated, "What if I give what you want, then you leave the Artamao Kingdom alone. The Artamao Kingdom will provide you access to the thirteenth floor without paying, but you must stop your attack against us!"

That was a tempting offer for sure. He might as well have accepted the offer, but the damage was there. It was just Tang Shaoyang did not think this demon kingdom would fulfill that request. If the Artamao Kingdom gave what it wanted, that would make the Artamao Kingdom look bad. The Artamao Kingdom would lose its dignity as a kingdom by agreeing to his request.

"Can you really make the decision? You can't even hire me as a mercenary without meeting your commander. If you are that capable, we don't have to reach this point, no?" Tang Shaoyang shook his head.

He doubted Valky had the capability to get what he wanted. This might be her trick to get away from him, "It seems we can't reach the deal. It will be efficient if you are with us, but we will be fine without you either. I can just get the other demons to lead us to the city."

"Don't let her escape to inform the demon king about the situation. We need to save the demon king for the last show for our lovely commander," Tang Shaoyang lowered his right hand.

Lu An's figure dissolved into shadow, and the massive shadow formed and rushed toward Valky. Valky stood there, staring at the shadow. She did not escape because there was nowhere for her to go. She could tell the shadow would catch up if she tried to escape. Exposing her back to an opponent like Lu An was the same as death itself. She had to face him if she wanted to live.

Before the wave of shadow could reach her, a portal formed in front of her. A figure came out of the portal. The figure had a sword in his right hand, and he swung the sword down toward the wave of shadow. The sword did not reach the shadow, but that was enough to neutralize the shadow. The strong gust hit the shadow, causing the shadow to blow up. As the shadow dispersed, a figure was blown backward. Lu An did not expect to be fully countered like this.

Tang Shaoyang caught his little brother with his empty hand, "Hohoho. This is getting more interesting."

The figure was wrapped in a black cloak, having his head covered as well. The figure pulled down the cloth that covered his face, revealing his face. The demon had white pale skin, black eyes and golden pupils, two horns protruding upward of his forehead, and the demon had a pair of wide bat wings.

"We will talk about the issue later, Valky. But you need to brief me on what happened here to resolve the problem," The figure spoke. The dignified voice brought calm to the tensed-up Valky. The figure then raised his hand, telling her to stop, "Skip the formality. This is not the time for that."

Valky was about to kneel and greet the figure, and she stopped halfway. She came closer and briefed what happened, including who the three humans were.

The Demon King let out a sigh, his eyes set on the demon in Tang Shaoyang's hand, "What about if you release him and talk this out?"

"You are quite tame compared to your subordinates. I thought you would rush at me the moment you see what happened to your lovely fortress," Tang Shaoyang was indeed surprised.

"I told them not to mess with the players, but it seemed my subordinates did not take my words seriously," The Demon King met with Tang Shaoyang's eyes, "I don't really want to start a war against the player. What can we do to resolve the problem?"

Meanwhile, Tang Shaoyang called Wrath and Greed to return. Greed returned to his cat form, jumping on Tang Shaoyang's shoulder the moment he arrived. As the Demon King entered the cat's vision, it stood up. His fur stood up, waving in excitement.

Tang Shaoyang flicked the cat's forehead, "That's not your food. Go sleep." That killed Greed's excitement as he came down on his four, getting to a comfortable position to take a nap after the meal. Greed opened his right eye once more to take a look at the Demon King before closing his eyes to sleep.

Meanwhile, Wrath maintained his form, standing next to Tang Shaoyang. He looked at the Demon King because he could feel a strong aura from the Demon King, "Do you want me to kill him, Master?"

Tang Shaoyang waved his hand, telling the Golden Dragon not to do anything yet. He just stopped the slaughter since the person he could talk to was here. The slaughter was unnecessary.

"Let us climb to the thirteenth floor, then you don't need to worry about us anymore. That's what I want from the start anyway. But your lovely subordinate seems to have another plan for me instead of enlisting me normally into your army."

Valky came closer and elaborated more in detail on what Commander Gustave did. The Demon King massaged the space between his eyes when he found out his fortress' destruction was caused by a simple matter like this.

"That was my subordinate's fault, but you did not have to destroy my fortress, no? We can always talk it out," The Demon King said with regret. Almost everything was razed in fire, and the Demon Kingdom lost its elites in this attack.

Tang Shaoyang shrugged, "Will you come to meet me if I don't do this? So what are you going to do now?"

The Demon King let out another sigh, gazing at his Commander, "Alright. I will give you what you want, but you can't kill my subordinate!" He realized that nothing could be negotiated here from what he understood from that short conversation. Either give the players access or they would have to fight.

Chapter 1200 Partner In Crime

The Demon King's appearance changed things for sure. Tang Shaoyang could continue the rampage and killing the Demon King here would plunge the demon kingdom into chaos. It would be easier for him to destroy the leaderless kingdom. Or he could talk it out with the Demon King to get what he wanted.

"Your subordinate? Are you talking about here or him?" Tang Shaoyang raised Commander Gustav. The latter did not dare to look up at the demon king, ashamed of losing the most important fortress for the demon kingdom.

"Of course him," The Demon King furrowed his brow. He had a bad feeling about how the player talked. It looked like the opposite party did not want to return Gustav alive, "You return him to me and cease the attack. Then we will continue our conversation."

"Or?" Tang Shaoyang formed a sword with his Heavenly Energy, placing the tip of the sword right above Gustav's head.

"Don't you want access to the thirteenth floor? You don't have to pay or work. I can give it for free," The Demon King tried to play dumb which caused Tang Shaoyang to chuckle.

"That's the payment for us not destroying your kingdom. If you want to keep your subordinate's life. You need to pay more unless your subordinate's life is not worth anything, then you can just let us kill him," Rosalie got involved when the Demon King tried to play it dumb.

The Demon King glared at the red-haired woman, "It seems you also can't manage your subordinate well for her to interrupt our conversation."

"Unfortunately, she is not my subordinate, but my Empress," Tang Shaoyang moved the sword slightly, causing the tip of the sword to penetrate Gustav's skin. Blood trickled into his face, "Are you trying to stall the time for the reinforcement?"

The Demon King's eyes moved slightly, peeking at the Golden Dragon secretly. But that was caught by Tang Shaoyang. It seemed the Demon King was considering his options here. Valky came closer to the Demon King and whispered. She was telling him what Tang Shaoyang wanted.

'He wants bloodline. Does that mean he does not have a bloodline? There's a chance for us to win if he really does not have a bloodline,' The thought was there but as he looked at how confident and unwavering the players were, the hesitation got into him again. Especially when the gargantuan Golden Dragon watched him from the side. For someone who had a dragon companion, the players must not be weak.

"No. There's no reinforcement," The Demon King denied, "What about if we talk in a more comfortable space? I have a proposal for you."

"We don't need your hospitality. Just get to the point. What do you want?" Tang Shaoyang just wanted things to get done faster. He was not going to restart their conversation by going to a new place. It was either now or never.

"Alright," The Demon King nodded, "You should know this is the most important fortress for the Demon kingdom's defense." Tang Shaoyang did not say yes or no, indicating for the Demon King to continue.

"By destroying this place. You are breaking the balance between the three factions of the natives. Now, The Demon Kingdom is at its weakest right now, and it will be just a matter of time before the other two factions find out. By the time they find out about this, they will cease to attack each other and focus on my kingdom."

"Do you want us to help the demon kingdom until you recover your force?" Tang Shaoyang frowned. He scanned the fortress with Spirit Eyes, and the fortress was damaged beyond recognition. It had become much worse than the Varil Fortress.

"No! I want you to destroy The Union's and The Caracius Kingdom's fortress. Make it even! Since you are capable of destroying this fortress. It should not be an issue for you to destroy their strongest fortress too," The Demon King wanted to make it even for the humans and the beastmen.

"In exchange for that. I will give you our ten best bloodlines, including the free pass to the thirteenth floor," The Demon King made his decision, the safest option for him and his kingdom. For some reason, he was not confident fighting the group of three. There was a bad premonition, haunting him.

'No! It's still a lose-lose battle. Even if I manage to kill them. I have to sacrifice so many demon soldiers, and that will weaken my kingdom.' The Demon King convinced himself inwardly that he made the right decision.

"Not enough. By doing what you suggested, The Union and the Caracius Kingdom will be hostile against my faction. The risks are not worth the reward," Tang Shaoyang did not give a second thought to rejecting the deal. He wanted to know the way to obtain the bloodline for his subordinates, and his subordinates could get the bloodline themselves if they really wanted an upgrade. He was not going to give the bloodline for free. If he ended up with those bloodlines, he would save the bloodlines for the Empire's treasury.

The Demon King gritted his teeth, clearly upset that the deal did not move the players in the slightest. That quickly told the Demon King that the players had bloodlines, and they did not need the bloodline urgently.

"Free access to the thirteenth floor, fifteen of the best bloodline in our collection, and also a hundred war mounts," The Demon King upped his offer, "That's the best I can give to you. Accept the deal or we will fight!"

Tang Shaoyang squinted his eyes as he found out the Demon King's limit, "Can I see what kind of war mount you have?"

"They are called War Tusks. The demonic beast that resides in the demon territory," The Demon King whistled. Not long after the whistle, a creature appeared in the sky. The creature descended, diving toward the demon king.

Whoosh!

With a big gust, the creature landed next to the demon king. The creature had the body of a lion, the head of a tiger with two pairs of big tusks, a spiral horn on its forehead, and a pair of feather wings.

"This is Hellion War Tusk. This one is the evolution of the War Tusk. The original War Tusk does not have wings," The Demon King explained.

"Along with fifty Hellion War Tusks and Fifty War Tusks along with the guide on how to breed them, then you have the deal," Tang Shaoyang raised the stake. Without a doubt, this was a strong mount, stronger than the one he heard in The Union. The horse with the steel skin, was not as fancy as the flying lion.

"I can't give you fifty Hellion War Tusks! We don't even have twenty of them, let alone fifty!" The Demon King raised his voice, breaking his dignified character, and showing his real emotion for the first time.

"This is the last offer. Along with my initial offer of five Hellion War Tusks and ninety-five War Tusks also with the guide to breed War Tusk. I will also include the method to evolve War Tusk into Hellion War Tusk. That's the best offer I can give you. More than that, my kingdom will not be able to recover."

"Then you have the deal," Tang Shaoyang offered his hand for a handshake. For the first time, he showed a smile to the Demon King. The Demon King was no longer his enemy, but a business partner.

The Demon King looked at the hand, then he looked at Tang Shaoyang's face. After hesitating for a while, he reached his hand.

"Happy doing business with you," Tang Shaoyang smiled, "Then I need someone to guide me to get us to the target. Preferably you, Demon King. You don't need to worry about me not fulfilling my part by witnessing it by yourself, and you don't need to worry for me to escape. I also want an upfront payment, or else the deal is off."

The Demon King thought about being the guide for the players. The player had a point for him to be the guide. If Gustav could not hold the players, let alone the others. He was the only one who could

probably fight the players equally as long as the Golden Dragon did not interfere. He was the most suitable for the job.

"Let's do it then," The Demon King agreed after a short consideration.

"Good. Give me my items, then we will depart immediately," Tang Shaoyang tossed Commander Gustav to the side. Thanks to this demon commander annoyed him, he could get free fifteen bloodlines and also a war mount. Though he was not sure if the demonic creature could be a great boost to his military power. There was a long process before he could properly use the war mount.

"Do you want to bring the hundred War Tusk?" The Demon King asked.

"No! I want my War Tusk to stay in your territory for a while. I tell my people to get the war mount later. Just give me the bloodline and the guidebook to breed the War Tusk for now." Tang Shaoyang was not going to bring one hundred demonic creatures on his own. That was too much work.

The Demon King fulfilled part of his promise, fifteen blood essence in fifteen vials.