

## Versatile 2291

### Chapter 2291: The Federation's Army is Here

The rain was still pouring down heavily.

The woods between the Scorching River and Banlo City were about to turn into a swamp from the rain. The water on the flatlands had already reached their knees.

Destructive magic kept appearing across the city. The trash and debris had blocked off the sewers, and the city had flooded.

The streets had turned into water channels, making it difficult for people to walk across them.

There was no sign of civilians in the city. Most of them were hiding in the buildings or sent to the refugee camps by the Brown Army.

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Those who were still roaming in the city were interrogated by the Brown Army. They were most likely executed in the end since the Brown Army did not want anyone from the Federation to sneak into their territory prior to the battle.

Sirens were going off continuously. The Brown Army was trying to take over the city, they were not planning to massacre every civilian. They were warning the people in the city to hide indoors and stay away from the streets.

Otherwise, they would be treated as an enemy!

As soon as the order was given, the streets were smeared with blood. Not everyone had listened to the instructions and stayed indoors.

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“Idiot, are you asking for your death?”

“Are you deaf? Did you not hear the warnings that kept telling you to stay indoors? You are lucky that you weren’t burned to death by a Fire Burst when you snuck across the street. Find a place to hide now!” the militia sergeant yelled.

A slender woman crawled to her feet on the street. “My brother, his legs were punctured by a steel reinforced bar. I have to find some medicine. Otherwise, he won’t survive the night,” the woman cried.

Her eyes were full of tears. She was soaked in rain too, like she had just crawled out of a pond.

The militia sergeant frowned.

He looked at the drug store across the street. It seemed like the woman was trying to get some medicine from it.

“Hide inside that bakery, and don’t come out!” the militia sergeant ordered her.

“But...”

“There’s no but! Go inside, or I’ll kill you now,” the militia sergeant yelled.

The woman quickly hid inside the bakery. She picked up some bread from the ground and munched on it. She was obviously starving.

She realized her brother had not eaten anything for some time too. She quickly found a filthy bag and took the bread from the shelves, wrapping them carefully with plastic so they would not be soaked in the rain.

Soaked bread was horrible to eat.

The woman suddenly heard footsteps as she finished up.

She subconsciously hid in a corner until she saw the militia sergeant coming inside the bakery with a white plastic bag, which held some medicine he had found in the drug store.

The militia sergeant shoved the plastic bag into the woman’s hands and yelled, “Your brother isn’t going to live if you are dead. Stop coming out on the streets. Do you understand?”

The skinny woman lifted her gaze and revealed her tearful eyes between her disheveled wet hair.

Beautiful Banlo City had turned into Hell on Earth in less than twelve hours. Her slender figure could barely withstand the pressure. She would rather have jumped into flames if she did not have her brother to take care of.

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The woman grabbed the two bags and ran back to the building she was hiding in previously.

However, just as she reached the building, huge rocks were tossed into the air. They were the size of a large house.

They flew across the sky. One of them happened to target the building the woman was heading towards. It landed on the building and snapped it in half. The floors above the twelfth started falling in front of her.

The woman’s eyes widened and almost fell out of their sockets.

Her brother was on the fourteenth floor, meaning that he was among the debris that was falling to the ground!

The two bags she was holding dropped onto the concrete. She ran at the debris like she had gone insane, but the impact as the debris fell to the ground knocked her into the distance.

The militia sergeant was only two hundred meters away. He turned around and saw the woman being sent flying by the impact.

“The Federation’s army!”

“They are here!”

“They are on the Fourth Avenue with a regiment of Rock Tanks!”

Huge rocks the size of houses went flying into the sky before falling down on Banlo City like meteorites.

They blew up into pieces, firing splinters into every corner of the city. It was soon covered in smoke and cries of pain.

“Those assh\*\*\*\*, didn’t they know there are still a lot of civilians in the buildings? Why aren’t they coming straight at us instead?” the militia sergeant snarled.

Even an idiot would know there were still a lot of civilians who had not been evacuated from the city!

The Federation’s army was bombarding the city with rocks, as if they could not care less about innocent civilians.

“Retreat to the trenches.”

“Forget about them, we aren’t a salvation army.”

“Damn it!”

The militia sergeant knew his power was limited. There was nothing he could do to stop the enemy’s advance.

More buildings began to collapse on the street, posing a huge threat to the Brown Army. Blood and flesh were mixed into the debris.

*BANG!*

A few rocks happened to land on the path the militia were retreating on.

The rocks crushed those they landed on like smashed tomatoes. Several militiamen died instantly.

The militia sergeant was relatively lucky, as the rocks did not land on him. However, he was dazed when he saw his men turning into red tomato sauce on the ground.

A huge rock suddenly swept past the militia sergeant’s head.

Judging by its trail, it was heading toward a nearby refugee camp!

The camps were refugee centers for the civilians. Those who were not involved in the war were gathered in the camps.

Normally, the Federation’s army would avoid the refugee camps since the people in the camps were the Federation’s civilians. Their relationship with the Federation’s army was like hostages and the police.

However, one of the rocks was heading straight toward the nearest camp. There were at least a thousand people in it!

The rock was the size of a cruise liner, and would instantly turn the camp into a burial ground with more than a thousand corpses!

“Those scumbags!” the militia sergeant shouted.

The rock was about to fall on the camp and smash the people into pieces, when a silver light wrapped around the rock.

The rock suddenly froze in the air after the silver light completely enclosed it. It was like watching a paused film.

However, it was happening in real life instead of a film. How could such a huge rock freeze in midair all of a sudden?

The militia sergeant was dumbfounded!

The rock had stopped in an instant. How strong would the person have to be to do such an astonishing feat?

## **Chapter 2292: The Heavenly Sensei**

The militia sergeant slowly turned around and saw a man in a transparent raincoat standing in the rain.

His eyes were emitting a deep silver light, which was a little bewitching to look at.

“It’s... it’s you?” the militia sergeant stammered in disbelief.

Wasn’t he the young tourist he gave permission to leave out of kindness?

If he was strong enough to stop such a huge rock with his eyes, why would he behave so modestly in front of them?

Mo Fan went up to the militia sergeant and smiled. “Relax.”

The militia sergeant could not relax at all. The Federation’s army had arrived. He was only a Basic Mage. He had been appointed to lead some militia because he had been a Hunter for some time.

However, he was just like the rest of his squad. They could die at any second!

“Fine, we admit we are the three people who are wanted by your army, but I’m grateful for your kindness in letting us go. It gave us some time to treat our injuries and catch our breath,” Mo Fan told him.

The militia sergeant’s face was drenched in the rain. He had a blank expression as he struggled to take in the information.

He was only one of a hundred thousand militiamen. He did not have the clearance to understand what his superiors were up to.

“Y...young man, why did you save the people in the refugee camp?” the militia sergeant asked after some time.

“Why did you let us go?” Mo Fan asked in return.

“I just think that we can’t lose our conscience as humans,” the militia sergeant answered honestly.

“Likewise, you are right that many people in the Federation are scumbags,” Mo Fan sighed.

The militia sergeant sat on the ground with a regretful face. “To be honest with you, I didn’t want to join the revolution, but the sudden thought came into my mind out of nowhere. (Sigh) I can’t back out anymore. I will most likely die soon in an explosion,” the militia sergeant admitted in low spirits.

Mo Fan trusted the militia sergeant’s words.

The purpose of the rain the Black Vatican had conspired to use for so long was to make everyone lose their rationality, so they would tear at one another like primordial beasts with even a little conflict.

It was obvious that many people in the war still had a clear conscience, like this militia sergeant. Unfortunately, the people with their own principles and beliefs were slowly losing their ground to the rain, or they were forced to go with the flow in order to survive.

“I don’t know if you will believe me when I say the Black Vatican is actually pulling the strings behind the scenes. They are using the rain...” Mo Fan briefly explained the Black Vatican’s plan to the militia sergeant.

He was waiting for Zhao Manyan and Mu Bai’s update, so he decided to use the time wisely by learning more information about the Brown Army from the militia sergeant.

The militia sergeant was dumbfounded after learning the truth.

“I believe you, but you won’t be able to make it to the Scorching River’s headwaters,” the militia sergeant told him.

“Why?” Mo Fan was puzzled.

“The main army has set a camp there. As for the Black Vatican’s Head Priest whom you mentioned... he’s referred to as the Rain Sensei in the army. He’s praying to the Heavens for the Rain of Victory,” the militia sergeant said.

“Rain of Victory?” Mo Fan almost burst out laughing, yet he felt sorry for the locals when he thought about the situation.

It was clearly a Rain of Destruction, yet the people were tricked into believing it was a Rain of Victory, which would bring them blessings.

“Perhaps it’s because the people became more united since the rain started falling. Not only is the headwaters of the Scorching River the main camp of our army, the elite soldiers led by our general, Ash, are on standby in the vicinity too. You won’t be able to reach the woods in the outer circle, let alone the Scorching River,” the militia sergeant told.

Mo Fan frowned. It sounded like the Brown Army assumed the Black Vatican’s rain was in their favor.

In other words, the Black Vatican had long colluded with the Brown Army!

Or perhaps the Black Vatican had long planned to use their trick on a politically unstable country so they could take it over!

Wu Ku was serving as the Brown Army's battle drummer. He was using the heavy rain to turn the Brown Army into ferocious beasts!

In other words, Wu Ku was protected by the whole Brown Army...

"I've learned a lot. Thank you for telling me all this," Mo Fan said.

"I'm not as powerful as you. It's all I can do," the militia sergeant sighed.

"I should go. Be careful," Mo Fan did not want to stay for too long.

"Alright, you guys should be careful too," the militia sergeant sent him off. He ran to the collapsed building where the slender woman was buried under the debris.

Either way, it was still a human life. The militia sergeant took off his brown jacket and started searching for the woman under the broken cement and steel-reinforced bars.

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Mo Fan left in a hurry, hearing cries of agony around him. A young man with a broken leg was lying on the street. An old man was trapped in a collapsed house. Women were looking for shelter amid the debris.

The Federation's army was rapidly pushing forward. The destruction they were causing to the city was on par with the destruction the Brown Army had caused. They were basically tearing the already broken-down city apart.

Mo Fan caught up to Zhao Manyan and Mu Bai. "How is it looking?"

"The Federation's army will soon reach the barricades. From the looks of it, they will reclaim the city in three hours," Mu Bai reported.

Zhao Manyan had stolen a few uniforms from the Federation army. He passed them to Mo Fan and Mu Bai.

"Their goal is to drive the Brown Army back to the other side of the Scorching River. They will keep pushing after retaking the city," Mu Bai went on as he and Mo Fan swiftly put on the uniforms.

They did not want to be involved in the war, but they had to rely on the Federation army's advancing to make their way to the Scorching River.

The Brown Army had listed them as high-priority targets. It would be extremely difficult to sneak through their defenses. Furthermore, the Brown Army was treating Wu Ku like a heavenly sensei!

"Wu Ku needs an abundant supply of water to control the rain. He turns the water of the Scorching River into water vapor and spreads it into the sky," Mo Fan told them.

“So he won’t move to another place if he wants the rain to keep falling,” Mu Bai nodded his understanding.

“Mm, we’ll fight alongside the Federation’s army and defeat the Brown Army on this side of the Scorching River,” Mo Fan decided.

Zhao Manyan’s expression darkened gradually as he listened to the conversation between Mu Bai and Mo Fan.

*Holy crap, why do they sound like it is just a simple plan?*

*What do they mean by defeating the Brown Army on this side of the Scorching River?*

It meant they had to f\*\*king help the Federation win the war!

### Chapter 2293: A Glorious Little Recruit of the Federation’s Army

The Brown Army did not start revolting just because of the rain.

Perhaps the Frenzy Rain had provoked the militia into joining the revolution, destroying the city, and killing innocent civilians.

However, the leaders and the army of the Brown Rebels must have been planning for it for a long time.

Their attempt to kidnap Sancha, the daughter of an important official tied to the Federation’s economy, was obviously part of their preparations for the war.

The Brown Army had come prepared. The Federation’s army might seem huge, but the number of soldiers it could gather in such a short time was limited.

Even if they managed to reclaim Banlo City, could they really defeat the Brown Army at the Scorching River?

The Brown Army had obviously taken Half-Ridge Mountain City as their base. They had crossed the Scorching River to invade Banlo City.

The Federation’s army had arrived too late. It would be difficult for them to drive the Brown Army back now!

Mo Fan’s trio was planning to blend into the Federation’s army.

If the Federation’s army could drive the Brown Army back to the other side of the Scorching River, they would be able to take down Wu Ku, who could not afford to relocate himself right now. However, if the Federation’s army lost the battle, Wu Ku would be unreachable.

The rain would then last for at least another half a month!

Mo Fan had thought they could weave through the battlefield by abusing their Super Magic and avoid the battle, then take down Wu Ku.

Unfortunately, things were not as simple as he thought. He still had to involve himself in the terrifying war.

Zhao Manyan had the same worry.

Once they were stuck in the war, even Super Mages might die there, and at a surprisingly high rate.

He was utterly confused why Mo Fan and Mu Bai did not hesitate when they planned to join the Federation's army!

"Do our uniforms have any stars or badges?" Mo Fan suddenly asked.

He was not going to back away once he had decided on his course of action.

"Those with high ranks have records in the system. You should be glad that I managed to find a few uniforms for the Federation's army. Were you thinking of disguising yourself as a general?" Zhao Manyan snickered.

"Oh."

Currently, they were three glorious little recruits for the Federation's army!

"For the Federation!" Mo Fan reached out his hand and played his role.

"I would rather yell 'For the tribe!' or something. Let's agree on something before we go any further. If we are surrounded by another regiment, we should do our best to stay alive. I don't mind sacrificing my life for my country, but I have no intention of sacrificing my life for this sh\*\*\*\* country and being buried in a foreign land!" Zhao Manyan declared.

"We are going to blend into the Federation's army. Why would we be surrounded again?" Mo Fan wondered.

"What should we do now?" Mu Bai was confused.

Mo Fan was just about to say something when he heard loud marching on the puddles behind him. It sounded rather intimidating.

"You three dumbwits, are you hiding behind a bus because you are scared like sissies? Go to your positions at once! We will be charging at those scumbags' barricades in ten minutes! I'll kill you right now if you are thinking of deserting the war!" a soldier who was built like a chimpanzee yelled at them. His voice echoed across the street like a tyrant.

"We were chasing after a few militiamen, but they disappeared like mice," Mo Fan quickly replied.

"Militia? Why did you bother wasting your time on them? Go back to your squad. We'll kill every single one of those scum!" the captain yelled at him.

"Affirmative!" Mo Fan mimicked the soldiers of the Federation's army and saluted in an awkward manner.



The three quickly ran toward the assault troop in the brigade.

“We’ll just pretend to be soldiers for now and wait until they reclaim Banlo City,” Mo Fan told Mu Bai.

“Alright,” Mu Bai was a little impatient, yet he knew he would only get himself killed if they tried to force their way through the battlefield.

They immediately stood behind the assault troop.

The Black Chimpanzee guy came over and inspected them. “Asians?” Black Chimpanzee asked them.

“Yes.”

“Why have I never seen you before?” Black Chimpanzee demanded with a hostile expression.

“We are students of the Aorus Sacred Institute’s branch in Lei City. We are new recruits!” Zhao Manyan proclaimed. He took out the badge of the Aorus Sacred Institute to prove their identities.

The Aorus Sacred Institute seemed to have sided with the Federation, so it was fine showing their student badges.

“Ah, the branch in Lei City, that good-for-nothing institute that bribes the Aorus Sacred Institute’s recruiting department with money every year? Stop claiming you are from the Aorus Sacred Institute. You are nothing like their students!” a sergeant in the troop snarled.

“You’re right. Otherwise, we wouldn’t be just recruits now,” Zhao Manyan agreed.

“I hate Mages who keep mentioning the name of their school wherever they go. They only know to show off with their fancy yet impractical spells. Stand in your lines and go to the front once you hear the signal. I’ll execute you if you dare take a step back. Do you hear me!?” The apish captain stopped suspecting them and kicked Zhao Manyan’s butt.

Mo Fan and Mu Bai quickly found a spot in the troop so they would not be kicked in the butt.

Zhao Manyan was utterly displeased.

However, he did not dare slap the apish captain and send him flying with a backhand, as he did not want to blow his cover.

“Damn it, how did we end up like this? Shouldn’t we at least be captains if we are joining an army?” Zhao Manyan grumbled.

“It was you who found these uniforms. Why couldn’t you find better ones?” Mo Fan rebuked him.

“By the way, what rank is Zhang Xiaohou now?” Zhao Manyan asked suddenly.

“He was a Major General the last time I saw him. I’m not sure what his rank is now. He did leave me a message telling me he’s going on a secret mission...” Mo Fan answered.

Zhao Manyan’s face darkened. Why was his situation getting worse even after he had become a Super Mage?

Zhang Xiaohou was a Major General! A little captain like the Black Chimpanzee would have to drop to his knees to clean Zhang Xiaohou's boots!

And yet, that Black Chimpanzee was ordering Zhao Manyan around like a dog. He had even kicked him in the a\*\*. It f\*\*king hurt!

"Pay attention, focus!

"You will see a bridge once you cross the building in front!

"The bridge is the line of boundary between the two armies. You are going to charge at it when the signal is given!

"Do you understand? You can only go forward!"

Black Chimpanzee walked back and forth in front of the troop, giving the soldiers a final speech prior to the battle.

"I'll kill you if I see the slightest hesitation from you!" the apish captain yelled at them.

"Yes, sir!"

The assault troop had a hundred soldiers. They were all Basic Mages.

They might not be cannon fodder in the war, but they were only useful for blocking bullets for the main forces behind them!

### **Chapter 2294: Attacking the Barricades**

Mo Fan kept hearing the sounds of something like long bugle horns. A gray cloud had taken the shape of a bugle horn to the east of Banlo City.

The bugle horn was so huge that it almost pierced through the black clouds in the sky. It was blaring out the signal to advance to the army. All of Banlo City could hear it.

Colorful spells immediately began attacking the barricades. They combined into a magical storm, pouring down at the other side of the barricades.

The third assault troop of the army...

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai were like ducks being driven out onto a perch. There were around eighty people behind them who kept pushing them forward.

Everyone knew the first round of attacks at the walls would be the fiercest. The chance of survival was less than ten percent!

They did not have a choice. The captains who were supervising the assault troops would treat them as deserters if they showed the slightest intention to back away.

"Go, take over the walls and you will be a hero to Banlo City!" the apish captain yelled encouragingly.

The assault troop was heading straight toward a barricade across a minor street.

The rest of the assault troops were charging at the walls on the main highway. There were at least a thousand soldiers in total.

The walls were around two kilometers long. The Federation army's goal was to take over the barricades on Hope Street and take out the enemy in the other half of the city.

Mo Fan did not rely too much on his magic.

This battle was going to last for a long time. They were only waiting for the Federation's army to launch their counterattack. They did not have to fight for the sake of the Federation.

Besides, he could easily take over the wall on the minor street by himself, let alone with an assault regiment consisting of a thousand soldiers.

"Look out for the Water Guns!" Black Chimpanzee shouted.

A few rows of Water Mages popped up above the walls and began constructing Star Orbits amid the bombardment.

A blue energy was flowing on their arms after they constructed the blue Star Orbits. The militias gathered the energy on their palms.

Water burst out of their palms like a high-pressure pump. It was like a dam had burst when a few hundred Water Mages did it at the same time!

A Basic or Intermediate Mage was only slightly stronger and healthier than an ordinary person physically. They were unable to withstand the pressure of the fierce tide.

Some of the Mages were even knocked flying by the water and slammed into the jagged debris and concrete. Those who were unlucky were punctured by scattered steel-reinforced bars and the sharp edges of the rubble.

The assault troop of a hundred soldiers was indeed cannon fodder. They had lost their ground before they could even cast a single Basic Spell.

Mo Fan palmed his forehead.

What the heck were they doing? He knew these soldiers of the Federation's army were weak, but how did they all fall in less than half a minute?

The three of them felt completely out of place, as they were the only ones standing!

"Stand up, stand up now and keep going forward!" the apish captain yelled.

The High-Pressure Water Guns were not to be underestimated. Even those used to wash cars were strong enough to hurt people, let alone these spells that were at least five to six times stronger. The pressure could even break a person's bones!

"Why don't we join the assault troops on the main street instead?" Zhao Manyan suggested.

"Idiot, we are assigned to target this segment of the walls!" the frantic captain yelled at him.

“We are the only ones left. Do we really have to keep going?” Zhao Manyan pointed out.

The apish captain glanced at his remaining men before looking at the well-trained militia on the walls.

“To the main street. Damn it, come with me if you can still move! You useless pricks, you can’t even handle the militia!” Black Chimpanzee never stopped chewing them out.

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They ran to the main street, where a chaotic fight was taking place.

The Federation’s army had eleven assault teams, who were charging recklessly at the barricades like cannon fodder. The main force, which mainly consisted of Fire Mages, was further behind the assault troops.

The Fire Mages were like archers and cannons in a battle, protected in the middle by the rest of the army. Their job was to overwhelm the enemy with firepower.

The troops to the sides were mostly Wind and Light Mages. Their job was to occupy the enemy.

A war was more or less a bigger-scale group battle. The groups would have their assault squads, main battalions, side platoons, and a platoon with control magic.

The Brown Army was defending the barricades. Their formation was much simpler.

The walls had provided them with a geographical advantage. They just needed to stay on the high ground and throw their spells down, just like rolling stones from the top of the slopes.

The walls were only occupied by Brown Army militia, but they were still a great hindrance to the Federation Army’s advance.

The Federation Army did not have militia, but the Brown Rebels kept recruiting people who were influenced by the Frenzy Rain into their army to fight as militiamen.

If the rain kept falling, the number of militia would continue to increase. Even kind people like the militia sergeant from before would end up as weapons in the war!

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“Those a\*\*h\*\*\*\*, they keep throwing Water Spells at us. Not only are our Fire Mages weakened by the rain, our assault troops are struggling to climb to the top!” the commander of the assault regiment snarled.

The blond Commander kicked Black Chimpanzee in the stomach as soon as the apish captain came up to him.

The captain was not behaving as arrogantly as when he treated his men. He had a wronged expression, just like an obedient lackey.

“I told you to cause some disturbances by attacking the other side of the trench, yet you’ve crawled back here in defeat. Can’t you see how many soldiers have sacrificed their lives? Go and find a way to

climb up the trenches!” the Commander shouted. His temper was even worse than the Black Chimpanzee’s.

The captain did not dare disobey his superior’s order. He quickly led his remaining men and joined the battle.

A troop had managed to clear a path. They quickly took hold of the opportunity to climb to the top of the walls.

“Let’s go! You guys, come with me!”

The apish captain managed to find an opening amid the chaos. The militia of a certain segment of the walls had retreated after they were scared by a huge rock flying in their direction.

The Rock Tanks were further behind the army. They were only firing randomly at the enemy’s territory, but the rocks were still extremely deadly.

“This is our chance, there’s an opening over there!”

“Sir, there’s an opening right in front of us. We don’t have to run so far.”

“Nonsense, there were at least a few dozen people defending the walls here. Why would there be an opening... uhh...?”

Black Chimpanzee lifted his gaze and noticed the Water Mages in the trenches behind the barricades had been taken out.

There was no sign of danger!

It was like a blessing from the Heavens. They were alive!

## **Chapter 2295: Promotion**

“It’s a blessing from Forneus!” the apish captain cried out excitedly.

The enemies who had been posing a great threat to them had disappeared so suddenly. Some Intermediate Mage must have taken care of them, even though he did not see the spell!

What other reason could he possibly think of to explain his incredible luck, other than saying it was a blessing from the gods?

He was relieved that his parents had forced him to kneel on a huge banana leaf in the garden and pray to their goddess since he was five!

The apish captain led them forward with only eight of his men remaining. He no longer relied solely on his mouth, taking hold of the opportunity to cast an Intermediate Spell of his own.

He was an Intermediate Wind Mage.

He advanced straight into the enemy's line. The militia, who were only Basic Mages, failed to react in time.

"Wind Disc!" A cloudy tornado appeared above the trench behind the barricade at the apish captain's shout.

The tornado swept the trench and tossed a few dozen militiamen into the sky. They fell back to the ground after a few seconds.

"There's an opening! Follow them!" The attacking commander immediately noticed the tornado.

It was surprising that the commander saw the opening amid the rapid flashes of spells from his angle, but still more than three hundred assault troopers raced in the apish captain's direction!

Most of the enemies on the barricade wall were militia. They were initially abusing their high ground when attacking the Federation Army, but they quickly lost their ground after the Federation Army broke through their lines.

They were not as disciplined as proper soldiers when it came to obeying orders. They lost their cool as soon as the Federation Army broke through the walls.

Two rocks the size of cars fell onto the barricades and wiped out two groups of Brown militia. The militiamen were standing in clusters to maximize the damage of their spells, making them easy targets for the rocks.

The sight was like scoring a strike in bowling, knocking down all the pins perfectly, except for the blood that was splashing everywhere.

The assault troopers climbed up the walls and wiped out another two enemy squads in an instant. The militia on Hope Street were no longer able to hold their ground after the Federation Army broke into the trenches behind their barricades.

"Kill all of these sons of b\*\*\*hes, HAHAAH!" Black Chimpanzee burst out laughing.

His men let out relieved sighs, not because they were victorious, but because they were still alive!

Mo Fan stood at the side expressionlessly. He casually cast a few Earth Spells to pretend he was contributing.

"These idiots, they probably have no idea we are the ones who created the opening for them," Zhao Manyan spat on the ground casually.

The Federation Army's strength was worrisome if it took them so much effort just to break through the enemy's first line of defense, especially when it was only guarded by militiamen who had been assembled at the very last second. It was likely that they had only undergone some military training in middle school. They were nothing but sheets of loose sand, yet the Federation Army had almost failed to break through their defense.

Mo Fan was clueless about the situation on other streets, yet he could not help but worry after seeing the Federation Army's strength on Hope Street.

He had created the opening Captain Black Chimpanzee had 'discovered'.

If he had not lent the Federation Army a hand behind the scenes, he would have found himself once again in the same awkward situation where only the three of them were still standing!

"I wonder if these idiots are going to wet their pants when they encounter the Brown Rebels' main army!" Mo Fan muttered to no one.

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The Federation Army had claimed a little victory on Hope Street!

More surprisingly, the battle on Hope Street was the Federation Army's first breakthrough. The whole army pressed forward through the opening to advance the destructive brigade of Rock Tanks into the other half of the city.

"Well done, I didn't expect you to be the first one to reach the top, Mason!" the Lt. Colonel complimented his underling.

"I'm your man, after all, Lt. Colonel Blair," Black Chimpanzee replied humbly.

"My superior is very satisfied with the victory. He says we are the spears of the Federation and the Brown Army's rippers!" Lt. Colonel Blair exclaimed.

"I'm really honored!" The apish captain's smile was so wide that his whole face was shining.

Since when had he ever won their superiors' favor!?

"They have promoted us right on the spot. You are now a Major. I want you to ambush our next target with five hundred men and launch a surprise attack!" the new Colonel Blair went on.

"Huh? Wasn't I supposed to withdraw to the second line of duty?" The new Major Mason's smile froze.

"If you succeed, I will introduce you to the general. You should understand that this is the time when our Federation needs warriors like you the most. When there's peace, soldiers have to work for generations to be promoted from a little captain to a major, but when there's a war, one can easily rise to the role of a leader through it, even if you're just a little recruit!" Colonel Blair encouraged him.

The new major straightened his face after hearing the words! Even the eyes of the survivors by his side glittered.

"You are now my assistant, which makes you the second-in-command. Your soldiers are all promoted to senior sergeants, too!

"It's true that the odds of surviving are low when you are leading the front, but not many people can rise so quickly in the army even if they died a few times. The Federation has only been established recently. I believe you understand how important our ranks are better than anyone else!" Colonel Blaire announced to all of them.

The new major could feel his blood boiling.

Yeah, they were currently fighting a war. Anyone who contributed during a war would rise quickly through the ranks once the country was stable!

The Federation might become the strongest nation in South America. If he managed to stand out in these dangerous times, he no longer had to worry for the rest of his life. Even his descendants would be respected by the people of the nation!

The survivors were already impatient, let alone the new Major Mason!

“We were promoted to senior sergeants?”

“Were we really promoted to senior sergeants?”

“The general is right, we must contribute to the Federation!”

—

Major Mason felt like a different person when he left the command tent. The sky was oddly clear despite the heavy rain.

Second-in-command! He had become a major just because he was the first person to climb up the wall!

*The trend of events brings forth the hero! It is all thanks to Forneus!*

—

“To be honest, I’m a little excited myself!” Zhao Manyan told Mu Bai softly.

“You’re crazy. The feel-good motivational stories during wartime are specifically written for idiots like you,” Mu Bai scoffed.

Mo Fan looked at his uniform.

It was different now. They were no longer little recruits of the Federation.

They were three glorious senior sergeants now!

## **Chapter 2296: Cold Storage Fort**

Even though they were promoted to senior sergeants, they were only leading a hundred men each.

Major Mason subconsciously raised his chest as he walked along the wet street. “You guys have gone through Hell with me. I won’t mistreat you!” Major Mason promised them.

“Sir, we are at your service!” a soldier with a nose piercing replied quickly.

The Federation had recruited their soldiers from the ordinary people. Their soldiers were not allowed to have tattoos or other distinguishable markings. The soldier with a nose stud was most likely a street hoodlum before enlisting. He did not even have time to take off his nose piercing.



However, after being promoted to lieutenant after surviving the first battle, the young man had been brainwashed by the convincing Colonel Blair. He could not wait to render meritorious contributions to the army again!

“Alright, we will soon be leading new recruits. You will each take a hundred men and we’ll proceed with our next operation,” Major Mason said.

— —

The Federation’s army had claimed the first wall. They would be on the Brown Army’s territory from here onward.

The Furniture District where Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai had been ambushed was in this half of the city, too.

The area had already been ruined by the massive destruction brought by the Wind Gear Wheels. The streets were covered in debris. Only a few buildings were still standing before them.

The structures on this side of the city were strangely lower compared to the other half, like a disastrous earthquake had just taken place.

The soldiers of the Brown Army had already been dispersed across the place. They had built a few temporary forts using the fallen walls and steel-reinforced rubble. The Federation’s army had to destroy those strongpoints to reclaim Banlo City.

As a matter of fact, the plaza of the Furniture District was one of the places where the Brown Army had been planning to build a fort at, but the terrain was no longer suitable after Mo Fan had turned the debris of the collapsed buildings into ashes!

“Do you see those little hills that look like a junkyard? We are going to climb up there and assault that fleet of Wind Warships!” Major Mason told them.

They had five hundred men in total, and were currently just over three hundred meters away from a strongpoint. They were hiding behind the cover of a few residential buildings.

The fort used to be a cold storage marketplace, and was close to a branch of the Scorching River. It was mainly used for transporting supplies.

It had the main storage area for frozen products. Most of the incoming frozen meat and seafood was transported to that marketplace.

The marketplace had once had a few dozen storage buildings made of metal sheets, but the Wind Warships had destroyed them. The frozen meat was scattered across the ground like trash. Those who did not know about the marketplace might even think a bloodbath had occurred here recently.

Metal sheets, trucks, concrete, and thawed poultry were stacked into piles messily. The soldiers referred to it as the Junkyard Fort.

The place was indeed a junkyard, yet it was sturdy enough to withstand Super Magic. The Federation’s army had no idea how the Brown Rebels could stand the foul stench inside there. The Brown Rebels had occupied the high ground to defend the fort.

The structure of the fort had provided the Brown Rebels with advantageous positions to fend off the enemy with their spells, like putting Gatling guns along a castle's wall.

"There's no way we can survive against their defense!" Many of the new recruits were intimidated after seeing the stronghold.

The wall they had previously attacked was only a little hill. All they had needed to do was to climb to the top.

However, the fort they were about to attack was surrounded by junk piles. It might not be made of steel, but the area around the fortress was open and spacious. They would be easy targets for the Brown Rebels on the walls there when they charged at it.

The fort's walls were tall and had rough terrain around them. How were they supposed to climb up the fort, even if they managed to reach it?

"Charge! Move forward! I'll execute anyone who dares to take a step back!" Major Mason ordered them coldly.

The Federation's army had already given its signal. Five thousand men were sent to attack the fort. The five hundred men under Mason's leadership was only a portion of the assault regiment, which consisted of two thousand men.

The string on the bow had been pulled. They had no choice but to fire the arrow.

The soldiers were forced to charge forward. The quiet frozen food marketplace was soon bustling with noise as the soldiers fired their spells with colorful displays, like a wild meteor shower sweeping across the sky above the city.

These soldiers were no footmen and riders. They were Mages!

The assault troops mainly consisted of Wind and Earth Mages, who were moving forward in Wind Tracks or sliding across the ground with Earth Waves.

The assault troops seemed unstoppable at a first glance. It was Mason's first time leading five hundred men into battle. He was lost thought when he saw his men charging into the enemy lines recklessly.

"Wind Gear Wheel!"

Gusts of wind like sharp whips and blades appeared above the fort as the assault troops entered the spacious field. They gradually merged in a seemingly disorderly manner.

The wind whips eventually turned into wheels, while the blades started spinning like gears!

A huge Wind Gear Wheel descended from the sky. It swept across the field like the blades of a lawnmower. The Mages of the assault troops were just petty weeds.

Blood splattered across the field, and bodies were shredded into pieces.

Over a hundred Mages had died after being run over by a single Wind Gear Wheel!

"Look out!"

“Don’t retreat!”

Not many people could see the destructive spells clearly amid the splashing blood and flesh, and the chaotic clashes of spells.

Many people were still constructing Star Orbits when they saw their comrades being shredded like mincemeat in front of them. They only realized how terrifying the enemy’s magic was when the Wind Gear Wheel ran over them.

“How many men do we have left?” Major Mason demanded, his face blank.

“Around a hundred,” Mo Fan informed him drily.

“Those sons of b\*\*\*hes! Charge, go forward!” Mason completely lost his calm.

Mo Fan looked at the cold storage fort.

The destructive fleet of Wind Warships seemed to be their biggest threat. They could not afford to underestimate the ships’ strength. They were a threat even for a Super Mage like Mo Fan.

Mo Fan decided not to muddle along in the assault. He was ready to destroy the fleet of Wind Warships once and for all!

## **Chapter 2297: Vengeful Seed**

“Chaos! Order Manipulation!”

A strange glow appeared in Mo Fan’s eyes. It was the same mysterious silver as the Space Element, but it had a slight hint of a sinister and evil aura!

“That pig, didn’t he see the Wind Warship is targeting us? The next Wind Gear Wheel will be coming right at us!” Zhao Manyan swore.

Not only did Black Chimpanzee Mason have a bad temper, he was brainless, too!

The tornado forming above the cold storage fort was an obvious sign that the Wind Warship was about to fire another Wind Gear Wheel.

They were supposed to spread out and find some cover behind nearby objects or let the Earth Mages set up sand dunes to defend them so their troop would not be wiped out by the Wind Gear Wheel!

Unfortunately, Zhao Manyan was not commanding the troop, and no one dared to disobey Major Mason’s order.

—

The deadly wind descended from above the fort.

The remaining soldiers of the assault troops had almost reached the fort, but their minds went blank when the destructive wind poured down at them.

Humans had trouble reacting when an enormous object was coming their way, since their subconscious was telling them they would not be able to dodge the object no matter which direction they moved in.

They would simply stand still when they were left with no escape, as if they could no longer respond to the situation.

A ferocious wind swept past the soldiers. Even the air it stirred up was as deadly as the shredder of a heavy tractor.

However, the soldiers were surprised when they saw the Wind Gear Wheel going off-track and barely brush them.

—

“We are blessed by Forneus! We are blessed by Forneus!” Mason shouted at the top of his lungs.

*It missed! The powerful Wind Gear Wheel missed!*

He had thought his men were all going to die, yet he was blessed by his goddess once again!

It was common for a missile to miss its target amid the rain of fire in a chaotic battle.

However, it was rare for them to survive a second round of spells. The soldiers who were shredded into mincemeat in the previous attack clearly did not share their luck.

“Quick, climb up there!”

The soldiers of the Federation’s army who had survived the second round of Wind Gear Wheel started climbing the walls of the fort.

A troop of Brown Rebels was defending the lower section of the fort. The Wind Warship was their main support. It would not allow the Federation’s army to come any closer.

“Mo Fan, we have to destroy the Wind Warship. Otherwise, the Federation’s army will lose a lot of their men here,” Zhao Manyan spoke up.

They had witnessed the strength of the Wind Warships before. The Federation’s army had to destroy the forts in this half of the city to reclaim Banlo City.

The fort only had a single Wind Warship guarding it, but the Brown Rebels had at least a dozen of them!

“I know, they are most likely the Brown Rebels’ trump card, since they allow low-level Mages to cast a spell that is as deadly as a Super Spell,” Mo Fan agreed.

“I’ll go, this fort is like a beehive with many holes. You might struggle to take out the people who are hiding inside it,” Mu Bai volunteered.

“You shouldn’t go alone. We’ll wait for the rest of the army. We can’t afford to be exposed. Otherwise, the Brown Rebels will send powerful Mages after us,” Mo Fan warned him.

“Don’t worry, I know what I’m doing.”

The three did not dare to do anything too reckless. After all, the Brown Rebels might be alerted if the battle suddenly became one-sided in favor of the Federation’s army!

—

“You three... how are you still alive!?” Mason blurted out in astonishment.

“We have no idea, I think they are more focused on our Intermediate Mages,” Mo Fan replied helplessly.

“Damn it, there’s no way we can break into the fort. We have no idea how many enemies there are inside!” Mason cursed.

“Sir, I have some special seeds. You can pass them to the soldiers behind us,” Mu Bai offered patiently.

“What difference are these seeds going to make? We are fighting a war, this isn’t a farm!” the apish man shouted in frustration.

“Just ask them to bring the seeds along with them. I’m a Plant Mage. These seeds will blossom into vengeful flowers when the soldiers die. They will eliminate a lot of enemy soldiers,” Mu Bai told him.

“Are you being serious?” Mason asked carefully.

Mason was desperate enough to try everything they had. He knew his men would eventually be killed by the endless Fire and Lightning that was pouring down from the fort if they were to climb the walls mindlessly.

He passed the seeds to his men and asked them to pass the seeds to the rest of the soldiers who were approaching behind them.

—

Vengeful Seeds!

When the people carrying them died, these seeds would rapidly absorb the energy of their bearers and blossom into a magical flower that shot out spikes in every direction for five seconds.

The inside of the fort was like a maze. The Brown Rebels were hiding in the shadows, preventing their enemies from reaching the Wind Warship at the top.

Even if Mo Fan tried to make his way to the top, he would waste a lot of time trying to locate the soldiers who were hiding in the shadows.

However, things were a lot simpler with the help of the Vengeful Seeds.

Every soldier in the assault troop was carrying a Vengeful Seed with them. If they were unharmed, they would make their way closer to the Wind Warship.

If they were killed by the Brown Rebels in the fort, the Vengeful Seeds would kill the enemies nearby!

Mu Bai was hesitant to use the evil magic, which basically turned the soldiers into suicide bombers. After all, the seeds were only useful when their bearers died!

However, he had no other choice under the circumstances. No one had the right to call themselves innocent after taking part in the war.

The trio already had their hands covered in blood. Even if they ended up being executed by the Brown Army, they had made their own choices!

—

The Vengeful Seeds did not make a difference at first, but as more soldiers invaded the fort, ghastly cries kept echoing down the halls.

The soldiers of the Brown Army were human, too.

They no longer dared to show themselves when they saw the Federation's army using such a self-destructive method to take them down.

Little did they know, there were a lot of unreliable soldiers in the Federation's army, too.

They ended up falling into the traps and ambushes inside the fort because of their own stupidity and lack of strength. It was their deaths that had activated the Vengeful Seeds, but the Brown Rebels thought the Federation's army had sent out a suicide squad to destroy the fort.

It was difficult for an army to win a battle once they lost their morale.

The Brown Rebels who were protecting the Wind Warship retreated. The Wind Warship powered by two thousand Wind Mages was the only thing left protecting the fort!

## Chapter 2298: Replicating Seal

It was not like the Federation's army did not have their trump cards, but they had not sent their Cross Chaos Formation up to the front line earlier, trying to avoid unnecessary casualties.

The Cross Chaos Formation had three thousand Mages, but its core was formed by an Advanced Chaos Mage and ten Intermediate Chaos Mages.

The Formation resembled an enormous cross. When enemies were targeting it with destructive spells, the Formation would start spinning like a windmill.

The Mages were not moving around like a windmill, but the Chaos Magic they cast would combine into a vortex looming above the Formation. It looked like the Mages were moving within the blades of the windmill!

A colorful rain of destructive spells poured down at the Brown Rebel's Wind Warship.

The Wind Warship immediately activated its shell. The barrier constructed by the Light Mages outlined the Wind Warship with a strong sheen of thick light.

“Seriously? Is this really the Federation Army’s trump card, simply firing their spells at will?” Zhao Manyan looked up and saw a mix of Basic Spells and Intermediate Spells pouring down from the sky.

Their enemy’s trump card was a powerful Wind Warship made up of two thousand soldiers.

The Federation Army’s Formation of three thousand soldiers seemed impressive at the first glance, but why did it feel like its strength was nowhere close to the Brown Rebels’ Wind Warship?

“Be patient, our army isn’t as weak as you think,” the man with a nose-stud spoke up.

Another wave of destructive spells came pouring down from the sky. Thousands of spells landed on the Wind Warship’s Light Shell, generating a series of deafening explosions.

The rainbow of destructive spells did not stop there. The Chaos Vortex above the Federation Army started spinning again, firing the same round of spells as before.

The Basic and Intermediate Spells kept pouring down at the Wind Warship. The Mages in the Cross Chaos Formation were Casting their spells at an impressive rate, as the pause between each round was very brief. A new wave of spells was flying across the sky even as the previous wave just landed on its target.

It was like replacing a row of Gatling guns with the next row after they had fired all their rounds!

However, the Mages of the Cross Chaos Formation were all using their magic simultaneously. They did not take turns Casting their spells.

“What’s going on? How are they able to Cast their spells so rapidly?” Zhao Manyan was astounded as the spells kept pouring down from the sky endlessly.

The problem was that most of the Mages in the army were only Basic and Intermediate Mages. Their cultivation was not strong enough to Cast spells with a single thought.

There would be time discrepancies between the Mages since the times they needed to Channel their magic was different. It was unlikely they could all fire their spells at the enemy in such rapid succession.

“It’s the Chaos Element’s Replicating Seal!” Mu Bai blurted out in astonishment.

Replicating Seal, the Advanced Spell of the Chaos Element!

The Advanced Chaos Mage had constructed a Replicating Seal while the other Chaos Mages enlarged it to cover the whole Formation.

Whenever a Mage inside the Formation cast a Basic or Intermediate Spell, the Replicating Seal would replicate the same spell instantly.

“Wait, the Chaos Element can do that?” Mo Fan’s eyes widened in shock.

Mu Bai and Zhao Manyan’s faces darkened.

*Aren’t you a f\*\*king Chaos Mage too? How can you not know the Chaos Element’s capabilities?*

*Is there anyone as magic illiterate as Mo Fan?*

“Is the Replicating Seal duplicating the spells?” Zhao Manyan asked, interested.

“Yes, it is, hence why they are able to fire their spells so rapidly. Even if three thousand Mages are casting a Basic Spell, that would be six thousand spells after the spells are replicated!” Mu Bai said.

“That’s insane; we shouldn’t underestimate the Federation’s army either!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

Even though Mo Fan was surprised to see the Federation Army’s true strength, he was more interested in the Replicating Seal’s power.

If he was able to replicate his destructive spells...

Imagine the Replicating Seal replicating his Lightning Star Palace... it would have double the flavor!

The Replicating Seal was only an Advanced Spell, thus it would take him less energy to construct it than constructing a Lightning Palace.

It was basically buy one and get the second one at half price!

He had to learn the Replicating Seal!

His Chaos Element had long reached the Advanced Level. If the Federation’s army could learn it, why couldn’t he?

A regiment of three thousand Mages was already quite intimidating, but the Replicating Seal had turned it into a regiment of six thousand Mages. Even the Brown Rebels’ Wind Warship was struggling to fend it off.

The assault troops had gradually seized the fort. The fort was the Wind Warship’s foundation. It was on the verge of collapsing after losing its foundation.

The large Wind Warship finally crumbled to the ground after a few more rounds of spells.

A few hundred Wind Mages had already left the Wind Warship and fled for their lives to the west.

The replicated spells circled in the sky and chased after those who were running away.

The Brown Rebels of the Cold Storage Fort ended up running away miserably. The fort they had made eventually collapsed to the ground.

These temporary forts were mostly constructed by Earth Mages who were specialized builders with readily available material nearby. As a matter of fact, it would be quicker to take down the fort by hunting down the builders.

Unfortunately, the builders were important assets to an army. They would rather lose a Wind Warship just to guarantee those men’s safety. They were surely under the Brown Rebels’ heavy protection.

The Federation Army quickly built sentry towers in the vicinity after reclaiming the cold storage marketplace, raising their flags around the marketplace.

Those flags were very important. After all, there were other regiments fighting the Brown Rebels in Banlo City. They could retreat to the places where their flags waved when necessary.



Most surprisingly, the regiment at the cold market storage was the first to take down one of the Brown Rebels' hardpoints. Many soldiers of the Federation Army came to the cold storage marketplace to catch their breaths. The regiment under Colonel Blair's leadership grew bigger as a result.

"HAHA, Major Mason, you are truly talented at leading an assault! If it weren't for your brave men who were willing to sacrifice their lives to take down the enemies, we wouldn't have been able to take down the fortress so quickly. Our casualties are a lot lower compared to other regiments," Colonel Blair exclaimed with great excitement.

"It was a blessing from Forneus. I didn't expect my men and I to survive the battle." The apish Major Mason glanced at his surviving senior sergeants.

There were not many survivors among his troops, but the three who claimed to be students from the Aorus Sacred Institute's branch were perfectly fine.

It was unbelievable!

Besides, judging from Colonel Blair's tone, it sounded like they were going to be promoted again!

Chapter 2299: Exposed at Last

A flag was raised on the cold storage marketplace.

The former Colonel Blair had suddenly become the brightest star in the Federation's army. He even had a seat in the highest meeting among the leaders.

The meeting was held at the command center. The decision that the persons made in the meeting would decide the outcome of the war.

The new Brigadier General Blair never thought he would have the chance to take the same seats as his most respected superiors in his lifetime. They were going to discuss their plans to drive the Brown Rebels out of the tropical woods.

The battle in Banlo City was to reclaim the city. However, the Brown Rebels had occupied the woods between the Scorching River and Banlo City. They had to drive the Brown Rebels back to the other side of the Scorching River at all costs!

They would then worry about reclaiming Half-Ridge Mountain City afterwards.

The first thing Brigadier General Blair did was reward his men based on their contribution in the battles after he was given more authority.

The assault troops had the highest rate of deaths, but the rewards they received were the greatest, too. It was obvious that the new Lt. Colonel Mason was going to receive the highest merit!

The assault troops he led had destroyed the fort's foundation. Without them, the Cross Chaos Formation would never have gotten in range to take down the Wind Warship.

The Cross Chaos Formation was powerful. However, it had a great weakness: its attack range was limited, and its movement was very slow.

The enemy's Wind Warship had been located on high ground, making the Cross Chaos Formation an easy target. If the Wind Warship had focused its attack on the Cross Chaos Formation, a Wind Gear Wheel could take out half its Mages before they were close enough to attack the enemy. They would have had no chance of taking down the fort and the Wind Warship.

The assault troops had played an important role in the battle. They had to force their way through the enemy's lines and go close enough to the Wind Warship to disrupt its attacks so the Cross Chaos Formation was clear to do its job.

"Mason, you must have noticed that many Mages were willing to join our regiment after we raised the flag on the cold storage marketplace. I've decided to place you in charge of them. They have just finished the headcount. There's a total of thirteen hundred Mages!

"Mason, you are now leading a thousand men!"

Brigadier General Blair patted Black Chimpanzee heavily on the shoulder, like he was utterly impressed by him.

Lt. Colonel Mason had yet to recover from the shock. He realized how weak the militia were when he saw how strong the Wind Warship was.

However, he was full of passion after he was promoted again!

He now had a thousand men under his lead!

He had once had a teacher who had scolded him as brainless and claimed he could never climb to the rank of a Lt. Colonel.

It turned out that his teacher was wrong!

He was now a Lt. Colonel, and he was only thirty-three years old!

A Lt. Colonel was basically the local tyrant in a second-tier or third-tier city. He could choose to marry the prettiest woman with the best figure and live in a mansion. Even the authorities of the city had to treat him with utter respect. He could do whatever he pleased!

"We'll attack the enemy's base in the woods in our next operation. I hope you will continue to show your heroism in the upcoming battle and aim to spread your name across the whole Federation!"  
Brigadier General Blaire kept motivating Mason.

"What? Are you saying that I'm famous?" Mason exclaimed.

"Of course, go ask around in our army. Who dares to say they don't know who the Horn of the Army, Mason, is?" Blaire proclaimed.

*Horn of the Army!*

It was such an impressive title!

Mason nodded crazily. He felt like he had been possessed by the God of the Military!

“Your men have contributed greatly to the army, too. They are promoted to lieutenants! Keep up the good work, you are all heroes of the Federation, the guardians of our nation!” Blaire patted Mason’s men on the shoulders.

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai were perfectly calm, but the young man with a nose stud and the others who had survived almost had an urge to tilt their heads and kiss their shoulders!

They felt honored to be motivated by their superior!

They even felt like their magic had been enhanced by their motivation!

Mo Fan, Mu Bai, and Zhao Manyan were given new uniforms again after leaving the camp.

“You three... come with me,” the new Lt. Colonel Mason ordered Mo Fan and his friends sternly.

Mo Fan’s heart skipped a beat.

It seemed like the Black Chimpanzee was not a complete idiot. He had realized something after the two battles.

“Humph, do you think I have no idea what you are up to...” the Black Chimpanzee rolled his eyes.

“Heh, it sounds like you’ve figured it out,” Zhao Manyan said proudly.

They were not supposed to be foot soldiers. They could easily affect the outcome of an entire battle with their strength!

“I’ll make it straight, you three better stick close to me if you want to live. You must protect me when the time comes, do you understand?” Lt. Colonel Mason said protectively.

“What?”

“You will make it straight?”

“Stick close to you?”

The three immediately had question marks all over their heads.

“Are you guys dumb or what? Haven’t you realized something after the two battles? You were only petty foot soldiers when you first joined the army. Do you think you have climbed to the rank of lieutenants by yourselves?” Mason harrumphed coldly.

“Uhh...” Mo Fan was lost for words.

“Forneus, have you heard of the goddess Forneus? She’s the mother of the woods, the gentlest and most dependable Goddess of the Andes Mountains. I’ve been worshiping her by kneeling on banana leaves since I was five. I’ve finally moved her with my sincerity after thirty years!” Mason exclaimed piously.

The three exchanged glances with colorful expressions.

“You are saying that you’ve been winning battles and climbing the ranks because you have been worshipping a tree since you were five?” Mo Fan probed carefully.

“Exactly!” Mason declared confidently.

“Fine, as long as you’re happy.” Mu Bai did not bother explaining further.

“The three of you must have caught some of my blessings since you have been following me from the beginning, but I don’t mind at all, since we have gone through Hell together. As long as I am around, you will all climb the ranks with me. If possible, I’ll let you worship Forneus together with me!” Mason went on reverently.

Mason left after finishing the sentence, going off to count his new recruits.

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai stared at his back.

“How surprising, I’ve never seen anyone as stupid as him!” Mo Fan exclaimed in admiration.

“I’m extremely touched by his intelligence...” Zhao Manyan agreed quietly.

“I’m fine with it, we can conceal our identities better. The longer it takes the Brown Rebels to find us, the better it is for us!” Mu Bai took a moment to come up with a comfortable excuse in an approving voice.

### **Chapter 2300: Crossing the Marsh**

The rain had lasted for more than fifteen hours by now.

The terrain around Banlo City was mainly tropical woods and swamps. The shallow wet ground had turned into little ponds covered by algae.

Mud was constantly washing down from the Andes Mountains. The woods were soaked in a lake of mud, leaving little solid ground.

The Brown Rebels had already adapted to the environment. They were using the vines in the woods to create walkable paths.

It was similar to putting a net on the surface of water. Those who were familiar with walking on the vines could move freely around the swamp.

The Federation’s army was obviously not very good at it. A huge army had gathered outside Banlo City, but it stopped moving after it reached the swamps and the woods.

The country was still in chaos after the riot. The Federation would slowly lose its influence and power if it could not stop the negative news from spreading. The people would think the Federation was no longer the only ruler in the country. Other factions who were disloyal to the Federation would rise and revolt against it, and it would have difficulty handling the situation.

It was important to stop the revolt as quickly as possible. They had to drive the Brown Rebels back to the other side of the Scorching River within two days.

The Federation Army's time was running short, especially since they had to cross the terrible environment that was the swamp and the woods.

The Browns had built walls and forts to stop the Federation Army inside Banlo City, but the Federation Army had still managed to break through them.

However, once they were in the swamps and woods, they might be trapped forever in them before they even saw someone to fight!

The whole army was hindered by the swamp. Having more men was not going to make a difference.

— —

The army had no choice but to move forward under the heavy pressure from the leaders of the Federation.

They did not encounter any resistance from the Brown Rebels, at first.

However, when the army reached the swamps, some cunning fighters began using Water and Earth Spells to hinder their movement and split the assault troops off from the main army.

The Brown Rebels' Wind Warships were able to move freely about the swamp. They began targeting the troops that had been separated from the main army.

Two hours later, the Federation Army realized something was not right. It quickly ordered its men to withdraw.

Even with their quick reaction, the Federation Army ended up losing a third of their men in the swamps. Those who survived did not catch even a glimpse of their enemies.

"Should we ask Ice Mages to freeze the woods?"

"We might need a Forbidden Ice Mage for that."

"Those cunning Brown moles, they were luring us into the swamps and the woods on purpose!"

"What should we do now? Our superiors already gave the order that militia Mages like us have to cross the swamp to reach the enemy base in the woods, but I doubt we are going to survive if we go in again," a disheveled Mage protested.

The captains of the volunteer Mages expressed their worries. They all realized the Federation had their necks under the edge of a knife, forcing them to keep pushing forward, yet the enemies ahead were lining up their bows at them!

"Why are you so scared? The woods are our territory. Just follow me, we will destroy their base and show them who's the owner of the Scorching River!" the Black Chimpanzee shouted firmly, slamming his palm against a table.

“Our territory? Lt. Colonel Mason, do you have an idea how we can overcome the hindrance in the swamps?” the captain with disheveled hair asked.

“Victory will be ours as long as you follow my footsteps!” Mason declared.

Mo Fan was waiting for Mason to come up with a brilliant idea, but had an urge to slap himself on the forehead when he saw the confident look on Mason’s face.

*Don’t tell me this idiot really thinks he’s possessed by a god?*

“Mo Fan, we can’t put all our hope on this idiot to win the battle in the swamps. We have a thousand men in our regiment. We won’t be able to get too far without their help!” Mu Bai murmured to him.

“I know, but I don’t like fighting in an environment like that, either. Both the rain and the swamps greatly limit my Fire Element. The woods, vines, and algae will hinder my Lightning Magic from spreading too,” Mo Fan replied grimly.

The plants in the woods were too dense, basically providing the Browns with a natural barrier. Mo Fan’s Lightning had to go through all the obstructions to reach them if they stayed close to the plants.

His Lightning Magic would be a lot weaker than when it was used in an open and spacious area.

Zhao Manyan came closer and asked, “What about your Vengeful Seeds? Are they any good?”

“They are, but the problem is, the spikes won’t necessarily kill the enemies if they hide behind the trees or above the canopy,” Mu Bai answered doubtfully.

“You’re right, I bet these soldiers are going to die before they see anyone. The Vengeful Seeds aren’t going to do much,” Mo Fan agreed.

Lt. Colonel Mason came over as they were talking among themselves. “What are you three mumbling about? Don’t tell me you are scared, you are now Lieutenants with a few Intermediate Mages taking orders from you. You must live up to your expectations!” the man encouraged them.

“Sir, even though you are blessed by Forneus, I doubt she’s always free like a housewife who sits on the couch and eats sunflower seeds while enjoying your show. She would have to look at other followers, too. If you are in trouble when she switched stations, wouldn’t it be a pity for you?” Zhao Manyan suggested.

Mason seemed to agree with that. “So?” the apish officer asked.

“So, we can’t step into the traps the enemies have prepared for us. We have to come up with a plan to outsmart them,” Zhao Manyan recommended.

“What stupid ideas do you have?” Mason raised his brows.

Zhao Manyan’s face darkened. *How dare you call my ideas stupid?*

It was really strenuous talking to an idiot like him!

“The plants are dense in the woods, while the rain and the mist are limiting our vision. If we are having trouble seeing the Browns, how did they know where we are?” Zhao Manyan explained.

“I think I understand what you are saying!” Mason cried out. “We can cut down the plants to clear the mist!”

Zhao Manyan froze immediately.

*My gods... even the black chimpanzees in the zoo are smarter than this guy!*

How were they supposed to cut down all the trees of such a huge forest?

If cutting down the trees would drive away the rain, why would they go through so much trouble just to take down Wu Ku?