

## Armipotent 1071

### Chapter 1071 Skelly Family In Action - Part 9

After separating from the others, the first Tang Shaoyang did was summon Yu, the Ancient Alchemist. The spirit who had been working in the Alchemist Facility back on earth returned to his Spirit World after he used Seven Souls. And he was the noisy spirit that had been talking in his head ever since he entered the Epic Rank Garden.

Yu kept begging to get out ever since they entered the garden. The spirit alchemist unceasingly told him that the garden was heaven for the alchemist, from the nature energy to how good the environment was to growing many herbs. The man could not stop speaking to the point of asking him to get the garden for the empire.

"I let you out with a condition. We will not take the garden for the empire, but I will give you time to do whatever you want in this garden. You can collect the samples of herbs or soils, whatever, but you are done once our business here is over. If you agree with the condition and stop talking inside my head, you can roam free."

"Agree." After giving his reply, Yu instantly disappeared from Tang Shaoyang's sight. The guy wasted no time. The first thing he did was to scope a handful of soil. After the soil, he took the sample from the falling leaves and also the leaves on the tree. After that, the guy disappeared into the woods.

With the nuisance in his head gone, Tang Shaoyang summoned Keeper and Skelly6. Keeper was the Infernal Slinger with the best sight among the skelly family. Skelly6 was Grandmaster Killer with the best ability to scout areas among the skelly family. He summoned the two and ordered them to scout the area for him. That made his movement more efficient as he had more eyes, making his search scope more extensive. On top of that, the skelly family could directly talk into his head, so it would be easier for them to communicate.

"Eril said there are no restrictions or rules for the fight, best to avoid killing them, but casualty in the battle is inevitable. That means I can kill them." Tang Shaoyang licked his lip. "Killing a Myth Rank should give me a few levels, no?"

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Name: Tang Shaoyang

Race: Tang

Main Class: Exalted Monarch of Spirit

Second Class: Legend Slayer [Level - 3984]

Evolution: Ancient

Age: 27

Affiliation: Tang Empire

Level: 3984

Talent: Divine Body

2nd Talent: Wrath

Bloodline: Black Dragon

Attribute:

Strength: Ancient (20-Star) [0/30,000 AP 21-Star]

Agility: Ancient (20-Star) [0/30,000 AP 21-Star]

Vitality: Ancient (20-Star) [0/30,000 AP 21-Star]

Stamina: Epic (50-Star) [0/20,000 AP 51-Star]

Magic Power: Ancient (99-Star)

Spirit Power: 21,291

Sense: Ancient (9-Star)

Mana: 29,000,000

Spiritual Energy: 211,910/212,910

Slayer Essence: 17,564,750

Slayer Energy: 17,391,652/17,391,652

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Tang Shaoyang leveled up over seven hundred levels after killing the Executioner Knight from the Divine Church. One Primordial Rank and fourteen Myth Ranks, so he figured that he would get dozens of levels from killing the Myth Rank.

Looking over the status window, he noticed that Spiritual Energy was filled up once more. Not just filled up, the number doubled. He had gone through so many issues lately, and he forgot about [Spirit Resurrection].

"But wait, how's the number doubled? I haven't sacrificed any spirits lately...." Tang Shaoyang was puzzled by the number. He remembered that he had around 119 hundred thousand Spiritual Energy for Zaneos's resurrection. And the only method to raise Spiritual Energy was through spirit sacrifice, but he had not made the sacrifice recently. The empire was troubled with the rebellion and the reformation, and also the upcoming eleventh floor of the dimensional tower. The thought of increasing his Spiritual Energy was never crossed in mind with all those troubles.

"But wait. I can't use the resurrection yet right now. How am I supposed to tell your background to the guild?"

The spirits' excitement died down after hearing that. The current situation was not the best to revive one of his spirits because it would arouse suspicion around him instead. The guild might back down from helping him if he was too suspicious unless he wanted to risk his life by telling his actual class the guild. He did not know what the guild's reaction would be, but he also did not want to try that after hearing Avyn's ancestor story where people hated the Spirit Contract class. It was more than hate for many groups to destroy Avyn's ancestor world.

Tang Shaoyang did not want to add more enemies to his list. "I am sorry, Zowen. But you have to wait until the situation is better." The next on the list was Zowen the Grand Lightning Magus. She

was his third spirit, and since Karan did not want to be resurrected, Zowen was next on the line. He could feel her disappointment, but there was nothing he could do in this circumstance.

"I can cook another story for you and the guild, but later, not now. It's better to avoid unnecessary suspicion. I hope you can understand, Zowen." Even though he felt guilty, he had to face it. The contract between him and Zowen was the resurrection; that is what made the magus loyal and helpful toward him.

[I understand.] Zowen responded calmly.

The situation put him in an awkward situation. "Let the hunt begin." He tried to change the topic, advancing to the forest. Tang Shaoyang activated the Spirit Eyes, scanning the two thousand meters around him as he walked deeper with no destination.

"How big is this garden?" Tang Shaoyang could not help but raise his voice. He had been venturing for half an hour at his maximum speed, but he could not find the people from the Virandal Empire. That was right; he tried to find the Virandal Empire's group instead of looking for the boss monster.

"Are they in the opposite direction?" He turned around, thinking the Virandal Empire's group was behind him. That meant Eril or Roman would meet the Virandal Empire team.

[Master! It's me, Keeper. I think I found the boss monster.] A voice rang in his head.

Tang Shaoyang immediately tried to sense Keeper's location and dashed toward Keeper's direction. Keeper was to his south, and it took him five minutes to reach Keeper's location. It was far, but it did not take much time for him to close the distance with his current speed.

Keeper was standing at the branch of the highest tree around. The moment Tang Shaoyang arrived, the skeleton pointed in the direction. The direction where the suspected boss monster for the Epic Rank Garden.

#### Chapter 1072 Skelly Family In Action - Part 10

The boss monster was a giant tree; it was big but not tall, with hundreds if not thousands of branches the size of a human's arm. At a glance, it looked like a normal tree. However, the tree could not hide from the Identification skill.

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[Demonic Tree]

Rank: Ancient

Level: 2478

Skill: ???

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Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow as the thing that confused him appeared once more. The level and the rank did not match the theory he had. Based on Marshal Alton, one would rank up after five hundred levels once they reach level 1000 or Epic Rank. Marshal Alton's second trial was at level 1500, the third trial was at level 2000, the fourth trial was at level 2500, and the Legend Rank trial was at level 3000.

However, Tang Shaoyang's second trial after the Epic Rank was at level 3000. It did not match with Marshal Alton or the people from the Ortis Continent, who had the same process. It applied to the beast and monster too, but he found an anomaly here. The Demonic Tree was level 2478, but it was still Ancient Rank. From theory, the monster should be at Myth Rank for that level.

"There are a lot of things that I can't understand from the system. It's as if the System purposely put me in a more difficult situation." Tang Shaoyang could not help but be frustrated. Based on the theory, he was supposed to be at Demi-God Rank for reaching level 3984. "Is it because of my Spirit Contractor class? Is this the penalty for having a strong class?"

Tang Shaoyang shook his head and put away his confusion about the level back in his head. No matter how hard he thought about it, he would never get the answer unless the System gave him the answer. He had no clue whatsoever to answer his confusion.

"Let's think about how to hunt the Virandal Empire's group." Tang Shaoyang rubbed his chin, concocting a plan to hunt them. "Ah. I don't need a plan. I just need to sit here and wait for them to come at me, no? They will eventually come at me for the boss monster."

He summoned the remaining Skelly family and recalled Skelly6. "You guys can hunt the monsters, but don't touch the boss monster."

The Skelly family makes an exciting clacking noise with their jaws before dispersing. The monster inside the garden was actually higher in level than the ones outside. He even encountered several Epic Rank monsters, but his goal was not to hunt the monster but the people.

Tang Shaoyang let out a chuckle at how much he had changed. Not just him but the others too. Having the thought of killing people was no different than killing a bug. People would not hesitate to kill each other; there was no guilt, as it was a normal thing. "The game normalizes the thought of killing each other, I guess?" Kill or be killed; that was how the world worked now.

Tang Shaoyang took a nap on the tree as he waited for the Virandal Empire's group. There was nothing he could do in this situation but wait. The wait bore fruit after half an hour as he sensed the arrival of four people. He sat up and looked in the direction of the four people.

"Hmmm. Interesting."

The four people were the Virandal Empire's group, but the group was missing one person, the Myth Rank. If the four were here, that meant they did not move as Eril predicted. The Virandal Empire group split into two teams, the group of four looking for the boss monster, and the Myth Rank went somewhere else.

"Guys, stop the hunting. We have guests here." Tang Shaoyang recalled the skelly family and approached the four stealthily. He soon arrived at the range where he could overhear their conversation, and he arrived at the right time.

"Do you think Sir Callahan has killed them all? Or should we wait a little more before we start the raid?"

"The problem is not whether Sir Callahan has killed them or not, but has he found them? The garden is vast, and if not for our special compass, I don't think we would have found the boss monster this early. We spent forty minutes getting here."

"Let's wait another half an hour."

The four looked for space and waited there, failing to notice someone spying on them.

"But what's so special about that pink-haired girl? Why does the empire want her?" The Epic Rank asked for his curiosity.

"I heard that the girl is a dragon's descendant and is capable of using Dragon Tongue magic. My speculation is the empire wants the dragon bloodline, and maybe we will have a prince or princess with the dragon bloodline soon." The Ancient Rank replied.

The second Ancient Rank slapped his friend's back of his head. "Stop with your gossip if you want to keep your head on your neck. Ancient Rank like us is nothing to the empire, let alone the Epic Rank." The discussion stopped after the grumpy Ancient Rank warned the others. It killed the mood between them as no one spoke again. Tang Shaoyang waited for another ten minutes for additional information, but they really did not speak after the stern warning.

"It seems I can score a one-point impression for the Mistovel Family. I will save the princess from the bad guy in exchange for more information about the dimensional tower." Tang Shaoyang muttered.

He did not wait any longer and jumped in the middle of the four people. "Hello, sir. Do you mind speaking more about anything you know about the empire and my friend Lulu?"

His sudden appearance shocked the four people, but the four were quite experienced in the battle. They did not freeze as they jumped away from Tang Shaoyang. They were shocked because they did not sense Tang Shaoyang's arrival, and it alarmed them for not being able to sense the enemy's arrival.

The four observed their surroundings cautiously, trying to find whether the enemy had friends with him. After a while, the four realized that the enemy was alone. The four were relieved that the enemy was stupid to make an appearance boldly instead of ambushing them. Then they used Identification on Tang Shaoyang, and the relief turned into a smug as they realized the enemy was just an Ancient Rank.

"You can ask the King of Hell if you want to know." The Ancient Rank smirked.

#### Chapter1073 Skelly Family In Action - Part 11

The Ancient Rank was about to dash forward at Tang Shaoyang, but a black beam shot through the air. The man jumped backward further from Tang Shaoyang. He then glanced down to the ground, where a deep hole the size of his arm was made. The hole was deep as if the ground was melted by the black beam.

"Who?" The Ancient Rank turned around, observing his surroundings once more. He was pretty sure that no one was around here. His mana swept three hundred meters of area, but it did not detect any mana from the others.

Little did he know that Keeper positioned itself four thousand meters away from the location. The skeleton turned its hand into the longest gun range in its armory and sniped the Ancient Rank from a distance far more than he expected.

The group of four was about to gang up on Tang Shaoyang, but they created a distance from Tang Shaoyang, cautious of their surroundings after the earlier shot. They regrouped, showing the sign of

wariness against the person that shot the black beam. The shot looked strong enough to leave a hole in their body. While they regrouped, they noticed more presence around their one enemy.

"It's undead! He is a Necromancer!" The Ancient Rank yelled, warning his friends about their enemy.

The eight skeletons told them that the man was a Necromancer. Summoning Undead was the basic skill of Necromancer, the general knowledge about Necromancer.

"It's just skeletons—" The Epic Rank guy's voice cut off as the Ancient Rank smacked the Epic Rank's back.

"Stupid! It's not just skeletons! They are strong skeletons." The Ancient Rank man could tell that with a single glance. The glowing orbs on the skeletons' sockets, the structure of the skeletons, and also the aura the skeletons released were enough for the Ancient to tell that the skeleton was not just a normal skeleton. He then tried to use Identification on the skeletons, but it did not work.

[??? — ??? Summon] [??? — ??? Summon] [??? — ??? Summon] [??? — ??? Summon]

After the fourth time using Identification, he gave up on identifying each skeleton. "Get ready to fight, and don't underestimate the skeletons."

"It's your show time. Kill them!" Tang Shaoyang did not hide his intention to kill the four after listening to their conversation. Since the opposite party planned to kill him, so might as well do it openly.

The group of four that surrounded Tang Shaoyang earlier was now surrounded by skeletons. Added with Skelly7's familiars, it was fourteen skeletons against four.

Tang Shaoyang did not join the fight, staying where he was as he watched the skeletons move carefully. His target was the Myth Rank, and he thought of sharing the other four for his skeletons for their level. "Should I leave them? Can they win?"

The concern was that the four might destroy his skeleton since their opponent had two Ancient Ranks. He did not know what would happen to the skeletons if they were destroyed. The skeleton might disappear permanently, and he did not want that to happen. It took him time to nurture the skeleton, so he did not want them to disappear this early, especially for Kaiser, Skelly7, and Keeper. Kaiser could give him infinite materials, Orichalcum and Mithril. Keeper had a unique class, and he might not get it again for the second time, and the same for Skelly7, the Bonemancer.

However, if he did not leave, Lulu might be in danger. Lulu was the string that might connect him to the Mistovel Family, so he did not want to miss the chance to forge a friendly relationship with the powerhouse from another world. Forming a connection with another world might be handy in this tower or maybe even far in the future.

"Lulu should not be in danger since the empire wants her alive." He muttered, "If I wait here, the Myth Rank eventually comes here to kill the boss monster. That's the only way to get out of this garden, after all. However, Roman and Damian may die for this, and that will ruin my relationship with the Guild Master since I promise him to help the guild."

"It seems I have no other choices." Tang Shaoyang summoned Bronson, The Executioner. The only choice he had was to leave a spirit to oversee the skeletons while he looked for Lulu. He was not worried about Eril's safety because of Wrath with her, but it would be hard even for four Epic Ranks

to win against the Myth Rank. He also could not move his spirits lest it would cause suspicion from the guild.

"Just watch the fight from the side, and if any of them are in danger, then you can save them. If the skeletons are about to lose, then you can finish them off." The demon with the reaver on its back nodded at the order.

After giving the instruction, Tang Shaoyang left. He followed his own trail and traced back to the first spot before they separated. "Lulu went this way...." It was a race against time since Lulu might be in danger. He maintained the Spirit Eyes as he went toward the Lulu group's direction.

He could not see the trail of Lulu's group; not like he could smell their scent too. "This is hard." Tang Shaoyang checked his spirit list, trying to find the flying spirits but not too suspicious of the others who discovered his spirit. He found two spirits that fit his criteria, and he summoned them immediately.

Exon, the Giant Hawk, and Jet, the Abyss Raven. These two would appear more like his summon than a spirit, so he could avoid further suspicion from the others. The two spirits were aware of their jobs, and they immediately split up in opposite directions. Despite the help of his two flying spirits, he still could not find Lulu after half an hour of searching.

"This is wasting my time. Just how big is this garden? No, is this even a garden in the first place?" He was frustrated at failing to find Lulu. He considered returning to the boss monster's location and just waited for the Myth Rank there. "How's the situation there, Bronson?"

"The skeletons have the tenacity, Master. It's a fierce fight, and I can see the skeleton will win the presence from the Myth Rank.

13:44

Damian and Roman had activated their Bloodline Transformation, and even so, they still struggled to fight. Keeper kept the situation in check if any of the skeletons was in danger, and I hadn't made my move yet so far. It's quite interesting to watch them fight." The Executioner gave the update on the fight near the boss monster's area.

'Should I really go back and wait there?' Tang Shaoyang was about to give up when he heard a voice from the unexpected spirit.

[Master! It's Yu. Your friends seem in trouble; should I help them?]

Tang Shaoyang activated [Link] the moment he heard the voice and got to see Yu's vision. He saw it; Lulu, Damian, and Roman struggled against the Myth Rank as the latter toyed with three. However, he did not see Greed there. Confirming with his own eyes, Tang Shaoyang switched places with Yu.

The Ancient Alchemist complained about the sudden switch, but Tang Shaoyang ignored him. He was five hundred meters away from the battle. Yu watched the battle from the tree, veiling his presence from the Myth Rank.

Damian and Roman had activated their Bloodline Transformation, and even so, they still struggled to keep up with the Myth Rank, which did not use any transformation. Two different ranks seemed too much for them. As he thought of joining the fight, he suddenly noticed the ground where the battle took place turned dark.

The Myth Rank noticed the dark shadow a little bit too late as he enjoyed himself bullying his opponent. The moment he realized the shadow, the shadow opened its maw. The shadow was about to swallow the Myth Rank in one bite, but he reacted faster. He managed to jump, but he paid the price as the shadow bit his feet.

"ARGHHHHH!" The Myth Rank guy screamed in pain as blood poured down from the missing part. He stabilized himself in midair, and by the time he tried to find out what the shadow was, the shadow had already disappeared. The first thing he did was to look at Lulu, thinking it was one of Lulu's spells.

"I have been nice for leaving you alone, but you pay for my kindness with a sneak attack!?" The Myth Rank was furious. "The Prince only asked me to bring you alive. I will make you beg me to —" Before the man finished his words, a big shadow loomed over him. That shocked him, thinking it was the same spell that had eaten his feet. He subconsciously turned around, only to be shocked by what he saw.

A giant Golden Dragon was right above him, looking down at him with its arrogant gaze. The sight of the dragon stunned as a dragon was the last thing he would expect to appear.

Wrath opened his mouth and breathed out the golden fire. Once more, The Myth Rank guy failed to react in time. He could no longer dodge the incoming fire, and the only choice he had was to block the dragon fire. He created a barrier in time as the fire engulfed him.

#### Chapter 1074: Skelly Family In Action - Part 12

The Myth Rank could feel the terrifying force that kept pushing his barrier. His skin started to turn red from the heat of the dragon's fire. He tried to hold, but there was nothing he could do as the fire pushed him down to the ground. He was thrown to the ground, but thankfully the barrier was still intact.

The Myth Rank realized his predicament, and it was not the time to save his Bloodline Transformation for later. He thought of using the Bloodline Transformation later after they came out of the Epic Rank Garden. Since his goal was to capture Lulu Avilius Mistovel, he had to fight the other adventures outside the garden. There was a chance that experts from the Mistovel Family were outside, so he tried to preserve his strength for the latter. He did not expect that Mistovel would summon the dragon inside the garden, and he did not know how the opposite party summoned the dragon in this pocket dimension.

As the Myth Rank was about to use Bloodline Transformation, he sensed the danger. He then realized that he was inside the giant shadow's maw that had eaten his feet earlier. He was midway through Bloodline Transformation, but he realized that he might not have the time to finish the transformation before the shadow ate him alive. The Myth Rank canceled his skill and reinforced his barrier with his mana.

Whoop!

The maw closed, and the Myth Rank saw with his own eyes that millions of teeth crushed his barrier. As the barrier crumbled, his body was crushed between the teeth. The Myth Rank's eyes opened wide as he died in the most undeliverable way. He still had his consciousness as the pressure on his body was released, and the maw opened once more. The thought of begging for his life crossed his mind, and as his lip moved, the maw closed once more.



The second bite took the Myth Rank's life as the giant shadow munched the body. The sound of the shadow swallowing the body was heard by everyone, and it gave them a chill on their back, especially Damian and Roman. As for Lulu, she was busy admiring the majestic figure in the sky, barely paying attention to the Myth Rank.

"What was that!?" Damian was terrified. He turned toward Lulu, but he realized it was not Lulu's spell. He had the same guess as the Myth Rank, thinking the shadow was Lulu's spell. But he quickly found out that it was not Lulu's spell but something else. However, he did not know what kind of shadow it was.

"That's Sir Ying's familiar," Roman muttered in a low voice as his eyes locked on the small figure where the shadow had disappeared. He saw Greed licking his paw as the little cat had just finished his meal. However, it was not just any normal meal, but a Myth Rank player. He could not imagine that an Epic Rank familiar would kill the Myth Rank. The shock of witnessing the unthinkable lasted on Roman for a while; standing there, frozen, looking at the cat with a terrified gaze.

Damian had the same reaction upon finding the cat, who nonchalantly licked his paw. As if swallowing a Myth Rank alive was nothing. Then he realized that he had been showing his hostility toward that little cat's master. What if... What if he fought Ying? Would he suffer the same fate as the Myth Rank from the Virandal Empire? Most likely yes. If a Myth Rank stood no chance against the little cat, let alone him, measly Epic Rank.

Suddenly Damian's back was wet with cold sweat. Death flashed before his eyes, and thankfully he managed to avoid that. Then he looked to the sky, added with the majestic Golden Dragon, which was also a Myth Rank. Damian realized that he was not more than an ant in front of Ying.

Greed, who sensed his master, stopped licking his paw. His figure blurred into shadow and disappeared. The giant figure in the sky also shrunk back to the size of a small lizard. Everyone followed where the Golden Dragon landed, and only then they noticed Ying's arrival. The man waved his hand at them with a smile.

"It seems I am not needed here." Tang Shaoyang came out of his hiding place with Wrath and Greed on his shoulders.

"Where's the enemy?" At this moment, Eril arrived, out of breath.

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The Ancient Rank of the Virandal Empire breathed raggedly, distancing himself from the nearest skeletons. These skeletons' aura was far weaker than the man who left half an hour earlier and the demon that watched them from a distance. However, these skeletons could not be trifled with, especially with their teamwork.

Each time almost caught one of the skeletons, another would come at him to save the skeleton in danger. The most worrying thing was the black beam that would come at them at any time and from different directions every time. They could not predict when it would come, making them split their attention for the black beam.

He thought of looking for the person that kept shooting the black beam, but the skeletons did not let any of them do so. They were surrounded by skeletons without any chance to escape. The moment they turned their backs, the skeleton mage cast the powerful spell on them most. The mage saved the offensive spell when they tried to retreat or escape, and while in the fight, the mage tried to

minimize their movement or even stop their movement with a control spell. The mage might not be as deadly as the shooter but the most annoying one.

Thinking of the annoying one, the skeleton with a shield on both of its hands, was also annoying. It never attacked them, but the skeleton always neutralized their attack. One of many reasons the fight was a stalemate for half an hour.

The Ancient Rank realized that they could not win against this group of skeletons. Not only could they not win, but they started to lose their ground as the skeletons started to attack them even more aggressively. As he thought of how to escape from the current predicament, he lowered his guard slightly, and a black beam shot toward him. He sensed it when it got too close to him, and he could not dodge it in time.

The black beam hit his shoulder, breaking through his armor, and a big chunk of his shoulder went missing along with the beam. The Ancient Rank grunted in pain as he fell on his knee. He glanced at his shoulder and his dangling left arm. Holding the pain, he took the regeneration potion in his inventory and drank the potion immediately.

A shadow loomed over him as he drank the potion, and he subconsciously looked up. The skeleton with the dagger was right above him. It was the most agile skeleton among those skeletons, and its movement was unpredictable, giving him and his friend a hard time to break through the skeleton formation.

The Grandmaster Killer Skeleton planted his bone dagger right at the Ancient Rank's neck and back. The green potion and the red blood flowed out from the man's neck and mouth altogether. The emotionless skeleton held the man's head as it placed its left foot on the man's shoulder. The skeleton pulled the man's head and blood spurted out from the neck. The white skeleton was bathed in red blood, and with its glowing red orbs in its eyes, it terrified the Ancient Rank's friends.

Eril, Damian, Roman, and Lulu listened to Ying about the Virandal Empire's plan to abduct Lulu. They did not suspect Ying of lying because there was nothing to gain for the man to lie. In fact, what Ying said made sense, considering that the Virandal Empire suddenly went back on their words and proposed a new contest.

"What if we did not agree with their proposal?" Damian muttered by himself, but everyone with him listened to his mutter.

"They will use force and capture Lulu outside the garden," Eril answered him. A battle would take place outside the garden, and if that were the case, the Virandal Empire must be prepared. "This is bad. They might have more people than us if they planned this. They know that this problem must not reach the alliance's ear, or the Virandal Empire will become the public enemy in the Starter City #5."

"Thank god you brought Sir Ying with us, Eril. Or else we will die here." Roman blurted out his honest thoughts, and he subconsciously addressed Ying respectfully, just like Eril did.

Seeing what Ying's familiars were capable of, put Roman at ease. A Myth Rank was easily killed by the combination of two familiars, and Ying had not jumped into the fight yet. The fight might not be easy, but they could win with Sir Ying with them.

"Then we need to wait until Greed finishes his advancement first." Ying pointed at the sleeping Greed on his left shoulder. "He is in the middle of advancement after eating the Myth Rank guy."

Everyone turned toward the black cat and finally noticed that it was not a normal nap. They thought the cat was just sleepy after fighting the Myth Rank but did not expect the little guy to be in the middle of advancement.

"Does he rank up to Ancient Rank?" Roman was the first one to approach the little guy, looking closely at the sleeping cat. "Is he on trial right now?"

For people to advance to the next rank, they must face a trial. However, he did not know much about how the beast advanced. He was curious and asked Ying.

"I don't know if they face a trial in their sleep or not. He just slept for hours for his advancement to the Epic Rank."

#### Chapter 1075: Skelly Family In Action - Part 13

A Dragon and the mysterious cat were something else. Still, they did not expect that a group of thirteen skeletons would hold their ground against two Ancient Ranks and two Epic Ranks. When the group arrived at the location, the four from the Virandal Empire were still alive.

Eril, Damian, Roman, and Lulu wanted to join the fray, but Ying stopped them from helping the skeletons. In the following minute, they witnessed the Ancient Rank's head getting pulled off his body. The horrifying scene shocked everyone, but that was just the start of the fall for the Virandal Empire's group.

In the following minute, the black beam blasted one of the Epic Rank's heads. It was an instant kill as the blood fountain spurted into the air following the fall of the body. With the fall of their two comrades, the remaining panicked as fear was oblivious in their eyes. The skeletons took the chance to finish them all.

The skeleton with the spear pierced the last Ancient Rank in the chest, and it was followed by a clean cut to the neck by the swordsman skeleton. For the last member of the group, the black-gold skeleton (Kaiser) caught the terrified man and twisted his neck. The Skelly Family finished their enemy in forty minutes.

Notification rang in Tang Shaoyang's head, notifying him that one of his skeletons had reached level 1000, getting to the next evolution. There was no option for Tang Shaoyang to choose for the next evolution.

[Skelly3 — Grand Fire Mage Skeleton] —> [Skelly3 — Abyssal Archmage Skeleton]

[Kaiser (Abyssal Skeleton) - Level 1489]

[Keeper (Infernal Gunslinger) - Level 1322]

[Skelly1 (Earl Skeleton) - Level 1238]

[Skelly2 (Magic Swordsman Skeleton) - Level 1187]

[Skelly3 (Abyssal Archmage Skeleton) - Level 1008]

[Skelly4 (Master Golden Destroyer Skeleton - Level 978]

[Skelly5 (Grandmaster Protector Skeleton) - Level 932]

[Skelly6 (Grandmaster Killer Skeleton) - Level 923]

[Skelly7 (Archmaster Bonemancer Skeleton) - Level 781]

Tang Shaoyang scratched his forehead as he was surprised by how fast the skeletons gained a level. Skelly7 might be the slowest; he had five familiars that were about the same level. Eril, Damian, Roman, and Lulu could not help but stare at Ying, the master of the skeletons. They felt the same way toward Ying, fear mixed with curiosity.

Tang Shaoyang noticed the four staring at him. He touched his cheeks and hair. "Is there something wrong with my face?" The four shook their heads at the same time.

"So, what should we do now? Should we kill the boss monster, or should we wait for Greed to finish his advancement?" Eril could not help but ask Tang Shaoyang, even though she was the leader of the team. After witnessing everything that Tang Shaoyang's familiars could do, she could not help but rely on Ying for the decision-making.

"I don't mind going out right now. My skeletons should be useful if a battle breaks out, but I can't really guarantee the other adventurers' safety." Tang Shaoyang gave his answer without a second thought.

Eril perceived the answer as they would win the battle if a battle against the Virandal Empire broke out. "The problem is we don't know how many Myth Rank they bring with them. Do you think you can win against five Myth Ranks, Sir Ying?"

Five Myth Ranks was her estimation of the number of Myth Ranks in the Virandal Empire's force. She thought of the worst.

Tang Shaoyang glanced at Damian, Lulu, and Roman before looking back at Eril. "Can we talk privately?"

While the others did not know why Ying wanted to talk without them, Eril was aware of Ying's concern. She picked up the cue and nodded. Damian usually would make a fuss right now, but the guy knew his place and kept his mouth shut.

"Do you want to talk about your skills?" Eril asked when they were far enough from the trio. That was the only thing she could think of why Ying wanted to talk privately with her. She was the only one who knew that Ying had tried to hide his identity.

"Yes." Tang Shaoyang nodded. "I can even kill a Primordial Rank, let alone five Myth Ranks, if I activate my Bloodline Transformation, but I can't trust the others but only you and Guild Master. So, I am not sure if I can face the five Myth Ranks without my Bloodline Transformation. I haven't tried to fight five Myth Ranks without my bloodline."

He was being honest, so Eril could make the decision for the guild. He did not want to be responsible for these adventurers' lives. Eril had to make the decision for the team, not himself.

"But will we win?" Eril emphasized whether they could win or not. That was the only thing she wanted.

"I mean, if my life is in danger, then I will no longer hide my skill."

Taking a deep breath, Eril motioned her hand toward Ying to follow her. She had made the decision in her head.

Damian, Lulu, and Roman seemed to be nervous, waiting for Ying and Eril to make the decision. They were nervous because they did not know what Eril and Ying were talking about.

Tang Shaoyang followed the girl from behind. While he looked calm on the outside, he was confused inside. Before entering the garden, he was pretty sure that Guild Master Gortham followed the team, but for some reason, Guild Master Gortham did not show himself to the other adventurers. He guessed the Guild Master came to check on him, and he was surprised that Eril did not know the Guild Master followed the expedition team.

'Does Eril purposely hide Guild Master's presence from me? That might be the case if the Guild Master asks her not to say anything.' He observed Eril's expression, but it seemed the girl really did not know about Guild Master Gortham. If Eril knew Guild Master Gortham followed them, there was no need for her to worry about the Virandal Empire outside the garden.

He had used Detection Guild Master, and he was surprised that the Guild Master was in Demi-God Rank. Even a hundred Myth Ranks should not be an issue for Guild Master.

'Do they want to test me against the Virandal Empire?'

"So, we will fight the Virandal Empire?" Damian swallowed a mouthful of saliva.

If not for Ying agreeing to Eril, he would propose to Eril to escape instead of fighting the Virandal Empire. If the Virandal Empire planned everything to capture Lulu alive, the empire must prepare an additional force to execute the mission cleanly. If the adventurers managed to escape from this place and tell everything to the alliance, the Virandal Empire would face the sanction.

The other factions would use this chance to eliminate the empire to reduce competition. The Virandal Empire sure did not want to happen. The only way they could escape from the situation was to make sure that no adventurers returned to the starter city. That meant they prepared more people to kill one hundred adventurers or maybe brought the high-rank players.

Damian did not want to fight an impossible battle. There was a high chance that he would die because he was one of the high-rank adventurers. The enemy would target him, but if they chose to escape, there was a high chance that he would be alive. The Virandal Empire would chase after Lulu since Lulu was the main target. But he did not dare to say anything because of Ying.

"Can you let my skeletons fight the boss monster? The boss monster can help my skeletons to level up."

Eril, Damian, Lulu, and Roman turned toward Ying. The boss monster could also help them to gain levels. The Demonic Tree was level 2478, which would be a big help for them. Of course, that would be hard if it was just four of them. They still needed Ying's help to kill the boss monster.

"What about if we fight together, Sir Ying. The boss monster is level 2478. Isn't it hard for your skeletons to fight them?" Eril did not want to miss the chance to fight the boss monster, and she was sure that her friends also wanted to fight the boss monster too. She spoke for them too.

"It indeed might be hard for my skeletons." Tang Shaoyang did not insist that his skeletons solo the boss monster. "It will be quicker if you guys join in fighting the boss."

"What about you, Sir Ying?" Roman could not help but ask. From the way Ying spoke to them, it was as if he did not intend to join the fight with them.

"Me?" Tang Shaoyang pointed at himself. "I will be here watching, and Wrath will help if you guys need help. I am not that good in actual combat since I am a Summoner."

Roman and Lulu looked at each other. Both knew how strong Sir Ying was as they had experienced it by themselves. Ying defeated them easily by himself, so they knew it was a lie. Eril also knew it was a lie. Ying did not want to fight to hide his real strength. Damian was the only one who did not know and did not think it was a lie.

#### Chapter 1076: Skelly Family In Action - Part 14

The Demonic Tree was around ten meters tall, not the tallest tree here, but the seemingly unlimited branches made it look ominous. Two groups approached the tree from different directions. Eril led his team, and Kaiser led its family.

Even though both decided to work together to fight the boss monster, they decided to move separately. Not because they did not want to work together but because they had no way to communicate. The skeleton could only speak to their master, so it would be hard for Eril to work together with the skeletons. The plan was simple, they attacked the boss monster from the opposite direction, giving a pincer to the boss monster from two sides to split Demonic Tree's attention.

Eril led the group carefully, but Kaiser was fearless as always. It marched toward the Demonic Tree in steady steps, making noises along with the other skeletons. The skeleton team was the first one to reach the ten meters range of the boss monster.

As if the Demonic Tree had just noticed the incoming danger, its branches shook violently. It seemed to give a warning for them to stay away, but the skeleton paid no attention to the warning. As Kaiser took the next step, the hundreds of black branches infused with the Dark Energy shot toward the skeleton group.

Skelly5, The Grandmaster Protector Skeleton, jumped to the front of Kaiser, putting its two giant black-bone shields forward. The other skeletons also got ready for the next move as the Abyssal Archmage started to chant its spell.

Right before hundreds of branches could hit Skelly5, Keeper pulled the trigger. The Infernal Gunslinger changed its sniper into a Gatling Gun, shooting all the bullets toward the incoming branches. The black branch could not hold against the black bullet as the branches were cut short before they could reach Skelly5.

The sound of the shoot rang in the forest, raising Eril's heartbeat. While they could not see what had happened on the other side, the sound was enough to raise their tension. They looked at each other, wondering what had happened on the other side. Of course, they were aware that the skeleton might start the fight already, as they could see the Demonic Tree shaking violently.

"Should I start too?" Lulu glanced at Eril as she was ready to launch her first spell. She felt like she did not want to lose against the skeletons, not in front of the Golden Dragon.

"Alright. You stay here in the range and wait for my signal. Launch your spell on my cue." Eril was the vanguard, holding a round shield in her left hand and a sword in her right hand. Roman was a

dual-wielding swordsman, and Damian was holding a spear. The latter was so nervous, as it was apparent from his expression.

As Eril reached the ten meters distance, the Demonic Tree noticed her presence. Ten black branches rose to the air, moving toward Eril. At the same time, Eril raised her sword and motioned the sword toward the Demonic Tree.

Lulu recognized the cue and activated her spell. Eleven fireballs with five meters diameter formed five meters above her. She chose fire because her enemy was a tree. Before the branches could reach Eril, the eleven fireballs accelerated toward the Demonic Tree. She did not aim at the branches but the main body directly.

As the eleven fireballs reached the ten meters range, the Demonic Tree realized the incoming danger. The remaining branches in the main trunk gather together and form a shield to block the incoming fire. The branches lined together, forming a wooden wall.

Boom!

The eleven fireballs hit the wooden wall and exploded as the fire engulfed the tree. At the same time, Eril managed to block the ten branches that came at him. "Right now!" At her voice, Roman and Damian rushed past her toward the Demonic Tree.

Before two could reach the Demonic Tree, a strong gust blew up from the tree. Blowing all the fire around it revealed that the eleven fireballs did not do anything to the wooden wall made of the Demonic Tree's branches. The wooden wall dispersed as the black branches now moved toward Damian and Roman.

Damian and Roman stopped their advance as they fought against the branches while retreating back to Eril.

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"It seems they need my help, Master." Wrath watched the whole fight from Tang Shaoyang's shoulder. Eril's group surely had a hard time facing the hundreds of branches coming at them, but the skeleton fought it well.

The skeletons brute force the Demonic Tree. Skelly5, the Grandmaster Protector, blocked as many branches as possible while Kaiser and Skelly2, the Magic Swordsmaster, cut all the branches that tried to reach Skelly3, the Abyssal Archmage, and the Archmaster Bonemancer. Even crazier, Skelly4, the Master Golden Destroyer, smashed all the branches with the hammer as the Skelly Family slowly advanced to the Demonic Tree's main body.

Keeper also changed its weapon to sniper. It tried to snipe the Demonic Tree's main body while the branches were busy fighting the other skeletons. While Lulu's spell failed to break the wooden wall, the sniper easily left a hole in the wooden wall. Skelly3, Abyssal Archmage, did its job by bombarding the Demonic Tree with its black fire. Skelly, Archmaster Bonemancer, commanded its mage summon to bombard the Demonic Tree with its spell.

The Demonic Tree seemed to realize that it was in danger because the skeleton kept coming closer. The ground shook as the tree released a black aura from the trunk and all the branches. In the following second, the Demonic Tree pulled off all the branches and formed a cocoon with the branches. The black aura got thicker, surrounding the Demonic Tree.

Eril sensed the danger from the tree and signaled her team to retreat to a safe distance without a second thought. However, the Skelly Family had a different plan. They took a few steps back, and it seemed Kaiser spoke something to Keeper, who was far away from the battlefield.

Tang Shaoyang turned toward Keeper. The latter changed its sniper into a rail gun? The Infernal Gunslinger gathered the black energy at the center of the gun. It glowed in dark violet. The skeleton waited for another five seconds to release the energy in the weapon. It shot like a laser beam, but the beam was dark-violet in color, shooting through the air with no sound.

At the same time, the Demonic Tree broke out from the cocoon. The tree doubled in size, and its thousand branches fused into twelve moving branches but much bigger in size. Each of the branches was three times bigger than a human body.

The evolving Demonic Tree sensed the incoming danger, and it swung one of its big branches to swat the laser beam. However, it miscalculated the laser beam power. Its giant branch disintegrated as the black fire spread out to the main body. Realizing its mistake, the Demonic Tree formed a shield with its remaining eleven branches, forming a layered defense.

The laser beam shot through five big branches before the beam was stopped. However, a massive explosion happened when the beam was stopped. The giant branches crumbled under the explosion as the black fire spread out to the main body, burning the leaves.

The ground shook once more, and even though the Demonic Tree did not have a voice, Eril and the others could tell the tree was in pain based on the tremor. The Demonic Tree tried to use the same method when it blew Lulu's fire, but it failed to blow the black fire. The black fire remained on the tree despite how desperate the tree tried to blow the black fire away.

One single laser beam destroyed the twelve giant branches. Kaiser signaled its family to make a move right now. Leading the other skeletons, Kaiser turned its arm into a blade and landed the first slash on the Demonic Tree's trunk. All the skeletons bombarded the Demonic Tree with everything they got, but they quickly realized that the Demonic Tree was regenerating despite their continuous assault.

A minute later, the Demonic Tree recovered the five big branches, and Kaiser signaled the other skeletons to retreat. It was not because they gave up on the attack but because Keeper was ready to shoot the second laser beam. By the time they reached a safe distance, the dark-violet beam shot toward the Demonic Tree once more.

The Demonic Tree realized it had to give up on attacking the skeletons near him and focused on the incoming attack. It put all the branches for defense. It seemed to learn from the mistake as it used more Dark Energy to block the incoming laser beam. However, its effort was futile as the laser beam easily pierced through the five big branches.

The laser beam reached the Demonic Tree's main body and stopped right there. It was the same sequence of events. Once the beam was stopped, it was followed by a massive explosion. The explosion disintegrated The Demonic Tree's main body. There was nothing that could escape from the explosion; there were no parts of the Demonic Tree that were not under fire.

Even though the Demonic Tree's main body was a destroyer, it still regenerated. A black layer started to form the main body once more. Kaiser was confused at first, but it quickly figured out



why the tree did not die. The Abyssal Skeleton pointed toward the part where the Demonic Tree had just recovered. It saw a black core the size of a human's fist.

The other skeletons moved together with him, assaulting the one spot that had just regenerated. The destroyed tree was helpless as it had lost everything on the second laser beam. Kaiser, Skelly1, Skelly2, and Skelly4 opened the part that had just regenerated. The floating core was in everyone's sight, but none of them attacked the core. Even Skelly3, The Abyssal Archmage, did not use its spell to destroy the core. Once the part was about to regenerate a new layer, Kaiser got rid of that layer, and five seconds later, a sniper bullet pierced the core.

The Skelly Family gave the kill for Keeper. The Infernal Gunslinger contributed the most in killing the boss monster, so they gave the kill to Keeper. As the core disintegrated, the remaining part that was still under fire fell off.

[You have killed the Demonic Tree!]

[Congratulations! You have killed the Boss of the Epic Rank Garden!]

[Congratulations! The Tang Empire gets the exclusive right to enter The Epic Garden!]

#### Chapter 1077: Skelly Family In Action - Part 15

"This is troublesome." Tang Shaoyang muttered as he read the notification. He was still affiliated with the Tang Empire even though he moved with the Karian Adventurer Guild. So, when the skeleton killed the boss monster, it was the Tang Empire who won the contest, not the Karian Adventurer Guild. And the Tang Empire won the Epic Rank Garden, not the Karian Adventurer Guild.

'I will figure this out later.' He did not want to go to the Epic Rank Garden. The resource was too far from his original starter city. It would be hard to fully make use of the garden, so he intended to give it back to the guild. "The time is over, Yu." He recalled Yu, the Ancient Alchemist before he would forget about the herb nerd.

Meanwhile, The Skelly Family gathered where the Demonic Tree fell. He noticed there was a treasure chest glowing in blue, and the skellies surrounded the treasure chest from Eril's party.

Tang Shaoyang leaped into the air and landed right in front of the skellies. "They are our friend, Kaiser. There's no need to be wary of them." He waved his hand.

Despite him telling the skeleton Eril's party was friends, the skeleton had a different thought. Kaiser made clanking noise because its frame was made of metal, speaking to Tang Shaoyang's head directly.

(Precious treasure belongs to Master! They are trying to take your treasure, Master! We are protecting the treasure for you!)

"That's not mine but belongs to the guild." He waved his hand at Kaiser, gesturing to the skeletons to stay back from the treasure chest. "But good work. You guys go beyond my expectation." He gave the Skelly Family a thumbs up. It was genuine praise for the skeletons. It was beyond his expectation for the skeletons to beat the boss monster, which was almost level 2500, double their levels and triple for some of them. Despite the level gap, the skeletons killed the Demonic Tree with ease; at least, it looked easy.

Kaiser once more made the annoying clanking noise as it reacted well to the praise.

(The tree is stupid! It also can't move! It's easy for the Skelly Family.)

Tang Shaoyang shook his head and glanced toward the glowing treasure chest. The blue glow meant it was an Epic Rank Treasure Chest. He had three of them back at home. It was a valuable treasure, but he did not want his relationship with the guild to crack over a mere treasure.

Eril raised her hands. "We don't intend to take the treasure. Since your familiars killed the boss, you take the treasure dropped by the boss since we did not contribute anything to kill the boss. That's how it always works." She was quick to catch up. Even though she did not understand what the skeletons said, she could understand their conversation with how the skeleton protected the treasure chest and Ying's words to the skeletons. Lulu and Roman nodded their heads.

Eril then winked her right eye. "We will talk about the details later. Let's discuss how we are going to fight the Virandal Empire outside." She pointed at the portal that had just formed. The portal was the exit of this pocket dimension, and another battle awaited them outside.

Tang Shaoyang was aware that the wink was about the ownership of the Epic Rank Garden. That was what she wanted to talk about later, so he did not mention anything about handing over the garden to the guild. It would reveal his identity to Roman, Lulu, and Damian, that he was not officially part of the guild. The fewer people knew, the better.

"There's nothing to discuss. We just storm out and take the initiative to attack them, no? A surprise attack from us may put us in an advantageous situation." Tang Shaoyang felt like discussion was not needed in their current situation. With how small their number was, there was nothing that could really change the flow of battle with a plan. Especially they had no information about where the Virandal Empire's additional force was and how many they were.

There was a plan in Tang Shaoyang's head, but he did not want to showcase his full power to the others. The plan needed his full power, where they lured the enemy to another area, and he would fight the Virandal Empire's force by himself. That way, they could minimize the casualties. He would do that if the adventurers were his people, but not in this scenario.

In this scenario, where he had to rely on the Skelly Family, the plan in his mind would not work. On top of that, the Skelly Family seemed to be thriving in chaos.

"I agree with that. We know too little to make a plan." Roman agreed with Ying.

"But can you wait for a moment? I need to check on my skeletons." Tang Shaoyang heard several notifications in his head. And one of them needed his confirmation for advancement.

[Skelly4 — Master Golden Destroyer Skeleton] —> [Skelly4 — Abyssal Destroyer Skeleton]

[Skelly5 — Grandmaster Protector Skeleton] —> [Skelly5 — Abyssal Guardian Skeleton]

{{[Skelly6 — Grandmaster Killer Skeleton] has met the requirement to advance! Please choose the next advancement!}}

[Abyssal Assassin] [Abyssal Slaughterer] [Infernal Slayer]

This was the first time that level 1000 advancement gave him choices. However, the choices did not really help him much to understand what the advancement did. Skelly6 was known for its sneaky and quick movement, and he figured out that Abyssal Assassin was the closest to its beforehand

advancement. If he had to choose, he wanted to see what Abyssal Slaughterer was, and he was tempted by the third choice because of how strong his second class was. There was also a Slayer in his second class, so he thought that the third might be the strongest one of the three, but he was curious about the second choice.

Tang Shaoyang could not really decide, and none of his spirits could give him any advice. He turned toward Skelly6 and asked. "Which one do you want, Skelly6? It's better for you to decide."

The Skelly6's jaw clacking, giving its reply to its master. (I trust you, Master. It will be a blessing for me for you to make the decision, Master.)

His rational thought told him to choose Infernal Slayer, but his feelings told him to choose the second choice. However, the first choice might be the best for the Skelly Family since they did not have someone similar to the assassin's ability to scout and launch a sneak attack in the chaos. That was Skelly6's role in the battle.

At this moment, a voice entered his head.

Clack! Clack! Clack! (Don't worry, Master. Listen to your feelings; I can fill the gap within my family with my summon. I can make a similar familiar to Skelly6's previous advancement.)

Skelly7, the Archmaster Bonemancer, was the one who spoke in his head. Skelly7's words erased the hesitation in his heart as he made a choice. He chose Abyssal Slaughterer.

[Skelly6, Grandmaster Killer Skeleton, has advanced to Abyssal Slaughterer]

Along with the notification, Skelly6's frame was shrouded in dark clouds. Eril's party noticed the sudden change in one of the skeletons, and they paid attention to the shrouded skeletons.

The dark cloud kept growing until it was six meters tall, making it look like a giant black cocoon. No one could see through the dark cloud.

Tang Shaoyang waited for the advancement with great anticipation. This was the joy of nurturing the skeletons, the advancement. The advancement took longer than he expected, maybe because this was level 1000 advancement. Usually, the skeleton instantly advanced, and the longest time took like ten seconds. However, Skelly6 took its time and finished the advancement in five minutes.

The dark cocoon broke out as the dark cloud slowly dissipated. Slowly, a figure came into their sight. The change on Skelly6 was big, not just in the color of the frame but also in its size. Skelly6 had become a giant skeleton, four meters tall, with additional three pairs of hands. That made Skelly6 have four pairs of hands, and each of its hands was holding a battle-ax, similar to the one he had previously. On top of that, its white frame turned black, just like the other Abyssal evolutions. The battle-axes continuously released a black aura, making the giant skeleton look dreadful.

Tang Shaoyang did not really like that Skelly6 turned four meters tall. That was the drawback of the advancement. Aside from that, he liked everything. The four pairs of hands with eight battle-axes; he could picture Skelly6 slaughtering its enemy on the battlefield. He then checked the Skelly Family and how much they gained from killing the boss monster.

[Kaiser (Abyssal Skeleton) - Level 1597]

[Keeper (Infernal Gunslinger) - Level 1534]

[Skelly1 (Earl Skeleton) - Level 1397]

[Skelly2 (Magic Swordsmaster Skeleton) - Level 1347]

[Skelly3 (Abyssal Archmage Skeleton) - Level 1198]

[Skelly4 (Abyssal Destroyer Skeleton) - Level 1148]

[Skelly5 (Abyssal Guardian Skeleton) - Level 1131]

[Skelly6 (Abyssal Slaughterer Skeleton) - Level 1079]

[Skelly7 (Archmaster Bonemancer Skeleton) - Level 921]

Tang Shaoyang was surprised by his skeletons' growth. All of them gained over a hundred levels from killing the Demonic Tree. It was a massive leap for them.

He smiled and turned toward Eril. "We are ready." There was great anticipation in his heart, expecting them to grow even with the battle against the Virandal Empire outside the garden.

'I can't be left behind, though. I need to hunt those Myth Ranks if there are any.'

#### Chapter 1078: Skelly Family In Action - Part 16

Eril led the group to the exit portal after a brief preparation. As Ying, there was nothing to be prepared for. They just needed to be ready for the fight as soon as they got outside. The group appeared at the same spot where they entered the Epic Rank Garden. The Virandal Empire's force and the adventurers gathered in the area. The adventurers to the right of the entrance, and the Virandal Empire's force to the left.

The worst scenario, where the Virandal Empire started attacking the adventurers outside the garden, did not happen. The two sides were separated with a clear line, waiting for their return after noticing the exit portal. The team from the Karian Adventurer Guild came out first, standing in front of the portal for a little longer.

The Virandal Empire's force started to raise their voices when their team did not return, starting to make a ruckus. Ying nudged Eril, telling her to start the attack.

The Guild Master's assistant snapped out and raised her sword. "Kill the Virandal Empire!"

With the cue, Lulu activated her fireball spells. She created five fireballs and sent them toward the Virandal Empire's force. The sudden surprise attack caught people off guard, not just the Virandal Empire's force but also the adventurers. The adventurers did not know what happened, did not know why their S Rank Adventurers started attacking the Virandal Empire all of a sudden.

As for the Virandal Empire's force, they were surprised by the attack, not expecting the opposite side would attack them. The five fireballs hit the crowd and exploded. The scream rang into the air as the fire engulfed many people. Some people ran under the fire, spreading out from the explosion.

The Virandal Empire's force was quick with their action. Some of the mages worked together to put a straight barrier from the adventurers while some of them tried to put off the fire. However, Roman, Damian, and Eril had passed through the barrier before it was properly built. They went straight toward the mage who set up the barrier and killed them all.

The barrier that just stood up disintegrated. The other adventurers did not know what actually happened, but they joined as soon as they saw Eril, Damian, Roman, and Lulu attack the Virandal Empire. At this point, they had no choice but to join up and ask later what happened later.

Amidst the chaos, Tang Shaoyang summoned the Skelly Family. "Kill the people from the Virandal Empire! Don't touch the adventurers!"

The skeletons moved on their own, joining the fray. Tang Shaoyang remained on his spot, standing next to Lulu. He activated the Spirit Eyes and noticed the incoming force from three directions. The three incoming forces brought the same flag, the Virandal Empire's flag.

"They are far enough to avoid my spirit eyes." Tang Shaoyang muttered.

"What?" Lulu thought he spoke to him, but she did not hear it clearly. She was too focused on aiming her spell at the Virandal Empire's force to avoid the friendly fire by using a smaller-scale spell.

"The reinforcement is coming. Stay next to me!" Tang Shaoyang reminded her while sending a message to the Skelly Family. He asked the Skelly Family to delay one reinforcement. Keeper, Skelly3 (Abyssal Archmage), and Skelly7 (Archmaster Bonemancer) should be enough to delay the reinforcement with their range ability.

"Time to work, Wrath." He flicked the dragon's head, who was about to fall asleep in the middle of the battlefield. He could see Lulu's annoyed expression at how he treated the dragon even though the Golden Dragon himself did not mind. Wrath stretched out and flew toward the direction where his master pointed to. Greed was still sleeping, and the cat slept inside Lulu's backpack.

At this moment, a figure appeared between Lulu and Ying. The bearded old man had a solemn expression, staring at Ying and Lulu. "What happened?" The old man demanded an explanation with his strong voice.

"They are going to kill all of us, so we attack them first." Lulu was surprised at first, but then she was delighted that Guild Master Gortham was here. She gave the shortest explanation possible.

"I want a detailed explanation!" Gortham asked forcefully as he released his Demi-God Aura slightly, directing the aura toward Lulu and Ying. The former had her face scrunched, but it was nothing for Ying. For someone who had fought the God Rank, Demi-God Rank Aura was nothing.

"Win the fight, or stop the fight first if you want a detailed explanation. Look!" Ying pointed at the battlefield. "Your people are dying, and here, you want a detailed explanation instead of helping them first?"

Gortham followed Ying's finger and witnessed a few adventurers fall. It was just a few compared to the Virandal Empire's force, but there were still casualties. They might be alive if he had stepped in instead of coming toward Lulu and Ying.

"Also, your sense is quite dull for a Demi-God Rank. Haven't you sensed the incoming forces from the Virandal Empire? Isn't it obvious what happened here?"

Hearing that, Gortham immediately expanded his mana. The old man quickly discovered the incoming force. He was sure those forces were not from the guild, or else he would be noticed if the guild deployed such a big force. If those forces were not the guild, then they were the Virandal Empire.

Old Man Gortham realized what had happened. Exactly what Lulu told him. The Virandal Empire planned to bury the adventurers here by preparing those additional forces. He did not know what their purpose was, but this was a war declaration by the Virandal Empire. He could stop the fight

here and right by revealing his power. However, the Guild Master chose to respond to this with violence. He wanted the empire to pay the price for their sinister plan against his guild.

The old man was about to leave once more, but Tang Shaoyang held his shoulder. "Where are you going, Guild Master?"

The Guild Master turned around with a frown. "Of course, I am going to kill all these bastards! Don't stop me!" The old man was about to leap, but this time Tang Shaoyang held both of the shoulders.

"No! You stay here with Lulu! Their target is Lulu, so you protect her."

Gortham squinted his eyes, glancing at Lulu. The latter nodded her head to confirm what Ying said. Tang Shaoyang was about to leave, but this time the old man held his shoulder and asked the same question. "Where are you going, lad?"

"I am going to stretch a little. I did nothing inside the garden, so I want to stretch a little bit and maybe raise my level a little bit." Tang Shaoyang did not let the old man stop him this time as he used [Blink] right after he answered, leaving Lulu and Guild Master Gortham. Since Lulu was in the safest hand, there was no need for him to protect the princess anymore. He wanted to look for another Myth Rank to kill, and he had discovered two.

Guild Master Gortham furrowed his brow while looking at the direction Ying went to. "Did you guys clear the Epic Garden without his help?" He assumed Ying did not fight when he heard Ying's reply.

Lulu shook her head dejectedly. "No, Sir Ying did. He did not join the fight directly, but his familiars did. His familiars killed the Virandal Empire's team and also the boss monster. Maybe that's why he wants to join the fight right now."

"His familiar killed the Myth Rank from the Virandal Empire?" He had used Detection on Ying, and he was a hundred percent sure the man was an Ancient Rank. It made him curious how an Ancient Rank's familiars killed a Myth Rank. The familiars are supposed to be weaker than their master, or else the familiars would not listen to their master. That was common knowledge, but it seemed the common knowledge did not work on Ying.

"Yes. Have you seen the lizard on his shoulder?" When Lulu mentioned the lizard, she could not help but smile. "It's not a lizard, but a Golden Dragon." The obvious admiration in her tone was obvious. The old man was shocked to hear that, and for some reason, Lulu liked the Guild Master's surprised expression.

"If you think the Golden Dragon killed the Myth Rank, then you are wrong, Guild Master." She got her backpack and picked up the sleeping Greed. "This little guy ate the Myth Rank. Greed chewed and swallowed the Myth Rank before he could use Bloodline Transformation. And then, Sir Ying's skeletons killed the remaining people from the Virandal Empire's team and also the boss monster."

Technically, Tang Shaoyang did not really fight, but his familiars were. It was hard to believe, but he could tell that Lulu did not lie to him. There was no reason for her to lie. "I would love to hear the details, but we need to finish our business first. Follow me and stay close to me. Can you do that, girl?"

Lulu nodded three times. "I will try my best, Guild Master."

## Chapter 1079: Skelly Family In Action - Part 17

Tang Shaoyang left the main battlefield and went after the Skelly Family. He was worried more about the skeletons than the Golden Dragon. Since the Guild Master had shown up, he did not need to worry about the main battlefield. On top of that, he did not spot any other Myth Rank there, so he assumed there would be more Myth Rank in the reinforcement.

The Skelly Family delayed one of the reinforcements that came from the south. He watched how the Skelly Family, or Keeper, to be exact, delayed the reinforcement through the Spirit Eyes. Keeper changed its form into sniper and got the first shot. Six consecutive shots into the head made the reinforcement slow down their march.

The reinforcement stopped and tried to look for who shot, but they could not find Keeper, who was around five hundred meters away from the reinforcement. When the reinforcement stopped, Keeper, released another three shoots, killing three people in the following five seconds.

The Virandal Empire's soldiers could not really react in time because there was no pattern in Keeper's shoot. It would shoot the soldier in the front, then the next, it shot the back line. They could not really react because they had not found where the shot came from. However, the group realized that the shot came from ahead of them.

The mage in the reinforcement created a large mana barrier in front of them. Three layers of mana barriers formed as the soldiers marched slowly while maintaining the barrier. Keeper tried to shoot once more, but the barrier blocked his bone bullet. Realizing the barrier was enough to block the shot, the soldiers picked up their paces.

Keeper did not waste its time as it changed the bullet to dark energy. The dark-violet energy gathered at the tip of the muzzle for two seconds before the dark energy shot toward the incoming reinforcement. The dark energy blurred into a beam and pierced through the three layers of barriers. It continued and hit the soldier's head and pierced through the soldiers behind, killing three people at once.

The sense of security that just went up in the soldiers immediately dropped. Terror started to boil in their hearts after seeing three layers of the barrier were not enough to block the incoming attack. The terror that maybe they would die in the next shot or something.

The reinforcement slowed down once more, but this time, there was an angry yell from the group. The leader of the group forced the soldiers to pick up the pace despite the looming threat. Keeper shot once more twenty seconds later. Since it used Dark Energy, it needed to wait for a while to launch the next shoot.

This time Keeper had learned more about the reinforcement's composition and recognized who set up the barrier. The next shoot landed on the five mages who marched in a line. Killing the five mages reduced the barrier by one.

Tang Shaoyang could not help but feel proud and amazed. Keeper delayed the reinforcement alone as the other skeletons had not done anything since the reinforcement had not reached their range.

"I am here. Get ready to assist me. We will fight them head-on!" Tang Shaoyang sent the message to the Skelly Family.

The nine skeletons were excited to hear their master's voice. The excited replies rang in Tang Shaoyang's head from the skeletons. He did not regroup with the skeletons but directly went toward the group of reinforcement. Of course, he had done the scouting and found his target; there was one Myth Rank in the reinforcement.

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"Sir. There's a person ahead of us!" The soldier kept moving in fear, but a few minutes later, they discovered a man standing in their path. The man had his hand on his chest with a big broadsword on the back. From the look of it, the man was not a passerby or, by any chance, crossed paths with them. The man was clearly waiting for them.

"Kill! Kill whoever is in our path!" Along with the command, ten soldiers moved out from the formations. There was no talk or warning; they sheathed out their weapons and tried to kill the man.

The first soldier that came out from the barrier instantly fell off as a bullet pierced through his forehead. The nine soldiers did not stop their advance, knowing one of them would fall from the shoot.

Three steps out of the barrier, a big shadow loomed over them. The nine soldiers subconsciously looked up and saw four meters tall black skeletons fall toward them. Skelly4, Abyssal Destroyer, crushed one of the soldiers by landing on the head. As soon as Skelly4 touched the ground, Skelly4 swung the eight battle-axes, killing four soldiers at once as the battle-axes cut them into pieces.

The remaining four soldiers were terrified and tried to get back into the barrier. However, Skelly4 did not let them return to the barrier. With one leap, it landed between the four soldiers. The four battle-axes cut down the four soldiers, cutting the soldier into two.

"Fool! Don't get scared! There are only two enemies! Move together!" Despite the horrifying scene of how they witnessed their ten comrades die, the soldiers scared their commander even more. More than half of the reinforcements rushed out of the barrier and surrounded Tang Shaoyang and Skelly4.

The soldiers did not immediately attack Tang Shaoyang and Skelly4 but surrounded the two instead. It was hard to understand why the soldiers acted like this because they were free targets for the Keeper. The Archmaster Gunslinger kept sniping them from far away.

"Morons! Don't just surround them! Attack them, idiot!" The Captain's angry roar rang in the air. The soldiers immediately moved along with the roar, swarming to Tang Shaoyang.

Skelly5, Abyssal Guardian, made its appearance after Skelly4. It landed in front of Tang Shaoyang and Skelly4, as it immediately formed a barrier with dark energy. Following its appearance, five black fireballs came from above the soldiers, landing on five different spots.

The forest filled with the cries of the soldiers as chaos ensued amidst the soldiers. The remaining Skelly Family took advantage of the chaos as they slipped into the soldiers' formation and started the massacre.

The soldiers were between level 750 to level 900. There was no Epic Rank or higher in the hundred and fifty soldiers that surrounded Tang Shaoyang. The Myth Rank and Four Epic Ranks stayed inside the barrier, along with ten mages and a group of ten knights.



"Drop the barrier and use your most powerful offensive spell on that black-haired man. It seems our enemy is a Necromancer. We just need to kill the man, and the skeleton will disappear along with him" The Captain set the new order for the remaining ten mages.

The ten mages looked at each other with troubling expressions. "But our soldiers...." Their spell would hit their allies too.

The Captain took his broadsword from his back and cut the mage's head, who talked back at him. The head flew off into the air as the body fell to the ground. "Is there anyone who dares to question my order?"

The nine mages immediately dropped the barrier and prepared the joint spell. In the next ten thirty seconds, they released the spell. They released a tsunami of fire toward Tang Shaoyang. The fire moved like the big wave of a tsunami, twenty meters tall and two hundred meters wide.

Tang Shaoyang could not believe that the leader of the reinforcement would do something this extreme, sacrificing over a hundred soldiers. "I can't let them kill the soldiers. My Skelly Family needs the soldiers for their levels." He leaped out from the crowd toward the tsunami of fire.

Tang Shaoyang stopped right before the tsunami of fire and put his right hand into the fire. The moment his right hand touched the fire, the tsunami stopped. Utilizing the [Archmaster Elemental] Skill, he took control of the fire. He did not know if the skill could work on the fire that the enemy released. If it did not work, he would use his mana barrier to hold the barrier, but the skill worked.

Tang Shaoyang then raised his right hand toward the sky, and the tsunami of fire moved toward the sky. His action surprised the Captain and also the soldiers. He saved the soldiers, and the fact that he directed the tsunami of fire to the sky also surprised the Captain. While that joint spell might not kill him, it should be enough to kill the ten knights and the nine mages who exhausted their mana to launch such a big-scale spell if the black-haired man directed the tsunami of fire back at them.

The distance between Tang Shaoyang and the Captain was thirty meters away. The Captain now could use Detection on Tang Shaoyang to figure out the enemy rank. As soon as he got the result, the Captain grinned ear to ear.

"You are quite brave for a Necromancer to put yourself in front of me." The Captain eyed Tang Shaoyang for a while, observing him from top to bottom. He was sure that the Ancient Rank in front of him did not wear armor but just normal clothes, albeit the clothes looked strange.

"Or maybe you are a Dark Mage? The Necromancer can't control such a massive fire spell, so you are Dark Mage." The smile on the Captain became wider. In the next moment, the Captain slaughtered his subordinates. He killed the nine mages and the ten knights, leaving the four Epic Ranks.

"Don't answer. I don't need to know about someone who is about to die." As the Captain spoke, Tang Shaoyang noticed that the blood from the people that had just died moved toward the Captain's feet. The blood was absorbed by the Captain, not just from the nine mages and the ten knights, but from all the soldiers that had died earlier.

"You should feel honored to die in my hand, who holds the special class, Blood Berserker!" The Captain's skin turned red, along with his eyes. He licked the swords as he glanced at Tang Shaoyang smugly.

## Chapter 1080: Skelly Family In Action - Part 18

Tang Shaoyang felt it was funny to hear those lines. It was typical line that was said in movie he watched before and did not expect to hear it directly like this. Funny but also stupid to tell his class to his enemy.

Tang Shaoyang did not know what made Blood Berserker different than the other berserker classes. However, he knew how most berserker worked. The berserker had a skill or other conditions that made them went berserk, increasing their attributes temporarily for specific time. From the class name and how the man absorbed the blood, he could tell that the blood would boost the Captain's attributes for the time being.

"You don't attack me even after I tell you my class?" The Captain was surprised that the black-haired man did not attack him. Usually people would prevent him to get the blood because the blood would make him stronger.

Tang Shaoyang figured disappeared as he used [Blink]. In the next moment, he reappeared in front of the Captain with Titan Blade. He swung the blade downward. The Blood Berserker was caught off guard with the surprise attack, not expecting the black-haired man would move this fast. As the blade was about to reach the Captain, a red shield formed, blocking the blade.

It was one of Blood Berserker's passive skill, Blood Shield. As long as he absorbed enough blood, the Blood Shield would get triggered when he was in danger. The Myth Rank Captain snapped out from the surprise as he swung his sword toward Tang Shaoyang. The perfect counter right after the Blood Shield blocked the attack.

Tang Shaoyang also had a defensive skill he cast earlier, Flame Shield. The flame shrouded him and repelled the blade. At the same time, flame shield broke and the flame scattered. The scattered flame then chased the Blood Berserker.

The Myth Rank Captain subconsciously leaped back from the flame, but as if the flame was alive, it kept going after him. He furrowed his brow, then the sword glowed in red before he slashed it toward the flame. The slash was enough to disperse the flame, but a figure appeared right after the flame dispersed.

Tang Shaoyang caught up while the Blood Berserker dealt with the Flame Shield. If the Flame Shield broke from the attack, the flame would attack the person that broke the skill.

However, the Blood Berserker was ready with the incoming quick attack. He expected the enemy would use the same move to catch him off guard. Looking at his enemy, he brought his sword upward to meet with the Titan Blade.

Clank!

That was the first clash between the two blades. The Blood Berserker thought he blocked the attack, but he felt pain on his right shoulder. He glanced at his left shoulder. His shoulder plate was cut and blood dropped from his armpit. He pushed the Titan Blade with his strength and leaped backward.

It was a swallow cut, but he was sure that the blade did not reach his shoulder. "How?" He muttered by himself. "Tch." He then clicked his tongue and met with Tang Shaoyang's gaze.

"Never crossed in my mind that a mere Ancient Rank could leave a wound on me. But I have to admit that you are quite skilled for an Ancient Rank." The Blood Berserker took the battle more

seriously after receiving the wound. "You should feel proud to land a hit on this Mighty Mercenary, Urugan."

'What is this? He asked me to attack me, and now he is doing a monologue by himself.' Tang Shaoyang shook his head. "Ying, S Rank Adventurer." He decided to play along.

"Very well, Ying. I will remember your name. An unknown adventurer who leaves his mark on this Mighty Mercenary, Urugan." As he finished his words, Urugan's aura exploded. In the following five seconds his body transformed.

Urugan's body got bigger as he turned into a half-beast. The tiger characteristic could be seen on the man's face and body. The black stripes on the red fur had similar pattern to the Sumatran Tiger, but different in color.

Fwoosh!

Urugan's figure blurred as he rushed toward Ying. For the first time, he took the initiative to attack. In two seconds, he was already in front of Ying, with his sword in the air. He slashed the sword downward but it was easily blocked.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Each Urugan's strike was heavy but not to the point unbearable. The continuous attack gave Tang Shaoyang no chance to strike back. He then expanded his Spirit Eyes, trying to check the situation in the main battlefield. He saw the battle was over, and the adventurers led by Guild Master Gortham to the direction of another reinforcement.

Realizing he failed to gain any advantage with frontal assault. Urugan stopped his barrage of attacks and created some distance from the Ancient Rank. At this point, he was surprised that Ying could fend off all his strikes despite their big gap. He, who was, a Myth Rank supposed to have a higher attributes than the Ancient Rank. However, it did not like they had a wide gap even though he was above in rank.

"I would like to play with you longer, but I don't want the others to see my fight with you. We need to finish the fight right now." Tang Shaoyang got the idea of how strong Urugan was. He guessed right that the Myth Rank had lower attributes than him overall. They might in par in strength, but he could tell that he was superior in the remaining attributes.

'This is weird. How can a Myth Rank's attributes is lower than mine?' That was another mystery he could not solve. 'Let's think about this later. I don't really want that old man to see me fight.' He did not want Guild Master Gortham how he fought as he feared the old man might find something about him.

Tang Shaoyang activated his second talent's skill, Infernal Wrath. The skill would increase his attribute up to the peak of Myth Rank. Then he used [Attribute Shift], reducing his Agility, Vitality, Stamina, and Magic Power to Epic Rank - fifty stars as he increased his Strength up to the peak of Primordial Rank.

He did it within five seconds, then the next moment, he activated [Blink]. Once, he chose the frontal assault against Urugan who was in his bloodline transformation. Tang Shaoyang spun in the air as he slashed the Titan Blade down toward Urugan.

The Mighty Mercenary put his sword upward to block the incoming attack. Despite his effort to block the incoming, he noticed that his Blood Shield was triggered. That meant he was in a danger. The Blood Shield was the first to meet with the blade, and the Blood Shield instantly crumbled.

Clank! Boom!

Urugan's hand was trembling, holding up the single strike from the Ancient. The booming sound came from his feet. His feet sunk down to the ground, and the ground cracked.

"Urghhhh!" Urugan grunted in pain as he started to feel sting on inside his body. The pressure from above made him hard to breathe. This was an absurd situation as everything did not make sense. How could he was being cornered by the Ancient Rank, that just did not make sense.

The Mighty Mercenary was confused with the current situation and tried to figure out what actually happened. But then, Ying moved, releasing the pressure on the blade as a kick landed on his chest.

The Mighty Mercenary passed out for a moment as he felt his chest was being hammered by a giant hammer. He felt like his heart stopped for a moment as he crashed to the ground, and it was followed by excruciating pain on his chest. He realized what situation he was in, so he immediately got up.

The blood started to gather in his sword, coating his sword in red blood. Then the red blood was bubbling. He raised his sword upward and slashed it toward Ying who was approaching him. The blood formed a crescent shape, quickly approaching Tang Shaoyang.

Urugan's eyes widened in surprised when he saw his blood energy was sliced apart and crumbled easily by Titan Blade. He did not aware that the blade had a skill that could cancel another skill. In the blink of an eye, Urugan saw the black-haired man above him once more.

"Shit." He was in the worst situation in his life. Because he was a berserker, he never tried to learn or acquire defenses skill. Especially when the class gave him the defensive passive skill, Blood Shield. So the only defensive move he had was the Blood Shield and the sword.

Tang Shaoyang swung the Titan Blade horizontally toward Urugan's body, intending to split the Blood Berserker into two. The Blood Shield was activated once more, but it was futile as the shield instantly crumbled.

Urugan protected his body with the sword, placing his sword vertically.

Bang!

This time he could not block the sword as his body flew backward. By the time he crashed, he stood once more. He did not want to die, and he would do everything to survive.

"Dural! Bring your people here and buy me some time!" He wanted to use the five Epic Ranks to buy him time for him to escape after realizing he could not win. However, he discovered that the five ranks were no longer to be seen. Not just the five Epic Ranks, but also all the soldiers had fallen.

The Blood Berserker looked around, then he found the person he looked for. Dural along with the other four Epic Ranks were died, and three skeletons stood between their corpses. He was the only one who was still alive.