

Armipotent 1081

Chapter 1081: The Tide Turn Around - Part 1

All his attention was on Tang Shaoyang, and he did not realize that the battle was over. Urugan did not realize that the soldiers and the five Epic Ranks were already killed. "Wait! Wait! I give up—" The only way for him to survive was to surrender, but the opponent did not give him a chance.

Tang Shaoyang was already above him with the Titan Blade. He already used his skill, [Thousand Blasts]. It was too late for the defenseless Mighty Mercenary to surrender as a thousand blasts destroyed his body. The Blood Shield was triggered once more, but it was futile at this point. The shield broke, and the dust rose up to fifty meters into the air.

As the dust settled down, Tang Shaoyang stood right in front of the mud blood. What was left of Urugan was a piece of plate armor and stained blood on the ground. "Shit. I did not expect he would give up like that." He thought the pride of that Myth Rank would fight to the end, not expecting the opposite party to surrender.

"Maybe because he is a mercenary. He does not have loyalty to the empire, I guess." He muttered by himself as he put the Titan Blade back into the inventory. His lips curved into a smile as the system notification rang in his head. It was the notification that he leveled up from killing The Myth Rank. "Thirteen levels, huh... Not bad, not bad." He nodded his head three times, satisfied with his gain.

Thirteen levels for one kill was a big gain for him. It did not take him a lot of effort despite the enemy being one rank above him. A few skills were enough to kill Urugan.

"I have passed level 3000 after my fight against the Executioner Knights, which means my advancement will be at level 4000." Tang Shaoyang was frustrated when mentioning the advancement. His timing for the advancement seemed to be different than everyone else. "Maybe my level is even higher than that, Urugan." He muttered by himself.

From Marshal Alton and the current Elven King's experience, they got into the trial of the Myth Rank when they reached level 2000. Here, he was above level 3000, yet he was still Ancient Rank.

Tang Shaoyang turned around and looked up. Guild Master Gortham had arrived at his location, observing the surroundings. His eyes did not leave the skeletons for a while.

'Maybe this old man knows something about my absurdness, but I can't really trust him.' He wanted to ask the old man who had reached Demi-God Rank, but that would reveal all his secrets to the old man. He would not share his secret with someone he did not trust for sure.

"Yo, this side is over too?" Noticing Ying's gaze, Gortham turned to his mysterious guest. At this time, he had heard everything from Lulu about what happened inside the Epic Rank Garden. The fact that the Virandal Empire tried to kidnap the Mistovel Family's descendants and how the empire planned all this scheme.

"As you can see. I have eliminated them all." Ying shrugged as he turned toward the nine skeletons that had gathered on the side. He gave The Skelly Family a thumbs up. "Good work, everyone." The nine skeletons made clanking and clacking noises at the same, excited for the praise they received from the Master. He recalled them all before things got even more annoying, and he did not want the Guild Master to observe them even further.

Old Man Gortham jumped off the tree, landing next to Tang Shaoyang. "I have heard everything." He said that and waited for Ying to respond, but the latter just nodded and avoided talking about what happened inside the Epic Rank Garden. "There's another reinforcement; why don't you go there?"

The Guild Master rolled his eyes. "Your Golden Dragon has finished them off by himself. Don't talk like you don't know." Of course, the old man checked the other side first instead of coming here, but what was left behind was charred people and a small lizard that stayed on Lulu's shoulder.

"We need to talk about the dragon." Gortham turned serious when the dragon was mentioned.

"You can call me anytime." Ying nodded.

Looking how at ease Ying was, the old man felt his guest was underestimating the situation he was in. "You are underestimating your situation." Gortham shook his head. "Let's talk about it later, but I owe you one for saving Lulu and the other adventurers. If the Virandal Empire successfully kidnaps Lulu, there will be a big war in the Starter City #5."

"I am just doing what I am supposed to, no? That's part of the deal. I will do my best to help you, and you will do your best to help me?" Ying smiled.

The Guild Master looked at Ying in surprise for a moment. "So that's why you don't hesitate to show your dragon without telling me anything, huh?" He rubbed the space between his eyes. "I guess I have to do my best to help you out too."

Both returned to the main battlefield. It seemed the Guild Master was not ruthless as Tang Shaoyang thought. The old man captured the surrendered soldiers, and there were about three hundred soldiers.

The Golden Lizard flew off from Eril's shoulder and returned to his Master as soon as he noticed Tang Shaoyang's arrival. He continued lazing around on his comfy shoulder as the adventurers' eyes fell on Tang Shaoyang. The other adventurers recognized that the golden lizard was more than a pet, but a Golden Dragon. They looked at Ying differently now.

After the incident, the adventurers returned to the city. The news that the Virandal Empire broke the alliance rules immediately spread among other factions. The gate was locked, not really locked since the factions did not have the authority over the city, but they put their people to make sure that the Virandal Empire did not escape, and an emergency meeting was held.

However, the situation did not just affect the Virandal Empire, but the other factions too. Before the meeting could reach a conclusion, all the factions were prohibited from doing any activity outside the city. Everyone was locked in the city, and the Virandal Empire did not admit their scheme to kidnap the Mistovel Family's descendants.

The empire dismissed the accusation by saying it was individual action, not the empire's action. They apologized for what their noble tried to do but denied the fact that they were involved with the scheme. Basically, they threw the three hundred surrendered soldiers away by mentioning Callahan acted without the empire's permission.

The empire reduced the scale by putting all the blame on the Callahan Family, who led the action. There was nothing the Karian Adventurer Guild and Mistovel Family could do unless they had solid proof of the Royal Family's involvement.

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"That's the current situation." Old Man Gortham called Eril and Ying to explain the current situation.

"I am not interested in the political situation in this city, Guild Master Gortham. I will take my leave if you want to speak about that."

"You must listen to this because, in the next meeting, the council will ask you, Eril, Roman, Damian, and Lulu about what happened inside the Epic Rank Garden. They are asking for your testimony." Old Man Gortham let out a sigh.

"Hah..." Ying let out a chuckle. "So, they want to interrogate us? I am not interested. I have heard the procedure of the "interview" you talk about. I have to share my window status with the interrogator and take an oath. Do you think I will agree to this absurd situation, Old Man? Don't tell me you agree with this?"

The Guild Master should be aware of how sensitive showing the window status was regardless of the condition. He would never show his window status, especially not to someone who would potentially be his enemy.

"I don't have a choice. It was decided by a vote. There's nothing I can't do." Gortham shook his head.

"Then I have to leave the city, I guess." Tang Shaoyang made an extreme decision rather than exposing his window status. He did not care if that meant he would become the Starter City #5's no.1 enemy.

"Wait! Wait. You will be put on the wanted list if you escape from the city. Don't worry about the interview. The interviewer will take the oath that they will not share your information with anyone." Old Man Gortham tried to persuade Ying.

"Yeah, sure. But the interviewer you talk about is from each faction of this city. That means all factions in this city will know everything about me. They might not share it with anyone, but they will know my limit, and they can order their people that are stronger than me to capture me or even kill me. Do you take me as a fool, old man? You should be aware of this issue!" Ying raised his voice. At his point, he was boiling, angry that the old man tried to persuade him.

Chapter 1082: The Tide Turn Around - Part 2

The Alliance Council mentioned it as an interview to look for more evidence and testimonies if the Virandal Empire really broke the Alliance Rules. However, the alliance had an absurd requirement for the witness to share their window status. The reason was that they wanted to ensure the witness' identity.

"Can you calm down, and let's talk this out. Escape from the city does not resolve the problem, Ying." Old Man Gortham expected Ying would refuse to attend the witness testimony with those requirements. However, he did not expect that Ying would rather become the alliance's enemy instead of listening to the request.

Tang Shaoyang shook his head. "There's no issue in the first place. The Virandal Empire admitted that it was one of the nobles' actions without their authorization. So, what's this interrogation for? What's more, they are asking me to show my window status?" He squinted his eyes and looked at

Gortham in the eyes. "I see; you are also curious about my window status, hah? Of course, how naive of me to think you will be on my side."

Tang Shaoyang turned around and left the room and ignored Guild Master Gortham's attempt to stop him from leaving. As soon as he left the room, he met with seven people. Eril, Damian, Roman, and Lulu were among the seven, but he did not recognize the other three men.

"Are you Ying?" One of the three men asked.

Tang Shaoyang ignored the man as he went to the stairs. He really planned to leave the city, but before he could get to the stairs, the two other men blocked him. "Are you mutt? Our Young Lord asked you."

Tang Shaoyang looked up at the person that looked up at him, and he released his killing intent along with his Slayer Aura. The two men who blocked him were caught off guard and subconsciously took three steps back. However, behind them were stairs, and they slipped, losing their balance. Tang Shaoyang walked through the gap between the two men and passed them as the two men tried to balance themselves.

"Wait, Sir Ying...." Eril called out, but there was no response as the man took the stairs down.

Not long after, Guild Master Gortham came out of his room. "Do you really have to do this?" He looked at the young man who had earlier asked Tang Shaoyang. "He is your younger sister's benefactor. If not for him, you would not be able to see your younger sister right now."

"I am sorry, Guild Master. I am just following the Council's decision." After that, the man followed Tang Shaoyang.

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Down in the lobby, more people gathered. The black armored people blocked the entrance, seven of them with a spear in their hands. Their faces were covered in the helmet, but their sharp eyes could not be hidden. As soon as someone came from the upper floors, the seven black armored people immediately looked toward the person with sharp eyes.

Tang Shaoyang felt like being stared at by savage beasts, but it did not deter him a little bit. He had killed so many savage beasts, seven more savage beasts did not really matter to him. On top of that, they were inside the starter city, so they would not initiate the attack.

The adventurers recognized the 21st S Rank Adventurers of their guild, but the seven did not recognize him. Tang Shaoyang walked toward the entrance, but the seven black armored people did not budge. "Move!"

The seven people looked at each other for a moment, then they noticed that the adventurers seemed to admire the man in front of them. They guessed the man was one of the S Rank Adventurers. They were about to give a path, but a voice from the stairs stopped them. "Don't let him leave the building!" They recognized their Young Lord's voice and immediately tightened the gap.

"Hah...." Tang Shaoyang let out a long sigh. "You guys are right. These ungrateful bastards would turn against me."

The adventurers and the people from the Mistovel Family looked at each other, wondering to whom Tang Shaoyang talked. It looked like he talked to someone, but no one responded to him. Of course, Tang Shaoyang talked to his spirit; it was just he talked it out instead of using telepathy.

Tang Shaoyang turned around to meet with this Young Lord guy. "What do you need from me?"

"Are you, Ying?" The Young Lord repeated the same question.

"What if I am, and what if I am not?" Tang Shaoyang replied, but then he waved his hand. "What am I doing? I am not in the mood to play." He spoke to himself. "Yes, I am Ying. What do you need?"

"Then you have to follow me to meet the council for testimony as a witness." The Young Lord replied in a flat tone.

"Does it still require me to show my full window status?" Even though Tang Shaoyang knew the answer, he still asked.

"Yes, you do need to show your window status to confirm your identity." The straightforward answer came from the Young Lord.

"Then I have to decline to attend the witness testimony. I don't want to give my testimony, not when I have to share my window status."

"The interviewer will take an oath that they will not share a single detail about your window status, so you don't need to worry, Ying." The Young Lord tried to convince Ying just like Guild Master Gortham did.

"It does not change the fact that all factions in this city will know about me, everything. From my skills to my bloodline. You should know how important the secrecy of our window status is?"

"I am just following the council's decision, and you have to obey the council if you still want to stay in the city and stay safe outside the city." The Young Lord avoided the question and threatened Tang Shaoyang.

"So, what can you do if I refuse to follow you to meet the Council? Can you force me to follow you?" Tang Shaoyang smiled. Violence was prohibited inside the city, or the faction would get expelled from the city. That meant these people could not use force on me, so he was curious about what they would do. It was just another way for him to gain more information about the starter city. If there are any loopholes inside the starter city that he could share with Zhang Mengyao.

Chapter 1083: Extreme Decision

The Young Lord squinted his eyes as he did not really have any means to force Ying to follow him. If he tried to force Ying, he and his faction would be expelled from the city. With the ongoing situations, they would be an easy target for the other factions. They wanted the Dragon's bloodline and were aware of that, so getting expelled from the city was the worst possible outcome for the Mistovel Family. There was no loophole where he could force Ying to obey the council aside from the empty threats.

"Your defiant attitude just makes you more suspicious, Ying. If you refuse to give a testimony, then the alliance will put you on a wanted list. You will have the honor of being the first person to enter

the wanted list." The Young Lord added. However, that was just a weak argument in Tang Shaoyang's eyes, not convincing enough and not threatening enough.

"This is just funny at this point." Tang Shaoyang let out a chuckle. "The culprit has admitted their wrongdoings, yet you still seek for a testimony, forceful testimony with an absurd requirement." Then his face turned solemn all of a sudden, no longer having the previous playfulness. "Do you know that I just quit the Karian Adventure Guild? Do you know what that means?"

The Young Lord frowned deeper as he glanced toward the stairs where Guild Master Gortham was. The latter nodded his head, confirming that Tang Shaoyang was no longer part of the guild anymore. Tang Shaoyang was never part of the guild at first, but for the sake of the guild, he had to admit what Tang Shaoyang said to erase their involvement with Tang Shaoyang.

"That means I can do whatever I want without any consequence. I don't have to feel guilty like your sister or the Guild Master." Tang Shaoyang appeared right before the Young Lord. He held the man's neck and pushed the man down to the ground. The sudden assault was unexpected and caught them off guard, the Young Lord. He released his aura, which was much stronger than the aura he released upstairs.

The temperature in the lobby rose as people below Epic Ranks started to feel suffocated. The aura was too strong for them. The people who tried to help the Young Lord took a few steps back. It was just an aura, but it gave them fear enough for them not to get closer.

The Young Lord tried to shake off Tang Shaoyang, but the latter realized that he did not have enough strength to do so. He was being overwhelmed by a mere Ancient Rank. He struggled, kicking Tang Shaoyang's back, but it was futile.

Tang Shaoyang had used [Wrath] and [Attribute Shift]. While holding the Young Lord, he used the Grand Dragon Transformation. He no longer tried to hide his real strength. With the transformation, his Dragon Aura got even stronger, and mixed with his [Slayer Domination] and [Monarch Charisma], the Epic Ranks in the lobby started feeling suffocation. Meanwhile, the adventurers below Epic Ranks fell to their knees.

Tang Shaoyang brought the Young Lord's face closer to his, staring at the golden pupils. "I can kill you right here and right now, but that's too easy punishment for people like you. However...." He did not finish his words as he pulled the Young Lord's tongue and ripped it apart. The blood spurted out in Tang Shaoyang's hand as he held half part of the Young Lord's tongue.

The Young Lord let out an unintelligible scream, but then Tang Shaoyang was not over yet. After the tongue, his hand reached the Young Lord's right eye and plucked it off, causing the Young Lord to scream even more. Then Tang Shaoyang brought the Young Lord's ears close to his mouth and said in low, yet cold. "Remember this pain. Remember this feeling. You will forever remember this when you covet something that is not yours."

"STOP IT! YING!" It happened too fast and also unexpectedly, making Guild Master Gortham could not react in time. By the time he realized how severe the situation was, it was already too late. He rushed over to rescue the Young Lord of Mistovel Family. But then he realized that Ying did not have the intention to kill the Young Lord as Ying backed away.

Tang Shaoyang clicked his tongue as he looked at Old Man Gortham. "It's my mistake to give you a little bit of my trust, Old Man. I am too naive to think you will give me protection after I save your

people, or maybe I overestimate you just because you are Demi-God Rank? It does not matter. A mistake is made, and I have learned from my mistake.

Tang Shaoyang scanned the lobby, and his gaze gave everyone chills on their back. "I guess I will be lenient and will not kill any of your people, but I can't guarantee what will happen next if I meet your people outside the city."

"Wait—" Before he could finish his words, Ying disappeared and was replaced with a Dragonewt in butler clothes. In the next moment, the Dragonewt also disappeared.

Again and again, Ying kept surprising him with something unthinkable. Gortham was sure that Ying had used the Bloodline Transformation just now, and he recognized the characteristic of the transformation, and that was a Dragon Bloodline. Not just Ying had a Golden Dragon as his familiar, but also the Dragon Bloodline. That meant Ying was closely related to a Dragon or his family was the same as the Mistovel, but Ying's family was closer to the Dragon than Mistovel by having the Golden Dragon as his familiar. Of course, that was just one of many conjectures in his head.

Gortham snapped out of his thoughts when he heard the pained yet suppressed scream. "Get the healers here." His heart skipped a beat when he saw how awful Lombard's condition was. He did not expect that Ying would be this cruel, but again, it was not like he could not understand why Ying was so angry.

Then he recalled the aura and also the Bloodline Transformation. It gave him a chill. It was him still an Ancient Rank; what if he reached Myth or even Primordial Rank?

'What have I done? What have I done?' A tinge of regret started to grow in his heart. He regretted that he was not hard enough to stand up for Ying.

Chapter 1084: Mzed

Tang Shaoyang switched places with the spirit he placed outside the city with [Spirit Switch]. Before Guild Master Gortham came to him with the news, he had prepared for the worst. Not that he expected the situation would turn out like this, but because his spirits warned him. Zowen, Rosalie, and a few other spirits warned him that the whole city would turn against him because of Wrath, the Golden Dragon.

Tang Shaoyang did not take it seriously at first, thinking that the Mistovel Family and the guild would back him. He saved Lulu and also the adventurers from the Virandal Empire, so he thought they would not be so petty to turn against their benefactor. But the reality was bitter, and he started to realize things really went wrong after the council meeting continued, even after the Virandal Empire admitted the attack was one of the nobles' wrongdoings.

So yeah, a few days before the Guild Master brought the bad news, he had sent Maldros, who could fly over the city. Wrath and Greed also followed Maldros, the Black Storm Dragonewt, leaving the city for the worst scenario. If things really went wrong, he could switch places with Maldros. Zowen's concern became a reality as the council wanted to see his window status.

They might not be hostile and just wanted to figure out what class he had to have a dragon as his familiar. Another possibility, they wanted to see his level, skills, and other stuff, to figure out how strong he was so they could use that information to capture him and the dragon.

Despite those possibilities, there was no way he would share his window status. The council would figure out that he was not Ying and not affiliated with the Karian Guild Adventurer the moment he showed the window status. They could use that against him, and he would have the same end. He would still be number one on the wanted list in the alliance.

Guild Master Gortham should be aware of the main problem, but from the way he tried to persuade him to attend the witness testimony. It seemed the Guild Master did not oppose the idea or protect him hard enough. "How silly of me to think that old man would do that." Tang Shaoyang muttered in a low voice. "I underestimated the value of a dragon."

"Agree. You should not show off your dragon, not especially to the Varuman Empire and the Mistovel Family. They are known for the dragon maniac, willing to do anything to possess a dragon, especially a young dragon like yours."

Tang Shaoyang was caught off guard when he heard someone else's voice. He turned toward the voice and saw the familiar face. Christopher, the blacksmith, worked on his new battle-ax. The bulky man was leaning against the tree with tobacco in his lips.

Tang Shaoyang immediately took out his Titan Blade, and he was still in his transformation, so he was ready to fight. However, Christopher raised both his hands in the air. "I am here not to fight you. I don't care what happened between you and the guild. I am here to finish the deal between us." Christopher then took out the battle-ax from his inventory. He did not come closer as he tossed the battle-ax toward Tang Shaoyang.

"There's not much I can do for the external design as I try to finish it in a hurry.... I figure out this will happen to you after I hear the rumor." Christopher let out a sigh when he mentioned the last part. "I hope you are satisfied with my work."

Tang Shaoyang remained cautious while secretly checking on his new weapon.

[Mzed]

Grade: Epic

Bonus Attribute: +5% Elemental Destructive Power

Additional Skill: [Barrier Breaker]

"Mzed?" He muttered by himself. The name was kinda weird to mention, but not as edgy as before.

"I named it Mzed. Doesn't have any meaning, but it's kind of cool, no?" Christopher smiled.

"Shouldn't I name my own weapon?"

The bulky man shrugged. "You have to be there when I finish making it. If you don't give the name to the weapon ten minutes after its creation, the System will pick a random name. Thanks to your Black Mithril Bone, I can make it to Epic Grade. That would be the seventh Epic Grade artifact I have ever made."

"How much? Don't you come here to get the pay?" Tang Shaoyang felt uncomfortable staying longer around Christopher. He did not know this might be the blacksmith's tactic to delay him until

the reinforcement arrived. Curious, he used Detection on Christopher, and he was surprised to find that the blacksmith was also Demi-God Rank.

"I can understand why you remain cautious around me, but this makes us hard to have a conversation." Christ let out a sigh once more. "You don't need to pay for my service. I take your service for saving those adventurers as payment. There's also still some leftover Black Mithril Bone; that should be enough for the payment."

"Then we are done here." Tang Shaoyang did not want to stay here longer. This was far from the city, but not that far. Those people could catch up in fifteen to thirty minutes. While he did not mind being the most wanted person in the starter city #5, he did not want to fight them all at once. He wanted to leave and figured out where he would stay.

"I actually want to buy more Black Mithril Bone from you, but from our relationship right now, you are not willing to sell me, right?" Christopher smiled bitterly.

"Of course. Why would I want to arm the guild? I am not going to make the same stupid mistake, like arming the people that will hunt me down."

Christ scratched his bald head. "Alright." The blacksmith took out a long knife from his inventory. Tang Shaoyang thought the man would fight him to get more Mithril, but Christ tossed the long knife toward him. "That would be a gift for me. I am grateful for the chance you give me to work with a rare material such as Black Mithril. You might need that knife in the wild."

[Long Knife]

Grade: B

Bonus Attribute: +40 Agility +20 Strength

Additional Skill: —

"But I am pretty sure those people regretted their decision to do this to you. Someone with Dragon Bloodline also has a high value, about the same as your dragon. You will be either number one in the killing list or number in the recruit list." Christopher let out a chuckle. "Even I am not confident that I can take you down right now."

Tang Shaoyang did not want to talk about what happened within the alliance. He raised the knife in the air and replied. "Thanks for the knife, I guess?" He did not really think that he would need the knife because he had a better weapon.

"Alright, it's a pity that we have to part ways like this." Christ shook his head. "If we ever meet again in the future, I hope we are in a better situation." Those were Christopher's last words as the blacksmith disappeared into the woods.

Tang Shaoyang tried to ensure that the man truly left him with his Spirit Eyes. He saw the departing figure in the city direction. Christopher did not linger to watch him. The blacksmith truly left the area, leaving him alone in the woods.

"Let's move." As he said that, Wrath and Greed jumped onto his shoulders. He did not know if Christopher was being genuine or just faking his nonchalant attitude with the current situation. The

blacksmith might report his whereabouts to the alliance as soon as the man returned, so he did not want to take the risk of staying here any longer.

"But where am I going? Should I go back to my original city?" Tang Shaoyang scratched his head. If the Guild Master was telling the truth, then those God Ranks would not be able to come into the tower again. He said that the punishment would be even harsher than the previous forceful entry to the tower. "But can I trust that old man?"

Greed and Wrath knew the way back to the city, so it was not difficult for him to return. Again, he could not really trust Guild Master Gortham after what happened. On top of that, he did not know if those God Ranks had any other means to enter the tower once more. Maybe they found another loophole in the system and might take advantage of the loophole to enter the tower. He could not ignore that possibility too.

"We found a few settlements on the way to meet you, Master. What about if you stay there first for the time being until you can figure out what you want to do?" Wrath gave an idea.

"I guess that's better than wandering around with no destination." That was a better idea than wandering around with no purpose. He needed a place to stay and figured out his next action. He did not need to return to the city, but the drawback was he could not take the quest from the system. "Lead the way, Wrath."

Chapter 1085: Reflecting

Christopher returned to his workshop after handing the weapon. He swept the non-existent sweat on his forehead as he entered his room. "Huh.... That was close. I am not confident that I can leave with one piece if that guy decides to fight me."

"Who will fight you? Who's crazy enough to fight you?"

Chris was surprised to hear the voice in his room. He turned toward the voice and found his friend holding his booze. "What are you doing in my workroom? I have told you many times not to bring your drink to my workshop!"

Gortham ignored the nagging, squinting his eyes at his friend. "You haven't answered me yet. Who's crazy enough dares to fight you?" Albeit Christopher was weaker than him, his friend was still Demi-God Rank. It was just that Christopher had dedicated his life to smithing instead of fighting.

"Who else? The young man you wronged." Christopher shrugged. "I met him outside to deliver his commission since he has paid and given the materials to me."

"What!?" Gortham slammed the table as he could not believe what he heard. "Why would you give him the weapon? Ah, that's right. It was the recycling of the dragon scale, right? Why are you helping our enemy?"

Christopher gave his friend a side glance. "Our enemy? Your enemy, not my enemy. Also, it's your greed that forces him to be your enemy. I know you are capable enough to suppress the council. None of them are Demi-God Rank; your voice is more influential in the council. It's hard, but not hard enough for you not to be able to change the council's voice. None of them wanted to be your enemy in this tower."

Demi-God Rank was the cap rank for one to enter the Ancient Rank Dimensional Tower. That meant the Demi-God Rank was the highest rank in this tower, and Gortham was the only Demi-God

Rank in this city. That was the reason why the Virandal Empire was willing to sacrifice one of their nobles as soon as the act was caught instead of trying to save them. The Virandal Empire sacrificed one noble and three hundred people of an elite group that was caught by Guild Master Gortham.

"I just want to know his actual class and bloodline, that's it. What made him that strong to be able to fight one rank above him. I did not expect he would react so extreme like that." Gortham replied in a low voice as the guilt took over him.

"Hah, you just don't expect that someone like him would dare to oppose the whole city instead of obediently following the council, right? Do you think you could use the council so you can see his window status? I know your tricks, Old Gorth, but I am afraid you are making one of the worst decisions in your life." Christopher shook his head.

"Hahh...." Old Gortham let out a sigh. "I am not planning to force him. If he refuses to follow the protocol, then I will suppress the council to gain his trust. However, he has done something that even I can't help him....." Gortham told Christopher what happened to the Young Lord of the Mistovel Family.

Christopher spurted out the water he had just drank. He looked at his friend's face to make sure it was not a lie, then the blacksmith laughed. "You and that Young Lord deserve it. You guys should indeed not cover someone else's thing." He then touched his eyes and lips while his face scrunched. "I can imagine how hurt it was."

"I am here, hoping you would console me, Christ. You just made this look worse than it was."

"Why do you think I decided to be a blacksmith instead of following your path? I have grown tired of all the fights and schemes. I just want to have a simple life with my new passion. Please don't involve me in your silly thing, Old Gorth." Christopher shook his head. "Also, tell me honestly, Old Gorth. That guy is not from our branch in Akasian, right? I don't recall we have someone with a Dragon Bloodline aside from the Mistovel Family's kids."

Since things had gone wrong, Gortham no longer hid Ying's identity. He shared everything, including the fight that happened during the Epic Rank Garden's raid.

"He has a Dragon Familiar and also a cat familiar that can swallow a whole Myth Rank. Then he had a skeleton, a group of thirteen skeletons that could deal with three hundred people. Then he is also so strong himself, being able to take down one rank above him. I just want the information about his details. I don't have the intention to take his dragon. That's it; I don't want to be his enemy."

"Fool!" As soon as Christopher found out that the man was from outside the other starter cities, he could not help but curse his friend. "I don't think he's not just capable of taking down one above his rank but might be several ranks above him. As I said, I don't think I can win against him if I fight him. He had a dragon bloodline, and even without the Dragon Bloodline, he was capable of taking down one rank above him. So can you imagine if he also activates his dragon bloodline to fight? What if he can transform into a real dragon? Are you confident you can beat him?"

"Damn! I came to the wrong person! Not only do you not console, but you are also scaring me now." Gortham finished the whole booze before storming out of the workshop. Of course, he was aware of his friend's concern as well.

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Starter City #4

The war between the Tang Empire and the Divine Church had become more intense lately. The Divine Church started to fight back, and both sides lost their forces. However, it was more apparent that the Divine Church was on the losing side.

The information that the Tang Empire had two Legend Ranks had spread to the other factions. That was what made the Divine Church lose the war. In the last few days, The Divine Church stopped their activity outside the starter city and holed themselves up in their own region.

Divine Church

Saintess Marisha's bloodshot eyes read the report in her hand. She had used all means, without asking for reinforcement, to go against the Tang Empire. She thought as long as she could avoid the two Legend Ranks, then they should be fine. The Tang Empire was a faction from a new world, after all. However, she later found out that the Tang Empire had dozens of Myth Ranks and several Primordial Ranks. She quickly realized that the Tang Empire might be stronger than the force she brought.

The Divine Church's force only had one Legend Rank and two Primordial Ranks. Adding salt to the injury, her Chief Priest, the only Legend Rank on her side, suffered a heavy injury after a fight against the rabbit beastmen. Things quickly went awry as soon as they got rid of the Emperor of the Tang Empire.

The last measure she could think of was to make peace with the Tang Empire. However, she was humiliated instead. The Tang Empire agreed to the meeting, but when they arrived in front of the Earth's territory, she was forced to wait at the gate for hours. Later, the Tang Empire told her to go back, declaring war once more on the Divine Church to avenge their dead Emperor.

It surprised her how a mere Ancient Rank could have those many strong subordinates. At this point, she could not think of anything but ask the help from the main church for help.

Suddenly someone barged into her room. She looked up and saw her escort knight, Captain Ruben, enter the room in a hurry. "What's wrong, Captain Ruben?"

"The Holiness Bishop has come!"

Saintess Marisha immediately stood up, tidying up her messy clothes and hair. The stress got into her lately. As soon as she finished fixing her attire, a group of three entered his room. She recognized the person in the middle with the holy attire, The Holiness Bishop.

The Holiness Bishop had a long white hat extending down with a white cloth mask covering the face. "I heard My Saintess is in trouble." The Holiness Bishop's voice was serene and calming.

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Tang Shaoyang followed Wrath and Greed to get to the settlement. He decided to stay outside the starter city and figured out what to do next while reflecting on his mistake this time.

[Human greed is boundless. Even siblings try to kill each other for an inheritance, so you don't have to blame everything on yourself, and you learn from your mistakes.]

Rosalie, The Flame Empress, tried to comfort him from what he had gone through. There was some truth, brothers by blood would kill each other for the inheritance, so even the people he saved might stab him in the back for something he possessed. A young dragon was enough temptation for that.

"But still, this could happen because I am too arrogant. I am being overconfident and naive to trust the people I just met. I—" Before he could finish his words, Wrath's voice interrupted him. "We have arrived, Master."

Chapter 1086: Greeny Village - Part 1

Tang Shaoyang told Wrath to choose a settlement that looked peaceful, and he arrived at the village. The Spirit Eyes immediately scanned the village. The village had twenty-seven houses, and the field in front of him was not the only field in the village. More fields surrounded the village, with wooden fences separating the two areas. It seemed the village's main source of food was the field.

Through the Spirit Eyes, he noticed a group of three coming toward him. However, more villagers held their farming equipment back in the village, ready to fight anytime. His presence alarmed the villagers, and they looked scared even though he had not done anything yet.

Two men in their late forties and a woman in her earlier fifties approached him cautiously. The man with gray hair stood in front of the other two. "Hello, Sir. Do you need something from our village?"

From the way the gray-haired man greeted him, Tang Shaoyang could tell the villager did not welcome him or maybe any outsiders. Instead of saying, "Welcome to the village," the man greeted him and asked his purpose for coming to the village. The villagers wanted him to leave as soon as his business was done here.

Tang Shaoyang nodded and told the villager his purpose of coming to the village straightforwardly. "I want to stay in the village."

The three villagers looked at each other, caught off guard by the direct request. Of course, the fact the three did not want Tang Shaoyang to stay in their village was apparent on their faces. They had troubled expressions. They wanted to decline the outsider's request to stay in their village, but they were also scared to drive the outsider away.

"In exchange for me staying in your village. I will fight the monster that attacks the village." Tang Shaoyang offered something instead of living for free. The offer was something hard to refuse. He saw what had happened on the other side of the village. There, the fields were destroyed along with the fence and also three houses.

The three looked at each other once more. The offer was truly something hard to resist because the monster had become more ferocious lately and started attacking the village. This was the third time the monster entered the village's area in a week, and they truly needed someone to fight the monster.

"We will provide lodging and also food, but you have to fight not just the monster but also the bandit!" The gray-haired man made the decision without consulting the other two, but he came up with another term, the bandit.

"Bandit?" Tang Shaoyang was genuinely confused as he did not expect that there was also a group of bandits on the eleventh floor. It was just out of his expectation that the native decided to be

bandits in a world where monsters outnumbered them. The people fought at each other instead of banding together to fight the monster to survive.

"We call them bandits because they rob our harvest very often. They are actually people from another village, but they live by hunting. Each time they fail to hunt something, they will come to our village to rob our food." The woman in her early fifties explained. She did not fully agree to let an outsider like Tang Shaoyang stay in the village, but it seemed they had no other choices since their Village Chief had agreed but with conditions.

"I see...." Tang Shaoyang nodded. "Does that mean you guys are short on food?" His words hit right on the spot as the three immediately lowered their gazes. The village seemed to have a food shortage after those series of events.

"We can still provide the food for you if you promise us to fight the monster and drive away the bandit!" The gray-haired man tried to convince Tang Shaoyang. He thought Tang Shaoyang would leave if they did not have food.

"Ah, that's not what I mean." Tang Shaoyang waved his hand and took out the monster he had just hunted before he came to the village, or to be exact, his skeletons hunted the monster.

It was a Steer, a giant steel-furred deer. The deer was five meters tall with a red antler. It died with a hole in the forehead, a sign that the monster was killed by Keeper. The ground shook a little bit as the monster landed on the ground, startling the three.

The three had their eyes widened open, not expecting to see the monster that destroyed their field was dead right before them. Of course, this one might be one of many Steers outside there. However, the dead Steer was proof that the man in front of him was not a scam and was capable of protecting them from the monster that haunted the village.

"You can take this and share it with the others. That should be enough to feed the village until I hunt the next monster." Tang Shaoyang actually had a lot more in his inventory, but he did not want to show it all. He did not want to be worshiped by these villagers while staying here. He just needed a place to stay for the time being until he figured out what he should do next.

"Hmmm.... Sir...." The gray-haired man hesitated for a moment. "Can you process the Steer for us? We don't have the tool to dismantle the Steer."

Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow, not because he was bothered by the request but because he did not have any tools to dismantle the deer. Titan Blade could cut through the steel fur, but he did not think it would be easy to skin the Steer with that giant sword. If a big sword is hard to use to skin the monster, let alone the battle-ax. Then he recalled the Blacksmith who gave him the long knife. 'Does he foresee that I need this knife?'

He shrugged and took out the long knife. "This knife should be able to cut the Steer." The latter took the knife carefully.

The gray-haired man treated the knife as a treasure, then he saw the window stat of the knife. He was surprised for a moment before bowing his head toward Tang Shaoyang. "I will immediately prepare the lodging for you, Sir.... May I know your name, Sir? I am the Chief of Greeny Village, Urun. She is Rini, and he is Irun."

Urun and Irun were brothers. The big brother was the Chief of the village, while the little brother was the one who was responsible for the field and also the security of the village. As for Rini, she was the secretary of the village, the one who managed the food and other daily necessities for the villagers. The village was more organized than he thought.

"Tang. You can call me Tang."

The three bowed toward Tang Shaoyang. "We are very grateful for your generosity, Sir Tang."

The three then led Tang Shaoyang to the village, but Urun forgot to tell the villagers to put down the farming tools. Urun nudged Irun, and the latter immediately ran toward the other villagers. "Put your farming tools. He is our guest, not the bandit from the Thorn Village."

The villagers were confused, but they followed the order. Then Irun chose dozens of strong men and brought them with him. Meanwhile, Rini brought the other villagers back with her, leaving Tang Shaoyang and Urun.

"I will lead you to your lodging, Sir Tang."

All the houses had the same design, and half of them looked worn down over time. The wood was rotten, and there were a few holes in the roof. They passed the houses that were in bad condition and showed him the newly built house. He could tell that by the wooded wall.

The house had four rooms, three bedrooms, and one main room. Urun explained that all the houses had the same design, afraid that Tang Shaoyang would misunderstand that he gave the bad house.

"It's fine. I would like to get some rest. Can you call me again when the food is ready?"

"Yes, Sir Tang." Urun then left the house.

The house was empty, and there was no furniture inside, an indication that the house was just finished. Not like he really needed that furniture. He chose one bedroom and placed the bed inside. Fortunately, the room was big enough for his bed, even though the bed took up most of the space in the bed.

Tang Shaoyang hopped on the bed, closed his eyes, and took a deep breath, trying to calm himself down. He looked calm on the outside, but deep inside, he was holding his anger. It would have been a lie if he was not angry after what happened back in the city. His action toward the called Young Lord was his emotional manifestation of how he felt toward the guild and the Mistovel Family. Even though the blame was on him for trusting them, he just did not expect that the guild and also the Mistovel Family would turn against him after what he had done for them. He did not see their effort to shield him against the so-called council.

"Let's forget it and think of my next move." After three times taking a deep breath, he put away the useless thoughts.

[You have to be careful. They might try to hunt you down. Especially you have to be wary of the Virandal Empire and also the Mistovel Family.] Rosalie, the Flame Empress, reminded him that the factions in the Starter City #5 might hunt him down, either to pay for what he had done or for what he possessed.

Tang Shaoyang opened his eyes. "While I don't have an intention to actively hunt them, I will kill whoever comes to me!"

Chapter 1087: Greeny Village - Part 2

Tang Shaoyang took a deep breath once more as he got even angrier when he remembered what had just happened to him. After a while, he calmed down as the sound of cheering came from outside. It seemed the villagers were excited about the Steer meat they got.

"What should I do now?" He mused as he recalled all the information he got from the Starter City #5. "Can I even believe that information?" Most of the information he had about the God Alliance and the God Ranks was from Gortham's mouth. He was unsure if he should believe it or not after what that old man had done to him.

Tang Shaoyang's eyes twitched as he recalled that old man's face. He could not believe that he was tricked by Gortham's friendly mask.

[I think you can trust that old man's words; all he said before the Epic Rank Garden raid, Master.] Orlean, the Demon Prince, shared his thoughts with his Master. [I think he changed his mind after seeing what you are capable of. He might not covet Wrath, but he might want more information about you. Your class, talent, and others. I can see him being genuine before the incident.]

"If that old man is telling the truth, then I should not worry about the God Ranks anymore. They will not be able to come at me again." His only concern right now was the God Ranks. He was afraid that if the news that he was still alive leaked, the God Ranks might come again for him. "Ah, shit. That old man is no longer on my side. He can tell the God Alliance after me that I am still alive."

Tang Shaoyang just realized that Old Man Gortham might mess him up by leaking that information to the six God Alliances that wanted him dead. While it might not be possible for the God Rank to descend to the tower anymore, they could still send their followers. They might even send the Demi-God Rank after him, and not just one, but many of Demi-God Ranks.

"Returning to my Starter City is not an option." The Divine Church was there, so the Nirvana Alliance really might send their Demi-God Rank there if the news that he was still alive spread. "I have to tell Mengyao to stay low for a while."

"It seems there's no other choice than staying in the wild until I at least reach Primordial Rank." Only when he reached Primordial Rank that he was confident of returning. While he might not be able to face the God Rank, he could still escape from them. It would be vastly different from the previous encounter. As for the Demi-God Rank, he was confident to face them. Three Demi-God Ranks, while he was still Primordial, might be feasible.

"Then let's focus on the resource. Looking for the boss monster is the best way for me to increase my level." Since there was a boss monster that guarded the resource, he might as well look for the resource. It was the same as killing two birds with one stone. He got level, and his empire would use the resource.

"Talking about the resource, I haven't transferred the ownership of the Epic Rank Garden to the guild..." He suddenly realized that the Epic Rank Garden was still in his possession. Eril told him that he needed to hand over the ownership of the resource to the guild once they returned to the city. However, everyone forgot about the resource because of the council's meeting. Old Man Gortham was never seen in the guild until he met Tang Shaoyang to inform him about the testimony.

"Huh!?" Tang Shaoyang suddenly realized that the cheers and laughter outside had changed into screams. "What happens?" He activated the Spirit Eyes and found the issue.

The one so-called bandit came to Greeny Village and tried to claim the beast he defeated. He could hear it, albeit low, that the bandit claimed they injured the beast and accused the Greeny Village of stealing their prey. They came to take their prey with them.

"This is weird? Why would they come now all of a sudden? It's not the time to harvest yet, and I am sure no one was around when I killed the beast. I don't leave any track since I am flying." Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow. "There's only one conclusion. There's a snitch from this village. Or else, how those bandits know we have Steer."

He got off the bed and took the bed to inventory once more before leaving the house. He had noticed through the Spirit Eyes that one of the villagers had come for him. By the time he opened the door, there was a young man running toward him.

"Sir Tang! Sir Tang! Please help our village! The—"

Tang Shaoyang raised his hand. "I know. Lead me to the bandit."

The young man's face flashed with surprise, wondering how Sir Tang knew the bandits came to the village. However, he knew that he did not have much time. The young man nodded and ran toward the center of the village.

By the time the two reached there, the Village Chief, Urun, was still arguing with the bandits. Apparently, the Village Chief of the Thorny Village came to claim the beast.

"The Steer is a gift for our village from our guest. I will not give it to you!" Urun insisted on his initial argument.

The Thorny Village's Chief sneered. "Guest? Do you think you can trick me? Do you think you can scare me with your imaginary guest? This beast is clearly our prey. We injured the beast and had been hunting them for a few days. If you are not going to give it to us nicely, then we will take it by force."

"Imaginary guest?" For some reason, Urun's lips curved into a smile. He could tell that the opposite party was lying because he could tell how Steer died. There was no trace of the beast getting into a trap or injured. The beast died because of one wound, right in the forehead, one shot. While the villagers from the Thorny Village might be stronger than his village, none from the Thorny Village could achieve that. "Just wait. I will send someone to call our guest."

"Call him! Do you think I am afraid?" The Thorny Village's chief slammed his chest, challenging Urun as he showed off his muscle.

"I am the guest of the Greeny Village!" Tang Shaoyang came out from the crowd. The young man, for some reason, still followed him, tailing him closely.

The Thorny Village's Chief scanned the black-haired man in front of him. While he could not see the black-haired man's build, he could tell that he had a bigger frame than the man, giving him a little boost of confidence.

"So you are the thief who stole our prey?" The Thorny Village's Chief approached Tang Shaoyang with a smug face.

"You prey? Did you kill that beast?" Tang Shaoyang asked. He could solve the issue by simply kicking the man, sending the Thorny Village's Chief on his way. However, he had another purpose, to gain a positive impression on the villagers. He wanted to earn their trust so he could get information about the resources from the villagers. No one knew this place better than the natives themselves, after all.

"No, but we injure the beast with the traps, and we have been hunting the beast for a few days, but you steal it from us." The Thorny Village's Chief came with the same argument.

Tang Shaoyang tilted his head and looked at the beast that was still intact. "You injured the beast? But why don't I see any wounds on it? Everything is intact except for the hole on its head."

It seemed the other villagers were restless with the bandits. They did not notice that until Tang Shaoyang said it. Everyone started to look at the beast more carefully, and as Tang Shaoyang said, there was no wound. If the beast is injured by the trap, there should be a trace of it. The fur was not even stained by the dried blood, and everything was intact. There was not even a scratch on its steel fur.

"You...." The Thorny Village's Chief's face turned red, fuming as he pointed his finger at Tang Shaoyang. "If I said it's my prey, then it's my prey. We have developed an advanced trap that can kill the beast in one shot."

Tang Shaoyang let out a chuckle. Even an uneducated thug like him could easily find the hole in Thorny Village's Chief argument. The bandit said they injured the beast, and now they changed the statement that they killed the beast with the advanced trap.

"So which one? Did you kill it, or you just injured it with your trap?"

Looking at the black-haired man's smile, the Thorny Village's Chief realized that he could not win with just arguments. What infuriated him, even more was that the Greeny Village's villagers, who initially feared him, not they tried to hold their chuckle, smiling mockingly at him. "I will make you regret humiliating this Savage Thordan!"

The Thorny Village's Chief sheathed the blade on his waist. The blade was similar to the saber with the curve, but the blade was not in good condition. The blade was crude, and some parts of it chipped.

The villagers let out a gasp as they subconsciously took a few steps back, unintentionally giving more space for Tang Shaoyang and Thordan. The bandit who followed Thordan cheered for their leaders while Urun also stepped back to make more space. He was confident in Tang Shaoyang and pitied Thordan for not being able to see things clearly.

Thordan let out a big hoorah as he rushed toward Tang Shaoyang and swung the blade toward Tang Shaoyang's neck. It showed that Thordan would not show mercy to his enemy. However, the blade cut nothing but air.

Tang Shaoyang ducked and turned his back slightly toward Thordan. Then he followed it with a kick to Thordan's jaw. He controlled his strength so he did not detach Thordan's head. There were kids around, so he did not want to turn this bloody.

Thordan let out a pained grunt as his jaw forcefully clenched. He released his grip on the blade as he could also feel that his body was in the air. The kick sent Thordan up to three meters in the air.

Tang Shaoyang jumped in the air and executed a spinning kick in the air. The kick landed on Thordan's chest and....

Whoosh!

Thordan spurted out blood from his mouth as his body flew backward like a rocket. The villagers from both villages followed the projectile until they lost sight of Thordan. Everyone had the same conclusion after witnessing that. Thordan was finished.

Chapter 1088: Second Resurrection

Everyone looked toward the direction where Thordan disappeared, leaving them in a daze. Seeing Thordan flying like that was the last thing that crossed their mind. The fight they expected never happened as the Greeny Village's guest killed Thordan with two kicks. They believed Thordan should be dead by now; there was no way the Thorny Village's Chief survived that. Even if Thordan survived, the man must have suffered a heavy injury, and he was the easiest target for the predator in the woods.

"What are you waiting for? Do you want to get kicked too?" Tang Shaoyang spoke to the Thorny Village's villagers who followed Thordan here. The voice snapped them back to reality, and they looked toward the black-haired man in terror. There was no need for them to guess; the black-haired man was not someone they should touch.

Without any words, the bandits turned around and ran as fast as possible. Some of them even fell, but they got up and dashed away from the village without looking back. They were terrified to even look back.

Cheers rang in the air as the Greeny Village's villagers celebrated their first win against the bandit. Those bandits had bullied them for years, and this was the first time they ran between their tails. The villagers were jubilant, and one young man started to chant Tang Shaoyang's name.

"Sir Tang!" "Sir Tang!" "Sir Tang!"

From one person to two persons, then the whole villagers chanted his name, including the Village Chief, Urun. The Village Chief even had tears in his eyes, but he quickly wiped those tears.

"Enough! Enough!" Chief Urun raised his hand and stopped his people. "Sir Tang just arrived in our village, and he needs some rest. Let him return to his room and keep your noise down."

The whole village stopped cheering, and the euphoric atmosphere suddenly turned quiet. They listened to the Village Chief attentively. It was to the point that the villagers stopped breathing. Meanwhile, Tang Shaoyang fled from the scene before the situation got even more awkward.

Tang Shaoyang stayed in the village for two days, barely leaving the village. The villagers treated him as a royal guest, and everything was served to him. Even Chief Urun tried to send two virgins at night to his room, but he refused them. Not that he did not like women or was stressed out with his current situation, anything else, the deed would help him to return the mood. However, he just did not want to ruin the two girls because he would not take responsibility for them.

Of course, he was not idle in the last two days. He blended in with the natives and also gathered the necessary information for his next move. He had asked Chief Urun about the dangerous areas near the village. The native seemed not to know the term resource, so he asked them about the dangerous area.

Chief Urun and the other villagers mentioned three dangerous areas near the village. Today, he would go to the closest dangerous area with the same young man who picked him up when those bandits appeared. The young man was an orphan because his parents died fighting those bandits. Thanks to him, who drove away and killed their Chief, the young man admired and worshiped Tang Shaoyang.

"What's your name?" The silence was too awkward for Tang Shaoyang, so he opened up a conversation. Even though the young man had been following for two days, he did not know the young man's name.

"My name is Areth, Sir," Areth replied readily.

Tang Shaoyang was about to ask for other things, but Areth cut him first. "We have arrived at the dangerous area, Sir."

They arrived at the cliff, and the young man pointed down to the cliff. He was surprised to find a settlement below there. However, it was not a human settlement but Rock Lizardman. As the name implies, the Rock Lizardman's scales were made of hard red stone. Of course, he found something interesting within the lizardman.

The common lizardmen was made of red stone, but Epic Rank Rock Lizardman had a bright red crystal on the back. He even discovered the Ancient Rank, the strongest among the lizardmen. The Ancient Rank Rock Lizardman had three red crystals on its back. The glistening crystal looked like a luxurious item.

The most interesting part, there were three Treasure Chests in the middle of the altar. There was a crude platform in the middle of the settlement, and he discovered three Treasure Chests in the middle of the altar. One of the treasure chests glowed in blue, and the remaining two treasure chests glowed in white. One Epic Treasure Chest and two Grade 1 Treasure Chests. However, the chest was chained by mana, and he could see the chain with his Dragon Eyes.

"Alright, you can go back to the village. It will take a while to clear them all, so you should head back instead of waiting for me here." Tang Shaoyang told the young man to return. The distance from here to the village was not that far, and he had cleared the danger on the way.

However, Areth did not leave. "Sir! Please teach me how to be strong, Sir Tang! I want to be strong like you. Please teach me, Sir Tang?" He fell on his knees, kneeling until his forehead touched the ground. The young man finally managed to speak what was inside his heart, his real purpose following Tang Shaoyang.

Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow, looking down at the kneeling young man. This was totally different from what happened back at the Ortis Continent, where he could give people a Class Scroll and nurture him or her. The situation was totally different, vastly different. For example, Areth was just level 8.

Even if he decided to agree with the request, it would be extremely hard to teach the natives how to fight. He needed to spoon-feed them everything. First, the monster and the beast were at least at level 700+. He needed to beat the monster and let them get the kill. That was the only way for the natives to break the shackle of being weak, and that would take a lot of effort and also time. He did not have that much time because he was on a timer too.

Second, there was no monster or beast that could help them to gain an actual experience in combat. Learning how to fight against a monster at level 700+ was a suicide, meaning the natives needed special care if he decided to nurture them. Which, again, he did not have the time for.

Third, the natives really did not have any use for him aside from the tool to gain information about the resource. He would rather summon a new skeleton instead of the natives. The skeleton had a battle instinct because they were born to fight. The skeletons were more efficient than the natives, and they did not speak.

However, looking at how determined the young man was, a simple rejection would not make the young man stop. Areth was the type that would not give up even if he told the young man how hard it was. The tactic to face the young man was to delay the answer instead of giving the young man an answer.

"I will think about it. I don't really have time to teach anyone, but I will think about it for now. Please return to the village for now." Tang Shaoyang gave his answer, giving the young man a little bit of hope.

"Yes, Sir." The young man stood and replied excitedly. He listened to Tang Shaoyang and turned around.

[Why don't you just tell them the answer immediately? You are giving him a false promise.] His spirits questioned his decision.

"That type of person is the persistent bunch. He will not give up just because I refused him once. Tonight or maybe tomorrow, he would come at me and do the same thing. I already have a handful of problems in my hand, so I am not going to deal with him for a while." Tang Shaoyang shook his head.

"Now, we are outside the village. Are you ready for the resurrection, Zowen?" He shifted the topic. He had recovered Spirit Energy and even doubled the number. With the two hundred thousand of Spirit Energy, he could resurrect the two spirits. Being the third spirit he had ever contracted, Zowen was the next on the line after Zaneos. The third was supposed to be Rumru, the Black Dragon, but Rumru's spirit was still sealed. He had a way to unlock the seal until he got back to Rumru's world, so Zowen was the next spirit.

[I am ready!] The excitement was clear in her voice.

Tang Shaoyang activated [Spirit Resurrection], consuming a hundred thousand of Spirit Energy. A cloud storm formed right before him. Of course, it was just a small black cloud storm, around three meters. Twenty seconds later, a figure in a blue robe came out of the cloud storm.

Zowen's eyes were sparkling as she looked at her own hands. She could not believe that she had come back alive. Different from the other spirits who had died a long time ago. Zowen was considered a new spirit, so it was unreal that he came alive, as the memory of her dying was still vivid in her head.

"Tch." She clicked her tongue not long after. "I bring my favorite robe, but not my beloved staff." Not long after, she tried to run, dance, and jump around. She tried to feel what it was like being alive again, and her face showed how excited she was.

Tang Shaoyang checked the lists. He did not resurrect the spirit based on rank but based on their time contracted to him. The next in line was Rumru, but the Black Dragon was still sealed. He could not resurrect the spirit that was not with him. After Rumru, the next on the line was Malki, the Fire Ant Emperor.

"I am sorry, guys. With the situation I am in right now, it would be more convenient for me to move with humans too. I will skip to the non-human spirit." He could feel disappointment when he said that, but they understood his situation. Skipping the non-human spirit, the next in line was Crystal the Frost Knight and Rosalie the Flame Empress.

[You can skip me and resurrect Rosalie first, My Lord. You need her more than you need me.] The Frost Knight took the initiative, asking Tang Shaoyang to skip her and resurrect Rosalie.

Of course, Crystal was doing this out of her consideration for Tang Shaoyang. Rosalie was known as his woman, so if he skipped the non-human spirits and resurrected Rosalie, the other spirits could not complain about it. Rosalie was their mistress, but it would be different for her. She was not Tang Shaoyang's woman, and they did not make that kind of deal either. This was the best option for both of them.

"Are you sure?" Tang Shaoyang asked once more.

[I am, My Lord.]

"But what do you mean by I need her more than I need you?" Tang Shaoyang asked. He was curious as the knight said that. Rosalie was S Rank Spirit, and Crystal was A+ Spirit. There was a little gap, but that was not much. Moreover, he planned to use [Spirit Blessing] on Crystal before resurrecting her. That way, he got additional strong individuals to his empire.

[You need her to relieve your stem. You have been stressed and need her to accompany you.] Crystal was blunt with her words. [It's not that you are in a relationship with Zowen too. So yeah, you need Rosalie more than me.]

[W-ww-what are you talking about, Crystal!?] Rosalie screamed in embarrassment. She was known for being a dignified Queen, and she was not used to having such a vulgar conversation.

[Don't be embarrassed, Rosalie. You will be a woman soon. Don't try to hide it. I have been watching you, watching the Lord doing it with the other women instantly. You even speak to yourself—]

Crystal's voice was cut off by Rosalie's scream, asking her friend to stop. Crystal and Rosalie were friends before they became a spirit, so they were close enough for Crystal to tease Rosalie.

"Alright, guys. We don't have much time for this. You two decide it." Both went quiet for a moment, but it did not take before the two came to a decision. Rosalie would be resurrected instead of Crystal.

"Grade S Spirit, let's use [Spirit Blessing] on you first."

[You have used two Spirit Blessings on Rosalie, The Flame Empress!]

[Rosalie, the Flame Empress, advanced to Grade SS Spirit!]

A cloud of flame formed in front of Tang Shaoyang. The fire spread out for a moment before gathering in one spot, forming a cocoon shape. It took longer for Rosalie to come out compared to Zowen.

Zowen was done testing her new body, getting a better feeling after being resurrected. She waited next to Tang Shaoyang. "Who will you resurrect this time?" The Grand Lightning Magus was not aware of the order of the resurrection, so she did not know who would come out from the flame cocoon.

A leg came out from the fire, showing the smooth white leg up to the thigh. The figure stepped out fully from the fire cocoon. A woman in a red dress and also with red hair came out, also wearing a red dress. Rosalie came out with a surprised look on her face as she looked at her hand; she could not believe everything was real.

She tried to move her hand and jumped around, testing the new body. It was the same as what Zowen did earlier. After a while, she realized that there were two pairs of eyes staring at her. She looked up and met Tang Shaoyang's eyes.

Rosalie took a big stride and arrived before Tang Shaoyang. His smooth hand held his cheeks and pulled his face closer to hers. She looked into Tang Shaoyang's eyes and blurted. "Your eyes really look beautiful up close like this."

"I am still here. If you want to flirt, then do it once we return to the village." Zowen raised her voice.

Rosalie smiled and took two steps back from Tang Shaoyang. Once more, she looked into her palm. The white palm turned into a flame. "The same control as before, but I should be stronger when I am alive, right?"

"What's your rank, Rosalie?" Zowen asked.

"Let me check." Rosalie opened her window status and checked it out. "I am level 2301, Myth Rank. My class is Flame Empress. I am two ranks higher compared to where I died before. What about you?"

"What? How?" The confusion was visible in her voice. "We are both Grade S Spirit, but how are you higher than me in rank and level? I am level 1501, Ancient Rank, and I keep my upgrade class, Lightning Grand Magus. But how?"

Rosalie glanced at Tang Shaoyang, who pretended not to see them or even hear their conversation. She realized that he might forget to use the [Spirit Blessing] on Zowen before resurrecting the magus. "I don't know. The System is hard to understand, and we can't figure out why that's the case. Also, does it really matter? As long as we are alive, we can increase our level and also our rank, no? Take the bright side, Zowen."

Rosalie hugged Zowen's shoulder and winked at Tang Shaoyang, who secretly looked at the two. Tang Shaoyang was at the edge of the cliff, watching the settlement down there. He intended to send the Skelly Family to clear the settlement and take the treasure chests. But there might be a change of plan where Zowen would volunteer to fight.

"I will kill them all. I can't accept that the system resurrected with lower status like this." Zowen did not wait for Tang Shaoyang's approval as she jumped down on her own. When Zowen jumped into the cliff, Rosalie came next to him.

"You forgot to use [Spirit Blessing], right?" Rosalie asked to confirm her guess.

Tang Shaoyang scratched his hair. "I remembered the skill when I tried to look for the order for the resurrected. So yeah, I forgot about the skill instead." He had too many skills, a lot of unused skills. When he looked at the spirit list, he saw the skill then he remembered he could upgrade the spirit with the blessing.

"I will keep it a secret for the time being, but you better prepare the right excuse when she finds out later." Rosalie stuck her tongue and jumped off the cliff, chasing after Zowen. She also wanted to try her new power, and Tang Shaoyang followed them after letting out a sigh.

The moment Tang Shaoyang landed on the bottom, a notification rang in his head.

[You have entered the Rock Lizardmen territory!]

[You have attracted the Rock Lizardmen's hostility!]

"I guess such settlement is also a resource." Tang Shaoyang muttered.

Lightning exploded twenty meters ahead of him. Zowen had started running a rampage with her lightning, zapping the closest Rock Lizardmen with her lightning. Not long after, Rosalie followed into the fray, controlling her flame to burn the Rock Lizardmen.

Soon, Tang Shaoyang noticed that the Rock Lizardmen seemed to have a high resistance to magic. The lightning and flame failed to kill the Rock Lizardmen instantly, even though Rosalie and Zowen were higher in rank. It took a while for their magic to kill level 800+ Rock Lizardmen.

"It will be tough for them, huh? But they should not be this weak to struggle against non-rank monsters." Since Rosalie and Zowen went with a boom, they quickly attracted all the Rock Lizardmen from the settlement. The Rock Lizardmen did not care about the lightning and the flame in front of them as they ran past it.

Tang Shaoyang summoned Skelly5 - Abyssal Guardian Skeleton, and Skelly6 - Abyssal Slaughterer Skeleton. The two skeletons jumped in front of the two women and pushed the Rock Lizardmen that came closer.

"I don't need your help." Zowen was quite prideful, and it hurt her pride that Tang Shaoyang helped her to fight the non-rank Rock Lizardmen.

"I know, but I want to clear this settlement faster, so we can go to the next resource."

Zowen could not refute the excuse and accepted the help. With the two vanguards, Zowen and Rosalie did not need to worry about the Rock Lizardmen coming too close to them. Within an hour, they entered the center of the settlement after killing hundreds of Rock Lizardmen and faced the final fight.

Ten Epic Rank Rock Lizardmen and one Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen stood in front of the altar, protecting the treasure chest on the altar.

Chapter 1090: Altar Sacrifice - Part 2

Tang Shaoyang summoned all the Skelly Family. "I am sorry, girls. The Skelly Family will take care of the remaining Rock Lizardmen."

Zowen and Rosalie immediately glared at Tang Shaoyang. Their expressions showed that they disagreed with the decision; no words were needed. They recently came back alive, so they wanted to relish the moment. Killing these Rock Lizardmen was one of the methods while testing their newly gained power as well.

"I know you two want to move your body, but it's not about moving your body, but benefit. The Skelly will get more benefits for defeating them than you guys. I need to raise their levels." He told them reasons why he wanted the Skelly Family to face the remaining Rock Lizardmen.

Kaiser and Keeper would gain dozens of levels for defeating the Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen. Skelly1 to Skelly7 would also gain dozens of levels by defeating the ten Epic Ranks, while it was not much for Zowen and Rosalie to gain from killing the remaining Rock Lizardmen.

"Then I will help Kaiser and Keeper to face the Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen. I will also benefit from killing their leader." Zowen found the loophole to keep her participation in the fight. The Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen was level 1924, four hundred levels above Zowen's level. She could gain at least twenty levels from participating in killing The Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen.

Kaiser was aware of its role as soon as its Master decided on the group. He would be the vanguard against the Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen, while Zowen and Keeper would be the main attackers. The Abyssal Skeleton transformed his hand into a triangle shield. Even though he did not use the usual blade, the edge of the triangle shield was as sharp as the blade. He could use the shield to attack the Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen.

Different from the other Rock Lizardmen, the eleven Rock Lizardmen did not initiate the attack but guarded the altar. It seemed the altar was more important for them than protecting their own kind. If the other Rock Lizardmen did not have a weapon, the eleven Rock Lizardman had a red spear in their hand and also red-rock armor on their chest.

Skelly1's group immediately pulled the attention of the ten Epic Rank Rock Lizardmen, separating the ten lizardmen away from their leader. Kaiser rushed toward the Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen, thrusting the shield in his right toward the chest.

Of course, being the highest rank meant the lizardmen were the strongest. The Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen smacked the shield down with the spear, then, in the next movement, the spear moved toward Kaiser's skull.

The quick movement and counterattack caught Kaiser off guard, but it managed to use the second shield to block the spear. Kaiser, who was in the air, got pushed back while the Ancient Rank remained in the same spot.

Bam!

At this moment, Keeper shot the first sniper bullet, aiming at the lizardmen's head. The Rock Lizardmen seemed to sense the danger that came for it. The red crystal on its back glowed as a red barrier formed around it. The barrier reflected the bullet, leaving no scratch or even a crack on the barrier.

It was followed by Zowen's spell, Lightning Strike. The strike came from the sky and hit the barrier. Even the lightning from Zowen failed to break the barrier. However, Zowen had other means than her lightning spell. She activated [Negate] toward the barrier. Negate was a spell that canceled the ongoing spell, but to her surprise, [Negate] failed to cancel the barrier.

"It's not a skill; that's why Negate does not work?" That was the only explanation because [Negate] did not work on artifacts. If the crystal on Rock Lizardmen was similar to the artifact, then that might be the case.

Keeper, who stopped firing for a moment, finished charging the Dark Energy for its rail gun. It released dark energy. The dark beam shot through the air and hit the red barrier. It exploded as the dark gas shrouded the lizardmen.

With a big swing of its spear, the dark gas dispersed. The Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen looked toward where the black beam came from. It immediately found the shooter, and the Rock Lizardmen, for the first time, took the initiative to attack first.

Kaiser would not let it happen as it charged toward the lizardmen from the side with the shield. The big blunt force sent the lizardmen to the ground. By the time it got up, a lightning cage had formed around it.

The Rock Lizardmen tried to break apart the lightning cage with its spear. It swung the spear to the lightning cage. However, he got zapped by the lightning as soon as the spear touched the lightning. Even though the lightning kept attacking it, the Rock Lizardmen did not stop swinging the spear to the lightning cage.

Of course, Zowen did not waste this chance as she used Lightning Strike again; not just one, but five Lightning Strikes descended from the sky. The spell destroyed the lightning cage along with the Rock Lizardmen.

However, it was still not enough to even injure the Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen. The Rock Lizardmen dashed out of the explosion with the same red barrier. It managed to activate the second barrier before the five Lightning Strikes landed. This time the lizardmen changed the target toward Zowen. It seemed the lizardmen moved based on an individual threat. Before, it felt threatened by Keeper, and now it felt threatened by Zowen. It was like a robot that was programmed to move with a certain condition.

Of course, Keeper had finished charging the Dark Energy for the second shot. The black beam shot through the air and hit the red barrier. The shot stopped the lizardmen. That was the impact of the shot, not because the lizardmen wanted to stop running by themselves after detecting the danger.

The second shot was not enough to break the red barrier. The barrier was much stronger than everyone thought. Five Lightning Strikes and one shot from Keeper were not enough to destroy the barrier. However, the barrier cracked, looking like it would crumble with a single touch.

Kaiser's shield was shrouded in Dark Energy and then released cross slash with its dark energy. Even though it did not have its usual swords, it could still use the same move when it had a sword. The cross slash hit the red barrier, and the barrier crumbled.

The Abyssal Skeleton ran toward the Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen and leaped into the air. It aimed the tip of the shield toward the lizardmen's head. The Rock Lizardmen did not try to dodge or use the third barrier as it thrust the spear toward Kaiser's skull. The lizardmen chose to attack instead of dodging or defending.

In this situation, Kaiser would lose the exchange because the spear would hit its skull before it could reach the lizardmen. That was the advantage of using a spear.

However, Keeper was ready to back up Kaiser. It shot the normal bone bullet, and it aimed for the spear. The bullet hit the spear and pushed the spear downward.

Kaiser took the chance, spinning in the air; it pushed itself up in the air. Then it kicked the spear to push it further in the air, leaping past the lizardmen. As soon as it landed on the ground, Kaiser turned around and thrust the pointy shield into the lizardmen's back thigh. Kaiser did not stop there as it pulled down the shield, tearing apart the lizardmen's leg.

The lizardmen swung the spear backward, but Kaiser easily dodged the spear by leaping backward. That was the first successful attack by the group.

"You forget about me, you bastard!" Zowen laughed as she used Lightning Bolt. Lightning Bolt might be a basic spell, but the spell's scale was on a whole another level when a magus cast the spell. The lightning spread and engulfed the Ancient Rank Rock Lizardmen.

The Rock Lizardmen fell on one of its knees, holding its spears with its right hand. This time, Keeper's beam arrived and hit the lizardmen's head. The shot pushed the lizardmen down to the ground with a part of its head missing. However, the Ancient Rank Rock Lizard was still alive.

In the last moment, the last crystal on its back glowed. The Ancient Rank Rock Lizard had three crystals on its back; when they destroyed the red barrier, two crystals were also destroyed.

"Get back! The lizard might self-destruct!" Zowen's first thought was that the lizardmen wanted to kill them all along with it.

However, Zowen was wrong with her prediction, as the Rock Lizardmen were shrouded in red clouds. The red cloud formed a sphere in the air and floated in the air. The cloud got bigger and bigger until it reached twenty meters in diameter. Afterward, the red cloud floated to the air, fifty meters in the air.

"Guys! I think you want to destroy that red cloud. Whatever will come out from that red cloud, I will assure you whatever is inside that cloud right now is much stronger than you guys." Tang Shaoyang warned the skeletons and Zowen. Even though he could not see what was inside, he could see the mana that the red cloud exuded. However, the warning was too late as the red cloud burst out into fire and spread out in the air.

As the fire dispersed from the air, the thing behind the red cloud was revealed. It was indeed something they wanted to stop because a dragon had come out from the red cloud. The red dragon had ruby-like scales, and it was fifty meters long. It was the size of an adult Dragon.