

Armipotent 1201

Chapter 1201 Buy One Get Two - Part 1

The Demon King fulfilled part of his promise, fifteen blood essence in fifteen vials. He presented the vials on the table. There were thirty of them, and The Demon King let Tang Shaoyang choose them. Even though there were thirty vials, it was just five different bloodlines. Each bloodline had six vials.

There was Hellion War Tusk Bloodline among the six bloodlines. He did not recognize the other five bloodlines. There was one he might know, but it was a different variant. It was called Hellion Ogre. While he might not know what Hellion Ogre looked like, it was for sure it was an ogre with dark mana affinity. He was not sure how strong Hellion Ogre was compared to the normal Ogre.

The third one was Bywin Chiroptera, and he had no idea what kind of bloodline it was. The fourth one was Fellion, the fifth one was Infernal Lupularis, and the sixth one was Avellion. This was the first time he heard those three names, so the safest choice would be the Hellion War Tusk and Hellion Ogre.

But it was a lie if he was not curious about these three bloodlines. He put the last vial back on the table, raising his head to meet the demon king's eyes, "You still have a stronger bloodline, don't you?"

The Demon King let out a sigh as he indeed had a stronger bloodline than these six bloodlines. He had two more bloodlines in his inventory, but he was unwilling to offer it to Tang Shaoyang because of how rare the bloodline was. He only had one each of that rare bloodline.

"I can't give you that. That's the alternative for my kingdom to recover. I can't give it to you," The Demon King shook his head. He admitted it, but he did not want to give it to Tang Shaoyang, "I can only concede this much for you."

Tang Shaoyang did not insist on the bloodline that the Demon King saved since the demon admitted it. He knew he could not push The Demon King too hard, or else, he would gain nothing from this predicament.

"Then rank the bloodline for me, from the strongest to the weakest between the six bloodlines. If you lie to me, then the deal is off," Tang Shaoyang warned the Demon King. Since he did not know what kind of bloodline the six had, he asked the Demon King. That was why he did not insist on the bloodline saved by the Demon King. He wanted the Demon King to be honest with him.

"They are equally strong, on the same rank as each bloodline gives you a different benefit. Hellion War Tusk and Avellion grant you the ability to fly, but the former increases your Strength and Vitality significantly more than the other stats. Avellion focused more on your Agility and Magic Power, so it depends on what you need."

The Demon King explained each benefit from the bloodline, one by one. At least, he could do a little bit of explaining rather than having the player demand the bloodline he saved. He was not lying when he said the six bloodlines were equally strong.

Tang Shaoyang ended up taking two for each bloodline. He needed three more vials to complete their bloodline deal. He ended up taking, Bywin Chiroptera, Fellion, and Infernal Lupularis for the last three bloodlines.

After saving the bloodline vials, serious talk came after. It was the target to destroy as part of the deal.

"Do you want me to destroy Buldorak City? I have to call the deal off if you insist on attacking the city instead of the fortress," Tang Shaoyang told the Demon King before the latter could say anything about their target.

"Buldorak City? What makes you think I will ask you to destroy that city," The Demon King shook his head, "I would like you to do that, but that will break the balance, and I don't want that to happen. That will put The Union at the bottom."

"Your subordinate asked me to attack that city when I was trying to enlist in your army. I thought you would ask for the same."

The Demon King turned his head toward Commander Gustav. The latter lowered his head and did not dare to look at the Demon King's eyes.

Another sigh came out of the Demon King's lips, "No, you will not attack that city. Our target should be their center of command, Union Fortress."

The Demon King pulled out the map scroll, revealing the hologram of a map. However, Tang Shaoyang waved his hand, "There's no need to pull the map. I will hardly understand the map, why bother? Just lead me to the fortress. I attack the fortress where you wait outside."

The Demon King paused for a moment, but then he nodded his head. The player talked as if it was a simple matter of attacking the fortress, but then he recalled his main fortress' condition, 'I guess it's easy for him.'

They waited no more as The Demon King led Tang Shaoyang to The Union Fortress. With no burden such as Brond slowed them down. It took them just around two hours to reach the Union Fortress.

Tang Shaoyang stood at the Union Fortress, the fortress with the greatest defense in The Union. The Varil Fortress was nothing compared to the one in front of him. He guessed it right, The Union did not bother to invest in the Varil Fortress because they were ready to give it up.

The Union Fortress had a thirty meters wall surrounding the fortress, installed mana canon on top of the wall, and also the terrifying ballista was ready to rain down the enemy that dared to get closer to the fortress.

Tang Shaoyang and Rosalie walked side by side, approaching the fortress. While the stone wall was less impressive than the demon's fortress with the black city, it was still something that could not be destroyed easily. The gate was made of steel, and it was closed.

One hundred meters away to reach the fortress, the guards noticed the couple, "Who are you!? Identify yourself and take off your mask!"

The man's voice echoed in the air, loud enough that even the Demon King heard it from where he hid. Tang Shaoyang and Rosalie ignored the command as they approached The Union Fortress.

Chapter 1202 Buy One Get Two - Part 2

"This is a warning for the couple approaching the fortress! Stop your advance and take off your mask, or we will attack you!" The voice came once more, but the couple did not heed the warning.

Tang Shaoyang and Rosalie stood thirty meters away from the metal gate, "You don't have to follow me. I am alone enough to take down the fortress." He did not want Rosalie to feel guilt for killing people.

"No, I will follow you wherever you go. Don't ever try to leave me behind. I will be a ghost that will haunt you for the rest of your life," Rosalie said seriously. It would be creepy if someone else said that. But he knew that was just how Rosalie conveyed her determination to follow his path regardless of what he did.

"We will fire the arrows in five if you don't take off your mask! Take off your mask and identify yourself!" The voice rang once more, ending up with the countdown, "1... 2... 3... 4... 5..."

The moment the voice said five, Tang Shaoyang summoned Arelion. The enormous Infernal Wyvern let out a roar, opening his wing wide. The scream could be heard from the fortress before followed by the ringing bell.

"We are under attack! We are under attack! We are under attack!" The same voice warned his comrades about the appearance of the Infernal Wyvern.

In the following seconds, the guards on the wall recovered. They snapped out of their disbelief and shot the mana cannon and ballista at Arelion. Arrow poured down like rain from the sky. With a single flap of his wing, Arelion neutralized the arrows. He then opened his mouth, firing the fire breath.

The black fire swallowed the mana canon's projectile and also the bolt. The fire reached the wall and destroyed one mana cannon and one ballista, charred the stone wall, and burned the guards. The scream rang in the air as six figures enveloped by the black fire, ran around in fire.

Following the initial attack, The Infernal Wyvern flew up to the sky. Everyone in the fortress focused on the enormous creature, forgetting the two people. Chaos ensued inside the fortress as even some of the guards turned their canons around in panic.

"Let's put the Skeleton Army into use," Tang Shaoyang then summoned the Skelly Family along with the Skeleton Army, "Kill the one who resisted and capture the high-rank soldiers if possible."

Ten seconds after the command, Keeper took the first action by firing the dark beam toward the gate. The steel gate exploded as it stood no chance against Keeper's beam. Then Kaiser led his family into the fortress.

Tang Shaoyang could feel their excitement from the skeletons as they rushed toward them. Keeper and Skelly9 stayed behind, making a cover fire. The Gunslinger and the archer shot the guards who noticed the incoming skeletons.

Tang Shaoyang and Rosalie advanced, walking at a steady pace. Both flew onto the wall, watching the fortress in a mess. Greed had gone a long time ago, nowhere to be seen. The nocturnal creature acted more carefully at noon. Wrath decided not to join the fight, staying next to him.

"Where should we start?"

The Union's soldiers were divided into two forces. One group headed toward the other side of the fortress where Aerelion landed. Another group faced the Skelly Army. The center of the city was still mostly intact, but then a figure stood at the tallest building at the center of the fortress. The figure did not go toward the Infernal Wyvern or the Skeleton Army. The figure moved toward Tang Shaoyang, moving between the roof until arrived at the top of the wall.

The figure was a little short of two meters tall and had black armor and a spear in his hand. He did not assume the position to fight but threw a question at Tang Shaoyang, "Why do you attack us? Why are you killing your kind?"

"My kind does not mean my ally. Is there a need to ask such a question?" The man came out of nowhere, trying to make Tang Shaoyang feel guilty. But he had cast aside those feelings with a disaster that could come at him and his people anytime. It was not the moment to dilly-dally with those feelings. He was the leader of millions, and he had to be strong for his empire. A show of weakness might lead to his empire's demise.

"Primordial Rank..." Tang Shaoyang muttered, meaning the person in front of him was an important target to capture, "I want to capture him alive." He said it as if the person in front of him was a rare creature.

He had another plan aside from destroying the fortress, and he needed the person in front of him to be alive to succeed in his plan.

Tang Shaoyang's figure split into sevens, moving on their own, surrounding The Union's commander. It was Heavenly Steps - Heavenly Illusionary.

"This trick will not work on me!" The Union's commander thrust the spear toward one of Tang Shaoyang's illusions, and he aimed at the real Tang Shaoyang. He could switch positions with the illusion anytime if he wanted, but Tang Shaoyang decided not to do so. He gathered the Heavenly Energy in his right hand and caught the spear, a few centimeters away from piercing his chest.

The Union's commander was surprised that his spear was caught with a bare hand. He tried to pull the spear away, but then an enormous force fell on his body. The Gravity Field caught him off guard as he fell on his knees while losing the grip on his spear. That was a newbie mistake for losing your weapon in a battle.

Tang Shaoyang formed a sword with his Heavenly Energy. He cut the Union's commander's both hands before the person could use any bloodline transformation. Then he also cut the man's leg.

"ARRRRGHHHHH!"

He ignored the commander in the Gravity Field, witnessing the fortress destroyed by Aerelion. He did not ask the Infernal Wyvern to stop as he needed Aerelion to deal the same damage to the demon's fortress.

After a while, Tang Shaoyang caught the commander by the neck and flew upward, raising the limbless commander above him. He floated at the center of the city, then he opened his mouth, "Surrender or I will kill your commander!"

The battle abruptly stopped for a moment as the soldiers looked toward the sky. The soldiers were shocked to see their commander's condition. Anything else, the soldiers were shocked by how easily their commander got captured.

"Make your choice! Surrender or get killed!"

The fact their commander was easily captured was proof that the enemy was far stronger than their commander. The realization aroused the soldier's fear. If the commander could not stop the enemy, who could?

It started with one soldier, throwing his shield and sword to the ground, yelling, "I surrender! Don't kill me!" The soldier was on his knees, then he put his forehead to the ground. That was a clear indication that the soldier surrendered.

Just like a domino effect, after one soldier, it became two then four soldiers. In no time, all the soldiers surrendered.

"I have been restless since the morning, so this is why," A voice traveled from Tang Shaoyang's back.

Chapter 1203 Buy One Get Two - Part 3

Tang Shaoyang lowered his guard with how weak these people were, not noticing someone behind him. He activated Divine Cloak and Dragon Scale in time before he felt a big force hit his back. The two defensive skills reduced the impact of the punch as he was sent down from the sky, crashing onto the ground.

The dust rose up, covering where Tang Shaoyang crashed. The commander was still in Tang Shaoyang's hand as both crashed to the ground together.

Meanwhile, the person who hit Tang Shaoyang was still in the same spot, frowning. He was a man in his forties with gray hair, wearing black plate armor, a shield on his back, and a sword on his waist. His gaze was where the person he hit landed. He was the strongest person in The Union, The Legend Rank knight that Demon King mentioned, Piluf.

The Legend Rank Knight realized the punch was not enough to subdue the person who attacked the fortress. He was about to follow up his action with another attack until he sensed something coming for him. He looked down and saw a pillar of golden fire shot upward toward him.

Piluf was about to dodge to the side, but he suddenly felt heavy and moved too slowly to dodge the incoming golden fire. He pulled his shield and faced it toward the pillar of the golden fire. His shield glowed in blue as he activated his defensive skill. He was pushed up by the pillar of the fire, but he managed to block the fire.

His black shield turned red as the golden fire heated his shield up. The heat spread out to his whole shield. The heavy force that held his movement down was still there, and he needed to think of something to get out of the situation. Before he could think of how to stop the golden fire pillar, he heard a screech above him.

Screeeechhh!

Piluf looked up and saw a bird made of golden fire fly toward him. The firebird dove into him and let out a screech. The Legend Rank Knight immediately used his Bloodline Transformation.

His body buffed up, slightly getting bigger as a singular spiral horn grew up on his forehead. Even though he was a human, everyone knew Piluf had an unusual bloodline, Hellion Ogre. His appearance was similar to the Hellion Ogre, albeit smaller in size.

He pushed himself to the side with the boost attribute from his transformation. The golden fire pillar shot up to the sky as the firebird dove into it.

Boom!

It exploded as the golden fire spread out in the sky. Piluf could feel the heatwave hit his face as the golden fire came his way. More prepared, he was ready to face the golden fire this time. With a swing of his shield, he deflected the golden fire.

As the golden fire was splitting up, Piluf saw the figure in the middle of the golden fire. The humanoid figure was made of golden fire with a pair of fire wings, pure fire. He could feel the strong aura radiating from the figure made of fire.

"What are we fighting against?" He blurted that out without expecting the answer.

Then he looked down. The man he knocked down was standing at the same spot where he crashed, looking at the figure made of fire. No injury, his punch did nothing to the man while The Union's commander was lying next to the man's feet.

Piluf's mind raced, thinking of how to salvage the situation. The fortress was still being destroyed by the wyvern, and he was aware that it might be impossible for him to fight the man and the figure made of fire. Before he could think of anything, he sensed someone was behind him. He slammed his shield backward as he turned around.

Sure enough, a young man that looked like in his teens was right behind him, brandishing his sword toward him. He reacted in time as his shield hit the young man's side, sending the young man down from the air.

Boom!

The young man crashed into one of the buildings, but the hit did nothing to the young man. Lu An got back on his feet as if the hit was nothing, cleaning up the dust that got into his clothes.

"You are the first one to sense my ambush and counter me. You are living up to your rank," Piluf heard the young man's compliment about him. The Legend Rank Knight was unsure if he had to be happy or not by the compliment.

"Really? What about me?" Piluf suddenly heard a voice from above him. He looked up and what he saw was a projection of a golden palm. The man who was on the ground a few seconds ago was right above him. He could not react to the second ambush, receiving the golden palm with his body. The crushing force hit his body, sending him down to the ground.

BOOM!

The ground formed the palm as a figure laying down in the middle of it. Piluf breathed heavily, did not think he would be taken down so easily. He could tell his ribs broke as it hurt so much. His organs might take some damage from the attack. Fortunately, the Hellion Ogre's bloodline gave him a high regeneration, healing his injury faster even without the healing potion.

Piluf got back on his feet, wiping the blood around his lips.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!"

The three figures landed right in front of him; the man, the young man, and the figure made of the golden fire. There was no need to think about it, he stood no chance against three of them.

"Who are you!? Why are you attacking The Union?" Piluf asked.

"Alright guys, calm down. We are here not to kill him. That will really break the balance if the strongest figure in The Union died. That's also not part of the deal," Tang Shaoyang raised his hand, telling Rosalie and Lu An to relax. He could feel Lu An's excitement and anticipation to fight the Legend Rank, and he could feel Rosalie's fury from the blazing fire.

Chapter 1204 Buy One Get Two - Part 4

"You are the player who killed General Muril in the frontline?" Piluf immediately connected the dots when Tang Shaoyang admitted his identity as a player. There was news that Varil Fortress was down because the players had a dispute against General Muril, ending up killing the soldiers and also General Muril. He was on his way to the Varil Fortress to investigate the situation.

"General Muril?" Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brows and looked confused for a moment. The name sounded familiar but he forgot who that person was.

Rosalie canceled her transformation skill. The figure made of fire was her. The bloodline transformation turned her body into fire, "He is the general we met at the frontline, remember? The topless guy." She reminded him who General Muril was.

General Muril was not so important, and the guy barely left an impression on him. Tang Shaoyang deemed the guy was not important, and that was why he did not bother to remember the guy. He just remembered the guy as a general killed by The Defiance to frame him.

"Ah, that poor man?" Tang Shaoyang met with Piluf's eyes, shaking his head, "Unfortunately it was not us who killed him. Do you think it's possible for your soldiers to bring his body back against us?"

Piluf fell in his thoughts for a moment, pondering the question. The three were strong enough to face him, The Legend Rank, 'Is it possible for an Ancient Rank to escape from these three players?'

"But..." He was about to voice his doubt, but then his eyes widened as he came to a realization. It was not the players who killed General Muril, but The Defiance. The Defiance tried to use The Union to take the players.

"It seems you understand what happened. But what's in the past will remain in the past. We need to talk about your current situation," Tang Shaoyang led the conversation, "Bring them all, Lu An."

Lu An looked disappointed that they did not fight the Legend Rank, but he followed the order. He disappeared into the shadows and returned with five people in his hand. One of them was the commander, and the other four were the Ancient Rank. Lu An did not participate in the frontal attack because he had been busy, looking for the high-rank officer in this fortress.

"I will stop the attack and return them alive to your hands in exchange for your thirty strongest bloodlines," Tang Shaoyang started the real talk and also the real purpose for Lu An to look for the high rank officers. He wanted to exchange them for more bloodlines. That was what he planned when he agreed to the Demon King's offer.

"Are you aiming for The Union's resources with such a dirty trick?" Piluf was angry when he knew what the players tried to achieve by attacking this fortress. The players chose the shortcut to get the resources they wanted instead of trying to enlist as the mercenary or became the member of the Player Guild.

"You can think of me however you want," Tang Shaoyang shrugged, "Give me your reply, do you want to exchange this fortress and also your people's lives for the bloodline or not?"

"What if I refuse the exchange?" Piluf did not want to accept the offer. He did not want to give the players with anything, whether it was a bloodline or even a coin.

"Then you can say goodbye to The Union. I don't mind killing you and taking down three more fortresses. That should be enough to destroy The Union." That was half-truth and half-lie. He was telling the truth about taking down more fortresses, but he would not kill Piluf. His people still needed the three factions to climb up to the thirteenth floor.

Piluf did not want to give what these players wanted, but he did not have a choice. If this fortress and another three fortresses fell, that would be the end for The Union. The demon and the beastmen would swarm them if the Artamao Kingdom and the Caracius Kingdom knew that The Union's four fortresses fell.

"Ten. I can concede ten bloodlines for them and this fortress."

Tang Shaoyang shook his head, "I have to refuse if that's the case. I guess these people's lives don't have that much value for The Union."

He took out Mzed, walking next to the commander as he raised the battle-ax. He was about to swing the battle-ax down to the commander's neck.

"Stop! Let's talk it out. Thirteen.... No, fifteen! The Union will give you fifteen bloodlines in exchange for their lives and also to stop your attack against The Union," Piluf raised his voice and tried to stop the players to execute his people.

"Eighteen bloodlines! No less than that, or the deal is off!"

"Alright, eighteen. We will give you eighteen bloodlines, but you have to take an oath that you will not attack The Union's territory again. That's the only condition for you!" Piluf stated the condition. He had to take a precaution, in case the players repeated the same thing to extort more things from The Union.

"You have the deal, and I don't mind taking the oath." Tang Shaoyang showed his teeth, smiling.

Piluf did not have the items in him, so Tang Shaoyang had to wait for the temple to deliver the items. Of course, they also needed the priest from the temple for the oath to have a consequence.

Piluf left the fortress on his own to retrieve the bloodline and also to bring the priest. It took the Legend Rank Knight two hours to return to the fortress with the item and the priest. Tang Shaoyang stored the bloodlines in his inventory and the smile never left his face.

"Happy doing business with you, Sir Piluf," Tang Shaoyang stood up from his chair, "Then we will leave. We have another business to take care of."

Just like that, Tang Shaoyang left the wrecked fortress with more loot in his inventory, "Our next target is the Caracius Kingdom. We will use the same strategy. Lu An will capture the high-ranking officers while we will destroy the fortress."

"It's surprisingly longer for you to take down one fortress," The Demon King commented as the players returned. He could not hear what the players talked about with Piluf, but he saw them having a conversation. He could not say anything because Piluf was not part of the deal, after all.

"It does not matter as long as I fulfill my part, no?" Tang Shaoyang shrugged, "Stop with the nonsense, lead us to the Caracius Kingdom."

Chapter 1205 Can Be Good, Can Be Bad - Part 1

The Demon King stood in the giant tree, watching the Barbarus Fortress of the Caracius Kingdom get invaded by the players. The same black wyvern, the skeleton army, and the black cat ran havoc inside, destroying the building and also killing the soldiers.

"This..." Valky was lost for words at the sight of the destruction, "What if they join our army?" She blurted out while imagining if the recruitment went smoothly. If the three players could easily destroy the enemy's main fortress, it would be easy for them to win the battle in the frontline.

"It seems we and The Union just missed the important piece to win the war," The Demon King muttered, "I thought of going easy on Gustav, but it seems I need to reconsider his punishment."

The Demon King closed his eyes. The attack on the fortress lasted for one hour before the Legend Rank of the Caracius Kingdom appeared. But it was just another fight between three players against the Legend Rank. The Demon King witnessed how easy it was for the three players to defeat the Legend Rank of the Caracius Kingdom.

If he chose to fight instead of compromising with the deal, he might die back then. Without a doubt, the players were capable of achieving that. He also watched how the players took more bloodlines from the Caracius Kingdom. He was aware that the players planned to get more bloodlines in exchange for mercy.

Just like that, the two strongest fortresses of the Caracius Kingdom and The Union were destroyed. Even though he did not see the two factions lose their important personnel, that would make the two factions think twice before planning for the invasion. That would give him time to recover as well, and that was what he tried to achieve.

The Demon King straightened his back, masking his stress under the calm facade as he noticed the player headed out of the fortress. The three players landed on the same branch.

"We are done here. It's time to fulfill your deal," Tang Shaoyang straightforwardly asked the Demon King for access to the thirteenth floor. He realized during his fight against the three factions on this floor that there was not much he could get on this floor. Unless there was another breeding ground just like the Lesser Kraken. If he wanted to level up, he needed to kill the most important figure in these three factions, and that would break the system for the twelfth floor. He was not sure if it was a good thing or a bad thing.

The Demon King nodded, "Follow me. The portal is in my city," He felt the same. It was better for the strong players to go to the next floor instead of staying here. He was worried that the players might do something extreme if they were offended.

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The Demon King Castle

The Demon King dismissed all the maids in his castle. He even informed his wives and children to leave the castle beforehand. That was to avoid them offending the players. It was better for the players to have minimum interaction. The Demon King led the three players to the backyard where the portal was.

There was a big magic circle with intricate symbols, "That's the portal to the thirteenth floor. You can use it to gain access to the thirteenth floor. As long as you use it once, you don't need the same portal to travel between floors."

The Demon King explained how it worked out of formality. The players should know more about how the portal worked, more than him.

Tang Shaoyang squinted his eyes at the Demon King, "You seem to want me and my friends to leave as soon as possible. Are we not welcome here?"

"Of course not. You can freely return to my castle, and I will do my best to entertain you and your friends. I just figured out that you might want to go to the upper floor as soon as possible. Do you want to stay for a while in my castle, Sir?" The Demon King addressed Tang Shaoyang politely, lowering his status as the Demon King.

"I am just joking," Tang Shaoyang grinned, waving his hand as he, Lu An, and Rosalie walked into the magic circle.

[Do you want to use the portal to the 13th floor? Yes/No?]

Tang Shaoyang nodded at Lu An and Rosalie, signaling them to go at the same time. The three players disappeared from the magic circle under the Demon King's watch. As soon as the three left, he breathed out in relief. The disaster was no longer here.

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Starter City #4

The atmosphere in the city was intense, at its peak as the war between the factions continued. It was now the Divine Church and The Federation of Allurion against The Tang Empire. Meanwhile, The

Giteron Dynasty remained on the sideline, watching the war while reaping the benefit of exploring the eleventh floor.

Zhang Mengyao was in her office, reading the report from the Intelligence Division. The report was mostly the movement from the Divine Church and also The Federation of Allurion. There was a small fight here and there, but the big battle had not yet happened.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"It's Yeon Hee, Ma'am," The female voice followed after the knock.

"Come in," Zhang Mengyao replied while her eyes remained on the report.

The door opened as Yeon Hee entered the room. She was in her division uniform, deep blue in color. Zhang Mengyao looked up as Yeon Hee arrived in front of the table, "It seems there's something urgent for you to come here yourself."

Yeon Hee shook her head, "It's not urgent but quite important. The Uprising Guild has arrived on the eleventh floor."

Zhang Mengyao caressed her forehead. This could be bad or good, but she felt it would be bad for them once the other factions arrived. This was indeed important.

"Call Vice Wei Xi, Marshal Alton, Marshal Kang Xue, and Vice Marshal Moonsong for me. I need to hear their opinion on this matter."

"Yes, Ma'am." Yeon Hee bowed her head slightly before leaving the room.

As the door closed, a notification rang in her head. She checked the message, it was a message from Tang Shaoyang, a frequent update on his journey.

Chapter 1206: Can Be Good, Can Be bad - Part 2

The small meeting was held at Zhang Mengyao's office, and she told them what happened.

Wei Xi tapped his forehead the moment he heard another faction arrive. The timing was just not good for the other factions to come.

"This is bad for us," Wei Xi said, "I am afraid our enemy will use the other factions to get into us. What's worse if they brought the war back to Earth."

"How bad is our relationship with the Uprising Guild?" Marshal Alton asked.

"We have a neutral relationship with them. We had a brief exchange with them but that was it. They are also not part of the World Government," Zhang Mengyao answered, "But they might side with The Federation of Allurion if they are offered something they could not refuse."

"But do we really care about the other factions from Earth? They are quite weak, no?" Moonsong sounded arrogant, but that was the truth. In terms of battle power, the Tang Empire was far above the other factions from Earth. It was proven how they managed to hold against the two factions from the advanced world, even though what they faced was just a small force.

"That's not the issue. The federation or the church can give their people to join the other factions, and they can bring the war back to Earth. The World Government will be glad to be the federation's lackey just to destroy us," Wei Xi elaborated more on the core issue, "If The Uprising Guild is here, that means the other factions will reach here soon enough."

"Should we change our focus?" Marshal Alton looked at Zhang Mengyao, "What if we focus our force back to Earth and conquer all the territories. We will destroy the other factions before they can trouble us. It's not like we can get any resources in this dimensional tower with The Federation of Allurion and The Divine Church keeping us busy with their minions."

That was the realistic focus and also more feasible than defeating The Divine Church and the Federation of Allurion.

"I agree with that. The Empire has the Beast Coven, Tarrior, and the Elven Kingdom. We can march three different directions and still win the fight," Moonsong was confident with their chance of conquering the Earth, total domination over Earth before thinking of defeating the other factions.

Wei Xi seemed to agree with the proposal too while Kang Xue had no better idea in her mind.

"That..." Zhang Mengyao's eyes twitched a little. That was a big decision, too big of a responsibility for her to make the decision by herself, "That will be our last option. I need to consult His Majesty first to make such a decision. Let's keep an eye on the Uprising Guild for the moment."

Yeon Hee entered the office after knocking on the door, "The Uprising Guild's Guild Leader wants to meet His Majesty."

The five people looked at each other for a moment before nodding their heads, "Lead him here."

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Zander came with his trusted subordinates to meet Tang Shaoyang. He wanted to ask for information about the eleventh floor. After exploring the area a little bit, he realized this floor might be different from the previous ten floors. He wished the Tang Empire was willing to share the information.

Zander and his two trusted subordinates followed the woman in uniform, leading them to a room. Five people were waiting for them inside, two women, two men, and one beast person. He frowned because the woman was seated in the middle. From the look of it, the woman was the one in charge here.

Igmar whispered to his leader, "Maintain your expression, Boss. She is the second person in the Tang Empire. We are here to ask for information, remember."

Zander took a deep breath before nodding his head, calming his head as he took the seat.

"Welcome, Sir Zander. It seems you haven't been informed that our leader has passed. I am currently taking the temporary leader seat for the Tang Empire until we choose the next Emperor," Zhang Mengyao told the Uprising Guild.

There was a reason for her to tell Zander the news, it was to find out the Uprising Guild's stance. Of course, it was also to convince the Divine Church and the Federation of Allurion that Tang Shaoyang was really dead. It was to ensure that no one knew that Tang Shaoyang was still alive.

Zander, Igmar, and Upenda were shocked by the news. They had witnessed how strong that person was in the Earth Tournament. The three exchanged glances, still in disbelief.

"He fought the God Ranks of the Divine Church and was killed in the battle."

Igmar was the first one to respond, bowing his head slightly, "We are very sorry for your loss."

"So, why do you want to meet me, Sir Zander?"

"We wish to ask for general information about the eleventh floor. We are currently at a loss," Igmar did the talk while Zander kept his silence the entire time. Zhang Mengyao did not mind sharing information about the starter city and how things worked on this floor. It was not such a big deal as they would find out sooner or later.

After ten minutes, the Uprising Guild left the building. Marshal Alton, Vice Marshal Moonsong, Wei Xi, and Kang Xue returned to their seats.

"Tch, it seems it's really bad news with the other factions arriving here. They will take this chance to take us down," Wei Xi clicked his tongue, "I can see Zander guy's desire to conquer us the moment he heard about His Majesty's fake death."

"So, can we consider The Uprising Guild as the enemy? I think they will try to make a move on us soon enough," Moonsong agreed with Wei Xi. He could see the heat in Zander's eyes when he looked at them.

"His Majesty just informed me an hour ago that he has reached the thirteenth floor. He might be a little bit busy, but I have messaged him to call me once he has the chance, and I will talk this out with His Majesty for our future movement. I will call you again once I get His Majesty's decision. The meeting is over for now."

Chapter 1207: Thirteenth Floor

Tang Shaoyang looked around, checking his surroundings while his Spirit Eyes checked further into the distance. They were surrounded by trees, tall and dense trees. The tree he never saw before. Its trunk was white while the leaves were black. Far up to a thousand meters are, everything was the same trees. He saw no beasts or people, just trees.

"We are safe for now...." He paused as he looked down the stairs. They were in the middle of a platform made of stone. He was standing above the same magic circle that was in the Demon King castle's backyard. Down to the stars, the ground was covered in black leaves, "Or maybe we are not safe."

Tang Shaoyang easily noticed with his Spirit Eyes that people hid below the black leaves. Using the leaves as the cover, waiting to ambush them. There were at least twenty of them, hiding to the side of the paved path. Each of the people had a short sword, holding the sword as these people noticed his arrival.

Rosalie came next to him, looking at the same ground as him. She failed to notice it at first, but she saw the thick mana below the leaves. It did not take long for her to realize there were people waiting for them.

Lu An seemed the first one to realize the ambush. The boy pretended not to notice the ambush, but his innocent eyes' facade turned sharp the moment they arrived there. He sensed these people's presence.

'Five Epic Ranks and fifteen of level 850 on average,' Tang Shaoyang had used the Detection on twenty people. These people were not a threat to them. Lu An alone should be enough to dispose of twenty of them by himself.

It was not hard to figure out these people's purpose. It was the same with The Defiance. They want to use the players to get out of the tower or maybe they had deep hatred for the players and wanted to kill the players.

Lu An did not take any action, taking a glance at Tang Shaoyang. The young man was waiting for the order to execute.

Tang Shaoyang turned toward his little brother. His lips were moving but no voice came out, 'Capture fives for questioning, kill the rest!' That was what he said to Lu An.

The young man executed the order beautifully. He disappeared into the shadow and screams were heard not long after. There was one scream coming from below the piling up black leaves, but then the scream stopped. Five seconds after the scream, Lu An emerged from the black leaves with five people in black, dragging the unconscious five men in black.

Tang Shaoyang was about to approach Lu An, and yet he received a notification message. He got a message from Zhang Mengyao which said: "Call me if you are not busy."

"Get information from them. That should not be hard for you, right?" He asked Lu An.

Lu An smiled, tapping his chest two times for assurance, "Don't worry about it, Brother. I will make sure they will spill everything they know." After saying that, the young man dragged the five unconscious people to the woods.

Tang Shaoyang called Zhang Mengyao through the Communication System. His call was immediately answered by Zhang Mengyao. The latter immediately told him what transpired back in the Starter City, the other factions that arrived in the starter city that might turn the war unfavorable for them. She asked him what they should do about the factions from Earth.

If it was a normal situation, Tang Shaoyang should be happy as the other factions might help the empire to face the other factions from the other worlds. However, his factions were so strong that the other factions from Earth wished for his empire's fall. The other factions might work together with The Divine Church and the Federation of Allurion instead of supporting the empire that came from the same world.

Rosalie came up to him with several options. First, they could talk with the other factions to form an alliance to fight the federation and church. That was the best scenario. Second, treat the other factions that arrived on the eleventh floor as enemies, meaning they would fight them as well. That was something they wanted to avoid but necessary since those factions could become a threat. Third, retreat from the dimensional tower and focus on conquering Earth rather than splitting their forces into the Dimensional Tower. The fourth, continued as it was and reacted accordingly. Passively waiting for the situation which was also bad.

Tang Shaoyang's order was quite simple: take the necessary measures. It did not matter even if they became a common enemy for the other factions on Earth. If there was a sign that those factions joined hands with the church and the federation, treat them as enemies and kill them all. It was a

wait-and-see situation, there was nothing they could do about it. If it was too much, Tang Shaoyang asked them to retreat from the tower temporarily.

Tang Shaoyang and Zhang Mengyao talked it out for a while with Rosalie occasionally offering her opinion on the matter. He heard screaming from the woods, but he remained unbothered by the scream, "This is the worst scenario that I don't expect. We are in a race against time now. If the Divine Church manages to infiltrate the Earth with the help of these factions, they might have a way to find the way to get into Earth."

The Divine Church's God Alliance, Nirvana, was interested in the world he came from. They hated the power he had, but they also sought out the same power for themselves. Without a doubt, they wanted what he had, and Earth was where his power came from. They were eager to find Earth, and that meant the war against the Divine Church was imminent. His time to reach, at least, Legend Rank was shortened. He needed to reach Legend Rank before the Divine Church could find Earth.

Legend Rank was the bare minimum for him to fight the God Rank, but it was better if he could reach Demi-God Rank in time as well. His chance to win against the God Rank would be higher if he could reach Demi-God.

"I wish I was decisive enough to make a decision to conquer the Earth before the Dimensional Tower," Tang Shaoyang said in regret. His goal was to take his former country's territory, and he was satisfied with it. But now the other factions that governed the other territories might be the cause of his empire's fall.

"It's pointless to regret that. We have to face what is in front of us right now," Rosalie hugged him from behind, whispering to his ear, "We have to trust the empire to Zhang Mengyao right now. You just need to focus on your goal right now, reach Legend Rank or even Demi-God Rank before the church and the federation find their way to Earth."

In the eyes of the Divine Church and the Federation of Allurion, the Earth that just started the Game was a world full of resources. They would be greedy for the Earth and would want to take the Earth for themselves.

Not long after he ended the call with Zhang Mengyao, Lu An returned. His face and outfit were covered in fresh blood, but the young guy was still smiling as he got the information from the five people. Shadow crept up to his bloody, from the bottom to the top. The blood disappeared from his body as the shadow scanned his full body.

"They are the natives with the same motive as The Defiance, Brother. These people wanted to capture us so they could get out of the tower," Lu An's information was to be expected. There was no surprise.

"Did you ask him about how to get to the fourteenth floor?"

"I did, but it seems they did not know anything about it. However, we might know the people who know that. Those people said their leaders might know about how to reach the fourteenth floor."

"Then you should know where to find the leaders they talked about, right?"

"Of course," Lu An nodded, "Follow me. They said their post is to..." He paused as Lu An did not know where the south was. He could not differentiate which was south or north.

"To?" Tang Shaoyang furrowed his brow.

"To the south, but I don't know which is south," Lu An was embarrassed. He was so confident earlier and yet, he did not know the basics. However, Tang Shaoyang was no better than Lu An. He could not tell which direction the south was.

Rosalie who realized the problem let out a chuckle. She looked up at the sky, at the sun for a moment, before pointing toward the paved path, "This way."

Lu An grinned ear to ear, "We are lucky to have Sister Rosa,"

The three followed the paved path, under the shadow of Lu An. They moved discreetly to avoid being noticed. Not that they were of the natives, but Tang Shaoyang just wanted to avoid unnecessary bloodshed. Heading further down to the south, they finally found a settlement.

It was a human settlement, surrounded by a five meters wooden wall with a tower built behind the wall. The people with bows and arrows stayed on the tower to watch over, the gate was guarded by four people. It looked like a normal settlement on the outside. They had fields to the west, farmers tended the field, and the settlement had quite a few pens with creatures with a similar build to the pig.

It was just a similar settlement they could find on the eleventh floor. However, from the information, this was the place where the native trained the people to ambush the players. This was just one of many places for the natives. They had similar settlements on the other sides as well, many of them guarding the portal.

"I will leave it to you, Brother," Tang Shaoyang tapped Lu An's shoulders. There was no one better to sneak into the settlement without being noticed.

Chapter 1208 Another Side Of Lu An - Part 1

Lu An easily snuck into the settlement without being noticed. He kept using Detection on the people inside, and he understood why his Brother did not want to fight these people. Most of them were around level 300 with some of them high enough to reach level 800. These people were not worth their time.

Lu An listened to his brother's direction, moving to the other side of the settlement. It looked like a normal village on the outside, but he quickly soon found out that this was not just a normal village. The other side was a training ground where high-level people gathered.

Watching from the shadows, he saw some people running with weights on their backs. On the other side some people trained with bows, and on another side, people fought in the arena with the short sword with an instructor watching them. He quickly realized that more than half of the settlement consisted of the training ground. Going further from the training ground, there was access to the underground. He could not find the person he looked for after searching above the ground for a while, realizing the person he looked for might be underground.

Lu An entered the underground, walking through the path with torches lightened up the path. Soon he arrived in an open, big area where more people gathered. Different from the outside who was currently in their training, these people looked ready to enter the battle.

Seven men stood on the wooden platform while hundreds gathered before the platform. Lu An's eyes were straight toward the man on the platform who was currently speaking. He came closer,

hiding under his target's shadow. It seemed the man was doing a speech before the hundreds would enter the final phase of their training. The last training was to fight each other inside this underground labyrinth. They would pass the final training if they could kill two people.

After finishing the speech, the six people on the platform came down. The hundreds were divided into six groups, following each of these people who were of an Ancient Rank to the branched caves, leaving one person on the platform.

Lu An patiently waited for the group to leave the area. His mission was to kidnap his target, not to make a ruckus. He came out of the shadow and tapped his target's shoulder. The latter was shocked but before the man could do anything, the shadow enveloped him. The whole body was covered in shadow, not able to move or even speak. The man could not even make a muffled noise, as if he lost the capability to speak. In the following second, both disappeared into the shadows.

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Tang Shaoyang, Lu An, and Rosalie found a secretive place to put their prisoner. Lu An used his shadow to restrain the prisoner, having the man sitting against the tree. The man still could not speak with his mouth covered in shadow while Lu An told him what he found within the settlement.

"Let him speak," Tang Shaoyang told Lu An to free the man from the restraints.

"Who are you? Which group are you from? Are you aware of the consequences of touching the Salvation Fraternity member?" The man questioned the three and seemed not afraid of his current situation.

"As I said, it will be tough to get something out of him, Brother," Lu An was aware it would take some time to make this man speak.

The man looked confused for a moment, trying to understand the conversation between Tang Shaoyang and Lu An.

"Do you want to do it, or do you want me to do it?" Tang Shaoyang nodded and asked Lu An. For someone who trained the people to ambush them, it was to be expected it would be a little bit tough to get the information. While Tang Shaoyang had not learned anything about the art of torture, it was not that hard to torture someone to make them speak.

"Let me do it," Lu An was eager to try the technique he learned for sure.

Tang Shaoyang looked at his brother, frowning. Looking at Lu An's excited expression, he felt like it was a wrong decision to let Lu An do the job. He felt like Lu An was growing in a different direction.

Lu An approached the man, licking his lips, "Let's make it easy, brother. If you answer all my questions, I will grant you a painless death. I ask, you answer, okay?" He was smiling, a bright smile with his innocent look.

The man looked confused for a moment and furrowed his brow. He understood what the young man said, but he did not understand why the other groups tried to interrogate him. There were several groups on this floor. They might not work together but they had the same purpose, getting out of

this cursed tower. There was no reason for them to fight with each other. It was not like the Salvation Fraternity had players as well.

"I have interrogated your subordinates, and they said you might know the way to get to the upper floor. Tell me how to get to the upper floor," Lu An maintained his bright smile while questioning the man.

The man furrowed his brow deeper before he came to a realization. He made a surprised expression before letting out a hefty laughter. His laughter echoed into the air, "Buahahahahaha... The time for us to get out of this tower has come! Buahahahahaha..." He stopped laughing, looking at Lu An with his eyes big open, "You are a player! And you will lead us out of this tower! Make your choice, young man. Obediently lead us out of the tower, or you will experience The Hell we have prepared for you!"

"Tch. Tch. Tch." Lu An clicked his tongue, shaking his head, "It seems I need to make you understand your situation first," He then took out a small knife, a flat knife the size of a finger. He moved the hand closer toward him, but then he stopped midway, turned around, "Are you sure you want to watch me, Sister Rosa? I have to admit that what I am doing is quite disturbing."

Rosalie hesitated, curious about what Lu An would do, but at the same time, she felt like she had to listen to Lu An's words.

"You don't have to watch. This might give you a nightmare," She listened to Tang Shaoyang's advice, leaving the two alone with the man.

Chapter 1209 Another Side Of Lu An - Part 2

After Rosalie left them, he took out a pair of gloves. Lu An then picked the man's hand and pulled the finger closer. He started with the thumb, putting the knife below the nail then he inserted the knife. Blood streamed down from the knife as the man grunted in pain. The man did not scream as Lu An pulled up the knife. The nail dangled off as some part was still connected to the flesh. He reached for the nail and forcefully pulled the nail off the thumb.

The man's body shook a little, grunting in pain, holding his scream. After that, the man grinned at Lu An, showing that it was nothing for him.

"Relax, this is just the start. Let's see if you still can smile after. You make me excited because I can apply everything I have learned," Lu An pulled up the man's index finger, doing the same.

By the time Lu An finished taking off all the nails on the man's right hand, the man could no longer smile. Sweat covered his forehead, but the man endured everything well. He did not scream.

"So, do you want to speak or do you want to continue?" Lu An cleaned his small knife from the blood, "We can stop here if you cooperate."

"Dream on! I will never tell you a damn single thing!"

"Good. That's what I want," Lu An pulled the man's left hand and repeated the same action, pulling off all the nails. Blood dripped off from the finger, the man held out. However, the man's face told Lu An and Tang Shaoyang how painful it was.

Lu An continued with the man's toenails. The same process and the man endured everything, not screaming in the process. Lu An asked if the man wanted to cooperate, and the response was the man spat at Lu An, but it did not reach Lu An as the shadow caught the spit.

However, that just made Lu An even more excited. He was not done yet with the finger, pulling the finger closer, he inserted the knife into the middle finger. The knife did not cut the flesh but stayed inside the middle finger's flesh. For the first time, the man screamed.

"AAAAARGGGGHHHHH!"

The man's hand did not shake with how tight the shadow held the hand. Lu An did not pull out the knife too, letting the knife stay inside the middle finger. The knife's blade fully entered the man's finger, leaving the handle outside. As if the handle was replacing the nail.

Lu An took out another knife, shorter but the same size. He inserted the second knife into the ring finger, and another scream echoed. He took out more knives, inserting them all into the five fingers without cutting off the flesh from the finger. Just like that, five small knives were inside the man's fingers. The man's right hand was covered in blood, his face paled as tears came out naturally from his eyes, enduring the pain.

Lu An held five more knives, reaching the man's chin, "So, are you ready to answer my questions yet? We can still continue the game."

The man's right hand with the knives trembled fiercely, yet the man did not reply to Lu An. He kept his mouth shut despite the throbbing pain in his fingers.

Lu An continued, putting more knives into the man's fingers, hands, and toes. All the nails were replaced by the small knives while the man's body shook.

"Won't he die?" Tang Shaoyang could not help but ask. The ground below the man was fully covered with thick blood, almost forming a small pool of blood. If this continued, the man would die from blood loss.

"He is Ancient Rank. He will not die from blood loss, brother. If he is dying, I can just chug him a healing potion," Lu An waved his hand, assuring Tang Shaoyang the prisoner would not die, "As I expected, he is quite tough. He is the only one holding up to this point. I am not done yet though. The first phase is not even over yet."

Lu An then took out a long thin black needle. The needle was about the same size as a single piece of hair, around 30 cm long. He then took another knife, reaching the man's head, and shaving the hair. It could be seen from the man's face that he was frightened, afraid of what Lu An wanted to do with his head. The fear in his eyes was obvious, but Lu An pretended not to notice.

The young assassin scanned the man's scalp, looking for the spot. It did not take long for him to find the spot, placing the needle on that spot, "Are you ready for the thrill?" He did not wait for the man to answer him as he inserted the needle in that specific spot.

Lu An did not fully insert the needle, only half of it. The man's eyes widened for a moment. The man blanked for a moment before his scream came out to the point his voice was breaking.

The scream made Tang Shaoyang's body shudder, shocked by how the man screamed. He did not know what the man experienced, and he certainly did not want to experience it either. The scream did not stop, maintaining the same pitch. After thirty seconds, Lu An pulled the needle slightly, and the man abruptly stopped screaming. Tears and snot fell off of his face, his body soaked with sweat, breathing heavily. It was as if the pain in his fingers was nothing compared to the needle in his head.

Lu An squatted in front of the man, still having his bright smile, "How is it? Do you want to answer me right now?"

"KILL ME! JUST KILL ME, YOU COWARD! KILL ME IF YOU DARE!" The man remained tough, yelling at Lu An.

Lu An grinned ear to ear hearing the man's reply, "You are indeed tough. Should I congratulate you for being the first person to reach the second phase?" He then took out the same needles, six of them out of his inventory.

The man's eyes shook at the sight of the needle. The one in his head was still there, and yet the young man had six more of the same needles in his hand, "Please stop..." The exhausted voice came out of his lips, "I will tell you anything you want to know. Just please stop."

Lu An turned around, looking at Tang Shaoyang with a proud smile.

Chapter 1210 Andure Vale

"You should do less of this kind of thing, or else you will not get any girlfriend. I am worried for your future," Tang Shaoyang said. It was disturbing even for him, and he could not imagine if there were any girls wanted with him if Lu An went further into this path.

Lu An smiled, "Don't worry about it, Brother. I already have a girlfriend, and she seems not to mind with the art of torture I have learned."

The answer was a surprise, "You have a girlfriend?" He never heard anything about Lu An having a girlfriend before. Mostly because he rarely stayed in the empire, but it was still a surprise for him to not know the news, "Who?" He was curious about his girlfriend.

"You know her, but I will not say her name. I will introduce her once we return," Lu An wanted that to remain as a surprise.

Tang Shaoyang did not further question the young man if that was the case. Both headed out to meet Rosalie who was actually not that far from the area, "Did he speak?" Rosalie asked, looking past them. The man had become a corpse as Lu An promised to give the man a painless death after answering all the questions.

"Of course, he speaks as long as I am here," Lu An tapped his chest, proud that he had done, "It's the same with the eleventh floor. We need to kill the boss floor to get to the fourteenth floor. We have acquired the location, however, people guarding the gate to the boss floor could be a problem."

"I see," Rosalie nodded, not willing to ask further what Lu An did to the man after hearing the scream, "Are those groups strong enough to be a problem?" It sounded arrogant, but that was just her genuine question. After what they had encountered on the twelfth floor, the natives were weaker compared to the monster. Even the native with the same rank was much weaker in Rosalie's

opinion. She fought someone named The Myth Rank Demon, and she killed the demon easily. It was as if she fought an Epic Rank or at best a player that just reached Ancient Rank.

Lu An shrugged, "Don't know. This is the thirteenth floor, which might be a little bit different than the twelfth floor. Never underestimate your enemy and how weak they are. That's what Sir Zaneos always told me before we start the lesson,"

Rosalie shook his head with a smile. That was what Zaneos would say indeed, "What about the monster? Is there any place we can go to hunt to level up?" That was their second goal, questioning an area where the monster resides. They could go directly to the fourteenth floor, but that would defeat their purpose of climbing up the tower. They went to a higher floor to find a stronger monster to level up.

"There is a place like that, there are three of them. I need to find someone to be our guide though. Please wait for me. I will get someone from the settlement to guide us," Lu An disappeared into the shadows.

The man told Lu An and Tang Shaoyang the direction and also the name of the location, but it would be more convenient if someone guided them. That was why Lu an went to the settlement to get a guide, or maybe the right word would be kidnapping the guide.

"You have to remove him from your intelligence division if you want him not to go down that path," Rosalie said as soon as Lu An left for the settlement. It was not that he did not want Lu An to lose his authority, the young man grew in a weird direction. Despite how young he was, it was not normal to enjoy the torture.

Tang Shaoyang let out a sigh, shaking his head, "I can't do that. You know too that he did it for me. He learned it not because he wanted to but because he did it for me. If I remove him from his position, he might think he has failed me and might go in another extreme direction. What he needs is attention, he needs to know that he has done more than a good job doing his work."

"I don't think you will have that much time when the people from your world might be the cause of your downfall," Rosalie had learned about the situation. The condition got no better each time passed. It got worse and worse. Now there was a high chance that The Divine Church would learn the Earth was not united as the other worlds. They would use this to their advantage, or maybe invade the Earth for their interest.

The world that could create a strong individual like Tang Shaoyang was what they sought. They would want that for themselves, especially when The Earth was not fully matured compared to the world where the other factions came from who had conquered more than one world.

"I have returned..." Lu An returned with a man on his right, slowing down his pace upon noticing the serious atmosphere between the two, "Did you have a fight?" He could not but ask, "Do you want me to give you some space, Brother?"

Tang Shaoyang rolled his eyes at how Lu An easily misunderstood the situation, "We don't have time for that space. Let's move to the closest area which is Andure Vale." He stared at the man in Lu

An's hand. The man was level 817, weak but he was the elite from the settlement from what he heard from Lu An.

"Did you hear him? Lead us to the Andure Vale."

The man looked frightened and nodded his head furiously upon hearing Lu An's voice. The man seemed to be terrified of the young Lu An. He went on his feet and led the way, Andure Vale.

From the man they interrogated, Andure Vale was the home for the nocturnal creature, Lycanthrope. They formed tribes between themselves, fought each other, and hunted for humans at night. That was the reason why there was no beast or monster around. Because they were in the hunting range for the Lycanthrope.

The half-human and half-wolf creatures had dominated the area. The reason these people were still alive and could establish the settlement in their hunting range was because there was another species that kept a check on Lycanthrope, Werewolf. Both were creatures related to a wolf, but there was a slight difference between both creatures. Werewolf dominated with their wolf bloodline while Lycanthropes dominated with their humanoid appearance. Both had a humanoid body, but the Werewolf body was covered with fur while Lycanthrope had the body of a human with dark skin. Even though both had the same head, the wolf head, they were mortal enemies. At least, that was what the man told Lu An and Tang Shaoyang.

The guide's body shook all the time. He kept looking back, the fear and hesitation were obvious on his face. However, the man did not dare to voice his hesitation.

"Speak! What do you know about Lycanthrope?" Tang Shaoyang asked the man. He wanted more details about the creature.

"They are monsters. Feasting on human's organs and brains, hunting at night, and also the monster that ruled the vast Black Land," The guide replied with his shaky voice, "We should not come near their home, or they will hunt us down. It's almost night."