

Armipotent 1251

Chapter 1251 The Giteron Dynasty Make A Move

Herman and Frans exchanged glances. Reinard had not told them anything that he really wanted other than a few classes from the unique class. Aside from that, Reinard let Herman command the Giteron Dynasty's force to fight off the Blue Vest from the south and Saint Guild from the north. The situation was stabilized, more than stabilized as they got more territories with the help of the Giteron Dynasty. Yet the man had not specifically said anything about the Giteron Dynasty's purpose. Herman and Frans took the seat across, "We will do our best to help to achieve the Giteron Dynasty's goal."

"That's what I like to hear, but I don't need your help for now. I have people to do the job, and we are ready to take action right now. I just want to inform you that we will leave for a while, so you must defend your territory on your own. Maybe for a few months, half a year at most. I don't want to lose a precious ally, so you just need to defend your territory while I am away," Reinard Thamsen smiled.

Frans furrowed his brow while Herman did not accept that easily, "But this is too abrupt, Sir. We haven't set up any defense yet. Can you give us three days?" If Saint Guild and Blue Vest Guild found out that the Giteron Dynasty's force was not with them, they might attack The First Order Guild's territories from both sides.

"You can set up the defense tonight, no? I think it's easy to set up your defense as long as you have the money," Reinard Thamsen made a coin gesture with his hand, "If you don't have enough GC, I can lend you some. How much do you need?"

"No, that's not it, Sir Reinard. We have the money, but we don't have the time. They will notice it if you pull your army right now, and the defense might be useless if we don't have the people," Herman tried his best to keep his voice low, hoping Reinard would understand.

"Unfortunately time is also what I need. My people have succeeded in breaking the Tang Empire's defense, and I have to take this chance to take them down right now. It's now or never," Reinard Thamsen shook his head, "I can't give the Tang Empire time to reinforce their defense. I have to go now or the World Government might take the Tang Empire down. Once the Tang Empire fell to their hands, their next target is you."

Herman was conflicted as he could not really refute Reinard. If the Tang Empire fell to the World Government, The First Order Guild would be the next target unless they joined the World Government as well.

"How about if I give you extra armor that my army uses? Your people can wear the armor to disguise as my army. That's a solid plan I would say," Reinard Thamsen had a plan in his mind because he knew that Herman would try to stop him from pulling his army.

Herman knew that he had no choice but to go with the best amongst the worst plans which faked the Giteron Dynasty's force. If the Blue Vest Guild and Saint Guild knew that "The Giteron Dynasty" army stayed, they would not attack, "Alright, we can do that. But can you give me half an hour, Sir?"

"I think I can wait for half an hour," Reinart Thamsen smiled and nodded.

Reinart did not try to burn the bridge with the First Order Guild. He always prepared for the worst. If he failed to take over the Tang Empire, then he still needed a place to retreat, which in this case was the First Order Guild. Half an hour passed quickly, and Reinart Thamsen and his two hundred thousand armies gathered in a big square. That was not all the Giteron Dynasty's army. He brought two hundred and fifty thousand army and decided to leave fifty thousand army for the First Order Guild out of goodwill. That was enough to win Herman's heart.

Of course, the main reason why was because Reinart was confident with his two hundred thousand army. He did not need a big army to go to the conquered territory. He believed Revalor had won and took over territory with the elven army. That was the meaning of the green orb. The next step was that Reinart just needed to support Revalor to fortify their position while letting the World Government and the Tang Empire fight.

The big teleportation portal stood in the middle of the square, twenty meters tall and twenty meters wide. Reinart Thamsen came closer to the teleportation portal and placed his bracelet on the portal. As soon as he put the bracelet in its place, the portal glowed. The portal would trace the green orb's location, and it would create a portal on the other side.

Reinart Thamsen raised his right hand and gestured to his army to move forward, "March!"

Herman and Frans watched from the higher building, watching Reinart Thamsen enter the portal with conflicted feelings. A Mix of fear and concern as the first group followed Reinart. Also, the uncertainty for the future got into his head.

"What will happen to us if the Tang Empire falls?" Herman uttered in a low voice, "Will they turn against us? Or will we stay as an ally?" That was his concern. What made the First Order Guild and the Giteron Dynasty an ally was the Tang Empire. If the Tang Empire fell to the Giteron Dynasty's hand, what would happen to them? That was his concern. Frans also did not know what happened in the future, and he had no way to comfort his Guild Leader as well because he did not know what kind of people Reinart Thamsen was. Everything about Reinart Thamsen was good and friendly, never taking advantage of them even though Reinart could. However, that was what made him worried, he was too flawless for an ally, he did not know what kind of people Reinart was so he did not know how to play their cards against Reinart Thamsen.

It was the same with the Tang Empire. The Giteron Dynasty had everything, and there was nothing they could give to the Giteron Dynasty. It would be hard to continue their relationship after the Giteron Dynasty got what they wanted.

"What if The Tang Empire wins? What if the Tang Empire defeated the federation, the church, and the dynasty? I feel like I have made a grave mistake by receiving the Giteron Dynasty's support. Regardless of the result, we are in a dire situation, no?" Herman realized the worst scenario in his head where the Giteron Dynasty threw them away after taking the Tang Empire. There was no reason for the Giteron Dynasty to keep the First Order Guild after taking over the Tang Empire.

If he decided to side with the Tang Empire from the start, the Tang Empire might leave them alone if the Tang Empire won the war, the impossible scenario in his head. However, he did not know why he felt like the Tang Empire might pull the impossible. That made him restless.

"That's impossible even for the Tang Empire to win this war," Frans believed the chance of the Tang Empire winning the war was zero. After finding out the Giteron Dynasty's main force, he believed the Tang Empire's chance to survive was zero. And the Tang Empire had to fight the other two factions on the same level as the Giteron Dynasty.

"I hope so. I hope my feeling is wrong too."

Chapter 1252 Invincibility Lies In The Defense

Reinar Thamsen led his army into the portal with confidence swelling up in his chest. He liked the feeling; the feeling of conquering a ruler, and the one ahead of him was the biggest one in his life so far. An empire, though it was just an empire in the backward world, it was still an empire nevertheless.

His vision blurred for a moment before it returned to him. He saw the rising sun on the horizon which surprised him. He left The First Order Guild's territory at night, yet it was morning here.

Reinar then started to observe his surroundings as he took a few steps forward while his army followed him from behind. He was on the open field with no one to greet him. He expected Revalor and the elven army, but there was no one.

Suspicion aroused inside him as he looked further. He realized that he was out in the open, outside the wall instead of inside the wall. There was no suspicion at first, thinking he was inside the wall, but then he started to notice something amiss when he could not find Revalor.

Reinar heard an explosion right behind him. He could not see what happened in the back as the shock wave sent him flying forward. His face plummeted to the ground as he felt the heat on his back.

Reinar Thamsen quickly got back on his feet and turned around only to find out that the teleportation portal was engulfed in an explosion. There was no need for him to think to find out what situation he was in. He fell into a trap set up by the Tang Empire, 'Revalor betrayed me!' That was the first thought that came to his mind.

A creature floated above the explosion, the culprit who destroyed the teleportation portal. The creature he never saw in his life even once. It had the body of the horse, the scale of the dragon, the paw of the dragon, and the head of the dragon. Regardless of what kind of creature it was. Dragon blood flowed in its vein, something he never expected.

Reinar Thamsen used [Detection] on the creature. His heart skipped a beat as the result came into his eyes. His face scrunched in fury as he realized he had been tricked by Revalor.

[Name: ??? | Affiliation: Tang Empire | Rank: Demi-God]

Revalor told him there was no God Rank in the Tang Empire, and he was stupid enough to believe that. His eyes turned toward his army. Not even one-tenth of his army managed to go through the portal. At best, he had a few thousand people with him, and none of them were Demi-God Rank. On top of that, part of his people were injured from the initial explosion.

As if the unknown dragon creature was not enough, another big shadow hovered beyond the cloud. Not just one, but two big creatures flew about the cloud. Revalor immediately looked up to the sky

as the shadow hovered on him. One creature had a golden scale and a pair of wings. Another one had three pairs of wings and a white feather. He did not know the creature with the three pairs of wings, but he knew the other one, a dragon.

The first thing he did was, of course, use Detection on the golden dragon. He was relieved a little that the Golden Dragon was still juvenile. But a dragon was still a dragon, a Primordial Rank Dragon. The same rank as him, and he could not use Detection on the giant white-feathered bird. His heartbeat raced up, his chest heaved up and down.

As he was distracted by the three creatures in the sky, he heard screams from his people. He turned toward the scream and saw dozens of his subordinates were swallowed by shadow. His people disappeared along with the shadow, "Raise your weapon! We fight!" There was no choice, fight or surrender. And he would not choose surrender, he would rather die and let his father avenge him. He would not be a prisoner of the Tang Empire.

Swish!

An arrow went through the air, creating noise, and pierced through his people. Dozens of his people fell on the ground before they could fight back, and more arrows came for them. Even when his people used Bloodline Transformation, none of them could withstand more than three arrows. Just like that, his army was wiped out within less than five minutes. Even the five Legend Ranks could not withstand the barrage of arrows while sustaining the injuries.

Reinar Thamsen wanted to use his Bloodline Transformation, but he realized that was just a futile resistance. He was defeated, he fell into the trap. His scheme backfired on him, and he fell into his enemy's hand.

"You are the first, but don't worry, more will fall along with you. Don't need to be ashamed," Reinar heard the familiar voice. He turned around and saw Supreme Commander Zhang Mengyao in her black armor, black shield, and black lance. She was ready to fight.

Reinar Thamsen just stared at the woman. He could not see her features because of the helmet, but he would never forget her look. But then he realized that she was alone, with no one around her. She was alone, just thirty meters away from him. There was no one accompanying her. His face brightened up as he got an idea, an idea to get out of this situation.

'I just need to capture her. Take her hostage and get out of here!'

From the information he received, Zhang Mengyao was just a Myth Rank. One lower rank below him. Not easy, but that was the only way for him to get her out alive. He no longer hesitated, using his bloodline transformation. His skin turned red as wings made of fire formed on his back. His eyes turned red while his spear was blazed in flame. His armor also turned into fire as a crown made of fire floated above his head.

"You will regret it coming to me by yourself!" Reinar rushed toward Zhang Mengyao, leaving a trail of fire as his figure blurred. He thrust the blazing spear forward.

Dang!

Zhang Mengyao easily blocked the incoming spear with her shield. It created noise that resonated in the air, showing off how strong the strike was. The fire from the spear blazed, trying to reach Zhang

Mengyao. However, the fire could not reach her as if there was a barrier that kept the fire away from her. With a push from the shield, she sent Reinart ten meters back.

Reinart Thamsen could not believe that he failed to push Zhang Mengyao even in the slightest. Zhang Mengyao was like an immovable fortress to him. Then he noticed the smirk on her lips, mocking him for his attack. That enraged him as he then flew to the sky, not too high as he was afraid that he reached the three creatures' range in the sky. The fire on his body, wing, and also the spear blazed fiercely. His figure was covered in fire, and the fire formed a shape, the shape of a bird.

Screeeechhhh!

It let out a piercing screech before the firebird dove toward Zhang Mengyao. At this point, he did not bother to capture her alive. He just wanted to win against him.

Zhang Mengyao looked up at the incoming firebird and did not have an intention to dodge the incoming attack. She remained on her spot and raised her shield toward the incoming firebird. That was her plan, to block the incoming firebird. Never crossed her mind to run away from the attack.

The firebird hit the shield, and the fire burst out. It was as if the fire was about to engulf Zhang Mengyao. However, the unexpected happened as the shield absorbed the fire. The blazing fire disappeared into the shield. The bright sky suddenly dimmed, leaving behind Reinart and his spear. He was in midair with his spear and hit the shield once more. The fire armor and the fire wing were proof that he was still in the Bloodline Transformation, but his attack was negated by a single shield.

"High-Grade Artifact," Reinart blurted out.

"I don't need a high-rank artifact to kill you," Zhang Mengyao smashed her lance toward Reinart's right shoulder, sending him down to the ground. Then she leaped into the air, pointing her lance toward Reinart on the ground.

"NOOO!" Reinart was about to get up, but it was too late. He was panicked that he did not use any skill either. The lance pierced through his thigh, destroying the thigh as a high pitch scream came out of Reinart's mouth.

"You are no different than the other one," She was talking about Arnor Ollsen, the man who coveted Rosalie.

Of course, Zhang Mengyao's words did not enter his head as he was screaming at top of his lungs. Zhang Mengyao then put the shield right in front of his face. He realized that the shield was no longer black, but red. It was the same color as his fire. The shield glowed in as fire blazed out of the shield. The same screech echoed in the air, and Reinart Thamsen found out that the shield absorbed and stored the skill in the shield. Now she used his own skill against him.

Death was not something he was afraid of before coming here. The thing he feared the most was to lose his position in his family and in the Giteron Dynasty, his authority. But now he was right in front of the death door, he realized that he also feared death.

"NO! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME! I WILL DO EVERYTHING FOR YOU! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!"

Chapter 1253 Reinart Thamsen's confession

Herman Bonivido watched the Giteron Dynasty's people swarm into the teleportation portal. He wanted to be here, watching them leave to ensure nothing bad happened during the move. He did not know why but he felt nervous, watching these people leaving. Unfortunately, lady luck was not on his side. After a few thousand troops entered the portal, the teleportation portal suddenly went unstable. Chaos and panic ensued among the soldiers, and many tried to pass through the portal even though it was unstable. From unstable, then the teleportation portal was shut off which resulted in many soldiers being cut in half. The lower part was left behind while the upper part was on the other side.

Herman Bonivido's heart jumped up, nervous and anxious. There was nothing scarier than the leaderless army. His mind spun, thinking of how to calm these people down. The leader they were supposed to protect was trapped on the other side. He needed to do something to control the chaos, or else these angry mobs would turn against him, the last thing he wanted. He turned around, leaving the room, rushing down the building as Frans followed him.

As he reached the lobby, a group of five soldiers from the Giteron Dynasty were confronting his people, asking his whereabouts. Herman did not hesitate to jump in before the situation got worse, "What happened?" He wanted to know what happened with the portal.

"There's no time to explain it to you. We need to get to Lord Reinar. He might be in danger. Find a way to get there!" The person who spoke was one of the Legend Ranks. Someone above Herman in terms of individual strength.

"There? Where?" Herman was bewildered, "They are on another continent from here. We need a ship to get there, and it will take one or maybe two weeks, I don't know. I never take a ship to that place, and we also don't know where the portal is connected to."

"I don't care about the method. You have to get us there, or you will take responsibility for whatever happened to Lord Reinar!" That did not sound persuasive at all, an obvious threat as the soldier did not bother to mask the threat. It was either get them 'there' or face our wrath. That was what the Legend Rank told Herman.

The worst happened, and now Herman had to find a way to get Reinar back or get the soldiers to Reinar. He calmed himself down, cursing his bad luck inwardly, "May I know the situation, Sir? Is there a way to restore the portal? The Smart Base has a General Shop, and maybe we can get something from the shop to make the teleportation portal work again."

"I don't know if there's a way to restore the portal. The issue is not the teleportation portal here, but the portal on the other side. If I am right, the portal on the other side is destroyed. The only way to make the teleportation portal work again is to repair the portal on the other side, not this one," The Legend Rank General explained.

Herman Bonivido massaged the space between his eyes. The worst really happened, and The First Order Guild might be blamed for whatever happened to Reinar Thamsen. He must find a way to save Reinar Thamsen, and the culprit was likely the Tang Empire, "We can talk to the Tang Empire and ask to return Sir Reinar if the Tang Empire has him. We can head to the tower city to meet them. That's right, we can still meet them there."

"We will not talk! We will demand for Lord Reinart to be returned or they will face the Giteron Dynasty's wrath!" The Legend Ranks General sounded forceful. There was no room for negotiation, they wanted Reinart to be returned which left Herman speechless, "No, we will take Lord Reinart for them! They must have a teleportation portal, right? We can use the teleportation portal to get Lord Reinart back."

"I am sorry, Sir. But the tower city is protected by the System. If you try to fight there, you will be blacklisted from entering the city for one month for the first offense. We can't fight them there even if we want to, Sir. The only way to get Lord Reinart is to talk with them, and we might be able to ransom Lord Reinart if they captured Lord Reinart," Herman tried his best to explain the situation. He believed that aggression might not be the right choice in their situation right now. If the Tang Empire wanted to meet them was already the best scenario, but if they used aggression, the one who might suffer was Reinart Thamsen.

*** **

"Urgh!" Reinart Thamsen opened his eyes, spitting the ice-cold water that entered his mouth, coughing. He was disoriented and confused, his vision was still blurred as the ice-cold water got into his eyes. As his clouded mind cleared, he found out he was in the cell, hanging on the cold wall with his hands chained to the wall.

Then he remembered what happened to him. Death flashed before his eyes when he saw his own skill in front of his face. He thought he would die, but he passed out because he was too scared back then. That was the most embarrassing and humiliating moment in his life. He did not know he would be that scared of death, not until the death itself came before him.

His vision cleared and found out he was in the cell. The steel bar caged him, and he saw someone standing before him. He recognized the person, the young man who gave the church and the federation a hard time. He lurked in the shadows and ambushed people, killing many people. One of the most dangerous types that many people did not want to encounter.

"You better release me unless you want to receive the Giteron Dynasty's wrath!"

The threat was responded to with laughter by the young man which made him angry, "I guess that's your type, a coward who acts superior because of your status. You are the easiest to crack."

"I won't repeat it again. Release me and also give me Revalor," Reinart repeated, even adding a condition.

Lu An just shook his head. He was holding a plier in his hand, squatting in front of Reinart. He held the sole and used the plier to remove the toenail. The piercing scream rang in the dungeon, echoing through the hallway, "As I thought, easy to crack." He then took out a bottle. Inside the bottle was a clear liquid, just like drinking water. He opened the bottle and poured a little bit onto the missing toenail. The liquid was thicker than water, but not much. The liquid seeped into the wound.

"Urrrgggghhhh!" Reinart Thamsen's muscles tensed up, grunting in pain. The chain made clunking noise as he endured the pain.

"Let's make it easy, shall we? You don't need to suffer like this if you cooperate," Lu An looked up, smiling while waving the plier at Reinart, "Why are you attacking the Tang Empire? Just to be clear, if you cooperate, then there will be no pain."

Reinart Thamsen gritted his teeth, refusing to answer. He just stared at Lu An with hatred, he imprinted the young man's face. He would not forget what happened today and would pay the young man back ten times.

"Time is up," Lu An went for the next toenail. He plucked toenails this time and poured the same liquid. Reinart's scream echoed once through the dark tunnel, echoing back. Tears started to gather in his eyes. However, the young noble still refused to speak. Even until all ten toenails were removed, the young noble kept his mouth shut, not spilling a single word.

Lu An stood and still smiled, "Quite tough, heh?" Then his left hand reached Reinart's cheek, forcefully opening Reinart's mouth. He moved the plier to the front teeth at the bottom row, "Do you wish to speak? Blink your eyes two times if you want to speak." The plier was right on Reinart's teeth.

Reinart's eyes turned bloodshot with the tears flowing down from the pain. His chest heaved up and down as his body tensed up. However, he kept his eyes open, staring at Lu An.

Lu An shook his head and snapped the plier down, snapping two teeth. Blood spurted out from the gum as Reinart let out a scream. He even choked because of the blood inside his mouth. Lu An held the cheek firmly, putting the plier to the front teeth at the top, "Now do you want to speak? Blink your eyes twice if you want to speak."

Reinart breathed heavily from his nostril, and stared dagger at Lu An with his eyes opened wide.

Lu An just shrugged and snapped the plier upward, snapping two more teeth. The chain clunked against the wall as his body shook in pain. He tried to break free from Lu An's grasp, but it was futile because his strength was drained. More tears flowed from his eyes as his mouth was throbbing. He tasted his own blood, entering his system. Some of the blood got into Lu An's clothes, but he did not bother to clean them as he put the plier on more teeth.

"I will speak..." Reinart made an unintelligible voice, but it was hard to understand with blood gathered in his mouth and his mouth was kept open.

"Calm down. You don't need to speak. Blink your eyes twice if you are willing to cooperate now." Reinart blinked his eyes twice as fast as he could.

"What a pity. I expect you to last longer so I can play a little bit more," Lu An shrugged, releasing his grip on Reinart's cheek, "I will give you a healing potion after you answer all the questions. Make sure to answer everything fast."

"Resources! Earth has a lot of resources because your world just integrated into the System recently. Herman told me that your world is still in the second phase and that the Ancient Rank Dimensional Tower is the first dimensional tower. There are many unexplored resources on Earth, and The Giteron Dynasty wants those resources. Earth has greater value than the Ancient Rank Dimensional Tower, that's why the God Ranks of the Federation of Allurion and the Divine Church are willing to get involved!" Reinart did not hesitate to give the answer, "Now give me the healing potion."

"That's just the first question," Lu An shrugged, "Then why do you want to take the Tang Empire? You have the First Order Guild already. You still can get those resources without getting involved with us? Why are you so obsessed with the Tang Empire!? Don't lie to me, or you will feel more pain than what you feel right now. I can do more than just plucking your toenails and teeth."

Chapter 1254 The Third Phase

Lu An returned to report the information he got from Reinart Thamsen. Of course, there were more than the resources that the Giteron Dynasty wanted from the Tang Empire.

"He has a weird fetish, saying he likes the feelings from conquering the empire and the—" Lu An paused, glancing at Zhang Mengyao, Rosalie, Aleesa, Kang Xue, and the other women in the room. He was not sure if he should say everything in front of the others because Marshal Alton, Chief Moon, Wei Xi, and the other high-ranking officials were with them.

"Say it!" Receiving the command, Lu An continued, "He said he loved to conquer the strong women, so not just the empire but also the women in charge. More than that, The Giteron Dynasty wanted to force us to submit to them to get more force under their command. He said that it would raise the Thamsen Family's status in the Giteron Dynasty if they managed to conquer the world and the people."

'That sealed Reinart's fate,' That was what everyone thought when they heard that. There was no turning point after that confession.

"What about the resources? What resources he talked about that we don't know?" Zhang Mengyao continued as if she heard nothing.

"Two remaining dimensional towers are one of those many resources, the smart base, the unique classes. And remember, we are still in the second phase of the game. There's a phase three for the Game, and he said there would be a dungeon form in the third phase. A dungeon is a subspace infested with monsters and beasts, and we have to clear the dungeon in a certain amount of time. There's a reward in that dungeon, but there's also risk. If we don't clear in that certain time, then there will be a dungeon break where the monster inside the dungeon will break free."

"Ah, I wonder why Earth does not have a dungeon, that's why..." Marshal Alton finally understood why Earth did not have the dungeon. The people from the Ortis Continent would understand the dungeon because there were a few dungeons formed in the Ortis Continent, "I can confirm it's true for the dungeon. We have cleared many dungeons in the Ortis Continent."

"What is the dungeon's timer before it breaks out?" Zhang Mengyao took out her note. This was important information for the future. She started writing what Marshal Alton said next.

"Each dungeon is different. There are a few ranks for the dungeon, and the higher the rank for a dungeon, the faster the timer is. A higher rank dungeon is also a home for the dangerous beast and monsters. Gigante Forest in the Ortis Continent is proof of the dungeon break. Kalliyon and Suvan are from the dungeon," Marshal Alton remembered the reason why the Gigante Forest had become so dangerous. It was because of the dungeon break that the forest was infested with a variety of strong monsters that forced the Elven Kingdom to hide their dwelling with illusion spells, the reason why the dwarf built the underground city.

Kalliyen was a Kirin, and Suvan was a Great Sky Serpent. Both came out from the dungeon and became the guardian beast of the Gigante Forest. That was the only reason why two strong and rare beasts stayed at the corner continent such as Ortis Continent, the dungeon.

"Are there more resources he talks about aside from the dungeon?" Zhang Mengyao asked again after taking notes.

"There's a thing called World Clash where the System allows a war between two worlds under System's regulation. The winner will take over the world, and the System will also take the natives out of their world. He added that's rare to happen because the risk is too great, so it's very rare to happen. The System will also add a special event between factions with a rare reward if Earth has more than ten factions, and the event is random as well. It can be a contest for a blacksmith, or alchemist, or even something similar to Earth Tournament. It will be different for each event."

"There are more events. There's a Universe Tournament, similar to Earth Tournament, but the scale is just bigger. Of course, the reward is also far superior to the Earth Tournament. The last addition for the third phase is our world will undergo a transformation. The transformation will be varied, the Earth might become bigger, or the System will transfer new races or species to Earth, or it can be both. Or maybe a different unknown transformation, but the common transformation are those two. Meaning the System will generate more resources for Earth."

Zhang Mengyao turned toward Moonsong and Marshal Alton, in case these two knew something about the transformation. Moonsong and Marshal Alton's world had entered the third phase which was the last phase. She hoped they knew something about this transformation. The scale transformation was too big to be ignored, and she needed to make preparations. More resources would also mean the danger had increased to another level. She must always prepare for the hidden danger.

Moonsong and Alton exchanged glances. Both shook their heads, if the transformation happened during their time, they could not feel it for sure.

"Is there anything more that we need to know, Lu An? If not, we will end the meeting now," Zhang Mengyao was overwhelmed with the new information. She did not know when the third phase would begin, but she must make preparations ahead. She needed to digest the new information before making a plan. Of course, there was also a threat looming over them.

In order to make a trap, Zhang Mengyao decided to abandon the plan to take Belgium and Netherlands, making a hasty retreat after distributing all the Unique Classes. That was why they could only set up the trap when the sun started to rise.

"I don't know if this information is useful for us, but he also mentioned that our world is not supposed to compete with their worlds in the Dimensional Tower. We are supposed to compete with another lower world that is still in the second phase or maybe in the early third phase," Lu An added, "The reason is most likely because we have grown too strong compared to the other factions in our world. That was why the System pitted us against an advanced world like theirs. Reinard said that the Tang Empire is far stronger than the First Order Guild. We have millions of armies while the First Order Guild barely gathered one hundred thousand people that could fight. Our abnormal growth made us compete with them, but that was just a guess from the Giteron Dynasty."

That was not helpful for their current situation, but it was good to know. It was not like she would cull their numbers to weaken themselves

"Does he know when the third phase will start? Any indication so we can be prepared for what will come for us? The World Clash might be rare to happen because of the risk, but we don't know what will happen. We need to be prepared for the worst, always," That was an important piece of information. If they knew when it would come, they could prepare better.

"When one of Earth's natives reaches God Rank. That's when the third phase begins."

"I see, we have a lot more time for the third phase," Zhang Mengyao nodded, "Thanks for your work, Chief Lu An. Our focus should be the preparation for the God Rank's invasion, and we have twenty-nine days if they are telling the truth. Let's end the meeting for today."

Everyone stood up from their chairs and started leaving the room, leaving Zhang Mengyao, Kang Xue, Rosalie, and Li Shuang, "Do you have any news from him?" Li Shuang asked in a worried tone.

Zhang Mengyao shook her head, "I still can't send a message. That means he's still on trial."

"There's no need to worry about him. A trial is just another chance for him to increase his level. The trial poses no threat to him," Rosalie tried to comfort the worried Li Shuang. At a time like this, they needed to support each other to keep them strong.

"What we need to worry about is that he will return in time before the God Ranks invade Earth," Jasmine nodded, "But I believe he will return before Ava gives birth to his firstborn. That might motivate him to return faster."

Kang Xue furrowed, concerned about Ava, "What about Virion? Should we keep it until she gives birth?" That was another thing they worried about the most. It was just wrong to keep it secret from Ava because Virion was her eldest son. The most concerned issue was not that they were afraid that Ava would collapse after learning of Virion's death, but the worst was that her ex-husband plotted it, and her second killed her first son. That was the biggest problem, and maybe that was what Revalor tried to achieve by killing Virion. He wanted Ava to suffer instead of having a happy life with Tang Shaoyang.

Zhang Mengyao drooped her shoulder, massaging the space between her eyes. If Ava collapses, that might cause a serious issue for the baby inside her belly. Before they could reach a decision, Lu An returned to the room. This time, he learned his lesson to go through the door instead of coming out of the shadow, "I have a message from my people at the tower city. The First Order Guild requests a meeting with your Sis Mengyao."

"Again? Ah, he wanted to talk about Reinard. His backing is with us, so of course, he wants to talk with me," Zhang Mengyao shook her head, "Let him wait. I will think about it if I want to meet him or not later."

Lu An did not leave the room immediately, "There's another thing, Sis Mengyao. I have reached level 3000 during the war, so I need to take half a month off from my duty to take the Trial of the Myth."

Chapter 1255 Ashbloom Order

If it was a normal situation Zhang Mengyao would give the permission immediately, but it was a different time. Especially after knowing the God Rank could invade Earth at any time in this one month. Lu An was actually the key to every Tang Empire's move against the World Government. She was not sure that the empire was ready to fight without Lu An. While they retreated from Europe, their next goal was to fortify the main territory and expand to the middle east and South East. Lu An returned to report the information he got from Reinart Thamsen. Of course, there were more than the resources that the Giteron Dynasty wanted from the Tang Empire.

However, it was not good to delay Lu An's advancement as well with the big battle ahead of them. The stronger Lu An was, the better for the next battle. After a little bit of consideration, Zhang Mengyao came up with a decision, "You can take the trial. This might be too much for you, but I hope you can finish the trial faster. We do really need you for the upcoming battle."

Lu An smiled, "I will do my best. I have assigned Sis Viona and Yeon Hee to take command of TEID. You can trust them just like how you trust me." After saying that, Lu An left the room.

*** **

Mongolia

The Polar Guild kept harassing the border of Mongolia after the Tang Empire took over. The person in charge of Mongolia was having a hard time with the constant harassment from the Polar Guild because their force was sparse with how big their border was.

Abaka, the native who was in charge of Mongolia, had been requesting reinforcement from the Tang Empire. However, he heard that some factions from the dimensional tower came to Earth, and the main force was fighting those factions. He understood why the Tang Empire could not send reinforcements to help him to hold the border.

A few hours ago, he received a message from the Vice Supreme General that reinforcements would come to help him. The news was received well by Abaka, and he had been waiting in front of the teleportation portal for three hours even though the message mentioned that the reinforcement would arrive in three hours. He kept reminding himself to keep his attitude respectful.

After three hours of waiting, the teleportation portal made a noise. Abaka raised his head in excitement, looking at the portal. The first four people came out of the portal, and four of them were women. He subconsciously frowned even though he reminded himself to be respectful.

The four women were Liang Suyin, Ashley, Delia, and Li Na. Followed after them were Wen the Jade Eagle and Kairu the Flaming Lion. Then five hundred knights of the Ashbloom Order followed. The five hundred knights were people picked by Ashley personally that she created after returning from the Ortis Continent. The five hundred knights were elite of the elite, all of them were Epic Rank.

Li Na recognized Abaka as the leader of Mongolia's territories, and she immediately approached him, "Hello, Sir. I am Li Na, and we are sent here to help you to fight the Polar Guild."

Abaka was distracted for a moment while questioning himself, 'Does the Tang Empire think that our territory is not that important?' Not just because of the four women, but also because of the number of people. The two beastmen were surely fearful, but their enemy was thousands, maybe over ten

thousand. He thought that an additional five hundred people would be useless, 'Did I send the wrong data?'

Before sending the reinforcement, the Tang Empire asked the enemy's average level and also the number. He did not know the exact number, but there were dozens of Epic Ranks and their number easily surpassed five thousand. He could not get the exact number, but he estimated that low, hoping the Tang Empire would send at least a few thousand Warriors to help them. He was not expecting a full force to wipe out the Polar Guild with the current predicament. However, he did not expect for the Tang Empire to send just five hundred people. What could five hundred people do against the thousand?

"I know you are disappointed with the number, but they are elite of the elite, Sir Abaka. I give you permission to use Detection on Ashbloom's knights," Li Na noticed the disappointment. Rather than having an unnecessary misunderstanding, she told Abaka to use Detection instead. Using Detection without permission was kinda rude, and it was an effective rule for everyone, including the people that were not in the non-combat class that was part of the Tang Empire. If one used Detection without consent, the violator would be fined. Repeated violations would end up in the dungeon for a few years. That was why Abaka did not use Detection from the start.

Abaka used Detection on the knights, not all of them, but all the knights in his sight. He showed no hesitation which proved that he did indeed doubt the Ashbloom Order. He did not mean to offend them, but that was just the logical thinking for the people who did not know about Ashbloom Knight.

Abaka's jaw dropped, and he could not help but glance at Li Na with a bewildered look. He was asking for confirmation, "That's right, all of them are Epic Rank, every single one of them," Li Na nodded with a polite smile, "Can we get somewhere else? I need to tell you our plan."

She told her plan, not discussing the plan. The meaning was clear that they came with a plan and would not receive orders from Abaka.

"Ah, yes. Please follow me," Abaka snapped out of his daze and returned to his respectful attitude. It was different if it was five hundred Epic Ranks. That should be enough to content the Polar Guild until the Tang Empire solved their main issue, but he was wrong about something, about Li Na's plan.

"Have you found their main base operation?" Li Na asked.

Abaka was confused at first, but he answered truthfully while shaking his head, "We don't know their main base operation. We focused on defending in the last few months."

Li Na glanced at Ashley, "We have to start from that." The latter nodded her head.

"Wait... May I know your plan?" Abaka interrupted the two. He felt like the plan did not align with his plan. His plan was simple, defending the border until the Tang Empire sent their main force to hit the Polar Guild. Their opponent was a guild, one of the top eleven guilds in the world. There was no way they would beat them with just five hundred. He was relieved with the five hundred Epic Ranks, but he felt like it was still impossible to beat the Polar Guild with just five hundred.

"We plan to attack their main base and force them to retreat," Li An told the plan as simply as possible. That sounded simple, but that was not simple at all in Abaka's head.

"Is there another reinforcement coming?" Abaka could not help but ask. That was the only explanation for Li Na to make such a plan.

"No, just us. Don't worry, we will not ask you to join us. It will be just us," Li Na explained, misunderstanding Abaka's question. She thought Abaka did not want to join because they were too weak to participate in a fight. Abaka himself was Epic Rank, there were no more than thirty Epic Ranks in Mongolia. It was a miracle that they managed to hold down for long.

"That's not what I mean," Abaka shook his head, waving his hand, "We are talking about the Polar Guild. From what I know, their Guild Leader, Yury Semenov, is Myth Rank. They also have a few thousand mercenaries from the dimensional tower, and the mercenaries are stronger than the Polar Guild's main force too. There's one Primordial Rank from the mercenary."

"We know about that. Didn't you give us the data? We are aware of their average level and ranks," Li Na nodded, "Leave everything to us. We will drive them away."

Abaka was left speechless. During the discussion, he just listened to them quietly from the side. He made sure not to miss a single piece of information. They asked him where the Polar Guild would frequently attack, and more questions about mercenaries. Mostly about where they attacked them from. After fifteen minutes, they ended the meeting and asked him to lead where the mercenary attacked pretty often.

"We have lost a few hundred people because of the mercenary, and we stopped defending the area for a while because of that. However, the mercenary never entered our territory even once, as if their attack was just a distraction," Abaka led Li Na's team to the mountainous area. The area where the mercenary was active. There was a tall wall separating the border between Russia and Mongolia, and Abaka bought the wall, "The wall had been destroyed twice, but they never entered our territory or even tried to take over our territory. I don't know why."

They stood on the wall, below them was a forest. The trees obstructed their vision as they could barely see through the tree. It was hard to see the enemy's movement if the enemy wanted to be sneaky, and Abaka did not try to clear trees. At least, they should cut the tree below the wall and five hundred meters further, or else, the wall was pointless.

"I guess this is good for us," Ashley commented, "We can sneak through the forest if the mercenary makes the camp nearby."

"Then I will start right away," Li Na summoned her summon.

The creature was a big black sticky ball with a pair of wings and one eye occupied most of the body. It was the creature she summoned through The Circle of Void, a void creature called Void Eye. Void Eye had the ability to see through inanimate objects, and its vision covered a vast area, more than ten kilometers. Of course, that was not the only one of its capabilities. It has many deadly skills, and one of them was Petrify Gaze. One of its strongest skills, turning anyone who saw its eyes into void stone.

Li Na used Void Eye to scout the area, and they shared the vision together. It did not take long for Li Na to discover the track of the mercenary. Just as they predicted, the mercenary made camps, many small camps, scattered around the forest. She found seven small camps through Void Eye.

"I have found seven small camps, but there might be more. Should I look further, or do we take action immediately?" Li Na asked Ashley. While she was the one who talked with Abaka, Ashley was the one in charge of this fight. She was the one who made the decision.

"Let's enter the forest and scout more areas if possible. After we find all the camps, we will attack them immediately," There was no reason for them to delay the attack. Ashley decided to enter the forest and took action as soon as they arrived.

"Are you sure you don't need our help?" Abaka asked once more for confirmation. He felt bad for not helping, though he was still doubting them. He felt like he should help them at this time.

"Just keep contact with us and immediately notify us if the Polar Guild attacked another place," Ashley shook her head and gave the man a command. There was no discussion anymore as she brought five hundred knights into the forest with Void Eye floating above him with its invisibility.

Chapter 1256 Sweeping The Mercenaries

Li Na saw everything through the connection with Void Eye. After the initial seven camps, she found another nine camps deeper into the forest. It was easy to tell that they were mercenaries with how separated they were. They moved in the original group instead of moving like an army.

"This is an easy sweep for us. They don't set up any patrol or watcher," Ashley showed up a paper with many dots on it. The dots were the camp's location. There were a total of sixteen camps with each camp comprising fifty to a hundred people, "We will split into two groups, and we will meet again at this camp. I will lead the first group, and Liang Suyin will lead the second group. I will split the knights with you."

"Why don't we split into three groups instead? It's faster that way," Kairu was at Primordial Rank, one of few that was closest to each Legend Rank, "Me and Wen, that's a solid group."

"No. You follow my order and follow Liang Suyin. I will split one hundred knights into the second group. We are on time, and we don't know when the World Government will start attacking us, so we must finish our business here as soon as possible in the safest way as well. We don't know if they have Legend Rank mercenaries or not. Move in a bigger group, so if something goes wrong, we can stall time with the number so we can regroup." Ashley did not hesitate to oppose Kairu's idea about the three groups.

Abaka mentioned there was no Legend Rank, but they did not know if what Abaka mentioned was all mercenaries. There must be a reason too why the Polar Guild did not try to take over Mongolia. Regardless of the reason, they needed to cull the Polar Guild's force so they would not come to the border again.

The Flaming Lion wanted to protest, but Wen stopped him. The Jade Eagle shook his head, telling him not to argue anymore, "Good if you understand," Ashley then started to make a route for the two groups, "I will take this route, and you will take this route."

Ashley was the first one to leave with her four hundred knights. Despite their heavy armor, the knight moved soundlessly. Not even vibration could be felt from the ground despite moving in formation.

"We are on an official mission, Kairu. We just need to listen to the command and get the job done," Wen scolded his friend after Ashley left, "I know you are close to Legend Rank, but this is more important than individual achievement. We need to get the job done with no casualties. That's why we are here." Wen and Kairu were the fastest to reach Primordial Rank. The reason was that both had gone on their way, exploring the Earth. They had fought the strong and high-rank zombies, preventing the zombie to form a big group and so on.

"If that's the case, we will provide support while you two go on rampages," Liang Suyin was more on the softer side. She knew that the two beastmen did not want to share the level with the others, "And please don't make a big commotion. We don't want the next camp to notice they are under attack."

*** **

Ashley soon arrived at her first camp. From Li Na's scouting, there were sixty people in this camp. The rank was unknown because Li Na could not use Detection through Void Eye. Dozens of tents stood with the men gathered around the bonfire, drunk. Ashley could hear the mercenaries complaining.

"Why are we staying here? Can we just take over their city and stay there instead?" That was the most common complaint, but of course, no one could give the man the answer because they were paid to follow the order.

"Stop complaining, you bastard! You are ruining the mood here. As long as they keep supplying the drink, then I don't care where to sleep. We will finish the contract in a month. We can cash out and leave this backwater world!"

Ashley had finished using the Detection, and none of the mercenaries noticed that. There was a subtle uncomfortable feeling when someone used Detection, but because they were drunk, they failed to notice that uncomfortable feeling, "Ancient Rank is the highest," She muttered while sending a signal to her knight to surround the camp. After all her knights surrounded the camp, Ashley leaped from the tree. She leaped far and landed next to the bonfire.

The mercenaries were surprised at first with most of them picking up their weapon. However, the surprise turned into laughter, "Even God is helping us now. God sends one of his b*tches for us to en— Huh?" The man could not finish his words because his head flew into the air with his vision turned upside down.

After the first head, Ashley's figures blurred once more. Her sword released the energy and cut through the mercenaries. Within five seconds, she killed over twenty mercenaries. Only, the mercenaries were alarmed. They shouted to call out their friends inside the tent. At the same time, the four hundred knights rushed into the camp. It did not take long for Ashley and her knight to finish off sixty-five mercenaries.

Ashley shook her sword from the blood before sheathing it back. She walked to the leader of the mercenary who was sleeping when she launched the ambush. He was on his knees with no hands

and three swords on his back, "We are just mercenaries. We are just following—" She cut his head before he could finish his words. Her mission was to eliminate the threat to Mongolia, she did not take prisoners or slaves.

"Don't burn their bodies, just leave them be. We don't want the next camp to notice our attack!" Ashley raised her sword and gestured to her knights to move to the next camp.

*** **

In another area, Kairu and Wen took the lead to ambush the camp with fifty mercenaries. The knights surrounded the camp, ensuring there was no one escaping while Wen and Kairu barged into the camp with their surprise attack. Fifty mercenaries with the highest Ancient Rank was nothing for the duo. The two beastmen mercilessly killed the mercenary in sight.

"They really leave nothing for me," Li Na complained from outside the camp. She wanted a few of the mercenaries for her to summon. Void Eye was just level 789, not even Epic Rank. She wanted a few mercenaries for her new summon, but Kairu and Wen did not leave a single one to escape, "Don't you want to kill the mercenary too, Sis Suyin? They are quite high-rank."

"Do you forget my ability? If I fight, the other camp might notice us," Liang Suyin shook her head. Her fire might reveal their location and arouse suspicion from the other camps, "We will have ours later, maybe."

Liang Suyin was about to order her group to move to the next camp, but she noticed someone missing from her group, Delia. She panicked for a moment and asked Li Na, "Where's Delia?"

"She's hunting," Li Na answered casually as if it was nothing weird.

Liang Suyin was bewildered for a moment, giving Li Na a second glance, "What do you mean she's hunting? Is there someone who can escape from the camp?"

"No, she's hunting the beast in this forest. She found the mutated deer just two minutes ago and went to hunt the deer," Li Na replied casually, "There's no need to worry about her. She's in my vision and safe."

Liang Suyin blinked her eyes. She thought Delia followed them to gain experience in fighting, but she was wrong. Delia was hunting the delicacy that only existed here, "If you say so."

The group continued, and the mercenary failed to provide a surprise for them. The mercenary did not expect the ambush which led to their doom. After the sixth, they were supposed to meet Ashley's group in the seventh camp.

"Are there any casualties?" That was Ashley's first question when they met.

"Nope. They lowered their guard which made it easy for us," Liang Suyin shook her head.

"Good. We will start the next camp," Ashley was relieved with no casualty. The reason they regrouped for the last three camps was because the mercenary number was larger. The one ahead of them had over two hundred people. That would be hard for them to sweep them smoothly like the previous camp. The bigger number meant there might be a high rank in this camp, a Primordial Rank or maybe the Legend Rank.

"Me, Wen, and Kairu will storm into the camp to catch their

attention. The knights will surround the camp, make sure no mercenary escapes from the camp," Ashley gave her command to the team. The knights spread out, surrounding the camp. Then she made the signal, and three of them burst into the camp. The yell and scream resounded as the big camp was more organized than the smaller camp. One mercenary hit the bell while yelling 'We are under attack!' 'We are under attack!' 'We are under attack!'

Chapter 1257 Clash Against The Polar Guild - Part 1

Ashley, Wen, and Kairu directly went into the center of the camp. They killed whoever was in their path and looked for the leader of the mercenary. It did not take that long for the leader of the mercenary to show up after such a commotion.

"Which group dares to mess with us?" The leader of the mercenary thought it was another group of mercenaries attacking them. Even though the mercenaries were hired by the same employer, they were from a different group. The Federation of Allurion gave the Polar Guild not the best of mercenaries.

Three men came out of the biggest camp, shirtless. One with a battle ax, one with a big saber, and the third one with dual-wielding spears.

"They are all Primordial Rank," Ashley was the first one to identify the three men, "One for each of us."

Wen flew toward the one with the battle ax. The mercenary did not expect that his enemy was a beastmen and was swept by Wen, bringing the mercenary to a different spot. Kairu made a big leap toward the one with the dual wield. A single punch of him, sent the man flying backward. The Flaming Lion immediately gave chase to the flying figure, leaving Ashley and the leading mercenary with the battle ax.

"You are from the Tang Empire!" The mercenary with the battle ax brightened, "It's time to cash out." He took the initiative and rushed toward Ashley, swinging his battle ax downward.

Ashley's class was also a knight, but different from Zhang Mengyao. She only used a two-handed sword with no shield. Instead of avoiding the incoming battle ax, she swung her sword upward.

Clang!

She easily pushed the mercenary away with a single clash, proving her superiority in Strength attributes. While the mercenary was still in the air, Ashley leaped toward the flying figure. Her sword burst out in fire as she brought it up. Then she brought her sword down toward the mercenary.

The latter reacted by bringing an amulet from his inventory. He broke the amulet, creating the green barrier to resist the incoming attack. The barrier and the sword met.

BOOM!

The strike sent the mercenary down to the ground, leaving a trail of fire behind. Then the fire exploded once more, engulfing the barrier. Ashley did not stop there as she pointed her sword toward where the mercenary landed. She thrust the burning sword at where he landed.

From the ground, the ground cracked and split up in one direction. Then fire burst out from the crack, catching some mercenaries who tried to help.

A figure in flame dashed from the explosion. He was the leading figure of the mercenary. He no longer looked the same with the transformation. His height was a little over three meters, his skin turned green, and with two pairs of tusks grew on his mouth. Not just his frame, but the battle ax also grew longer and bigger, adjusting to the size of his transformation.

Roar!

The mercenary let out a roar as the fire on his body was extinguished. His eyes turned red while his nose released smoke, and his chest heaved up and down, looking at the blazing fire.

A figure walked out of the blazing fire, unscathed. The fire did nothing to her, and there was no mark on her armor. Ashley was holding the sword on her right, walking out of the fire with a calm expression. She remained unfazed in front of the mercenary's transformation.

The mercenary leader was about to charge at Ashley once more, but a scream rang from the outer camp. Following the scream, fire blazed up to the sky, creating a firewall. The fire surrounded the camp, cutting their escape routes.

Ashley looked at the firewall with a frown, but she glanced at the fire she created behind her. Liang Suyin was not supposed to fight right now because she might alert the remaining two camps, but then she realized that she was the reason why Liang Suyin joined the fight. The remaining two camps might have noticed her fire already, so Liang Suyin joined the fight to end the fight faster.

"There's no need to hold back anymore then," She muttered by herself before yelling for Kairu and Wen, "Finish your fight fast!"

Ashley lowered her stance, holding her sword with both hands and put the sword at the head's level. She pulled her sword slightly backward. The mercenary leader noticed Ashley's new stance, and he roared once more. Following the roar, his aura got stronger. That was one of the skills that increased his attributes. And then he raised his battle ax. The blade was glowing blue, making static flat noise at the same time.

Ashley kicked the ground, leaving her deep footprint behind while her body lurched forward. She put the blazing sword forward, and the fire engulfed her. The fire spread out and formed the shape of a big sword. Seven meters seven-meter-long fire sword formed with her body as the center.

The mercenary leader anticipated the attack and swung his battle ax downward, meeting at the tip of seven-meter fire swords. The fierce wind broke out at the clash. The wind tried to sweep the fire away, but the fire was just too strong. Instead, the fire engulfed the win, creating a firestorm in the middle of the camp. The firestorm burned the unprepared, catching the other mercenaries off guard.

Ashley was at the center of the firestorm, surprised that the mercenary leader was still alive. She thought that should be enough to kill him, but she realized she was still lacking to kill someone of the same rank with one strike.

The mercenary leader was on his knee with his right hand on the chest, holding the burning chest. He could feel the raging fire inside his body, heating up his organs and blood. His green skin started to turn red, "I surrender!" The mercenary looked up at Ashley, throwing his battle ax away.

"Surrender? Do you want me to kill you?" She raised her right eyebrow.

"No! I surrender, give up. You can take me as your prisoner!" The mercenary leader raised his voice, but that just made his condition worse.

"Then what? You have no use for us but resources for us to level up. We don't accept prisoners!"

"You are violating the war principle! You can't kill someone who surrendered!" The mercenary panicked and shouted with his eyes widened. His expression said that he was in pain.

"War principle? What's that?" Ashley let out a chuckle, "You are the one who attacked the Tang Empire's territory first, and you are whining about war principle? This is quite funny," After saying that, Ashley's smile disappeared. Her expression turned solemn, "I don't have time to waste on useless talk with you." Her figure disappeared and appeared again next to the mercenary leader. She cut his head without hesitation. The head flew up as the blood spurted out. However, the blood evaporated before it could get to Ashley's white armor.

The wind stopped with the mercenary leader's death, and she pulled off the fire. The firestorm disappeared the following second after the mercenary's leader's death. She looked around and noticed that her knights were hunting the mercenary who was still alive. She looked at the dead body in front of her for a moment before storing the body in her inventory. That was one of Zhang Mengyao's commands for them, collect the body if it was Ancient Rank and above. Only a few understood the command, and she was one of the few people who understood the command. The dead bodies were resources for Tang Shaoyang.

Ashley waited for another minute for the clean-up. Wen and Kairu returned exactly a minute after her fight ended. She glanced at the duo and asked, "What took you so long?"

"We are fighting a stronger opponent than yours. Of course, it took more time to finish him," Kairu was the only one who did not want to lose out while Wen just shook his head. Ashley just smirked at the Flaming Lion, but said nothing to the remark, "What about the bodies? Don't forget to get the body!"

"Ah, I forgot about that," Kairu dashed away to where he killed his opponent while Wen nodded at Ashley. Not long after Kairu left, Li Na, Liang Suyin, and Delia came to the center of the camp. Delia walked between the corpses with a frown and an unpleasant expression. The youngest was not used to the scene as this was the first time she was involved in a fight.

"The remaining two camps must notice that they are under attack. There's a chance they will regroup together," Ashley glanced at Li Na, "Can you check their location again? Are they moving out together or are they still in the same location?"

The fight between her and one of the mercenary leaders made too much of a commotion. Even though the distance between one camp to another was quite far, it was too big to be ignored.

"They are joining as a group right now, and it will be hard for us to ambush them," Li Na saw one of the camps was empty. They gathered in one camp, arming themselves up. They were prepared for the attack.

"I guess it will take us more time to take them down," Ashley was confident that Abaka's data was correct that the highest rank was Primordial Rank. And they also had the numerical advantage with

just two remaining camps. Both camps combined were still less than four hundred people, "But we can eliminate them at the same time."

Chapter 1258 Potential Ally?

Yury Semenov, the leader of the Polar Guild, was overseeing his guild taking over a territory infested with the zombie and mutated beast. The Polar Guild was not under the wing of the Federation of Allurion or the Divine Church, but he made a deal with the Federation of Allurion. The deal was to help the Polar Guild take over the whole of Russia, and in return, The Federation of Allurion would take fifty Unique Classes from the smart base with their choices.

That was not a bad deal in his eyes considering how big Russia was, and how many smart bases in Russia were. He agreed to the deal and the Federation of Allurion sent a big group of mercenaries and also a small group of their main force. The ones who would take the fifty Unique Classes were the small group.

Yury Semenov was never interested in the Tang Empire's territory at first, not yet, not until he took over his country. He might think of taking the path down to the south or the west, but not yet. He intended to take all the territories and strengthen his guild first before expanding outside Russia.

The mercenary group and a few scattered forces he had on the border were meant to harass the Tang Empire in Mongolia. That was a distraction so the Tang Empire's force in Mongolia did not think of entering his border. Mixing it with the mercenary, his people were doing well to keep the Tang Empire busy at the border while his guild finished many Survival Games and captured many territories. By his estimation, the operation and cooperation with the Federation of Allurion would be over in one month.

"Just one more month..." Yury Semenov was sick of how arrogant the mercenaries, especially, the main force from the Federation of Allurion. As he contemplated his next move against the federation, he received a message. He thought his people had found the location for the Survival Game. Opening the message, it was not the message he expected to hear.

"The mercenaries at the border are annihilated?" He muttered in a low voice with a frown. This was the Tang Empire's doing without a doubt. This was the retaliation for their harassment, but he did not expect for the Tang Empire to mobilize the main force to his border while dealing with the World Government, "Just how strong are they to be able to spare a force to beat the mercenary?"

Yury Semenov messaged his Vice Guild Masters and his high-ranking officials for a meeting. They must think of something in case the Tang Empire chose extreme retaliation and went through to their main territory. He soon met them all and told them what happened at the border.

"What should we do against the Tang Empire?" He gave their opinion while he had his own plan in his mind.

Mikhailovich, One of the Vice Guild Leaders, was the first one to say, "This is actually a good opportunity for us."

Everyone in the room turned toward him, clearly wanting to know what he meant by good opportunity.

"I think the reason they attacked us was because the mercenary was too brutal in their harassment. From what I know, they killed quite a number of Mongolians, and I think that was the reason why the Tang Empire retaliated by sending one of their main forces to our territory," Mikhailovich paid close attention to the border issue, "Meanwhile, our people never killed one of them. We just took them as prisoners and released them after we took over the wall. We can direct the Tang Empire to the mercenary and the Federation of the Allurion's forces. We have taken more than half of our territories, and we don't need their help anymore. We can use the Tang Empire to dispose of them instead of paying them."

"No, we can't do that. We will be making the enemy of the Federation of Allurion. That's the worst plan I have ever heard. Do you want to make an enemy of the federation and also the Tang Empire at the same time?" Babusev who held the position of Advisor in the guild, was the first one to oppose the plan, "That's the worst idea. We can ask for more reinforcement from the federation."

"I agree with Babusev. It's not like the Tang Empire sent their main force to attack us. I think we can still handle them even without reinforcement. We have a hundred Federation of Allurion's elite, and we have more mercenaries here," Ludomir Patronovich, one of the six advisors, supported Advisor Babusev while the second Vice Guild Leader, Batusov remained silent.

Yury Semenov glanced at his Advisor, before glancing at his Vice Guild Leader. Even though there were no words coming out of their mouths, they seemed to communicate silently.

"This is the best time for us to make such a move. I don't understand why you oppose my plan, even saying it's the worst plan," Mikhailovich shook his head and stared at Ludomir Patronovich, "The federation and the church are amassing their army with the World Government to fight the Tang Empire. Do you think they have a spare army to help us? Even if they send reinforcement, it must be weaker than their main force. Over one thousand and five hundred mercenaries are killed in less than a day, and you still think we can handle them? Those mercenaries have more than ten Primordial Ranks, and they still get wiped out without being able to send a report to us. Do you think we can handle them?"

"Also, this is the chance for us to weaken the federation even a little. Remember, once the Federation of Allurion and the Divine Church are done with the Tang Empire. We will be their next target. We only have two choices if that happens. First, we become their dog just like the World Government. Second, we fight them and die. However, if the Tang Empire happens to win the fight, we can just coexist like before. Helping the Tang Empire might benefit us more than siding with the federation right now!"

Yury Semenov nodded his head, turning his gaze to Ludomir Patronovich and Babusev, waiting for their arguments against Mikhailovich. He had the same thought as Mikhailovich, this was the time for them to throw away their backer. They made a contract, and the contract was that the federation would hire mercenaries to help them capture Russia in exchange for fifty Unique Classes. The border harassment was not in the contract. He sensed something fishy about his Advisor who told him to send their force to the border.

There was no reason for the Tang Empire to expand to Russia when the World Government was after them. The plan was flawed. There was no need to do so because the Tang Empire would most likely ignore them and deal with the World Government instead. The reason the Tang Empire came

for them right now was because of his Advisor's plan. He listened to them for one reason, to find if his Advisor had changed sides or was still on his side.

"Do you think the Tang Empire can win the fight against the Divine Church and The Federation of Allurion? Have you gone mad?" Ludomir Patronovich chuckled, "If you think they are sending their main force, then you are wrong. Their main force is in the God Rank Dimensional Tower. Even if they lose right now, the Tang Empire could never win against the federation and the church. You are dreaming, Vice Guild Leader Mikhailovich!"

Yury Semenov furrowed his brow, "Why did you never tell me about that before, Ludomir? How am I not informed about the federation's main force."

Ludomir was caught off guard a moment with the question. He thought the guild leader would follow his plan by revealing the information, but it went wrong without Yury Semenov reacting, "I thought you already knew...." His voice trailed off as he saw Yury Semenov's face darkened.

"How am I supposed to know about that, Ludomir? You are the one who set up the meeting with the federation. Babusev is one of the ones who proposed to send our force to harass the Tang Empire's border even though it was unnecessary, and it was my Vice Guild Leader who supported the plan. I am barely involved with the federation," Yury Semenov turned toward Batusov, one of his Vice Guild Leaders. He finally connected the pieces after sensing something wrong for a few months.

Babusev was Batusov's younger brother by blood. The brothers worked their way out to climb to their positions, and he trusted Batusov. The reason he followed their plan was to see the end of it, to see if some of his people changed sides. He lacked the evidence that Babusev, Ludomir, and Batusov betrayed him. However, his instinct told him that was the case, and he chose to believe his instinct.

"Kill him!" At his words, Mikhail took out his spear and stabbed Batusov in the head. That was so unexpected with how decisive Yury Semenov was to kill his people based on his instinct. He was the person who rather kill the wrong person than be sorry later.

Babusev and Ludomir were much weaker than Batusov. They had not reached even Epic Rank yet, and the two were easily subdued by Yury Semenov and Mikhailovich.

"Contact the Tang Empire and request a meeting at the tower city. We need to inform them and apologize for our attack on Mongolia. We can hand the traitors over as proof!"

Chapter 1259 Yury Semenov's Proposal

Zhang Mengyao was leading the force into Burma, and they entered Burma successfully. There were a few local factions, and she succeeded in assimilating the local factions into the Tang Empire without a fight. Half of Burma was under the Tang Empire's control, but they had yet to encounter the Shiva Federation which was part of the World Government. Currently, half of his force was taking the territory infested by the zombies before the zombie could form a kingdom or their own faction like before while a part of her force entered the Survival Game.

The Tang Empire stopped its expansion for the time being until the seven Survival Games were over. Meanwhile, TEID was working on scouting, scouting the territory ahead of them. Without Lu An at the helm, the scouting work became a little bit slower. Not because the people in TEID were slow, but because usually, Lu An would usually volunteer himself to do the job which made scouting faster.

Zhang Mengyao sat in one of the smart bases she captured, waiting for the report from TEID. She wanted to know how far the World Government had entered South East Asia, but she could not find them yet. To her right eyes, the Communication System was always open. She also waited for a report from the force on Tibet which is directly on the border with India where the Shiva Federation was.

It was safe to assume that the Shiva Federation had taken over India, especially with the support from the church and federation. She and the others predicted they would move closer to China, but they had not found any force from the Shiva Federation.

"Do they put everything they have in Europe?" She furrowed her brow, muttering in a low voice. If that was the case, her decision to pull back was good. If the World Government put all their forces in Europe, they might get outnumbered or even surrounded with no escape route. As she was in deep thought, someone knocked on the door, "Come in."

Viona and Yeon Hee entered the room, "We have good news and annoying news, which do you want to hear first?"

"The good news, of course," Zhang Mengyao replied with no hesitation. She was so stressed out about the federation and church's movement, and also the God Ranks' invasion.

"The good news is the Shiva Federation had not touched Burma yet. They put a wall between Burma and their territory, a wall with no gate. It seems they have no intention to enter Burma," Viona explained about her discovery. A hundred meters tall wall separated Burma and India's border, and it was created by the other side, not from Burma. They explored the wall, and they did not find a gate, but just a wall.

"Does that mean they want to attack us from Tibet?" Zhang Mengyao frowned. Xinjiang and Tibet were the least fortified territories, and they might have entered the territory without them noticing.

"My people in Tibet also have not found any people from the Shiva Federation. We have asked the locals too, and no one comes from India," Yeon Hee shook her head, "But there's a gate on that side. There's a chance they might attack from that side."

"Or the gateless wall might be a bait for us to think that way. It's easy to install the wall with the System. It just takes one click to make the gate," Viona voiced her thoughts.

"We will continue what we planned right now. What about the annoying news?" Zhang Mengyao needed to listen to Marshal Alton and the others' opinions before making a big decision. She could not make the decision to focus the Tang Empire's force on one border.

"Ah, Herman Bonivido of the First Order Guild came over ten times to our post at Tower City, requesting to meet you," Yeon Hee replied with a helpless smile, "Should we meet him?"

"Nah, the Federation of Allurion must force him to free Reinard from us. I will never free that man." She waved her hand. There were a handful of things in her hand right now. She was not going to meet them and listen to their unreasonable requests anymore.

"And another one, Yury Semenov of the Polar Guild, also requested a meeting with you. His people said there's something important he wanted to tell you about the Federation of Allurion."

The last one was an interesting one. Li Na, Liang Suyin, and Ashley were sent to Mongolia to take care of the Polar Guild. She did not expect that they would act so fast that the Polar Guild immediately contacted her on the same day she sent her force to Mongolia, "Let's meet Yury Semenov. I am interested in what he wants to say."

"I will arrange the meeting right away," Yeon Hee nodded.

*** **

Yury Semenov and Mikhailovich, just two of them, waiting in the room of the Tang Empire's post in the tower city, "Are you sure to meet them? I don't think they will trust us." Mikhailovich was doubtful about the meeting. There was no reason for the Tang Empire to believe them. If anything else, the Tang Empire might think what they said might be a trap.

"It's worth a try. It does not matter if they listen to us or not, no?" Yury Semenov shrugged.

The door creaked open, and both stood up. Their body movements showed how tense they were at the meeting despite their calm expression. Mikhailovich's posture was someone who was ready to fight at any time.

Zhang Mengyao entered the room with Viona and Yeon Hee. Mikhailovich scanned the three, if not the System's restriction that he could not use any skills in the city. He would use Detection on three of them. Different from any strong individuals he met before, the three released no aura, at all. He could not get a grip on how strong the three were.

Yury Semenov nodded in greeting, and the three girls responded with a nod as well. Zhang Mengyao took the opposite chair and scanned Yury Semenov. The man with short brown hair and bluish eyes.

"I don't have that much time, so let's get to the main topic that you want to talk about..." Her voice trailed off as she glanced at Mikhailovich, "Careful where you stare at, she is The Emperor's wife. Your action might be seen as disrespectful."

Mikhailovich was staring too much at Viona, clearly he was attracted to the purple-haired girl. He snapped out of his trance proposal, "Go on."

and was about to say: "Your Emperor is dead!", but Yury Semenov stopped his friend with a light tap on the shoulder. He knew his friend well, and he knew what his friend was about to say when he got rebuked like that.

"I apologize for his rudeness, Lady Zhang," Yury Semenov bowed his head slightly, "Let's get to the topic then since I also don't have much time either. I have a proposal for you, for the Tang Empire."

Zhang Mengyao nodded two times, not that enthusiastic about the proposal, "Go on."

"I want to forge a temporary alliance with the Tang Empire until we kick the Federation of Allurion and Divine Church out of Earth," Yury Semenov said in a solemn tone and expression, showing how serious he was with the alliance.

"That's interesting coming from you, who attacked our border first," Zhang Mengyao let out a chuckle. It was just another unreasonable request and proposal. The Polar Guild attacked their

border, and now requested for a temporary alliance. There was no way Zhang Mengyao would believe that.

"I know it's hard to believe, let me explain what actually happened. Why did we attack your border," Yury Semenov then explained about the traitors in his guild, and how he killed one of his Vice Guild Leaders who betrayed the Polar Guild, "Attacking the border was never my plan, but my advisors. I have caught the advisors, and we can hand them to you if you want. I believe with a little bit of pain, they will spill everything. They are not trained soldiers."

"Like I said, how am I supposed to believe you? That might be your scheme, sending your people to their deaths in order to achieve your goal. You might order them to tell us whatever you asked them to tell us," Zhang Mengyao shook her head.

"Will you trust me if I tell you the Federation of Allurion's hundred elites and also the remaining mercenary's location? I know your people are in our territory, and I am willing to share the federation's force and also the remaining mercenary's location. You can ambush them just like how you kill the mercenary at our border. Just information for you, we never ordered our people to kill your people. The only casualties are only when the mercenary raided your wall," Yury Semenov tried his best to gain Zhang Mengyao's trust. It would be silly to betray the Federation of Allurion without making an ally with the Tang Empire.

"Like I said, I can't trust you. What if the location you tell me is just a trap? I am not that silly to fall for such an obvious trap."

"Then I will put my life and my Vice Guild Leader's life in the line to gain your trust," Yury Semenov proposed something that Zhang Mengyao never expected, "You can take us as a hostage while your people check the location. You can kill me if I lie to you."

"Interesting proposition..." Zhang Mengyao stared dagger at Yury Semenov, then she frowned, "Are you under an oath?" She chose to believe that Yury Semenov was under an oath which forced him to do this. Two lives in exchange for five hundred elite knights, also three Primordial Ranks. That was worth the trade for sure.

"That easier to solve than gaining your trust," Yury Semenov pulled a contract scroll out of his inventory and pushed it to Zhang Mengyao, "This System contract should be enough to reveal if I am under an oath or not, no? If I am lying, the contract will turn red. If nothing happens to the contract, that means I am not lying."

Chapter 1260 Truce

Zhang Mengyao read the contract. It was a simple contract with no hidden clause. Just like Yury Semenov said, if he lied about the oath, the contract would tell her. However, there was a chance that Yury Semenov tricked her. He could do this willingly without the contract. The Federation of Allurion might have his family and force him to do this too. She could not cross that possibility too.

"Not enough," She pulled out another blank system contract and made a new contract. The second contract was to ensure that the location was not a trap and that Yury Semenov was not under force or threatened.

After she finished drafting the contract, Viona came closer and whispered something to her. She was relaying the message from Mongolia to confirm that the Polar Guild's people did not kill anyone during the attack. The confirmation surprised her as Yury Semenov was telling the truth.

Viona confirmed directly from Abaka that the people were killed during the fight against the mercenary hired by The Federation of Allurion.

"How about this," Zhang Mengyao handed the contract she just made to Yury Semenov, "If you agree and prove what you told me is not a trap, we can have a truce until the fight against the federation and the church is over."

She said it was a truce instead of a temporary alliance. Meaning they would not help each other in the fight against the Federation of the Allurion and The Divine Church. They would not attack each other either, a temporary peace until they got rid of their common enemy.

"In exchange, we will get rid of the mercenary and also the one hundred federation's elites. I don't trust any bullshit temporary alliance."

Yury Semenov read the contract in his hand carefully, making sure there was no trap clause. Even though the contract was simple and so few clauses, he had to ensure everything was safe. He understood why the opposite party wanted to double-check if what he would say to them was not a trap or a lie.

"I agree," After some time, he made the decision. Yury Semenov felt like this might be the best he could get out of this meeting with the Tang Empire. He never intended to make the alliance permanent too because a clash between them in the future was inevitable.

"Then we will proceed with your proposal. You give us the two traitors to handle, and you two will become our temporary hostage until we kill the federation's force in your territory," Zhang Mengyao put a drop of her blood on the contract, both contracts. The two contracts took effect immediately, and they did not change color. It meant the proposal was genuine for them, not because they were forced to do this.

"Don't worry. We will not put you in our dungeon. We will provide decent lodging for you, but we have to blindfold you two until we deliver you to your room," Zhang Mengyao put two blindfolds on the table, "Do you prefer to stay in a separate room or just one room?"

"Give us one room, and let me contact my people to deliver the traitors," Yury Semenov agreed. The plan was simple; The Polar Guild would not fight the Federation of Allurion and the Divine Church. He would let the Tang Empire fight them while he strengthened his people with the Survival Game. After capturing the whole of Russia, then he would focus on the Dimensional Tower. The winner of the war would be weakened, and he was confident to face the weakened winner.

The federation and the church would focus on the Tang Empire, so the Polar Guild should be safe from the two factions. This was the ideal situation for the Polar Guild.

"Do you know that the federation and the church have not sent their main force yet? The people they deploy against us are meant to be trained?" Yury Semenov shared the information he just got from the traitors. He was telling the Tang Empire that the Federation of Allurion and the Divine Church were much stronger than they actually showed.

"Oh, there's no need to be worried about that. We are aware of that, but fighting against us is part of their training. Unless it's necessary, they will not use their main force against us. However, we should worry about the God Rank's threat. From what I know, their God Ranks are the ones who are

interested in our world," Zhang Mengyao shared the valuable information for Yury Semenov out of goodwill. She was telling them to be prepared for future disasters.

Yury Semenov was shocked to hear the God Rank's involvement. That was much scarier than the main force of both factions. It was just a being in another realm. But then his mind cleared with how calm Zhang Mengyao was. The way she told him, it seemed the Tang Empire had a way to handle the God Rank, 'I will gamble it that the Tang Empire had a way to fight the God Rank.' That was his decision.

Yury Semenov could go back on his words and left the tower city without telling Zhang Mengyao the federation force's location and going back to his territory. No one stopped them from doing so because they were inside the city. However, he chose to gamble by choosing the Tang Empire. If anything else, he would rather join the Tang Empire than the federation who looked at them like slaves.

Yeon Hee got closer to Zhang Mengyao's ear and whispered something, causing Zhang Mengyao to frown. It was unpleasant news that the unwelcome guest tried to barge into their building. Herman Bonivido heard her arrival and tried to barge into the building to meet her. She frowned because he was supposed not to know her arrival because the teleportation was inside the building. No one outside should know her arrival unless the insider informed Herman about her arrival.

"I have other business, but I will stay here until you fulfill your part," Yury Semenov nodded, and the three women left the room. As soon as they left the room, Mikhailovich turned toward his friend, "Are you crazy? Are we really going to fight the God Rank!? That's much worse than their main force."

"We are not fighting them, but the Tang Empire will. From the way she tells us, it seems they have a way to fight the God Rank. I will take the gamble with the Tang Empire," Yury Semenov typed the message to his subordinate to deliver the traitors. Even though he was anxious and nervous about the God Rank, he did not show it outside.

"This is a losing gamble. You are crazy to make such a decision by yourself. They will come after us if they know that we betray them!" Mikhailovich was angry that his friend made the decision without discussing it with him and the others.

"They will come after us whether we betray them or not. You are aware of that, and I would rather die than become the federation's subordinate. Do you forget how they look at us? They don't regard humans as humans but as livestock. You can see it from their eyes, and you can tell how the hundred people treated us," Yury Semenov showed a strong determination to oppose the federation.

Mikhailovich went silent when Yury Semenov brought up that matter.

*** **

Zhang Mengyao glanced at the two women beside her, "No one should know about my arrival except our people, so how did Herman know about my arrival? Check your people. It seems they receive a bribe or they have betrayed us." It was dangerous if TEID received a bribe or even betrayed the Tang Empire. TEID was the Tang Empire's information source, and they knew many things, including the information about the Tang Empire itself, "Is there a loophole on the oath?"

She muttered by herself. That was more a question for herself. TEID's members took an oath for the Tang Empire, the same as the Tarrior if not stricter.

"I will take care of that," Viona nodded and disappeared into the shadow before Zhang Mengyao could stop her. Viona was a fallen noble from the Ortis Continent. Her house fell because of the betrayal, so she was quite sensitive about it. She did not want the same tragedy to happen to her new home, so she wanted to deal with the issue quickly.

"Follow her. I am afraid she is going to kill those people," Zhang Mengyao sighed, gesturing to Yeon Hee with her chin to follow Viona.

Yeon Hee nodded and left.

Zhang Mengyao headed to the lobby where Herman Bonivido and two people she did not recognize. His face brightened at the sight of her as he rushed toward Zhang Mengyao, "I am glad you are willing to meet me."

"I don't have much time, get to the main point," Zhang Mengyao did not even bring Herman Bonivido to a room to talk, just the lobby.

She then raised her hand, "If you are asking me to release Reinart Thamsen, then consider the talk is over. My answer is always the same, NO! We will never release him!"

"You talk big for a woman!" The person behind Herman rushed forward, getting closer to Zhang Mengyao. The Tarriors in the lobby raised their weapon, but Zhang Mengyao waved her hand, "There's no need to raise your weapon. I want him to attack me so I don't have to deal with these people."

Herman tried to stand between the man and Zhang Mengyao, "He is a Legend Rank from the Giteron Dynasty. He is Sir—" His words were cut off.

"Release Young Lord Reinart, or your puny empire will also face the Giteron Dynasty's wrath! You are too ignorant and arrogant if you think you can fight three factions at the same time!" The Legend Rank threatened Zhang Mengyao, yet another threat.

Zhang Mengyao let out a chuckle, "You are speaking as if we are not fighting against three factions already. If not for our trap, you will be fighting us right now. And if you think that I am afraid of Legend Rank, then you are gravely mistaken," Her expression turned somber, "We have killed dozens of Legend Ranks. Adding you to the list is not a big deal."

Zhang Mengyao has her reason for not releasing Reinart Thamsen. It was because Reinart Thamsen knew the Tang Empire's hidden card, Kallian, The Demi-God Rank. If they knew the Demi-God Rank's existence; The Federation of Allurion, The Divine Church, and the Giteron Dynasty might call their Demi-God Ranks as well. It was not because she had a grudge or something against Reinart.

"It seems we are done talking, Sir Herman," Zhang Mengyao was about to turn around, but the second man spoke up, "What if we take an oath that we will not step into Earth anymore if you release Young Lord Reinart? Not just that, we will not attack the Tang Empire as well."