

TECHNOLOGY 1041

Chapter 1041 - The Battle Is Drawn

After standing in line for what seemed like an eternity, the young group of friends had finally arrived at the front doors of the massive building before them, called PAGES!

Adrenaline surged vigorously through their veins as their hearts funded louder and louder with every passing second.

They didn't know if it was an illusion or not.

But at the moment, they felt like the building before they were almighty.

At this moment, it felt like it was a gigantic mysterious building that was sky-high and heavenly.

They swallowed big gulps and steadied themselves to enter the world of books on the other side.

They so badly wanted to bury their heads into the freshly opened pages within the mighty store.

No wonder they named it PAGES.

The name of the bookstore indeed matched their d.e.s.i.r.es right now.

The group of youngsters felt their legs wobble as they slowly walked in, taking their baby steps for the day, into the store.

It wasn't until they reached the new 'Manga section, did they realize the urgency of the matter.

F***!

How could they forget that they were here to battle?

Their eyes shone with a ruthless light as they quickly separated into groups just as planned.

Some would focus on grabbing the 2nd Chapter of Inuyasha, while others will grab the 2nd Chapter of Hunter x Hunter instead.

Of course, they had to be careful about what they were grabbing because they didn't want to accidentally collect the first chapters again.

They already had the 1st chapters from both Mangas.

So in the heat of the moment, they still had to make sure that they read the cover properly.

Well, provided they picked the ones that said Chapter 2 on it, then that was all that mattered.

Again, another team would focus on picking the 1st chapter of some new Manga, called 'Kuroko no basuke.'

Today, they were here to collect as many as they could.

"Natsu, your team will handle the new manga.

Linda, you guys will get the 2nd Chapter of Inuyasha, and the reader of us will get the 2nd Chapter of Hunter x Hunter.

Look! More people are coming in.

We don't have much time!!"

"Right."

With that, the groups separated and quickly began one of their numerous battles.

In every Baymardians life, they had bought bravely within the stores.

It had become common, so much so that kneepads and other protective gear were always worn when new merchandise came out.

That was just the way it was.

And now, the legacy continues.

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Very quickly, little Momo ran ahead and hastily moved within the crowd like a slippery snake.

To this day, as a royal, he still received training.

Soon, someone noticed his actions and quickly tried to grab his clothes.

"You kid! Get to the back!

There's no way I'm allowing you to grab a copy before me!!"

The person fitted his mouth and stretched his hands out towards Momo, but Momo quickly ducked and forced himself through someone else's legs, crawling away speedily.

One would think that he would be safe now, but that was far from the truth.

The person he passed underneath all flared up when he saw someone trying to sneak ahead of him.

"Brat! Don't even think of getting a copy before me!"

Momo, who was still all 4's on the floor, was on high alert as he quickly tapped the back legs of the person in front of him, making him weak.

Eh?

"Arhhhhh~

Like Dominos, this move caused a chain reaction, making those behind fall on each other.

"Dammit! Of all times, you choose to fall now?"

"No! If I don't get a copy now, it'll soon be out of stock. Just look at how empty the shelves are looking?"

"No! No! No! You all get off me!

I have to know what happens next! I have to know if Kagome is fine or not!"

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Seeing that his plan had worked, Momo smirked, and once again, stealthily moved through the crowd, moving through any gaps he spotted.

Of course, many also tried slowing him down, but he quickly counterattacked until he finally got to the front.

But even till this moment, there were still people grabbing his clothes and refusing to let him take any of the books before him.

He quickly grabbed the available copies and began his journey of fighting his way out again, while protecting the books.

Because if someone took them, then it would be game over.

Feeling the sweat trickling down his face, Momo had to admit that the battle was indeed a fierce one.

Fortunately, there were no casualties of war.

And by that, he meant he hadn't lost any books.

Soon, a few others in his team came back with the same books.

At this moment, they felt unstoppable!

~Plop.

"Hahahahaha!"

We did it! We got the 2nd chapter of Hunter x Hunter!"

"Awesome! I feel so alive!!"

"Lying trough. Why do I feel like we just saved an entire empire?"

"Yes. I feel the same way. Finally, we can know the truth about Gon's exams."

"Hmhm. Now we can... Ahh... Momo, you have a scar above your eyebrows. Oh! There's blood coming out of it!!"

"Eh? So I have a battle scar?"

Hahaha... It was worth it! Truly worth it!

This is proof that we won the war!"

"Yes! This is proof!"

"Awesome scar, bro."

We finally won the war.

To us!"

"To us!"

"To us!"

"To us!"

(^0^)

Chapter 1042 - Hunter x Hunter

"To us!"

"To us!"

"To us!"

(^0^)

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Momo and his gang smiled at each other stupidly before standing away from all the madness and counting how many books they had gotten.

Firstly, all books had a hard transparent book protector over them, who was there to avoid people accidentally tearing the books up during times like this.

So even with all the hassle going on, these books hadn't been crumpled or torn in any way.

Presently, Momo and Linda stepped in with 9 of their friends.

So there were 11 of them here in total, who had divided themselves into 3 groups.

That said, Momo and 2 others had gone into the battlefield to get the 2nd chapter of Hunter x Hunter.

Now counting all the copies they brought out, if they didn't get enough, then someone would go back onto the battlefield for more.

But if they had excess, they would give it to others.

They diligently counted everything and realized that they had 4 more extra copies.

Of course without a doubt, they gave all 4 to some people standing at the back.

Eh?

Was their luck so good?

What is happening right now?

Their eyes bulged out in shock, and their hands trembled when they took the copies.

Damn. Today must be their lucky day.

Momo and his friends smiled warmly at the gratitude they received.

Now, they had to wait for Linda and Natsu's teams.

Sure enough, the different teams didn't take too long and were out not too long after them.

Good.

With that, they hastily divided the copies amongst themselves, making sure that everyone had a copy of Inuyasha, Hunter x Hunter and the latest manga, Kuroko no Basuke.

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~Drrrrrrrrr~~

They took the train and finally arrived at District D.

There was a new themed Cafe there called Lord of the Rings, based on one of the famous Baymardian books of all time.

Hands down, that was one of their most loved faces around.

Their second was the one themed after another famous book called Harry Potter.

These snack cafes were just too awesome at creating an environment that made one get drawn into another world.

Of course, there were many themed restaurants like the one named Poseidon, which were great too.

But those were restaurants and not cafes.

But restaurants were strictly eating and going.

After all, there were bookings and people that needed to eat.

So they couldn't stay long after they were done with whatever they had.

Thus, cafes and snack bars were more in line with them

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~Diling!

They stepped into the favourite cafe with warm smiles on their faces.

"Hi, Trey."

"Hi, Jenna."

"Hi, Mia."

They greeted everyone excitedly.

"Hey!! Look who it is.

I haven't seen you guys in 2 weeks now. For a moment, I thought you guys didn't like us anymore."

Momo chuckled while listening to Mia: "How can we be so disloyal?"

"Well, you guys are just in time. Your usual spot is empty as well. So do you want your usual snacks and drinks too?"

Everyone nodded before getting their drinks and snacks.

With that, they playfully headed towards their favourite spot, which looked like the Gates of Mordor, in Lord of the Rings.

The designs and light play made the place look too astonishing!

Good.

Up first, they decided to start with HxH.

~Flip. Flip. Flip.

Everyone flipped the front page, and a wave of excitement instantly overtook their minds.

Just the drawing, art style and everything else made them come alive.

As expected of His majesty Landon Barn.

His work was truly jaw-dropping.

They gripped their copies hard as if fearing that it would disaster any moment from now.

What a feeling!!!

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Momo's eyes shone brightly while reading the manga before him.

[HUNTERS: A term designating people who are ready to risk their lives to find rare and precious objects

Only those who pass the severe exam can obtain this title.

Some say that only 1 out of 10,000 people pass.

So, who will be the next hunter?]

~Dodom!!

Within the comic, Momo could see lightning flashing above the turbulent seas beneath.

And there, he could see a ship struggling through the waters.

Dammit! Can't that the ship Gon was in?

Oh no!!

Momo's heart tightened in fear as panic filled his heart for the little Gon.

In the first chapter, Gon had already left his aunt and everyone in the village to go become a true hunter.

He was ready to face his dreams and had made everyone reading the HxH fall in love with him.

Mini thought that he would at least be able to make it back to land.

So who could tell him what the hell was going on now?

Dammit!

Wasn't Gon the main character in the story?

Or could it be someone else?

Don't tell him Gon would die before he became a hunter.

He wouldn't put it past elder brother Landon to kill off a character like this.

Momo gritted his teeth in anger.

If Gon died, he would strangle brother Landon tonight!

It wasn't just him thinking that, as Linda also felt pain from seeing the images.

Hmph!

That smelly big brother of hers better not try anything funny.

How can little Gon be so unfortunate?

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Looking at the scene, everyone's heart sank in pain and fear.

Forget it!

If Gon died, they would protest for the chapter to be redone.

What a joke!

How dare they kill their best character?

No way!

Not on their watch!

Chapter 1043 - An Otaku's Ultimate Problem

Without a doubt, everyone was immersed in the world of HxH.

And the moment they saw that Gon was okay, they couldn't help sighing from relief.

Everyone, as if telepathically, raised their heads and looked at each other with warm smiles on their faces.

Some exclaimed happily while laughing, while others tapped their feet and shook their body merrily.

Awesome!

The gang was thrilled!

"Hahaha! All those people who made fun of Gon earlier couldn't even stand the storm.

Look at them! They're all either puking or wasted, laying on the floor pitifully."

"Hahaha! The Captain is right.

The hunter exam isn't training for weaklings. How can they be hunters if they can't even withstand a 'little' storm?"

"Hey! Look! GON didn't fall like them.

I knew it! How can my baby fall?

Ahhh! He's so kind. Just look at how he's busy helping out by giving the fallen ones herbs and even taking care of them?"

"Wait! 2 others didn't fall and are leisurely staying back."

"So the first two people were called Kurapika and Leorio? Do you think that they'll be friends with Gon?"

"Eh? Did Gon just say that there's another Big storm coming their way? F***! His nose must be pretty strong to get that just from a few sniffs. Dammit! He's good!"

Everyone excitedly read and commented from time to time, keeping each other around the same pages.

It was as if they were watching Gon's adventure together as if it were a movie.

And the more they read, the more shocked they were with the change of events.

They were shocked to know that the hunter exam had already begun.

This move was so unnoticed by them that it made everyone speechless.

They thought that Gon would have to reach land before the exam began.

So who could tell them how things got to this extent?

Did they just say that the others on the ship that fell sick were disqualified?

I'll go! Wasn't this too sudden?

And soon, they witnessed the big argument between Kurapika and Leorio.

Things got so heated up that they, the readers, felt the tension in the air.

This was bad!

Everyone wanted to know whether or not these 2 would somehow kill one another and get disqualified.

They were two opposite from each other and seemed to have nothing in common.

Suddenly, the big storm that Gon was talking about came unexpectedly.

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[~Vooooo]

They saw the image of the fiercest waves ever alongside the words 'Vooooo' next to it, indicating the harshness of the waves.

Now they felt anxious.

The crewmen hurriedly tried their best to stabilize the ship, while Leorio and Kurapika were still fighting right till this very moment.

For this, they truly felt helpless when it came to these 2.

Erm... Can you guys pick a time?

Can't you see that you all are in danger?

In the next scene, they saw part of the sails break off, causing one of the sailors to fly out of the ship towards the raging water.

[Catso!!!!]

The other sailors yelled the falling Sailor's name in shock and panic.

But before anyone knew it, Kurapika and Leorio, who had been fighting, quickly put their differences aside and dashed forward, holding onto the rails while stretching one hand in hopes of grabbing Catso's legs.

And just when everyone thought all hope was lost, Gon dived out of the ship too, straight out between them and successfully grabbed Catso's legs.

Seeing this, Kurapika and Leorio quickly grabbed Gon's legs too.

It was as if they had worked a giant ladder, with everyone grabbing everyone's legs.

The scene was so damn exciting!

"Hahahaha! I'm so happy!

I'm so happy that they saved that sailor who was bullied earlier on."

"Hey. Am I the only one who thinks that Kurapika and Leorio aren't bad?"

"That's true. If they were, then they wouldn't have bothered even saving the sailor in the first place."

Looking at the scene where the duo were lecturing Gon about how crazy his move was, they couldn't help thinking so.

Awe... It all worked out, and the trio now became good friends.

The scene ended with the Captain telling them that he'll take them to the port closest to the testing place.

Hahahhahahah!

Gon was finally going to the exam site!

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Looking at the closing page, everyone felt happy but very anxious about when the next chapter would come out.

Dammit! They wanted to know what would happen next, alright?

They wanted to know more about the mysterious world of hunters.

Little Momo and many even began wondering why there weren't Hunters in this world.

Who didn't like fantasy?

They truly wished to get a chance to see a real fantasy world.

Ironically, to Landon, their world was a fantasy world instead.

The more Momo read HxH, the more he liked Gon's character.

Simple-minded, somewhat naive, unwilling to give up, kind, but a little stubborn too.

His stubbornness could be seen from the first chapter when he was still with Aunt Mito.

It wasn't too obvious, but Gon was stubborn in a way that he didn't find annoying.

Rather, he liked it instead.

It added to Gon's true character.

Just like that, the gang went on to the next Chapter of Inuyasha.

Linda, fully submerged in the manga, frowned in confusion when Inuyasha kept calling Kagome by some random name called Kikyuu.

Who the hell is that?

Obviously, she's Kagome, KAGOME!

Okay... She admitted that she thought Inuyasha was cute. But that was no excuse for him to keep calling Kagome by some random name.

Who was this Kikyuu person?

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Time went by, and before the gang knew it, they finished the 2nd chapter of Inuyasha before moving onto the latest Manga, called Kuroko no Basuke.

Of course, without a doubt, they were already hooked on it too.

They also wanted to know more about the Generation of miracles!

Finishing up everything, they all felt more anxious than ever.

Yes. They had now had one of the ultimate problems Otaku's faced

They wanted more!

Chapter 1044 - F***! She Was Going To Kill Him!

While Momo, Linda and their gang were busy crying for more, Landon was already down at one of the dock warehouses, going over some items for his trip, alongside Lucia, Jarvis, Andrew, a few Zalipnians and his secretary Brian.

They only had a week and a half left before they set off.

So everything had to be ready before then!

Javis looked at the list before him and nodded in satisfaction.

Of course, some adjustments need to be made too.

"Brother Landon, we would like for more items like mops, cleaning detergents, and even the solar washing & drying machines to be added by this amount.

We also like items for beddings, writing, and a few others to get doubled too.

Don't worry. When we get to Zalipnia, we'll take out the price difference too."

Landon didn't see any problem with it.

In fact, they might not even have to make up the difference because from what he knew, there were some rare herbs, animals, fruits and food that only existed within Zalipnia and some other territories in Romain.

Of course, he hoped to import all these as fast as possible and facilitate trade.

Zalipnia had a lot to offer, which would make it stupid if he allowed such an opportunity to skip past him.

For sure, he would never do anything illegal or morally corrupt.

All he wanted was trade.

It would also benefit the Zalipnian economy too.

Because when they, in turn, started importing goods from Baynard, he expected them to pay the fees too.

Landon believed in a just and fair society.

Anyway, he'll first have to sign the treaty with them before going into all this.

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Lucia looked at the list and was delighted with it.

Yay!

There were T.vs, books written purely in Roma, movies that had Roma subtitles in them and so on.

She had also taken some books and educational programs that taught people how to speak Pyno too.

She thought it was a wise thing to do.

The Pirates that controlled the seas had ensured that many regions were separated from one another.

So They mostly knew about the continents around Romain, like Zohl, Dania, and Lampe (which was now called Adonis, after the temple of Adonis.)

The Pirates had separated everyone, keeping the world in some loop, making them only know their neighbours.

Of course, she and her people had heard that there were many other continents out there.

But who would risk going forth to explore?

It was a known fact that those who did leave never came back.

And those who did succeed in coming back came back with brutal injuries from the seas.

Honestly, Lucia didn't know how she and her brothers managed to make it this far.

With what they experienced, it should've been impossible for them to get this far.

She felt like it might've been divine intervention that kept her alive.

Or, how else could she explain it?

She knew it sounded stupid, but she felt like some force was secretly saving them.

Even with the harsh winter storms that made them wash up on a pirate island and the countless battles they fought week after week, they still managed to survive miraculously.

When all hope seemed to be down, some miracle always happened, saving them.

That's why she felt like everything was in the eyes of the heavens, preplanned or preordained to be so.

Or, could she be wrong?

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After inspecting Landon and writing down all the changes that need to be done, Landon took them back to the palace, where he also invited some military personnels too.

"Alright. Let's go."

With that, they were off, with Brain driving the car.

Landon, who was busy listening to Lucia, was suddenly jolted into shock when he got an alert from the system.

[Warning. Warning. Enemy blade against the tracked victim's neck.

Warning. Warning. Enemy blade against tracked victim's neck.]

Landon's eyes dilated in alarm when he tuned in and saw the scene on the monitor.

Eh?

Wasn't that Josh?

F***!

Landon focused on the scene and felt his hair standing up.

Okay. He, Landon Barn, was finished!

Grace was going to kill him!

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Meanwhile, in a dark, moist room, several men were seated calmly within the dark, while watching the scene before them sternly.

At the center of the room was a man who stood directly under the only light source in the room, chained with his hands upward.

'Uggghhh~ Uggghhh~.'

The steady, yet painful breathing of the man, could make anyone take in several gulps of saliva in horror.

The light shone from the hole above, illuminated the man's blood-coated figure, making him a truly gruesome sight to behold.

And standing before the chained-up man was another burly man who had a club in his hand.

No... It wasn't just any ordinary club.

The club had sharp pointy nails sticking out of it that was guaranteed to make its victims scream in agony.

The entire scene was quiet, as many dared not breathe even at this moment.

Some within the room rolled through tongues to release some of the tension from it all, while others just squinted their eyes calmly as several thoughts passed through their minds in a flash.

Everyone looked at the man's bloodied face deep in thought after getting all the information they had about him.

Now, they all wanted to know just one thing.

Where the hell is Hamunaptra?

Chapter 1045 - Getting Answers

Now, they all wanted to know just one thing.

Where the hell is Hamunaptra?

...

~Pah! Pah! Pah! Pah!

"Urgh! Urgh! Urgh! Urgh!~"

The gruesome sounds of the heavy club, accompanied with the shrill cries of the chained up Josh, could make the c.h.e.s.t of any who hear it tighten.

Josh gasped for air as his body quaked in agony.

The cold air around him should've frozen his body to the bone. But with the pain he was facing, his body constantly sweated, making him feel hot in flames instead.

~Pah!!

"Urghhhh!!!!"

~Grrrrrr!

Josh gritted his bloody teeth painfully, making the greenish veins around his neck and protruded even more.

His breathing grew rapid, with every breath being like a negotiation, forcing his nostrils to take in as much air as they could.

Ruthless!

The torturer before him was both ruthless and intelligent.

They only attacked the areas that wouldn't spill any of his vital organs out.

The nail-filled club had bashed into his back and his sides ruthlessly, leaving it riddled with deep holes

They dared not do more than that because it wasn't their place to torture him.

For now, they would have to take him to Morgany and hand him over to their superiors, who would assign real torturers to get the job done.

One might think that if Josh does, they could just throw the body and pretend it never happened.

But that assumption would be wrong.

Each crew had several spies in them that also reported the crew's activities too.

So if any pirate dared betray the organization, they would know.

No one really knew who the spies were or what positions they held.

All they knew was that it could be anyone in their crew.

So holding such a secret was too stupid and meaningless.

That's why they had to handle Josh with care, ensuring that he didn't die.

That's also why they didn't dare cut off any of Josh's limbs or body parts.

They dared not do too much.

As for Josh who was bashed with the nail-filled club, he had already analyzed his situation and knew that this was the most they could do to him.

So all he needed to do was hang on tight and keep finding a way out of this mess.

Of course, his main priority was to see the kidnapped citizens they had aboard the pirate sh.i.p.s.

As for the questions they kept asking him, no matter how much pain he faced, he refused to give in and continued speaking in English, with a bit of Pyno mixed into it, so they could somewhat understand or get a glimpse of what he was saying.

For sure, he still decided to act both weak and strong, depending on what was asked.

He might as well sell his performance.

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~Pah! Pah! Pah!~

"Urgh! Urgh! Urgh! Urgh!~"

The club brutally bashed Josh's back, making him flinch forward in pain while closing his eyes and s.u.c.k.i.n.g his jaws in, creating an ashen, almost ghost-like appearance.

Old Crow Face who saw this, suddenly raised his voice loudly: "Enough!"

The torturer lowered his club and stood beside Josh at attention.

And all that could be heard were Josh's pained m.o.a.n.s.

Old Crow slowly advanced towards Josh while the others within the room watched without blinking.

Notably, there were 2 individuals who were interested in whatever Josh had to say.

These honoured guests were members of the T.O.E.P, as well as famous Council members within Deiferus.

Of course, some of their assignments issued out by the Order, requested that they work alongside the Pirates to do certain duties.

And one of them was to be the eyes and ears for the pirates.

So this matter heavily involved them.

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At present, Crow Face and the rest were just 4 and a half days away from the dock where they had docked their sh.i.p.s.

They only stopped by because they had to collect some very precious items for the Order from these 2 members.

Of course, 3 of the items hadn't arrived yet and should be here before the end of the day.

So they decided to stay here until the items arrive before setting off immediately.

But in the meantime, because of Old Crow Face's curiosity, he decided to take action on Josh while they waited.

That's right.

He truly wanted to know what this Hamunaptra place was all about?

On the way here, they didn't have any chance of talking to Josh since they were travelling at lightning speed, with almost no time for breaks.

So after they got here around 5 A.M, they slept, woke up and began torturing Josh for the truth.

And once the items came, they would leave immediately, travelling nonstop for 4 and a half days until they successfully got aboard their sh.i.p.s.

Then, they could relax.

They were also travelling like this because they had a hunch that the boy and those who took him away might be heading towards the coastal town they docked their sh.i.p.s at too.

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The 2 members of the Order looked at the scene with interest while deep in thought.

"Old Crow Face. He claims that his organization, the Eyes of Horus, isn't afraid of the Pirate organization.

But how about The Order of Extraordinary Power?

Ask him if he is aware of T.O.E.P!"

"That's right, Old Crow Face.

We have to know how powerful they are and what they want with the boy.

A single grain of rice might be the tipping scale.

Likewise, this boy might be the one to doom us all!!"

Chapter 1046 - Sc.u.mbag Boss!

Landon looked at the scene and didn't know whether to laugh at these idiots or give Josh an Oscar for best performance.

What bloody Eyes of Horus?

What Hamunaptra?

He only allowed them to read the manuscript for the mummy, and this guy had given the enemy the entire movie.

Please, the city of the dead didn't exist in this world.

Or... Did it?

Well, he didn't know all the cultures yet. So maybe it did?

Anyway, he just hoped that there wouldn't be some civilization out there that would get brutally murdered because of this scene.

Hopefully, he would release the movie before any tragic events, or the blood of the innocent would be on him.

That said, he did plan to release the mummy sometime next Summer or Fall.

After all, they were still building the set, and the actors had just been auditioned.

So it wasn't ready yet.

After listening to the conversation between Josh, and the others in the room, Landon realized he now had the name for the famous organization that Nopline was in.

How did he know it was the one? Because one of the men said that it was the most influential and powerful organization involving all the monarchs in Morgany.

To put it simply, they wanted to know whether their Order was stronger or weaker when compared to the Eyes of Horus.

Of course, they whispered these things in private, but with his monitors, he could hear everything they said.

The famous Painter guy said that Alec was an average member of the strongest organization in Morgany.

And again, they found evidence in Nopline's estates proving that he was a member of some organization in Morgany.

Maybe he was wrong, but all evidence pointed that this was the organization they were talking about.

Landon squinted his eyes calmly.

The Order of Extraordinary Power... Interesting.

Landon listened more until he felt like he had gathered enough material.

First, he knew whether they were heading and knew that these pirates had docked their sh.i.p.s.

Alright. He had just 4 and a half days to speedily get to the Coastal town and save Josh.

He was also curious about the 'Boy' they kept mentioning.

Who was he?

And why did an entire organization forget just to capture him?

~Ding.

[Side Mission: Rescue The Boy named Renkin, future Monarch of the Morg empire of Abian.

Reward: Keeping your life

Oh, and the host should be fast and get back early so that he can sail towards Zalipnia fast.

The host has to get there within the safe-window guaranteed by fate.

Or else it would be too late, and the hiding Zalipnians would get discovered and killed.

And by then, the host will also join them in death.]

' '

Landon looked at his new mission and truly wanted to shed tears.

Death! Death! Death!

That's all this bloody system ever talked about?

The number of times his life has been threatened was too many for him to count.

'System, this can't be a coincidence!

I'm leaving in a week and 5 days from now.

So why didn't you tell me sooner?

You're definitely doing it on purpose!!'

[Host. We've been through this a hundred times now.

Aren't you tired yet?

Host... Has anyone ever told you that you're a long-winded person?]

(>-_-)

Long-winded?

Him, long-winded?

Who wouldn't become long-winded when they had such a system by their sides?

Here he was, thinking that he would be able to spend his remaining days in peace with his lovely fiance and his family.

But as fate would have it, he could be out the entire remaining days.

And would only come back to Baymard the day or night before he left Pyno.

Dammit!

He should've seen it coming.

He thought he had already tied up all loose ends.

But now, it seemed like he underestimated the system's randomness.

Should he even call it randomness?

No! His system was shameless!

Landon gritted his teeth unwillingly: 'System, so you're saying that you didn't know about the bit named Renkin?'

[Host, this system knew of him.]

'Ah-hah! So you admit it!

You admit that you knew of him and stayed quiet!'

[Yes. But it wasn't this system's fault. There was an error somewhere in the heavenly matrix.]

'Error my foot! You did it on purpose!'

[Host, why are you so long-winded?

Don't they say that to err is human, to forgive is divine?]

Landon laughed angrily, trying to control his facial expressions as hard as he could.

'Yes. To err is human and to forgive is divine.

But YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, so this doesn't apply to you!'

[Host... Host...I seem to be breaking up.

Host... There seems to be a connectivity problem.]

'What are you now? The internet?' Landon felt like bashing his head to a wall and just dying.

Wasn't this the oldest trick in the book when you don't want to talk with someone?

To think that the system, an all-powerful being, would play this card against him.

Heheheheh!

The muscles against Landon's jaws seized as it took all his restraint not to lash out on rage.

'System, don't you dare run away! You hear me?

Don't you dare run away!

Stay there and face me like a heavenly being!'

[Host... Host... Ho....Ho...

Goodbye bye Host.]

'Damn you! Damn You!!!!'

.

Lucia, who was seated by Landon, was surprised by his murderous aura seeping out.

"Brother Landon, what's wrong with you?"

"Ah!"

Landon calmed down and couldn't go cursing the damn system in his mind.

"No. I was just thinking of all the terrible things I've heard about those people from the Temple of Adonis."

Lucia looked at Landon and couldn't help feeling touched.

Coincidentally, one of the documents in his hands was about Adonis.

He, Lucia and the rest were on their way to meet up with a few military personnel to finalize their plan of action.

So this lie was very plausible.

Seeing him like this, Andrew and Jarvis also grew upset thinking of those bastards from Adonis after their people and their land.

"Brother Landon, it's okay. With your help, I'm sure our people will be safe."

They felt like Landon was more anxious than they were.

Which showed how kind, caring and selfless he was.

Landon coughed awkwardly and nodded in agreement after seeing the sincere gazes of gratitude from everyone.

Well, why did he now feel like a bastard?

Sigh... He could only blame his outburst earlier on the system.

What a scumbag!

Anyway, for this new side-mission, Landon had decided to use the big guns.

Yes.

He was talking about the Shaolin Sector.

Chapter 1047 - Hasty Preparations.

Before handling Josh's matter, Landon had his meeting with Lucia and the rest just as planned before dashing towards the barracks at full force.

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"Brat! Why are you just remembering such a piece of vital information now? Are you getting old or something? It looks like your brain is finally getting overloaded, so much so that you've started forgetting things!"

Lucius looked at the brat speechlessly, feeling like smacking him silly.

Such a vital piece of information, and he had just forgotten it just like that?

Hello?

He, Lucius, had been wracking his brain on finding the pieces of the puzzle for months now. Yet his son by marriage, held the key to everything and had just 'forgotten to say it?

How does one forget something so important?

Lucius looked at Landon in disdain, thinking of banning him from coming up with new ideas and inventing more things for the time being.

As expected, the downside of being as bright as him was that one would end up being forgetful like an old fogie.

Landon, who had been looked down on, only smiled bitterly while raising his hands as if surrendering under Lucius' mercy.

Of course, he didn't forget.

Blame his stupid system for everything.

He too, had been wracking his brain as well, only to get the answer now.

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Lucius talked his pen in rhythm on the table while digesting the information sprung onto him: "Brat. How sure are you about the information?"

"I'm 100% sure."

Lucius scoffed: "Says the person whose forgetfulness is similar to that of an old man.

Tch!

Landon's lips twitched and once again inwardly cursed the system.

He looked at Lucius helplessly, begging for mercy: "Alright. I admit that it did slip my mind to mention it. Remember that after leaving Deiferus, I had to hurriedly rush to Carona for Santa and Penelope's wedding. So my mind was all over the place, making the whole thing slip my mind. But I assure you, I didn't remember it wrong."

Lucius who was leaning on his chair in a relaxed manner, tapping his pen on the table... now moved forward and clasped his hands together on the table and raised one of his eyes brows curiously: "So the boy's name is Renkin?"

"Yes. That's his name."

"And you're sure they didn't mention anything else about his identity?"

"No."

"Hmhm. Alright then, let's work with what we have. But we don't have much time."

"Naturally." Landon tried with a smile on his face

Lucius chuckled before picking up his phone and sending for a few other personal A.S.A.P.

They had to make plans fast!

.

With Lucius convinced, Landon was inherently relieved.

Of course, he couldn't tell Lucius that Josh had been captured.

It would be too suspicious and would raise too many question marks.

How did he know?

Did one of his sworn brothers or friends from outside Baymard tell him?

If so, who?

More still, if they did go over to rescue Josh and find out that it hadn't been too long since Josh got captured, they would start wondering how the message could reach Baymard so fast without a Baymardian vehicle or ship bringing it over.

Firstly, if the people who sent the message had just witnessed the event and felt the need to report it, then without any Baymardian vehicles, they should arrive at the shores around the same time the pirates arrived at the shores too.

Again, the trans-Baymardian public transport sh.i.p.s hadn't been integrated into Deiferus yet, since they were still organizing and arranging the estate that would host the Deifer Port in Deiferus.

Due to Henry's Coronation in October, they could only begin arranging and remodelling the chosen Port estate this past November.

That said, the Deifer port is supposed to be open to the public in late January.

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Revealing the fact that Josh had been captured was too risky.

Landon dared not use that approach.

That's why he told a little white lie about the matter.

He simply said that the last time he went to Deiferus to help Henry take over the throne, he had heard a very fascinating piece of information about some secret order, who was hell-bent on finding a boy.

Of course, he also revealed that the order seemed to be the strongest based on the conversation he heard through the system's monitors.

His words were like pieces of the puzzle to Lucius and many others, because they had been worrying tirelessly about why Nopline received a message in Terique from the pirates and Morgs about some unexpected visit that seemed too important and urgent.

They didn't know why the boy who was supposed to be in Terique, ended up in Deiferus.

Nonetheless, it looked like they had to find this boy before the Morgs and pirates did.

So they had to rush over quickly.

Now, they were racing against time!

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Very fast, Landon, Lucius and a few others came up with a list of Shaolin Soldiers who would participate in the rescue mission.

The thing was that most of these Shaolin's were also accompanying Landon to Zalipnia.

So they would do two missions back to back.

Luckily, they could relax a bit and sleep while at sea.

For this trip, they planned to travel for 4 days and 2 hours, making it a few hours before the pirates hopefully arrive at the shore with Josh... That is, if they haven't been delayed by any unforeseen incident while travelling.

So they could relax a bit at sea before the battle.

"The list is complete. Captain Maphee! Hastily get the soldiers on the list battle-ready. We leave at 1 A.M."

Captain Runa! Contact the Navy immediately, and work alongside them, ensuring that we have sufficient food, ammunition and everything else for the trip. Also, get a few vehicles loaded up too."

"Yes, sir!"

"Good.

We'll come up with battle tactics and plans while at sea.

For now, our goal is to leave as soon as possible!"

"Right!"

(*^*)

With that, everyone got busy.

Chapter 1048 - Daniel Lockhart!

Just like that, the barracks got busy once more.

With them, there were always missions to do.

So when it wasn't their individual holidays, they were busy either training or out doing missions.

Lucius calmly packed his things, making Landon a little confused.

"What are you doing?"

"I'm getting ready for war, of course.

Brat. I've been cooked up for too long with no practice against real opponents.

It's time to go out on the field, or else I'll get sloppy."

Landon thinned his lips and smiled wryly.

Sloppy?

Heh.

Even if Lucius didn't go out for years, the raw power he had secretly given him should be enough to take down his enemies for decades.

But, he felt like since he wanted to practice and rack up more experiments, then it wasn't a bad thing.

Lucius placed his documents in his drawer and locked them up before handling the matters of the barracks to a few other top-ranking personnel.

Josh was typically the one overseeing everything else if he were away.

After all, Josh would take over from him after he retired.

Anyway, Josh was out on a mission, so Lucius divided the task amongst 3 others and followed Landon out.

Where were they going?

To see their loved ones, of course.

Lucius went to the pregnant mother Kim, while Landon went to see Lucy.

Landon thought that he would only have these few hours to see Lucy.

But who would've known that she would want to join him?

That's right.

She decided to be a part of the mission too.

She was strong, smart and trained twice weekly.

Of course, it also made Landon feel better when he thought of the fact that she too had become strong thanks to the system's aid.

Not just her, but all who were dear to Landon's heart or had powerful positions.

Just these past 2 months, there had been a total of 16 assassination attempts on Mother Winnie's life by numerous assassins from Maclaine's wives.

Well, with Lucy coming along, Landon hastily prepared and got her battle-ready too.

Time flew by swiftly, with everyone as busy as ever, until it was finally midnight.

Everyone stood before the Navy ship, doing roll call patiently.

"Taner Ziju!"

"Here!"

"Yango Fui!"

"Here!"

"Mildred Poh!"

"Here!"

(*^*)

The soldiers, alongside the Marines and Navy, had their roll call and got aboard the sh.i.p.s.

Lucy was thrilled when she saw Ruby (Gary's wife) joining the surprise mission.

Of course, Yara stayed behind instead.

Well, this was good too.

With everything done and over with, the gang finally set sail.

In a few more days, they should arrive at their targeted destination.

Seeing everything call in place, Landon couldn't help smiling broadly.

It was just that a certain voice had his smile stiff.

[Connectivity restored. Host, I'm back.]

' '

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--Capital city, Dafaren Empire, Veinita--

~Tup. Tup. Tup. Tup~

The sounds of loud but heavy footsteps could be heard marching into a massive luxurious chamber.

The maids and servants at the said stood as stiff as trees, daring not to make any other moves or getting noticed.

They kept their backs straight and their faces slightly tilted downwards

The only thing they could see clearly was the beautiful bronze-coloured floor.

And the moment they got a glimpse of the feet causing the steady footsteps, they bowed even deeper in salute.

"Your humble servant salutes his highness."

"Your humble servant salutes his highness."

The person causing the commotion, didn't even acknowledge them and advanced calmly, with his hands clasped at his back.

The young dashing looking man stood facing the open windows calmly.

Soon, he raised his hand casually and waved away the servants and maids behind him: "Leave!"

"Yes, your highness."

They bowed deeply and quickly took off.

~Bam!

With the door shut, the dashing man with rich blue eyes and sandy shoulder-length hair calmly lay on his bed in a relaxed manner.

And soon, a shadowy figure came through his window and knelt before him.

"Master, your humble servant is here."

"Hmhm.

Hand it over."

The young man took the letter and read it patiently.

But the more he read, the more amused he was.

Even though this brother of his was somewhat stupid, he had to admit that his idea wasn't bad this time around.

Nonetheless, how could he let him become Monarch, just like that?

What was more alarming was his father's move.

Daniel Lockhart couldn't believe the many changes that had occurred when he was out of Dafaren.

He had just arrived in the Capital city and was greeted with such information.

This was truly unexpected.

If things continue to go out of his control, he would be the true loser in the end.

.

"It's been 2 months and a few weeks now. So my father should be at my brother's territory, yes?"

"That is correct, Master.

But the treason for him going there is still unknown."

Daniel's eyes grew grim: "Then what about Commander Armstrong?"

"Master, he is still waiting for many forces to come from the far regions of the empire.

He was assigned to leave before February, at most."

"Hmmm... These changes don't spell anything good for us. Rather, they seem to be rushing us to hasten our plans and take action now.

Interesting...

I've already sent in my request to have

Again, are you sure that my father supported Skye?"

The hidden guard on his knees nodded his head sternly: "Yes, master, he did. According to our sources, prince Skye had gone there to marry Penelope and later strengthen Veinitta's forces by taking over Carona. Given time, Prince Skye also planned on conquering more empires in a Pyno too. Prince Skye's men said that they wanted to make Veinitta strong, so that empire would be able to stand face to face with Morgany. And his majesty, Alexander Lockhart, supported the decision wholeheartedly."

"Hmmm."

Daniel listened to it all and chuckled playfully

As a new member of T.O.E.P, who had just got in a year and a half ago, he still had to report all matters such as these.

All people who stood in the Order's way had to be killed without delay.

So his father had to die!!

Heh. It looks like his original plans had to get speeded up.

.

"You all have been trained over im Morgany for 7 whole months.

So do you feel an increase in your strength?"

"Yes, master."

"Good. Then you'll be able to do the deed smoothly.

The ban that my brother put out, refusing Sh.i.p.s to sail from here to Pyno, has just expired.

Tell the men to prepare. I have a job for them.

So send the portrait of this Penelope girl to me.

If she's pretty enough, then I will take over Skye's plans.

They say she's feisty?

That's just how I like them.

Makes it more interesting to conquer her.

Go! Gather more information on her.

We might be going to Pyno soon.

It's never too late for a gentleman to woo a lady."

Chapter 1049 - A Delicate Situation

-Somewhere On The Waters Around Deiferus-

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The briny aroma filled the air, as it produced a very sharp and chilling effect to those who inhaled it.

The air arrived with a nostalgic and imposing majesty that could whisk one's soul away, trapping it in a labyrinth of brine.

~Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!~~

The thunderous waves moved disorderly, alongside the piercing winds, as if fighting amongst themselves.

It was a nightmare of chaos.

The waves and winds were at war!

And the light falling snow didn't make things any better.

It was cold as ice out here, making many shiver right down to the bone.

Indeed, winter was here.

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Landon placed a thick scarf around Lucy's neck before the duo stepped out of their cabin, holding their Thermo flasks of hot chocolate in their hands.

They should be arriving soon.

So they had to head the others now and get ready.

Over the last 4 days, they had strategized and came up with all sorts of scenarios and modes of action that everyone would take when they got there.

At present, places got completely dark around 7 P.M.

And now, it was already 6:36 P.M.

The sun was already setting, and the darkness was slowly engulfing the seas.

They had left and sailed as early and fast as they could just to have this advantage up their sleeves.

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With Lucy moving alongside Ruby, Lucius looked at Landon squarely.

"Why do I feel like you're holding back on something? Or else, why have I had this bad feeling all along?"

Landon glanced at him from the side of his eyes and felt his heartbeat speed up: "Maybe because we don't know how many forces the enemy will have?"

Most of the time, they had a clear picture, or rather, they had a mole time to figure out the matter before moving in.

But this time, everything was done in a rush, and they didn't even know how many enemies they would be facing off.

Everything was a sloppy slope since the odds were stacked against them now.

Landon felt Lucius' fear too.

One should know that he had been watching the monitors of where Josh was and therefore didn't know anything about how many pirate sh.i.p.s were there, or how many enemies were there.

Of course, he could estimate from all the other experiences he had with pirates.

Another thing to note was that they moved in a rush, only taking 700 soldiers and marines for the job.

The Pirates could have thousands, but they were only moving in with 700.

This was also a risky situation.

That's also why he chose to use the Shaolin sector for the task.

.

Even though Lucius and the rest weren't aware of the whole Hamunaptra thing, Landon had still proposed that they act as some unknown organization.

Lucius went over the plans and rubbed his elbows thoughtfully: "We have to be extra vigilant while at shore. They are still looking for this Renkin boy, so they should have several spies blended in with ordinary people living within the coastal city. So we can't show any signs that we're from Baymard."

"Hmm... That's why I suggested it. From the conservation I heard months back, this town should be riddled with pirate sh.i.p.s. So we can't sail forth with the battleship."

"Yes."

The duo spoke as if reassuring their plans to themselves again.

As they say, it's never too late to notice a mistake.

So until they moved out, they would still analyze things thoroughly.

For Landon, even if they took out the pirates within the pirate sh.i.p.s, there might be hidden spies lurking in the dark amongst the common people that would find out that they were Baymardians.

They didn't know who was in the Order and who wasn't.

So until then, caution needed to be taken.

That's right.

Now, they had to make the enemy believe they were some secret organization.

And coupled with the fact that they would only speak English out on their missions, anyone would believe it.

As for their attires, they decided to wear the special ninja outfits that had always been catching dust in the barracks.

Those attires were made a long time ago just for situations like this

They had to keep up their appearances at all times.

The powerful forces in Morgany we're all looking for this boy.

So how dare they reveal their identities?

The heavy doorsteps of the soldiers and Marines echoed out on the deck.

For this mission, they only took a single ship.

Everyone formed straight lines while wearing tight wetsuits.

And hanging on their backs were black bags that had their gadgets and ninja uniforms in them.

.

Landon calmly walked towards the very front of the lines alongside Lucius before calmly turning around and facing the crowd.

--Silence--

The chaotic sounds of the waters slapping the sides of their ship raised the tension in the air to higher degrees.

The brave men and women standing in line all felt their hearts tremble greatly as if realizing the severity of battle.

Yes. That's the word.

ALIVE.

Be it an elite, veteran or anyone else, there was always a part of them that feared death itself.

And tonight's operation was undoubtedly risky.

Would they make it back alive?

Would they be able to survive and beat their c.h.e.s.ts proudly?

This was something that only time and fate could tell.

One minute they were breathing heartily, and the next, they were as cold as a log of wood.

Tension. Fear. Anxiety.

All these emotions gushed out in this brief moment of silence, causing their belly's contract into a tight ball.

The sudden stab of terror in their guy awakened them to the reality in which they found themselves.

These feelings were very natural to them, especially when about to battle.

But at this moment, it seemed greater and fiercer than usual.

The odds were against them.

And tonight, they were going on blindly.

Chapter 1050 - Against The Odds

Landon gazed at the brave men and women before him calmly.

"Tonight, we will once again make our way into the battlefield.

Yes. The enemy is strong, and the odds are against us.

They arrived on Deifer Soil in full force, ready to find their target.

They are prepared and ready to take on any inconveniences that come their way."

Everyone's heart sank deeply while listening to Landon.

Their rigid bodies trembled with all the emotions they tried so hard to control.

Even Lucius, Lucy and Ruby felt immense pressure threatening to swallow them whole.

The salty air, the nonexistent heat, the blinding call of death made them feel trapped in this profound moment of truth.

Despair was all they could see.

.

Landon squinted his eyes coldly and dared not play with the severity of the matter.

"I tell you now. The odds are against us!!

The enemy might have thousands and thousands of warriors by their side, while we, on the other hand, only have a team of 700.

We don't know much, and we neither have time to investigate or look into the matter!

One false move, and it will cost your lives!"

"Even though the odds are against us, we have always been miracle workers!

Heh. These arrogant pirates think they can just come to our continent and do whatever they like?

Well, not on our watch!

Just recently, we welcomed Deiferus as one of our own.

And now, it seems like the time has come for us to help them in their time of need.

Our sources say they'll also use this opportunity to kidnap, force and capture many innocent people, turning them into slaves.

These people have been separated from their loved ones and are in dire need of help.

So how can we turn our backs on them?

Yes! It might seem like we are on the losing side, but I beg to differ.

I might even go as far as saying that you are the most skilled in the world.

Your training and experience are far ahead of many.

And that's why I, your Monarch and leader, am very proud of the fine men and women you've become.

Lift your heads and beat your chests proudly because you all are the best of the best!!!"

.

As if it were spring, countless positive emotions flooded their bodies when they listened to Landon.

Yes. They were the best of the best.

They weren't messiahs or anything of that sort.

But for the innocent captured, they also had a duty to help when they could.

If Baymard didn't stretch its hands to save or welcome them, where would they be now?

They were fighting for a just cause, to stop all these pirates and Morgs from trailing over their people time and time again.

Enough was enough!

Something needed to get done. And if they who had the power couldn't do it, then who would?

If things always remained the way they were, it'll slowly but undoubtedly affect Baymard too.

With great power comes great responsibility.

The battle was no doubt a tricky one.

But they had the training and experience to back it up!

The frosty winter winds on their hearts thawed and melted away, revealing their excellence.

She clenched her fists and swore to do her very best, as well as look after everyone in the team she was leading.

There was no chance for slip-ups!

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Seeing that they had adjusted their emotions, Landon nodded his head in satisfaction.

"Tonight. We are a nameless Hidden organization.

Whatever the enemy thinks we are, is exactly what we are.

For this mission, you are only to take your standard arm gear, which acts as an arm shield, pepper spray, torch, taser and also has a built-in walkie-Talkie mic communicator in it.

You are also permitted to take your night and heat vision goggles, your flexible protective black gear, as well as your thin coated c.h.e.s.t gear and thin helmets underneath your assigned uniforms.

As for weapons, only smoke bombs, grenades, and a few others will be used on the scene alongside daggers, swords and bows & arrows.

Even though we will be using no firepower to deal with the situation, I believe every one of you will still give the enemy hell!" Landon bellowed, and everyone firmed their hearts for the battle ahead.

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That's right.

For this battle, they wouldn't use any guns at all.

They were trying to keep their images intact.

So no guns or any items that could make people think it was the Baymardian taser.

As for their protective gear, firstly, their attire was all ninja-designed, only revealing their eyes.

So underneath the stretchy ninja mask, they would wear the very thin layered metal helmet, as well as their c.h.e.s.t gear.

As for the gear on their arms and legs, they could reveal it and wear it out of their attire.

To him, it wouldn't make much of a difference since the gear was also black and blended in with the black ninja uniform.

Geir attire also had secret compartments for them to store their dangers and a few grenades.

As for swords, spears and all other things, they could very well get those after defeating one of the pirates there.

Right now, their focus was to blend in like real ninjas within a secret organization.

So, because they weren't using guns, the battle would be slower, and anything can happen.

This was the impending danger hovering above them.

Today, they would test just how far they could go without some conveniences from technology.

The tension was high!!!

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"Just as planned, the Shaolins will be in charge of most of the battle, while the Marines will move in and rescue any captives.

You might also have to sneak into some estates to get the job done.

So be on high alert!

I want everyone back safely.

Is that UNDERSTOOD?"

"Yes, Sir!!"

"Good.

May the heavens be with you.

Now Go Destroy them All!!!"