

TECHNOLOGY 1321

Chapter 1321 - Side-Mission Activated

With the majority of the team sleeping soundly, Josh and a few had gone into the nearest town to gather information on what route to take towards the Capital city from here.

As for Landon, he and several others headed straight for a nearby stream to gather fish or hunt.

Yes!

They had landed on a high cliffside within the forest regions where many wouldn't dare to trespass in.

It was definitely dangerous for them too. But it was no doubt the best option if they didn't want to be found out by any passerbys.

They arrived at 6 A.M this morning... Places officially brightened up by 7:45~8.

So they didn't want to take any chances, quickly landing their hot air balloons A.S.A.P.

From there, a majority of the team went to bed. While another fraction left to gather information. Of course, some went to hunt and huddle food, planning to clean and prepare their catch before finally cooking it.

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Preparing animals out in the wild did take some time.

Properly removing toxins or any bitter parts, ensuring getting rid of worms or invisible bacteria in the meat or fish, and so on, did take some time to prepare.

And after clean-up, they'll store the meat in water with a few herbs to allow it to marinate.

Make no mistake!

They did have energy bars and a few cans of food. But those were emergency reserves, in case they got discovered and had to go into hiding without coming up to the surface.

Those hunting and preparing the food will only cook them 2 hours before when those asleep were scheduled to wake up.

That would be their first meal for the day.

Of course, gathering stream water in the compressible gallon containers they brought was still necessary.

Finally, the last set of people that stayed awake was tasked with guarding and protecting the sight from any incoming animals or humans.

What they feared the most were threats from animals because with how deep they were in here, the number of massive beasts that they had already spotted was frightening enough.

Just when they arrived this morning, they spotted the famous Gwano, which was a mix between a chameleon and a lizard, and was the size of a wolf.

Hey. It's also because of the dangers out here that they purposefully chose this cliffside.

At least here, they only had to worry about what attacked them from the front, seeing that there was nothing behind them.

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Landon, being one of the few who were protecting those sleeping, stayed within the camp, lest a giant bird tried to carry them away.

And one of the men seated close to him, glanced at the paper on the ground, frowning deeply.

"Your majesty, from the information we gathered, Major General Josh's worries might be more fearsome than we expected. In Dafaren, there indeed seemed to be a slave trader whom even the peasants knew and feared deeply." The guard said.

If it were before, he would've found it hard to believe that there were people with godly abilities.

But only after being in Baynard did he understand that the world was indeed a great one.

To start, he realized that in Baynard, there were several of them, like his majesty, the royals, Mitchen and many others who had weird and unique strengths that went beyond human limits.

Additionally, his majesty Astar of Terique, Lucia of Zalipnia, and even the witch prisoner they just captured had powers.

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Thinking about everything they knew, such a powerful person would definitely get invited to Princess Tilda's wedding.

The probability of seeing him there would be high. That's why knowing more about the enemy would aid them immensely.

Of course, unsurprisingly, they couldn't get any gossip about what exactly his power was.

All people knew was how much influence he had.

Well, at least they tried.

Landon massaged his temples while secretly looking at the pop-up screen before him.

[Side-mission: Destroy all hidden bases, pleasure homes, and free the many slaves captured by Lord Castello Basanta within bite Dafaren and Veinita. The hist should please check the list, to know how many properties Lord Castello has;

?Dafaren: 14 hidden bases, 25 pleasure homes, 11 public estates scattered around, and 20 public money lending temples/establishments.

?Lingingburg: 11 hidden bases, 19 pleasure homes, 17 public estates, and 18 money lending temples.

Dateline: Must be done before Tilda officially sits on the throne.

Punishment: Complete soul obliteration.

Reward: Random lottery.

Note: the system only listed the properties under the lord's command. The host will have to find these places for himself if he wants to trigger more information about the places.]

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Landon stared at his mission, only shaking his head wryly.

It wouldn't be far-stretched if he said that he saw it coming.

He didn't mind the mission because it was something he would've done before placing Tilda on the throne.

After all, in the long run, he would also have to research and find all hidden establishments that also belonged to Alexander or anyone else that could threaten her.

As for the case with this lord Castello, it looked like this time, he would have to find these places for himself.

If one could recall, when it came to Nopline's situation, the system gave it to him quickly... Maybe because it was his first time, getting used to the whole transmigrating thing.

Of course, at that time, he also didn't have the workforce or any other means to ensure that things would go smoothly.

At that time, Baynard was still closed from the public, and so many factors weren't conducive for him to start searching for Nopline's many forces.

However, he has grown since then, and the system seemed to have noticed this too.

Thus, he would have to send his men to Dafaren and Lingingburg for them to start searching far and wide for these properties.

Of course, he would drop them off by air in various locations. The rest would be up to them.

And only after they find them would he be able to trigger more information about the said place.

It was also important to note that Castello was way more powerful than Nopline. So this goes without saying that he would have to be super careful when handling the matter.

Landon tapped his fingers against his jaws slightly.

Lord Castello Basanta... Soon, they would meet!

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Like so, the gang continued to advance towards the Capital, gathering as much information as they could.

Everything seemed to be going according to plan. But it wasn't just them who felt pleased.

Far away, a certain person was also smiling molar to molar at the turn of events.

As they say, revenge was a dish best served cold!

Chapter 1322 - Seeing The Weakling

---The Capital City, Deiferus, Pyno--

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Far different from the weather around Dafaren, that in the city was still hot and burning.

The summer showed no signs of backing down, putting up a good fight, so much so that they hadn't even had a single drop of rain, though the summer was ending in a few days.

The Sky was blue, the clouds were white, and as typical Capital weather, this could continue far into the Fall later on, illuminating the falling leaves and creating a very artistic look onto the scene.

And as though affected by the warmth, many on the streets continuously strolled and went about their day in a bubbly fashion.

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Latest copies from Baymard, detailing the coronation of the little Baymardian princess!"

"Wow! Finally! It's here! You know, I heard about the ceremony."

"Me too! It took place several months back. Too bad transporting these newspapers from Baymard to the Capital takes so many months again. Finally! Finally! I've been waiting so badly for this edition to arrive!"

"Hey, boy. Do you perchance have the edition of his majesty Landon's wedding a month ago? What did my goddess wear for her wedding?"

"Hey, missi! You have to be real with your requests, okay? How do you expect the boy to have it so soon? Boy, you serve me first! I have 3 copper coins here for the 3 hot topic papers detailing Baymard's heroic actions in saving the Zalipnians from those Temple people!"

(^_^)

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As usual, many crowded the streets to buy all sorts of things.

It had also become a habit for many to sit on the newly constructed sidewalk chairs, reading the newspapers while crossing their legs proudly. They seemed to want to scream out the fact that they could now read and write.

Yes!

The illiteracy levels have dropped over the years, and many peasant and ordinary folks had begun to read and write, getting better and better as time went on.

It was estimated that in the next few years, all job requirements would respect many to at least have a beginner or basic understanding before getting hired.

Those with high literacy levels would no doubt have high-paying job opportunities too.

In short, showing off that one could read and write had now become a norm. And some even began picking up Roma too.

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Ahh... These were the good days, with many just chilling, waiting for the public buses to arrive.

Yup.

Their new monarch, his majesty Henry, had already begun implementing state public transportation in the Capital city.

And word on the street was that after things adequately settled in the Capital, the same practice would also spread out.

Now, at particular times of the day, official, well-built wagons would pass through some stops.

The wagons were newly designed and modified to be 8 feet tall. The idea was that one could now stand in them, as though standing in trains or buses.

There were also a few seats for the elderly. But most men who boarded preferred to stand while reading their newspapers.

The horses would pull the wagons, and people would jump off at every stop.

And for this alone, many were grateful for the changes around the massive cities.

Of course, taxis/single-operated wagons and carriages still transported passengers at will.

In short, there was room for everyone to grow and create abilities to earn money for themselves.

But to keep order in the mix, there was a Cab/taxi driver association here linked to the one in Baynard and the new one in the other empires.

Everyone had to register to be a public driver, or it would be illegal. This was done to ensure that the cab drivers don't turn into crooks themselves.

In these dangerous times., anything could happen. And when one boards a cab, they put their trust in the driver.

So that said driver had to be registered. That way, if the person rapes, beats, kidnaps or does anything to the passengers, it would be easier to find out from there on out.

Of course, even though Henry had already begun changing Deiferus for the better, many still opposed him, with some wanting nothing else but revenge!

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~Clang. Clang.~

On the beautifully lined stone roads, a row of blue noble carriages steadily made their way to the palace majestically.

And soon, the carriage had arrived at their destination.

"Halt! Please, step out of the vehicle for a brief check!"

Those in the carriage had their faces distorted.

"My lady, these guys are going too far!" One of the armed men in the carriage said.

"Oh?" A seductive beauty seated opposite him exclaimed. "Darius...Let them play house for a bit longer... Soon, it will be our time to let them understand the consequences of their actions. For now, do as they say." The lady gently before suddenly giving the man a fierce stare. "We came here with a mission, and I'll be damned if I go back defeated, understood?"

"Yes, mistress. Forgive me for my arrogance."

~Gulp

The mistress was scary when she wanted to be.

However, she was right. They had to meet the bastard on the throne for the 'cause.'

Turning around in anger would only make things worse.

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Like so, their carriages were searched, and the weapons they brought in were duly noted.

In this way, those in the place would also know how many people were coming in, as well as what dangerous things they had on them.

And if Henry were to have an audience with these people, his security would factor in what was recorded.

But to Ezenia, she saw all these actions as cowardice.

She glanced at the majestic palace with a deep sneer in her heart.

All this should belong to her darling!

Thinking of why she came, Ezenia had a strong urge to throw up.

If not that she was thinking of the big plan in future, how would it be possible that she would need to seduce this weakling?

'Henry! Henry! Henry!... It's all your fault that I've stooped so low. But just you wait! Once Ulrich is saved, I'll personally slit your throat myself! How dare you make me seduce a weakling like you?'

"Men, let's go!"

Chapter 1323 - The Confident Ezenia

Into the palace, they went.

Ezenia and her men sat in the massive waiting room, listening to only the sounds of the enormous clock beating its drums steadily.

~Tick-Tock. Tick-Tock.~

The sound was something many were already used to.

Ezenia sat within the room in a relaxed position while secretly glancing at the many nobles all around her.

Tch!

As expected, many came for hearings, bringing their most beautiful or favourite daughters around all in hopes of catching Henry's eyes.

Since his coronation, too many women have gone wild, wanting to be the first woman he married.

The 1st queen, in many cases, was always the priority unless another queen came in and bore a son before the 1st.

For many, the 1st queen would have reigns to control any future haram members. She was the grand bubba in here when the monarch wasn't there.

Yes! Though the Pyno world had begun to change, many still thought it necessary for marital traditions to still get maintained.

A few noblemen were popping out now and then, wanting only one noble wife for the rest of their lives.

And though that was amiable, everyone thought that Royals should be entitled to have hundreds and thousands of wives.

So whether Henry had a single wife or a hundred, everything was understandable because he was a royal.

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In the enormous hall, several ladies all stared at one another viciously, looking at their competitors while making up their game strategies in their hearts.

'Dammit! Why is this b**ch here? How dare she drag a man with me?'

'Heh. With those cheap and overly exposed clothes of yours, do you think you can succeed in seducing his majesty? Naive!'

'No! No! No! How can they capture Henry's heart with a single glance? How can they make him fall head over heels for them? Think! Think! Think!... I must think of a good strategy to make him fall!'

(*^*)

Many women were quick to come up with their next plan of action when called in.

Ezenia sneered, feeling that none of these women could be her competition.

In terms of nobility, she outranked all of them.

So unless Henry was a fool, he would no doubt pick her to gain more power and have a firm footing in the empire.

You know, just her Grandfather's forces alone could take care of all the rebellious nobles popping out... Of course, Henry wouldn't know that her Grandfather was one of the hidden activists against him.

In terms of power, she was the best choice for a young monarch trying to stabilize things in the empire.

Additionally, she was stunningly beautiful, if not one of the most beautiful high-ranking noble ladies in the Capital city.

She hadn't seen other nobles far across the empire, so she could only vouch that she was within the top 20 here in the Capital city.

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Over the years, those sprouting girls were wee little, have all grown up and blossomed by their coming of age.

She attended a ceremony not too long ago and was shocked to find that the ugly duckling they used to mock, began attending school in Baymard, soon started taking care of herself more and now became a beautiful swan by 14.

To them, she used to be fat. But if modern people saw her, they wouldn't think she was fat.

She was just right with chipmunk cheeks.

The reason many say she was fat was that women in these times had definition to their bodies.

Little abs showing, several fine lines on their bodies and even the arch on their back were highly defined.

But the chipmunk cheek girl had a little fat around her body and looked very ordinary to modern people.

When she sat, there were few to little rolls of fat on her belly.

And to people here, these were the signs that one was Fat.

However, the girl went to Baymard, took on a personal trainer in the gym and reduced her fat percentage in just a month. She did no extreme overwork. She wasn't even fat, to begin with!

And more importantly, she was just 14!

But hey. 14 here in Deiferus was the adult age.

Ezenia knew that over the past year, several noble beauties had emerged nonstop within the Capital.

But so what?

She felt that no one could outdo her unique charm, beauty and seduction skills.

However, she seemed to have forgotten that in the past, she and her beloved Ulrich used to bully Henry badly. She had even wiped him in the past, almost blinding him completely.

The slightly fading line around his lower left cheek was evidence of their viciousness!

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Like so, she and her gang sat in silence, watching people getting called in groups.

This made things faster and easier for Henry, who scheduled 4 hours a day for hearings: 2 hours to listen to the ordinary folks coming in to state their injustices or gratitude in whatever way they could.

It would shock a few to know that some peasants came in to settle who stole chickens, wanting fair judgment on the culprits. Some also came to resolve farming disputes, missing grains, not receiving their payments, etc.

It was important to know that people could get paid in money... Or grain, food and rum.

Typically 5 Stalks of wheat with the diameter of 2 hands forming a circle around them, was equivalent to 30 copper coins.

Facts like these were understood by the general public all over Pyno. And in other places, the rates were similar, if not more expensive.

Henry spent 2 hours seeing ordinary folks and another 2 hours for Nobles instead.

After time was up, those left would have to come back another day, maybe tomorrow or the next tomorrow. But, Henry didn't do hearings on Saturdays and Sundays.

Group by group, many nobles went in to meet his majesty.

And soon enough, it was Ezenia's turn. Only, she was asked to come in with her gang alone, unlike the others who went in groups of 5~10.

And, from the looks of things, she might be the last person his Majesty would see today.

Dammit!

Many ladies bit their hankies in envy, wishing that they could be the ones who would have such a grand opportunity.

What was so good about this Ezenia and her arrogant self?

If eyes could kill, Ezenia would no doubt be dead by now. But she didn't care.

She secretly plumped up her chest with a confident smile on her face.

Oh... She had this in the bag!

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"This way, miss." Said the secretary who called on her.

"Alright.. Lead the way."

Chapter 1324 - A Calculative Woman

"Miss, please do go in. As for the rest of you, since your majesty has approved of his private audience with the misses, then you'll have to wait here diligently." The secretary said, halting Ezenia's guards and aide.

Heh.

Ezenia smirked, already feeling very accomplished for achieving this much.

Now, it was time to unleash her feminine wiles out for the weakling to glimpse upon.

Like so, she quickly puckered her lips and strolled into the scene very delicately, neither being too soft nor looking too confident or arrogant.

She was just the right mix of expressions on her stunning face that could intrigue and keep a man's attention for days.

1, 2, 3... Step by step, she inched into the magnificent audience hall that was lined with blue tapestries, costing a fortune.

The giant pillars, high ceiling walls, as tall as 2 and a half stories tall, all made the place look even more gigantic than it already was.

And seated on the massive golden throne was the dashing Henry.

Henry didn't have that overly burly masculine look as Ulrich. His handsomeness was more on the delicate side. And coupled with his natural lean physique, he also didn't look excessively intimidating.

Ezenia sneered, still considering him to be a weakling. Of course, on the surface, she still showed a very cordial and distressed look when seeing Henry.

And with a deep bow, she began her game plan.

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"Your majesty... It's been a while."

Henry raised his brow suspiciously: "Yes... Yes, it has... Miss Ezenia, you may now raise your head."

With teary eyes, Ezenia did as she was told: "Thank you, your majesty."

Henry was uncomfortable seeing her like this.

'What was up with this woman? Since when has she ever been so peaceful looking?'

Henry's tongue rolled at the back of his throat, utterly confused by her actions.

You know, growing up, Ezenia had always been the devil's incarnate to him. He had suffered uncountable great deals because of her.

This new side of her was something he had never witnessed before.

Even when she was with Ulrich, she still showed all her vicious natures to him. And Ulrich didn't mind one bit.

He, on the other hand, seemed to have an ounce of respect for women who went after what they wanted, no matter the consequences. Of course, acting wise was also something he admired.

If she did this stupidly, he was sure that Ulrich wouldn't even give her the time of day.

Seeing his discomfort, Ezenia thought he did so because of his shyness when peeking at her perky bosoms.

Her green corset-like gown did an outstanding job of raising her bosoms to her chin. And even if one didn't mean to stare, they would subconsciously peek at them once in a while.

'Heh. Men... They're all the same!' She thought.

Though she hated this weakling, seeing him secretly fall for her feminine wiles gave her a confidence boost. After all, what woman doesn't like to be admired?

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Ezenia licked her rosy lips and pouted seductively.

"Your majesty, I-I-I came here to ask for your forgiveness."

"Forgiveness?"

Ezenia nodded vigorously, with eyes gleaming with remorse, pity and warmth: "Yes, yes, your majesty. I came here just for that."

~Plop.

She fell to her knees with her hands on the ground, crying woefully.

"Your majesty... When I think of how I was in the past, I feel very ashamed. I used to be arrogant, thinking that doing this was the only way to go. But now... Now I know better." She said, lifting her reddish eyes towards the silent Henry.

'Damn bastard! How dare you keep me groveling for this long? When I touched the ground, weren't you supposed to tell me to arise? What do you mean by this?'

Ezenia's heart was boiling with rage at her predicament. Of course, all these were her thoughts. But no matter how much she cursed Henry, on the surface, she was still remorseful, masking all her worked calculations.

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~Wooooooooo~

"Your majesty, I beg of you. Please forgive me for all I did earlier on. Over time, because of Baynard's influence, I've learnt the error of my ways and am deeply apologetic for my past nature. More importantly, I also want to express my gratitude for not harming me all this time." She said, wiping the tears from the corners of her eyes.

"Your majesty, you could've easily killed off all those who harmed you in any way growing up. But you didn't. You didn't allow hatred to cloud your judgment. Your majesty, I'm but a woman, and if you did attack my noble household, then I wouldn't be able to stand up at all. As for my fiance....I-I... Your majesty, he manipulated me into hurting you." She said, pushing all the blame to Ulrich for now.

Yup. After all, he would understand that she was doing this for his good, right?

"Your majesty, please believe me when I say that my true nature wasn't what you always saw," She said, biting her lips pitifully, as though she would commit suicide if Henry didn't believe her.

Henry listened in utter silence, staring intently at the weak lady groveling on the floor.

He couldn't deny that seeing her like this did strike his empathetic side.

Who hasn't made mistakes before?

Even a few others who bullied him growing once had a change of hearts thanks to Baymard's influence. No doubt, some did this because of fear, not wanting him to retaliate back.

It was just that seeing and scrutinizing Ezenia's appearance and fleeting gazes, he was more inclined to believe that she might have truly had a change of heart instead.

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Ezenia's situation made her feelings more believable.

Over the past year, he had heard of how difficult her life had been since Ulrich's demise.

She used to be favored because of Ulrich, overshadowing her other stepsisters.

But after the incident, her father turned his attention to his other daughters, feeling that she was a lost pawn.

Yes. Ezenia still had her grandfather, but word on the street was that her own mother forbade her from seeing the old man.

So it did make sense that she would feel so depressed and remorseful for her actions.

Henry sighed and shook his head wryly.

"Get up... I forgive you."

Checkmate!

Ezenia inwardly smirked.

"Thank you... Thank you, your majesty."

Heheheheh... Phase 1 completed.

Soon, she'll have him licking her feet by the end of it all.

Ulrich Tudor.... Her beloved will soon return!

Chapter 1325 - Orders From Above

Like so, time flew by in a blink of an eye.

And all over the world, countless forces were quietly moving according to their respective plans.

And wouldn't you know it, back in Baymard, some people had also arrived following the order from above.

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---Shanks Road, Baymard.--
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~Gallop.Gallop. Gallop.~

Horses running steadily, the carriage moving, many men couldn't believe their eyes when glancing at the sight before them.

With widened eyes, they couldn't stop staring at the tarred roads below their carriages and horses in utter shock and disbelief.

And their leader only squinted his eyes deeply, trying to understand how the roads could be this way.

Shanks road.

The 6 Lane road was massive and organized, with widely paved sidewalks.

And in the middle of the road was a long, thinly raised pavement that broke from time to time, allowing those going one way to turn or move into the other main lanes.

Three lanes were going forward, and the other three had people heading towards the direction they had just left.

And if one wanted to turn around and head back that way, they could do so thanks to the breakings along the raised center platform.

One could also see some pedestrians moving along those platforms, attempting to cross the massive 6-lane roads from one end to another.

There was no doubt that the platforms had also been placed there to prevent major accidents from those leaving or exiting one city to another.

And on the corners of the roads, there were all sorts of signs, showing the correct horse reign-pull rhythm and numbers that carriage or horse riders should use when giddyng up their horses.

There were even signs showing a speeding horse crossed with a red line.

Of course, there were also normal speeding limits for state buses and vehicles that would be heading towards the various Baymardian territories too.

Awesome! Awesome! Everything seemed like it had long been well thought of.

And one of the men in the carriages couldn't help smacking his thought in awe.

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"Leader! Leader! So these are the famous Baymardian miracle roads? Wonderful! Now I understand what his majesty's vision of Arcadina's roads are!"

Death nodded his head in agreement.

He had to admit, seeing the real thing was indeed different from seeing it on pictures or pamphlets.

Everyone stared at the roads, feeling their hearts out and drum excitedly, just from this alone.

How was Baymard able to do such fine works? How could the roads be so black and nice-looking? How did they get it to be this smooth?

(O?O)

Make no mistake, the roads in Arcadina's Capital were all made with finely shaped stone blocks, neatly placed alongside one another.

And in truth, it also gave the ace a unique sense of beauty.

But you know, because of how tasking and tiresome the job was, making a road of that nature could take decades... Especially when one was placing them in a humongous city like the Capital.

Now, you say that Baymard could do this in just so little time. Then wasn't this alone shocking? Moreover, the roads were so smooth and straighter than theirs. So how could they not be impressed?

Again, one should know that before Baymard was opened for business, a good fraction of Shanks road seemed to have been tarred already.

So this alone was mind-blowing.

If they didn't already have a somewhat understanding of things from all the stories they heard, they would've no doubt thought it was sorcery!

Of course, with the expansion of Baymard's territories, Shanks road stretched all the way towards the very end of the territory.

It was the most prominent highway road that one could follow.

After entering Baymard, to get to the Capital, the locals would say: follow Shanks road to the end, you can't miss it.

And if one entered Baymard via another location away from Shanks road, all they had to do was locate this main highway road, and the rest would be easy.

The other roads in the new territories were still getting fixed. Only Shanks road and 2 other main highway roads were fully redone (tarred).

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"Leader, are we really going to stay in this place for 6 entire months?"

"Hmmm... Since the master has ordered it, then so be it." Death said, lowering his carriage curtain.

You know, since William's corporation, he and his men had been told that one of these days, they would have to come down for training.

Death almost laughed silly the first time he heard William say this.

He of course thought it was a joke since months and months had gone by just like that with no word from William about the matter.

Instead, he had been moving around the Capital and other regions, clearing the opposing nobles and hidden forces in the dark.

It wasn't long ago that he teamed up with the Baymardians to arrest Baron Cain, shipping him to Baymard.

After that, he headed straight for their closest hidden estate, making plans for the next matter on his table.

However, what he didn't expect was that a week after his arrival at the estate, William had sneaked in a leader for him, telling him to finally head to Baymard and begin his training with 300 others.

Death didn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

'Young master, I've personally been assisting you to battle all these years, never slacking off for a single second. Moreover, I'm still the number 1 assassin in the entirety of Pyno. So how can you ask me to go for training, as though I'm a newbie?'

The now 39-year old death only felt it funny.

Nonetheless, he did understand that he was lacking in some aspects too. Moreover, he did want to learn some Baymardian moves as well.

Soon, the secret Assassin Ranking Event will be held in Pyno, calling all Assassins to rank themselves yet again.

And as the top fog in Pyno, you best live that many would come for his title.

So why not better oneself?

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Death licked his lips mischievously.

Soon, he'll finally be able to play to his heart's content.

Hehehhehe...

How fun!

Chapter 1326 - The Nightmare Begins!

Vrmmm!~

Death and many others had already been long shocked by all they saw.

F***!

The roads, the buildings, the people and even the sky seemed to be far more enchanting to their eyes.

Lying trough. Could this place truly be what the heavens would look like once they died?

Their muscles clenched in excitement, wanting to explore every single place their eyes landed on.

They were like little kids thrown into a great adventurous land.

Death for one, only felt a little regretful that he hadn't been here before. He honestly thought it was all exaggerated. But now, he knew better.

One of the youngsters in his group couldn't help exclaiming at the wondrous sight of the sky train zooming over them.

"Wow! Leader! Leader! Is that not the train thing that everyone keeps talking about?"

(*0*)

As they sat in the military 60-seater bus, they only felt aggrieved, looking at their leader with pitiful expressions.

"Leader, I thought we were your favorites, so why didn't you send us here first?"

"Yeah. Yeah... Is it fair that we are only going here now after so long?"

Unlike the other people in his team, who were so scared of him to the bones, they weren't.

One could say that they were the few who started with him ages ago.

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Make no mistake! Even though some of them were 7 to 10 years younger than himself, they started alongside him when he was roughly picking up in his youth.

Some began working with Death when they were 8 years old, and Death was 16 or 17.

That's right. 7 years old kids typically began knight training then.

And those who wanted to be assassins also struggled to join and train in any available guilds.

By that time, Death's guild was starting up. He was still weak and was building momentum with every passing year.

In truth, Death began building his guild at the age of 14, alongside some other orphans of 10, 11, 12 and even his age and a little older.

Again, to gain more experience, he would register himself in other guilds and take on missions in exchange for skills and money.

It was the start of his career.

And in addition to this, he also had an official job to mask his assassin job, which was to work alongside William's father, who by the time was 4 or more years older than himself.

The people in the vehicle with him now, we're those that he recruited when he was between the ages of 14~18.

They were his first recruits and his closest. So they watched him grow to where he was today, not feeling so much fear for him compared to those who came later on.

Death chuckled at their ridiculous claims.

"Well, they were indeed his favorite and most elite members... That's why he used them to clean up Arcadina's issues first.

With sharp eyes, he started at home calmly: "Remember, my codename is Derick Mbuyen... Understand?"

His men nodded vigorously: "Yes, boss."

Only William and a handful of others knew of his identity as Death. Even his men who came after this closest only ever saw him in masks.

So now, even if others saw him or the others around him, they still wouldn't know them.

That's right.

He had these people also wear masks too.

So their identities were mysteries as well.

Such things are common in assassin guilds... Especially when some people had families, wives and children to protect.

For the name Derick, it was his usual codename he used, named after his deceased grandfather.

But as for his real name, no one... Not even William knew of it.

Those were one of those secrets he would be mind taming to his death.

.

Like so, the massive bus drove into District B until he finally arrived at the Arcadinian Barracks.

"Leader, it looks like this is it." Reggie started, balancing at the magnificent structures all around them.

Bloody hell!

The place was huge, neatly organized and very intimidating. On the lawns far away, one could already see people in green monotoned battered hugging across the scene seriously. "Left, right~."

"Left, right~."

"1, 2~."

"1, 2~..."

Derick (Death) and his men stepped down from the buses, finding themselves within a large circular roundabout that had several poles all flying several flags.

Hey, look! Those were the Baymardian and United Nation flags dancing in the wind.

And right off the bat, they were briefed in straight lines by a string burly guy.

The rules and other simple matters were informed to them.

Following that, they got shipped off to get the only things they needed while in the barracks.

Everything else on them was confiscated... Including the clothes they wore.

Full sets of different coloured military attire, including 3 boots for various situations, be it rainy, snowy, or rocky or mushy.

Military jackets, socks, military kits, and several others were given to them.

The lead burly man glanced at his watch briefly: "3 minutes... You have 3 minutes to change into any of the attire you received. Now get to changing!"

" "

Eh? Everyone stared at each other in confusion, shrugging at the orders given to them.

3 minutes? Tsk! That was just too little time, okay?

.

Knowing that the Baymardians were very cordial and friendly mannered by nature, the men didn't think they would do anything to them

And even if they did, shouldn't they forgive them for any wrongdoings since this was their first time?

Very casually, they began to undress, picking out what attire they would wear.

But before they could even say the entire Alphabet by heart, the belly man had appeared again! And this time, he came with many more people by his side!

"Your time is up!"

~Swish! Swish! Swish!

Like lightning, their personals were confiscated by the many others who came in with them.

" "

... Excuse me, but why so harsh?

The burly man glanced at them, with a relaxed smile glimmering in his eyes.

"Since you all like this new look, then you'll spend the entire day till lunchtime, like this! Now, move out, Maggots!"

Death glanced at his attire, only feeling like cursing at the top of his lungs. He hadn't worn one side of his boot. Luckily, he was already fully clothed, unlike some of his men who didn't even have their past on.

As they left the room, they were also given tags with serial numbers on them

11865?

Was that his number?

.

Death and the gang who had just arrived, we're now having a hard time with this rigorous and time sticking place.

Yup!

By the end of the day, they now realized that in this place, the most important thing was time.

Bam!

They dropped to their beds, feeling overly weak and helpless at the viciousness of the place.

It wasn't that bad... But for people who didn't follow time that strictly, it seemed like a nightmare! But now, who can save them?

"23' O hundred... Lights out!"

(:Y^Y:)

Chapter 1327 - A Night To Remember

In just under a day, Death and his gang were beginning to understand the rusts even though it wasn't in their nature to be obedient.

What a joke!

They were stubborn troublemakers to the core. And even Willaim sometimes had a hard time disciplining them... Maybe this was why he sent them over here.

Nonetheless, in so much as they wanted to curse, beat up their instructors and get a move on things, because of their promise to William, they could only bottle it up and keep their emotions to themselves.

Death was going crazy by the day.

F***! He was Death for dreaming sake!

He, Death, was the number one and most outstanding Assassin of their time. The big, mighty guy who brought fear down the spines of many Nobles all over Pyno.

So if his colleagues and enemies knew that he had been running and Downing the entire day, missing his left boot, then what would they think of him?

At first, he thought he was being picked on. But after spending just a single day in the barracks, he now understood that any random person who didn't follow time, irrespective of who they were, would face the wrath of the heavens in here.

Death was honestly surprised by how much they had dragged him around by the end of the day.

That is when was the last time he had felt so tired like this? It was probably at the start of his career. As one becomes the boss, they start sending people to do their work, making him free to work only when he felt it convenient or important.

So imagine how pleased he was to see his bed by the end of the day?

In no more than a few seconds, he had fallen asleep, as sound as a baby.

He had intended to try sneaking around to see how great the security here was.

But after seeing his night-time schedule, please! He needed his beauty sleep. After all, he would be getting up early as well.

And this time, he didn't want to walk around with only a single boot on his feet.

Like so, Death's military days had officially begun!

In a blink of an eye, time speeded up greatly.

And soon enough, it was already the 27th of September.

Heh.

Tomorrow was Tilda's coming of age and brief Dafaren wedding day!

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--Far most Outskirts of the Capital City, Dafaren--

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~Drizzle. Drizzle. Drizzle!~

The rain lightly fell onto the vibrant land, causing the ground to release heat and cool off significantly.

And deep within the luscious green forest region, several men sat around each other at the opening of a cave. Each one had a sterner expression on their face the more they analyzed the situation at hand.

That's right.

Landon, Josh and the gang arrived 2 days ago, confiscating this cave, driving out any beasts here and marking it as their territory.

Like generals at war, Landon, Josh and 3 others sat in a circular manner, with all the important pieces of information laid out before them.

"Your majesty, for the last 2 nights, the air force teams have been able to gather this much. We've been able to gather an aerial outline of all paths possible for us to take when fleeing with Princess Tilda."

After all, they couldn't very well allow the hot air balloons to descend and rescue them, or else that would let them know that Tilda was saved by them and was likely in Baynard once the existence of Hot air balloons became known to the enemy.

They wanted it to feel like tonight's actions were done by the heavens. And so it shall be.

"Hmhm... Your majesty, the day scouts have just got back not long before you and Major General Jash woke up. They did report that they were finally able to enter the palace. But sadly, they weren't allowed to cross the second sector within the Dafaren palace... However, we were still able to get hold of another important piece of information from the many palace gossips...And they all involve Mrs. Paula."

Paula?

...

Landon and Josh glanced at each other briefly, seeing the curiosity in each other's eyes.

You know, they were asleep all through the morning till now, 3 P.M.

They slept very well, taking in at least 8 hours of sleep.

Why? Because tonight, they would have to save Tilda, feeling pumped and energized.

Of course, they woke up a little earlier than the official wake-up time. 4 P.M was when those to infiltrate, or attack would wake up. And by 5 P.M, everyone should've had something to eat.

From 5~7:30, they would go through their plans once again with everyone... And during that time, popping, recovering oneself and even checking one's weapons and suiting up was expected of them.

All this had to be done before 9 P.M; they should be back in the city since the gates closed around 9~10.

The ground team had to be around the palace, infiltrating from one of the walls.

As for air force teams, their schedule was different from the ground teams.

They would only get to the sky once places were absolutely dark.

Anyway, they planned to attack around 1 A.m.

So by then, Josh, Landon and those on the ground should've had enough time to infiltrate the palace!

.

Initially, the plan was for Josh and another team to sneak onto Tilda's grandfather's estate and rescue her Grandmother.

But now, hearing that the woman was taken to the place instead, they didn't know whether to kiss Alexander for this viciousness or sympathize with her.

Because of the massive coming of age tomorrow, the palace welcomed a high number of ordinary peasants and selves to hard in arranging and setting up the scene.

Some merchants, lumberjack's and many others were also allowed in too.

They only had day passes and were properly searched before entering and exiting the scene.

And of course, this sort of thing was typical all over the world during big occasions.

After all, the workload was incredulous, with each one trying to show off their wealth.

Painters, tailors, sculptors and all sorts of people would come in.

New tapestries would be set up just for the event.

The chimneys would be cleaned, and many other things had to be done. So in hindsight, the number of guards during the day tripled.

All this allowed them to garner access into the palace during the day.

And according to one of the men, they had spotted Paula, carrying buckets of water on her head.

Good.

It looks like the palace is the only place they had to focus on.

Tonight was the night!.. Not just for them, but for Paula too.

Tonight, Alexander would have her!

Chapter 1328 - A Shameful Night

Creak~ Creak~

Whoo~ Whoo~

Ribbit. Ribbit~

The finely tuned songs from the night creatures echoed through the dense, luscious forests. The leaves rested ever so slightly as the wind gently flew by.

The night breeze was soft and very infectious, as it could make many who fall to their beds sleep in little to no time.

And as though hypnotized to its wile charms, several beasts were already quick to fall asleep.

But for the many strangers in the woods, tonight was but a bloody one!

Already, the many teams, both air and land, had long been on the move.

12, Midnight.

Bam!

Landon, Josh and a few others stealthily descended into the palace via the towering walls at the East.

Their faces were smeared and dirtied, and their outer outfits looked like that of ordinary peasants and slaves.

Landon quickly rolled behind the bushes nearby, lifting his head and observing via his goggles.

And soon enough, he gave a sign to others not too far away from him.

[All clear.]

Good...

Like so, the men rushed forward in that manner, with a few people always moving ahead to check out the scene before the rest arrived.

And soon enough, they reached the midsection of the peasant/slave quarters.

The houses here were all 1-floor buildings, with very short roofs. However, what the buildings lacked in height, they made up for in width.

The buildings were stretched far and organized as though they were a cramped dormitory.

No... It could be said that within each tiny room in the buildings, at least 5 or more people would squish up on one another. Even the slaves who have married each other and had children here all slept in this one room, with everyone's feet touching one another.

There was little to no privacy. And because of this, most slaves would sneak outside at night to have some intimacy out in the bushes around their resting quarters.

Landon, Josh and everyone else quickly picked out the many weird noises around them.

It was already a little past midnight. And the palace had its official sleeping time at 11 P.M.

This only meant that after 11, no one should be walking about again.

It was only when feasts or palace events were held that one would see people, both guests or staff moving about after the official sleeping hours.

Of course, people could walk around the courtyards or personal spaces. But going too far away would only land one in serious trouble.

Listening to the sounds of people sneaking about, Josh, Landon, and the rest began moving across the scene as fast as they could.

With a quick look, Landon used his binoculars to spot the many air force teams all in place.

It was already past midnight. And in a little while more, Zeus' hellish fires would descend.

So they couldn't afford to dilly dally any more. They had approximately 43 minutes to get as close to the targeted sector as possible!

Like so, the gang hastened their movements, finally separating into different directions after leaving the slave/peasant quarters.

Good...

Operation rescue Tilda has now fully commenced!

Landon, Josh and the rest all had various tasks and goals in mind.

Meanwhile, in the innermost sector, Paula was chained and led to Alexander's chambers like a dog.

Steel by step, she had been dragged by the large chain around her neck.

She wore 2 pieces of very airy and see-through fabrics that could rip apart from any subtle movements: one tied around her waist and another holding her bosoms in place.

~Wooow~

The wind gently caressed her nipples, making them harden and turn pointy. A mature seductress she looked like. The guards licked their lips, getting many glimpses of her back and front.

Hehehehehe~

The men snickered amidst Paula's discomfort.

And every single step she took only made her legs feel heavier and heavier with fear.

Tonight, that dog man would have her.

And this alone made her spine tingle, as though a thousand spiders crawled up her back.

It's been over 16 years that her old bones had a taste of a man... She had never had a good experience with the whole feat, fearing for her dear life, whoever she had any form of intimacy with her 'dear' husband. When he stopped seeing her ages ago, she was so thankful that she went one on one knee and began fasting for a few days.

The experience was always brutal, bloody, and not at all passionate as some people had made it out to be.

"Move your damn feet! Do I have to drag you all the way? I said move!"

~ Shring!

The leading guards yanked her dog chain, causing Paula to leap forward, almost falling into the ground.

No one pitied her, feeling that she truly deserved her fate.

Hmph!

Blame her for being a seductress. If she hadn't shown off her body to his majesty, would he even desire her?

Women like this pretend that they don't like something, when in fact, what they mean is that they want more.

That's right. When a woman says no... She means yes, instead.

.

Paula lowered her head, forcing herself to calm down. And the moment she raised her head again, her expression was cold and detached.

Crying would only make that bastard happy. So why would she give him the satisfaction?

For her granddaughter's sake, she had to be strong!

With firm steps, she lifted her chest high and began to walk like a queen. Everyone briefly glanced at her with contempt, not diving to depth about her sudden change.

To them, her fate was already sealed. So what was all this pretentious crap about?

~Tap. Tall. Tap. Tap. Tap~

Step by step, she was led into the main building, seeing no one except several guards at sight.

And the moment they stepped into the entrance hall, they came face to face with a man with a burnt neck and a fierce face.

"Miss Paula, his majesty is waiting. So seeing that tomorrow is your granddaughter's big day, we wouldn't want to keep him up any longer, right?"

Chapter 1329 - It Was Time

Paula's blood turned cold.

Was he threatening her with the life of her granddaughter?

She knew the guard before her. He was one of Alexander's most trusted aides. And throughout her time in the palace, he had been making small advances at her. There was no doubt that after Alexander was done, this bastard might arrange for a little fun with her too.

The eyes of this 45-year-old man were too lecherous. And it was shocking to say that he, as a man with many titles and 11 wives, was still so lecherous.

Paula looked at Kilmonga squarely: "Sir... I understand your concerns... But I would like to return that same sentence to you since it's YOU who keeps delaying things."

Kilmonga squinted his eyes dangerously: "As expected, his majesty was right. You are a smart-mouthed woman who doesn't know her place, talking in the presence of real men. Since you're so much in a hurry to see his majesty, then I won't bother talking to an active bee who is deeply rooted in plucking her honey! Men, pull her up! We must not keep his majesty waiting!"

What?!

Kilmonga gave no time to react, as before she knew it, the men had begun taking massive steps forward, dragging her like a dishevelled dog, up the many flights of stairs and hallways on each floor.

The building was 6 storeys tall, with his majesty living on the very topmost one. However, because he didn't think her worthy enough to enter his sacred wing, he had chosen to do the deed in one of the guest bedrooms on the 3rd floor.

Alexander was the only one living in this building.

Everyone else had their courtyard in the haram sector. He was a true monarch, visiting them one by one. Throughout his reign, almost none of them had ever entered his private chambers... Not to talk of entering his wing.

It could be said that the only people who had visited his wing were the servants to clean up and some of his most trusted guards.

Alexander believed that his glory was too great for any woman to behold, talk less of his chambers.

Thus, whenever he had to 'invite' women into his building, many a time, he chose to have them in any of the guest bedrooms within either 2 the guest wings on the 3rd floor.

Make no mistake. These were the only guest wings in the entire building. After all, this building was made as a while military unit, having guards staying in here at all times to protect his majesty in case enemies tried to sneak in. Additionally, Alexander would get his researchers to do top-secret research and whatnot here. So he forbade anyone to step in without his permission or clearance.

This was how it had been in the days of his grandfather and even father. And as far back as history could tell, that's how it has always been with his ancestors.

.

Soon, Paula arrived at the door of the chamber.

"Get in!"

Paula into the massive bedroom chambers.

And far on another end was Alexander, wearing a white Toga with his back against them.

~Plop.

Everyone got down on their knees: "We salute your majesty."

"Hmmm..." Alex said, turning around ever so slowly.

And the moment his eyes landed on Paula's body, he felt his little man below start to rise.

Maybe because of the love-hate relationship between the two, Alex was more attracted to this woman who was only 2 or 3 years older than himself.

Bear in mind that Paula's husband was well over a decade older than she was. After all, he too had numerous wives, all gotten at different time frames.

Alex couldn't lie. His entire body felt as though it had been electrocuted, and he desperately wanted to subdue this wild woman who, over the years, had been testing his bottom line time and time again.

"Chain her to the bed!"

"Yes, my lord!"

Brute! Brute!

Paula was inwardly screaming at the top of her lungs in horror. But still maintained a nonchalant expression, as though she didn't care.

And sure enough, Alex was annoyed by her expression.

'B**ch! I'd like to see just how tough you are after I'm done with you tonight!'

Alex couldn't describe his thoughts. No one... Not even his many wives, concubines and random sex pleasers made him lose his sanity at every turn. What was it about this woman that made his anger easily flare-up?

Dammit!

"Tie her! Tie her up fast!"

With fast hands, Paula was thrown to the massive bed and tied to the bed posts mercilessly.

Of course, Alex only wanted her hands tied, leaving her legs free for action.

It took all of Paula's willpower for her not to glance around maniacally.

At the same time, the guards brought in a table and placed it beside the bed. Paula peeked at the items on it and almost fainted from it all.

Whips, potions, and all sorts of crazy items lay on it.

"Get out!" Alexander bellowed.

And very quickly, the men exited the scene, leaving the 2 love birds to themselves.

Starting at her statistically, Alexander walked to her side, took a blade out and tore off her airy and see-through attire.

~Rip!

Alexander ran his hands across the many dried-up wounds on her body, feeling his tingling sensation grow even more.

Hot... Hot... He found her current body to be HOT.

And with his eyes deeply focused on her, he began to undress slowly.

His magnificent body could make many women blush with satisfaction. So seeing Paula still lying there like a log of wood, Alex was irked and insulted.

B**ch!

Alex squeezed her jaws cruelly: "Paula... Paula... Paula... Tonight, I'll give you both pleasure and despair. For all the years of disobedience you have shown, this is what you owe me!"

With that, Alex took the whip from the last, making Paula's heart skip a beat.

~Slash!

Alex had made his move.

But little did he know that in just a few more seconds, the heavens would finally decide to rain their wrath on his palace!

Chapter 1330 - The Differences Between Them

"Move, move, move!"

In a flicker, all teams rushed like crazy.

Tick-Tock. Tick-Tock.

They had to get to their positions before the clock struck 1.

12:45 A.M.

Dammit!

Many began feeling their palms get sweatier and sweatier the closer time drew by.

For some, this was their first SSS-class mission. For others, they were still a tad bit experienced but dared not drop their guard down.

Josh frowned, peeking through the bushes.

Bullocks!

His team had wasted time after splitting up with the others because of the many inconveniences that had been popping out time and time again.

They had just 10 more minutes to get as close as possible to their targeted location before releasing the smoke signal to the air team.

They had long broken out of the mid-slave quarters and were now the move.

That's right.

The palace had slave quarters in every sector.

And maybe one might've chosen to pop in through the slave-quarters in the innermost sector of the palace, but from their scouting, such a move would be more challenging to pull off than entering via the mid or outer sector of the palace.

Again, if they had chosen to enter through the outer sector space quarters, it would take even longer to get past the mod and finally into the innermost sector.

They didn't have much time on the clock. So far, they ran and walked for over 40 minutes to get into the inner sector.

Very quickly, a few men in Josh's team took out many of the hidden guards hiding away.

A simple tranquillizer did the trick, making them feel mightily tired. And with their guard slightly lowered, the soldiers snuck closer and closer to their prey like lions.

They masked their killing intent before giving the enemy a final shot from their silencers and catching the bodies of their prey before they fell and made loud bangs.

Phew.

The soldiers hide the bodies in relief.

As for those hidden high up on the few towering buildings they came across, if the range was accessible, like sharpshooters, they were quick to make their moves with the tranquillizers. And if they were just too high enough, they would just sneak around the enemies' gazes using any ninja camouflage techniques they learnt.

Tick-Tock. Tick-Tock.

Josh and his team finally got to a close enough position initially intended.

This should do for now.

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12: 55 A.M.

"Team Beta 03, reporting in. Docking for signal release. Over."

With brisk sentences, Josh turned off the inbuilt walkie-talkie in his arm guard shield, lest he kept the communication open.

Like Buzz Lightyear, he had finally reported his situation to Star Command.

Whooh~

Josh leaned against a stone wall, taking in deep breaths before nodding at his men.

The soldiers smirked in understanding, taking out the many smoke signals on them.

And with fierce throws, they sent the little round balls flying into the open windows on the building a little distance away from them.

1, 2, 3...

Puff~

A pinkish smoke erupted vigorously within the many windows in the building, causing the faces of those in the room to turn frighteningly pale.

And the next thing they knew, a sharp scream echoed out within the scene.

"Ahhhh~... Fire! Fire! The building is on fire!"

What? Fire? Pinkish fire?

Those in the building were too shocked for words, with some diving through the windows like crazy.

Dammit!

What sort of sorcery was this? Why was the smoke all pink?

The targeted rooms were all too smokey and blinding that no one could make heads or tails of what sort of monstrous fire could cause such large amounts of smoke.

And this caused great panic, with many jumping through windows and rolling on the grassy ground in sheer anxiety.

But just when they were about to take a breather, the heavens seemed to be angered by their existence.

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1 A.M.

BOOM!

A loud crackling sound echoed out, followed by a dangerous heat that made them shiver in horror.

Mommy... What was this?

"~Ahhhhh"

A strong force yanked many back, sending them flying and slapping them mercilessly against the building walls.

Bam!

A deep mushroom cloud of smoke had begun to form, changing from orange to black and finally white.

"Someone save me... My eyes... My eyes... I'm bleeding blood!"

The cries and squeals of many outside shocked those who were just about to find a way to flee from the fire within the building.

Some suddenly paused in their tracks and began doing the moonwalk away from the walls, windows and doors.

If Michael Jackson back on earth knew this, he would no doubt end them for copying his moves down to a tee.

Say no more... Many weren't that curious after hearing the heaven-shattering noises, accompanied by the many screams, cries and wails of their comrades.

But what made them shiver the more was that the floor they were standing on had begun trembling ever so slightly too.

This could only show how brutal the outside was.

For f***sake! They were in a stone building.

Yes... It might be a 2-floor building, but it was still a stone one nonetheless. So if it could rumble this much, then do you know how the outside world would be like?

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Crack!

The wooden frames on the window in one of the rooms shattered, and in came one of their comrades who was brunt whole.

"Take cover!" One of the men yelled before diving away to protect himself too.

The body flew in like a missile and rolled on the ground vigorously before smashing into the wall opposite the window.

Bam!

The hit cracked the burnt man's skull, killing him mercilessly... Yet no one could make a move to see things through.

"He... He... He's dead! What the hell is going on?" One of the men went into panic mode, almost losing his mind from it all.

The burnt man's outcome had mortified the man whole. Of course, what might be shocking was that 60% of them were still level-headed even after this.

Heh... They deserved to be Vietts. Unlike those in Pyno, such a scene wouldn't mortify over 90% of them on the spot.

But for these Viets, though they were all terrified, a majority of them had regained consciousness, now thinking deeply of what to do next.

It was just that looking at the attacks that rained from the heavens, could it be that they would be able to defeat the Gods?

Terrible. Terrible!

They had to get cover and protect their little lives!

Boom!