





# FINAL FANTASY VII

## Chapter 11: The great crossing







*The fanfare music echoed throughout Junon's cliffs. Cloud crossed the landing strip towards the entrance to the city with ease.*



Hey! You!

Huh?

The new president is here, hurry!



Your uniform is in bad shape... You always dress like that? Come quickly and change!

*Cloud followed the guards to the locker room. This was an opportunity not to be missed...*



Today is the big day, have you forgotten? We welcome President Rufus! Hurry up and change!

*Cloud put on a guard uniform, he thought out loud...*



This brings me back...



Stop chattering, hurry up!



A Shinra uniform... I was so proud the first time I put it on. When was it already...



This uniform fits you well! Okay, you remember the greeting procedure right?... By the look in your eyes I can see you forgot. Alright, I'll show you one more time!

*Two other guards entered the narrow locker room...*



Captain! We'd like to practice it too!





Alright! Forward!! March!



So, I will sing with y-you, qu-iet-ly!



And... go! NOW! One two three four!



Keep pace with the guard near you and walk calmly!

*Cloud mimicked the other guards' gestures...*



Okay, I hope you'll do as good in the real parade! Forward... March!







*The group left the hall and headed east.*



Oh no, nobody's here! Are we... too late?! It's your fault, new guy!



Captain, let's take a shortcut!



Oh yeah? The parade has already started, what's your brilliant plan?



Let's join while they are walking past this little alley!



Yes... good! Good idea! Forward... March!



*They stepped into the small alley. Groups of guards paraded before them, endlessly...*



Okay, I'll go first! Take a good look and do like me, rookie!



Listen carefully, this parade is broadcast live around the world on Shinra TV, do you see that dial on your arm? It calculates the audience rating of your actions when you are filmed. The cameras are right on us! Apply yourself if you want Junon's army to look the part. Remember and don't screw everything up!



Yes, uh... Captain!



Very good. March!



*Cloud tried to sneak into one of the group marching, but he tripped while looking at the ratings dial... It went down one point... Cloud looked at the camera and pretended to accuse the guard in front of him, the index went up three points...*





*At the end of the road, Rufus and Heidegger were waiting for the parade to conclude. Cloud arrived just in time to catch some of their conversation...*



How is your work going?



Rather well.



And the Highwind?



It is still being prepared for long distances. It will be ready in three days! And then... Gya ha ha ha!



What about the Air Force Gelnika?



Everything is on point. Gya ha ha ha!



Stop with that laugh, it sounds like a dying horse. Some things will change since father's departure. Is the boat ready?



I'm on it right away.



*Rufus got into the elevator which carried a large flag to the glory of his name...*





*Once Rufus and Heidegger at a safe distance, the head of the guards addressed the troop...*



What a disaster! Heidegger was furious! If only we found the man in the black cloak!



The man in the black cape?



Still trying to prove your ignorance to us, rookie? Yes, he showed up two or three days ago, he was the one who killed the troop of SOLDIERs we were talking about yesterday! Rumors say it's Sephiroth! Can you believe it, a SOLDIER killing other SOLDIERs!? Alright, dismissed!

*Cloud stood frozen in place... Sephiroth attacked an entire troop of SOLDIERs... He must certainly have improved.*



Rookie! Are you looking for trouble with the army? No break for you! Come here!

*They returned to the locker room...*



Come on now, it's the army here, soldier! Your orders are to accompany Rufus to the port of Junon, with your comrades and keep in step! You will continue exercises until I deem you ready!

*Two other guards arrive in the locker room...*



Captain, we wish to train too!



The watchword of the day is "training"! Don't forget! What will the final pose be? You, rookie, show us your best move!



Let's see, my best move...

*Cloud took his guard carbine and twirled it like he did with his sword after a victory...*



Wow!



Impressive!



Alright, so that will be today's special. Practice a little more then we will go to Junon's port, is that understood?



Yes sir !





Good, dismissed! Rufus and Heidegger must be properly welcomed in 30 minutes!



Yes sir !

*Everyone came out of the locker room. Cloud was walking slowly through the streets of Junon, wondering what Barret, Tifa, Aerith and Red XIII were doing... Unexpectedly, he saw a familiar face enter a bar, it was Rude... He decided to follow him... Rude sat down at a table to play cards. Suddenly, he looked at Cloud...*



Hmm...? Playing too?



Huh... yes?



So take off your helmet and come here, that's our rule.



No no! I'm leaving, I was just passing by!



Apparently you're all too young to be here... I have 20 minutes left, shall we start?

*Cloud was not surprised to discover that the Turks would be on the trip. As he set off again in the streets of Junon, he saw Elena, Tseng and Reno entering another bar... Cloud took the opportunity to follow them, after all, he was just a simple guard... Elena was talking to the others...*



As soon as your job gets boring, you guys do whatever you please!



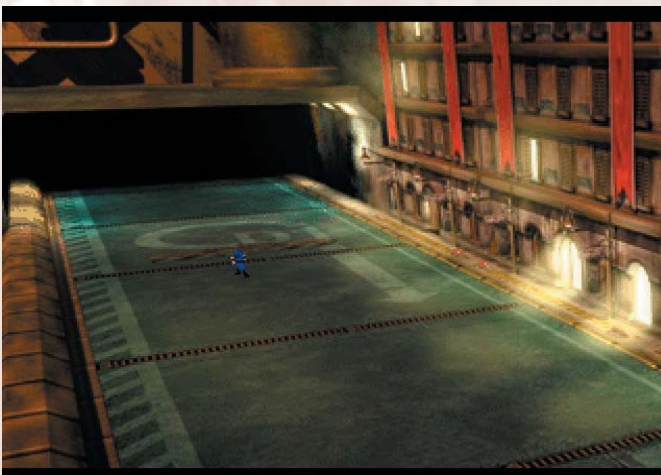
That's not true... our job is to keep Rufus safe, we have to wait for him so why not here?

*Cloud couldn't help but laugh, the Turks were much less impressive among themselves... He even thought he recognized Barret's quips and Tifa's naivety in this group...*



Hey, guard, aren't you on duty? I thought you had to prepare something for the president... Only 10 minutes left!

*Cloud ran as quickly as he could towards the port of Junon. The guards were already lined up... Cloud squeezed himself into the line.*







Alright ! It's time, watch out, President Rufus has arrived! Left... left! Right... right! Weapon left... left! Watch out, the special... special!

*The guards twirled their rifles. Rufus and Heidegger seemed to appreciate it.*



Well done. Continue to do good work for Shinra.

*Cloud was suddenly struck with astonishment, inside the boat, behind a crate, he saw a feather moving... It was Red XIII! The latter stuck his head out and winked at Cloud... This surely meant that the others were already on board!*



When the rumor of Sephiroth's presence spreads, Cloud and his friends will show up too.



It doesn't matter, we'll crush them!



We can't let them stand in our way.



Leave it to me, gya ha haa!



I thought I asked you to stop that stupid laugh.



Gya... ..

*Rufus and Heidegger entered the ship. Once gone, the guard addressed the troop.*



Good! That was close! Heidegger is very angry lately because of Hojo's resignation. We have to clean up the city now, let's go!



I'll start with the port, go ahead!



You make good guard, rookie. Maybe you'll be a SOLDIER one day.

*Once alone on the dock, Cloud boarded the boat, hoping that the others would be there too. He was thinking...*



Well, the new continent... Even though I'm wearing this Shinra uniform... Sephiroth...





*The ship left the port of Junon with a loud mechanical noise. A guard gestured to Cloud...*



Hey Cloud! It's me, Aerith! This suit is itchy...



Aerith! Is everyone on board?



Yes... Did you see the Highwind in Junon?



I was told it was big, but I didn't expect it to be this big!



It looked really cool! Do you think I'll be able to go on board one day?

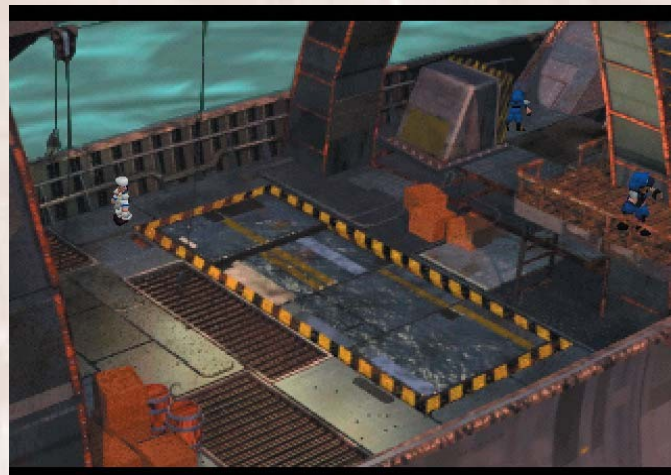


Maybe, you never know! Where are the others?



Here and there... Go look on the bridge!

*Cloud went to the bridge, he recognized Tifa...*



Um... is everything okay... soldier?



Yes sir, everything seems calm!... But you know, I hate this uniform...



Tifa! I figured...



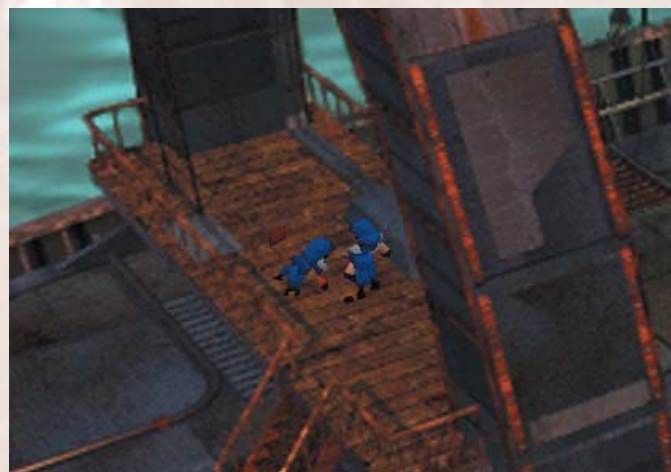
Shinra... This uniform is so uncomfortable.



Where are the others ?

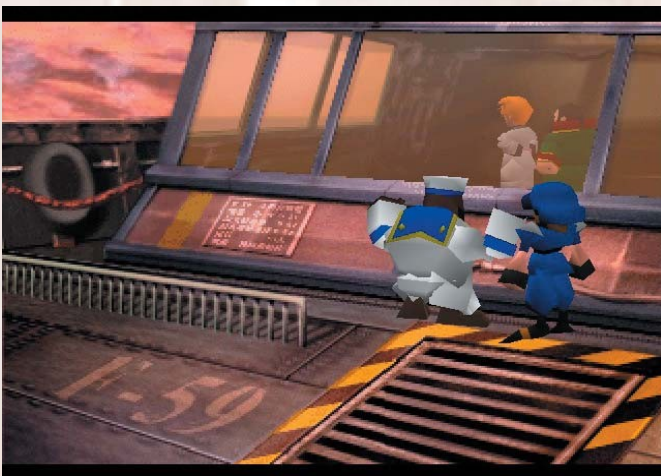


See that guard over there who can't stand? It's Red XIII! Barret can't be very far...



*Red XIII barely hid his discomfort, however, curiously, this costume hid his animal nature well... Perhaps that, Cloud thought, was the Shinra's mentality, knowing how to hide the natural under the appearance of steel.*





...Cloud, it's me... Red XIII.



I noticed...



Really? I can't stand up very well, but that doesn't seem to bother the guards that much... Humans only see appearances... In fact, I could make a good human.



Do you know where Barret is?



I saw him go towards the front of the boat, I hope he's not being stupid...

*At the front of the boat, Rufus and Heidegger were talking in the pilot cabin. Barret, disguised as a sailor, was spying on them...*



Cloud!... Look, it's Rufus and Heidegger. Sitting right under our noses and there is nothing we can do...

*Heidegger seemed to be laughing out loud inside...*



Grhmpf! How dare he laugh like that? Because of him, Biggs... Wedge... Jessie...!! Damn, I can't hold on anymore! Let me and I'll settle the score right away!





*Suddenly, an alarm sounded and a message was broadcast through the ship's intercom...*



Attention! Attention! Confirmation of a stowaway, please notify your superior if you find anything.



Damn, did they spot us? It has to be... Tifa and the others? Hurry Cloud, let's go!

*They all found themselves on deck, surprised to see each other...*



Is everyone alright?



Huh?



Everyone is here!?



Hey, wait... The stowaway, is it...?



Sephiroth...



Really?



Don't look at me like that, how would I know?



We'll find out. Let's take a look in the holds!

*They went down the stairs to discover the lifeless bodies of the sailors and guards... Only one guard could still make a few words.*



The engine room...a suspicious...man, no...it wasn't...it wasn't human...

*And the guard died with these words. The group looked at each other, intrigued. They followed the tracks to the bottom of the boat...*



Could it be... Sephiroth? No, not Sephiroth...

*But Sephiroth just appeared in front of them.*



After a long sleep... the time has come.



Sephiroth, you are alive!



Who are you?



Don't you remember me? I'm Cloud!



...Cloud...







Sephiroth! What's wrong? What are you doing!?



The time is... now...



What? What do you mean? Be more...

*Sephiroth began to levitate before the gaping eyes of the group. He dropped a small moving piece, like a larva or a piece of quivering flesh... The piece began to swell and gain volume, until it became gigantic... A shapeless creature was facing the group.*



Sephiroth! Wait!

*But Sephiroth vanished, crossing the ceiling as if he were immaterial... The enormous monster looked at the group with a murderous gaze...*



What do we do?



We need to get rid of this... thing!



Cloud, think about the Materia you gave you Priscilla!



It's too dangerous here, we risk sinking the ship!

*The monster attacked the entire group, a laser could escape from its extremities...*



This ship will sink anyway if you don't do something! Cloud, you have to!



It's... it's a huge risk but... we have no choice!

*Cloud focused on the red Materia... an icy wind took over the entire room. Suddenly, a lady appeared in a burst of light...*



It's... Lady Shiva!

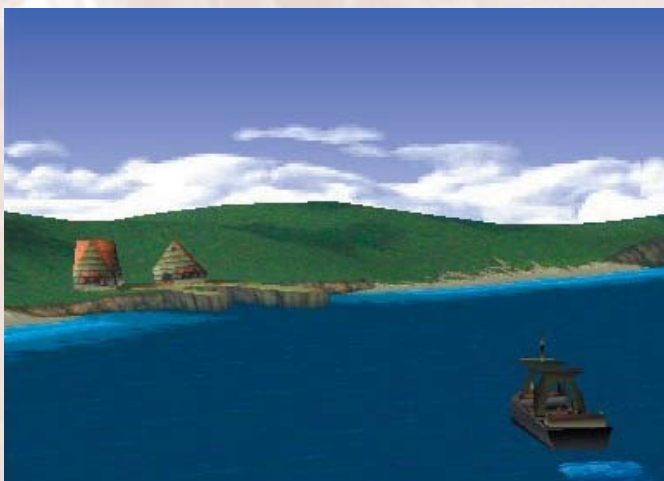
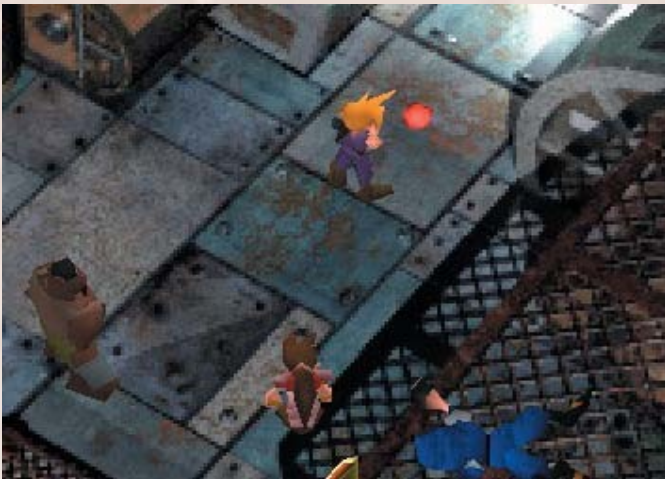


Amazing...

*She raised her hand, all the cold that had taken over the room seemed to concentrate on the tips of her fingers... An orb of light began to grow in her palm. She threw this shard at the monster which instantly froze in place, then broke into a thousand pieces. Shiva then disappeared in a cloud of smoke...*







That was Lady Shiva... So it's true, sacred creatures exist...



I can not believe it! Did you see that? We are invincible with such an ally!



But... look!

*In the remains of the monster's body, there was another red Materia...*



Damn, how many are there like that? Did this thing have it on him? We were lucky he didn't use it!

*Cloud didn't say a word, he seemed extremely exhausted by the invocation of Shiva...*



Cloud? Are you okay?



...Jenova... It was a...a piece of Jenova!



What? This monster? You mean Sephiroth carries this thing everywhere?



It was indeed Sephiroth...



The time is now, is what he said...



Damn, I wonder what's going on!



I'll...I'll try to summarize...



Don't you need rest?



I'll be okay, Tifa. So, Sephiroth wanted to find the Promised Land, in order to become the ruler of the planet... That was 5 years ago. Then he came back and killed President Shinra. Then, just now, we all just saw him, he was carrying Jenova with him. All I know is that he wants to go to the Promised Land with his mother, Jenova.



We will reach Costa del Sol in 5 minutes, prepare for arrival.



We'd better hide in order to disembark!



Sephiroth... The Promised Land... does it really exist?

*Cloud took the red Materia on the ground. The group went to hide in the boarding room...*