

All Hail 1021

Chapter 1021: The Wedding Day is in Sight

“At Heilongjiang, which is in Dedu, there’s a medicinal spring mountain. The medicinal spring in the mountain treats illnesses and strengthens the body.

Its effects are different.’

“There’s also a spring at the Wanjun Mountain in Luoyang. The sweet fragrance is delicious, and the water temperature remains the same all year round. The spring water nourishes the yin and one’s beauty, and it’s beneficial to the qi and soul.”

The phrase “beautiful and breeds talent” could be used to describe the beauty of mountains and rivers.

It could also be used to describe human intelligence.

“There’s a female Daoist in my temple who’s born with a strange fragrance. This incense has the effect of calming the mind. It can treat those who are anxious and uneasy.”

“I also have a fellow disciple who’s born with divine strength...”

Daoist Xu Ming was knowledgeable and gave many strange examples in a row.

Yu Youyao asked, “In your opinion, what’s so magical about my drop of sweet dew?”

“Sweet dew is a good name. Buddhism has Guanyin. With a clean bottle, Guanyin can provide sweet dew and save all living beings from suffering. The sweet dew is benevolent, so there’s an endless supply of it.” Daoist Xu Ming smiled. “Everyone in the world knows that the lotus flower is a holy Buddhist item. Little do they know that since the founding of Daoism, the lotus flower has been one of the three crown flowers of Daoism. It absorbs the essence of the world and bathes in sweet dew. The fragrance is far and clear. It nurtures one’s character! ”

These words revealed the mysteries of the spiritual dewdrop.

Yu Youyao bowed. “I’ve learned something.”

In Daoist Xu Mings words, there was nothing more than the word “virtue”. It coincided with her and Yin Huaixi’s guesses.

Most of the scruples in Yu Youyao’s heart dissipated. She immediately took out a small jade bottle the size of her palm and handed it to Daoist Xu Ming. “I think the spiritual dewdrop can be more useful in the hands of the immortal master.”

In the past few days, the Daoist immortals had already revealed many powerful methods.

Daoist Xu Ming took out a strange medicine called the Essence Enhancing Pill. Its effect was actually similar to the Heaven Protection Pill, and its effect was inferior. However, although the medicinal herbs needed were precious, they were not rare. Its value was even higher than the Heaven Protection Pill.

She hoped that the spiritual dewdrop could help more people. However, she also knew very well that an ordinary man was innocent, but he would be guilty if he had treasures.

Daoism was also very insightful in the path of nourishing the body. It could also unleash the greatest effect of the spiritual dewdrop. It was a good choice to hand the spiritual dewdrop to a Daoist immortal.

Daoist Xu Ming did not decline. “Eldest Princess, you’re too kind.”

Yu Youyao felt relieved and smiled. “I’ll send some spiritual dewdrops every three days. The health of the soldiers is the most important. Thank you for your trouble.”

After the Daoist immortals came over, all the problems she was worried about were easily resolved. When Yin Huaixi returned, she mentioned this to him.

Yin Huaixi sighed softly, as if he was surprised, but it was also within his expectations. “Daoist immortals don’t care about external objects. They only see things clearly. The immortals who came to the army this time were all enlightened on the Wanjun Mountain. Among them, there’s an old Daoist who’s the grandmaster of the Yuan generation. His Daoist name is Yuan Jizi, and he’s from the same period as my master, Xuan Jizi. I heard that this person is good at observing the stars and measuring fate, so his words and actions contain the secrets of the heavens. He often meditates without saying anything and doesn’t show himself to outsiders.”

Often, what an expert saw and thought was the truth. Whether it was through being extremely calm in thought or in action, they often revealed the secrets of the heavens.

Therefore, such experts often lived in seclusion and were rarely seen.

Yu Youyao’s choice was wise, but it was also a little rash.

Fortunately, the outcome was good.

Yu Youyao heaved a sigh of relief. “It’s one less thing to worry about.”

Yin Huaixi had never expected that the joke of helping him raise 300,000 You soldiers that the ignorant little girl had said while patting her chest and boasting would come true one day.

He felt amused and sighed.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips. “Am I very useful?! Back then, when I wanted to come to the border city, you were unhappy and wanted to send me back.

Hmph, you were ignorant.”

Yin Huaixi smiled, but his smile did not reach his eyes.

He did not refute. He lowered his head and squeezed her hand. Her small hand, which was as soft as fat, as if it was boneless, had lost a little weight. There were also thin calluses on her palm, and it was no longer as smooth as before.

The reason why he didn't let her come to the border city wasn't because he underestimated her.

He also knew that she had not said it for no reason. She had insisted on coming because she felt that she could help.

However, he did not want her to suffer.

However, she had endured the bitter cold in the border city, as well as the simple and difficult days in the army.

Everyone in the world praised Eldest Princess Shaoyi for being a rare virtuous woman. However, Yu Youyao had never said anything to promote kindness or virtue. She was always as she had been the first time he had seen her. Her heart was like glass, pure and flawless. When she smiled, her eyebrows were curved, and her eyes sparkled with a bright light. Anyone who saw her would feel their hearts light up.

She spared no effort to improve the food for the soldiers and relieve their illnesses. It was not for her so-called reputation, but just because it was within her ability.

Yu Youyao puffed up her cheeks. "Why aren't you saying anything?"

Yin Huaixi suddenly looked up. The little girl pouted slightly, looking righteous, making her look even more charming. Her lips, which were like flowers, were covered in rose lipstick. They were sparkling and full, like delicate roses.

He slowly approached, and a strong fragrance of flowers entered his nose, mixed with the beautiful and charming fragrance of a girl. It wrapped around his heart faintly, and an image suddenly appeared in his mind— She put on rouge with her lips and he tasted the fragrance!

Immediately, he felt unbearably thirsty. One hand gently pinched her chin, and his tone was a little low. "Why did you put on lipstick?"

"When have I not applied lipstick?" Yu Youyao misunderstood that he was questioning her and said angrily, "My skin is dry in winter. If I don't apply some lipstick, my mouth will be dry. Which military order doesn't allow me to apply lipstick?! "

"There's no military order that doesn't allow lipstick." Yin Huaixi grabbed her hands and covered her back with his large palm, pressing her into his arms. "But there's a military order that states that those who seduce others will be punished according to the military rules."

Yu Youyao's eyes widened in disbelief. Before she could react, she was pushed to the couch.

Yin Huaixi leaned over and buried his fingers in her hair. His expression was extremely gentle, but his tone was hoarse and lingering. "What should I do with you?"

“What do you mean...” Yu Youyao was shocked. She opened her mouth and was about to ask him to let go.

However, Yin Huaixi was extremely cunning. He sucked on her lips and repeated the words in his mind.

Yin Huaixi was no longer the little boy who had lost his soul and was as satisfied as a big fool just by holding her hand, hugging her waist, kissing her hair, and kissing her.

It wasn't enough to eat the lipstick on her lips inch by inch. It was inevitable that he would have to go to the next level and attack her. After that, he still couldn't bear to part with this beautiful place. He still had to pester her for a long time before he was willing to stop.

After everything calmed down, the bed was in a mess. Yu Youyao's hair was messy. Fortunately, she was wearing her clothes.

Yin Huaixi pulled her into his arms. “There are still two years...”

When the mourning period was over, they could get married.

The wedding day was in sight.

However, he clearly felt tortured..

Chapter 1022: Xiangyang City Breaks

The King of Liang rebelled, and the Ministry of Revenue sent money to the Ministry of War to buy military supplies for the army.

It was also because of this that the news of the large-scale invasion of the Northern Barbarians reached the royal court, and the Ministry of Revenue was overstretched. “If I had known earlier, I wouldn't have given so much money when the Marquis of Yongle asked the Ministry of Revenue for money.” The Marquis of Yongle was the main general who led this attack.

He was a fierce general under Duke Xue. Otherwise, the Ministry of Revenue wouldn't have given him the money so readily!

Immediately, some people agreed.

“Even if Thief Liang caused a ruckus, it's only at home. If the Northern

Barbarians really broke through the defense line of Jinzhou, broke through

Shanghai Pass, and entered the Central Plains, the tragic incident of the

Upheaval of the Five Barbarians in China would still happen.”

“Isn't that so? When the Liang resistance army passes through the areas of Hebei and Henan, which place isn't a vital place for producing food? When they don't have enough rations, they will order the gathering of rations in the name of the Imperial Court. How can the famous families everywhere not cooperate obediently? How can they lack rations? Look at what's in the North.”

“It’s been a long year since there was a drought, and we’ve accepted so many refugees. It’s all thanks to Eldest Princess Shaoyi promoting the planting of sweet potatoes that the drought has barely eased. However, once this war starts, the amount of rations exhausted will be ten times or even a dozen times more than usual. How can we withstand it? If the Imperial Court doesn’t support the battle, do we have to wait for the Northern Barbarians to attack our homes?”

“As soon as the battle started, the Di people gathered 100,000 troops and even mobilized two brave generals, Meng Duo and Harmon. I think there will definitely be more than 300,000 troops in the future. This battle will definitely not be easy. We can’t be careless with our rations...” The scale of the battle was no less than the emperor’s personal expedition to the North back then.

Yu Zongshen nodded to himself. All of them were still quite clear-headed. “First, in the name of the Imperial Court, send out ration collection documents to all over the country and order all the famous families in the North to support the battle. Anyone who doesn’t cooperate will be treated as colluding with the enemy and betraying the country. They will be punished according to military law. To outsiders, they have disobeyed the emperor’s orders. This matter will be handed over to King Yue Fei to decide for himself.”

This was handing over the power of life and death to King Yue Fei.

The eyes of the cabinet flashed, but they did not refute.

Yu Zongshen continued, “Let’s not talk about military matters for the time being. The Ministry of War will prepare the military supplies first. Prepare as many as you have and send them to Liaodong in batches. The military needs to focus on cotton armor, weapons, horses, and medicinal herbs for thermal defense. The rations will be delayed. Last year, Eldest Princess Shaoyi promoted the planting of sweet potatoes throughout Liaodong. In October this year, there was frequent news of a good harvest in Liaodong. I think the North doesn’t lack rations for the time being.”

The Minister of War agreed repeatedly.

Everyone in the cabinet felt sad. In war, weapons and supplies were a big deal, but they were not temporary consumables.

The consumption of medicinal herbs and rations accounted for most of the military supplies.

The medicinal herbs were fine, but food was definitely indispensable. If the soldiers did not have enough food, how could they have the strength to fight?

Now that Eldest Princess Shaoyi had resolved the problem of rations, the Imperial Court could still slow down in this aspect.

The cabinet discussion lasted from morning to afternoon. Finally, they sorted out the military supplies in the North one by one and quickly sent all the documents to various places in the country.

Fortunately, Yu Zongshen firmly controlled the Ministry of Revenue and had a close relationship with the Ministry of War. Only then could he grasp the overall situation of the Imperial Court. If it were anyone else, the court would have long been in chaos.

After the cabinet meeting ended, Yu Zongshen saw that it was not late, so he went to the Ganji Palace to see the emperor.

The old ministers in the cabinet knew that the emperor had suffered a stroke.

His mouth was crooked and he was drooling. He couldn't even speak properly. It was uncertain who they would see.

The next morning—

Eunuch He asked Eunuch Zhu to send a handwritten decree to the cabinet. It was by Eunuch He. The emperor had stamped it with a seal. A bunch of keys were attached.

After Yu Zongshen received the items, he quickly knelt down and shouted,

“Your Majesty is wise.”

The ministers followed closely behind.

After that, Yu Zongshen and Eunuch Zhu went to the inner vault.

The inner vault of the palace was the emperor's private vault. Without the emperor's permission, no one was allowed to enter. Most of the rare treasures inside were tributes from various places, and they were often priceless.

The eunuchs of the Ministry of Revenue and the Ministry of Internal Affairs counted the items in the inner vault and picked out the items with clear origins. They were precious, rare, and did not have any inside information or doubts. They moved these items out of the inner vault one by one.

When the Empress heard about this, she also opened her private vault and picked out a batch of rare items to support the war in the North. She even called for internal and external mingfu to start donations.

When the news spread to the commoners, many businessmen also took the initiative to raise donations.

Many ministers in the court had been rewarded for various reasons. This seemed to be a signal. Anyone who had received the reward knew that it was time to show their “loyalty” to the Imperial Court.

Yu Zongshen found the owner behind the bank and sold a batch of items from the inner vault to the bank. Using this method, he transferred a large amount of money from the bank.

It was said that one should buy gold and silver in troubled times, while one should keep antiques in prosperous times.

It wasn't that the bank didn't understand this principle, but since Yu

Zongshen had personally taken action, they still had to give him respect. Otherwise, if they were accused of causing a military delay, even if the bank had connections, how far could they go?!

Now, Yu Zongshen was “Heaven.”

The items in the emperor’s private vault were indeed priceless. The bank did not suffer a loss. The merchants behind the bank were all extremely rich. They were definitely interested in such rare items from the palace.

In addition, the bank and the Imperial Court were bound together.

If either the Northern Barbarians or the King of Liang invaded the capital, the first to bear the brunt would be the bank. These places with money hoped more than anyone else that King Yue Fei could repel the Di people.

This way, everyone was happy.

The owner behind the bank couldn’t help but sigh with emotion. “Grand Secretary Yu is indeed a powerful figure. His methods of making money are all tricks. As expected of a man who has lifted the sea ban.”

Putting this aside, after he returned to the court after being asked for help, he had stabilized the rules of the royal court alone. Otherwise, who knew how chaotic the Great Zhou Dynasty would be?

The heavy snow in the border city fell and stopped for more than ten days before finally stopping.

At this moment, the Liang resistance army had already arrived in Hubei.

At the same time, the King of Liang personally led his troops to break through the Xiangyang Fortress. General Hu Wei, who guarded Xiangyang, felt that he was too ashamed. Thus, he cut his throat and died in front of the Imperial Court.

A young general under him fought his way out of the encirclement under the cover of the soldiers. He brought a blood letter from General Hu Wei before he died and handed it to the Imperial Court.

General Hu Wei’s words were filled with tears and blood. He analyzed the many details of the battle between the two armies, including the troops, equipment, rations, and so on of both sides, revealing the weaknesses of Thief Liang. Thief Liang had been planning for a long time. The soldiers were all sacrificial soldiers who had been trained for many years. He asked the Imperial Court to be careful and warn the Imperial Court.

After that, General Hu compared the Liang resistance army to all aspects of the Liang army and came to a conclusion. Thief Liang was risking everything and did not care about life and death. The Marquis of Yongle could not resist. He asked the Imperial Court to send another brave general to preside over the Liang resistance army.

General Hu Wei had also recommended useful generals in his letter.

Then, he said, “These generals have been through hundreds of battles and are experienced. It’s enough to restrain Thief Liang. When King Yue Fei calms the border and returns to protect the capital, Thief Liang will be nothing to be afraid of..

Chapter 1023: Delay the Military

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

In the end, General Hu Wei was furious. He was so angry that his anger almost seeped out of the paper. “The Liang resistance army delayed military matters. The garrison in Xiangyang used the

terrain advantage to not fight the Liang bandits head-on and deal with them. When the Liang resistance army arrives in Xiangyang in advance, we can cooperate from the inside and out to form a siege against the Liangs.”

“Why should we worry about not getting rid of Thief Liang?!”

“Now, the reinforcements haven’t arrived. It’s because the heavens haven’t blessed me. It’s also because I’m inferior to Thief Liang, and it’s also a calamity for the Marquis of Yongle.”

“However, my death is not worth pitying. I beg the Imperial Court to punish the Marquis of Yongle severely.”

“Otherwise, the Great Zhou Dynasty will be in danger.”

When a person was about to die, their words were kind.

When General Hu Wei wrote this blood letter, he already had the intention to die. He threw away all his scruples when he was alive and warned the Imperial Court.

Every word shed blood, causing the entire court to be shocked speechless.

The Liang resistance army set off from Rehe in September. If they were fast, they would reach Hubei in a month. If they were slow, it would take two months. Even if they crawled, they could reach Xiangyang in November and meet up with General Hu Wei.

The reason why this situation had happened was because the Marquis of Yongle had enlarged his army, gathered rations, and stopped every now and then.

Even the arrogant Duke Xu did not dare to speak.

General Wei Hu t s blood letter was ironclad evidence that the Marquis of Yongle had delayed the military’s advance. In addition, after the army set off, it was undeniable that they had swaggered all the way through the city.

Xiangyang City only had 70,000 troops. In addition to the government office, the city defense, and so on, they actually had less than 100,000 troops. They were far inferior to the Liang army. It was really tragic that General Hu Wei could last for so long and fight until not a single soldier was left.

Yu Zongshen sneered and said, “The Marquis of Yongle has been recruiting troops along the way. He’s really ostentatious. He wants to rely on the prestige of the Liang resistance army and the advantage of their military strength to intimidate Thief Liang and attack their morale. Firstly, Thief Liangs army will become timid, resulting in an increased chance of winning against the Liang army. Secondly, if the Liang bandits are afraid of the Liang resistance army’s prestige and take the initiative to retreat, they can also avoid a direct confrontation.’

This was understandable.

However, the Marquis of Yongle had neglected the fact that after Thief Liang fought their way into Hubei, many areas of Hubei would be controlled by them. News from the Xiangyang garrison could not be spread. Even if news could be spread, there was a possibility that it was fake.

As the main general of the Liang resistance army, the military plans from

Xiangyang had to pass through him. Thief Liang had reached Xiangyang, and General Hu Wei was fighting alone. Where was the Marquis of Yongle?

Had he actually not noticed anything amiss?

General Hu Wei had really not wronged him by accusing him of delaying military affairs.

In the emergency meeting of the cabinet, Yu Zongshen stared at Duke Xu.

“There will definitely be a battle when the two armies intersect in Hubei. Changing generals before the battle is a huge taboo in the military. I'll have to trouble Duke Xu to personally go to Hubei to oversee the Liang resistance army.”

Although the Marquis of Yongle had made a mistake, now was not the time to pursue this matter.

“The Marquis of Yongle was recommended by Duke Xu and is also a general under you. Duke Xu, you have to give an explanation to the Imperial Court for your mistake this time. Otherwise, how are you going to answer to the hundreds of thousands of loyal souls guarding Xiangyang? How are you going to answer to the generals in the Imperial Court who are loyal to the Imperial Court? This time, your merits will be offset.”

“Thief Liang is coming aggressively and has occupied the Xiangyang Fortress, forming a situation where he can retreat and defend himself against the capital. The capital is in danger. Duke Xu has received the emperor's grace. We are in danger. Please take out your treasured saber and protect the Great Zhou.”

“In this battle, we don't have to fight the enemy head-on. We can only restrain them. According to General Hu Wei, in this battle in Xiangyang, it was the

King of Liang who personally led the main force to resist. Although the

Xiangyang garrison was defeated, they also severely injured the Liang army.

Thief Liang has lost his troops and his vitality. I don't think he will act rashly.”

Yu Zongshen spoke. Many civil officials in the court who couldn't stand Duke Xu also persuaded him.

Even some loyal generals felt that Duke Xu was the best candidate to oversee

Hubei.

For a moment, Duke Xu became the target of public criticism.

Duke Xu shut his mouth and did not agree easily.

Yu Zongshen did not force him. He only said, “Tomorrow, I’ll enter the palace to meet the emperor and ask for an order. Duke Xu, please make a decision as soon as possible.”

Duke Xu couldn’t take it anymore. “Who doesn’t know that the emperor is seriously ill? Whose decree is this? It was you, Yu Zongshen, who imitated Cao Wei and held the emperor hostage, causing the dukes to...”

Yu Zongshen smiled. “Duke Xu, please be careful with your words. If there’s no evidence, you can’t spout nonsense.” He swept his gaze across the ministers in the Imperial Pavilion and saw their flickering and obscure gazes. “When the calamity of Thief Liang is settled and the border defense is stable, I’ll naturally return to the court and resign.”

These indifferent words pushed Duke Xu into the limelight.

Grand Secretary Yu had forced Duke Xu to return to politics and leave the court. If Duke Xu did not agree, he would be disregarding the righteousness of the country and disregarding the rise of the country. Under the public opinion of the world, he would have nowhere to hide.

However, Duke Xu was still resisting stubbornly.

Yu Zongshen continued, “If Duke Xu refuses to make this trip, please hand over your military power. The cabinet will choose another general to go to Hubei.”

With just one sentence, he had cut off Duke Xu’s escape route.

The reason why the Third Prince could be let off so easily was because he had military power in his hands. If he handed over his military power, with Yu

Zongshen’s personality, Yu Zhongsheng would definitely take it. If the Third Prince and Imperial Consort Xu started fighting, the Xu Residence would be destroyed in a day. If Duke Xu did not go to Hubei, he would definitely lose his military power.

Duke Xu had no way out.

At the same time, after the Imperial Court issued the war support documents all over the country, the first batch of military supplies prepared by the Imperial Court was also sent to the North. Accompanying them were more than ten officials, including the Imperial Censor of the Imperial Court, and Eunuch Li, who had previously issued an imperial decree for Yu Youyao. They were Eunuch Zhu’s trusted aides and his eyes and ears in the palace.

The first batch of military supplies included 2,000 sets of cotton armor, 2,000 sabers, 1,500 bows, five carriages of medicinal herbs, 150 warhorses, and some miscellaneous items.

It wasn’t much, but it was better than nothing.

General Li, who was in charge of escorting the military supplies, was a general under the Marquis of Zhenguo and had been through hundreds of battles.

“As the military situation is urgent, the military supplies won’t be able to be produced in time. This is already the last batch of supplies. The Imperial Court has diverted another batch of armor that has been replaced from various places. Although the armor is old and damaged, it’s still possible to dismantle and repair

the armor. Considering that Liaodong is bitterly cold and it's snowing heavily, the Ministry of War has gathered 2,000 kilograms of cotton and 80,000 pieces of cotton cloth. They'll hand them over to King Yue Fei so that the soldiers can quickly wear cotton clothes to resist the cold."

Sensing the sincerity of the Imperial Court, Yin Huaixi couldn't say anything. "Thank you, General Li."

General Li couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief, and his tone became a little more sincere. "There aren't many things. The Imperial Court is still thinking

of a way to prepare. The second batch of military supplies will be sent to Liaodong in about ten days. King Yue Fei, please inform me what supplies the army lacks. I'll go back and send a memorial to the Imperial Court to see if I can focus on preparing some.."

Chapter 1024: War Drums Like Thunder

Yin Huaixi said, "In the past two years, the Di people have often disturbed the border cities, and small-scale battles have almost never stopped. The soldiers' armor has been seriously damaged, but it's still barely useful. It's just that I will have to trouble General Li with medicinal herbs."

"The weather in Liaodong is cold and wet. After the soldiers were injured, their wounds recovered slowly. If they weren't treated properly, their wounds would seriously fester. Many soldiers were slightly more seriously injured and almost lost their combat strength. Many soldiers lost their lives because of this."

"According to the spy's report, after our victory in the first battle, the Northern Barbarians has increased their troops again. There are no less than 200,000 troops. Our army is in the midst of the change of old and new troops. There are only 200,000 people who can really go to the battlefield. We can't afford to lose a single soldier."

General Li was also from the military, so he empathized with what King Yue Fei had said. "King Yue Fei, don't worry. I will definitely report this situation to the Imperial Court in detail."

Yin Huaixi was naturally extremely grateful.

In addition to escorting the military supplies, General Li and the others also wanted to understand the situation in the army further.

Seeing that the soldiers were full of energy, were not depressed by General Ming Wei's death in battle, and were filled with fighting spirit, Yin Huaixi's ability to lead the troops was obvious. General Li and the others were secretly shocked.

Then, he saw dozens or hundreds of soldiers forming various formations and practicing. it was actually some kind of strange military formation.

General Li quickly asked, "What kind of military formation is this?"

Yin Huaixi did not hide it. “It’s the Eight Trigrams Formation. I learned a little from an ancient book, so I tested it in the army. This array is good at defense and attack. It’s very useful in large-scale battles and can reduce casualties.”

General Li exclaimed repeatedly, “Was this the array used in the first battle with the Northern Barbarians to annihilate more than 30,000 people?”

In that battle, other than the fact that General Ming Wei had died in battle, the army could be considered talented. They had killed more than 30,000 enemies and captured more than 1,000 Di Army soldiers. The army had only lost less than 3,000 people and had more than 10,000 casualties.

After the news spread to the capital, many ministers in the court sighed with emotion. Like father, like son. King Yue Fei had the legacy of a great ancestor.

Yin Huaixi nodded.

General Li was immediately interested and asked Yin Huaixi for guidance on the Eight Trigrams Formation.

The Eight Trigrams Formation was too complicated. Yin Huaixi had studied it for two to three years, but he could only barely put it together. It was also because many Daoist experts had come to the army recently and had guided him that the Eight Trigrams Formation had gradually been optimized. The formation was not as rigid as before, and it looked more unpredictable and flexible.

When General Li asked, Yin Huaixi was also straightforward. He taught General Li a few powerful and relatively simple array formations in the Eight Trigrams Formation.

“Hahaha.” General Li felt that he had benefited greatly. He patted Yin Huaixi’s shoulder and laughed. “The new generation surpasses the old. Our Great Zhou Dynasty has produced a peerless talent.”

Yin Huaixi said humbly, “It turned out that it was also because Liaodong was bitterly cold and the border war was frequent. The casualties of the soldiers were too high, so I racked my brains to think of a way to reduce the casualties, which was why I studied military formations. In terms of experience, I still have many shortcomings. Otherwise, General Ming Wei wouldn’t have...” At this point, his expression was a little sad. “General Li, please give me more guidance.”

General Li also felt sad. He patted his shoulder again. “You’re a good general. General Ming Wei’s death was worth it.”

In order to reduce the casualties, Yin Huaixi had painstakingly studied military formations. It was obvious that he was a responsible general. That was why the You army was so cohesive.

Next, Yin Huaixi shared a lot of military strategies and experience with General Li.

Just like General Ming Wei, General Li was a general who had climbed up from the bottom. His own battle results were far more glamorous than his status as a third-grade general.

Over the years, he had conquered the south and north, fought the Northern

Barbarians, killed traitors, exterminated bandits, destroyed the Southern Barbarians, and killed pirates. Not only was he knowledgeable, but he was also rich in combat experience, causing Yin Huaixi to gain a lot of knowledge.

The court officials who had come together, including Eunuch Li and the others, were not idle. General Lin sent someone to bring over a list of names, accounts, and so on from the army for them to consult.

They checked all the letters and books that could be found in the army.

The military situation in the North was urgent. The Imperial Court wanted to understand the situation in the army further so that when they returned to the capital, they could further optimize the military supplies. Naturally, General Lin did not dare to be careless.

Fortunately, after King Yue Fei guarded Liaodong, the original information about the army was abolished and revised. Everyone in the army was recorded cleanly and was not afraid of being investigated.

This ordeal lasted for seven to eight days.

When General Li and the others returned to the capital, the cabinet held an urgent meeting. The officials accompanying them praised them repeatedly and admired King Yue Fei even more.

The outcome was better than expected, and the court officials felt a little more at ease.

In the blink of an eye, it was New Year's Eve. The army killed sheep and cows and lived as if they were in a drunken dream for three days.

The next day, before dawn, Yu Youyao was woken up by the sound of the war drum. She hurriedly put on her shoes and ran out of the tent and towards the drill ground without even putting on her cloak.

When they arrived at the periphery of the drill ground, Yu Youyao was stopped by the guards. There were many soldiers who were stopped outside with her, including Madam Ming.

Although the soldiers' relatives were admitted into the army, they were all in the periphery of the encampment and did some assistance. Other than soldiers, no one was allowed to enter or leave some important places in the army.

The cold wind howled, and the war drums were like thunder. They could be heard far away, so far that the Di army could hear them.

The soldiers raised their swords and shouted, "Fight, fight, fight..

The soaring battle intent also cut through the sharp and angry wind. The army formed an orderly square formation and turned into two dragons that rushed out of the drill ground like dragons and tigers.

Yu Youyao stood outside the drill ground and saw Yin Huaixi's dark golden cloak draw a cold arc in the cold wind.

He sat on his big horse and looked back at her. The red tassel on his helmet fluttered, and his determined face was mostly covered by it. She could only vaguely see that he seemed to be saying something to her, yet it was also as if he was saying nothing.

However, Yu Youyao could clearly see that his thumb had pushed open the scabbard at his waist. A section of the shining blade hummed, reflecting the pale snow and looking cold.

“Let’s go!” She heard it. She really did.

The buzzing sound was very faint, but in her ears, it was like thunder. It was deafening. The soaring battle intent and dense killing intent even froze the air.

Yu Youyao’s mind buzzed, and she said in a voice that only she could hear, “Take care!”

“Dong, dong, dong—” The sound of war drums came from the distant camp of the You army, echoing endlessly in the long mountain range and into the Di army’s camp.

Due to his serious injuries, Meng Duo did not participate in the battle.

The Northern Barbarians had changed their leader again. It was the leader of the Zamo Tribe, Zamo He.

There were many large and small tribes in the Northern Barbarians, and among them, the Meng, Har, and Zamo tribes were the strongest. The Zamo tribes were supporters of the main battle faction and had been active on the battlefield in the North for many years. Zamo He’s reputation was not inferior to Meng Ying’s..

Chapter 1025: At Our Mercy

After Zamo He took over as the main general, the Di Army quickly walked out of the shadow of their defeat. They actively analyzed the formations and tactics of the Great Zhou, intending to wash away the humiliation of their first defeat.

Zamo He had never expected the Great Zhou army to launch a counterattack.

It wasn’t that Zamo He looked down on the Great Zhou Army. Ever since the battle with the Great Zhou Army, the Great Zhou Army had often focused on defense and rarely took the initiative to attack. The Great Zhou Army lacked supplies, so defense was more conducive to preserving their strength and resisting the Northern Barbarians. The physique and strength of the Great Zhou army were also inferior to the Di Army. If the Great Zhou army attacked, it would consume too much energy, and it would be even more disadvantageous to the Great Zhou Army.

In addition, the Great Zhou Dynasty also valued a festival called the Spring

Festival. It was said that during the Spring Festival, the entire Great Zhou Dynasty would celebrate. Even if there was a huge matter, it would not affect their enjoyment of the celebration.

However, the war drum came like thunder and was caught off guard.

After all, Zamo He was an old general who had been through hundreds of battles. He quickly gathered his troops to face the enemy.

The two sides faced each other again at the narrow Yu Pass.

At this moment, the enemy was at the mercy of the Great Zhou army.

With Yin Huaixi's order, more than a thousand Northern Barbarian captives were brought to the front of the formation. They knelt on the ground and were flogged, whipped, and tortured. Their shrill wails were shrill in the wind.

However, the You army respected life and the dead. They were not as crazy as the Northern Barbarians. After the captive died, they would not continue to whip the corpse.

The roles were reversed. This time, the one who was humiliated was the Northern Barbarians.

The Northern Barbarians respected strength, took pleasure in conquering, and plundered for a living. They ate raw meat and drank blood. The strong preyed on the weak. They were bloody, cruel, and warlike. They did not feel the grief and indignation of the You army, who seemed to have their bones broken and their dignity beaten off.

However, even so, the massacre of more than a thousand Northern Barbarians in front of the formation still caused great shock and fear to the Northern Barbarians. It was inevitable that the Northern Di army would feel down.

Zamo He was furious and shouted at King Yue Fei, "King Yue Fei of the Great Zhou Dynasty, I, Zamo He, respect you as an opponent, but in a battle between two armies, treat prisoners well. King Yue Fei of the Great Zhou Dynasty, your methods are too despicable. You're really the shame of the army."

These words instantly poked a hornet's nest. The You soldiers shouted indignantly.

"Dogsh*t, you captured the commoners of the North and killed them in front of the battle. So what? Aren't you despicable?"

"This is called giving you a taste of your own medicine."

"These dogs killed my accomplices and killed the innocent people of the North.

Their deaths are not worthy of pity."

Both sides shouted and cursed. When the last soldier of the Northern Barbarians fell into a pool of blood, Yin Huaixi raised his hand and gently shouted, "Form the formation!"

Many generals of the Northern Barbarians were not unfamiliar with this gesture.

In the previous battle, King Yue Fei of the Great Zhou had made this gesture. The You army had formed a magical formation and beaten them into a mess, causing them to escape.

The shadow of a crushing defeat remained in the depths of many people's hearts. It could not be eliminated unless they won.

Immediately, some people couldn't help but take a few small steps back.

There were also people who looked calm on the surface, but the mounts under them reflected their masters' hearts. They either neighed softly or paced uneasily.

Yin Huaixi, who had been observing them, realized this and immediately galloped forward, shouting, "Kill!"

First, he destroyed the arrogance of the Northern Barbarians' army and whittled down their fighting spirit. When they showed fear, they formed a formation and charged. Yin Huaixi had planned every step. Yin Huaixi vividly used Meng Duo's psychological warfare.

This battle lasted from morning to night.

After dusk, smoke billowed on the battlefield, and corpses covered the ground.

There was a temporary truce.

However, this battle was not over yet.

The front line was fighting like fire, and the supplies of the Imperial Court were also endlessly sent to Liaodong. Most of them were medicinal herbs, iron ore, coal, cloth, cotton, food, wine, and so on.

In the face of a national disaster, no one could think only of themselves. General Lin, who was guarding the base, recruited a group of craftsmen one after another. They dismantled the old armor and smelted it, modifying the weapons and armor.

In the Great Zhou Dynasty, blacksmiths had rules. All blacksmiths had to report to the government office. As blacksmiths, they could only forge tools for commoners, farming tools, tillage tools, and so on. They were also controlled by the government office. When necessary, they had to be ordered by the Imperial Court to forge military supplies for the Imperial Court.

Madam Ming also returned to Jinzhou and gathered the commoners in the city to make clothes to resist the cold.

Yu Youyao did not stay idle either. She studied the new medicinal wine recipe with the immortals of the Wanjun Mountain and made the wine sent by the Imperial Court to resist the cold.

After brewing the medicinal wine for about half a month, it could be drunk.

After adding the spiritual dewdrop, the effect was even better. Not only could it relieve the wetness and cold, but it could also relieve fatigue. It received a warm response in the army.

Yu Youyao placed the brewed medicinal wine in military water bags and transported them to the front line with the supplies.

A month later, there was another report from the front line.

Yin Huaixi led 200,000 You soldiers to defeat the Zhamo army, disrupting the plan of the Northern Barbarian army to break through Jinzhou and enter the Shanhai Pass to enter the Central Plains. He had also completely destroyed their arrogance and pride.

As soon as the news spread, King Yue Fei's reputation swept through the Great Zhou again.

The commoners rushed to report.

It was the excitement and joy of victory.

Yu Zongshen heaved a sigh of relief, but he was still worried. "The Har, Meng, and Zhamo tribes have all participated in the battle. This time, the Northern

Barbarians have been seriously injured, so they definitely won't let it go easily. I'm afraid this battle won't end easily."

Elder Yu sighed softly. "It hasn't snowed in the Guanzhong area for the entire winter last year. The drought is still ongoing. As long as the drought is not resolved, the Northern Barbarians won't retreat easily. Their ambition to invade the Central Plains won't fade. King Yue Fei has severely injured the Northern Barbarians twice. The Northern Barbarians will definitely take back this humiliation."

The Marquis of Zhen also said, "According to what I know, there are still a few young generals among the generals who participated in the battle in the

Northern Barbarians this time. It's obvious that the talents of the Northern

Barbarians have withered, and they don't have peerless talents like the Great Zhou's King Yue Fei. The Northern Barbarians have lived in the grassland for generations. King Yue Fei guarding the North has a huge impact on the next three generations of the Northern Barbarians. I'm afraid they're determined to break through Jinzhou and enter the Shanhai Pass while Great Zhou is in internal strife.'

Lord Qi's expression did not look too good. "No matter how powerful the You army is, there are less than 300,000 people who can go to the battlefield.

However, everyone in the Northern Barbarians is a soldier. If the Northern Barbarians are planning for their future descendants and mobilize their full strength, there will be more than a million of them. Now that the Liang bandits are causing trouble, the most difficult thing for the Northern Barbarians is the defense line of Jinzhou. As long as they enter Shanhai Pass, I'm afraid it'll be difficult for the Great Zhou to stop the cavalry of the Northern Barbarians."

As long as Jinzhou was broken, no other general in the Great Zhou could stop the cavalry of the Northern Barbarians.

The atmosphere became heavy.

The court officials knew very well that this was not an alarmist.

King Yue Fei had known all of this long ago, so during the Spring Festival, he brazenly led his troops and took the initiative to attack, giving Zamo He a head-on blow and giving the North a chance to catch a breather.

Yu Zongshen said, "There's no need to be pessimistic. Plants bloom in spring and grow in summer. It's time for our army to recuperate. The most important thing is to prepare to recuperate and welcome the upcoming battle. Cut off the supplies of the Liang resistance army. The military supplies of the Ministry of War will be with the You army first, especially the medicinal herbs.."

Chapter 1026: An Arrogant Army is Bound to Lose

Immediately, someone objected. "This can only be done from the inside out. The army can't..." Under the gazes of the people in the Imperial Library, his lips moved, but he couldn't continue in the end.

Yu Zongshen waited for a while, but when he did not hear anything, he said gently, "Duke Xu is wary of the Imperial Court and knows very well that it's difficult to make up for the deficit in the treasury. In terms of supplies, he will definitely have backup plans. There's no need to worry. There are priorities. Compared to the Northern Barbarians entering the Central Plains, the matter of Thief Liang can slow down."

Back then, in the case of the Ning Residence, other than the foundation that the Ning Residence had accumulated for many years being sent to the Yi Kun

Palace by the Empress Dowager, half of the assets had fallen into the hands of Duke Xu.

For many years, Duke Xu had relied on the tolerance from the court to form cliques for personal gain. Together with Elder Xia, he controlled the capital of

Zhejiang and the water trade in Zhejiang. Elder Xia had already fallen, but Duke Xu was still fine. In terms of wealth, the Xie Residence in Quanzhou would probably have to retreat.

The Liang resistance army set off from Rehe. Along the way, they passed by important food production areas. They gathered rations and military supplies along the way and recruited troops. They would not lack military supplies for the time being.

In the blink of an eye, it was March.

Zamo He couldn't resist the strong advance of the You army and finally retreated.

Yin Huaixi took the opportunity to pursue.

When the news reached the court, someone criticized King Yue Fei for being arrogant, and that he should not chase after the fallen enemy. He should take advantage of the moment when the troops of the Northern Barbarians retreated to retreat into the narrow Yu Pass and reorganize the army to recuperate to fight later.

The cabinet issued a summons and ordered King Yue Fei to return.

General Lin relied on the fact that a general in the field was not bound by orders from his sovereign.

The rumors in the Great Zhou Dynasty that King Yue Fei looked down on the Imperial Court and was arrogant and would definitely lose became more and more intense. Everyone was worried about the war at the border.

At this moment, another report came from the North.

King Yue Fei led a thousand-man heavy cavalry deep into the grassland and attacked a few Northern Barbarians in the grassland, plundering some warhorses, armor, and rations.

The MO Saber users were the kings of land battles, and the heavy cavalry were undoubtedly the kings of the field on the battlefield. They were good at long-range expeditions. The requirements for the physique of the heavy cavalry were not inferior to the MO Saber users. Their heavy armor weighed more than 60 kilograms and they were armed to the teeth. The warhorses under them were all carefully selected and good warhorses. There was no need to mention that these warhorses could run a thousand kilometers a day, under the condition of carrying more than 200 kilograms of heavy armor. It was already very shocking.

The heavy-armored soldiers were good at spears. With a spear, they could knock people and horses to the ground.

They were good at attacking cities and plundering land.

This news was undoubtedly a slap to the faces of the court officials.

It also excited the hearts of the entire court.

The court officials suddenly realized that ever since the Great Zhou and the Northern Barbarians started fighting, they had often been passively defending and rarely took the initiative to attack. After all, the grassland was vast and the map was complicated. The Northern Barbarians were a hunting tribe and did not have a fixed place to live. Going deep into the grassland was undoubtedly like sending a sheep to the tiger's den. This time, Yin Huaixi had defeated a few branches of the Northern Barbarians and reduced their strength. It was obvious that Yin Huaixi had planned it. He had long figured out the background of the branches of the grassland.

From the beginning, only the Northern Barbarians had plundered the Great Zhou.

King Yue Fei's actions of plundering the Northern Barbarians were simply satisfying. Immediately, many scholars wrote poems and praised King Yue Fei.

However, this was only the beginning.

As the news of King Yue Fei of the Great Zhou attacking several branches of the Northern Barbarians spread throughout the grassland, some small tribes in the Northern Barbarians who lived as herdsmen began to migrate deeper into the grassland because they were afraid of being attacked.

All of this was within Yin Huaixi's expectations. He quietly followed the migration route of the branches and further perfected the topographic map of the Northern Barbarians to understand the distribution of the tribes.

An increasing number of affiliates were attacked and looted.

It wasn't until Zamo He realized that the main military supplies of warhorses, cows, sheep, kumis, and Sapir-man had decreased a lot at some point in time that he finally realized that the tribes that had been snatched were actually the tribes that herded livestock in the Northern Barbarians. They herded horses, sheep, and cows to survive and transport the necessary military supplies to the various tribes in the Northern Barbarians.

This calamity made things worse for the Northern Barbarian army, which already lacked supplies because of the drought. Zamo He's army suffered a huge loss.

Zamo He broke out in a cold sweat. "This is a premeditated attack. King Yue Fei of the Great Zhou Dynasty might have grasped the topographic map of the grassland and the distribution of the Northern Barbarians."

As soon as these words were spoken, the generals of the Northern Barbarians subconsciously retorted.

“That’s impossible. The grassland is vast. The Great Zhou soldiers have never set foot in the grassland. It’s impossible for them to figure out the terrain of the grassland and the distribution of our tribes.”

“Back then, even Emperor Gaozu of the Great Zhou Dynasty almost died in the grassland. How could a young child like Yin Huaixi do it? This must be a coincidence.

“It’s very likely that a traitor appeared in our army and betrayed our military intelligence to the Great Zhou army...”

The idea of a traitor had actually received the unanimous approval of all the generals. Harmon was also surprised and uncertain. He had his doubts and uneasiness about this, feeling that this matter was not simple.

Unfortunately, the grassland was the place where the tribes of the Northern Barbarians relied on to survive. For generations, they had given birth to countless children of the grassland. They relied on the complicated terrain of the grassland and the various dangers hidden in it to block the Great Zhou army outside the grassland, turning the border cities of the Great Zhou into the backyard of the Northern Barbarians for them to attack and plunder.

They would rather believe that there was a traitor.

They did not want to believe that the grassland that they had lived on for generations could no longer be their capital.

By April, more than ten tribes had already been attacked by the Great Zhou army. Wherever the Great Zhou army went, other than the old, weak, women, and children, they were slaughtered.

The Northern Barbarians finally had a taste of everyone holding a white flag.

Due to the drought, only a few areas on the grassland could still be used for grazing. Supplies were scarce to begin with, so Zamo He had no choice but to send troops to intercept and kill.

This was exactly what Yin Huaixi wanted. He had achieved his goal of dividing the main forces of the Northern Barbarians and defeating them one by one.

Yin Huaixi had used the terrain of the grassland to appear and disappear unpredictably. Not only was Zamo He helpless, but he had also lost troops. The morale of the army in the Northern Barbarians was deteriorating day by day.

However, just as the Northern Barbarians couldn’t help but wonder if King Yue Fei of the Great Zhou Dynasty had really grasped the topographic map of the grassland and the distribution map of the Di tribes, the Great Zhou army retreated.

This guess once again became a mystery in their hearts.

The soldiers had tasted the sweetness of plundering the Northern Barbarians and had wine and meat every day. They were unwilling to retreat.

Yin Huaixi said, “Although we’ve grasped the map shape of the grassland and understand the distribution of a portion of the Northern Barbarians in the grassland, the terrain of the grassland is complicated and dangerous. This is the first time we’ve ventured deep into the grassland and we

don't have any experience fighting enemies in the grassland. This time, we'll mainly scout the way and train our troops. We'll secretly observe and learn from the Northern Barbarians' soldiers. We'll further understand the situation in the grassland and avoid danger. We'll try our best to cut off the supplies of the Northern Barbarians. Only by knowing ourselves and the enemy can we win a hundred battles. "

Chapter 1027: Women Reached Adulthood at 15

They had wandered in the grassland for a few months. Every time they arrived at a tribe, they secretly captured a few lone Northern Barbarians and interrogated them about the terrain in this area to further understand the situation in the grassland.

When being chased by the soldiers of the Northern Barbarians, they would not immediately give the order to attack. Instead, they would first deal with the soldiers of the Northern Barbarians to observe them.

These words were very convincing, but the soldiers were still indignant.

Huang Wenxian also said, "Do you know how Qi Jiguang defeated the Japanese pirates?"

The soldiers liked hearing about some heroes in history the most. They immediately clamored for Huang Wenxian to tell them quickly.

Huang Wenxian put on the posture of a restaurant storyteller. "It's said that Qi Jiguang inherited the adorable ancestry of the Dengzhou Guard. At that time, the area of Shandong was invaded by Japanese pirates. The pirates burned, killed, and looted along the coast. They committed all kinds of crimes." The soldiers were all ears.

"When Qi Jiguang saw this situation, in his grief and indignation, he wrote a poem that said, 'I didn't want to be conferred the title of Marquis. I hope the sea will be calm.' From then on, he began his great plan to resist the Japanese."

"Qi Jiguang didn't have any experience fighting at sea, and his navy's ability to fight at sea wasn't as good as the Japanese. In the face of this situation, Qi Jiguang wasn't depressed. He led his troops to patrol the sea. Every time he encountered the Japanese, he would retreat with his ship. As time passed, the Japanese became more and more arrogant and often disturbed the coastal areas. Every time Qi Jiguang was defeated, he would escape."

Immediately, some soldiers were indignant and jumped out to refute. They did not believe that Qi Jiguang would be defeated by the Japanese pirates, causing him to escape.

"What's the hurry? I haven't finished talking, right? Listen to me continue."

Huang Wenxian comforted the soldiers before continuing, "At that time, many people were like you, doubting Qi Jiguang's ability. After a while, in a battle, Qi Jiguang led the navy and killed the Japanese pirates until they were in a mess.

They couldn't fight back at all."

Many soldiers looked thoughtful.

Huang Wenxian continued, "It wasn't until this moment that the soldiers understood that every time they fled previously was just Qi Jiguang's scheme. He was using the pursuit of the Japanese pirates to train the navy's combat ability and adaptability at sea. At the same time, through every contact with the Japanese pirates, he observed their weaknesses. He also invented the Qi family's saber and the Mandarin Duck Formation to cooperate with it to eliminate the pirates along the coast."

The soldiers looked ashamed.

Previously, when His Highness wanted to retreat, they were all a little indignant. Other than plundering the Di people and letting them taste the sweetness, the main reason was simply because the Great Zhou Dynasty had been plundered by the Di people. It was not easy for the soldiers to fight back, but all of them were unwilling to stop.

After hearing Military Advisor Huang's words, they realized that His Highness had put in a lot of effort.

Yin Huaixi smiled. At this moment, the role of a military advisor was revealed.

As General An Yuan drank, he smacked his lips with the kumis. "I keep feeling that this kumis of the Northern Barbarians tastes fishy and sour. It's still far inferior to our Great Zhou Dynasty's baijiu."

In the past, they had cleaned up the battlefield a little. Most soldiers were not used to this taste, but the army lacked supplies, so no one would waste resources.

Huang Wenxian laughed. "It's good enough that you can taste the wine. You're still picky."

Yin Huaixi wasn't used to drinking this either. He preferred the medicinal wine brewed by Yu Youyao. "The temperature of the kumis is warm. It has the effect of repelling the cold, relaxing the tendons, nourishing the blood, and strengthening the stomach. It's called the Primordial Jade Nectar. It's one of the Eight Treasures of the grassland. The reason why the Di people are tall and strong, and their physique and strength are much better than the Great Zhou, is because the Di people like to drink kumis."

Huang Wenxian looked ignorant. "Is there such a thing?"

The food and customs of the Di people were very different from those of the Great Zhou Dynasty. The brewing of kumis was also completely different from the wine of the Great Zhou Dynasty. As they did not understand it, they did not know what was precious.

Yin Huaixi nodded. "After the first battle, when the soldiers were cleaning up the battlefield, they searched for a lot of kumis. Eldest Princess Shaoyi was familiar with medicinal cuisine and medical books, so she discovered records of kumis. Only then did she know the function of kumis."

In "Extravagant Food", there were relevant records of kumis.

At that time, Yu Youyao had even sighed with emotion. If she could learn the techniques of milk brewing and promote it in the army, the physical fitness of the soldiers would definitely improve greatly.

At that time, Yu Youyao had even sighed with emotion. If she could learn the techniques of kumis brewing and promote it in the army, the physical fitness of the soldiers would definitely improve greatly.

There was a roar of laughter from the army.

General An Yuan swallowed and immediately choked on a mouthful of kumis. Immediately, he coughed loudly.

Yin Huaixi laughed and slapped General An Yuan's back. "This kumis should have been brewed by the clan to offer to the army of the Northern Barbarians, but it's benefiting us. Everyone, drink well. Don't save it."

General An Yuan's cough softened a little. When he heard that kumis was good for the body, he couldn't bear to drink it and wanted to bring this good thing back for his wife to drink.

Many soldiers in the army had the same thoughts as him.

Yin Huaixi smiled and said, "The North also herds horses, sheep, and cows. Milk brewing doesn't cost food. I previously obtained the method to brew wine from the Northern Barbarians. When the time comes, I'll learn their milk brewing technique and we'll brew it ourselves."

When Yu Youyao mentioned the benefits of kumis, he became interested in this matter.

When he attacked the Northern Barbarians, he realized that the tribe had brewed a lot of milk wine. He captured the person in charge of brewing the wine and interrogated him. He learned their milk brewing skills. At the same time, he looted all the books, sheepskin scrolls, and so on of the Northern Barbarians.

Thinking of Yu Youyao, Yin Huaixi lay on the ground and rested his head on his arms as he looked up at the sky. The sky above the grassland was light and boundless, causing an emotion called "longing" to surge in his heart.

In a few days, it would be Yu Youyao's 15th birthday.

A woman... would most reach adulthood at 15!

If Old Madam Yu was still alive and she was still in the capital, the Yu Clan would definitely hold a very grand coming-of-age ceremony for Yu Youyao. They would invite the most respected mingfu in the imperial family to give her praise and insert the hairpin for her. At that time, the nobles in the palace would even reward her. How grand and dignified would it be?!

After she reached adulthood, she could be married.

Unfortunately, Yu Youyao was still in mourning, and her coming-of-age ceremony had to be delayed.

Yu Youyao, who was worried about Yin Huaixi, finally welcomed the most important birthday in her life.

Even though a woman's age was not like one's Four Pillars of Destiny, which could not be revealed to others except one's elders, it was still a very private matter.

Therefore, on this day, Yu Youyao did not make a fuss. Early in the morning, Chun Xiao and Xia Tao borrowed the kitchen in the army and made a bowl of longevity noodles for Yu Youyao with a poached egg inside.

There were a few drops of oil floating on the bowl of plain noodles. Even the taste was not meticulous, but it was made of rare fine grain. It looked very luxurious in the army..

Chapter 1028: Continue to be Young Forever

Her state of mind was different, and her way of looking at problems had changed greatly. Even though it was a bowl of clear soup and there were very little noodles, Yu Youyao still ate it happily.

The two maidservants' hearts ached for their Young Miss, and their eyes couldn't help but turn red.

The war at the front line was urgent. News from the outside couldn't be sent in, and news from inside couldn't be sent out. The conditions in the army were simple, and some of the supplements they had brought when they came had been exhausted. Most of the time, their Young Miss ate from the same pot as the soldiers.

Although General Lin and Madam Ming took good care of Young Miss, and many rare supplies in the army were given to her first, the supplies in the army were not abundant. After their Young Miss received the supplies, they were most likely distributed to take care of others who needed them.

Although they were their Young Miss's maidservants, there had been a war previously and the army did not have enough manpower. Young Miss often sent them out to help, causing her to do everything herself.

When had their Young Miss ever suffered like this?!

Yu Youyao could guess what the two maid servants were thinking. However, she had been in the army for half a year and had gradually gotten used to the hardships and sufferings she had to experience, so she did not care.

At this moment, Madam Ming lifted the curtain and entered. She smiled and said, "There's news from the front line that the army will return to the base soon. His Highness should be back soon."

Yu Youyao was delighted and quickly asked, "Did they say when exactly?"

Madam Ming shook her head. "His Highness led his troops to attack more than ten tribes of the Northern Barbarians and plundered a large number of supplies, including warhorses, armor, iron ore, cows, sheep, herbs, and some unique items of the grassland. In total, it's very impressive. I think the Northern Barbarians lost two battles in a row and another batch of supplies was plundered. They'll stop for a while. Calculating the days, they'll be back at the end of the month.'

It had only been ten days, but Yu Youyao was filled with joy.

"Look at my memory." Madam Ming quickly carried the cloth bag to the table. "A batch of supplies was sent back from the front line. General Lin asked me to pick some useful ones and send them to you."

Yu Youyao was very interested. There was kumis, Sapir-man<a, gemstones, agate, leather goods, cloth, and so on. They filled the table, and every one of them was a rare treasure.

In the end, Madam Ming took out an exquisite box and smiled meaningfully. “This was sent back with the supplies from the front line. General Lin has repeatedly instructed that it has to be delivered to you personally.”

Yu Youyao’s heart skipped a beat. She subconsciously took the box and held it tightly in her hand.

Madam Ming patted her shoulder and left the tent with a smile.

Silence returned to the tent.

Yu Youyao slowly let go and stroked the exquisite patterns on the box with her fingers. She slowly opened the box. A long ruby-colored hairpin lay elegantly in the box, carved into the shape of a phoenix with pearls. The body of the hairpin was like the long tail feathers of a phoenix. Its head was slowly lowered, and there was a tassel in its sharp mouth. A few pigeon-blood beads fell.

It was made of an entire piece of red agate.

Yu Youyao gently rubbed the long hairpin. To her surprise, she realized that there were words engraved on the hairpin. She quickly leaned closer and identified each word.

She would continue to be young forever!

It was a birthday gift from Yin Huaixi. It was different from all her short hairpins. It was a long hairpin.

When a woman turned 15, she would receive a hairpin.

The hairpin was also known as an adult hairpin.

When a woman turned 15 years old, she would hold her coming-of-age ceremony. The elders would insert an adult hairpin for her, which meant that she had reached adulthood. The moment the girl inserted the adult hairpin, she was like a bright flower that bloomed the most beautifully. It was equivalent to announcing to the world that their family had a daughter who had just grown up and was already coming of age.

Before a woman reached adulthood, she almost never put on an adult hairpin. Most of the time, she would put on dangling ornaments to show her chastity and upbringing. Then, she would use hair rings, headbands, pearls, and other adornments.

Yu Youyao sat in front of the bronze mirror and took off the head scarf on her head. Her black hair cascaded down like a waterfall and fell gently on her shoulders. She slowly twirled the hairpin into her hair. It was like a beautiful phoenix that stopped in her hair.

She looked at it for a long time before her face suddenly turned red. She quickly took off the phoenix pearl hairpin.

A woman’s long hairpin should be personally inserted by an elder during her coming-of-age ceremony.

Who would stick it into their own hair?!

How shameless.

Yu Youyao's heart was beating wildly. She quickly put the long hairpin back into the box and closed it quickly. When she calmed down a little, she couldn't help but open the box again and pick up the long hairpin to look at it slowly.

The shadow of war covered the entire Liaodong, but there were frequent reports from the front line. Meanwhile farming was spreading like wildfire.

Yu Youyao had long discussed with General Lin to encourage great millet to be planted. She had also sent the news to the Xie family through General Lin.

The Xie family immediately mobilized their connections and bought a large batch of high-quality great millet seeds from all over the world at a high price. They also sold them to the old commoners in the North at a low price through the government office.

The drought in the Guanzhong area was still continuing. Most areas could no longer grow food, but there were still some places with more water sources that could grow crops that were drought-resistant and high-yielding, such as sweet potatoes and great millet.

The Xie Residence's move was once again praised by the Imperial Court.

However, the Xie family did not take credit. They only said that Eldest Princess Shaoyi, who was far away in Jinzhou, was worried about the people's livelihood and had specially entrusted the Xie family to handle this matter on her behalf.

Yu Youyao's reputation for kindness spread again.

Unknowingly, it was the end of the month.

Chun Xiao brought two dried buns and a bowl of mixed grain porridge into the tent. "Young Miss, it's time to eat."

Hearing the voice, Yu Youyao looked up from a pile of sheepskin scrolls. As she rubbed her sore shoulders, she looked at the drip. "It's already nine o'clock."

The Northern Barbarians were a hunting race and did not have a fixed place to live. Paper books were easily damaged during the migration, so some important information would be written on sheepskin scrolls.

Yu Youyao was very interested in the sheepskin scrolls of the Northern

Barbarians. In order to make it easier to read, she had specially learned the language of the Northern Barbarians from an old military counselor who was proficient in the language of the Northern Barbarians.

Chun Xiao placed the meal on the table and quickly went over to massage her shoulders.

Only then did Yu Youyao see the food on the table. "Didn't I tell you that the soldiers in the army eat twice a day? It's the same for us. We don't have to eat at night."

The soldiers ate two meals a day. They ate mixed grains and sweet potatoes mixed with wheat bran and fine chaff.

General Lin took care of her and prepared food for her without mixing wheat bran and fine chaff. He even distributed some fine grains to her alone. Her food was already countless times better than the soldiers. How could she be special?

Chun Xiao quickly said, “You’ve never been busy until now. It’s been four hours. Madam Ming was worried that your body wouldn’t be able to take it, so she specially instructed the kitchen to prepare some mixed food porridge.”

Yu Youyao did not say anything else. She picked up the mixed grain porridge and took small sips. Chun Xiao quickly took out some Sapir-man<a, smeared them on the steamed buns, and placed them in front of her Young Miss.

Sapir-man<a was a good thing. It was said that it was oil refined from cheese.

It was clear and cold, and tasted like sweet dew. It was enlightening and sweet.

It also nourished the bone marrow and nourished the marrow.

Young Miss liked it very much and ate some every day.

Before she could finish the bowl of porridge, Yu Youyao heard a commotion outside the tent. She quickly put down the bowl and got up to see what was going on outside..

Chapter 1029: I’m Back!

At this moment, the tent was suddenly lifted.

Yu Youyao stopped in her tracks and froze on the spot.

Yin Huaixi had grown taller again. He was wearing a battle robe, and his jade-like face looked even more defined. His edges were firm, but he was still as graceful and noble as before.

He stood quietly at the entrance of the tent and looked at her. He had one hand on the curved knife at his waist, and his entire body was filled with a murderous aura that had been sharpened by blood and war. He was terrifying to look at and she did not dare to approach him.

“You...” Yu Youyao’s eyes suddenly turned red, and even her voice trembled.

“You’re back!”

Yin Huaixi laughed softly. His voice was even deeper than before, and the murderous aura on his body dissipated. He strode forward and hugged the woman he had been dreaming about for a long time. Then, he said unhappily, “You’ve lost weight!”

Yu Youyao pressed her face against the armor on his chest and complained, “Ever since you led your troops to chase after Zamo He’s army until they reached the depths of the grassland, I haven’t been at peace for a day. Every few days, the Imperial Court will send a document over and persuade General Lin to send a message to you and summon the army back. The soldiers stationed in the army also argue every day. They all say that the terrain of the grassland is complicated. Our army has never gone deep into the grassland. If we’re not careful, we’ll be lost in the depths of the grassland. They said that there’s a man-eating swamp in the grassland, and there are also man-eating crocodiles hidden in the grass. If we don’t know the terrain of the grassland, we’ll die until

not even our bones are left. We don't have any experience in fighting in the grassland. It's very easy for us to suffer when we meet the Di people...'

In short, there were all kinds of things to say. No one believed that Yin Huaixi could escape unscathed. She was also anxious.

As she spoke, Yu Youyao's voice began to choke.

Yin Huaixi listened in silence, and his cold face was gradually replaced by gentleness. Only then did the clamoring war drums, roars, and miserable screams that were still ringing in his ears fade from his mind one by one, replaced by the gentle and fragile sobbing in his ears that contained grievances and longing.

Only then did he feel like a living person.

"Don't cry." Yin Huaixi lowered his head and rubbed his chin against the top of her head. He said hoarsely, "I'm back!"

"I've been waiting for you." Yu Youyao sobbed and slowly stopped crying. She gently tiptoed and looked up, revealing a relieved smile. She rubbed the tip of her nose against his and smiled briskly and happily. "I knew you would definitely come back."

Her intimate behavior revealed a hint of mischievousness and cuteness, but it made Yin Huaixi tense up. Her small jade nose rubbed against the tip of his nose, and her slow breath landed warmly on his nose, carrying a hint of damp fragrance that lingered in his breath. It was as if the two of them were breathing together in an instant.

This indescribable intimacy made Yin Huaixi's entire body go numb. He couldn't help but look at her lips. Her delicate lips were so close that as soon as he lowered his head...

His breathing became chaotic bit by bit.

The soft touch of her lips made Yin Huaixi's eyes instantly darken.

At this moment, a voice sounded from outside the tent. "Your Highness, General Lin wants you to discuss matters in the tent."

Yu Youyao was shocked. She hummed and quickly reached out to push him.

Yin Huaixi could only let go of her. Seeing that the little girl had buried her head in his chest and was so embarrassed that she did not dare to look at him, a smile appeared on his lips, and his deep eyes were filled with gentleness and love. "I'll be back soon."

Yu Youyao's lips curled up and she hummed like a cat. Just as she was about to leave his arms, Yin Huaixi pulled her into his arms again and buried his head in the side of her neck. He took a deep breath, and the feminine fragrance lingered in his nose and his heart, making his heart tremble wildly. His body burned, and he let out a sigh that sounded satisfied, unwilling, and helpless. "Go quickly." Yu Youyao pushed him gently.

However, Yin Huaixi couldn't bear to let go. He hugged her more tightly and rubbed her in his arms. He said hoarsely, "We were separated for four months."

His voice was hoarse. He did not say that he missed her, but it was clear that he missed her deeply. Yu Youyao said softly, "General Lin is still waiting for you. Come back early."

Yin Huaixi could only let go of her. He lowered his head and gently kissed the top of her fragrant head. "Wait for me to come back."

Looking at his sticky appearance, how did he look like the iron-blooded person who had just stepped into the tent? Yu Youyao couldn't help but giggle.

Yin Huaixi couldn't help but want to pull her back.

Yu Youyao was already on guard. She spun around and dodged his outstretched hand. She glared at him angrily. "Hurry up and go. You'll be a joke."

As soon as Yin Huaixi returned to the camp, he did not even go to General Lin's place and directly came to her. There were too many people in the army. If he stayed here and delayed, something might spread.

Although!

Her marriage with Yin Huaixi was considered an open secret in the army.

However, was she shameless?!

The battle with Zamo He had won a short period of peace for the North. but there were still small groups of the Northern Barbarian army who came over from time to time to provoke them. From time to time, Yin Huaixi would also bring a team of soldiers deep into the grassland and plunder the branches on the grassland. They obtained a large number of supplies and caused heavy losses to the Northern Barbarians.

The two sides exchanged blows. The various tribes of the Northern Barbarians also realized that Zamo He's previous guess was true.

Yin Huaixi might have already grasped the topographic map of the grassland and understood the distribution of the various tribes in the grassland.

Everyone in the various tribes of the Northern Barbarians was in danger. Some engaged in self-preservation, some were angry, and some were filled with hatred. In short, more and more tribes joined the war faction and participated in this war.

More and more troops among the Northern Barbarians gathered.

When the news reached the Imperial Court, it was solemn. Someone said, "King Yue Fei shouldn't have taken the initiative to attack and enter the grassland to plunder the resources of the Northern Barbarians, expanding the battle."

News of the North's success spread like wildfire. King Yue Fei's reputation in the court was unprecedented, and many generals respected him very much.

Immediately, a general glared at this person and reprimanded them, "I think you've been kneeling for too long and can't stand up. The Northern Barbarians have been plundering the borders of our

Great Zhou Dynasty for hundreds of years. Now that the Great Zhou Dynasty has plundered them back, how can you blame King Yue Fei?”

“Ever since he ascended the throne, we’ve made a fuss with the Northern Barbarians a few times. The conflict between the two sides is worsening day by day, and it’s already irreconcilable. How did it become King Yue Fei’s fault?”

“Your brains are muddled by sh*t. The Northern Barbarians are affected by the drought and lack resources, so they have no choice but to send troops against the Great Zhou Dynasty. This is a battle for survival. It’s not something that anyone can decide.”

“The Northern Barbarians want to take advantage of the internal strife in our Great Zhou to break through Jinzhou and enter Shanhai Pass. King Yue Fei went deep into the grassland and caught them off guard, disrupting their plan. That’s why they bought a chance for the North to catch their breath. The Northern Barbarians continue to increase their troops, which also shows that they’re afraid of King Yue Fei and that they’re not completely confident in this battle.. “

Chapter 1030: Wave after Wave

“F*ck, I just can’t stand you civil servants. You’re full of benevolence and morals, and you’re sanctimonious. You’re like a weak chicken. If King Yue Fei hadn’t fought his way to the grassland, Zamo He would have fought his way into Shanhai Pass.’

“The Northern Barbarians are determined to enter the Central Plains. Do they still want to retreat? Dream on. Do you believe that as long as King Yue Fei repels Zamo He and understands Zamo He’s background, he will hide in the defense line of Jinzhou? Then, the next step will be a crisis point for the

300,000 troops from the Northern Barbarians.”

There was an endless commotion in the Imperial Library.

Yu Zongshen placed the teacup heavily on the table.

The room immediately fell silent.

Yu Zongshen coughed and said, “What should come will come eventually. We should be glad that King Yue Fei can still guard the North, and not criticize who p s right and who’s wrong. The Xie family is just a merchant family, but they already know how to buy and sell great millet seeds to help the North farm in spring and recuperate. Eldest Princess Shaoyi is a woman, but she’s also concerned about her country. She joined the army and went to the country with the You army. The Daoist priests of the Wanjun Mountain also stepped forward in the face of the country’s disaster. All of you are officials in the court, so why are you in a mess?”

These indifferent words made the court officials look ashamed.

In the blink of an eye, it was August. Just as the court officials were worried about the war in the North, a piece of news came from the Liang army. The King of Liang led an army of 300,000 and launched a general attack on the Liang resistance army.

Ever since Duke Xu presided over the Liang resistance army for more than a year, there had been endless friction between the two sides, with casualties on both sides. The Liang resistance army was well-equipped and had the advantage of having more people. Meanwhile, Thief Liang did not dare to take the risk of losing his troops and easily sent troops to attack the Liang resistance army. Both sides had been in a stalemate.

Now that the war in the North had yet to end, Thief Liang had recuperated in Xiangyang for two years and his strength had already recovered. This battle was very tense.

However, before one wave was over, another rose.

The riots everywhere in the Great Zhou Dynasty could no longer be completely suppressed.

The remaining power of the clans in Shandong rose from the ashes and gathered. They called themselves the “rebellion army” and forcefully blasted open the city gate. They smashed the government office and released the prisoners who were locked up in prison. They captured all the officials in the government office and locked them up in prison carriages to parade and torture them in front of the commoners.

As soon as the news spread, there was an unprecedented wave of anti-Zhou protests everywhere.

The Great Zhou Dynasty was in chaos.

Yuan Jizi, who was meditating in the tent, opened his eyes and sighed softly. Xu Ming heard the commotion. “Martial Uncle, do you have any advice?”

“The Great Zhou Dynasty’s dragon vein is gone.” With that, Yuan Jizi slowly closed his eyes and meditated.

Xu Ming was shocked. “Martial Uncle, why do you say that? King Yue Fei is a true dragon with a long lifespan. He’s a wise ruler. Since he’s from the orthodox lineage of the royal family, it’s only logical for him to continue the Great Zhou’s throne and the fate of the country.”

Yuan Jizi closed his eyes and did not move. “This is the heavenly secret. Let’s see!”

Xu Ming immediately calmed down. His Martial Uncle’s divination wouldn’t be wrong, so there was only one possibility.

After a long while, a long sigh came from the tent.

The news of the chaos reached Yu Youyao’s ears. At this moment, she had already returned to the Jinyuan Garden.

The battle with Zamo He had ushered in a precious period of time for the North to recuperate. As the war between the two sides had entered a

stalemate, Yin Huaixi really couldn't bear for Yu Youyao to stay in the army and suffer. After the Dragon Boat Festival, he sent troops to escort her back to Jinzhou.

Yu Youyao did not want to return, but she also knew that all the general matters in the army were on the right track. She could not help much if she stayed in the army.

For more than a year after that, the two of them had been dealing with the situation of being separated from each other.

Yu Youyao did not stay idle either. Liaodong had accepted more than two million refugees. Most of the land was reclaimed and was very barren. Other than sweet potatoes, there was no other crop to grow.

Now that the sweet potatoes had solved the problem of food and shelter, they had to increase the production of food and improve the lack of supplies in the North.

Yu Youyao studied the farm books with the old farmers in the manor. Finally, her gaze landed on the green fertilizer.

The Great Zhou Dynasty valued agriculture and merchants, and they also valued fertilizer that could increase crop production.

Green manure was one of them, and it had a history of more than a thousand years.

The more common manure in the Great Zhou Dynasty were made of plants such as common vetch, Chinese milkvetch, clovers, and so on. They mostly grew in the south.

Yu Youyao discovered that there were records of green manure in the book "Broad Aspirations" from the Jin Dynasty. In the book, it said, "Green, yellow, and purple flowers are planted under rice in December. They spread and are prosperous. They can beautify fields and make leaves edible."

Green manure was already very widespread in the Northern Wei dynasty. According to the Qimin Yaoshu, "After planting it in spring, one can harvest 600 kilograms per acre. Its beauty is the same as silkworm feces."

The effect of green manure was the same as all kinds of feces.

Common vetch was a very common green manure in the south. It was rare in Liaodong, mainly because the land was vast and the people were sparse. Agriculture was not developed, so no one valued this.

Yu Youyao also realized that the bird vetch that was mainly planted in the south preferred moist environments and could not be planted in the Liaodong area.

Later, she discovered in a book called "The History of the North" that there was a type of hairy vetch in the north of China that was resistant to cold. It was very resistant to cold, had great adaptability, and did not have strict requirements for the soil. It could be planted in sand, soil, and clay. Moreover, it had a strong vitality and was tenacious. It did not compete with other crops for nutrition. It also had the advantages of improving the soil, making the land fertile, maintaining water and soil, and suppressing weeds.

Yu Youyao wrote a letter and told Yin Huaixi about this discovery. She even sighed with emotion in the letter. "As expected, people still have to study more to gain more knowledge."

Even if she had always been interested in agriculture, she wouldn't have realized that there was a type of hairy vetch in north China that could be planted in Liaodong?!

Yu Youyao immediately sent someone to the north to buy the hairy vetch seeds.

The hairy vetch was like a weed in the north of China, covering the entire mountain. The cost of seeds was very low. With the help of the local government office, they bought a large batch without spending much money.

Hence, Yu Youyao cooperated with the state government office to promote the hairy vetch throughout the North. She also sent a letter to Ye Xiaoci, in which she mentioned the various benefits of the hairy vetch.

. After the autumn harvest, when the farmland is empty, plant the hairy vetch that can withstand the cold and winter. It can be used as green manure to maintain the land.'

“The large amount of fresh hairy vetch harvested can be used for livestock. With a large amount of fresh grass, the livestock in the Liaodong area can also be expanded on a large scale.”

“A large amount of meat, wool, fresh milk, and even horses can not only improve the lives of the commoners in Liaodong as soon as possible, but also provide military supplies.”

“This way, we can completely resolve the lack of supplies in Liaodong. This is a meritorious move in the current era. I hope Lord Ye will think twice.”

Ye Xiaoci was also knowledgeable. He kept feeling that as a parent official of a prefecture, he was actually not as magnanimous as Eldest Princess Shaoyi. Immediately, he felt a little complicated and ashamed.

He couldn't help but sigh with emotion to his aides. “There are three regrets in life. First, begonia has no fragrance. Second, shad has many fish bones. Third, Eldest Princess of Shaoyi isn't a man..”