

All Hail 1041

Chapter 1041: Rada Khan

The prevention of the snow disaster involved nothing more than food, warmth, and typhoid medicine.

The coal and charcoal industry in the Shanxi and the Shaanxi area was very prosperous. Almost all the coal and charcoal in the various areas of the Great Zhou Dynasty were supplied from the Shanshaan area. The local commoners lived in cellars, which were strong against the wind and kept them warm.

They were also safer. In addition, the weather in the North was cold in winter. The commoners had lived on that land for generations and had good resistance to cold and rebellion. The matter of keeping warm could be delayed a little.

Food and typhoid medicine were the main focus.

In addition, a drought has lasted for three to four years in a row in the Guanzhong area, and it had snowed. The drought had been alleviated, but the long-term drought had caused the soil to turn into sand that was no different from a wasteland. Crops had to be carefully planted and the soil had to be handled well to raise the soil back. This would have a huge impact on the spring planting in the second year. The hairy vetch had to be planted in October.

If the temperature dropped drastically, the seeds wouldn't be able to survive.

Yu Youyao had a plan in mind. She immediately joined forces with the Xie and Bai Residences and the aristocratic families and nobles of Liaodong to prepare supplies for the snow disaster.

The state government office had also announced many matters related to the prevention and control of the snow disaster. They had also set up a series of measures to help the refugees and encourage the commoners to donate supplies.

At the same time, a document was issued encouraging the planting of hairy vetch in the central part of the country.

First, hairy vetch could survive winter and nourish the land. It could prepare the land for the spring planting next year and increase the harvest.

Second, when there was a lack of food during winter, it was still edible.

It wasn't that they hadn't considered that if the snow disaster was serious, the hairy vetch wouldn't be able to survive. However, the hairy vetch was strong against cold, and the cost of seeds was low. They weren't afraid of wasting it, nor did they need to spend time tending to it. Even the hairy vetch couldn't survive and froze to death, it could also rot in the ground and fertilize it. No matter how one looked at it, it was beneficial.

At the same time as the notice was put up, the documents in the state government office were also issued to the various counties.

After the government made a move, Yu Youyao timely handed over the prepared relief supplies to the government in the name of a donation. Among them was a batch of hairy vetch seeds.

As soon as the news spread, Liaodong was in an uproar again.

After three consecutive years of harvest in Liaodong, the commoners' lives were much better. With Eldest Princess Shaoyi taking the lead, every family spontaneously went to the donation location organized by the government office to donate resources. It was more or less a token of their appreciation.

When the news reached the Shanxi and the Shaanxi area, the nobles could no longer sit still.

Although the Han family of Xi'an had fallen, as the case involved too many parties, it had yet to be closed and had implicated many nobles.

After confiscating a large amount of wealth, all the supplies were confiscated as military supplies. All the real money was sent to the Ministry of Revenue. Carts of silver were forcefully withstood by the Great Zhou Dynasty.

It also made the Imperial Court completely target the fat sheep in Shanxi and Shaanxi. How could they bear to let the Han family's case in Xi'an be closed so easily?!

This also completely sounded a death knell for the nobles of the aristocratic families, making them realize that the power of the aristocratic families was gone and the entire North was King Yue Fei's world.

In particular, when the Northern Barbarians invaded on a large scale, the Imperial Court issued a document calling for people to support the battle and gave King Yue Fei ultimate power. Everyone was terrified and donated money, food, and supplies. They spared no effort.

As soon as they heard that Eldest Princess Shaoyi had donated resources to help with the snow disaster, they scrambled to prepare the supplies and arrange for the snow disaster relief, afraid that they would fall behind. As soon as the snow disaster appeared, the North showed great cohesion.

It reflected Eldest Princess Shaoyi's appeal in the North.

It also expressed King Yue Fei's control over the North.

News from the Guanzhong area reached Yu Youyao's ears one by one. After Yu Youyao read it carefully, she sent someone to investigate openly and secretly. In mid-November, the heavy snow did not stop, and the snow disaster arrived as scheduled.

The various government offices in Guanzhong sent over the first list of snow disaster deaths.

Yu Youyao felt terrible when she saw the bright red names on it that represented lost lives. However, when she saw the total number of people, she couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief.

The aristocratic families and nobles of Liaodong were finally humane.

Nanny Yue said, "The disaster relief supplies sent by the government are mainly food. There will definitely be enough sweet potatoes. When the refugees eat their fill and their body's resistance increases, they will be able to reduce their illnesses and save on the consumption of medicine. Their deaths will also be reduced."

Food for disaster relief was the most important. Only food could calm the hearts of the people.

Yu Youyao agreed deeply and asked, "How's the situation with the hairy vetches planted in October?"

Nanny Yue said, "Although the hairy vetch has good resistance to cold and harsh weather, the germination rate has greatly decreased in extreme weather. Not even 50% of seeds in each acre have survived. If the temperature continues to drop, a batch will freeze to death."

Fortunately, Young Miss reacted quickly and planted the seeds in October. At that time, there were still very few areas with snow, and the temperature had not decreased greatly. If it had been a little later, the seeds would not have germinated.

"It's much better than expected." Yu Youyao smiled, and even her expression relaxed a lot. "After this winter, everyone's days will be hopeful."

As long as it could survive in the fields, it would more or less improve the quality of the soil. The harvest next year would also increase a little.

Unknowingly, it was December.

A shocking news came from the front line—

The various tribes of the Northern Barbarians jointly elected the leader of the

Huqiang Tribe, Rada, to be the Khan. He was known as the "Rada Khan." Rada Khan unified the grassland tribes and led 600,000 troops of the Northern Barbarians to conquer the narrow Yu Pass.

In the past year or so, the Northern Barbarians had fought the Great Zhou repeatedly, but they had always lost. The Northern Barbarians had never retreated, and they did not have any effective countermeasures. The war between the two sides had always been at a stalemate.

This did not match the brave and warlike nature of the Northern Barbarians.

Yu Youyao had a bad feeling. The birth of the "Khan" confirmed this.

The Northern Barbarians were a hunting race. There were no less than 200 tribes of all sizes. The tribes did not have a fixed place to live, and they wandered and migrated in the grassland. Furthermore, because the Di people advocated freedom and respected strength, the tribes usually did their own things. In order to fight for resources, internal strife was also very intense.

The selection of the Khan had definitely been going on for a long time. However, because the conflict between the various tribes was intense, there had never been a conclusion. The internal opinions were not united, so the war ahead was a little stretched.

Therefore, in the past two years, the war had been at a stalemate.

Yin Huaixi often attacked the various tribes in the grassland, making the Northern Barbarians helpless.

Now that the Khan had been born and the Northern Barbarians had made a comeback, they vowed to wash away their previous humiliation.

This news shocked the entire royal court.

The You army only had a total of 500,000 troops. There were only about

300,000 people who could really go to the battlefield, while the Northern Barbarians had 600,000 troops. The difference in troops between the two sides was too great. How were they going to fight this battle?

The entire court argued endlessly.

There was even someone in the hall who suggested making peace with the Northern Barbarians. “Don’t the Northern Barbarians want supplies? Liaodong has had a huge harvest for three consecutive years, so I don’t think they lack supplies. Spend a little resources to appease the Northern Barbarians.. After dealing with Thief Liang, we’ll settle the internal and external matters...”

Chapter 1042: Army Pressure

Immediately, many people joined in.

The pro-war faction was so angry that they cursed at this group of people.

Yu Zongshen, who was holding a heater in his hand, couldn’t help but cough a few times when he heard the commotion in the court. His expression suddenly turned a little ashen. “Alright, alright, cough, cough, no, cough, stop arguing...”

The entire court turned a deaf ear.

Someone pointed at a person’s nose and scolded them. That person spat on their face. It was chaos.

Yu Zongshen’s face turned pale, as if he was on the verge of death. He picked up his teacup and suddenly threw it to the ground, causing fragments to splash all over the ground.

The entire court immediately fell silent.

In the dead silence of the royal court, Yu Zongshen’s cough sounded intermittently.

After a while, Yu Zongshen asked in a hoarse voice, “I thought that there was no need to argue about whether we should fight this battle or not. What do you think?”

These casual words were faintly intimidating.

The court officials looked at one another, and no one raised any objections.

“Very good.” Yu Zongshen smiled. His pale lips curled up slightly with a sickly coldness. “It seems that no one has any objections. Next, the entire court will do their best to prepare for the military supplies to be sent to the North.” Just like that, the matter was settled.

The next day, news spread in the capital that Yu Zongshen was seriously ill and couldn’t come to court. For a moment, everyone in the court was in turmoil.

Yu Youyao did not know how the Imperial Court was in turmoil. No matter how uneasy she was, the battle between the kings still came.

This time, Yu Youyao did not go to the frontline army.

Xiangping City was located in the center of the military town. By guarding Xiangping, it could guarantee supplies from Liancheng, Anshan, Dandong, Fengtian, and other places with more abundant resources. It could be transported endlessly to the front line to protect the You army's rear.

Although Lord Ye was in charge of Xiangping City, she was still worried about entrusting the lives of 500,000 You soldiers to them.

The second day after the Di army arrived, Yu Youyao used her status as Eldest Princess Shaoyi to preside over the Yue Fei's Residence and gathered the military advisors and aides in charge of the residence to ask for many details.

Since ancient times, the army's supply route had always been the core secret of the army. Outsiders did not know about it, let alone pry into it.

Transporting military supplies was also a very cautious and secretive matter. The dispatch and production of the military supplies was even more important.

Immediately, she received many doubts.

Yu Youyao did not care, She said slowly, "The army's food supplies include dried buns, bakes cakes, flatbread, sweet potatoes, and so on. We can add some curd cheese and cut the curd cheese into the size of sugar cubes for soldiers to carry with them. During the battle, they lack stamina because of hunger. They can take advantage of the chaos to stuff a piece into their mouths. While replenishing their stamina at any time, it won't affect the battle. I've checked many documents of the Northern Barbarians. The reason why the Di people have always been successful on the battlefield is related to this kind of curd cheese that can replenish their stamina at any time. I heard that a small piece of curd cheese can replenish their stamina several times more than a piece of dried bun."

However, it was not convenient to eat dried buns to replenish one's strength at any time.

Curd cheese was fine.

The importance of curd cheese on the battlefield was self-evident.

Yu Youyao ordered someone to bring over a plate of curd cheese. This kind of curd cheese made of fresh milk was cut into the size of plums. It was very convenient to eat one mouthful at a time. The color was sallow, with a faint milky fragrance and a hint of sourness.

Yu Youyao smiled and said, "Try it."

Immediately, someone couldn't help but take a piece and put it in his mouth. The thick milk fragrance melted between his lips, mixed with a hint of sourness. It neutralized the fishy and greasy taste of fresh milk, and the taste was very unique.

One of the military advisors was a little weak. As he had not eaten breakfast, he was a little dizzy and short of breath. After eating a piece of curd cheese, he immediately felt the benefits.

"The cost of grain wine is too high, so it can't be fully promoted in the army.

The brewing of kumis and sheep milk wine doesn't cost food, and the brewing process is simpler. Not only can milk wine help one to resist the cold, but it can also replenish stamina. It can be promoted in the army."

The promotion of the cultivation of hairy vetch also meant the rapid development of animal husbandry.

In the past two years, the amount of milk produced by the livestock farms had gradually increased. Yu Youyao had invested a lot of manpower and material resources to set up a workshop and study the diet of the Di people. Currently, it was already starting to take shape.

Han people liked to eat porridge and drink soup, so they did not value fresh milk. Fresh milk had a fishy smell, and many people were not used to it. The commoners' lives were rough, and there was no effective way to remove the fishy smell without spending money. A portion of the fresh milk produced in the ranch was supplied to wealthy families to make exquisite food, and most of it was actually wasted.

This was why nobles ate cows and sheep, while commoners ate pork.

While Yu Youyao encouraged livestock, she also valued fresh milk. She had also opened workshops in various areas of Liaodong to buy fresh milk and make milk products. This provided a new way to earn money for the various livestock and commoners.

The commoners who were raised freely sold the fresh milk to the nearby ranches, and the ranches sold the fresh milk to the workshops under Yu Youyao's name, forming a good industrial chain. Not only did it increase the harvest of the commoners, but it also greatly mobilized the enthusiasm of the livestock ranches, promoting the strong development of animal husbandry.

Therefore, most of the milk produced in Liaodong was supplied to the workshops under Yu Youyao's name.

The workshop had accumulated a large number of supplies. They were waiting for this moment.

"The Di people have a type of dried meat that has already been popularized in the army as military food. Meat can allow the soldiers to maintain their stamina for a long time and increase their combat ability. This is something that noodles and milk can't compare to. Our Great Zhou has a similar method, and the taste will be better. Next, we can buy meat and organize the soldiers left behind to enter the mountains to hunt in the winter. We can make dried meat to support the soldiers."

There were few people in the vast land of Liaodong, and the mountains were filled with forests. There were many wild beasts in the mountains, so there was no lack of prey. Therefore, winter hunting was a must every winter.

First, supplies were scarce in winter. During the winter hunt, they could obtain meat to improve their lives and help the soldiers recuperate.

Secondly, the winter was bitterly cold. Not only did high-intensity training consume too many supplies, but it also caused greater damage to the soldiers' bodies. Going into the mountains to hunt could increase the soldiers' actual combat ability and adaptability.

Third, the mountains in Liaodong were dense and there were many wild beasts. Many commoners relied on the mountains. If the wild beasts were not restrained, once they overflowed, they would definitely go down the mountain to hurt the villagers.

Fourth, it was more beneficial for wild beasts to reproduce in the mountains and maintain a good living environment to prevent wild beasts from flooding and destroying the forest on a large scale.

Yu Youyao consulted a large amount of Northern Barbarian literature, chose the merits, and studied them.

From this, she realized that although the Great Zhou Dynastys military rations were more abundant, they were mainly mixed grains, which were not as good as the Di people in terms of replenishing their stamina. Therefore, in terms of maintaining their stamina and combat strength, they were much inferior to the Di people.

However, mixed grains were good for the stomach and absorption. It was easier to nourish the body and health. It was much better than the food of the

Northern Barbarians..

Chapter 1043: Thunderous Means

According to the Inner Canon of the Yellow Emperor, “The five grains are for cultivation, the five fruits are for assistance, the five animals are for benefit, and the five vegetables are for supplements.”

Yu Youyao couldn’t help but think that if she could combine the advantages of the food eaten by the Great Zhou and the Northern Barbarians, what would the Northern Barbarians have to fear?

The rapid development of animal husbandry had made Liaodong a lot richer in meat and food. The Imperial Court also had a lot of meat supplies. In addition, a large number of prey from the winter hunt could be used as supplementary food for the entire army.

That was why she dared to make this suggestion.

However, the military supplies were so important, so she did not make it public in advance.

Instead, she used the workshop to build stockpiles.

“In addition, in order to make it easier to carry fresh milk and make it into dried powder, the Di people mixed the dry milk powder with water in a water bag and drank the mixture. Dry milk powder is light and easy to carry. Even if the soldiers bring more, it won’t affect the battle. We can try it.”

On the battlefield, every soldier carried very limited military rations. A large part was because carrying too much would affect the coordination and flexibility of their bodies and their combat strength. Dry milk powder could solve this problem very well.

From this, it could be seen that there was a reason why the Di people could dominate the grassland and covet the Great Zhou.

Due to the increased supply of milk military rations, which was more conducive to replenishing strength on the battlefield, it was also not a small matter. Yu Youyao also suggested adding more and changing some of the supply routes that were mainly made from milk workshops.

Immediately, she was met with intense objections.

“I have no objections to increasing the supply of milk-based military food, but adding to and changing the supply line is not a small matter. Even Your Highness can’t make a decision easily.”

“The Eldest Princess’s words and actions are quite respectful of the Northern Barbarians. She even wants to place the things of the Northern Barbarians on our Great Zhou’s table. It’s simply ridiculous. I’ll say this today. I’d rather starve to death than eat the food of the Northern Barbarians.’

“The Northern Barbarians eat raw meat and drink blood. What’s so good about the things of the Northern Barbarians that they’re worth the Eldest Princess’s effort? Eldest Princess, have you forgotten how General Ming Wei died? How many soldiers of our Great Zhou Dynasty have died under the cavalry of the north barbarians over the years? Don’t you feel ashamed?”

“Eldest Princess, you’re talking about the longevity of the Northern Barbarians here. Do you think that our Great Zhou is inferior to the Northern Barbarians? Men of our Great Zhou eat chaff and wild herbs on an empty stomach. All these years, we’ve still stopped the Northern Barbarians outside the narrow Yu Pass!”

“I admit that the Eldest Princess has done a lot for the North in the past three years. Just like the commoners, we’re very grateful to her. However, war is a men’s business. It’s better for the Eldest Princess not to get involved.”

“Women have to follow the three obediences and four virtues. This is the moral norm for women. I’m afraid that with the Eldest Princess’s actions, she will be meddling in politics...”

There was a commotion in the meeting room.

Butler Wen’s expression darkened. It was His Highness’s idea to let the Eldest Princess preside over the Yue Fei Kings Residence. The Yue Fei Kings Residence and the state government office would complement her to ensure that nothing went wrong.

However, these people were arrogant and looked down on the Eldest Princess.

They were openly shouting in front of her. They were sure that the Eldest Princess was wary of His Highness and did not dare to do anything to them!

Who gave them the guts?!

Yu Youyao did not feel embarrassed. Before Butler Wen could flare up, she called for the guards of the residence and pointed at a few of the most arrogant people.

“Drag them away and send them to the front line. Armchair strategists can’t work with me. Don’t lecture me on the principles of three obediences and four virtues either. You don’t care about the opinions of others and have blind confidence. I think that this method is feasible. If you’re right, hold it in. In the future, when you return from the battlefield alive, come and argue with me.”

Her thunderous methods immediately shocked the military counselors and aides until their faces turned ashen and they knelt on the ground, but it did not change Yu Youyao’s mind.

Those who objected were dragged out. The remaining scholars looked at each other, feeling that Eldest Princess Shaoyi in front of them was different from what they had heard.

It must be an illusion!

Yu Youyao swept her gaze across everyone present and said gently, “You’ve never been to the battlefield, so you don’t know how difficult it is to have supplies on the battlefield. Saying that you’ll rather die than eat anything from the Northern Barbarians is pure nonsense. If the soldiers win a battle, they have to clean up the battlefield, count the supplies, and use the supplies of the Di people to strengthen themselves. Is that wrong?”

“King Yue Fei even personally led his troops deep into the grassland and plundered the supplies of the Di people. No matter who it belongs to, it’s ours if we eat it. If we kill the enemy, we’ve profited. If we walk down the battlefield alive, we’ll be victorious. Materials on the battlefield are life. Only when the soldiers eat their fill can they win the battle.”

“It’s also a fact that the soldiers and horses of the Northern Barbarians are strong. We won’t underestimate ourselves. We won’t boost the ambition of others and reduce our prestige. However, we have to absorb the strengths of others and close the gap between us and others step by step to strengthen ourselves.’

“In the pre-Qin Dynasty, the insufferably arrogant Xiongnu had been extinct in the grassland. The Loulan Kingdom was exterminated, and the Turks had also been exterminated. However, our Han heritage was indestructible. Why?

It’s simply because we were magnanimous. We displayed strong tolerance and allowed the cultures of the various races to fight with hundreds of families in the Han Dynasty. The Baiyue that had once posed a threat to the million soldiers of the Great Qin Dynasty was conquered by us, assimilated, and returned to Hanzhi. Isn’t this enough to explain all of this?”

These words made many people present look ashamed.

They prided themselves on being talented, which was why they had been recruited by the Yue Fei’s Residence and were already loyal to it. However, because the Eldest Princess was a woman, they had developed prejudice against her. They were arrogant and looked down on the Eldest Princess.

However, in terms of size, horizon, breadth of mind, and originality, they were far inferior.perspective

After this episode, all the military advisers and aides present calmed down and began to face the various suggestions made by Princess Shao Yi seriously. They conducted intense discussions and added, modified, and optimized the military supply line to make it more convenient, fast, and mobile.

Three days later, the reform of the military supplies was officially established.

Using the first batch of military supplies as an experiment, due to the speed and concealment of the transportation, it was discovered that this plan was safe and reliable. Furthermore, it was easier and faster to transport the supplies.

The supplies were endlessly shipped to the front line and quickly promoted in the army. At first, the soldiers were not used to the food of the Di people.

When the supply increased, it was inevitable that there would be complaints. Not long after, the soldiers realized that curd cheese, kumis, sheep milk wine, and dried milk powder were more convenient and allowed them to recover their strength more quickly than the food they usually ate, so they accepted it well.

All of them admired the Eldest Princess.

Even Yin Huaixi did not expect that after the little girl returned to Xiangping, she would still hold back such a big move. In a situation where both sides were of the same combat strength, the use of tactics and the speed at which the soldiers recovered were the key to determining the outcome.

Yin Huaixi had long known that on the battlefield, the recovery speed of the Great Zhou soldiers was weaker than the Di people, so he had always been passive and rarely took the initiative to attack..

Chapter 1044: Expedition

It wasn't that Yin Huaixi didn't know that all of this was related to the diet of the Di people, but the diet of the Northern Barbarians was completely different from that of the Great Zhou. Curd cheese, kumis, sheep milk wine, dried fresh milk, and so on were ordinary things for the Northern Barbarians, but they couldn't be used as military supplies for the entire army in the Great Zhou, and no one knew how to make them.

Of course, he could also find someone to study these foods, but it would require a lot of human, material, and financial resources. This happened to be what the You army lacked.

Yu Youyao could easily do it because he had looted the documents of more than 30 tribes in the Northern Barbarians. There were relevant records.

The rapid development of animal husbandry led to the promotion of milk-based military food.

Without the green manure, everything would be in vain.

If one wanted to do something, they had to have the right time, place, and people.

Yu Youyao had simply solved his biggest problem.

“Wu—Wu—Wu—” The sound of the horn was high and sharp, coming from afar and circling the world.

Yin Huaixi looked up in the direction of the narrow Yu Pass. The entire camp was so quiet that there was only the whistling cold wind. It howled angrily, vowing to tear this horn apart.

The soldiers consciously lined up, and it did not take long for the entire army to be completed.

Yin Huaixi jumped onto his horse and said loudly, “The Di people’s trumpet has been blown. It’s time for us to fight them to the death. You...” His gaze swept across the soldiers lined up in all directions and he suddenly raised his voice. “Are you afraid?”

The soldiers in the camp raised their weapons and shouted excitedly.

“We’re not afraid!”

“We’re not afraid!”

“We’re not afraid!”

Their soaring battle intent transformed into the aura of a tiger and dragon, tearing apart the howling cold wind, indicating their determination to flatten the Northern Barbarians.

They had waited for this battle for two years.

For two whole years.

They had waited for two long, yet short years.

Yin Huaixi said in a low voice, ‘E In ancient times, there was the Marquis of Guan Jun. He attacked the Left General and obtained the flag and drum before crossing Mount Lihou. Eighty-three people, including three generals, the

Prime Minister, the official, and the commandant, offered sacrifices on the Wolf Residence Mountain. Then, they climbed the mountain to look over the ocean. From then on, the Xiongnu fled far away and there was no royal court in the desert.’

“There’s also Li Jing. He destroyed the Turks, their families, and their race. He stepped on the Wolf Residence Mountain and offered a sacrifice.”

Offering a sacrifice on the Wolf Residence Mountain was the highest honor of a general. In history, there were only four people who had contributed and offered a sacrifice on the Wolf Residence Mountain. Which soldier present didn’t want to fight their way to the Wolf Residence Mountain, flatten the Northern Barbarians, offer sacrifices and gifts on the Wolf Residence Mountain, offer sacrifices to the ground at the Guyan Mountain, raise the prestige of their country, offer sacrifices to loyal souls, and comfort the heroes who had sacrificed themselves under the cavalry of the Northern Barbarians?!

Yin Huaixi drew his knife and pointed it in the direction of the grassland. “Take your daggers, raise your shields, hold your spears, and make your pledge. That land was once conquered by the Han people. The fat sheep and strong horses on that grassland were once brought to graze by the Han people. There is meat, wine, and fragrance there. There is countless gold, silver, and treasures, and

they were also the wealth of the Han people. Today, Yin Huaixi will lead an army of 500,000 troops to conquer the Di thieves and recover the rivers and mountains. I swear I won't return until I break the Northern Barbarians...

The soldiers raised their weapons, lined up their shields, stood up their spears, and swore to King Yue Fei.

"I swear I won't return until I break through the Northern Barbarians..."

"I swear I won't return..."

"I won't return..."

"Return..."

He thought of the beautiful jade and gems of the Northern Barbarians, the cows, sheep, and horses of the Northern Barbarians, the purple jade of the Northern Barbarians, the swordsmen of the Northern Barbarians, the bow armor...

In the past two years, the soldiers who had tasted the sweetness of it all had green eyes. They were all focused on snatching back the supplies that the Northern Barbarians had stolen from the Great Zhou for so many years.

Yin Huaixi shouted, "Hit the drum!"

The drumbeat was powerful and dignified, like an illustrious thunderclap that resounded through the world and shot into the sky, echoing in the wind with the high and fierce sound of the horn.

Yin Huaixi ordered, "Army, follow me to our expedition!"

He said that he was going on an expedition, not to fight.

It was an expedition, or rather, a crusade.

After the army left the camp, Yin Huaixi suddenly turned around. Huang Wenhua noticed his abnormality and turned around to meet his gaze. That direction was in the direction of Xiangping.

He opened his mouth to say something—

Yin Huaixi tightened his grip on his horse and shouted, "Go!!"

The horse shot out like lightning.

The news of the Northern Barbarians bearing down at the border and King Yue Fei leading his troops to fight spread throughout the Great Zhou.

The Northern Barbarians had an army of 600,000, but Rada Khan had unified the grassland to attack the Great Zhou together. He could mobilize far more than 600,000 troops.

This was a battle with a disparity in strength.

At this moment, another piece of bad news came from Xiangyang City. The King of Liang had personally led an army of 200,000 and defeated 300,000 troops from the Liang resistance army. The Marquis of Yongle had killed Duke Xu. He led the remaining 70,000 troops and a large number of rations and supplies to rebel against the Imperial Court and join Thief Liang.

Without any effort, Thief Liang completely occupied Hubei and continued to attack Henan, which was adjacent to Hubei, catching the Imperial Court off guard.

As soon as the news spread, the Imperial Court lost all its dignity and the hearts of the people.

When Yu Zongshen heard this news, his throat itched and he coughed up a mouthful of blood. “Back then, I sent Duke Xu to Hubei to use his power to suppress the Marquis of Yongle. After Duke Xu took control of the army, I sent three secret letters in a row and asked him to kill the Marquis of Yongle to prevent future trouble.”

At that time, the Marquis of Yongle was in control of the 300,000-strong army. He was at the peak of his prestige. No matter what general was sent over, they might not be able to surpass the Marquis of Yongle and control the 300,000-strong army. It was also because the Marquis of Yongle was a general under Duke Xu that only Duke Xu could suppress him.

There was dead silence in the room. Elder Yu leaned against his chair and drank his tea.

After a while, Yu Zongshen sneered. “It’s easy to guess what Duke Xu is thinking. Although the Marquis of Yongle is an old general under Duke Xu, he has held military power for many years and is quite prestigious in the court. Previously, someone was in the court and exposed Duke Nings old matters, causing an uproar in the entire court. Duke Xu’s reputation was greatly damaged and he was dissatisfied with the Imperial Court. He didn’t kill the Marquis of Yongle in case the Imperial Court kicked him to the curb once he’s outlived their usefulness.’

Although the Marquis of Yongle could not escape the crime of General Hu Wei’s death, if he could atone for his merits, this matter would be left unsettled. If the Marquis of Yongle did not die, he would still be able to help Duke Xu. Duke Xu was powerful, so the Imperial Court could not do anything to him. Duke Xu even had the intention to use the army to support the Third Prince.

This way, the Marquis of Yongle could not be killed.

What a good plan.

However, he would probably never have dreamed that the Marquis of Yongle would collude with Thief Liang and betray the military intelligence of the Liang army, causing the Liang resistance army to suffer a crushing defeat and even lose their lives.

The crushing defeat of the Liang resistance army stemmed from Duke Xu’s selfishness.

Otherwise, it would be impossible for Thief Liang to defeat the Liang resistance army so easily.

Elder Yu put down his teacup and was also heartbroken. “The Liang resistance army is equipped with the best weapons and equipment. It gathers most of the rations and military supplies from the important food production places like Jingzhao, Tianjin, Hebei, and Henan. Now, these resources have benefited Thief Liang. Their strength has increased greatly. They don’t even need to rest and can attack repeatedly. I think they’ll be able to take down Henan in a few days..”

Chapter 1045: Abandoning the Capital to Protect the North

The Liang resistance army was too caught off guard. Due to the Marquis of Yongle’s rebellion, Thief Liang did not suffer too many losses in this battle.

They even obtained a batch of good weapons and equipment, as well as a large amount of rations.

Thief Liang had struck while the iron was hot and attacked Henan. It could be said that he had caught the Imperial Court off guard. If the Imperial Court reacted again, they had already missed a good opportunity to resist. Yu Zongshen closed his eyes and said weakly, "Escape south!"

He said the last two words with extraordinary difficulty.

The King of Dongning was not a good person. There would definitely be the flames of war in the East Sea again. Currently, the only area that no one dared to touch for the time being was the Jiangnan area, which was under Ye Hanyuan's control.

Jiangnan was rich in resources. Only by escaping to the Jiangnan area could the refugees survive.

Elder Yu sighed softly. "It's still too early to say that. The 200,000 troops under Duke Duan are guarding the Rehe area. We can't surrender without a fight. Right now, the hearts of the people in the court are wavering. Rest well..."

Yu Zongshen coughed a few more times. Every time he coughed, his saliva contained traces of blood. "Since Henan has been lost, how can Hebei be preserved? Get— Get the Marquis of Zhenguo to command the capital's camp. Surround— Surround those aristocratic families in the capital and confiscate 70% of their wealth. Then, send— send them to the North. We'll abandon the capital to protect the north."

Elder Yu was shocked. "How can you have such thoughts? Do you know that you'll be infamous for doing this?"

"Death is like a lamp going out. When I die, I won't know how my descendants will scold me. Why should I care?"

Yu Zongshen chuckled. Unlike usual, he seemed to be wearing a mask. This smile revealed a hint of arrogance and carefreeness, making him look extremely real.

Elder Yu did not agree. "Do you have the intention to die? You're still so young. Imperial Physician Hu also said that your illness is anxiety. If you can relax, your body might be able to recover. It's been so many years. Why do you have to suffer?"

As early as after Old Madam Yu's death, there was a problem with Yu Zongshen's health. At first, no one in the clan knew about it. When they discovered it, his condition became even more serious.

After helping out and returning to the court, everything was complicated and tiring. His condition worsened.

Yu Zongshen said calmly, "I've also thought about letting go, but no one gave me this chance."

In the past, he had also been a high-spirited young man. He had gone south alone, lifted the sea ban, benefited the people, and met a delicate woman. He had dreamed of making contributions and asking the emperor for an imperial edict to welcome her into the family gloriously. From this, they would grow old together and never leave each other.

However, fate made a fool of him. The girl he had been looking for became his eldest sister-in-law.

He hated and resented the situation, but he did not know who to hate or blame.

His heart was crushed.

He had thought that Madam Xie was such a good woman. After marrying his eldest brother, the couple would definitely be able to treat each other respectfully and be loving as husband and wife. As long as Xie Roujia lived well, he should be able to let go of it and try to accept the good wife his mother had chosen for him. Even if they couldn't be loving for the rest of their lives, they would at least be respectful to each other.

However, he watched helplessly as someone he couldn't get what he wanted was mocked, treated coldly, despised, and even betrayed by his eldest brother. In the end, she ended up with a poor life.

He hated it!

He also wanted to let it go and dismiss it from his mind.

However, no one had given him this chance.

He also wanted to accept Madam Yao, but every time he looked at her, she would put on the airs of a scholarly woman and pretend to be gentle and polite. She kept saying that she was at odds with Xie Roujia, comparing and pitting herself against her. In other words, she looked down on the Xie family's merchant background to show how noble she was.

This point happened to hit a sore spot.

If it weren't for his mother's prejudice, how could Xie Roujia have become his eldest sister-in-law?

He was heartbroken and disappointed.

His mother had crushed his heart and made him unable to get her. The "good wife" she had found for him was nothing much. She was not even half as bright and beautiful as Xie Roujia.

He had seen such an open, bright, and lively woman. Was there anyone else in this world who caught his eye?

NO!

He was carrying the hope of his widowed mother mixed with blood and tears. He was carrying the heavy responsibility of his father's prosperity when his father was on his deathbed. He was carrying the honor and decline of his family, which had been passed down for hundreds of years. He had lived his life for responsibility. Xie Roujia was the only reckless thought in his life.

This was because Xie Roujia was his light!

His heart faced the sun.

She was bright and beautiful.

If he lost the light.

He would descend to hell.

It was fine even if he died.

If there was a next life, he would definitely have to guard beside the Bridge of Helplessness and wait for the delicate girl he had been longing for his entire life. If she did not come for a lifetime, he would wait for a second life. If she did not come for a second life, he would wait for another lifetime...

It seemed that he would be able to wait for a long time.

The room was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

At this point, there was no need to mention the past. Elder Yu finally sighed.

“It’s a serious matter to abandon the capital to protect the north. You have to consider it carefully.”

Yu Zongshen’s expression was calm. “Since ancient times, loyalty and filial piety can’t be mixed. Duke Zhonglie killed the king and welcomed the new emperor for the sake of the people. However, he failed to uphold his loyalty and righteousness. He stabbed himself to death and used the lives of his family to fulfill his loyalty. Now, I’ll walk the path he’s once walked again. I’ll abandon the capital to protect the north and for the descendants of China.”

Elder Yu did not say anything else. It was also the truth that there were not enough troops in the capital. The Marquis of Yongle’s rebellion had given the Imperial Court a fatal blow. The Imperial Court had lost all its dignity, the morale of the army had been greatly damaged, and the hearts of the people had been lost.

Thief Liang obtained a large number of troops and military supplies from the Liang army. They replaced the old with the new. They were no longer the same as before. Now that they were striking while the iron was hot, they would definitely lose Henan.

This battle would also become clear.

There were less than 300,000 people in Rehe and the capital. Meanwhile, the more Thief Liang fought, the more people they would gain. It was probably only a matter of time before they captured Rehe and invaded the capital.

At that time, the first thing that Thief Liang would do was to target the aristocratic families in the capital. If the aristocrat families were sensible, they could still save their lives if they handed over their wealth. If they were not sensible, Thief Liang could send troops to surround the residence and raid the aristocratic families’ accumulated wealth.

Thief Liang was still the one who benefitted.

If they searched the houses of the aristocratic families now and sent money and supplies to the North, they could at least cheer on King Yue Fei to stop the cavalry of the Northern Barbarians and protect the Han people’s territory.

Elder Yu said, “It’s appropriate to hand this matter over to the Marquis of Zhenguo. Their family has followed Emperor Gaozu since their ancestors were born. They’re a family that has contributed greatly to the country. They’ve been cherished by the Imperial Court for generations and have received the emperor’s grace. They’re loyal to the Imperial Court. Once Thief Liang enters the capital, they have to start with old nobles like them.”

Most of the nobles who were titled Zhenguo, Weiguo, Anguo, Ningguo, and so on were families whose ancestors had contributed greatly. Their descendants were demoted, but the Imperial Court was still grateful for their ancestors’ contributions, so they did not change their names and conferred titles to them. As long as they did not court death, the previous emperors treated them very well.

In the face of a country's calamity, they had to live and die with the emperor. Only then could they be loyal for generations. If they changed their sects and joined another sect, they would not be placed in an important position by the new emperor. Their generations would suffer infamy. Even if they joined another sect, they might not be able to save their lives.

There was no choice..

Chapter 1046: Fleeing South, Sending to the North

This was unlike the Yu Clan, which was a scholarly family and did not lead troops. There were two memorial tablets in the family. One belonged to a minister of the previous dynasty, and the other belonged to a chaste woman.

They were both extraordinary people in the world. There was also the famous Eldest Princess Shaoyi in the north.

Yu Zongshen nodded. "He'll use this to seek favor with King Yue Fei and send the descendants of the Song family to the North to be protected by King Yue

Fei. He'll definitely do it."

Now that Thief Liang was here, in the Great Zhou, other than King Yue Fei, no one could protect the Song family. If they sacrificed one person, they could protect the entire Song family, and the descendants of the Song family would have a future. Why not?

Today's conversation was destined to leave a deep mark in history in the future.

Elder Yu looked for the Marquis of Zhenguo. The two of them chatted for a long time in the study.

In the dead of night, the Marquis of Zhenguo summoned his family with red eyes and made a shocking decision. The entire Zhenguo Marquis Residence was gloomy and cried.

The Marquis of Zhenguo's matriarch fainted on the spot.

Fortunately, the Marquis of Zhenguo was already prepared and quickly hired a doctor to perform acupuncture. That was why she was fine.

A few days later, bad news came from Henan. Thief Liang had taken down several cities in a row without any effort. The loss of Henan was already a foregone conclusion.

Since ancient times, Henan had been the heart of the Central Plains, and it was also a place that military strategists had to fight for. Losing Henan was no different from stabbing a sharp knife into the heart of the Great Zhou Dynasty.

The Imperial Court was beginning to perish. The commoners were afraid that the flames of war would spread, so they fled to Jiangnan and the North, which were temporarily stable.

Refugees displaced by war were everywhere.

The price of food completely lost control and soared.

The news of the escape to the south quickly spread in the capital. For a moment, everyone felt threatened. Many people had already packed their belongings and planned to escape with their families while Thief Liang was still in Henan.

The bustling capital became chaotic.

At this moment, a group of old nobles led by the Marquis of Zhenguo joined forces with the Duke of Long, the Qi Residence, and some officials who were on good terms with the Yu and Qi families to launch the great cause of abandoning the capital to protect the north.

Rich merchants, officials, aristocratic families, nobles, and even the imperial family had all been raided. Seventy percent of their wealth was confiscated, and 30% was kept for themselves.

The capital was filled with resentment and curses.

Far away in Henan, when the King of Liang and his son found out about this, they were so angry that they almost vomited blood.

Yu Zongshen had searched everything in the capital. When it was their turn, not to mention eating meat, they wouldn't even be able to drink soup. At that time, the treasury would be empty. Even if they took down the Great Zhou

Dynasty, where would they find the money to manage the country and the people?!

"Yu Zongshen, good job." The King of Liang slapped a white jade qilin on the table, shattering this priceless jade carving. He roared, "Good job, Yu Clan..."

What was the difference between this scene today and back then when Duke Zhonglie killed the king and welcomed the new emperor?!

The Yu Clan was indeed still the same.

Liang Jingxuan also sighed. Even though he was furious, he couldn't say anything to slander him. "Father, please forgive them. The Di people are coming aggressively now. It's really beyond our expectations. If the North is lost, our longevity plan will be obstructed. If this batch of money and supplies can really help King Yue Fei defeat the Di people and defend the North, it'll still be beneficial to us.'

Of course, the King of Liang knew this, but at the thought of handing over the money, his heart felt as uncomfortable as blood.

"How do we know that a young boy like King Yue Fei can guard the North and defeat 600,000 Di people? Yu Zongshen didn't hesitate to bear the infamy and abandon the capital to protect the north. Don't go for wool and come home shorn. This will gather the wealth of the world and benefit the Northern

Barbarians.'

The political style of the Great Zhou Dynasty was demoralized and corrupted.

The officials and merchants below colluded to plunder the people's flesh and blood. They also had to give up most of their money to show filial piety and fight for the protection of the higher-ups. It was more convenient for them to accumulate wealth. Often, what they could obtain was only a small profit, and most of it was sent to the higher-ups. In this way, they were stripped layer by layer,

and the officials protected each other. In the end, all rivers flowed to the sea and the money flowed into the hands of the nobles in the capital.

During this raid, they raided more than half of the Great Zhou Dynasty's money.

It was hard to say for Liang Jingxuan. If King Yue Fei failed to guard the North, who knew who would get the money?

It wasn't that he wanted to boost the enemy's ambition and reduce his prestige.

The Liang army was also a powerful army, but the soldiers of the north and south were different. The difference was too great. The Di people were famous for their bravery. There were many generals in the court, but none of them dared to pat their chests and say that they were confident in defeating the Di people. If not, why would the emperor have handed the North to Yin Huaixi, who was still weak and sick at that time?

After the Marquis of Changxing, no one dared to accept the hot potato of the North.

The Liang army did not have the experience and methods to resist the

Northern Barbarians. The Northern Barbarians were aggressive. If they fought in a hurry, they would definitely suffer.

Abandoning the capital to protect the north caused a commotion in the capital.

Unexpectedly, in just three days, the Marquis of Zhen had confiscated more than 50 million taels of silver, a batch of gold, pearls, jade, gems, a large number of food, cloth, and so on.

They could even raid 100,000 taels of silver from the residence of a mere seventh-grade official.

It really echoed a saying.

“Three years of acting as a clean official and 100,000 taels of silver.”

It also made people suddenly understand. The Great Zhou Dynasty opened water and land trade routes widely. The domestic trade routes were all connected and interconnected. During the previous emperor's era, they also respected Confucianism on the outside and Daoism on the inside. Their recuperation caused the economy to reach the peak in the history of the Great Zhou Dynasty. Later, Yu Zongshen lifted the sea ban and endless supplies from overseas were transported into the country. The Great Zhou Dynasty was extremely rich, but this profit did not flow into the treasury.

It was really difficult to calm down.

The capital guard camp had been raiding for ten days. The Ministry of Revenue had calculated that there was more than 71 million taels of silver and more than three million taels of gold. The stored food could not even be stored in the main warehouse of the military supplies.

In addition to money and food, there was also a portion of cotton, wine, medicinal herbs, cloth, and so on. It was also a huge sum of resources.

Even Elder Yu was dumbfounded. He shook his head. “I think it's because of the drought in Guanzhong. Thief Liang has rebelled, and supplies have become important. These people have long started to hoard resources to protect themselves. They've hoarded wantonly, and the supplies circulating in the market have decreased. The commoners can't survive and can only resist the

Imperial Court. No wonder there are frequent riots everywhere. This family doesn't complain. In my opinion, raiding 70 0/0 of their assets is too little. Everything should be raided."

The Marquis of Zhenguo said nothing.

However, Lord Qi agreed deeply. "A crafty rabbit has three burrows. I think only a portion of their assets can be investigated. The other portion has long been hidden elsewhere as a way out."

Yu Zongshen coughed. "Then continue raiding. Control the families and let them confess where the supplies and money are hidden. Those who resist will be punished on the spot!"

No one present raised any objections. It was mainly because they were disappointed in these people!

All of this money was taken from the people. In the end, they were rich and heartless, not giving the people a way out!

Yu Zongshen suppressed his cough and continued in a hoarse voice, "The money and supplies that were confiscated have to be sent to Xiangping City in batches as soon as possible while I can still control the general situation of the capital. Otherwise, if we delay, there will be additional complications. Also, send someone to secretly send the news to Xiangping and ask Eldest Princess Shaoyi to send an army to receive us.."

Chapter 1047: Hidden Dragon Army on Standby

The Marquis of Zhenguo said, "The news has already been sent out. I think we should receive a reply soon. Eunuch Zhu obtained the emperor's 'written order' to mobilize the Third Battalion of the capital and be escorted by them. It's guaranteed to be foolproof."

The Third Battalion of the capital that was participating in the escort was made up of outstanding soldiers carefully selected from the various camps in the country. These soldiers were experienced and were the trump cards hidden in the Third Battalion of the capital. They were also the sharpest knives in the emperor's hands.

The group discussed for a long time and finally agreed on the transportation, output, route, and so on.

Yu Zongshen looked exhausted. After coughing for a while, his face was already pale. "Your families should also be prepared to leave the capital at any time. After all, this is a job that offends people. It's better to do it sooner rather than later, in case anything changes and causes trouble."

The news of abandoning the capital to protect the north caused an uproar. When it reached Xiangping City, Yu Youyao couldn't help but be shocked and broke out in a cold sweat.

Yin Huaixi had long assessed Thief Liang's strength and asserted that it was destined for Thief Liang to enter the capital.

Meanwhile, the Yu Clan's actions were really unexpected. How similar was it to back then when Duke Zhonglie killed the king and opened the city gate to welcome the new emperor?!

It wasn't until this moment that Yu Youyao finally understood the first sentence the elders had said to their descendants. "The Yu Clan is the Yu Clan of the world. They are loyal to all the people in

the world, govern the peace and health of the country, seek eternal peace, and prosper the lives of the people. The backbone of the Yu Clan was built by thousands of commoners in the world.”

At that time, she couldn't understand.

After knowing the cause of her mother's death, she more or less resented the Yu Clan. She always felt that the Yu Clan was cold and valued profit.

It wasn't until her grandmother passed away that she came to Xiangping and gradually interacted with the Yu Clan. Gradually, she also felt the protection of the Yu Clan. She also understood that there was no fairness to speak of in a large family. It required everyone to be treated equally. It was impossible for even saints to do it. Meanwhile, fairness was reflected on a scale. There was a certain level of fairness in the treatment of people. On a certain scale, everyone was treated equally.

However, fairness did not mean justice.

However, in this world, there was only fairness.

What was justice?

The first character in the Chinese word for “justice” had a broad meaning and represented the general public.

The second character in the Chinese word for “justice” meant that one was not biased and upright.

Justice was the moral standard and represented the interests of most people. It was fair to most people. Justice was in line with the interest of most people. There was a balance between fairness and justice.

Equity was a measure of fairness.

Justice was in the hearts of the people.

It was the self-evident truth!

The Yu Clan had grasped this very well.

Yu Youyao slowly closed her eyes, her voice a little dry. “What are they saying outside?”

Xia Tao swallowed. “There— There are all kinds of things. Some people say that the Second Master is doing this for the greater good and for the future of our descendants. Others say that the Second Master abandoned the capital to protect the north and is not loyal to the Imperial Court. They said that he's really an unfaithful and unrighteous person, and that such an act of forceful raiding is no different from that of an evil bandit. It's humiliating and shameful. Some people also say that the Second Master was scared out of his wits by Thief Liang. It sounds good that he abandoned the capital to protect the north to support the war in the North, but in fact, he gave the Great Zhou Dynasty to that Thief Liang...”

Giving up on the capital was equivalent to giving up on those innocent and pitiful commoners in the areas of the north that had yet to be occupied by Thief Liang.

Yu Youyao took a deep breath. Yu Zongshen was indeed on the side of righteousness, but a family that had raided the assets of others for no reason, regardless of whether they were innocent or not,

had suffered an undeserved calamity. How could she take this lying down? She would definitely publicize their infamy.

This method was indeed harmful to others.

Even Duke Zhonglie, who had killed the king back then, might not have been especially beautiful to his descendants if Emperor Gaozu had not used “Zhonglie” as his name.

Since ancient times, it was said that loyalty and filial piety couldn’t be mixed. It was never just talk.

Yu Youyao couldn’t go against her conscience and say that Yu Zongshen shouldn’t have done this. After all, the person who had benefited was Yin Huaixi, who was also part of the 500,000 You army. They had risked their lives to protect the citizens of the Great Zhou.

After putting away the secret letter from the capital, Yu Youyao changed her clothes again. Then, she called Butler Wen over to gather the military advisors and aides in the residence for a discussion.

The group stared at the map and pointed at it. After repeated deliberation, they finally confirmed the response route.

“The Third Battalion of the capital has already set off. In a secret letter, the Marquis of Zhenguo explained the transportation route. He arranged the time and place to receive the Third Battalion of the capital at the designated time and place, as well as the items to be transported. A total of 50,000 elite troops will stay behind in Xiang Ping City. Meanwhile, 10,000 people were transferred and split into ten groups. They will set up support points on the transportation route we’ve agreed on. Each group will cooperate and coordinate with each other to hide, ambush, cover, and reconnoiter...”

Humans died for wealth, and birds died for food. Yu Youyao had never underestimated the greed of the world. Even when the country was in trouble, there would still be people who did not care about the righteousness of the country and took the risk.

After repeated discussions until late at night, Yu Youyao finally heaved a sigh of relief.

All the people in the meeting left and quickly made arrangements.

The room returned to silence.

The candlelight flickered on the lampstand, and the light gradually dimmed.

Yu Youyao rubbed her throbbing temples and repeatedly analyzed the route she had previously decided on, the location of the support, and the entire support process. She broke down the route carefully and pondered each part one by one.

The You army could not enter the capital without receiving an edict.

The reinforcements they had arranged were all in Liaodong, in Hebei outside Liaodong, but Jingzhao could not interfere.

This batch of things was too huge, and they had gathered all the wealth of the Great Zhou. Yu Youyao couldn't help but feel envious and flustered, worried that if anything went wrong, outsiders would benefit.

Yu Youyao sat in the dark room. Her expression looked a little flickering and obscure under the flickering candlelight.

In the end, she took out a bone whistle from her collar. Yin Huaixi had personally hung it around her neck the night before she left the army.

Rubbing the bone whistle gently with her fingers, Yu Youyao brought it to her lips and blew hard.

A short, sharp voice sounded.

At some point, a cool breeze blew into the room. The candlelight on the lampstand swayed and extinguished with a faint sound.

The room immediately became dark. A hoarse voice said, "The Hidden Dragon Army is on standby."

The 1,000-man Hidden Dragon Army had been personally handed over to her by Yin Huaixi before she left. The Hidden Dragon Army did not belong to the Imperial Court and was only ordered by Yin Huaixi. It was the greatest confidence Yin Huaixi had left for her.

No one knew what Eldest Princess Shaoyi had conspired with the Hidden Dragon Army that night. The 1,000 Hidden Dragon Army soldiers split up and silently passed through the east gate.

As expected!

The Third Battalion of the capital set off from the capital. The journey was very smooth. However, before they entered Shanhai Pass and arrived at Huludao, they were ambushed by a group of rioters.

Chapter 1048: Henan is Lost

This group of mobs had gathered together and occupied an area of land in a grain farm. Moreover, they had used their numbers and terrain advantage to dig traps, set up roadblocks, and roll rocks nearby. There were three to four thousand mobs who had participated in the interference, ambush, and encirclement of the Third Battalion of the capital, which had a thousand people. It could be said that they had exhausted all their methods.

No matter how powerful the Third Battalion of the capital was, they could not do anything for a moment under the many interferences, traps, and suspicious arrays.

The general immediately released the distress signal and ordered, "All soldiers, return to protect the supplies. You're not allowed to leave the range of the carriages. Anyone who approaches will be killed without mercy."

This order was clearly effective.

This group of mobs was naturally not a match for the Third Battalion of the capital, which were an elite trump card. If they wanted to plunder items from the Third Battalion of the capital, they had to approach with their lives.

For a moment, corpses were everywhere in the area with the Third Battalion of the capital as the center, and blood flowed like a river.

The mobs lying in ambush nearby did not give up and ordered arrows to be shot.

A dense rain of arrows shot towards the soldiers of the Third Battalion from all directions. The soldiers of the Third Battalion waved their swords, forming a stream of air that blocked the arrows outside. For a moment, they could deal with it calmly.

This was not a long-term solution.

However, as long as they could hold on until reinforcements arrived, they could resolve their current predicament.

Under the endless attacks of the mob, the soldiers' stamina was quickly depleted. Some of them were already exhausted, and their movements slowed down. Some people began to be shot.

Reinforcements never arrived.

Looking at his brothers who had fought side by side and were lying on the ground one by one, one soldier's eyes turned red with anger. He was so angry that he cursed, "F*ck, there are so many rioters. Why wasn't there any news previously? Could it be that there's a traitor..."

"Damn it, do you dare to fight me head-on? If it weren't for the sake of protecting this batch of things, I would have rushed over and attacked as if I was cutting vegetables. Not to mention a group of mobs, even an army would have to lie down."

"Alright, save your energy. This batch of supplies is to help King Yue Fei defeat the Di people and protect our Han soil. We can't afford to lose. Save your energy. It's also profitable to attack another person."

This battle lasted for a full two hours.

There were people everywhere.

Batches of people died one after another.

At this moment, the Third Battalion of the capital had already sacrificed more than 700 people, and there were still more than 200 people. They were still firmly surrounded. The ten carriages of supplies they had escorted caused them to be like trapped beasts fighting desperately, but they still tried their best to hold on and fight to the end.

The knife in their hands slashed at the gap, and their arms kept waving. They were already numb, as if their bodies weren't their own. The blood splattered into their eyes and blurred their vision...

Just as they thought that they were going to die here today—

Out of nowhere, a group of black-clothed and masked people appeared. They held long sabers in both hands and rushed into the crowd. Every time they waved, cut, stabbed, and slashed, they would take a life.

The screams of the mob wailed in the cold wind.

When the news reached Yu Youyao, the Hidden Dragon Army had already eliminated the mob and escorted the Third Battalion of the capital to Huludao, reaching the territory of Liaodong.

More than 5,000 rioters participated in the siege.

The 1,000 troops from the Third Battalion of the capital fought until they were left with 213 people.

Yu Youyao's heart ached. She had long considered that an accident would happen to the Third Battalion of the capital before they arrived in Liaodong, so she had sent the Hidden Dragon Army to secretly cross Liaodong.

However, she was still a step too late.

The time, place, and route of the transportation were all kept secret.

Yu Zongshen was meticulous. When the group confirmed the transportation route, they must have sent someone to scout the designated route in advance to confirm the safety of it.

There were so many traps, roadblocks, and suspicious arrays. This was not a small project. It would take a lot of time to complete. No matter how careful they were, they would cause a commotion.

Could it be that they hadn't noticed anything amiss before this?

Also, how could this group of mobs accurately know the transport route and even ambush the designated place in advance?

Digging traps, setting up roadblocks, setting up deceptive arrays, rolling rocks, and so on were all set up against the Third Battalion of the capital. They even knew all the subsequent reactions of the Third Battalion of the capital.

Relying on their numbers, the mob relied on tempting fate to exhaust the stamina of the Third Battalion of the capital.

It was obvious that they were confident that the Third Battalion of the capital would not abandon the escort.

It had been more than four hours since the distress signal of the Third Battalion of the capital had been released. There were patrol guards stationed at intervals on the official road. At most, the patrol guards would arrive in half an hour.

It was impossible for the patrolling guards not to see the signal, but no one came to help for a long time. Why was that?

Traps and roadblocks made it impossible for the escort vehicles to pass. There were gold and silver items on the escort vehicles, and there were also a large number of them. Humans could not carry them through.

The movement of the Third Battalion of the capital were obstructed and they became trapped beasts.

In order to protect the items and not lose them at all, they could only guard the escort carriages to the death. Even if they had been through hundreds of battles, they could only be willing to tie their hands and feet.

Other than a traitor, she couldn't think about anything else.

There was a traitor under Yu Zongshen's nose!

Yu Youyao was in disbelief, but she also clearly realized that the Marquis of Yongle's rebellion had caused the hearts of the court to fluctuate, and the capital was completely in chaos.

Yu Zongshen's illness was unbearable, and his control over the Imperial Court was becoming weaker and weaker. Someone was causing trouble under his nose. Perhaps he had found out about all of this, so he decisively abandoned the capital to protect the north.

The most terrifying thing was that the Imperial Court actually knew nothing about this mob gathering right under the eyes of the capital.

Did they really not know, or was there another secret?

Not long after, Yu Zongshen received this news. He was sick and no longer had the energy, let alone the time to chase after the traitor. The most important thing was to transport this batch of things safely to Liaodong.

As there were too many things, it was impossible to transport them all in one go. Since there were spies in the court, no one knew what would happen next. They should be on guard early.

He made a decision and ordered a portion of the You army, who were in charge of receiving them, to enter the capital to escort the supplies with the Third Battalion.

His move intimidated most of the thieves, and the transportation of the subsequent batches of supplies also became very smooth.

Batches of supplies were transported to Xiangping City.

After Yu Youyao counted and registered the items, they were stored in the warehouse of the Yue Fei King's Residence. Gold, silver, jewelry, and other items that could not be directly used as military supplies were sent to the front line in batches.

This work lasted until the Spring Festival.

News of the collapse of Henan spread throughout the Great Zhou on New Year's Eve. The day, which was originally celebrated to see the old year out and the new year in, was also covered in a shadow.

When Thief Liang captured Hunan, he immediately issued a public denunciation against the Imperial Court.

The long and complicated denunciation explained that the current emperor had personally conquered the north. The old case of the Ning Residence, Grand Tutor Yang's entire family, the injustice of King Li of Zhou, the tragic death of Prince Liang, and all kinds of ridiculous and unreasonable actions were revealed to the world one by one, and they were reasonable.

It was obvious that Thief Liang had prepared for this day.

Chapter 1049: Attacking Hebei

The denunciation also made it clear that the incompetent ruler was tyrannical. The entire court worked together. There were many people who doted on their concubines and killed their wives. They disregarded civility and were chaotic. They were unruly both inside and out of the court. The emperor was desolate in the court, causing eunuchs to be in charge. They stole power and ruled the country. The court officials protected them, and the government was greedy and rampant...

Shockingly, the denunciation also mentioned a list of many corrupt officials. There was also evidence.

It explained the corruption of the Great Zhou Dynasty.

At the end of the denunciation, the King of Liang even expressed bitterly that he couldn't bear to see an incompetent ruler be in power and wreak havoc on the country and the people. He wanted to send righteous soldiers to execute the heavenly punishment to save the people...

The idea of "replacement" was clear in his denunciation.

This denunciation pushed the Imperial Court to the limelight.

On the sixth day of the first lunar month, the King of Liang ordered an attack on Hebei.

At the same time, internal strife erupted in Shandong. The King of Dongning took the document issued by the Imperial Court earlier and led his troops across the border of the vassal states to Shandong to quell the rebellion.

Far away in the West Mountain, when the King of Zhenxi found out that the King of Liang had attacked Hebei, he scolded the King of Liang for being a traitor and wanting to kill the entire world. He threatened to lead his troops north to protect the king.

Among the four vassal states, the West Mountain was the furthest from the capital.

The King of the West, who had never revealed his strength, finally tore open his mask and revealed his ferocious ambition.

The flames of war rose everywhere in the Great Zhou Dynasty, and the royal family only existed in name.

Historically, it was called the "Three Kings Ruining the Nation."

The commoners swept away their wealth and brought their families to escape the war.

Those with good conditions could escape south.

Those without good conditions could only go to the north.

The Longcheng refugee camp welcomed a large group of refugees again. It wasn't that the refugees didn't know that the North was at war with the Di people, and there was still no news. It was very risky to go to the North, but they knew even better that only the North would treat the refugees well. As refugees who had nothing, they could only survive if they went north.

In the blink of an eye, it was the beginning of February.

It was originally the beginning of spring when the snow had melted and the world had returned to life, but Liaodong was still cold. The snow had yet to dissipate, and the weather did not seem to have warmed up. Yu Youyao was already used to the bitter cold in Liaodong. The temperature would only gradually warm up in March and April.

She was discussing with Butler Wen about continuing to expand animal husbandry.

If the livestock industry wanted to develop, herding resources, experience, and skills were the most important.

The hairy vetch had already been widely planted in the entire North to fertilize the land and promote animal husbandry. It was currently February. Since “Records of Feeding” was promoted in September last year, it had been about four months, and it had already begun to show results.

Good animal husbandry experience and technology could reduce the plague, make meat healthier, and reduce deaths and losses. At the same time, it could make the livestock raised fatter and stronger, and increase the production of milk and meat.

It was imperative to continue encouraging the development of livestock.

At this moment, Xia Tao rushed into the house with a happy expression. “Young Miss, Ms. Ye is here. She’s waiting for you in the Wuqiu Courtyard.”

“Is Ms. Ye here?” Yu Youyao suddenly stood up with a happy expression. “I haven’t seen her for many years. During this period of time, the North has cut off the transmission of news everywhere, and I haven’t received a letter from her for a long time. I didn’t know that she had come to Xiangping.”

As she spoke, she did not slow down at all. Soon, they arrived at the Wuqiu Courtyard.

Ms. Ye was wearing an autumn-colored round-collared jacket dress. She was sitting in the hall and drinking tea. When she heard the commotion outside, she put down her teacup and looked up.

Yu Youyao stepped over the threshold and entered the house.

The 16-year-old girl’s young face had grown up like a flower bud. The petals were stretched out, and she stood there beautifully. She was as delicate, beautiful, and pure as a girl. She still looked as bright and beautiful as when she was young.

“Ms. Ye.” Yu Youyao’s eyes turned red as she rushed forward.

After taking a few steps, she suddenly calmed down. She tidied her clothes and lowered her eyes. She slowly stepped forward and bowed respectfully in front of Ms. Ye. “Greetings, teacher.”

Ms. Ye quickly got up and helped Yu Youyao up. “Get up, get up.”

The teacher and student had not seen each other for many years and were a little excited.

Ms. Ye observed her. Seeing that her eyes were calm and not blind, and her eyes were clear, she felt very gratified. “You’ve grown a lot. You were only so tall when you left the capital.” She raised her hand and gestured twice. There was a smile on her cold and indifferent face. “You’ve also grown up and become more and more beautiful.”

All these years, she had been in contact with Yu Youyao. Yu Youyao would write to her every once in a while. The letters were filled with things she had seen and heard since she left the capital. Occasionally, she would ask her for guidance if there were any difficulties. During the holidays, she would also send her some things. Most of them were specialties from the Liaodong area, as well as incense, tea, medicine, and so on.

They were not teacher and student, but they were even better than teacher and student.

Yu Youyao felt a lump in her throat. “Why are you here in Xiangping? When did you arrive? Why didn’t you get someone to send me a letter so that I could go over and greet you?”

The two of them had a teacher-student relationship, so it was only right for her to go over and greet her. How could Ms. Ye visit her personally?

Ms. Ye smiled. "Many families in the capital are running around, so it's not good for me to stay in the capital. The wife of the Yu Clan Chief invited me to continue being a female teacher in the clan. I rejected her, so I wanted to come to Liaodong to visit you. I arrived last night. As it was too late, I didn't make a fuss. It's not too late to greet you now."

Far away in the capital, she would hear about Yu Youyao's deeds in Xiangping City from time to time. Other than feeling proud, it was inevitable that she would think of what Yu Youyao had said to her when she left the capital.

Ms. Ye wanted to come and see what Liaodong, which had been changed by Yu Youyao, was like. When the disciples of the Ye Clan began to return to the clan, she did not follow them. When the Yu Clan invited her to be a female teacher in the clan, she also refused.

Now, greeting and specially visiting were completely different!

However, since Ms. Ye did not care about it herself, Yu Youyao did not dwell on it. Instead, she asked, "Are you settling down in the Ye Residence now? What are your plans for the future?"

Ms. Ye nodded. "I'll stay in the Ye Residence for the time being and prepare to prepare a quiet small courtyard as my residence. I'll settle down here in the future."

Yu Youyao was overjoyed. "Leave this to me." As if afraid that she would decline, she quickly added, "It's only right for me to do your bidding. Don't decline."

Ms. Ye smiled again, as if she was thinking of how Yu Youyao had looked when Yu Youyao was standing in front of her as a young girl. "Okay, I'll leave it to you to arrange it."

Yu Youyao immediately cheered up. "Are you planning to continue being a female teacher?"

"Yes." Ms. Ye nodded and continued, "You mentioned earlier that you wanted to establish a women's school. After I came to Liaodong, I wasn't in a hurry to travel. Along the way, I learned about the local people and observed the local teaching situation. I felt that this could be done."

Yu Youyao was very concerned about this matter. She had mentioned it a few times in past letters.

As the number of letters increased, she became more and more concerned. She found a lot of relevant literature about the Liaodong area and carefully pondered over this matter. She also wrote some relevant teaching plans.

Chapter 1050: Countless Plans for the Common People

After deciding to come to Xiangping, Old Madam Su helped to pack her things. Unknowingly, she had also made a lot of preparations and sorted out four to five boxes of teaching materials.

"Ms. Ye has agreed!" Yu Youyao was pleasantly surprised, as if she was worried that she would go back on her word. She quickly said, "This matter is settled!"

The only teacher she acknowledged in her heart was Ms. Ye.

Ms. Ye had never been biased. She had never thought that women were born weak and sensible. She also had the confidence and calmness of a talented woman.

Yu Youyao continued, "In the past, I told you that I wanted to establish a women's school, but when I really arrived in Liaodong, I realized how naive I was back then. Liaodong is bitterly cold, and the commoners don't even have enough to eat. How can they have the money to study and read? Survival is a problem. How can they have the mood to spend on the upbringing of their children?"

It was also because she truly recognized all of this that she suppressed the innocent thoughts in her heart and tried to change the living environment in Liaodong.

Ms. Ye smiled. "Jiangnan is an outstanding place. Every time there's an imperial examination, the students from the south are far better than the students from the north. It's because Jiangnan is rich and the commoners are living well that they have the mood to spend more effort on their children. Therefore, in the prosperity of Jiangnan, the value of a book is about a hundred copper coins. The brush, ink, paper, and inkstone are all tools that ordinary families can't afford. The strategies of the people are the foundation of teaching. You've done very well."

The teacher and student looked at each other and smiled. There was nothing else to say.

Ms. Ye had only brought the heir and Old Madam Su over. The residence did not have to be too big. Yu Youyao asked around carefully before choosing three good small courtyards. She took a look at them herself before personally bringing the gifts to the Ye Residence to officially meet Ms. Ye and mention the matter of the small courtyard.

Ms. Ye took a fancy to a small courtyard that was quiet.

After that, Yu Youyao found a craftsman and carefully renovated the small courtyard. She asked the immortal of the Wanjun Mountain to determine the feng shui and decorate the small courtyard. Everything in the courtyard was complete.

Ms. Ye was very satisfied with the small courtyard. "You've put in a lot of effort."

Yu Youyao was also happy. "I'm a thousand times happier that you can come to Xiangping. I also hope that you can settle down as soon as possible so that you won't suffer."

After moving on an auspicious day, Ms. Ye finally settled down in Xiangping City.

The matter of establishing a women's school was also on the agenda.

As soon as the news spread, it attracted a lot of criticism. Due to Eldest Princess Shaoyi's reputation in the North, no one openly objected, but there were still many doubts.

In the face of doubt, Yu Youyao only said, "Women read and write for the sake of being sensible and virtuous. Women also have the Four Books for Women. Since these books have been passed down for generations, they're for women to learn. It's said that a woman's lack of talent is a virtue. This sentence makes it clear that if a woman doesn't have the talent she's proud of, she should have morals. It doesn't mean that women can't read and write. On the contrary, the goal of reading and writing is to be sensible and virtuous. It coincides with the deeper meaning of this sentence. It's only logical for a women's school to be established."

The Four Books for Women referred to “Lessons for Women”, the “Internal Training”, the “Analects of Women”, and the “Records of Women.”

These books advocated the hierarchy of men and women, but there was no lack of morals, self-cultivation, prudence, hard work, accumulation of kindness, and so on. They taught people to understand etiquette and virtue.

The Four Books for Women were compulsory.

The Four Books and Five Classics was also a major course, but the content of the class could be chosen. It mainly touched on etiquette, understanding, virtue, and cultivation. It would not be so detailed.

The compulsory classes included the Six Arts of a Gentleman; zither, chess, calligraphy, painting; and poetry and tea ceremony. Each student had to choose two subjects.

Female needlework, such as silk embroidery, was also a choice.

This way, Yu Youyao’s goal for setting up a women’s school was very clear. Not only did she have to let women be sensible, virtuous, knowledgeable, and polite, but she also had to let them have a skill.

This was not deviant.

However, sages like Mr. Xian Yun and Mr. Hu Shan often looked at problems more deeply.

Eldest Princess Shaoyi had been deeply influenced by Yin Huaixi. She respected the heavens and did not propagate social rankings. She advocated balance and nature.

What was balance?

It was when two items were equally matched.

The word “equal” was obvious.

However, Eldest Princess Shaoyi would not deliberately pursue “balance”, nor would she advocate any concept of equality. She would teach women to be sensible, virtuous, and sensible. The more they understood logic, the more paths they could take and choices they could make.

Balance was nature.

However, one should not interfere too much. Things followed the law of the development of everything on their own, allowing them to reach a balanced state.

The two of them looked at each other and Mr. Xian Yun smiled. “It seems that Eldest Princess Shaoyi is playing a very big game!”

Mr. Hu Shan put down a black piece. “In terms of chess skills, we can praise them. However, in this real-life game of chess, this couple is very impressive.”

Mr. Xian Yun laughed. “In your opinion, what kind of chess game are the two of them playing?”

Mr. Hu Shan thought for a moment and said, “One of them is making countless plans for the common people and playing a game of chess for the common people. The other one is making big plans for the citizens and playing a game of chess for the citizens. How virtuous.”

Mr. Xian Yun stroked his long beard. “Since it’s a way for the people of the world, why not give it a push?!”

In the blink of an eye, it was March.

Yu Youyao received a secret letter sent through the clan’s channels. The letter mentioned that most of the clansmen had returned to the clan, and the clan had already begun to close off.

The entire Zhenguo Marquis Residence had moved to Xi’an. It was said that they had some connections there. If they went there, they could take care of each other. Only the Marquis of Zhenguo stayed in the capital. Clearly, he wanted to live and die with the Great Zhou. It was really a pity.

The Qi family went south and returned to the Hangzhou clan. Lord Qi was from the Qi family, a preeminent family in Hangzhou. He was also a powerful family in the south.

As for the Tang Residence, the letter did not mention it, but it mentioned Tang Yunxi, who had already married into the emissary’s family. It said that she had accompanied her husband’s family south to the Wenzhou clan.

Yu Youyao thought of her childhood friend and felt a pang of sadness.

She did not know when they would meet again.

The women’s school had caused a huge commotion in the North.

There were many doubts but more supporters.

Many nobles valued the upbringing of the young misses in the family. It was normal for them to hire female teachers, so they did not reject the establishment of the female school. They also admired Ye Yingqiu, the teacher of Eldest Princess Shaoyi. They hoped that the young misses in the family would be taught by Ms. Ye and even publicly sponsored the school.

The people of the North were valiant to begin with, so they did not think that the women’s school was rebellious. Instead, they felt that since Eldest Princess Shaoyi had done so many good things for the country, it would definitely be a good thing to establish a women’s school. They just had to support her.

In addition, many refugees had surged into the Liaodong area. Those who were literate and knew a skill would receive preferential treatment. This also affected many people to a certain extent. They felt that reading and literacy brought true benefits.

Eldest Princess Shaoyi resolved the food problem and encouraged the raising of silkworms. She also promoted the method of green manure and fertilizer, increased crop production, and implemented the “Records of Feeding”. She encouraged the development of livestock. The lives of the commoners improved, and families gradually had spare money. They also gradually placed their attention on the upbringing of their children.