

Another World 231

Chapter 231 - Unyielding

Although the blood-colored Eagle Virtuous Phantasms couldn't talk, they could still understand Zhao Hai's words. As such, it took Zhao Hai a few days to teach them simple ways to pass him information like changing their posture in flight and through the sounds they made.

As if following a flight ratio, executing several spins in the air would tell the number of people while with a few cries it would report the number of cavalymen, and so on. In the end, these blood-colored Eagle Virtuous Phantasms could now act as the simplest of airborne scouts.

Zhao Hai carefully watched the blood-colored eagle until it flew away, then turned to Laura and said, "The eastern area has a situation. There's a thousand cavalymen approaching us, and they aren't beastfolk."

Laura gawked and her complexion changed as she said, "I understand that the Benniu Guards would leave the walls of Ironwall Fortress every two weeks to patrol the area. It seems we were unfortunate to have crossed them today."

Zhao Hai wrinkled his brow and asked, "Then what should we do? Should we go back into the Space and hide?"

Laura shook her head. "We shouldn't do that. We can just give them some money and let them go. After all, everyone is aware that the beastfolk buy food here. Moreover, the Purcell Duchy also hopes that everybody can go and sell food to the beastfolk. For the beastfolk, as long as they have food and drink, they wouldn't move. The main purpose of the cavalry patrol is to check whether or not some beastfolk tribes had ventured here."

Zhao Hai nodded. "Since you have experience on these sorts of things, how much do you think we should pay in order to cross the border successfully?"

Laura smiled faintly. "For this, I fear we will need a thousand gold coins. Moreover, I can't just go there and pay it myself. It's better for Grandpa Green to do it. After all, he's a Rank Eight expert so those knights wouldn't make it too difficult for him. If I go and they see that I'm a woman, then they will make it difficult for me."

Zhao Hai's complexion changed. "How come? Do they dare be so rude?"

Laura forced a smile and said, "Don't forget, if they really want to be impolite to us, then they could just kill us all. Like that, they could just explain that we were killed by beastfolk. This place isn't that deep into the Beastfolk Prairie, nor is it a part of Ironwall Fortress. Those elite Benniu Guards could easily become robbers here."

Zhao Hai sighed. "Does Grand Duke Evan not have any control over this?"

Laura smiled. "Control? How could he control them? The soldiers here in Ironwall Fortress must maintain their wildness since they're situated on the border adjacent to the Beastfolk Prairie. This is a place lacking in commodities. Adding in the fact that they've been here for a number of years, their hearts are probably low and would need a way to vent. Therefore, even if they see it, this matter has become something that those in power would turn a blind eye towards. As I was saying, a merchant wanting to do business here in the Beastfolk Prairie would, to put it bluntly, smuggle as they are supporting the enemy. This is illegal, so even if the soldiers killed them no one would say anything."

Zhao Hai nodded and he shifted into the Space. He then went to Fort Iron Mountain and called for Green and explained the matter to him.

He then took an ordinary pouch and placed a thousand gold coins in it and gave it to Green. Then he appeared with Green on the carriage.

Zhao Hai released a wind-chasing horse and let Green ride it, but the caravan didn't stop and continued on. He knew they couldn't move faster than those elite Benniu Guards. This place was too open and those elite Benniu Guards weren't that far. Soon they would be approaching them.

Sure enough, in less than an hour, a light rumbling sound could be heard approaching from the east. Experienced soldiers would know that this was a brigade of cavalymen in action. Zhao Hai and the others turned their heads to take a look and saw a team of a thousand cavalymen coming in from the eastern area at a fast pace.

Zhao Hai's caravan immediately stopped. They didn't, however, move normally like a caravan should and into a circle formation as it was irrelevant.

Laura and the other two ladies didn't come out. Those three were rare beauties. If they came out, then it would attract the attention of those cavalrymen and cause trouble .

Zhao Hai had heard of a few stories from Earth. When the soldiers in the army were serving for three years and suddenly saw Diaochan , they would compete to get her. Those cavalrymen may have been stationed there for longer than three years. If they saw Laura and the other two ladies, then while their might couldn't add up to Diaochan, whether it would be enough to hinder their trip to the Beastfolk Prairie was hard to say .

Leaving the carriage, Zhao Hai moved slowly to the front of the caravan and silently stood there. He wore the black magician robe and held his Ghost Cane in order to bluff the cavalry.

Green stood at the side of the carriage. He didn't put on his full body armor and instead wore simple warrior's clothing. No mask adorned his face, and his hair was combed neatly. With his Spiritwind Sword at his waist, he looked like the typical expert warrior.

Zhao Hai wanted this kind of imposing manner since it would be impossible for Ironwall Fortress to know of Green . His imposing manner would make it so that those who didn't know of their bottom line wouldn't act too unreasonably towards them, else they would battle. Zhao Hai wasn't afraid of these cavalrymen, but he didn't wish to come into conflict with them. No matter what, Evan had still been good to them .

Soon the team of cavalry arrived before Zhao Hai. They were about a hundred meters away from them and didn't attack, rather, they stopped and were sizing up Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai also watched these people. They sat astride the Rank Three magic beast, flaming horse. These flaming horses wore heavy armor and those atop them wore heavy cavalrymen equipment. The helmet on their head had two bull horns and an iron mask covering the helmet which wasn't put down.

Although those cavalrymen had traveled for a long time, no matter if it were the men or the horses, neither looked tired. While their full body armor didn't look neat and there were even some parts that were damaged, it didn't affect their imposing manner.

The bodies of those soldier gave off an imposing atmosphere with a great deal of pressure. Zhao Hai felt the murderous air around them and knew that it was the killing intent released by soldiers that had experienced many life and death battles.

Leading the cavalry was a bearded man with a massive body. His face had a scar that made him hideous to look at, and he stared coldly at Zhao Hai and company.

Zhao Hai didn't say anything and instead waved a hand at Green. Saluting, Green rode his horse towards the team of cavalrymen. At around twenty meters from the cavalry, Green saluted them and said, "Everybody, military gentlemen, please. My clan knows that everyone has put in a great deal of patriotic labor. This little one offers a meager gift and invites you to laugh."

After he said those words, he took out the pouch filled with a thousand gold coins and shook it.

Green didn't do this to insult them. Since the patrol group had experienced this a lot, once they saw the pouch was shook and heard the sound it made, they knew it was filled with either gold or silver coins. So long as they got their hand on that pouch, they would be able to know how much was inside of it. As such, Green gently shook the pouch to let them know it contained gold coins.

The cavalry captain heard the sound and obviously knew the pouch contained gold coins. His eyes became more enthusiastic. Looking at Green, he said, "Oh, so your master understands the rules. A routine check still needs to be done, however."

Green's expression changed. He'd heard what Laura said. So long as they paid them some money, then the cavalry wouldn't inspect them. Yet why were they now checking? Were they trying to find some kind of fault? As he thought of these matters, Green couldn't help but change his expression into a cold one.

Straightening his body and with eyes shining brightly, he looked at the cavalry captain and said, "Oh, so the military captain will do such a thing. This is probably irregular, right?"

Green's voice wasn't loud, but those cavalrymen still heard it clearly. With the addition of Green's imposing manner, his words and his changed expression had turned him from an ordinary man to a person with the aura of a Rank Eight expert that exuded a powerful momentum. This made the cavalry captain's complexion change.

The cavalry captain was still a Rank Six knight. Since he hadn't felt Green's strength earlier, he'd tried to speak that way and test them. Unexpectedly, they'd found that Green was a Rank Eight expert. Moreover, he wasn't an ordinary one. Green exuded a thick militaristic aura that made the cavalry captain understand that the opposite party wasn't affable. This was a group one couldn't annoy.

He immediately said, "Haha, I'm just cracking a joke with you, sir. Since sir knows the rules, then naturally sir can pass."

As Green heard the cavalry commander, his imposing manner vanished instantly. He showed a faint smile to the cavalry captain and said, "I shall thank the military captain."

After saying those words he bent at the waist and placed the pouch on the ground. He then turned his horse around and returned to Zhao Hai's carriage.

Zhao Hai waited for Green to arrive by the carriage before waving his hand. The carriage then began to slowly make its way towards the depths of the Beastfolk Prairie. The cavalry captain didn't move to pick up the pouch immediately and was instead looking thoughtfully at the carriage.

A cavalryman riding beside the cavalry captain asked, "Captain, what just happened?"

When he recovered, the cavalry captain looked at the knight and said, "Nothing, I just remembered something. Some time ago, news had spread from Casa City. During the crisis, our Purcell clan had been helped by a black magician. That black magician had a Rank Eight warrior following him, right?"

The cavalry captain was also a clan member of the Purcell clan, so he'd said 'our Purcell clan'. After hearing what the cavalry captain had said, the cavalryman gawked for a moment. "Captain, what do you mean? Was that magician in the caravan the one that had helped the Purcell clan resolve the crisis?"

Nodding, the cavalry captain said, "Rank Eight... well, don't think about it too much. Go and pick up the money."

The cavalryman complied immediately and clipped the horse's side to move forward. He circled the pouch and then got off his horse to examine it. Once the pouch was in his hand, he returned to the cavalry captain's side and reported, "Captain, it should be a thousand gold coins."

He nodded and turned around, then shouted loudly, "Brothers, this trip wasn't in vain. When we go back we'll take the day off and everyone can go have some fun."

The cavalymen cheered loudly. Clipping the horse's side, the cavalry captain moved forward and everyone followed behind.

Chapter 232 - Star Grass

It wasn't until the shadow of the cavalry was gone that Laura and the other two walked out of the carriage. They had observed the cavalry, so Laura turned to Green and said, "Grandpa Green, if not for your unyielding attitude, I fear those fellows wouldn't have let us off so easily. That was really risky."

Green smiled faintly. "It's alright. I've seen many such situations before. They were just acting, so it wasn't anything much."

Laura smiled. "Upon entering the Beastfolk Prairie, such situations will be frequently encountered. The beastfolk themselves, on the other hand, would only take food if they wished to rob. This is the unwritten rule of the Beastfolk Prairie. They still hope that people would bring food there in the future. Moreover, in the eyes of the beastfolk, Terrans look almost identical. With this, Grandpa Green won't have to worry if anything does happen and can stay in the Black Waste."

Green smiled and said, "There's nothing much to do in the Black Waste at this time. Presently, everything that needs to be prepared for the winter has already been prepared. Furthermore, there's Quinn John there so I have nothing to do. I'll go with you for now. If there are any issues, I'll go forth and move to solve it."

Laura laughed. "Alright. The scenery here isn't much. It's not as good as the Space's and somewhat boring."

Green chuckled. "The grass inside the Space is taller than the ones here. Certainly, it's a lot more attractive in there than here, but it also looks too rigid. On the other hand, the Beastfolk Prairie will have changes along the way."

Laura grinned. As Green had said, in the Space, no matter if it was the farm or the ranch, there wouldn't be much difference. Everything there was digitized. The grass would be as short in length as everything else and even the few leaves would look the exact same. There really weren't any changes.

Just then, Green suddenly saw some bushes with a cluster of florets. He couldn't help but gawk at them, then smiled as he hit his horse into a gallop. Jumping from his horse, he took out his Spiritwind Sword and dug out several clusters of florets from their roots.

Watching Green's actions, Zhao Hai couldn't help but be surprised. A moment later, he understood what Green intended. Sure enough, after Green removed the florets from the soil and returned to the carriage, he gave them to Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, this is one of the most common type of flowers in the Beastfolk Prairie—Star Grass . This Star Grass is unique to the Beastfolk Prairie and is a common hemostatic medicinal herb. Ordinary beastfolk would pick this grass and dry them, then use it on injuries to stop the bleeding. It's a very effective herb."

Zhao Hai looked at the clusters of florets in his hands. The entire plant was only about thirty centimeters in length and didn't seem too extraordinary. Flowers bloomed on top of the grass and the flower had a total of five petals that spread to resemble a small star.

Zhao Hai shifted his hands and placed the flowers in the Space. The Space immediately prompted in a tone:

[Discovered new plant.

Identifying plant. Plant is a herbal, hemostatic plant.

Plant has hemostatic abilities and strong vitality.

Evaluating level. Plant is Level 5.

The plant is seasonal and has a maturity time of ten hours.

Digitizing plant. Plant can now be purchased from the Spatial Shop.]

Zhao Hai nodded. Turning, he saw that Laura and the others had their eyes on him. He couldn't help but frown as he said, "It's nothing. The Space evaluated the plant as Level 5 and it has a ten hour maturity time."

While Green and the others felt some regret, they didn't really expect much. If such a common type of grass could upgrade the level of the Space, then the Space wouldn't just be Level 20 right now.

Laura's eyes shone brightly as she looked around as if in search of something. Zhao Hai gave a faint smile. This was the first time Laura had encountered such a situation, so she felt very curious and went ahead. Nier was also curious. She, however, wasn't very curious about the plants, but rather, with the magic beasts.

Compared to Laura, Meg was much calmer. She'd already experienced the Space leveling up. If it didn't upgrade this time, then there wasn't anything to be happy about.

This was, however, a good start. These plants would slowly build up the experience needed after being assessed by the Space. Since they had just entered the Beastfolk Prairie and already found a plant, it could be considered a good start.

Green watched Laura and smiled as he said, "In fact, there are a lot of plants in the Beastfolk Prairie. Unfortunately, we aren't beastfolk so we won't be able to notice them easily. I heard that in the Beastfolk Prairie, the grass itself is divided into different types. There is grass that the cattle could feed on, grass that the sheep could eat, and grass that the horses could eat. Haha. When we speak about our understanding of the prairies, we can't be compared to those beastfolk."

Laura smiled. "That's natural. The beastfolk have been living here for generations, and the Beastfolk Prairie is their home. They would naturally understand it better, but so long as we can buy a beastfolk slave this problem can be solved."

Green nodded in approval of what Laura said. One could say that the group with the deepest understanding of the prairie wouldn't be a member of a war tribe, but instead a slave.

The slaves of the prairies weren't like Terran slaves that had been marked as such. Slaves in the prairie were instead just a sub ethnic race. The beastfolk could easily recognize a slave, so they didn't need to be marked.

Furthermore, slaves in the prairie had a lot more freedom than the Terran slaves, and they were more dependent on some war tribes for survival. In this place, they would herd and work for the war tribes. Due to this, the slaves' understanding of the prairie was quite high. They knew which grass would be good, where good water could be found, and where magic beasts roamed.

Slaves had their own reason for existing. With regards to the beastfolk, magic beasts encompassed everything. No matter how formidable a beastfolk war tribe was, it would still be weighed by how many magic beasts they had. Magic beasts, however, were trained and raised by the slaves. So long as the slaves raised the magic beasts well, the beastfolk would reward them in turn. With this, the slaves worked very hard.

Due of this, as long as Zhao Hai bought some beastfolk slaves, they would gain a better understanding of the flora within the prairie. In fact, many beastfolk didn't realize how important this knowledge was. Although the beastfolk did have their own writing system, they didn't have any record of these aspects.

Here in the Beastfolk Prairie, most of the ethnic races didn't have their own slave tribe due to their low battle strength. If they had many slaves, then they would just be snatched by those war tribes. If wouldn't do them any good as it would just lead to a slaughter. This was a common occurrence in the prairie.

There were many ethnic races that, because of their massive properties and inability to protect them, were eliminated by the war tribes. Afterwards, they would just be converted to slave tribes. This was the law of survival here in the prairie.

Green nodded and said, "Buying slaves is a must. But don't worry about it too much. We must move slowly. First, we will need to take a look at the situation here in the Beastfolk Prairie."

Laura nodded, smiled, and said, "I understand this since Artest had reported much of this to me before. Unfortunately, the information collected isn't very comprehensive, so our understanding is still limited."

Green nodded and looked around. He didn't see any traces of a tribe, so he turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, we must move a little bit faster. The cavalry soldiers from Ironwall Fortress appear and disappear in this area frequently, so the beastfolk don't come around here. We need to find a beastfolk tribe as soon as possible. Seeking shelter for the night with them would be best."

Zhao Hai nodded. "That's fine. If we meet a tribe, we can also do some transactions with them. Haha, I want to see what kind of beastfolk we encounter."

Laura also smiled. Beastfolk rarely went into Terran settlements, so the local people living in some small areas wouldn't be able to see a beastfolk in all of their lives.

Since they needed to hurry, they raised their speed slightly. Unfortunately, they didn't manage to encounter anyone this day. This was normal, however, as the Beastfolk Prairie was very large. In addition, they were in the buffer zone between the Terrans and the beastfolk. This place would be sparsely populated.

Evening came and they still didn't encounter any beastfolk. They went back inside the Space and passed the night there.

Night passed without any discussion.

Next morning, Zhao Hai and the others continued to venture deeper into the Beastfolk Prairie. Zhao Hai wanted to take it easy so they moved slowly. On the way, they were observing the surroundings and also gathering and digging up many types of grasses and flowers and placed them in the Space. Unfortunately, most of the plants they encountered were common. Although some were collected by the Space, they didn't give much experience. Since the Space was now Level 20, upgrading became difficult.

Zhao Hai, however, didn't give up. He understood the reality of the matter and could only do things slowly. Worrying about it would be useless.

To truly understand, just the Carrion Swamp itself had a wider variety of plants when compared to the Beastfolk Prairie. The Carrion Swamp, however, was dangerous. If he let Zhao Wen and Cai-er jointly search it and the Rank Nine experts of the Carrion Swamp knew of this, they wouldn't be friendly. Right now, Zhao Hai was focusing on the Beastfolk Prairie instead.

During noon that day, Zhao Hai was called by a blood-colored eagle. Zhao Hai looked up and saw the blood-colored eagle circling in the air, giving out cries from time to time.

Zhao Hai watched for a while, then turned to Laura and said, "Not far ahead of us is a small tribe with a few hundred people. We'll arrive there by evening and rest."

Laura didn't oppose, instead nodding as she said, "Alright then, but we must be careful. The beastfolk might turn out to be robbers. As I see it, we should call out a few more undead so that the beastfolk wouldn't act too unreasonably."

Smiling, Zhao Hai said, "No, don't forget that I'm currently a magician. I believe the beastfolk wouldn't so casually annoy us, so be at ease."

As they spoke, their speed increased. Three hours later, Zhao Hai stood atop his carriage. He saw a flag fluttering a bit away and knew that this was the place.

Chapter 233 - Big Bellied Pig-headed People

Multicolored flag, a sign of a beastfolk tribe. Any beastfolk tribe, regardless of whether they were great or small, would always hang up the multicolored flag of their tribe.

These multicolored flags, with regards to the beastfolk, meant stability, auspicious luck, and good fortune. Multicolored flags, in the eyes of the beastfolk, were rainbows.

Rainbows appeared after the rain, and rain was very important to the beastfolk. Rain could make rivers larger, so there would be more available water. Rain could make the prairie more lush, allowing their magic beasts to become stouter and stronger, increasing their wealth. As such, all beastfolk tribes hung a multicolored flag.

In the prairie, so long as someone sees a multicolored flag, they would know there was a tribe nearby. This was common knowledge in the prairie. Zhao Hai had read this miscellaneous information somewhere, which was how he knew of it.

Zhao Hai breathed out, sat down hastily, and turned to Laura and the others in the carriage and said, "I saw a multicolored flag."

Laura understood clearly what Zhao Hai's meant. She immediately left the carriage to check and see what Zhao Hai was looking at. A colorful multicolored flag appeared in her line of sight.

Laura breathed in. "Finally, we've found a beastfolk tribe. Alright, we may be able to drink milk wine tonight and eat roasted argali ."

Zhao Hai chuckled. To be honest, in this vast steppe they hadn't thought they wouldn't be able to find any inhabitants after searching for a full day. Now that they suddenly found a multicolored flag, it startled their hearts. It was like when people living in darkness suddenly saw a glimmer of light.

Before long, Zhao Hai and the others saw a tent. The tent exuded a lively feeling and a flag was set atop that tent. Painted on the flag was an adorable little pig.

Zhao Hai blinked his eyes to make sure he didn't see it wrong. It really was an adorably little piggy on the flag. Turning to Laura, puzzled, he asked, "Laura, what tribe is this?"

Laura also saw the image of the little pig on the flag above the tent. She couldn't help but smile as she said, "Do you see the little pig on the flag? The belly of the pig is a bit large, right? This beastfolk tribe is a branch of the beastfolk's Pig ethnic race, the Big Bellied Pig tribe. They aren't especially tall, only about two meters in height. Among the beastfolk, they are really small, but their bellies are really big and permanently exposed. Don't underestimate their big bellies as it's their most tenacious part.

"This tribe is part of an ethnic race whose combat abilities aren't very strong, but they have a unique ability; the water they drink can be stored in their bellies. They could then use that water to spurt out a stream and use it as an arrow to attack others. The water they spurt out can generally reach thirty meters, and its strength is equal to a Terran's brutal arrow . With this unique ability, they haven't become a slave tribe."

Zhao Hai was very curious about this. He felt that this world was very large. Such a wonder could appear in a race was truly too interesting.

Turning to Laura, Zhao Hai said, "Then what about the tribe's character? Will they suddenly turn into robbers?"

Laura shook her head and smiled. "Their disposition is affable. They belong to the Fragrant Pig ethnic race. So long as you don't bully them, they won't try to snatch your things. They are a very hospitable race and mainly herd argali to live."

Zhao Hai knew that an argali was a Rank One magic beast and one of the many Rank One magic beasts the beastfolk raised. Argali skin could be used for clothing, its wool for blankets, the meat for consumption, and the bones for weapons. One could say that the life of the beastfolk couldn't be separated from the argali.

For the Terrans, it was rare to see people raising argali. This was mainly due to the fact that the argali had adapted to living in the prairies. If they were to be raised in Terran territories, then they would become sick. As such, for the beastfolk the argali seemed like the greatest blessing of the Beast God.

Zhao Hai nodded. "That's good then. We'll rest here for today. If they need, we'll also sell them food. Right, how does transactions work with the beastfolk?"

Laura smiled. "It isn't difficult. So long as we pull out food, they'll take the initiative and come to us. Generally, however, they would trade with magic beasts and won't directly use money for transactions. Only those large war tribes can use money in transactions. Therefore, we'll also need to trade in our magic beasts and turn it into money."

Zhao Hai asked, "How much bamboo rice will we need to trade for an argali?"

Laura smiled, "Half a tonne."

"Half a tonne? Are you cracking a joke?" Zhao Hai was surprised by what he heard. What Laura had stated the price was made him startled.

The reason for Zhao Hai's surprise was that an individual mature argali could grow up to 1.5 meters and weighed around 400 kilograms. Even if they were carried on the back of an argali, it wouldn't be a problem for them. Moreover, an argali could produce 100 kilograms of wool. If they were to transport it back to the Purcell Duchy, an argali would be priced at around 15 gold coins even if they didn't raise it and just brought its corpse. For half a tonne of bamboo rice, however, it would honestly be sold of just a gold coin. This was fifteen times the profit. Wasn't this a bit too high?

Laura understood Zhao Hai's surprise. She smiled faintly and said, "It sounds quite high, but not as high as you think it is. You must remember that transporting commodities into the Beastfolk Prairie is done through smuggling. The process of smuggling means to bribe the military at the checkpoints and do this whenever you pass a checkpoint, which isn't a small amount to be spending..."

"Also, it's easy to get robbed here in the Beastfolk Prairie. Transporting half a ton of bamboo rice into the prairie would cost about 3 gold coins. To transport the argali back would increase your income, but on the continent an argali costs 8 gold coins. This doesn't include the chances of being robbed. You have to remember that merchants here in the Beastfolk Prairie usually cooperate with a large war tribe. If not, then they'd get robbed. With an estimate, an ordinary merchant would be robbed three or four out of ten times. Even without this, the profit they would make from argalis would only be around 4 to 5 gold coins. This is already very good."

Zhao Hai nodded. He understood her points. Since the costs were high, the price would naturally go up. If the cost was too low, then people wouldn't do this kind of business. In the end, the one who would suffer the most wouldn't be the Terrans, but the beastfolk. They wouldn't do well if this happened.

Zhao Hai turned to Laura and asked, "How much do you think we should pay if we trade with them?"

Laura smiled faintly and said, "One tonne per argali."

Zhao Hai nodded. He didn't have to worry about the high costs that the other merchants experienced as he was producing the bamboo rice inside the Space. Furthermore, he could also place the argali within the Spatial Ranch or just store them inside the Spatial Warehouse. He didn't need to arrange anything or bribe anyone. With this, he almost didn't have any extra costs to pay. One tonne of bamboo rice per argali would still mean he'd earn money. Moreover, one tonne of bamboo rice in the Beastfolk Prairie wouldn't have much of an impact on the prices since it was still a reasonable rate.

Nier and Meg stood back and listened to the two as they discussed. Meg didn't feel bad about this so long as she could take care of Zhao Hai. The business matters from before were all done by Zhao Hai anyway. As such, she didn't feel any jealousy.

For bystanders, she and Laura would be considered rivals. Meg's view of this, however, wasn't like that. She didn't want to fight Laura over anything. Meg only wanted to be by Zhao Hai's side. In addition, Laura's strong point in business was an innate talent that Meg couldn't compare with.

Meg had already resolved her issues about this long ago. Therefore, she wouldn't be jealous of Laura. If Laura was competent, then she would be happy. After all, Laura now represented the Buda clan. If she were competent, then the Buda clan would become stronger. This was what Meg desired.

They chatted as they walked. Before long, they arrived before the tent. As soon as the people in the tent found them, twenty shadows rushed towards them. A dog accompanied each of the shadows.

As the shadows drew closer to Zhao Hai, it became noticeable that the twenty individuals were cavalry soldiers. What made Zhao Hai smile was the fact that their mounts were unexpectedly pigs.

Yep, these were pigs. With a body around two meters long and a weight of over half a tonne, those pigs had two long buck teeth growing in their mouths. Then the riders riding the pigs made Zhao Hai think of a man, Zhu Bajie .

They really did look too similar. Like Zhu Bajie, they wore prairie clothing; the individuals had fur hats on their heads and were dressed in leather clothes. They had large pig heads atop a rough, thick neck and their snow-white bellies were exposed to the outside. One could see a layer of black hair on their bellies. So long as they put on a robe and held a rake, they would look just like Zhu Bajie. They didn't even need to wear makeup.

Zhao Hai wanted to smile, but then he thought it wouldn't be polite. If he ridiculed the beastfolk and caused a conflict, it wouldn't be nice to look at. He refrained from it and slowly calmed his mood.

Alongside those big bellied, pig-headed riders were several dogs. Those dogs were very special as they were about a meter tall and had long hair. They ran really fast and didn't bark randomly. With two fangs exposed over their lip, they didn't look like something one should mess with.

Zhao Hai and the others stopped immediately. They assumed a calm and friendly appearance. Sure enough, those pig riders slowed down. Zhao Hai now found out that the weapons of those pig riders could only be described as simple. It was a big sheep's head fitted onto a wooden handle. And some of the weapons didn't even use wood, but animal bones.

Zhao Hai, however, didn't dare to underestimate this type of weapon as a sheep's head was very large and looked very heavy. If one got pounded by such a thing, then it would definitely break one's bones and crush one's tendons.

Right now, the Big Bellied Pig tribe people stopped 50 meters in front of them. Both sides halted, but those riders let their dogs move about and surround the sides of Zhao Hai and the others. The dogs were staring at them, a warning hum sounding from deep within their throats.

Chapter 234 - Precious Gift

Laura quickly left the carriage after she saw the few Big Bellied Pig tribesmen and hastily greeted them, "Fellow Pig tribe friends, we are a Terran merchant clan. We are not malicious people, so please let your faithful dogs return to the sides of their masters."

The Big Bellied Pig tribesmen saw Laura standing beside the caravan. One Pig tribesman who seemed to be the leader quickly placed his sheep skull hammer down and returned Laura's greeting, "Dear Terran businesswoman, please forgive our rudeness. As you may know, here in the prairie I must ensure the safety of my tribesmen."

After he said those words, he shouted twice and had the faithful dogs return to their side.

Laura was currently out of the carriage when a few Pig tribesmen jumped off their mounts and walked towards Laura. When the distance between the two sides had decreased to a few meters apart, Laura formally greeted the Pig tribesmen and said, "Taoyuan Business Association Chairwoman, Laura, has seen the brave warriors of the Pig tribe."

The Pig tribesman was very polite as he bowed towards Laura, saying, "Big Bellied Pig tribe, Sheep-Head Hammer horde chief, Spear , has seen the beautiful lady Laura."

Spear's body was around 2 meters tall, which made the 1.8 meter tall Laura in front of him look like a child. He was, however, very polite, and Zhao Hai's impression of him became subconsciously more favorable.

Laura smiled. "Honorable chief Spear, me and my caravan wishes to stay the night at your camp. I wonder if you will allow us?"

"Haha," Spear laughed. "Beautiful lady Laura, this matter is something we also wish for with earnesty. Please, everyone in the carriage, come along with us to our camp. I will kill a good argali and will make some milk tea and milk wine. We will entertain you with the best food we have."

Laura smiled and said, "Thank you, generous chief Spear. Chief, please go first."

Spear saluted Laura and turned his mount around to hurry back towards the camp. Laura and the others, however, returned to their carriage.

Zhao Hai watched the distant Pig tribesmen before turning to Laura. "Will they really kill an argali and wait for us?"

Laura smiled. "They will. The beastfolk here in the prairies welcome us merchants warmly. So long as one doesn't have any ill intent, they will be very hospitable. Brother Hai, take out some vegetables. With regards to them, there is no better gift than vegetables."

Zhao Hai nodded and took out some vegetables to place them on the carriages. The vegetables came from the Space, so they were all as fresh as if they'd just been harvested.

After making the preparations, Laura and the caravan moved slowly towards the Sheep-Head Hammer horde. With regards to the Sheep-Head Hammer horde's strange name, Laura wasn't that surprised. Within the Beastfolk Prairie, there were many such strange names. Don't even speak about Sheep-Head Hammer, there was also a horde called Sheep-Dung. Laura didn't feel this was that strange.

They didn't need to wait very long before several argali came out of the horde's campsite. These argali were ones they had grown themselves. On the backs of these argali sat Big Bellied Pig tribe children.

The children all looked over ten years old and wore leather clothing. With their big bellies and silly, small heads, they looked adorable.

The children ran up to Laura's carriage. They looked curiously at Laura and Zhao Hai, who was wearing his magic robe. Then the tallest child went to the carriage and courteously said to Laura, "Honorable businesswoman, my father asked me to lead you." Evidently, this was Spear's child.

Laura smiled and immediately replied, "Adorable young warriors, please lead the way."

Perhaps it was because Laura called them 'young warriors' that the little Pig children became happy. These children with small bellies walked happily in front of the carriage.

For the beastfolk, warriors were important. Once they were commended by the other party and were called a warrior, it would make them very happy. This was Laura's first contact with the beastfolk, so she tried this with the children. It seemed that the idea was very effective.

Laura watched the children, then turned to Zhao Hai and said, "You can try to praise them as warriors, but no matter how cute they are you cannot touch their heads. If you do so, they will become angry. Also, when you are offered to drink wine by them, you cannot say no. It is considered impolite towards the host. Furthermore, if they give you a gift, then no matter what you must accept. Otherwise, the host will think you are looking down on him."

Zhao Hai nodded. These were things that could be considered taboo among the beastfolk. As such, they must naturally remember this. They didn't want any minor matter to suddenly turn into a big conflict with the beastfolk.

They soon arrived at the Sheep-Head Hammer horde camp. Spear stood waiting for them. Beside Spear were three Big Bellied Pig tribe young girls. Each of these girls carried a bowl of wine.

This was the first time Zhao Hai had seen a Pig tribe young girl. These Pig tribe young girls had a stature that wasn't much different from Laura's. Their bellies didn't bulge, but their bodies were plump and they wore leather skirts. Although they did have the head of a pig, when compared to Spear it was smaller. They looked very cute, especially with their long hair. Their hair had some accessories in them, and although they had pig heads they didn't look disgusting .

Laura took the lead as they left the carriage and stood in front of Spear. Spear smiled and said, "Beautiful young lady, please drink this wine as a symbol of friendship between you and our Sheep-Head Hammer horde." After a wave of his hand, those three Pig tribe young girls immediately moved forward.

Laura didn't dare be impolite and immediately received the bowl of wine from the young girl's hand. She drank a mouthful and then spilled some wine on the ground. This was one of the beastfolk's special accommodations for women. A woman must drink some of the wine from the bowl, then raise the bowl and sprinkle it on the ground. On the other hand, a man must raise the bowl of wine and drink it all.

After drinking from three bowls of wine, Laura's face appeared ruddy. This, to Zhao Hai, made her appear gorgeous. Spear and the other Pig tribesmen didn't understand how to appreciate such a sight, however. In their eyes, all Terran women looked the same. Although Spear had called Laura a beautiful lady, it was just a form of courtesy.

The beastfolk proposed a toast to those who deserved respect and could lead. Others wouldn't have such an accommodation. Therefore, Zhao Hai didn't drink the wine Spear had.

After drinking, Laura turned to Spear and said, "Honorable chief, please allow my servants to establish tents. Also, please do not prepare so much food as my servants are all undead. They don't need to eat anything."

Spear gawked and examined the zombies standing next to the carriage. Soon he found that these zombies were quite different. He didn't care much, however, as he nodded and said, "Alright then. Beautiful young lady, please."

Laura turned and looked at Zhao Hai, who then nodded and waved his hand. Immediately after, those undead began to construct their own camp. They made the camp close to the Sheep-Head Hammer horde camp. The undead Zhao Hai had brought were the ones that had originally been led by Alodia. Alodia himself was also among the undead. When they had killed some, most of them were ordinary caravan coachmen and servants. They weren't unfamiliar with building a camp, so under Zhao Hai's order they made good time.

Spear saw Zhao Hai wave his hand. To be honest, Spear didn't have a favorable first impression of Zhao Hai. Since Zhao Hai wore a black magic robe, he felt that Zhao Hai exuded a gloomy aura which made Zhao Hai disagreeable .

At this time, several undead brought forward a few piles of fresh vegetables. Laura smiled at Spear and said, "Honorable chief, please accept my small gift."

The vegetables were fresh. Moreover, there was a wide variety of them that filled the baskets. They appeared supple and tender, and Spear's eyes shone. With regards to the beastfolk, such green goods were rare good items.

Spear wasn't polite as he smiled and said to Laura, "Thank you, beautiful and generous young lady. These vegetables, to us, is really expensive. Please, come to my tent. My wife made fragrant milk tea."

Laura wasn't polite as she walked towards the largest tent in the middle of the camp with Spear. The vegetables, on the other hand, had been received by Spear. Zhao Hai wanted to laugh. Those vegetables were just ordinary vegetables and weren't worth much.

He knew that the beastfolk lived in a prairie, so adding in the fact that only grassland occupied the land, they were unable to plant any vegetables. As such, the vegetables were mostly brought by Terran merchants. Since they can't preserve them well, they wouldn't be able to see vegetables all year round. Sometimes, if they were lucky, they'd be able to dig up some wild herbs in the prairie. As such, these produce became rare food for them.

Laura had given them a lot of vegetables. With regards to Spear, this was really precious. Therefore, his respect for Laura increased by a lot.

Spear led the group of people into a tent. Inside the tent were Pig tribe women wearing fur-lined robes as they moved around busily. When the two women saw Spear come in, they greeted the group hastily. Zhao Hai and the others also returned the greeting and carefully looked around the tent.

There was a pillar in the middle of the tent that supported the roof. The walls were made with animal skin and wool blankets that were surrounded by wood and animal bones to help maintain the warmth inside. The ground was covered with carpets. Near the center of the tent was a pit wherein a flame had been lit inside. On top of it was a copper pot that was being heated. The aroma of milk tea came out of the pot.

Spear asked his visitors to sit down. Each of the visitors was given a bowl of steaming hot milk tea. Zhao Hai and the others drank some and found that it was actually very fragrant. The tea didn't seem to be the same type of tea Zhao Hai knew of, but was instead from a plant he didn't know about. The taste wasn't the same as tea leaves, but the milk tea was really delicious. There wasn't any sort of fishy smell from it, so it seemed that something had been added to it. It had a slightly salty taste and a thick aroma. It was smooth and tasted great.

Chapter 235 - Together in the Tent While Sleeping

After traveling for a day, Laura and the others felt very tired. After drinking the bowl of hot milk tea, however, they all felt a lot better.

Spear examined the appearance of his visitors and it made him smile. The mouth of a pig was big, and his smile was even larger than his big mouth. Laura and the others couldn't bear not to smile along.

After they placed their bowl down, Spear's wife filled them up once more with milk tea. Spear then opened his mouth and said, "Beautiful young lady, how much food have you bought and what is the price?"

Beastfolk liked to talk directly, so Spear didn't beat around the bush and directly asked Laura about the price. Just as Spear had noted, Laura brought along food. Food, to the beastfolk, was something they all needed.

Laura smiled and said, "Honorable chief, this time we have brought 25 tonnes of food in total, all bamboo rice. In return for your hospitality, I am willing to trade 1 tonne of food per argali."

Spear looked at Laura with uncertainty. "You said 1 tonne of food will be traded per argali? Did you not speak incorrectly?"

This was the first time Spear had spoken to Laura without adding the few words, 'beautiful young lady' to his sentence. It revealed how shocked he was.

Laura smiled and said, "It is as chief Spear said. 1 tonne per argali. I have not spoken incorrectly, and you have not misunderstood."

Spear became excited about this and stood up. He then held his chest seriously and courteously said to Laura, "Beautiful lady Laura, you are as generous as the beautiful Yaja river. Starting today, you are the Sheep-Head Hammer horde's most honored guest."

Laura smiled. "Honorable chief, we are now friends and friends shouldn't be so polite with one another. Also, allow me to introduce him. This is my fiancé, Zhao Hai. He is a magician, and in fact this food had been produced in his territory. The price was also set by him."

Zhao Hai was introduced this time around because Laura didn't want to steal all the credit from him. Furthermore, she observed that Spear didn't seem to have a good view of Zhao Hai. Laura didn't want Zhao Hai to be left out, so she introduced him to Spear.

Sure enough, after Laura introduced him, Spear immediately held his chest to Zhao Hai and courteously said, "Honorable sir magician, please forgive my rudeness from earlier."

Zhao Hai returned his courtesy and said, "Chief Spear doesn't need to be polite. I understand that my identity isn't amiable, but I do hope I can be friends with you."

As soon as Spear heard Zhao Hai's words, he faced him straight on and said, "Honorable sir Zhao Hai, your mind is as broad as the prairie. Today, I will do my best to entertain you!"

Zhao Hai smiled agreeably as he said, "Then I won't be polite. Please allow me to, however, give your adorable son a gift." Having said that, he waved his hand and an iron shield appeared.

This iron shield wasn't big and was only a round shield instead of a tower shield. Zhao Hai had bought it in the Purcell Duchy during the time when they were purchasing items. The craftsmanship could be considered ordinary, but in the iron-lacking prairies, it was an absolutely extraordinary gift.

Spear happily received the round shield and expressed his gratitude to Zhao Hai. He didn't know how the shield appeared, however. Since they were a beastfolk tribe situated at the edge of the Beastfolk Prairie, their contact with Terrans wasn't plentiful. With regards to them, a magician was a very mystical

occupation. The prestige of a Terran magician was extremely exaggerated within the beastfolk. When Zhao Hai, this pseudo-magician, displayed his skill in front of Spear, there was no lasting issues from Spear.

By this time, the morning sky had already long fled, so Spear turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Zhao Hai, there's a bonfire lit outside and the argali will be placed over it. Come out with me and enjoy the enthusiasm of the beastfolk."

Zhao Hai took off his magic hat at this time. In any case, nobody knew him here. He smiled as he stood up and said, "Alright, Brother Spear. With regards to the beastfolk's argali, I have been craving it for a long time now."

The few people left the tent and looked outside. Sure enough, the land was lit up by the bonfire and a few argali had been placed inside the fire to roast, their juices dripping down. One pig-headed man was rotating the argali while another was paying attention to the fire. Some of the pig-headed women were carrying earthen jars filled with milk wine and sprinkling them around the bonfire.

Spear pulled along Zhao Hai and they sat beside the bonfire. They were immediately served two plates and a wine bowl each. The first plate was filled with a thin layer of salt while the other was empty. The wine bowls, on the other hand, were filled with wine.

When the Pig tribe people saw Spear coming out, they walked towards him. They took away the two's empty plates and went over to the roasting area. Taking out a dagger, they cut away some sections of mutton. Afterward, they placed the meat on the plates and served them to Zhao Hai and Spear.

Spear's wife also took out a dagger and placed it before Zhao Hai. Spear then smiled and said to Zhao Hai, "Brother Zhao Hai, this dagger is the one I like the most. Today, I will give it to you so that you can use it and have a taste of our beastfolk's roasted argali."

Zhao Hai looked at the dagger. It was shaped in a curve, resembling a sickle. The scabbard was made of sheep's horn and had a beautiful pattern carved in it. It really did look like a work of art.

He gently drew out the dagger. Presently, the dagger emitted a cold light that shone brightly. It was obviously a rare, high quality item. Zhao Hai remembered what Laura told them earlier, that they

shouldn't decline when receiving gifts. Since that was so, Zhao Hai happily received the dagger and said, "Thank you, Brother Spear. I like this gift a lot."

Spear laughed and patted Zhao Hai's shoulder, almost forcing him to the ground. This made Spear laugh even louder, and even the other pig-headed tribesmen around them were laughing.

Zhao Hai was helpless since his body was really that bad. The beastfolk were also known to have great strength. Even if the Big Bellied Pig tribe wasn't a war tribe, they were still a lot more powerful than common Terrans. As such, Zhao Hai couldn't bear it.

Zhao Hai watched as the roasted mutton placed in front of Spear was cut into pieces by him with his dagger. Spear then moistened a piece with salt and placed it in his mouth.

Following Spear, Zhao Hai placed his hands on the roasted mutton and cut them. He then moistened the surface with salt and placed it in his mouth. The salted surface was melted in his mouth, giving off a salty taste as the mutton's roasted fragrance passed by.

This roasted mutton, when compared to the roasted mutton of Terrans, had a completely different taste. The roasted mutton was very fragrant, and in this atmosphere, the taste had increased by three times. Zhao Hai currently thought that this was the best roasted meat he'd ever tasted.

After he swallowed the roast meat, Zhao Hai continued to ponder the taste and fragrance as it was very deep. Unlike the milk tea, though it was also fragrant, it didn't really taste better. The mutton's fragrance, however, actually managed to increase the taste of the roasted meat. This made it so that everyone wouldn't be able to stop eating it .

While Zhao Hai was still pondering the taste of the meat, Spear lifted a bowl of wine and loudly said, "My people, let us pick up some mellow wine and welcome our friends from far, far away! Brother Zhao Hai, come, bottoms up!"

Everyone loudly shouted, "Bottoms up!" As they shouted those words, everyone lifted their own wine bowls and drank it all at once. Zhao Hai looked at this and understood that they had to drink the wine in one take.

Fortunately, the degree of alcohol in the milk wine wasn't that high. Along with the aroma, the flavor itself was very good and it wasn't difficult to drink. Zhao Hai didn't make a fool out of himself during this scene.

After drinking that bowl of wine, Spear didn't try to propose a toast again, but chatted with Zhao Hai. Every time he drank wine, he would call for Zhao Hai, who would then follow his lead. Before long, they had each drunk three bowls of wine and eaten two sections of roasted mutton.

To be honest, Zhao Hai's appetite wasn't very large. Today, however, he had a good appetite for some unknown reason. It may have been due to the roasted mutton being very fragrant, or the milk wine being too tasty. He ate two large sections of roasted mutton and, at present, he could unexpectedly still eat. This was beyond his expectations.

At this time, a Pig tribe young girl appeared and started to sing a unique beastfolk song. The tune was long and very nice to hear. Zhao Hai and the others couldn't help but cheer up even more.

Bonfire roasting. Living in the prairie. This type of atmosphere was really good and it could make a person subconsciously excited. The atmosphere in the field grew even warmer.

In the end, Zhao Hai didn't know how much milk wine he'd drunk or how much of the roast mutton he had. He didn't even know how he got back to his tent, because he'd been knocked unconscious with all that he'd drunk.

Laura and the others didn't drink too much. The beastfolk wouldn't urge women to drink milk wine. If they could drink, then drink; if they couldn't drink it, then they could take milk tea instead. As long as everyone eats and eats with relish, then the meal becomes joyous.

Zhao Hai had been sent off back to the tent by some Pig tribesmen since he'd gotten drunk and was knocked out. Laura and the others couldn't return to the Space, so they had to live in the tent.

Since Zhao Hai and the others would be leaving tomorrow, they didn't bother to set up multiple tents and only had the one built. Earlier, they only wanted to use it to pretend they were living in it, but now they had to actually stay there. The undead in the caravan wouldn't get tired or feel cold, so they stood guard.

The next morning, Zhao Hai woke up. Although he was knocked out cold from the drinking yesterday, he had to admit that the milk wine of the beastfolk was really good. Above all that, Zhao Hai didn't feel thirsty, nor did he have a headache. The only thing he had was some slight dizziness.

Feeling a little heat in his throat, Zhao Hai immediately drank some Spatial Water. This made him feel a lot better and sobered him up.

After sobering up, Zhao Hai found out that Laura and the others were all resting inside the tent. To his left was Laura, while Meg was on his right. Nier slept on the other side of Laura. He was unexpectedly in an unknown situation where he slept with three beauties.

Zhao Hai looked at the situation blankly and suddenly didn't know how to act. He definitely couldn't force himself on them, but the situation caused him some agitation.

Consider this; Zhao Hai was an otaku back on Earth . Presently, he was sleeping in the same tent with three beautiful women. Although he didn't do anything, with regards to Zhao Hai this was still a rare experience. Especially now that he could smell the fragrance they gave off, which made Zhao Hai's heart shake.

When Zhao Hai looked at Laura's tender white skin, it made his heart itch. He bent down to get a closer look, but Laura suddenly turned her body. Zhao Hai woke up and took a deep breath, then looked at Laura and Meg. He stood up softly and left the tent.

He didn't notice as he left that Laura and Meg had opened their eyes. They both looked at the tent entrance, and then at each other. Both of them saw a happy light in the other's eyes. It was obvious that the two of them had already been awake before Zhao Hai and had only been pretending to sleep .

They had naturally noted down Zhao Hai's actions, so Laura had deliberately turned her body. Zhao Hai's actions that was similar to a frightened rabbit made the two women almost laugh aloud.

The two of them, however, were touched by Zhao Hai's actions. It showed that he respected them enough. It was a move full of love and respect.

In the case that Zhao Hai kissed Laura, then it not only meant that he loved Laura. On the contrary, this may mean that Zhao Hai's desire for Laura exceeded his love.

With regards to love, every person expressed it differently. Everyone's understanding of it wasn't the same, but there was one thing that was still important; if you loved one another, then you must respect the other and don't look down on them. If Zhao Hai had forcefully kissed Laura, then Laura might not have resisted, but she'd be disappointed in Zhao Hai . That's because she would think Zhao Hai didn't understand her.

Laura was a very self-disciplined woman, so she hoped that her other half would also respect her. If Zhao Hai had kissed her, then while she wouldn't resist, she also wouldn't cooperate. Since Meg and Nier were also in the tent, if she kissed him back, then they might find her frivolous. This was unacceptable for the self-disciplined Laura.

If Zhao Hai truly loved her, then he wouldn't forcefully kiss her. Doing so would mean Zhao Hai didn't understand her disposition, and that he didn't care about her feelings. Such a thing would make Laura sad.

It was obvious, however, that Laura's worries were in vain . Zhao Hai did well and didn't force himself on Laura, instead leaving the tent. This was the result Laura wanted.

Meg didn't have the same thoughts as Laura. She wasn't jealous either. Meg knew that Zhao Hai liked Laura and knew that he liked her as well. If Zhao Hai did kiss Laura forcefully, however, then Meg would also be disappointed. This was because Meg wouldn't be able to think that Zhao Hai was the same Zhao Hai she knew from the Black Waste.

Prior to them going to the Black Waste, he was Adam, not Zhao Hai. Meg, however, didn't know this. If Zhao Hai kissed Laura, then she would think Zhao Hai was the same Adam she knew from before they went to the Black Waste. He was currently different from Adam who was a person who had flowers hanging off him and didn't understand love. If he did kiss Laura, then that would mean that in his bones he was still the dandy, Adam. Meg would be even sadder than Laura in the end .

Of course, Zhao Hai definitely didn't know about the thoughts of the two women. Under that atmosphere, however, he could only continue to think about being intimate with Laura, so he left the tent. Naturally, that feeling had also tapered off.

After he left the tent, Zhao Hai breathed in some fresh air and looked around. He discovered that some Pig tribe women were already awake at this early hour and were busy with tasks around the camp. Some of them crowded together to milk the sheep, some were nursing the lambs, and some were cleaning the mess from yesterday's feast. When they saw Zhao Hai leave his tent, they greeted him and Zhao Hai hastily greeted them back.

One would have to say that the ordinary life of a beastfolk was still very hard. Take Spear and this tribe; there were no slaves so they had to do everything themselves. Moreover, their main source of income came from selling argali. Selling wool was their secondary source.

Wool products from the beastfolk were famous on the continent. It didn't only maintain warmth due to the thickness, but were also strong and durable. More importantly, the surface patterns had strong beastfolk characteristics; giving off a rugged and mysterious, exotic beauty. All of this made it very popular.

The wool products, however, didn't have a very unified production line. Instead, they were all made by hand by beastfolk using techniques handed down since ancient times. They manufactured them bit by bit. These sheepskin products wasn't their only main sources of income, but was also a part of their lives.

Zhao Hai didn't watch the women as they worked. His eyes were aimed at the mount Spear had used, as well as those dogs.

Those dogs were similar to another type of dog from Zhao Hai's previous world—the mastiff. They did seem much fiercer than a mastiff, however, and this could be attributed to them being magic beasts.

Spear's mount made Zhao Hai even more curious. They seemed like relatives to the wild boar and were really big. Based on Zhao Hai's view, they almost seemed like a smaller version of an elephant. What's even rarer was that they were quick. This was a very good mount.

Maybe it was due to him and Spear drinking last night, but whether it were the dogs or the pig, they didn't show any hostility towards Zhao Hai. Several of the dogs even wagged their tails before Zhao Hai.

At this time, Spear's voice sounded, "Brother Zhao Hai, you're up really early. Were you happy with yesterday's drinking?"

Zhao Hai turned to Spear. He couldn't help but show a faint smile, saying, "Brother Spear, you didn't get up late as well. Last night was the happiest I've been since birth. I'm truly thankful for your hospitality."

Spear patted Zhao Hai's shoulders forcefully and said, "Brother Zhao Hai, you are too polite! Entertaining a friend is an honor for our beastfolk race. Hahahaha."

Zhao Hai understood that the beastfolk were straightforward, but with regards to Spear's enthusiasm when he patted his shoulder, he really couldn't enjoy it.

Shaking his numb shoulder, Zhao Hai smiled bitterly as he turned his head to smile at Spear. "Then, Brother Spear, I won't be polite with you. I can give you 25 tonnes of food, but what I want in return are several of the argali and a dog. Also, it would better to also get a mount. What do you think?"

Spear smiled. "No problem. I can give you a dog. The pig is one of our Big Bellied Pig tribe specific and unique war beasts, so I can't give you one directly. A few days ago, however, one of our pigs had just given birth, so I can give you the piglet and thirty argali. How does that sound to you?"

When Spear finished speaking, he watched and waited for Zhao Hai's decision. He feared Zhao Hai might not agree since he thought that the transaction would mean a loss on Zhao Hai's part.

Zhao Hai shook his head. "Brother Spear, you are too polite. Just give me a dog, a pig, two wool blankets, and ten of those argali. The 25 tonnes of food is yours."

For Zhao Hai, this was enough. The Space could gain three magic beasts, and moreover he would also gain ten argali and two wool blankets. He would also only have to give 25 tonnes of food in return. The things he obtained from this would gain him several hundred gold coins if sold on the continent. It was a profit for them.

Spear didn't think the same and thought Zhao Hai would suffer a loss. He shook his head and hastily said, "Brother Zhao Hai, you'll suffer a loss if we do it like this. The beastfolk don't want their friends to suffer losses, so you must accept thirty argali or more wool blankets. Anything we make, I can give to you."

Laughing, Zhao Hai patted Spear's arm—as he was shorter, he couldn't reach Spear's shoulder—and said, "Brother Spear, you don't need to be so polite. Didn't Laura tell you yesterday that the food had all been produced in my territory? It was planted by me, so I didn't buy them. The investments are small. Getting ten argali is already a lot. I also can't let you suffer, right?"

Spear looked at Zhao Hai with complex eyes. He forcefully patted Zhao Hai's shoulders and said, "Brother Zhao Hai, from today onward, you are this Spear's true brother. To be honest, it is the first time I've ever seen a Terran like you. I've seen many Terrans before you, and many of them were like vampires. You are, however, a naturally generous person. I am willing to give you the war flag of our tribe. This isn't the supplier's kind of war flag, but a brother's war flag."

Zhao Hai stared, puzzled, as he asked, "What's the difference? I heard that many large caravans obtained war flags from war tribes. Aren't war flags only used by war tribes?"

Spear laughed. "My brother, your understanding of our beastfolk is too little. Us beastfolk have many kinds of war flags. There are war flags used in war, and we don't give those away. After all, it represents our honor. Another type, however, will be given to those merchant caravans. Although the war flags look the same, as long as one is a beastfolk, they can see the difference.

"The third type of war flag is a friendship war flag. This war flag isn't used during wartime, but it instead represents that one has obtained our friendship. A person with this kind of war flag can be said to have obtained the friendship of the beastfolk. As long as a beastfolk sees this kind of war flag, they will know that the person is our beastfolk's genuine friend. No matter where, he will earn the corresponding respect. Although our Big Bellied Pig tribe is only a normal tribe and not a war tribe, so long as you get our friendship war flag, it'll be much safer than when you use a merchant's war flag. This is because the beastfolk wouldn't attack one of their friends."

Zhao Hai now understood that the beastfolk had several types of war flags. He wasn't polite as he smiled and said, "Alright then, brother. Thank you very much."

Spear laughed. "Brother, you're too polite. Beastfolk don't need such politeness. Also, brother, you must still pay attention. Some time ago, I had heard of a nearby Jackal tribe appearing and disappearing. That

group is definitely full of robbers and thieves and shouldn't even be called beastfolk. You must stay careful of these fellows."

Zhao Hai nodded. With regards to this Jackal tribe, Zhao Hai knew of them due to the beastfolk records that mentioned them. This ethnic race was more cold-blooded than the Snake ethnic race and were more cunning than the Fox ethnic race. They were also a lot crueler than the Wolf ethnic race. Jackals weren't only disliked by Terrans, but also by the other beastfolk.

The Jackal tribe people were of a very special ethnic race. They weren't as strong as the Lion race, nor as fast as the Wolf race. Speaking frankly, they also weren't as cunning as the Fox race. Although they didn't have abilities to the extent of these three races, their survival capability was the strongest.

Jackal tribe generally lived in the areas of the Beastfolk Prairie with the harshest conditions. To survive, they could only continue to fight, hunt, rob, and kill. If they didn't do so, then they would starve to death.

No matter what race they faced, so long as they thought they could rob them, they would rob. Moreover, the Jackal tribe had the most outstanding hunters. They were united, patient, and had a different kind of cunning that no other beastfolk had. All of this made them the Beastfolk Prairie's most notorious hunters, and also the most unpopular ones.

The beastfolk didn't like them because they robbed relentlessly. Terran merchants didn't like them because they didn't leave anyone alive. While other beastfolk might rob them, at the very least they wouldn't kill you so long as you didn't offend them. This was because they needed the merchants to continue to transfer grains and food into the prairie.

The Jackal tribe, however, didn't follow this. They didn't only rob the commodities, but also robbed the lives of Terrans. They would even kidnap Terran merchants, resulting in many Terran slaves within the prairie. Many of the Terran merchants were kidnapped and held by the Jackal tribe, then sold. It could be said that this was their way to survive. Such an ethnic race was unscrupulous.

Another reason why the Jackal tribe wasn't welcome by the other beastfolk was due to the fact that they didn't have their own war flag!

War flags, to the beastfolk, held their honor and represented them. The Jackal tribe, on the other hand, didn't have their own war flag. This wasn't to say that they didn't have war flags. In fact, they had many war flags. These war flags, however, weren't theirs, but those that had been snatched from the other ethnic races.

They would use these war flags as bait. Weaker beastfolk ethnic group war flags would be used to lure in Terran merchants who came seeking shelter in their camp for the night. They would strike at that time. Among the entirety of the beastfolk, only the Jackal tribe would do such a thing. The other ethnic races, even the most aggressive Wolf race or cunning Fox race, wouldn't do this. They had their own honor and disdained from such actions.

The Jackal tribe actually enjoyed such tactics. This was because such activities brought them an income. Many Terran merchants would fall for this type of scheme by the Jackal tribe. In the end, the Jackal tribe would swallow their goods.

Chapter 237 - Helping Him Solve Trouble

The Jackal tribe relied on these sorts of behaviour and eventually became the Beastfolk Prairie's most notorious thieving tribe. They were known as shameless robbers and thieves among the beastfolk, while they were called cunning native dogs by the humans.

So when Zhao Hai heard Spear say that there was a Jackal tribe nearby, it made him surprised. He hastily said, "Brother Spear, if you knew there was a Jackal tribe nearby, then why are you still here? You should leave this area as soon as possible."

Spear nodded. "I know this, brother. We had been preparing to leave for the last couple of days. That's why I was so anxious when you arrived; it was due to the Jackal tribe that was close by."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Brother, for the safety of the Pig tribe, we must make the trade as soon as possible and leave immediately. After breakfast, we will leave the food behind. All you need to do is prepare my stuff."

Spear looked at Zhao Hai. "Brother, where will you go? Back to the human's stone city or deeper into the prairies? If you wish to go deeper into the prairies, then you must be careful. If you see a strange tribe, check what ethnic race they are first, then pass them if needed."

Zhao Hai was touched. He didn't think that these carefree Pig tribe people would think so much about him. Smiling, he said, "Brother, don't worry. Do not forget that I am still a magician. If the Jackal tribe really dares to attack me, then I will teach them a lesson."

Spear laughed. "Brother, I almost forgot that you were an omnipotent magician! Hahaha. I hope those hateful thieves won't encounter you."

Zhao Hai also laughed as the two walked towards the center of the camp. At this time, a Pig tribe young girl took out two bowls of sheep's milk and came over. Spear then said to Zhao Hai, "Brother, have a taste of this. It's the freshest sheep's milk in the prairie, best for breakfast."

He examined the two bowls of sheep's milk and became speechless. The sheep's milk hadn't undergone any heating, but had instead been directly squeezed out of a sheep. It was the first time Zhao Hai had seen sheep's milk like this.

Although it was his first time seeing such sheep's milk, Zhao Hai was too embarrassed to reject Spear's offer. He accepted the bowl of sheep's milk from the young Pig tribe girl's hands and drank it.

It was hard to imagine how much it reeked of sheep. It hadn't undergone any type of processing or flavoring. One couldn't imagine how much of a sheep's smell it had. Even Zhao Hai wouldn't eat anything with such a deep smell. Now that he had a mouthful of sheep's milk, it made him want to almost spit it out.

After he endured past the sheep stink, he began to smell a sweet, fragrant aroma from it. This kind of aroma was something that didn't belong to any seasoning product he knew of. Instead, it seemed to be the milk's natural aroma. The smell made Zhao Hai close his mouth as he tried the aftertaste.

Spear watched Zhao Hai's appearance and couldn't help but laugh as he said, "Brother, I'm really confused about whether you are a human or a beastfolk. Many humans, when drinking fresh sheep's milk, would spit it back out. Later on, they wouldn't dare to drink it at all. You, however, seem to have a liking for its taste. Haha. Brother, do you have beastfolk blood in you?"

Turning, Zhao Hai looked at this fellow with the giant pig's head and suddenly saw a slyness in this fellow's eyes. He couldn't help but beat Spear's arm, saying, "Good. You actually want to see me become a joke. Haha. To be honest, this fresh sheep's milk is very fragrant."

Zhao Hai's hit was, without a doubt, just a tickle at the most for Spear. Spear, however, liked Zhao Hai's performance a lot, so he laughed and patted Zhao Hai's shoulder, causing him to make an agonized face.

At this time, Laura and the others had woken up and also walked out of their tent. The reason why they came out now was because they feared Zhao Hai would suspect them, so they endured patiently until now.

When he saw Laura and the other two come out, Spear immediately asked his wife to prepare and serve them a meal. The breakfast was very simple, sheep's milk and handed pilaf.

After breakfast, Zhao Hai ordered the undead to move the food from the caravan and into the Sheep Head Hammer horde camp.

Spear also took out five of the best wool blankets they produced, along with five of the best carpets. Ten strong argali, two piglets, and two of the best prairie mastiffs followed. All of them were given over to Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai thought of declining the extras, but Spear actually put on such a serious face in order to stop him. After receiving the items, Zhao Hai said goodbye to Spear, then led the caravan deeper into the prairie.

Although they had only been in the prairie for a few days, Zhao Hai currently liked it here. The beastfolk were simple, adorable, and impressive friends who didn't have any flowery thoughts. Compared to the scheming humans, they were more pure and direct. Friends were friends, enemies were enemies. This was also why they would always suffer losses in their relationship with the humans.

Presently, Laura was looking at the Big Bellied Pig tribe's war flag that was hung on their caravan, dazed. With regards to the beastfolk war flags, she didn't know much about them. She also believed that many human merchants wouldn't know its significance. As such, when she saw Spear give Zhao Hai the war flag, it made her surprised.

Zhao Hai felt nostalgic whenever he saw the Sheep Head Hammer horde war flag. He retracted his vision and looked at Laura. Smiling, he asked, "What's wrong? Why are you always staring at the war flag?"

Laura turned her head to Zhao Hai. "Don't you think it's strange? Why did Spear give us their war flag? The Sheep Head Hammer horde is just a small part of the tribe, and the Big Bellied Pig tribe is just a small part of the ethnic race. A war flag from such a horde is absolutely useless. As such, they generally wouldn't give their war flag to others."

Smiling, Zhao Hai told Laura about Spear's explanation of the significance of war flags. Once he finished his explanation, Laura's eyes shone as she looked at Zhao Hai. "Great! I heard that once a beastfolk recognizes a human as their real friend, almost no beastfolk would attack them. Brother Hai, it seems that this time we've obtained a great harvest for cheap."

Zhao Hai nodded. With a sinking voice, he said, "I also think Spear had been really good to us. As a matter of fact, he told me about some rumours he'd heard recently. It seems that there is a nearby active Jackal tribe."

Laura was surprised for a moment, then her complexion changed as she said, "Jackal tribe? Is it really a Jackal tribe?"

Zhao Hai nodded. "It's really a Jackal tribe. With the Jackal tribe in this area, it'll become a big threat for Spear's horde. Do you think we should help Spear and solve this trouble?"

Laura was surprised for a moment. She hadn't thought of this point. What she knew was that the Jackal tribe wasn't something they needed to fear. She actually didn't expect Zhao Hai to propose helping Spear solve this problem.

She did understand what Zhao Hai meant. At present, they had the blood-colored eagles that could survey a wide area. So long as they had the blood-colored eagles do a thorough search, they would certainly be able to find the Jackal tribe. With their strength, destroying the Jackal tribe was possible. So long as they eliminated the Jackal tribe, they'd have helped Spear. The alternative was that Spear's horde of only a few hundred people would be attacked.

After thinking about it for a while, Laura said, "That's fine. The Jackal tribe is hated by all of the beastfolk. If we eliminate them, then no one would go after us for it and the beastfolk might even be grateful to us."

Zhao Hai smiled. "Moreover, the Jackal tribe may even have raised some magic beasts of their own that we haven't seen yet, something like these water-spurting pigs."

As Zhao Hai said this, Laura and the others couldn't help but look at the back of their carriage. There, two of the carriages contained the two piglets. These were the young water-spurting pig mounts that Spear had used.

These water-spurting pigs were magic beasts that only the Big Bellied Pig tribe could raise as they had some blood relation with the magic beasts. This wasn't some sort of curse, but rather, a beastfolk tradition.

The beastfolk had always considered themselves descendants of humans and magic beasts. As such, they had control over the same abilities as the magic beasts. These water-spurting pigs were the Big Bellied Pig tribe's magic beast relatives. It was due to the fact that these water-spurting pigs, like them, had big bellies and drank a lot of water. In battle, they could launch out water from their stomachs to attack the enemy. The water-spurting pigs, however, could launch the water further than the Big Bellied Pig tribe and their missiles could reach as far as fifty meters. Furthermore, they could continue to launch that water ten times. The Big Bellied Pig tribe could only use it five consecutive times.

Since they were still near Spear's camp, Zhao Hai decided not to place the argali, water-spurting piglets, or the prairie mastiff in the Space. In any case, it wasn't so bad.

The two piglets were placed in a carriage while the prairie mastiffs and argali followed beside the carriages. The next carriage was where the wool blankets and carpets had been placed.

Laura looked at the ten wool products and smiled as she said to Zhao Hai, "This time, we've really gained a lot. Don't mention the argali or the few water-spurting pigs, just the wool blankets will give us a lot of money. The beastfolk made these blankets and carpets by hand and they are really popular among humans."

Zhao Hai smiled. "It's precisely because of this that I want to help Spear. With a Jackal tribe in the vicinity, it'll be very dangerous for Spear."

Laura nodded. "Alright, let's do it then. In any case, this matter will also be good for us."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and issued out orders to the blood-colored eagles.

Just then, Nier suddenly said, "Young Master, would it be alright if I raise the two piglets? They're just too cute."

When he heard Nier's words, Zhao Hai became speechless. He also thought that the piglets were adorable. They had black and white skin colors, with one having a black mark on its left eye while the other had the mark on its right. It gave off the feeling that they'd collected some leaves and grass on their eyes and made them look comedic and adorable. It was no wonder Nier liked them so much.

Zhao Hai smiled as he said, "Nier, those two piglets will be raised in the Space. Once they mature and have their own piglets, I'll take two out for you to raise. Is that fine?"

Chapter 238 - Strange Prompts

Because Nier was such a pure person, Zhao Hai unconsciously regarded her as a lovable little sister. As such, Zhao Hai had that kind of expression when he spoke with her.

Thinking about it for a while, Nier finally nodded and said, "Alright. When they give birth to their own piglets, Young Master must give me a couple!"

Zhao Hai nodded with a smile. He knew that Nier liked to raise magic beasts. Nier's request wasn't out of some temporary whim. Turning, Zhao Hai looked around and found that they were now far from the Sheep Head Hammer horde. Since no one else was around, he made Laura stop the caravan. He then brought the argali, water-spurting piglets, and the prairie mastiffs into the Space.

Afterward, they also entered the Space. The animals were currently placed in the warehouse. Once Zhao Hai brought them into the Spatial Ranch, they would be evaluated immediately.

After they entered the Space, they heard a few odd knocks. Surprised for a moment, Zhao Hai soon found that it was from Green and the others who were staying at Fort Iron Mountain. They had anxious faces as they knocked on the ground.

Zhao Hai was only surprised for a moment before he naturally understood what was happening. At the same time, he felt guilty. He'd drunk too much yesterday, so they naturally couldn't return to the Space, nor leave Fort Iron Mountain. Green and the others were definitely concerned about them. He feared they didn't get a good sleep last night.

Seeing this situation, Zhao Hai postponed promoting the Space. He immediately let Green and the others into the Space. As soon as Green and the others entered the Space, they saw Zhao Hai standing there with a guilty expression. Green quickly greeted him and carefully looked him over before asking, "Young Master, are you alright? Why didn't you come back to Fort Iron Mountain yesterday? We were worried throughout this sleepless night."

Zhao Hai guiltily replied, "I'm sorry, Grandpa Green. We met the Big Bellied Pig tribe yesterday. You know how beastfolk drink wine until they get drunk. Yesterday, I got drunk so I wasn't able to return to the Space. Sorry."

Upon hearing Zhao Hai's answer, Green relaxed. He smiled and said, "So you drank with the beastfolk; no wonder. Those beastfolk wouldn't let go of someone if they didn't drink until their faces fell to the floor."

Quinn John, who was talking to Laura, heard what Green said and smiled. "Yes, those beastfolk really are like that. Making Zhao Hai drink till he was drunk on the ground is normal. Right, Zhao Hai, what good things did you get from the trade this time?"

Laura didn't want for Zhao Hai to speak as she smiled and said, "This time, we got several really good things. There's five good beastfolk blankets and five carpets, two Big Bellied Pig tribe unique magic beasts; water-spurting pigs, and two unique prairie magic beasts; prairie mastiffs.

Presently, Quinn John and the others knew how much food was in their possession. When they heard Laura's report, Quinn John nodded and said, "Great. Compared to using normal prices, this isn't that bad."

Laura smiled and said, "It wasn't much, but Spear felt that Brother Hai was a true friend, so he gave us all of these things. Haha. Actually, other things don't really matter. What's important is that we obtained three kinds of magic beasts."

Quinn John understood what Laura meant. This time, they'd obtained three magic beasts which, in other words, might upgrade the Spatial Ranch.

He immediately said, "So, what are we waiting for? Let's quickly move them. It'll upgrade the Spatial Ranch for sure."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It won't be that easy. These three magic beasts we brought would need to be of high rank, not low. Otherwise, the Spatial Ranch won't easily upgrade."

Green smiled. "It doesn't matter. We'll take things slowly. We've only just entered the Beastfolk Prairie and I heard each beastfolk ethnic race has their own unique magic beast. If we can collect those unique magic beasts neatly, then I think the Spatial Ranch will upgrade. I want to see how it will look when it's at its highest level."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I hope so. The problem is that these magic beasts aren't easy to get. If I didn't hit it off well with Spear, then it would have been impossible for him to give me those water-spurting pigs. Moreover, what he could only give me were water-spurting piglets and not adult pigs. From this, you can see that the beastfolk really favor their own unique magic beasts."

Quinn John forced a smile. "I almost forgot about this. To the beastfolk, these unique magic beasts are, in their opinion, part of their family. Would you just hand over your loved ones to someone if they asked?"

Zhao Hai and the others were speechless after they heard Quinn John. With regards to humans, it would be difficult for them to think of magic beasts as family. For the beastfolk, however, this was a normal matter.

Zhao Hai suddenly thought of those pets being raised by lonely elders back on Earth. Those people regarded their pets as family and would even leave a large inheritance for them after they died. Compared to these elders, the beastfolk didn't seem as crazy. They both placed magic beasts or pets in their hearts.

He didn't say anything more, but instead transferred everyone into the Spatial Ranch. He then took out the argali, water-spurting pigs, and prairie mastiffs.

After the three types of magic beasts were released, the Space immediately prompted in a tone:

[Discovered new sheep-shaped animal variation. Evaluating level: Level 3 animal.

This animal has replaced the Space's original sheep.

This animal has a maturity time of eight hours. Can produce wool seven times and give birth once.

Each birth will produce eight lambs. Each wool cycle will produce 100 kilograms.

Requires feed twice per hour.

Digitizing animal. Animal can now be purchased from the Spatial Shop.]

[Discovered pig-shaped animal variation. Evaluating level: Level 20 animal.

This animal has a maturity time of twenty hours and can give birth to piglets ten times.

A max of ten piglets can be birthed at a time.

Requires feed five times per hour.

Digitizing animal. Animal can now be purchased from the Spatial Shop.]

[Discovered dog-shaped animal variation. Evaluating level: Level 15 animal.

This animal has a maturity time of twenty hours and can give birth to puppies five times.

A max of nine puppies can be birthed at a time.

Requires feed twice per hour.

There is a 10% probability every birth for a chance of a variant. Evaluating level of variant: Level 30. All other data stays the same.

Digitizing animal. Animal can now be purchased from the Spatial Shop.]

Zhao Hai listened to the three long prompts and was stunned. While the evaluation of the water-sputting pig was normal, the argali and prairie mastiff had abnormal Space prompts.

It was especially amazing for the Space's prompt for the argali. It produce wool seven times and a set of eight lambs at once. This was something Zhao Hai hadn't encountered before.s

The prompt for the prairie mastiff indicated that there was a 10% chance of a variant being birthed, and that the variant was a Level 30 magic beast. In the end, how did this occur?

Zhao Hai immediately examined the Spatial Ranch's storage and looked at the list. There really were three more magic beast pictures. The argali occupied the original position of the sheep while there wasn't anything different about the other two.

He looked at the slot for the prairie mastiff and saw that there wasn't anything different about it. In the end, how would it work? Why did the prairie mastiff have a 10% chance of producing a variant?

Zhao Hai stared at the picture of the prairie mastiff and carefully examined it. In his head, the number, 'nine', kept flashing, along with the word, 'variant'. He was caught by them. The idea flashed on and off, so he couldn't grasp it.

Laura arrived at Zhao Hai's side and said, "Brother Hai, what's the matter? Will the prairie mastiffs really have a variant? Moreover, its battle prowess isn't that low. Listening to the prompts, it seemed that the strength of the variant would be equal to a Rank Five or Rank Six magic beast."

Battle prowess! When Laura mentioned those words, Zhao Hai's thoughts finally got a few clues. He now knew why the prairie mastiff would create a variant.

On Earth, not all dogs could be considered mastiffs. Zhao Hai had once heard the phrase, "9 dogs, 1 mastiff." In other words, even if all nine were supposedly mastiffs, only one could be considered a true mastiff. That mastiff wasn't only a name or a species, but a symbol of its battle strength.

This time, the prairie mastiff could give birth to nine puppies. Nine dogs, one mastiff. This phrase maybe pointing out the reason why the Space had said there was a chance of a variant emerging. This variant, to put it bluntly, was the one out of the nine that was a proper mastiff.

After he figured it out, Zhao Hai laughed and turned to Laura. "It's nothing. The variant is just an ordinary prairie mastiff that undergoes a mutation. As such, its battle prowess is higher, that's all."

Laura agreed but still said unhappily, "Even with the three different magic beasts here, the Spatial Ranch didn't upgrade. What a pity."

Zhao Hai smiled. "It's not a pity. In the future, it'll become even harder to upgrade. Alright, let's go out. First, we'll need to be self-sufficient. When the Black Waste grows larger after the transformations, we'll need to be able to establish a business in the Rosen Empire."

Laura didn't oppose. While at present they still had the continued cooperation with the Purcell clan, they weren't prepared to build it further. It would only be after they establish a business in the Rosen Empire that they could do so.

After Zhao Hai handled the matters of the Spatial Ranch, they all returned to the Spatial Farm. Sitting down, Zhao Hai began to explain about what happened after they came into contact with Spear and also went into detail about the war flags for Green and the others. Zhao Hai told them these matters because he was thinking that it would help them in the future for when they made further contact with the beastfolk. The experience gained from dealing with Spear had a possibility of being needed in the future.

Moreover, they might also encounter something that required Green to help solve. Therefore, it was better to let Green have a better understanding of the beastfolk's situation. As such, Zhao Hai naturally discussed the war flag matters. He also told them that he wanted to help Spear by dealing with the Jackal tribe.

Green and the others listened attentively. To be honest, if they went and had contact with the beastfolk, then they wouldn't have been able to do what Zhao Hai did. They were like other humans on the continent; they wanted to find out how to gain more benefits from the beastfolk. On the other hand, Zhao Hai had won the beastfolk's friendship with sincerity and generosity. It could be said that this recent transaction didn't only give them materials, but also the treasured friendship of the beastfolk. This was especially true when Spear gave them the friendship war flag.

After Zhao Hai finished, Green grew a bit out of breath. He looked at Zhao Hai with a complex expression. "Young Master, you did a wonderful job. It was better than what I could have done. Oh, Young Master has truly grown to be a person that can deal with all sorts of situations. With this, I feel relieved."

Looking at the somewhat excited Green, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile slightly. "Don't get too excited, Grandpa Green. I still have much to learn from you, so don't leave me. Oh, right. Do you think it was a good idea to help Spear by dealing with the Jackal tribe?"

Green nodded. "It's fine. How can it not be fine? With regards to us, dealing with the Jackal tribe isn't a difficult matter. Moreover, we will also obtain a few benefits. What's most important are the unique magic beasts of the Jackal tribe. We definitely must take them. This is important as the Spatial Ranch still needs them."

Quinn John nodded. "The best way to deal with this is for us to leave a little trace of what we did so that others will know of it. With this, the beastfolk would welcome us warmly."

Zhao Hai and Laura laughed at Quinn John's thoughts. They definitely wouldn't do this as they knew Quinn John was just cracking a joke.

Although the beastfolk didn't approve of the Jackal tribe, don't forget that the Jackal tribe was still one of the beastfolk. Regardless of what the Jackal tribe did, it was still an internal affair of the beastfolk. If the beastfolk found out that people killed a beastfolk tribe within the prairie, then it would be difficult to imagine what kind of reaction they might have .

After joking around for some time, Green and the others wanted to return to Fort Iron Mountain. Although there weren't many matters that needed to be addressed, there also weren't a few. Zhao Hai released two of the argali and was looking for a place in Fort Iron Mountain to raise them. At the same time, he passed Green and the others the blankets and carpets.

After doing all of this, Zhao Hai led Laura and the others back to the carriage. The caravan hadn't stopped, but had continued to move forward. Here in the prairies, however, they were surrounded by the same constant view. If it wasn't for the fact that they were looking for plants, then they wouldn't have wanted to stay here.

After coming back to the caravan, Zhao Hai filled one carriage with food. If they met a beastfolk tribe, then it would guarantee that they would be warmly welcomed.

To be honest, just hurrying along was quite boring. Fortunately, Zhao Hai still collected plants and this relieved him of his boredom. There were many plants in the prairie, and except for a few specific areas, everywhere else was covered with grass. All of this grass would be uniform. While Zhao Hai and the others wanted to distinguish them, they unfortunately couldn't really tell the difference.

For Laura and the others, this was fine. They crowded together and chatted, which was quite lively. On the other hand, Zhao Hai was quite depressed as he didn't understand many of the topics they discussed.

Noon arrived soon after. Zhao Hai and the others were ready to re-enter the Space and eat something when Zhao Hai heard the cry of a blood-colored eagle. They decided to stay as they knew they'd found the Jackal tribe.

Zhao Hai stared tightly at the blood-colored eagle as it continued to circle the sky. Laura also looked at the blood-colored eagle. They were really curious as to what information this blood-colored eagle had.

Zhao Hai understood everything after watching. The blood-colored eagles' reconnaissance ability was strong because they could fly high and had good vision. In addition, they could understand what Zhao Hai wanted. As such, they became very good aerial scouts.

The report from the blood-colored eagles was very important for Zhao Hai. This was because the information they brought told that there were two beastfolk tribes fighting one another. On one side was the Cattle-head ethnic race while the other side was the Jackal tribe .

Zhao Hai frowned. He didn't know if he should attack in this situation. If a human rashly interfered in a battle between the beastfolk, then it wouldn't be good.

Laura and the others also understood the information passed along by the blood-colored eagles. With regards to this situation, Laura also felt it was awkward. For the beastfolk, a battle was honorable. If one intervened, then both sides might be offended. Even the side they helped wouldn't give their thanks.

After thinking about it for a while, Laura turned to Zhao Hai and asked, "Brother Hai, what should we do?"

Thinking, Zhao Hai said, "We'll first take a look and pretend to just be passing by. We won't make a move first."

Laura nodded. Zhao Hai then immediately directed the caravan in a path that would pass by the battlefield.

The battlefield wasn't near them, otherwise the blood-colored eagles wouldn't have taken all morning to pass along the information. In order to rush as fast as they could to the battlefield, Zhao Hai had taken back the rest of the caravan and placed them inside the Space, leaving only Laura's carriage to move forward. They proceeded along at a faster pace this way.

After two hours, they finally arrived at the battlefield the blood-colored eagles had reported. As they got there, several war cries could be heard.

Zhao Hai didn't expect that the two tribes could fight for so long. It was currently noon, and since the time the blood-colored eagles had found the two tribes until now, it was already a little over three hours. This wasn't a short period.

Zhao Hai slowed down and looked out the carriage once more. He then slowly moved toward the battlefield. There wasn't any worry since he knew that both sides were still in the midst of fighting.

Everyone soon got closer to the battlefield. In the distance, there seemed to be a camp. The size of the camp wasn't that large, only as big the Sheep Head Hammer horde camp. This camp had a Cattle-head war flag flying above the central tent. Laura looked at the war flag and her complexion changed. "The Cattle-head King's war flag. How could it be the Cattle-head King's war flag?"

Zhao Hai was surprised for a moment. "Cattle-head King's war flag? You're saying that's the Cattle-head King's war flag?" The reason why he was so surprised was because the Cattle-head King's war flag wasn't something anyone could casually obtain. Only members of the Cattle-head ethnic race's royal family, the Titan Cattle tribe, could use it.

Although the Beastfolk Prairie's beastfolk ethnic races were numerous, there were also top tribes among the ethnic races that were given the status of a royal family tribes. One of these ethnic races that practiced such a thing was the Cattle-head ethnic race. Although there were many related tribes, such as the rhinoceros tribe and etc, they all belonged to one large ethnic race, the Cattle-head ethnic race.

The royal family of the Cattle-head ethnic race was the Titan Cattle tribe. Everyone from the Titan Cattle tribe was a born warrior. They didn't have any wool over their bodies and their skin was golden-yellow in color. This golden-yellow skin had great defensive capabilities. With the addition of their bloodline's innate godly strength, it could be said that their battle prowess was comparable with the other famous war tribes. They wouldn't fare badly against them.

If one weren't from the Titan Cattle tribe and were just a common Cattle-head ethnic race tribe, then their battle prowess wouldn't be great. The Cattle-head ethnic race could somewhat be regarded as a war tribe in the prairie, but the assessment of the race wasn't that of a war tribe. When one assessed an ethnic race, one would look at the overall battle strength. The Cattle-head ethnic race had many low strength tribes, so they pulled down the rest of the ethnic race. In the end, they were assessed as a regular ethnic race and not a war tribe.

No matter if it were an ethnic race or a war tribe, they were divided heterogeneously. Just like the Lion ethnic race and Tiger ethnic race, both had their top tribes represent the war tribe because they had the greatest battle strength. The Cattle-head ethnic race status was similar to theirs, but the Lion ethnic race and Tiger ethnic race were both existences at the top of the ethnic race hierarchy. Even then, those lower ranked war tribes wouldn't be impolite towards the Cattle-head ethnic race, especially towards the Titan Cattle tribe.

The Titan Cattle tribe's battle strength was very formidable, and their strength itself was boundless. With their powerful defensive capabilities and Bestial Soul Possession War Skill, they were very powerful.

Beastfolk and humans were different. Human practitioners cultivated battle qi or magic power, but beastfolk practitioners cultivated the so-called Bestial Soul Possession War Skill. In fact, this was the unique cultivation method of the beastfolk. Every beastfolk youth, upon reaching ten years of age, would be required to hunt and kill a magic beast alone. They would then use the mystical beastfolk cultivation method to absorb the magic beast's body and soul. Every time a beastfolk fought, the magic beast's soul and body would aid them.

This Bestial Soul Possession War Skill, however, had its own limitations. The limitations varied based on individual bloodline, and different bloodlines meant different limits for each ethnic race.

Take the slave tribes of the beastfolk for example. They also cultivated the Bestial Soul Possession War Skill, but it was impossible for them to attract a powerful magic beast's soul. If they forcibly tried to absorb one, then instead of gaining strength, they'd cause a rebound effect. Their body would get damaged and the magic beast's soul may control them instead, turning them into a beast.

Strong magic beasts would be attracted to beastfolk with strong battle strength. If the magic beast was a wild one, then the deciding factor was battle strength.

For example, a domesticated Rank Five magic beast wouldn't be able to defeat a wild magic beast of the same rank. This was because a Rank Five wild magic beast would, from birth, have been continuously battling other magic beasts. Since they were constantly fighting, their natural battle strength would definitely be higher than a domesticated Rank Five magic beast.

For the beastfolk, absorbing the soul of a magic beast would enable them to use a part of the combat experience of the magic beast. For the beastfolk, this was very important.

Weaker beastfolk didn't have the ability to capture and kill magic beasts. This was the reason why they used domesticated magic beasts, and this naturally meant a lower battle strength.

For war tribes and common ethnic races, the biggest difference between the two would be that the beast souls of the war tribes generally consisted of carnivorous magic beasts. Ethnic races would instead use beast souls from herbivorous magic beasts, those that were preyed upon.

Beast soul absorption also wasn't very equal. For example, if one were of the Cattle-head ethnic race and wanted to absorb a lion-type magic beast soul, then they would have a very low chance of success. Even if they did succeed, it wouldn't give them much strength. This was because there was a low degree of compatibility between them, resulting in negative effects.

For the Cattle-head ethnic race, the best magic beast soul they could absorb would be those related to the Cattle-head ethnic race. If they couldn't attract a Cattle-head ethnic race related magic beast, then they'd be better off getting another herbivorous type of magic beast instead of a carnivorous one. This was knowledge obtained after many years of trial and error.

For the Titan Cattle tribe, their beast soul could be regarded as a unified soul. Their magic beast soul was from a Rank Six earth elemental magic beast, a stonesskin cattle .

This stonesskin cattle was as its name suggested; it was a magic beast with very high defensive capabilities. Its offensive strength was also quite high. Of all the magic beasts, there weren't many with a better strength than a stonesskin cattle.

After many years of trial and error, the Titan Cattle tribe had finally decided to absorb the stonesskin cattle magic beast soul. Since the Titan Cattle tribe and stonesskin cattle had many of the same attributes, after the absorption there was a high rate of compatibility. As such, the Titan Cattle tribe used their strength to rear stonesskin cattle.

Naturally, this so-called rearing wasn't the same as raising them in a ranch. They instead placed the stonesskin cattle in an enclosure in order to prevent them from running away. These cattle could move inside the enclosure freely, and if they encountered danger, the Titan Cattle tribe wouldn't help. This allowed the stonesskin cattle to become more wild.

This was a common practice among the beastfolk war tribes. Long periods of trial and error was consumed to find out the best and most suitable magic beast for the tribe to absorb. They would need to only partly rear the magic beasts. When the time came that a tribe member was required to capture and absorb a beast soul, they could just enter the enclosure. They would then hunt and kill the magic beast, then absorb its soul.

All of this guaranteed the battle strength of their ethnic race. After many years of development, the beastfolk's renowned war tribes had created their own well defined cultivation system. Compared to the beastfolk of the past, it was more effective.

Small tribes and weaker ethnic races didn't have the capability to rear magic beasts like the war tribes. As such, their battle strength didn't develop much. This eventually caused the current system among the beastfolk. The war tribes were getting stronger and stronger while the smaller tribes and lower ethnic races became weaker and weaker.

While the Titan Cattle tribe was a part of a weaker ethnic race, they were a tribe that raised their own magic beasts. This reflected their strength and even those war tribes didn't provoke them so casually.

This was the reason why Laura was so surprised after seeing the Cattle-head King's war flag. The Jackal tribe would be like a soft persimmon being pinched. With a powerful tribe like the Titan Cattle tribe, why did they try to provoke them and suddenly attack? Also, why was the Titan Cattle tribe in this area? This was still quite close to Ironwall Fortress. Within the Beastfolk Prairie, it could be considered the borderlands. The tribe shouldn't be here.

Zhao Hai and Laura were both looking at the Cattle-head King's war flag and were both speechless. When they saw the war flag here, they feared the matter wouldn't be simple. Their simple passing this time around was a consequence unknown to them. The Titan Cattle tribe was here, yet they had bravely rushed over. Once the Titan Cattle tribe finished off the Jackal tribe, they feared they would turn to deal with them and silence the witnesses.

Chapter 240 - Prophet

Laura took a deep breath and carefully examined the war flag that was raised above the camp. It truly was the Cattle-head King's war flag. Laura turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, it truly is the Cattle-head King's war flag. What should we do?"

Zhao Hai frowned. He had his suspicions about this. Why would the Jackal tribe unexpectedly attack the Titan Cattle tribe? Zhao Hai felt that this was strange. The problem was that he couldn't say for sure what exactly was strange about it.

He looked at the battlefield and sighed. "Doing anything else is useless. Now that we're near the battlefield, they should have already seen us. All we can do now is move forward."

Laura also examined the battlefield. Sure enough, she saw that they'd already been noticed. Turning back at this time would be far too late.

They weren't really afraid of having problems with the other party. Don't forget that they had the Big Bellied Pig tribe's friendship war flag raised above their carriage. If they ran, Spear would receive no small amount of trouble. After all, there was no such thing as an airtight wall in this world. No matter if it was the Titan Cattle tribe or the Jackal tribe, they were both tribes Spear couldn't contend with.

Zhao Hai's caravan slowly moved toward the battlefield. Their reaction was contrary to the parties presently fighting. Currently, the Jackal clan was on the offensive while the Titan Cattle tribe was on the defensive.

The Jackal tribe had mobilized two thousand tribe members while the Titan Cattle tribe only had several hundred tribe members in their camp.

While the defending Titan Cattle tribe members only numbered three hundred, they were all elite warriors. Each of them wore leather armor and held double-edged heavy axes. They didn't ride any mounts as their mounts were stationed within the camp. The mounts were earthen-yellow bulls of around three meters tall. These bulls had thin, fine fur crowing around them and looked extremely strong. Their muscles were well built and they had a pair of angular horns about a meter long. With thick hooves that pawed the ground uneasily, they seemed to want to join in the fight.

Beyond this, Zhao Hai understood why they were called the Titan Cattle tribe.

Titan Cattle tribe members had a height around 2.5 meters with muscles comparable to a top bodybuilder. If they went to Earth and joined a bodybuilding competition, even Schwarzenegger would have to step aside.

Their skin was a golden yellow color and glossy as it flashed like metal. They were comparable to the actors who played in the 18 Bronzemen .

They each had a giant cattle's head and a pair of half-meter long horns. Their hands were large enough to handle a three-meter long huge double-edged war axe. Just looking at the axe's head, its weight definitely wasn't below a hundred kilograms.

Although their numbers were small, they had formed a circle formation and were defending the perimeter of the camp. They were like an impregnable bronze wall. Not even the Jackal tribe was able to pass through them. At the front were numerous Jackal tribe corpses.

It was the opposite for the Jackal tribe. These Jackal tribe members rode their mounts. Their mounts were like wolves, a type of canine that was similar to jackals from Earth. Their build was a lot larger, around two meters in height. They had sharp claws and teeth and cold eyes. These jackals had already revealed an extraordinary ability for assault.

The Jackal tribe members didn't wear any leather armor, but instead wore the ordinary leather clothing that beastfolk wore. They were around 1.7 meters tall and held a variety of weapons in their hands. Their eyes were like that of a jackal's as they exuded a flash of brutal light.

Zhao Hai didn't really think of the Jackal tribe as very tall. They were even shorter than average humans. It was a shock that they could become the most outstanding robbers in the prairie with such stature. This astonished him.

At this time, both sides battling each other noticed him. Zhao Hai didn't move forward in a straight path but instead made the carriage circle the area, putting on an appearance of refusing to look at either party.

The reason why Zhao Hai did this was because he was testing them. He wanted to see if the Titan Cattle tribe would move to ask him to reinforce them. If the Titan Cattle tribe seeks his help, then he would help. If they didn't, then he would die here as well .

His performance, however, shocked both sides. They had seen many human merchants, but seeing Zhao Hai, a human merchant with such great courage, was their first time.

Generally, the human merchants that venture out into the Beastfolk Prairie would usually carry an understanding of the path they would take in advance and be aware of it. In this case where they were battling and a human merchant came upon them, the humans would certainly hide far away. They wouldn't act like Zhao Hai who even went forward and put on an appearance of ignoring both parties. Their caravan didn't have many people, so how could they go up against both parties?

It was no wonder the Titan Cattle tribe and Jackal tribe had such an idea. Presently, Zhao Hai and his caravan had fifty people altogether. Fifty coachmen and Zhao Hai with the three women. Such a number and still playing cards, these people dared to put themselves out and face their enemies. One side was the Titan Cattle tribe, a strong tribe, while the other was the Jackal tribe, the Beastfolk Prairie's most notorious bandits. This really gave the feeling that they let their heads get kicked by a mosquito.

At this time, a person suddenly left the tent in the middle of the Titan Cattle tribe's camp. This person was a member of the Cattle-head ethnic race, but he was obviously not of the Titan Cattle tribe. This cattle-head member had a head of thin, black hair and a height of two meters or so. A pair of short horizontal horns adorned his head. This person wore a black cotton robe and held a beast bone cane in his hand. The cane was about a meter long and looked almost like a crutch.

Zhao Hai gawked. This was the first time he'd seen a beastfolk wearing robes. The beastfolk commonly wore leather clothes, yet this person wore a long gown that was similar to magic robes. What's more important, this person was about two meters tall, but Zhao Hai felt the person was quite thin.

At this time, Laura suddenly interjected, "If I'm not mistaken, there must be a high ranking Titan Cattle tribe member here, otherwise there wouldn't be a beastfolk prophet around."

Zhao Hai stared for a while. He couldn't say that he hadn't heard of this beastfolk profession before. On the contrary, he knew of it. A beastfolk prophet was quite famous.

Prophets were a respected profession among the beastfolk. They couldn't cultivate the Bestial Soul Possession War Skill, but they could roast beast bones over a fire and predict the future from the cracks in the bones. They could also use bone tablets made of magic beast bones in order to use the Soul Summoning technique, which could summon magic beast souls to attack. As such, the position of prophets among the beastfolk was comparable to human magicians and was quite high.

Due to a prophet's status, only a war tribe could generally have one. Moreover, these prophets didn't only have special abilities, but were also very intelligent members. They played a role as a military strategist within war tribes.

Zhao Hai turned to Laura and asked, "That's a beastfolk prophet?"

Laura nodded. "That prophet is from the Water Buffalo tribe. The Water Buffalo tribe is noted as the most intelligent tribe within the Cattle-head ethnic race. Most of the Cattle-head prophets come from the Water Buffalo tribe. Due to this, they have a very high status within the Cattle-head ethnic race, even though they don't have high battle strength."

The Water Buffalo tribe prophet also saw Zhao Hai, his eyes puzzled at first. Then he saw the friendship war flag from the Big Bellied Pig tribe and his eyes shone.

As a beastfolk prophet, he naturally understood what the beastfolk's friendship war flag represented. Since Zhao Hai was able to obtain one, it showed that they had gotten it from a horde or tribe. With regards to common merchants, this kind of goal wasn't achievable in their lifetime.

Obtaining a beastfolk friendship war flag didn't only mean that you obtained the friendship of the beastfolk; it also meant that the beastfolk wouldn't consider you an outsider. In other words, Zhao Hai's every action in the prairie could be counted as an action by a beastfolk.

Zhao Hai wasn't aware of this. Even if he knew, he wouldn't react to it. So long as the war flag was useful, he wouldn't get into any trouble.

Upon seeing the war flag atop Zhao Hai's carriage, the prophet was stunned for a moment before heading back into the tent. Before long, a Titan Cattle member came out.

This Titan Cattle member looked young and had a height of 2.3 meters. The muscles on him were overly exaggerated, and he didn't wear leather armor but black cotton garments. The style of the black cotton clothes were very simple, but one could see that the materials it was made from were of good quality. One must understand that the beastfolk couldn't produce clothes, so clothes were quite scarce in the Beastfolk Prairie. Only a beastfolk with status could wear cotton clothing, and for high quality clothes, only those of very high status could acquire them.

Zhao Hai carefully observed this Titan Cattle tribe member. He found that this person's horns had two golden hoops. Reflecting the sun, they shone golden rays of light.

Looking at the situation, Zhao Hai knew that those Titan Cattle tribe members were continuously protecting this person. As the beastfolk prophet stood behind him, it revealed that this person's status wasn't low.

Zhao Hai looked at the Titan Cattle people and they looked back at him. The black robe Zhao Hai wore was very conspicuous. It made it hard for others not to pay attention to him.

At this time, a team of two hundred Jackal tribe cavalymen suddenly moved towards Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai didn't do anything in return as he wanted to see what these Jackal tribe cavalymen would do. If they only threatened him with words, then he wouldn't fight back. If they tried to attack him, however, then he wouldn't be polite.

Without waiting for those Jackal tribe cavalymen to close in on Zhao Hai, the Titan Cattle leader opened his mouth and shouted, "Human friend, please come towards our camp. I will guarantee your safety."