

## Another World 251

### Chapter 251 - Anytime

Wales and Yale didn't expect that Mendez and his team would sleep until the 2nd morning before waking up. Before that, they were like unconscious brain-dead people; no one moved or even turned in their sleep.

Wales and Yale, however, were not sleeping. This display from Mendez and his team could only explain that they were too tired. The more it was like that, the more it meant that it was a grave matter.

When the sun rose on the 2nd morning, a sound came from the tents. Wales and Yale, who hadn't slept, were startled, and then the two of them charged straight into Mendez's tent. Mendez was resting inside.

Mendez just woke up, and he was sitting inside the tent and looking around. Although he entered a defensive stance on instinct upon seeing Wales and Yale charging in, he soon relaxed as his expression became one of elation, "Little 7th, I've finally found you."

Then his expression darkened all of a sudden and he said, "Little 7th, you have to run as far away from the tribe as possible. 5th brother is dead, and so is our father. Gasol has become the chieftain now, and he wants to hunt you down."

Even though Wales had thought about this outcome, hearing it from Mendez's lips filled his mind with noise for a moment. His vision went dark, and he swayed where he stood. Yale immediately grabbed him before Wales would faint.

Fortunately, Wales had a bit of mental preparation for this. After a few deep breaths, he focused on Mendez and asked, "What happened, 6th brother? Please explain clearly."

Mendez's tears were pouring out as he nodded, "Not long after you left, the 2 high elders made their way towards Beast God City due to 10000 Beasts Festival. Not long after they left, father suddenly became sick and died in just a few days. Gasol immediately announced that before father died, he had handed over the chieftain's position to Gasol. But me and 5th brother didn't believe it, because when father passed away, we weren't at his side. Gasol sent people to surround father's tent and didn't let us in."

Wales' face went ashen. He knew that his father was a level 8 powerhouse and his health was great. How could he contract an illness and pass away not even a few days after? It was absolutely impossible.

Mendez continued, "When burying father, 5th brother discovered something wrong. 5th brother wasn't healthy and he ate medicine every year, which was why he knew some drugs very well. When he saw father's face, he knew. Father wasn't sick. He was poisoned."

SPLACK!!

Wales smashed a small table at the side with his fist. His eyes were red, and his breathing was like a bellows.

Mendez only glanced at him and then continued, "When 5th brother discovered this, he didn't voice it. He looked for me that night and spoke of it to me, in order to let me find you. But right at that time, Gasol suddenly announced that me, you, and 5th brother are Herculean Bull Tribe's traitors, and issued an order to kill us. We went through many detours in order to find you here. If we hadn't found you, we'd be in greater danger. Gasol must be looking for us all over the prairie right now."

Wales breathed hoarsely, "That bastard. From this day on, he's my enemy. I will have this revenge. I will!"

Mendez looked at Wales and said, "Wales, Gasol controls the tribe now. You can't take revenge. It's useless. Believe me, we can start over far away from the tribe. With your 300 escorts and my 100, we can have up to 400 warriors. We can make another tribe somewhere else."

There were many such examples on the prairie. A tribe was exterminated, but some warriors escaped to someplace else and conquered some smaller tribes, slowly got stronger, and finally became a large tribe. Such things happened on the prairie every year.

But likewise, there were even more tribes that were eliminated. Mendez was right, however. With their 400 powerful herculean bull warriors, they were not a force to be underestimated. They could carve out a turf for themselves with this strength. Mendez had this confidence.

Wales shook his head and said, “No. I want to go back and contact the other branch races in order to make them band together and chase Gasol away from the seat.”

Mendez was startled and asked loudly, “No, little 7th, you can’t! It’s too dangerous! The branch tribes might not buy what you say to overthrow Gasol. It doesn’t benefit them. Why should they do it?”

Wales smiled, “I will give them benefits for sure. Come, 6th brother. I’m taking you to see someone.” He grabbed Mendez and walked out of the tent.

Mendez’s mind was in a blank when he was dragged out of the tent by Wales. He had forgotten about what had happened yesterday. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been in a defensive stance when Wales and Yale walked in.

Actually, when Mendez and the others were riding on their mounts, they were already on the verge of breakdown. They were in a state of semi-unconsciousness, so when they stopped, they slept for a whole day and a half, despite having received Meg’s treatment.

Mendez saw Zhao Hai’s campsite not far away from him after he got dragged out of the tent. Their campsite wasn’t the same as the one set up by Wales’ people. Not only did Zhao Hai and the others have grains, the style of their tent was also different as well. Human tents and beastman tents were 2 different concepts.

Mendez then saw the friendship flag attached to the top of Zhao Hai’s tent. The Big-bellied Pig Tribe wasn’t a small tribe among the beastmen; they had a medium level strength as well.

But while the Big-bellied Pig Tribe’s branch tribes could use the tribal flags, the flag themselves had slight changes between each other, as each larger and smaller tribe would have different markings on their flags. It could be said that there were secret unique codes on the flags which belonged to each of their tribes. They were just hard to tell for anyone who wasn’t a beastman.

Even though it was a friendship flag from a big-bellied pig race’s branch tribe, Mendez had a great shock when it came to that. Mendez was very clear that human merchants had never gotten a friendship flag from beastmen, because they thought that true friendship never existed between humans and beastmen.

Mendez was at a loss for words when he saw Zhao Hai's campsite. Wales let him go just then and spoke, "The one I speak of is him." He pointed at Zhao Hai's campsite and then detailed how he had met Zhao Hai to Mendez.

Mendez frowned after hearing the tale. He looked at Wales and asked, "Little 7th, why do I feel like this is all a lie? How can there be such a good thing in this world? Half price? Best bamboo rice? And that many? Impossible, right?"

Wales replied with a cold shimmer in his eyes, "This is our final chance. Instead of running away to somewhere else to set up a small tribe, why don't we use Zhao Hai's grains to make a gamble? If we can get the branch tribes' support, Gasol's chieftain position will not be stable."

Mendez was still frowning as he said, "I'm afraid that they're lying to us right now. If they are, we're finished. We wouldn't have the slightest chance. Little 7th, I don't want something to happen to you."

A trace of feeling touched flashed across Wales' eyes, but he still spoke insistently, "Relax, 6th brother, I will meet with them shortly. Maybe you'll change your mind once you meet Zhao Hai. Oh right, go and have a bowl of mutton soup. It was boiled for a night."

Mendez felt an unprecedented hunger when he heard what Wales said. He felt as if his stomach had turned into a black hole that could fit a cow.

In the middle of the campsite was a large iron pot. The fire under the pot had not faded yet, and the mutton soup in the pot had been boiled to a white color which looked just like goat milk.

Next to the pot was a small table with a few bowls on top. Mendez didn't speak any further as he walked towards the pot, filled a bowl with the soup and drank it slowly.

Mendez had never felt that mutton soup could be so delicious before. Even though he knew that it was just a thing that couldn't be more normal than it already was, it felt like he was drinking the most delicious soup in his life.

A single bowl of mutton soup, and Mendez felt even hungrier, but he knew he couldn't eat a lot of things right now, so he drank another bowl.

Because the soup had been boiled for too long, the mutton had already disintegrated. There were only a few bones in the soup, but the flavor of the soup had become better as a result.

After 3 bowls of mutton soup, Mendez put the bowl down. He felt that his body had completely recovered. He also felt strange, because he clearly remembered that he had injuries. How could his injuries be recovered so quickly?

Just then, others had walked out of their tents. They were Mendez's escorts. They bowed to him when they saw Mendez, which prompted him to wave his hand, "Alright, come and drink some bowls of soup. Little 7th boiled this for a night."

These people knew who the 'Little 7th' Mendez was referring to actually was, of course. They bowed to Wales immediately and then ran to the pot before drinking large mouthfuls of mutton soup. They were seriously starved.

Mendez also noticed just then that his subordinates' injuries had all recovered. Even ones with larger wounds had recovered, and only scars were left behind.

Wales noticed Mendez's expression. He smiled and said, "No need to look. It was Zhao Hai's fiancée who used magic to treat your injuries. Let's go and meet Zhao Hai." Mendez nodded immediately and followed Wales to Zhao Hai's campsite. He was really curious about Zhao Hai now.

They soon arrived outside Zhao Hai's campsite, and Zhao Hai also came out from the tent immediately. It was still early, but Zhao Hai and the others didn't wake up late, and had already eaten breakfast.

Wales immediately greeted with a chest salute when he saw Zhao Hai coming out, "Brother Zhao Hai, I want to thank you for your assistance."

Zhao Hai smiled and returned the gesture, "Brother Wales, you're too welcoming. Being able to help you is my honor."

Mendez also walked forward and saluted Zhao Hai, "Mendez greets brother Zhao Hai. Thank you for your assistance. Otherwise, we wouldn't have gotten better this quickly."

Zhao Hai laughed in response, "Brother Mendez, you're too kind."

Wales saw Laura and 2 others behind Zhao Hai and then spoke to Zhao Hai, "Brother Zhao Hai, come with me to my tent. I have something to discuss with you." Zhao Hai nodded and led Laura and the others to follow Wales to the tent.

Once they sat down, a few people immediately brought some bowls of hot mutton soup. Wales dismissed the people afterwards, leaving only Wales himself, Mendez, Yale, and then Zhao Hai and the others.

After the people left, Wales spoke to Zhao Hai, "Brother Zhao Hai, you have discovered as well, right? Something happened in my home."

Zhao Hai nodded as it wasn't anything strange. If he couldn't realize even this, then he would be an idiot.

Wales continued, "My eldest brother started a coup, poisoned our father, killed my 5th brother, and then sent people to hunt us down. He even became chieftain." When Wales spoke to this point, his face was filled with hatred, but his eyes were looking at Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai was still being calm. He just frowned slightly and looked at Wales, "Brother Wales, what do you want me to help you with? To be honest, with my identity, if I help you, you might get further and further away from the position."

Wales knew why Zhao Hai said that. It was because Zhao Hai was a human. If the tribe knew that a human was helping in the fighting over the position of chieftain, then Wales would only be further and further away from the chieftain position.

Wales also never planned to let Zhao Hai help him in combat directly. It couldn't be done. However, helping with grains was possible, so he nodded, "I understand, brother Zhao Hai, but I really need your help this time. I want grains. Lots and lots of grains. They have to be at the price you listed earlier. My brother, can you tell me exactly how many grains you have?"

Zhao Hai calculated before answering, "Nearly 200 million kilos, and they are the type I showed you before. There's also several tens of thousands of kilos of vegetables, and they're also the same as the ones I showed you before."

Wales looked at Zhao Hai and asked, "My brother, you must know how important the food is to me. I stake my entire fortune on this, so brother, how long until you can bring the food to the prairie?"

Zhao Hai glanced at Wales and replied calmly, "Anytime."

Wales asked Zhao Hai with a confused look, "Did you say 'anytime', my brother? Even now?"

Zhao Hai waved his hand softly, and a bunch of vegetables appeared in front of him. Another wave, and the vegetables disappeared. He waved his hand again, and a bunch of grains appeared in front of him. Yet another wave, and the grains disappeared.

## Chapter 252 - 3 Jobs

Zhao Hai's display had the intention of showing his hand. He wasn't afraid that Wales would be suspicious of him. He just wanted to let Wales know that he had a storage device.

For the beastmen, spatial equipments were too mysterious, and even now they didn't have a single one. It was because they did not have any that they treated spatial equipments like they were sacred artifacts. It was as if the space in a spatial equipment could fit an entire continent.

Zhao Hai decided to display this ability in front of Wales and the others after learning this. It could be said that Zhao Hai wanted to cooperate with Wales, because whatever the case may be, if Wales became Herculean Bull Tribe's chieftain, he would repay the one who had always helped him. Zhao Hai didn't need too many benefits from Wales. As long as he could be friends with Wales, it would save him a lot of trouble on Beastmen Prairie.

No matter how self-important the other humans acted, the ones who truly called the shots were still the beastmen. Only by forming good relationships with beastmen could he stand firm on the prairie.

The herculean bulls' place on the prairie was not lower than ordinary battle tribes. Such a position was definitely not to be looked down on. Even if the smaller tribes wanted to look for trouble, they would have to consider their own strength first. Beastmen on the prairie may be fond of fighting, but they were not entirely maniacs like the jackals.

Furthermore, the grains in his possession were for selling. If Wales didn't buy them, it would be Wales' failure. How would that be any of Zhao Hai's business? He was just simply selling them to Wales, while he would also sell them for the same price to others should they want to buy from him. He didn't lower the price because of Wales.

Of course, the main reason why Zhao Hai dared to do this in front of Wales and the others was because Wales needed the food in his hands. As long as Wales needed the food, he wouldn't speak of the spatial equipment to others. Zhao Hai would have nothing to be afraid of.

Wales and others were stunned by Zhao Hai's display. They didn't really know what to say, as Zhao Hai's performance was too shocking.

Wales stood up after a while and asked, "Heavens, brother Zhao Hai. You actually have a spatial equipment, and you use it to store food? Are you mad?"

Zhao Hai looked at Wales with incomprehension, "Can spatial equipment not be used to store things? What's the problem?"

'What's the problem?' This question certainly stopped Wales in his tracks. That's right. Weren't spatial equipments supposed to be used to store things? What would be the problem if there were no limits?

Wales felt that he was getting a little dizzy. He spoke after a while, "It's a big problem. Don't you realize how precious spatial equipments are? We beastmen have never had a single one. You actually use one to store food? Isn't it too much of a waste?"

Zhao Hai laughed, "My brother Wales, for me, these foods mean all of my fortune and money. If I don't use it to store them, what else can I use? Besides, I can only use spatial equipment to store the food in order to bring it to Beastmen Prairie at the fastest speed. That's how I could get away from the damn border troops."



Wales went silent for a moment before he drew in a long breath and laughed loudly, "My brother Zhao Hai, I have to thank you! If it weren't for your spatial equipment bringing the food over here, we would really be finished. Do you have all of your foods on you?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "All of them. If you will it, I can bring them from my fief at any time. I think I can get another 100 million kilos of them in this period of time."

Wales looked at Zhao Hai with incomprehension, "From your fief at any time? Are you bringing your fief with you?"

Zhao Hai and the others laughed at that, because Wales had guessed correctly. Wales thought that Zhao Hai and the others were laughing because they found his question to be a joke, so he didn't mind.

Zhao Hai laughed as he said, "Of course not! But I have a flying magic hawk. I can give my spatial equipment to the hawk and then let it fly to my fief, and then bring my food here. It saves a lot of time this way, does it not?"

Wales was stunned, and then looked at Zhao Hai like he was looking at a lunatic, "Are you mad? You are willing to give your spatial equipment to a magic beast?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "I'm not mad. This is the best way. Besides, my magic beast isn't a normal magic beast. To put it exactly, it isn't a magic beast, but simply a phantasmal beast."

Wales had heard of phantasmal beasts before, of course. He just never thought that Zhao Hai would have one. He nodded, "Phantasmal beasts are more secure than magic beasts indeed. But my brother, can it really fly that far?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "Sure. That's why I said I can give you large amounts of food. I'm not kidding. I really have them. Wales my brother, just do whatever you want to do. I can't help you in anything else, but when it comes to grains, I can help you solve those issues. I can even get some from the human lands for you. Only when you need it, of course. I will not give the food away for free. I may not be a legitimate merchant, but I'm a merchant all the same, which is why you have to exchange for it using argali, goat skin products, slaves, magic beasts, or even rare plants on the prairie. Of course, the plants cannot be dead ones. They should only be living ones or seeds."

Wales never thought that Zhao Hai would say this. He looked at Zhao Hai with incomprehension and asked, "My brother, isn't that too much of a loss for you? What do you want the plants for? What use do they have?"

Zhao Hai laughed, "My brother, I'm not losing out at all. Perhaps you don't know that I have an apothecarist senior at home. He needs all of the rare plants in this world as well as uncommon ones. He wants to build himself the most wholesome plant garden in the world."

Wales and the 2 others were relieved to hear that. There were 2 kinds of people who were the most mysterious in this world: apothecaries, and alchemists. Not only did the humans have them, but the beastmen had them as well. Only, they were referred to a little differently. Among beastmen, apothecaries were called witch doctors, while alchemists were commonly called shamans.

Among the beastmen, there were 3 jobs that were respected the most. The 1st was prophets, of course. They were regarded as the wisest of people. The 2nd was shamans, due to the lack of metal tools at the beastmen's disposal, while shamans were researching on how to make metal tools last long and how to make weapons sturdier. They were thought to be the ones with the greatest spirit of exploration. The 3rd was witch doctors, who were regarded as the most mysterious. They needed all sorts of herbs to treat beastmen illnesses. These 3 kinds of people were highly respected among the beastmen.

The witch doctors here would sometimes hire some tribes to help gather some plants as well, so when Zhao Hai mentioned that there was someone at home who was an apothecary, they no longer felt Zhao Hai's methods to be strange.

Wales took in a relaxed breath and looked at Zhao Hai, "My brother, knowing you has got to be the most fortunate thing in my life, hahaha. The Beast God is truly helping me. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been allowed to meet you. You even saved me on your own."

Zhao Hai laughed, "Not necessarily. I do think that the Beast God let me meet you. If not for meeting you, I really don't know which year I would have to sell all the grains in. You should know that storing the grains too long will turn them into aged rice. That won't be valuable anymore." Wales and the others laughed at that. In the beastmen's territories, even aged rice could sell for a good price. It was apparent that Zhao Hai wanted to crack a joke.

But this joke of his was cracked at the right time. Wales knew what Zhao Hai meant. Zhao Hai didn't want to let him keep putting gratitude on his mind. This was more to Wales' taste.

Mendez now understood what Wales meant when Wales said that he would probably know what sort of person Zhao Hai was when meeting him. Indeed, from Zhao Hai himself, Mendez saw a very unique disposition, which was never seen from other humans he had seen before.

Mendez had seen many human merchants before. In fact, he was also an oddity among beastmen. He wasn't as ambitious as Gasol, as capable of fighting as Paul, as sickly as Hales, or as smart as Wales. But he was very interested in business. It was because of this, that whenever the Herculean Bull Tribe made contact with human merchants, he would be the one to meet them. He was better at this than others. When he made contact with the humans, he could buy more things than other beastmen no matter what. This was his most unique trait.

Mendez had always wanted to become a merchant. This was something that made him different from other beastmen. Other beastmen didn't want to become merchants since they believed that merchants were vampires and cowards. But Mendez didn't think of it that way. He wanted to be a merchant, and a good one at that.

It was precisely because of these reasons that he could be said to be the one who had seen the most humans in Herculean Bull Tribe. Especially the human merchants.

When the human merchants met him, they put up an appearance of respecting him, but he, Mendez, could see that those merchants looked down on him. From their eyes, he could see a trace of condescension. Mendez knew that those humans looked down on beastmen. They thought that beastmen were barbarians and unenlightened races. They even thought that beastmen were beasts.

It wasn't just one human merchant who was like this. Almost every human merchant he had approached before had been like this. Mendez was furious at first, but he was unable to be angry at this in the end, since that would only kill him.

But Mendez didn't see those kind of eyes in Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai's eyes were very clear and very sincere. It was outside of his expectations. Mendez believed that Zhao Hai wasn't pretending, as he had seen those kinds of condescending eyes too many times. He became very sensitive to them to the point that he could notice them even when pretending. But he didn't find those eyes from Zhao Hai. He noticed that Zhao Hai wasn't looking at them with condescension and disdain. There was only sincerity.

## Chapter 253 - Beheading Blood Oath

Zhao Hai's performance left Mendez with an incredibly good impression. Adding that to how Zhao Hai saved Wales before and even helped out after that, Mendez's impression of Zhao Hai was much better than those of the other human merchants.

After some laugh-filled conversation, Zhao Hai spoke to Wales, "Wales, my brother, what are you going to do now? Food isn't an issue, but if you want to overthrow Gasol, you must have a chartered course. Moving on without thinking isn't going to work."

Wales did a double take at that. To put it seriously, he still didn't have a specific plan laid out. He just wanted to use grains to pull in the other branch races, and there wasn't a more detailed plan of action after that.

Zhao Hai glanced at Wales and said, "My brother Wales, I think that you should have a more detailed plan, but I can't help you much when it comes to this matter. You too know that I'm a human, and I don't know you herculean bulls well enough. If I help you too much, it might have the opposite effect, so this matter is up to you yourselves. But after you plan things out, then you can tell me how to proceed. If you don't want to attract attention, we can proceed separately. You just need to tell me where to deliver the food."

Wales glanced at Zhao Hai, "My brother, the timing of your reminder is too perfect. I do have something to discuss with you right now. I hope you can agree to it."

Zhao Hai asked with incomprehension, "What's the matter, brother Wales? If it's something I can do, I will do my best to help."

Wales looked at Zhao Hai with a stern expression, "My brother Zhao Hai, I wish to conduct a Beheading Blood Oath with you."

Zhao Hai was startled and he looked at Wales with confusion. Laura and the others were also confused. Mendez and Yale looked at Wales with shock.

The Beheading Blood Oath was a very special oath among beastmen. This oath wasn't made by 1 person, but 2. Using Earth's words, it was called 'bond swearing'.

Only, the beastmen treated this oath with even more importance, because once 2 people made this oath, they would be like born siblings. Neither one could betray the other, or there would be disdain from all of the beastmen. Even more severely, the betrayer would be hunted down.

The Beheading Blood Oath wasn't something that required your own blood. It required the 2 people who were making the oath to cut down the head of an argali together at the same time, and then collect the goat's blood with a bowl before drinking it simultaneously. None of the 2 would be able to betray the other. When the other was in trouble, one had to do their best to help. Even if it meant bankrupting the family fortune or shattering the body, there must be no regrets.

Do not assume that this blood oath would be done willy-nilly. According to the beastmen, this blood oath was done under the witness of Beast God. If someone broke the oath, they would receive punishment from Beast God.

As for the importance the beastmen placed on the Beheading Blood Oath, it could be seen that, even though the argali was just a level 1 magic beast, it was the most important magic beast for the beastmen. That was why they wouldn't easily make this oath with others. Even with one of the same race, not to mention someone of another.

On the Beastmen Prairie, it had been a long time since it was last heard that someone had made the Beheading Blood Oath, and that was between 2 beastmen. A Beheading Blood Oath between a beastman and a human had never been heard of.

It was exactly because of this that humans had never heard of the beastmen's Beheading Blood Oath, as not even their records would detail it. Because such an oath was absolutely meaningless to humans, Laura and the others had never heard of this oath.

Wales knew that Zhao Hai and the others had never heard of what the Beheading Blood Oath was about from the looks on their faces. He explained, "My brother, the Beheading Blood Oath is the most important oath us beastmen can swear. Once the oath is made, we become true brothers..." And then he explained the meaning and process of the oath to them.

Zhao Hai and the others listened to Wales quietly. The Beheading Blood Oath was a bloody oath. In reality, the weight of the oath might be heavier than the beheading.

Beheading was simple. Countless people would be decapitated in a single battle, but very few people would stake their own lives to help their own friends when in trouble. The weight of the oath could be seen from this.

Zhao Hai went silent for a long while after Wales finished explaining. He understood that the Beheading Blood Oath was equal to Earth's bond swearing, like 'the oath of the peach garden'.

If there was a country on Earth that saw the most importance in oaths like these, it would be China for sure. Not the modern China. It was ancient China.

The oath of the three men in the peach garden was fabled to this day, which surely had its own logic to it. Perhaps only that oath could compare to the beastmen's Beheading Blood Oath.

The oath which the beastmen put so much emphasis on made Zhao Hai feel very bewildered. He didn't know what to do, because he really didn't want to enter a conflict between beastmen. But if he really became brothers with Wales, sworn by blood, then he wouldn't be able to avoid doing so. This went against his original intentions.

Laura and the others didn't speak either. This situation made them feel awkward as well. If Zhao Hai didn't agree, the cooperation between them and Wales would be hard to progress. But if he agreed, they would have to involve themselves in the succession conflict. This wasn't a good thing to them.

Zhao Hai raised his head, only to find that Wales was staring at him with very sincere eyes. This made it even harder for Zhao Hai.

The relationship between Zhao Hai and Wales wasn't even at the point of making such an oath, to be honest. But now that Wales suggested it, if Zhao Hai didn't agree, it would be too hurtful to Wales.

Wales' personality was different from his. Zhao Hai didn't have any grand ambitions, while Wales did. He wasn't proud, while Wales was. The 2 of them didn't seem to have a lot in common, but circumstances had put the 2 of them together.

Zhao Hai suddenly wanted to laugh when he looked at Wales. Bond swearing? He never thought of such a thing before, even on Earth. He didn't expect that a bull-headed person would seek to form a bond after he came to another world. This was too interesting.

Zhao Hai's mood suddenly became better when he thought of this. If he really wanted to calculate, he wouldn't have much of a loss either. If he swore with Wales, then he had to do his best to help Wales become the Herculean Bull Tribe's chieftain. Even if he didn't swear, wasn't he helping Wales to become chieftain anyway? What was the difference between bonding and otherwise? Maybe it was just a formality.

Zhao Hai suddenly laughed loudly and stood up after an exhale, "Then what are we waiting for, my brother Wales!"

Wales let out a sigh of relief when he heard what Zhao Hai said. He laughed, "Good, my brother! I've been waiting for those words of yours! 6th brother, teacher, let's make preparations."

Mendez and Yale heeded with a sound, and walked out of the tent. They were still somewhat confused about Wales' actions, but they didn't object.

Actually, the rite didn't need preparations. Beastmen didn't have as many customs as humans did. For the beastmen, it was too troublesome to have so many customs, so they didn't need them.

After Mendez and Yale walked out of the tent, Wales dragged Zhao Hai out of the tent as well. By the time Wales did so, Mendez and Yale had prepared the things. There wasn't a lot to prepare, actually. Yale brought a bowl, Mendez pulled an argali over, and an escort brought a flying axe.

A flying axe was a small axe to the beastmen, but don't forget that it weighed 10 kilos as well. For beastmen, who had great physical strength, it wouldn't be a problem to decapitate the head of an argali.

With those 3 things, it was time for the rite to begin. Zhao Hai and Wales arrived next to the argali. It was a large one, so it was an adult. It was being pressed down to its knees by 2 escorts.

Wales turned to Zhao Hai and said, "My brother, according to the rules of the oath, we must both chop down its head at the same time. But from what I'm seeing, I don't think you can lift an axe, can you?"

Zhao Hai made a bitter smile, "My brother, not only can I not lift an axe, I can't even chop a goat's head off. I think we should leave the head chopping to you, while I get the blood. How about that?"

Wales laughed candidly, "Alright, my brother! Let's do that!" He then grabbed the flying axe with one hand, while Zhao Hai took the large bowl and stood next to the argali under Mendez's instruction.

Zhao Hai had never taken a life this violently before, so he didn't know how to catch the goat blood. Mendez had done it before, but had never done so during a Beheading Blood Oath.

Soon, they were all prepared. Wales shouted and swung the axe down toward the argali's neck like a lightning strike. The flying axe was too sharp, and with Wales' brute strength, it was like it met no resistance. Just a single chop was enough to cut the head of the argali clean off of its body.

The head flew far away because of the blood pressure, which caused the blood to spray out like a geyser. Mendez was indeed experienced, as the position which he had instructed Zhao Hai to stand at was enough for Zhao Hai to avoid the blood splattering. Not a single drop of blood fell on Zhao Hai as it happened.

Zhao Hai didn't immediately collect the blood. Instead, he waited until the blood wasn't spraying so fiercely. He then moved the bowl to fill it completely with goat blood.

Wales then handed the flying axe to his subordinate, while the 2 escorts who held down the argali moved it away as well. They were going to 'process' it immediately in order to eat it after a moment.

Just then, Wales walked to the bowl of goat blood which Zhao Hai had put on the ground. He and Zhao Hai knelt down together, and he spoke out loud, "Magnificent Beast God! Under your witness, I and Zhao Hai swear the Beheading Blood Oath! Starting from today, we are brothers tied by blood! If I violate this oath, I shall be trampled by 10000 beasts and become puree!"



## Chapter 254 - Gift

On Earth, oaths are like cold drinks. They don't have the slightest sincerity. Especially for some people, who use oaths as a means to deceive others.

But it was different here on Ark Continent. Here, no one would make oaths inadvertently. Especially to the deities they worshipped.

Zhao Hai didn't know if there really were deities on the continent, but he was sure about one thing; Oaths could not be made without thinking. Because he discovered that, once you made an oath, your heart would have a special feeling. It was like how Xu Wan Ying, who had sworn a blood oath, really wouldn't be able to betray him after that. Just like that, Zhao Hai felt that he now had a special connection with Wales after the latter made his oath. It was a feeling of being bound by blood that was too vivid to be his imagination.

After saying something similar to what Wales had just said, Zhao Hai took the bowl of goat blood after Wales drank half of it in one gulp. Zhao Hai was somewhat squeamish at the sight of the blood, but he felt that his blood was heating up under the effects of the oath. He didn't think any further and just gulped it down in one go.

An indescribable stench-filled taste filled his mouth, which almost made him vomit. But he still shut his eyes and let the blood go down to his stomach completely.

He put the bowl down after the final drop was finished, but he was clenched his mouth shut, fearing that he would puke as soon as he opened his mouth.

Wales wasn't feeling too great, but he was a lot better at this than Zhao Hai. He looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Starting from today, we are brothers." After that, he kowtowed with Zhao Hai. The 2 of them stood up after doing it 3 times.

Wales laughed loudly, "Since you are my brother from today onwards, let's have you look at my 6th brother. Oh right, how old are you today?"

Zhao Hai did a double take and forced himself to swallow his saliva to hold back the stench in his mouth. He replied, "I'm 18 today. You?"

Wales laughed, "It seems like I'm gonna be the older brother. I'm 20 today."

Zhao Hai immediately said, "Big brother." Wales laughed and slapped Zhao Hai's shoulder. Mendez came over just then with a small dagger in his hand. This dagger was a lot better than the one from Spiel. The grip and sheath were both golden and studded with gemstones. The whole thing looked both noble and foreign.

Mendez stood in front of Zhao Hai and handed over the dagger, "Little Hai, this is my gift to you."

Zhao Hai noticed how Mendez had changed his way of addressing him. It seemed that Mendez really was treating him as a sibling. He didn't hold back and took the glittering dagger. He bowed to Mendez, "Thank you, 6th brother."

Mendez laughed, "Don't be. You're now already my younger brother. Where's your gift, little 7th?"

Wales smiled, "Inside the tent." He led the way for Zhao Hai inside the tent. After that, he grabbed a horse cane from the wall and put it in Zhao Hai's hands, "Brother, this is my gift to you."

Zhao Hai measured the horse cane, and what he could be sure of at first was that it was an antique, since it looked very ancient. Although it had been cleaned up nicely, Zhao Hai couldn't deny the the scars of aging on its surface.

The cane wasn't long. Only less than a metre long, and as thick as a thumb. The grip was made of a bone from an unknown magic beast, as dark as a black jade. Yet it wasn't cold to the touch. Instead, there was a trace of warmth. The grip had some very intricate patterns etched upon it, and they didn't seem to have been etched just to look ornate.

The cane body itself was made of tiny strands woven together. They weren't normal threads, as Zhao Hai discovered that there were gold and silver-colored threads, as well as some black threads and threads of other colors. One thread on top of another, interwoven inside out; it made the cane heavy.

Zhao Hai felt that it weighed at least several kilos in his hands. It seemed like it could be used directly as a weapon.

Where the cane and the grip met, there was a small leather strip acting as a guard. It wasn't known which magic beast this strip had come from, and it wasn't long. Only 10 centimetres long, and also very aged, which could be seen from its blackening. Despite that, it was still very sturdy.

Mendez and Yale were also looking at the cane while Zhao Hai was sizing it up. Their eyes held a trace of admiration.

Zhao Hai then saw their eyes. He felt weirded out by them and asked Wales, "Hey brother, what's so special about this cane?"

Wales smiled, "This cane is a sort of a symbol of identity. It's a treasure we the Herculean Bull Tribe happened upon, but one which no one knew how to use. In the end, it was passed down from one generation to the next. In every generation, the cane is passed down to the successor of the chieftain. Anyone who holds this cane has a certain summoning ability for all of the bull headed races. Holding this cane allows one to command 5000 of the bull headed race's people."

Zhao Hai then understood that it wasn't just a cane. It was more like a commanding sigil. A cane that could command beastmen when held? This gift from Wales wasn't cheap.

But Zhao Hai didn't intend to return it to Wales. This wasn't back when it was Laura and the others. He was in Beastmen Prairie right now, and he was facing beastmen. No need for formalities. If they gift you something, you just have to take it.

Yale also brought out something from his possessions just then. The item was a silver vial with very beautiful engravings. It wasn't large, since it was only as large as Zhao Hai's palm. For beastmen, it was simply too small.

Yale presented the vial to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, this is my gift. When I was young, I had the opportunity to go to the Elven Forest once, where I got this vial. Don't underestimate it though. Inside it is the Liquid Of Life: an especially precious thing for elves."

Zhao Hai looked surprised at the silver vial. It wasn't as though he'd never heard of the Liquid Of Life. On the contrary, he had heard of it more than once, because it was too famous on the continent.

The Liquid Of Life was a liquid secretion from the elves' divine object: the Tree Of Life. The amount produced wasn't high, but it had a very large effect.

The Liquid Of Life could restore stamina, battle aura and magic. It could even detoxify. It was an incomparably unique treasure, famous throughout the continent.

In the human lands, it was marketless and priceless, since it only existed in legends. No one had seen it and no one had bought it. If it weren't for a witness of its usage, people would surely think of it as baseless fabrication.

Zhao Hai didn't imagine Yale would give him a vial of that. To him, it was simply a precious thing. He bowed to Yale, "Thank you, Mr. Yale."

Yale smiled without word, but Zhao Hai was a little embarrassed. Mendez's gift aside, Yale and Wales' gifts were extremely precious. If he didn't gift them things in return, it would seriously be unacceptable to a degree.

Zhao Hai smiled as he thought of this. He tossed the 3 things gifted to him into the space and 3 spatial pouches appeared.

Zhao Hai put the 3 normal-looking pouches into their hands while smiling and said, "This is my gift to you. I hope you don't find them dislikeable."

The 3 of them glanced at the pouches. They neither opened them nor showed any reaction. They just tucked them away carefully.

Zhao Hai felt somewhat embarrassed about their looks. It wasn't as if he wanted to test how they would react. If the 3 of them disliked his offerings, then even when he had just made the Beheading Blood Oath with Wales, he wouldn't see him as a brother afterwards.

But obviously, he worried too much. Beastmen were indeed this simple. Even when Wales was such a calculative person, compared to humans, he would also be a simpleton.

In beastmen lands, relationships between brothers could not be measured with gifts. Even when you gave your brother a lot of gold, while your brother only gave you a blade of grass in return, you couldn't be angry. Because you were brothers.

Zhao Hai scratched his head and said in embarrassment, "You all have to keep what I gave you well. Those are not ordinary pouches, but spatial pouches. Each has up to 10 cubic metres of capacity, and they don't need any energy. Just loosen the rope of the pouch to use it."

The 3 of them did a double take, and looked at each other. They quickly took out the pouches and opened them like they couldn't wait for it.

An illusionary magic formation appeared on each pouch. Zhao Hai immediately explained, "Point the magic formation at the thing you want to keep, and think about it. That thing will automatically be put into the pouch. If you want to take it out, just open the pouch, think about what you want to take out, and you can bring it out."

The 3 of them experimented for a bit, looked at their pouches with crazed grins, and then put their pouches away carefully, like they were the most precious things in their lives. They looked to be even more careful than if they were carving on eggshells.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but laughing at them, "I'd say, you don't need to be so careful. With that kind of quality, you can't damage those pouches."

Wales shot Zhao Hai a strange glance and said, "What do you know about being careful? What if they get broken?"

Zhao Hai snickered, "It's alright if they do. I'll just deliver some for you again."

After Zhao Hai said that, the 3 of them stopped their movements and looked straight at Zhao Hai, who then asked with incomprehension, "What? What's the matter?"

Wales yelled and pounced on Zhao Hai. Mendez pounced as well, while Yale wasn't as fast as them so he just stood to the side and chuckled at the sight.

Wales sat on top of Zhao Hai while he kept on slapping him and asked, "You ask me 'what's the matter'? You actually dare to ask such a question, you brat? Don't you know what's the matter with you? Do you have a lot of spatial pouches? How come you're not the slightest bit pained when you give them away?"

Mendez also didn't let Zhao Hai off the hook. Like Wales, he was slapping Zhao Hai's head around like a ball, which made Zhao Hai very dizzy.

The 2 of them stood up after a while, and Zhao Hai got up in the midst of dizziness. He looked at them with disdain, "I can't believe you two. When I say I have a lot to give? Remember, I'm an Oddity Artist. Oddity. Artist. Understand?"

Wales did a double take, "Oddity Artist? Are you saying you are one yourself, my brother?"

Zhao Hai nodded at that.

Wales looked at Zhao Hai with a glimmer in his eyes, "Well I'll be. Does your Oddity Art have something to do with the creation of these spatial pouches? What are you selling grains for? Just sell these instead."

Zhao Hai looked at Wales unpleasantly, "Don't bullshit me. I just said I'm an Oddity Artist. When did I say I can make these pouches? They were found by me in a cave, and there were only several of them. After giving them to Laura and 2 others, there are only these 3 left. My power as an Oddity Artist is the ability to turn corpses into undead creatures, and then put them into my space. Where else do you think those pouches and the grains are from?"

Wales and the 2 others nodded at Zhao Hai's explanation. They had neither seen nor used spatial equipments before, but such an equipment wouldn't be too great. If the storage space of each equipment were great, humans would've already circumvented the need to use horse-drawn wagons when fighting against beastmen by just transporting food to Iron Wall Fortress using spatial equipment instead. That way, the beastmen would not be able to break through the fortress.

There were Oddity Artists among both humans and beastmen. There were more than a few of them in beastmen lands, and likewise, they were very respected as a group. It was because their special abilities could help the beastmen tribes to a greater degree.

Wales asked Zhao Hai, "It's great that you have such an endurance, brother. And I have to ask, can your space store argali and others of the sort?"

Zhao Hai was startled. He didn't expect Wales to be this smart just from what Zhao Hai said himself. It was beyond his expectations.

#### Chapter 255 - Plan

Zhao Hai nodded after a glance at Wales, "Sure. Why else would I want to exchange for so many magic beasts and argali? It takes a lot of time just to transport them to the human lands."

Wales nodded, "That's excellent, brother. With this capability, we no longer have to worry about grains. Come, let's go and drink some mutton soup." He was really happy that this brother he had just acknowledged was this capable.

Actually, Wales was selfish when he wanted to swear the Beheading Blood Oath with Zhao Hai. He aimed for the food in Zhao Hai's possession, and had intended to use it to tie Zhao Hai to his war machine.

However, he had to admit that even he himself had underestimated the power of Beheading Blood Oath. It seemed to be able to alter someone's thoughts and emotions as soon as the oath was made. It was that frightening.

It had been a very long time since people on the prairie had last sworn the Beheading Blood Oath. It was exactly because of this that Wales underestimated its power. In his view, if his own brother (Gasol) could betray him, then what effect would the oath have?

But he hadn't expected that the oath would be very effective. If it weren't, he wouldn't have given the horse cane to Zhao Hai. It was a heirloom of the Herculean Bull Tribe, passed down from his father.

And it was because of Wales giving Zhao Hai the horse cane, that Yale gave him the Liquid Of Life. Otherwise, Yale wouldn't have done so, knowing how hard it was to get such a treasure.

It was another rule of the Beheading Blood Oath that the argali used to conduct the rite must be eaten the same day, so the mutton soup was made using the one that was killed by Wales.

Now, Zhao Hai had a different identity, which was Wales' blood-sworn brother. The escorts immediately saluted Zhao Hai with great respect in their expressions.

Zhao Hai nodded to them and then made his way to the pot of mutton soup.

Different from before, Wales let his people put the small tables closer together. They could get closer as they chatted.

Laura and the others were arranged to other small tables, now that their identity was different as well. To the escorts, Laura would now count as half a princess.

Laura and the others didn't object to Zhao Hai swearing the Beheading Blood Oath with Wales, since Zhao Hai wouldn't have much of a loss from it, and they all got Wales as a bonus. If this matter was settled, then no one would dare to act against them on the Beastmen Prairie.

After they all sat down, the escorts brought Wales some milk wine. Even though the escorts knew what had happened in the tribe, none of them betrayed him. For the beastmen, if they believed someone to be a person worth following, they wouldn't resort to betrayal so easily, even when their relatives were still in the tribe.

To tell the truth, there was still a stench of blood in Wales' mouth as he drank a mouthful of milk wine. He didn't like it very much, but it was exciting, and it gave him a blood-boiling sensation. But he needed to think about things instead of being impulsive. He had to calm his emotions as quickly as possible.

Wales felt better after that mouthful of milk wine. He turned to Zhao Hai, "Brother, you have to help me come up with a good idea this time. What do I do if I want to drag Gasol down? It's very bad for me now that he has control of the Herculean Bull Tribe."



Zhao Hai didn't have as many reservations right now. Whatever the case, he was now Wales' blood-sworn brother. Helping Wales was a given.

Zhao Hai thought and said, "Big brother, I don't know the situation in the tribe very well, so I can't help you there. You still have to depend on yourself for that."

Wales nodded, "Now that Gasol is in control, if we go there now, we might as well be going to die. So, we stick to what was discussed: find a branch tribe, get their support, and then return. I'm getting ready to find teacher's Buffalo Tribe and the Fighting Bull Tribe. These two have high positions among the branch races, and they have a lot of influence."

Yale agreed to that, but Zhao Hai frowned and said, "Big brother, I don't think that's right. You know that the Buffalo and Fighting Bull tribes have great influence, so doesn't Gasol know that as well? Gasol wouldn't stage a coup if not for a branch tribe's support. Let's not talk about other things first. Gasol should know crystal clear that Yale is your teacher. If 6th brother hasn't been killed, Gasol will surely think that he's found you. If you know what happened in the tribe, then Gasol would know as well. In such a situation, how can he not take extra measures? I think that there won't be a positive outcome if we go to either the Buffalo Tribe or the Fighting Bull Tribe. Gasol might be waiting for you midway, just to kill us directly."

Wales and the others were startled, as they hadn't thought about this point. To put it directly, Wales appeared calm on the surface, but his mind was still blazing. Gasol had gone too far this time. The fact that he killed his own father and disregarded his own siblings was something that fueled the flames of Wales' rage to burn outward from his heart.

That was why Wales wanted to topple Gasol from his the position in the shortest possible time. But Wales had forgotten about one thing. Could Gasol succeed just by using his own men? His father, a chieftain, the most powerful figure in the tribe, had been struck down in secret. It would have been impossible without someone behind Gasol.

Zhao Hai's words calmed Wales down in the truest sense. Even though Wales was one of the few smart ones amongst beastmen, he had been blinded by hatred and rage. He was getting better now.

Wales took a deep breath and closed his eyes for a while. He nodded, "You are right, brother. I've always underestimated Gasol before, so I got into such a big trouble now. But I think this is strange. Gasol's actions this time and his usual style are not the same. There has to be something behind it."

Mendez suddenly spoke, "There's something which I know, that I'm not sure if it's related to this incident. A while before Gasol made his move, he was secretly dealing with some human merchants. You both know that whenever the tribe has to meet with human merchants, it's always my job. But those human merchants were meeting with Gasol directly, and, they came and went in a hurry each time. Secretively."

Wales was startled, and asked with a changed expression, "Are you saying that Gasol colluded with those human merchants and poisoned our father? He had such gall?"

Mendez made a wry smile, "Little 7th, you still haven't grasped the situation then. Ever since father gave the horse cane to you, Gasol has gone insane. You know that the cane is only passed down to successors. Giving it to you meant that father acknowledged you as his heir. Gasol knew he had no hope, so how could he take the loss lying down? It's not a strange thing for him to do anything at this point."

Wales' expression darkened and he sighed with nothing to say. Yale spoke, "This possibility is likely. If someone goaded Gasol from behind, then he might really have something planned. I think we can't go looking for the Buffalo and Fighting Bull tribes now. Remember that the eldest princess and 4th princess are also in the Fighting Bull Tribe. If we go there, Gasol will be the first to know, even without prior placements."

Yale had a point. Wales' 4 sisters were all married to the Fighting Bull Tribe, but his oldest and 4th sister didn't like him very much, and were closer to Gasol instead. If he went to the Fighting Bull Tribe, then his oldest sister would know and notify Gasol for sure. His plan would not be able to continue after that.

Wales let out a long breath, "Seems like I thought of things too simply. But no matter. The plan hasn't been started yet. How about this: we find a small tribe first, and we proceed slowly. I don't think Gasol is monitoring every tribe, is he?"

Mendez and Yale laughed at that. Gasol wouldn't be that capable, of course. In fact, no ruling tribe could ever monitor all of their branch tribes. There was neither manpower nor a need to do so.

Zhao Hai laughed, "That's good. But big brother, it's best that you contact people you can trust in the tribe, and then let them investigate the merchants' identities. See if this matter is related to them. If it is, then perhaps the discovery can become your weapon. They didn't swear the Beheading Blood Oath, did they?"

Wales laughed a little and nodded, "I will make arrangements, but Gasol knows all of my subordinates. Sending them is equal to ordering them to their deaths. I'll have to find a chance later. Oh right, little Hai. Let us send you to the Fighting Bull Tribe's territory and have you conduct a trade with them, while I infiltrate and meet with 2nd sister. I'll make things clear with her. Perhaps she might be of help."

Zhao Hai nodded, "No problems there. As long as you're not discovered, that is. But I think that the times ahead will not be peaceful. 6th brother making his way here isn't something Gasol would not notice. I suggest you to be prepared."

Wales nodded without a word. He just took the milk wine on his table and drank it entirely.

#### Chapter 256 - Tool Spirit?

Beastmen couldn't live without wine. To them, the most important thing was their mounts, the 2nd most important was their argali goats, and the 3rd most important was wine. No matter what the occasion may be, wine was ever present.

Winters in the prairie were cold. Even during summer, the nights wouldn't be hot. They would be in trouble if they lacked wine while they had to herd every day, every year.

This was the day Wales and Zhao Hai swore the Beheading Blood Oath, so they drank quite an amount of wine. They discussed how to deal with Gasol during the process of drinking.

It was inadvisable to use force against Gasol, as he was now in control of the Herculean Bull Tribe. Herculean bulls were known for being one of the stronger races when it came to fighting power, so taking them head-on was tantamount to seeking their own deaths. Wales wouldn't do that, because no matter what Gasol did, he was of the same race, and so were his followers. If Wales fought against Gasol the hard way, the ones suffering would be the herculean bulls. Wales hoped for the herculean bulls to become powerful, so he naturally wouldn't do something that could harm himself and benefit others.

Although Zhao Hai could help Wales and the others come up with ideas, the ways in which he could help were limited. He lacked understanding when it came to their matters.

Zhao Hai's group returned to their tent that afternoon. He didn't drink too much wine, as he was now Wales' brother. Being someone like family meant that there was a much more carefree treatment for each other.

Upon returning to his tent, Zhao Hai drank a large glassful of the space's water. Every time he drank the space's water after taking alcohol, he would sober up quickly without the discomfort that usually came after drinking. That was why drinking the space's water after wine had become a habit of his.

Laura looked at Zhao Hai after he drank the water and asked, "Hai-bro, are you really going to help Wales become chieftain?"

Zhao Hai gave her a bitter smile, "What else can I do? I'm now his blood-sworn brother, so I can only help him as much as I can. I didn't think that he would want to become my blood-sworn brother. The oath is very special too. Just like Xu Wan Ying's blood oath. If you make the oath, there will be a sensation."

Laura nodded, "We can tell from the name itself. Helping Wales with all our power isn't anything much. If he succeeds, we'll have easier days on Beastmen Prairie. But what Mendez mentioned... What was up with the human merchants making contact with Gasol?"

Zhao Hai shook his head, "I have no idea either. Human merchants don't usually mix themselves into the conflict between beastmen, because if that were made known to other beastmen tribes, they would never be able to set foot on the prairie. But why did they make contact with Gasol? Could it really be that they helped fueling Gasol's actions? Which power did they belong to?"

Laura frowned as well, "Humans who set foot on Beastmen Prairie mostly don't look into who's from which power, because that will easily cause misunderstandings. But now that you're Wales' blood-sworn brother, if we defeat Gasol, we can then check out which power those merchants belonged to. Even if we can't investigate for the time being, we can let Wales do it. Your identity is useful here."

Zhao Hai smiled, "It looks like there are many benefits to becoming Wales' brother. Oh right. Let's go into the space and check out their gifts. I have a feeling that those gifts are very special."

Laura and the others laughed at that. The 4 of them appeared in the space instantly. The gifts were inside the storage, so there was no reaction from the space.

As soon as they appeared, Cai-Er flew over immediately and sat on Zhao Hai's shoulder, "Young master, Ah-Wen is so mean. She won't even play with me."

Zhao Wen also flew over, and rested on top of Zhao Hai's head without moving or making a sound. Zhao Hai looked at Cai-Er and asked in annoyance, "Cai-Er, did you play tricks on Ah-Wen again?"

Cai-Er was very naughty, while Ah-Wen was too honest, which was the reason for Cai-Er picking on her. But Ah-Wen was good tempered and didn't get angry in the slightest. At most, she would just ignore Cai-Er for a period of time.

Zhao Hai noticed something strange. Before Cai-Er entered the space, she was very prone to sleep, but that changed after entering the space. Not only did she not sleep, she was hyper every day as well.

Cai-Er giggled and didn't say anything to Zhao Hai's question. He shook his head as he couldn't do anything about her. He simply asked, "Is everything alright at the Messystone Hill resort?"

Zhao Hai and the others had left the place, but Cai-Er left a branch behind. It was hidden inside the white fruit tree in the resort's garden. Normal people couldn't see it.

The branch was for monitoring Greenstone Hill resort, since they were still cooperating with the Fansile family, who would periodically obtain some Peachland products.

Cai-Er replied to Zhao Hai's questioning, "There are quite a lot of people that have been monitoring the place for a long time, and they haven't left. Some snuck into Messystone Hill, but they haven't discovered anything yet."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Be careful not to let them find something out. If they are being too forceful, then turn them into flower manure."

Cai-Er heeded his words with a sound. Zhao Hai asked, "What about Iron Mountain Castle? Is it alright?"

Cai-Er laughed, "Great! Iron Mountain Castle is fine, and the 2 argali are being kept well. They eat magic radish leaves as well, and even eat MY leaves. Hmph."

Zhao Hai chuckled, and then Mendez's gift, the dagger, appeared in his hand. Zhao Hai unsheathed the dagger and found the blade to be very beautiful and eye-piercing. He touched it gently and found it to be cool to the touch. It wasn't to say that the material of the dagger was cold, but the sensation from its sharpness could make people shiver.

The dagger had cloud-like patterns. They weren't painted or etched. They were formed after using a special method in the forging process. The patterns could only appear after layering the metal multiple times with a special method.

Laura took the dagger from Zhao Hai and took a closer look. She nodded, "This should be a dwarven master blacksmith's work. This cloud-patterned dagger is very precious and rarely seen on the continent."

Zhao Hai was obviously not as in-the-know as Laura in this regard, so he just nodded and put the dagger away in the storage. No matter how good it was, it wouldn't be very useful to him right now.

After storing the dagger, Zhao Hai took out the cane. The moment it appeared, the notification voice in the space came,

As soon as the notification voice stopped, Zhao Hai felt the cane shaking in his hand, and then a virtual figure of a person appeared above the cane. The virtual figure looked like a 7 or 8-year-old child, wearing 5-colored clothes.

The figure wasn't very large, as it was about the size of the cane itself. The cane itself was standing in front of Zhao Hai, which made him feel very bizarre.

The virtual figure bowed and said, "Greetings to young master."

Zhao Hai was used to this kind of situation. He knew it had to be yet another creation of the space. He didn't mind and just nodded, "Let's call you Mu-Er from now on. Follow me. I'll show you to where the ranch is." Mu-Er obeyed with a sound, and then climbed onto Zhao Hai's hip like a snake without further movements.

Cai-Er flew down from Zhao Hai's shoulder and looked at this virtual figure with curiosity. She wanted to touch Mu-Er, but Mu-Er dodged. The more Cai-Er tried, the more Mu-Er resisted. Both of them went in circles around Zhao Hai.

Laura and the others laughed at the 2 of them. They were now basically immune to the abilities of the space. Zhao Hai was happy to have gotten this amazing cane.

Zhao Hai said nothing about Cai-Er and Mu-Er playing around. It didn't take long for his head to light up as Zhao Wen joined in the fun. Zhao Hai shook his head with a bitter smile, and the vial containing the Liquid Of Life soon appeared in his hand.

The notification voice came again,

Zhao Hai did a double take. He didn't imagine that the Liquid Of Life could have so many good points about it. Just the part about reviving dead plants was too awesome. Later on, he could get some dead special plants and revive them using the space's water. He would no longer need to worry about the lack of plants in the space. There was a bit of a time limit, but it was good enough.

Most importantly, since the Liquid Of Life was now fused with the space's water spring, he would have an endless source of it from now on.

## Chapter 257 - Changes Of Iron Mountain Castle

The Liquid Of Life was very famous on the continent. If people knew Zhao Hai had an undepletable source of it, he would surely attract a lot of envy.

But what Zhao Hai couldn't understand the most, was that he had never heard of anyone using the Liquid Of Life to revive any plants. Could it be that the space caused the Liquid Of Life to mutate?

The vial which Yale had given Zhao Hai was only as large as his palm. The neck was rectangular, like one of those liquor flasks he had seen before on Earth. The vial was full of engravings, which made it look very beautiful.

Laura looked at the vial and said, "This vial looks like a product of the elves. Elves love nature deeply and they have high standards regarding art. Every work of art must be made above what 'great' could be used to describe, and most of them are based on the mark of nature. See those engravings? Do they look like vines? Every leaf was etched so intricately that you can see the webs. There's even a special magic formation exclusive to elves on the vial, but I don't know what it does."

Zhao Hai looked at the engravings carefully. They were indeed special, but he didn't know about the magic formation part. The space didn't notify him about it, so it didn't seem like it was really a magic formation.

Zhao Hai liked the vial a lot. He shook it lightly and noticed that there was still half of the Liquid Of Life left. It was no longer rare to him now, so he drank it all down and smacked his lips.

The Liquid Of Life wasn't flavorless like ordinary water. There was a very special taste. How to put it? The taste was a bit like being in the woods in the middle of a growth spurt during spring. Refreshing and natural.

Zhao Hai nodded, "Not a bad taste. All of you should have a taste. Directly from the spring, that is."

Laura and the others laughed at that before they tried the spring water. Such a refreshing taste was very suitable for ladies.

Zhao Hai brought them to the ranch. Cai-Er couldn't manage the ranch since she was a plant fairy, so Zhao Hai had to manage much of the ranch's matters himself. It was good that Mu-Er had joined in right now. He could now leave matters for Mu-Er to manage.



Zhao Hai let Mu-Er get familiar with the surroundings before managing the ranch. Actually, it was excessive to do so. He didn't know that the reason why Mu-Er appeared was because the cane was special.

The body of the cane was made of refined gold, mithril, and several other high class magic beast tendons, while the grip of the cane was made of a soul bone.

Soul bones were rare on the continent, so it could be said that only a handful of people knew about them. Someone happened upon the soul bone used in the creation of this cane. That someone only felt that the bone was very special and sturdy, so he made it the grip of the cane.

What they didn't know was that the soul bone had a special ability, which was to seal souls. Sealing souls meant that the soul of a deceased person could be sealed into the bone, which would ensure that the soul would not disappear. At the right opportunity, when a suitable vessel was found, the soul could be extracted from the bone and put into body, and that person would be regarded as revived.

However, there was no such magic to do so on Ark Continent. Because there were no magic beasts that could produce soul bones, no one knew about them in the slightest.

Actually speaking, soul bones had another ability, which was to gain sentience on their own, little by little. But the sentience could not be called a soul, because it would be too weak.

To the space, however, a soul bone would be like a blank computer. Just add some programs into it, and the computer would function normally. It was also because of the space's alterations that Mu-Er appeared.

Because Mu-Er was created by the space, all information related to the ranch had been inputted directly into Mu-er, which was beyond Zhao Hai's knowledge. There was no need for familiarization.

Although Cai-Er couldn't manage the ranch, Mu-Er couldn't manage the farm, and Zhao Wen couldn't intervene in neither. But the 3 of them could freely come and go between these 2 places. Especially the lively Cai-Er who kept following and teasing Mu-Er, like a child who had found a new toy.

After sorting out the matters in the ranch, Zhao Hai and the others returned to Iron Mountain Castle. Greene was there at the moment. Unless there was anything important, Greene and the others wouldn't come into the space. Even Crune had set up a laboratory in the castle.

Humans are social animals, after all. They need to communicate with others. Greene and Kun Zheng were of similar age and experiences, so the 2 of them got along well. Since there hadn't been an issue on the Beastmen Prairie, the 2 of them were cooped up in Iron Mountain Castle, which let them learn more about the surrounding environment, in order to prepare the place to become the most important and integral base in a better way.

The 2 sagacious old men knew clearly, that no matter where Zhao Hai and the others went, the Black Wastelands was their roots, and the foundation of Buda family's development.

The space could provide them with assistance, but if Zhao Hai were gone, then what would Buda family depend on? It could only be the Black Wastelands.

Upon reaching the castle, Zhao Hai and the others noticed that Greene and Kun Zheng were absent. Even Maylin was gone. They learned from Blockhead that the 3 elders had gone to the underground lake.

They then went to the underground lake in the mountain, but they didn't find the elders. Zhao Hai didn't become anxious. The Black Wastelands was very safe at the moment, so nothing could've happened. It was possible that they had simply gone somewhere else.

Zhao Hai and the others returned to the castle's surroundings. The rice milling factory was operating normally, and so was the oil squashing factory. The blue-eyed rabbits had been raised well, while the 2 argali were in top condition with no signs of sickness. Everything was in working order.

Although it had become colder outside the castle, there was no drop in the temperature inside. The temperature inside the castle was higher because of Cai-Er's rainbow flowers.

Due to the climate, the improved soil outside could not be planted, and the corn in the valley had been harvested. However, Zhao Hai had a new idea. He let Cai-Er leave a branch in the valley, so that the temperature there would rise and the land there could be planted again.

The castle was bustling right now, as there was another couple who got married. Of course, as with before, Zhao Hai held a marriage ceremony for them and gave them a marriage certificate, while also restoring their commoner statuses.

Zhao Hai didn't want the slaves to remain as slaves forever. A force could not be sustained with slaves alone, so Zhao Hai didn't mind turning the slaves into civilians.

Zhao Hai wasn't worried that the slaves would leave after gaining civilian identities. They couldn't leave because of their brands. No one would acknowledge their civilian identities outside of the Black Wastelands. They would even be captured as runaway slaves.

The slaves were very satisfied, not only because Zhao Hai had given them civilian statuses, but also because he had given them lands and houses. Helping Zhao Hai do things gave them money to spend. While it was a given that they now had to use money when they ate food and vegetables, the prices were low. They could totally save up some money to buy necessities and what they liked.

Now, in Iron Mountain Castle, the first shop had been set up: the Lycoris Free Market. There was only one person keeping watch, and that was Ju.

This market was designed by Zhao Hai according to supermarkets on Earth. Every day, Blockhead and Rockhead would let some slaves replenish the stocks, while only Ju alone would keep watch during regular hours. Whether they were slaves or civilians, anyone could come and buy things, with identical prices of course. Ju only received payment at the entrance, so everyone bought what they liked and made payments to Ju.

Laura had never heard of such a shop before. She thought that this was totally a chance to have things stolen, but Zhao Hai went ahead with it. What surprised her was that nothing had been stolen since the opening of the market. Not even a single needle was reported to be lost.

It wasn't just Laura who was surprised. Zhao Hai was even more surprised. He didn't expect that the slaves, who had become civilians for only a short time, would have such a resolve.

What he didn't know was that it was exactly because the slaves had been paid money and given civilian identities that they wouldn't steal things. To them, being able to buy things like normal people was a

happiness as well. They didn't have a chance to do so before. Now that they had it, of course they wouldn't let it go.

Zhao Hai didn't build this market in order to earn money. He hoped that the civilians of his fief could lead ordinary lives. Buying and selling things was what an ordinary person could do. He didn't want the people of his fief leading slave lives despite having civilian identities.

Iron Mountain Castle looked like a real castle right now. The slaves who worked their shifts in the rice milling and oil squashing factories would go shopping around different parts of the castle after work, or chatting around together. Their lives were carefree.

Zhao Hai was very satisfied with the current situation of the castle. He knew that changes had to come in little by little. It would have been impossible to do this when he had first arrived, but now it had all fallen into place.

Zhao Hai and the others sat in the living room of the castle. Laura looked around and smiled, "To be honest, I still like it here, because it feels like home here."

Zhao Hai laughed, "Of course. you set up everything here by yourself. Of course it feels like home to you, hehe... What are granpa Kun Zheng and the others doing?"

Laura laughed, "It's alright. If they said they went to the lake in the mountain, they must be there. I think that they must've gone to see how long it is, and where its source is. They must be trying to figure this land out."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I heard that they want to draw a map, detailing the course of the mountain, its terrain, and everything around us. This is our home, so we should have a proper understanding of it."

Just then, Kun Zheng's voice came from outside. Zhao Hai and the others stood up immediately before Kun Zheng, Greene and Maylin came in. The 3 of them were startled, and then Greene asked with a smile, "Back this early today? What happened?"

Zhao Hai shook his head, "Nah. Nothing at all. We just finished our matters earlier, so we came back."

After they all sat down, Laura described what happened during these past few days to Greene, Kun Zheng and Maylin, who listened quietly. They never thought that so many things happened on the prairie in such a short time.

Once Laura finished, Greene spoke with a frown, "Young master, you really swore the Beheading Blood Oath with that Wales? Wasn't that too brash?"

Zhao Hai gave a bitter smile, "It couldn't be helped. If I didn't agree to it, then the cooperation with Wales would've fallen through. Currently, almost all the large tribes have their own long-term cooperating merchants, so we can't interfere. If we gave up this chance, we don't know when our business on the prairie will succeed, so I decided to gamble."

Kun Zheng agreed with what Zhao Hai had done. He nodded, "I think little Hai did the right thing. The Herculean Bull Tribe has quite a high standing on the prairie. Common battle tribes wouldn't be unreasonable with them. Even the highly-ranked battle tribes will give the herculean bulls some face. If we can form ties with them, it will be good for our business on the prairie. I've heard of this Beheading Blood Oath before. It's one of the most important oaths to the beastmen. If Wales dared to swear this oath, it means he doesn't have wicked intentions towards little Hai. This is enough."

Zhao Hai nodded. Just when he was about to say something, his expression changed, "We have to go back. Just now, the undead saw that the blood hawk has returned. Something might've happened." After bidding farewell to Greene, Kun Zheng and Maylin, he led Laura and the others back to the campsite on the prairie.

## Chapter 258 - A Fighting Chance

Zhao Hai and the others left the tent as soon as they appeared inside. A blood hawk was circling in the sky.

Zhao Hai noticed the blood hawk's movements and spoke, "There are people coming this way. 2000 in number, mostly bull-headed cavalry. Oh? They seem to have aerial recon troops as well?"

Laura and the others were stunned, and then looked at Zhao Hai with incomprehension. Zhao Hai laughed, "The blood hawk discovered that there are 2 flying hawks that seem to be helping the cavalry.

I'll go and inform big brother. You should make preparations as well." Laura and the others nodded at that, while Zhao Hai ran towards Wales' campsite.

Wales and his people were resting, and the sky was getting dark. They couldn't rush ahead at night, so they had gone back into their tents to rest.

Even though didn't drink a lot this day, they were somewhat drunk due to their bad mood. It's easy to get drunk when drinking during a bad mood.

Wales was in a bit of a blur. There hadn't been any battle, but he felt exhausted. It was an exhaustion of the heart. It only took a bit of alcohol for him to fall asleep on the bed.

But Wales wasn't sleeping soundly. He was having a nightmare. It was a nightmare about his own father wanting him to take revenge. Soon, he dreamt about Gasol who was trying to hunt him down.

Just then, Zhao Hai arrived at the campsite. The escorts standing guard didn't get in his way, and saluted him instead. Zhao Hai's current identity was Wales' blood-sworn brother.

Zhao Hai soon arrived outside of Wales' tent, which was guarded by only one person. This person wasn't actually guarding Wales, but was ready to relay Wales' orders when necessary.

That person immediately saluted Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai nodded, but he didn't enter the tent. He asked, "What's big brother doing?"

The escort answered, "Young lord is resting."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Go and wake big brother up. I have an important thing to say, so hurry. You must wake him up no matter what." When the escort saw how serious Zhao Hai's expression was, he ran into the tent without delay.

Just then, Mendez and Yale came out of their tents after hearing Zhao Hai's words. They didn't sleep as deeply as Wales.

Yale's expression changed as he saw how serious Zhao Hai's face had become. He stood in front of him and asked, "Little Hai, what's wrong? Did something happen? Was it the grains?" What Yale cared about right now was the grains, so he assumed that something had happened to them.

Mendez tensed up when Yale asked the question. He knew how important the grains in Zhao Hai's possession were to them.

Zhao Hai shook his head, "No. It's something else." After he finished, Wales spoke out, "Little Hai, what's the matter? Come inside." Zhao Hai entered the tent with Yale and Mendez following behind.

Wales had just gotten up, and was drinking water. He felt his head hurting. Zhao Hai got in front of him hurriedly and said, "Big brother, there are enemies coming. They number 2000. All of them are bull-headed cavalry."

Wales and the others were stunned, and they looked at Zhao Hai in confusion. Zhao Hai knew from their looks that they must be wondering how he had gotten such information. Zhao Hai added, "How could you forget, big brother? I have a phantasmal hawk. It can perform aerial reconnaissance. The enemies aren't just 2000 strong. There are also 2 flying magic beasts providing reconnaissance for them. If not for my phantasmal hawk, we could've been the ones being discovered first."

Wales' expression changed after hearing Zhao Hai's words. He asked, "You said that the enemies have 2 flying magic beasts?" Zhao Hai nodded at that. Wales' expression darkened, "They've come. It looks like they are following 6th brother."

Mendez's expression darkened as well, "I underestimated Gasol. It seems that he really has a capable party backing him up. Otherwise, there wouldn't be such movement."

Zhao Hai looked at them with incomprehension. Yale saw the doubt on Zhao Hai's face and spoke calmly, "Everyone on the prairie knows that Gasol raises 2 flying magic beasts. He has been raising those magic beasts for a long time, and they can provide reconnaissance for him and track his enemies. He accomplished a lot of battle merits for the tribe using these 2 magic beasts."

Zhao Hai nodded, and then spoke to Wales, "Don't worry, big brother. I will let my phantasmal beasts go ahead and cripple those 2 magic beasts."

Wales shook his head, "Don't, little Hai. Your phantasmal beasts are not a match for them. Those 2 are offshoot magic beasts: flame birds. Their strength can match level 5 magic beasts."

Zhao Hai smiled and walked out of the tent. Once he did, he shouted, and 5 blood hawks came down from the sky shortly after that. Actually, these blood hawks were let out of the space in secret. He was just pretending to call out for them in order to avoid arousing the suspicion of Wales and the others.

Zhao Hai made a gesture to the blood hawks in the sky, and with a sharp cry, they flew away into the distance. They disappeared into the sky in just the blink of an eye.

Zhao Hai turned to Wales and the others and said, "Relax, big brother. They will come back after a while, and my order was, 'I want them alive'."

Wales looked at Zhao Hai with shock, "I'll say, my brother. You actually want them alive? Do you know how hard that will be? They are level 5 magic beasts."

Zhao Hai laughed, "Perfect. It's the first time I've come across flame birds. I'll capture them in order to let my senior back home study them, hehe. How about we roast one?"

Wales snickered and then shook his head, "Brother, now I really don't know anything about this. Are you really that confident?"

Mendez and Yale were looking at Zhao Hai as well. They knew that phantasmal beasts weren't usually as highly regarded as magic beasts on the continent. It was common knowledge that phantasmal beasts couldn't win against magic beasts. Zhao Hai being so confident, despite having sent only 5 phantasmal beasts to deal with 2 magic beasts, was something that surpassed their imaginations.

Zhao Hai simply smiled at them, "Don't worry about them. Let's think about how to deal with the 2000 people. They'll be here in about 2 hours. Are we leaving, or are we fighting?"

Wales went idle for a bit, and then said, "2 hours... Even if we run, they might catch up to us. We can only fight, but we only have 400 people."



Mendez spoke with a sunken expression, "How about this, little 7th? Leave here while taking 100 escorts. I will stall them here for as long as it takes. Go and hide in some other tribe's turf for a while, and contact other branch tribes to come up with a way to deal with Gasol."

Wales looked at Mendez. He knew that Mendez was trying to sacrifice himself in order to help him. Wales was truly moved by what Mendez was suggesting, but he couldn't let Mendez do it.

Yale agreed with Mendez's decision. Mendez didn't have as high of a calling as Wales in the tribe. Wales could deal with Gasol because he had been a chieftain candidate, while Mendez had not.

From this situation, letting Wales leave meant preserving a hope of having revenge. If Wales remained, then he might die here as well, and then there would be no hope left.

Zhao Hai didn't know what to say when he looked at how the 3 of them were acting like they were about to be separated by life and death. He just scratched his head and said, "I don't want to break up this mood, but I am compelled to say that we seem to have a fighting chance."

Wales, Mendez and Yale were looking blankly at Zhao Hai, who then said, "When I say a fighting chance, I mean the 400 escorts in the camp with my undead creatures added into the mix. We should be able to halt Gasol's advance."

The 3 of them immediately thought about Zhao Hai's undead creatures, which were amazingly strong. They dealt with the jackals as easily as if they had been chopping vegetables and splitting melons.

Zhao Hai added, "I now have about 4000 undead creatures. We shouldn't have a problem defending ourselves if we add them to your escorts."

Zhao Hai actually had more than 5000 undead creatures. They were comprised of the magic beasts from the Black Wastelands, humanoids that had joined afterwards, and the jackals from the prairie.

Wales did a double take, and then his eyes sparkled, "You really have 4000 undead creatures, brother? What about their fighting power?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "So-so. About the same level as a level 9 human fighter."

Wales and the others couldn't help from taking in a breath of cold air. What sort of concept was that? The undead might even be harder to deal with compared to 4000 human level 9 fighters, because undead felt no fear, were unafraid of injury or death, and would never retreat.

Wales suddenly laughed and hugged Zhao Hai, "Hahaha, I didn't expect that you would have such great power, my brother. Excellent. We will wait for them here. I want to see if Gasol is coming here himself."

#### Chapter 259 - Move Forward, And Move Forward Again

Yale and Mendez were smiling. They felt that Wales' blood-sworn brother was too valuable. Not only did he have so many grains, he had a lot of fighting power as well.

Wales let go of Zhao Hai and said, "You are now my blood-sworn brother. No one will be able to say anything no matter how you help me, hahahaha. Just relax and help your big brother take back the chieftain's seat."

Zhao Hai laughed, "I really hope that we're not going to fight. If we fight so hard now, the ones to die will still be people of the Herculean Bull Tribe. If there are too many casualties, other races might have a chance to take over."

The smile on Wales' face disappeared. He nodded, "It's because of such considerations that I had never clashed against Gasol. I didn't expect that he would go this far. He's too ruthless."

Zhao Hai nodded as he felt bummed out. Gasol had gone off the deep end this time as he killed his own father. Even though Zhao Hai had heard about such things many times before, he had not expected that such a thing would happen so close to him. If he had to put his feelings into words, they would be, 'What a ballbuster'.

Mendez patted Zhao Hai's shoulder, "Alright, don't think too much. If Gasol really colluded with those human merchants to harm father, then he has no right to be the chieftain."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Then let's go prepare ourselves. I think my blood hawks are about to come back." Right after that, 2 cries came from the sky. Zhao Hai and the others raised their heads to see that 5 blood hawks were flying back slowly. 4 of them were holding a couple of flying magic beasts, which were obviously not dead. They were struggling, but they could not get out of the blood hawks' claws.

Wales didn't expect that Zhao Hai's phantasmal beasts would capture the flame birds so quickly, while Zhao Hai himself wasn't surprised. It was 5 against 2. If the flame birds couldn't be captured, he would surely make a stew out of the blood hawks afterwards.

Zhao Hai made a gesture, and the 5 blood hawks came down from the sky. When they did, Wales, Yale and Mendez discovered something strange.

These 5 blood hawks were 2 metres tall, each of them imposing and overwhelming. Phantasmal? More like 'even more magical than magic beasts'.

The 2 large birds under the blood hawks' feet weren't as large, but they weren't small either, more than 1 metre tall, with a wingspan of 5 meters. Their tail feathers were very long, especially the middle 3. Each was about 3 metres long, and a fiery red color. Very beautiful.

These 2 birds weren't red, but pale blue in color. There were small feathers on their heads like crowns. Their bodies weren't as stout as the blood hawks', but they were linear and smooth. They would give off the feeling of an arrow that had been loosed should they fly into the sky.

The 2 flame birds were injured. A good deal of their feathers had been clawed out, and their wings had bloodstains. It was evident that the blood hawks didn't held back. Zhao Hai ordered them to bring the flame birds back alive, but he didn't say not to injure them.

Zhao Hai looked at the 2 birds curiously. He knew from the blood hawks that these 2 were very fast and had extremely powerful fighting ability. They weren't fire type magic beasts, but wind-fire double type magic beasts, fast and strong. Zhao Hai would not have been able to bring them in if he hadn't sent 5 blood hawks.

Zhao Hai asked Wales, "Big brother, are these the birds?"

Wales knew what Zhao Hai meant, but he was still captivated by the 5 awesome blood hawks. How did they resemble phantasmal beasts? If phantasmal beasts were all this powerful, then magic beasts should've already retired from the stage.

Wales lowered his head and glanced at the flame birds. They were indeed the 2 birds that had been raised by Gasol. Gasol showered these flame birds with tender loving care. He would feed them by himself every day while forbidding others from doing so. If anyone were to touch them, he would be enraged immediately. However, he would sometimes let the 2 birds show off in front of others, which made others gnash their teeth in anger.

Now, these 2 birds were on the ground like diseased little birds. Wales felt like he wanted to burst into laughter. These birds, which were said to be Gasol's most prominent assistants in accomplishing merits, had now been crippled by Zhao Hai without hassle. He was happier than anyone else.

Wales nodded, "Indeed. These are the 2. Well done, fella. You actually got them back alive. I have to ask, you're not seriously going to roast one, are you?"

Zhao Hai and Mendez laughed out loud at that. Zhao Hai replied, "How could I bear it? Maybe later. When I raise some more, we will roast 10 of them. Eat 5, toss 5. Hahahaha."

Everyone laughed before Zhao Hai 'took in' the flame birds. He then said, "Big brother, I'm giving you these 5 blood hawks. From now on, they will be your aerial recon."

Wales was taken aback. He admired the blood hawks greatly, but he didn't want them. In his view, these capable blood hawks would be of greater help to Zhao Hai. Wales refused, "Please don't, brother. Keep them yourself. They're more useful to you."

Zhao Hai laughed, "Don't worry, big brother. I can raise some more, and my phantasmal beasts are different from the others. My phantasmal beasts can be like magic beasts and hunt on their own. You can also feed them some mutton or beef, just like feeding magic beasts. No need to worry about them a lot."

Wales did a double take, "My brother, are these magic beasts or what? How can they be fed this way? No wonder they've grown so strong." Zhao Hai laughed at that statement. Sometimes, beastmen were

weird. When they saw a person, they would first see if a person looked strong. The stronger they were in appearance, the more the beastmen thought them to be capable. The same was applied to magic beasts.

Zhao Hai spoke to the 5 blood hawks, "Go and meet your master. That is my big brother. Listen to him." The blood hawks nodded and then walked behind Wales step by step. Wales was shocked by such a display.

Wales looked at the blood hawks behind him, and murmured, "Are all phantasmal beasts this smart?" Mendez and Yale were speechless as well. If they had to be honest, they had never seen anyone using phantasmal beasts.

Zhao Hai giggled, "Don't sweat the small stuff, big brother. Go and make preparations. Those people are coming. What are you going to do? Fight against them head-on?"

Wales regained his composure from Zhao Hai's words. He said, "You're right, brother. I intend to go head-to-head with them. Beastmen are different from humans, brother. They despise cowards. If I don't face Gasol today, I will lose the right to contend with him in the future."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Very well then. If he wants to fight, then we give him a fight. I will now call out all of my undead creatures to bolster your troops. It would be best not to start a major battle, however. Otherwise, the losses to the Herculean Bull Tribe will be too great."

Wales knew what Zhao Hai meant. Zhao Hai intended to use this method to deter Gasol to stop the latter's rash movements. Otherwise, they would not show mercy.

Wales didn't want to fight either. If they fought, it would be the strength of the Herculean Bull Tribe which would suffer. It was the outcome Wales disliked the most.

Wales nodded, "You are right, my brother. Unleash your undead army, and let my brother witness it."

Zhao Hai laughed as he waved his hand. A giant horde of undead creatures appeared from the space. However, Zhao Hai didn't let all of his undead out. He just released the jackals, Zhao Zui's group, Garan and the mercenaries, plus Carlo and his subordinates, Orloga and the others. And then there were the

beasts captured from the Black Wastelands. This had already exceeded 4000 in number. Zhao Hai didn't mobilize the ones from the Church Of Light who attacked them.

But such a deployment was already frightening enough. The middle was a horde of undead beasts, the left and right flanks were composed of undead jackal light cavalry, and the reserve was human undead.

In order to avoid causing misunderstandings, Zhao Hai let them appear as skeletons instead of zombies. The sight of a horde of skeletons suddenly appearing from the ground was still very terrifying.

Wales was happier than he expected when he witnessed this skeleton army. With his blood-sworn brother having such strength, he firmly believed that he had nothing to fear should he clash against Gasol.

Wales patted Zhao Hai's shoulder and said nothing. Zhao Hai understood that Wales had kept this gratitude in his heart. Wales could not express his gratitude for such a help with words.

Wales had nothing to say as Zhao Hai had prepared himself. He called out all of his escorts, and 400 herculean bull warriors stood in front of Wales, watching him fixedly. Wales was their prince, and they were awaiting his orders.

They could guess who their enemies were this time, but they had no regrets. For the beastmen, having regrets meant betrayal. They would only obey their orders, take up their weapons, follow their leaders, move forward, and move forward again!

#### Chapter 260 - Herculean Bull Tribe's Plight

Wales looked at his warriors who had no regrets, while his heart was very emotional. On Beastmen Prairie, if one weren't a qualified leader, no one would follow. Beastmen too had the right to choose their own leaders.

Such a thing had happened on the prairie. A tribe's chieftain had become incompetent, and his tribesmen had gradually left him. Eventually, the tribe disappeared from the prairie.

Wales' current situation wasn't too good. Gasol controlled the entire Herculean Bull Tribe, and his subordinates' families were in Gasol's hands. If they weren't following him out of deep loyalty, they probably would've left him some time ago.

Wales was touched that these people had stayed behind. He watched them calmly and said, "Brothers, I'm sure everyone has learned of what has taken place in the tribe. Your families are still in the tribe. I am happy that you are still able to stay by my side. Our enemies are coming, and after an hour, they will appear before us. We will not retreat. Herculean Bull Tribe's warriors will never retreat. Now, brothers, ride your bulls and raise your axes. Follow me and let our enemies know, that we are the strongest warriors of the Herculean Bull Tribe."

Wales's words weren't shouted. In fact, he was speaking them very calmly, like he was simply stating a fact. But the warriors were very emotional. They heeded him with a loud call and ran to pick up their weapons, and pulled their mounts by their reins.

Wales ignored them and asked Zhao Hai, "Are you coming with us, brother? By horse or by wagon?"

Zhao Hai smiled and shook his head, "No, big brother. I'm going by something better." With a move of his hand, Xenomorph appeared in front of him.

Wales was very curious about Xenomorph's powerful appearance. Zhao Hai smiled and walked towards its mouth, "Come, big brother. Drink some coya with me." He then walked into Xenomorph's mouth.

Wales and the others followed Zhao Hai inside curiously, and they soon arrived in the space inside Xenomorph. Now, its space had gone through a major change. Laura modified this space to the point that it was like her own wagon. A few boxes had been put in there, which could be used as benches. Inside the boxes were blankets and other things, while there was also a box in the middle, which had upper and lower compartments. The bottom compartment was a refrigeration block that could be used to keep things at freezing temperatures. The top compartment contained coya and other things, while a tea set was placed on top of the box. In the middle of it was a magic burner powered by a magic crystal, used to boil water.

Wales and the others looked idly at all of this. They had never expected that there was another realm inside this undead creature's body.

Zhao Hai smiled at them, "Sit down, big brother. Want a cup?"

Wales sat down and looked around, "Not bad. We can even see what's outside. Teacher, I think you should sit here with little Hai. I'll settle the matters outside."

Yale didn't object and just smiled, "That's fine. It's quite nice, sitting in here. You should go out and prepare yourself. I think Gasol and his lot will be here soon."

Wales nodded and glanced at Zhao Hai, "Little Hai, when things get rough, don't be polite. Just act directly."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Relax, big brother. I won't be kind. You should hurry. They might've discovered where we are."

Wales nodded and then went out of Xenomorph. Mendez also went out, while Zhao Hai and Yale stayed inside. Laura and the others stayed next to Zhao Hai, while the food wagons outside hadn't moved.

Zhao Hai poured a cup of coya for Yale and asked, "Mr. Yale, do you think we'll fight? Gasol shouldn't make a move after seeing what we have, right?"

Yale shook his head in response, "Not necessarily. Gasol is a conceited individual. He won't give up so easily. Right now, Wales is his biggest concern. If he can kill Wales, he can gain total control of the Herculean Bull Tribe. Even though there are a lot of undead, beastmen usually don't think of them seriously, because they believe that undead aren't powerful. It isn't likely that they know your undead creatures are so powerful, which is why I think Gasol might make a move."

Zhao Hai nodded. He really didn't want to do this. He didn't fear the act of murder. He had killed plenty of people from Ark Continent, but right now, he was going to kill the Herculean Bull Tribe's people.

If the tribe's losses were too great, its place on Beastmen Prairie would be lowered, and that would not be a good thing for him. Nothing else mattered on Beastmen Prairie other than strength. With strength came respect. If you didn't have great strength, then sorry. It wouldn't matter how powerful you were in the past as a whole. People wouldn't give you face.



No matter what, one must retaliate when struck. Not striking back wasn't Zhao Hai's style. He had nothing to say about that when Wales and the others had decided to strike back.

Zhao Hai sighed, "I still don't get it. Does Gasol want the chieftain's position that badly? If a lot of people die because of his clash against big brother, then the position of the tribe will be lowered. What good will it do him? He harmed his own father in the process of becoming the chieftain, so his reputation is surely a bad one on the prairie. He's at a major disadvantage. Did he never think about all this?"

Yale sighed, "You don't know Gasol. He is a prideful person, very self-absorbed, who thinks that his own power is great. To top it off, he's a battle maniac. I can say that, if not for such a temperament, Wales wouldn't have to fight him for the chieftain position. Because, Wales and I are very clear that once Gasol becomes the chieftain, war will be unavoidable."

Yale sighed again and continued, "Don't be fooled by how powerful the tribe seems right now. There are still a lot of people provoking the herculean bulls. Just the fighting bulls are vexing enough, to name a single example."

Zhao Hai was taken aback. He knew that the fighting bulls were a major race among the bull-headed races, and that its tribe had marital ties to the herculean bulls. Why did Yale say that the Fighting Bull Tribe was provoking the Herculean Bull Tribe?

Yale clarified upon looking at Zhao Hai, "The position of every ruling tribe of a beastmen race isn't fixed in place. If you are powerful, then you are the ruling race. On the other hand, if you are weak, you have no right to be the ruling race. Despite the previous chieftain having battled across the prairie with great results, the tribe's strength has been spent for a great deal. Now is supposed to be the time for rest and recovery. If a battle maniac becomes chieftain now, our losses will be even greater if new wars are waged."

Yale stopped to drink a mouthful of coya before continuing, "The fighting bulls are a powerful fighting race among the bull-headed races. They are muscular and have immense strength, especially when leading their charges. Even herculean bulls will not necessarily maintain the upper hand when facing them. They are scary in the fact that they weren't very powerful before, but changed after their new chieftain got the position. Unlike his predecessors, he isn't someone who is very fond of fighting. They have been resting in all these years, and thus have become more powerful than they were before. The Herculean Bull Tribe's late chieftain saw that the position of the ruling tribe was becoming unstable, so he wedded 4 of his daughters to the Fighting Bull Tribe. He attempted to use marriage to pacify the

Fighting Bull Tribe, but it obviously hasn't been very effective. It was because of this reason that there are decreasing amount of wars fought by the Herculean Bull Tribe. However, Gasol assumed that the late chieftain lost his ambition because of his age, so he was greatly dissatisfied with the late chieftain. The late chieftain was deeply disappointed. How could he ignore the threat by his side? That was why he gave the position to Wales. Wales isn't fond of fighting, and he is very smart. The late chieftain could be at ease that way."

Zhao Hai didn't think that this fight for the succession would be serious to the extent of deciding the very future of the Herculean Bull Tribe.

Yale sighed, "We don't know how many casualties will be lost if this war is waged. The greater the death toll, the greater the herculean bulls' loss, and the more unstable the position of the ruling race. Sadly, Gasol cannot see this. That overly arrogant fool keeps on believing that the herculean bulls are undefeatable, and he keeps treating the fighting bulls as the good guys. He has no idea that these 'good guys' are saving their strength to bring him to his knees."

Yale's face bore an expression of mockery at this point. The one he was mocking was none other than Gasol. How could the likes of him lead the herculean bulls into a bright future? It was the reason why Yale fully supported Wales.

Zhao Hai sighed at the thought. He knew a little bit more about the Herculean Bull Tribe now, but he hadn't gotten used to seeing someone like Gasol, who had the ruthlessness of a ruler to use any means necessary to achieve his goals. However, it would only end in tragedy when such a ruler didn't also have a ruler's foresight.