

Another World 541

Chapter 541 - Iron Wall Fortress

Even though Zhao Hai knew about these matters, he couldn't tell it to anyone. This was because he wouldn't be able to explain how he was able to get his hand on these information.

But Zhao Hai still prepared, this Beastman attack was an excellent opportunity. Even if the Radiant Church had a fool-proof plan, they didn't expect Zhao Hai to be on the sidelines, looking at their entire plan clearly.

If the Beastmen didn't attack the Human race for food, then Zhao Hai might have helped the Purcell Duchy. But since the Beastmen were doing this for survival, Zhao Hai chose to just look at the situation for now.

The Beastmen arrived on time, they had finally arrived outside Iron Wall Fortress. Before long, Beastmen tents covered the entire area outside of the Wall.

However, the Purcell Family didn't give up. They gathered a large number of troops in the Fortress and prepared to face the Beastmen head-on.

Right now, the Purcell Family wasn't thinking about anything else. They didn't run away nor give up because they still had their Noble honor.

Nobles were a very special group. They were born with a status higher than the commoners, and they can enjoy things that commoners wouldn't be able to in their entire lives. They also held the admiration of the masses. But at the same time, they also have a responsibility to protect the commoners.

The Purcell Family was already aware that they wouldn't be spared this time. Even the elders who opposed going with Zhao Hai understood that the only way for them left was to stay and fight for the honor of the Purcell Family.

Fighting for honor might sound laughable, however, this wasn't the case for Nobles. A Noble without honor cannot be considered to be a Noble. This was Ark Continent's unwritten rule.

If a Noble faces their enemy head on and dies, not only would they win respect, their families would gain reputation as well. But if a Noble escapes without fighting, his whole family would be despised. Then it wouldn't take a long time before that family declines.

Therefore, Nobles regarded honor the same as their own life and death. And now the Purcell Family was prepared to face the Beastmen and fight to the last man. They needed to fight for their territory until the bitter end.

For this battle, the Purcell Family had done all the preparation that they can. Although they had given the majority of their money to Ruyen, as a millenium-old clan, they still had ample money left. When they had the people in the Duchy leave, they also gave a lot of money to the families of their soldiers as settlement. In fact, one could even say that this settlement was equal to buying the lives of their soldiers.

Even if the Purcell Family wasn't one of the strongest millenium-old families, they were still one. They had established their own principality. They also treated the soldiers in their Duchy like family members. And like family, the soldiers were very loyal towards the family. Because of this, one couldn't just underestimate the might of the Purcell Family.

The entire continent's attention were now focused on Iron Wall Fortress. The people of the continent were no strangers to battles between the Beastmen and Humans. However, this was the first war between the two that attracted a lot of people's attention.

The main reason for this attention was the Purcell Family. From what the people can see, the Aksu Empire had chosen to give up on the Purcell Family. Otherwise, they wouldn't be this unsupportive.

Moreover, some rumors from the Rosen Empire and the Calci Family were also starting to spread. With the help of the Buda Clan and the Shelley Family, the people came to understand why the Aksu Empire chose to do this.

The Nobles of the continent weren't fools. After seeing how the Radiant Church acted inside the Aksu Empire, they immediately believed the rumors. In a blink of an eye, the Great Nobles of the continent started to focus their sights towards the Radiant Church.

The Great Nobles of the other countries didn't attach great importance to the Radiant Church. To them, it was just a church, how could it be powerful. But as soon as the rumors spread, they immediately paid careful attention. An Empire was just occupied by the Radiant Church. How did they manage to do that?

Therefore, the people paid attention to this war not only because it was a war between two races. They also wanted to see how the Radiant Church responds.

In truth, the response of the Radiant Church disappointed these Great Nobles. This war wasn't between two families, it was a war between two races. No matter what the Radiant Church thinks, they should still provide help for the Purcell Family. After all, the Purcell Family were also Humans.

But instead, the Radiant Church had actually chosen to sacrifice the Purcell Family. The Great Nobles didn't consider why the Radiant Church chose to do this. They only knew that the Radiant Church gave up on helping the Purcell Family.

While the people's attention was on the Purcell Duchy, Zhao Hai actually arrived at the Cow-headed race's main camp. In this war, the Cow-headed Race didn't request to be on the forefront, but instead opted to stay at the rear part of the army. They became responsible for looking after the Argali as well as delivering some food to the front.

Even if the Cow-headed Race weren't the strongest Beastmen, their strength was still not bad. In the previous wars, they even performed very well. When they suddenly asked for such a position this time, it wasn't a mystery why the other Beastmen became surprised.

However, the other Beastmen also knew about what happened to the Cow-headed Race. Therefore, they understood this decision. Moreover, the Radiant Church's action of snatching some Beastmen children became known. The Radiant Church would brainwash those children before placing them inside a Beastman Tribe and had them wreck havoc inside. This finding became a great merit towards the whole Beastman Race. Because of this nobody looked down on the Cow-headed race. On the contrary, they held great admiration towards them. The other races also made a thorough investigation with their members to see if there were spies among them.

Not to mention the common races who found 1 or 2 spies, the Warring Races actually found a lot of them amidst their members. This made those races extremely angry. Their present goal was now to teach the Radiant Church a lesson. Nobody got angry because of the Cow-headed Race's retreat to the backlines. Instead, with the help of the Black Bears, the Cow-headed Race had also managed to form a relationship with the Tiger-headed Race.

Having a connection with such a huge Warring Clan brought huge advantages to the Cow-headed Beastmen.

So now, Wales was having a very comfortable time. He was currently part of the Rear army and was only taking care of the food and commodities. They didn't have any fighting duties but were one of the people who ate the best. To Wales, being in the rear army was a very luxurious position.

Naturally, this is only his opinion. To the other Beastmen Races, being in the Rear Army was not a good idea. Although the Rear Army was the most relaxed in battles, they were also the ones who received the least after the war.

But Wales didn't care about any of these, he has Zhao Hai so he was not living simply. The most important thing to the Cow-headed Race right now was to recover and gain some strength.

The fighting force of the Cow-headed Race was composed of the Herculean Bulls as well as other strong tribes. And among them, the Herculean Bulls were the most familiar with Zhao Hai. So when he came to their camp, the other Cow-headed Tribes were looking at him and became very vigilant.

However, the Herculean Bulls knew Zhao Hai, so when the other tribes were introduced to him, they instantly became very hospitable. Just a short time after Zhao Hai arrived at the camp, he was already invited into Wales' tent.

Although the Beastmen loved drinking, they only consume small amounts of liquor when going to war. Therefore, what Wales offered to Zhao Hai this time was milk tea.

Wales looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, how can you come here at this time. This is too dangerous for you. If any Human is present, you wouldn't be able to come back to the Human domain in the future."

Although Wales didn't have much contact with Humans before, he was very clear about how Humans think. If the Humans knew that Zhao Hai went to visit him, then Zhao Hai would be hated by the entire human race in the future.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Brother doesn't need to worry. I can guarantee that nobody saw me this time. Also, Brother, I came this time to tell you something about this war.

Wales nodded, he held absolute trust towards Zhao Hai. He believed that Zhao Hai wouldn't deceive him. Therefore, he nodded and then waited for Zhao Hai's words.

Zhao Hai told Wales about what he knew, the poisons, the Radiant Church's plan, and so on. Then Zhao Hai said, "Brother, the war this time was completely anticipated by the Radiant Church. Their aim was to push the Beastmen to war so that they can repel the Beastmen with their own strength, establishing their might to the continent. And at the same time, they would thoroughly harm the Beastmen.

Wales cannot believe what he just heard, "So you're telling me that the Radiant Church sacrificed the Purcell Family in order to use the poison and deal with us? That's terrible news."

Then Zhao Hai put out a water bag and handed it over to Wales, "Brother, have a Witch Doctor examine the water in this bag. Then have someone drink it, then you'll be able to confirm the Radiant Church's plan."

Zhao Hai knew that facts speak louder than words. Before he went to visit Wales, he already had this water bag prepared. The water in this bag contained the second half of the Radiant Church's Poison. After all, the Herculean Bulls were also one of the research subjects of the Radiant Church.

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In fact, the Radiant Church was very annoyed regarding this as well. Initially, their plan of eliminating with the Herculean Bulls was part of the plan for today. They wanted to deal with the Herculean Bulls using the Fighting Bulls, then have them take the Rear Army. Then in this war, the Fighting Bulls would administer the poison from behind the Beastmen Army. This was to double their chance of the plan succeeding.

However, they didn't expect that Zhao Hai's appearance would actually make their plans fail. But fortunately for the Radiant Church, the Herculean Bulls had already ingested the first part of the poison. Because of this, the church's plan can still be more or less realized.

In fact, the cooperation between the Radiant Church and the Fighting Bulls wasn't as good as it seems. Although the Church used the Fighting Bulls to deal with the Herculean Bulls, they had never thought of

letting the Fighting Bulls off. Therefore, whether it be the Fighting Bulls or the Herculean Bulls, both of them were given the first part of the poison.

Wales wasn't polite and immediately received the water bag. Then he went to find a Witch Doctor and had them examine the liquid inside the bag. And naturally, the answer that the Witch Doctor gave was that it didn't have any problems.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but be curious when he saw the Witch Doctor. The Doctor was actually from the Water Buffalo Tribe. He didn't expect the Water Buffalo Tribe to produce Prophets, Witch Doctors, as well as Shamans.

When Wales heard what the Witch Doctor said, he immediately went to get a Herculean Bull warrior and had him drink the liquid in the bag. Although the warrior didn't know why, he still obeyed and drank from the bag. Even if he only took a sip, a minute after he placed the bag down, he was already affected by the poison and softly fell to the ground. Although he hadn't been directly harmed, he had completely lost his ability to fight.

Zhao Hai immediately got a cup of Spatial water and saved the Herculean Bull. Then after that, Zhao Hai had all of the Cow-headed Race drink some Spatial Water. Naturally Wales didn't oppose to it. On the contrary, he urged his fellow Beastmen to drink Zhao Hai's water. While the Beastmen were drinking, Wales took the water bag and went to look for the Mastiff Tribe.

Going from race to race was the best thing to do right now. If Zhao Hai directly went to the Lion and Tiger-headed Tribes, most of them wouldn't believe him.

Zhao Hai didn't go to the Dog-headed Race along with Wales. Although he was also friends with the Dog-headed Beastmen, he was still busy feeding water to the other Cow-headed Beastmen. Therefore, he made Wales go by himself.

After the Dog-headed Beastmen heard Wales, they were startled. Then they went to look for a Mastiff Warrior to test it out. In the end, the result was the same as with the Herculean Bull Warrior. Naturally, Wales also brought some of Zhao Hai's Spatial Water to cure the Mastiff Warrior.

However, just to be sure, Buzeer went to look for a half-beastman slave and had him drink the poisoned liquid. The result was that the half-beastman slave wasn't affected at all.

Half-beastman slaves didn't have a high status in the Beastman Prairie, they weren't fighting races either. It would be a waste to give them poison. Therefore, most Beastmen slaves remained unaffected by the poison.

After the testing, Buzeer finally believed that the majority of the Beastman Races were poisoned. He immediately sent someone to invite Zhao Hai over. Zhao Hai had also brought enough Spatial Water. Therefore, the Herculean Bulls started to go to the other Cow-headed Beastmen and had them drink the Spatial Water.

The status of the Herculean Bulls among the Cow-headed Beastmen was very high. So these beastmen were very trusting towards the Herculean Bulls. Not to mention drinking the Spatial Water, even if they were asked to drink dirty water, they would still do it.

After Zhao Hai arrived at the Dog-headed Beastman's camp, he immediately retold the story to Buzeer. Then he took out some Spatial Water and gave them to the Dog-headed Beastmen to drink. After having drunk the water, the Dog-headed Beastmen tested themselves again. But now, they weren't affected after drinking the poisoned water anymore.

Buzeer attached great importance to this matter. He knew that if the Radiant Church succeeds in executing this plan, the Beastmen would be suffering huge losses.

Buzeer immediately took the water bag and went to see the Bear Tribe along with Zhao Hai. The Dog-headed Beastmen couldn't talk with those big Warring Tribes. But the Black Bear Tribe was different, it was itself a big Warring Tribe. They had enough qualifications to discuss matters with the other Warring Tribes. Therefore, Buzeer decided to look for the Black Bear Patriarch.

The Black Bear Patriarch personally led their army this time. In the past few years, the Black Bears haven't had the greatest lives among the Beastmen. After they were deceived by that Human Merchant, they had never managed to recover. Because of this, even their status as a Warring Tribe became under crisis.

But even if the Black Bears have been struggling, they still managed to keep their formidable strength. In front of their might, even the Tigers and Lions would have to withdraw. Nobody dared to provoke the Black Bears.

The news that Buzeer brought was also deemed important by the Black Bear Patriarch. After asking from Buzeer and learned that this came from Zhao Hai, he instantly believed it. He trusted that Zhao Hai wouldn't lie to him. In giving this message, Zhao Hai wouldn't gain any benefit, so he didn't need to lie to them.

The Black Bear Patriarch immediately sent this message over to the Tiger-headed Race. Compared to the Lion-headed race, the Black Bears had a better relationship with the Tigers. At the same time, the leader of the Beastman coalition was also from the Tiger-headed Race,

The Tigers also held this matter at great importance. This was because the information that Zhao Hai just brought would directly affect the outcome of the war. Therefore, they immediately had the Black Bears invite Zhao Hai over.

Zhao Hai already expected this to happen, but he still had some disguise. At the very least, he changed his looks. Now, he looks older than his actual age, he looks like a 30-year old man.

This time, because the Beastmen were attacking as one, they only have one golden tent. This golden tent also belonged to the Tiger-headed Beastmen.

Zhao Hai followed a Tiger Warrior into the golden tent. This was the first time that he had seen a Tiger-headed Beastman up close. The Tiger Warriors looked very powerful. Each one of them had about the height of 3.5 meters. They also had eyes that seem to see through a person's soul.

Zhao Hai knew that the Tiger Beastman had a type of innate skill. This unique skill was called Soul-Shaking Gaze. On the other hand, the Lion Beastmen had their own unique skill as well. This skill was called Soul-Seizing Roar.

It was because of these abilities that the two Races can become candidates for the Beastman Race's Royal Tribe position. Their innate skills were something that other Beastmen couldn't face. Especially the Tigers' Soul-Shaking Gaze, this skill was truly formidable. As long as a Tiger Beastman looked at a person, that target would immediately feel frightened and lose spirit. If that target was an enemy, their souls would be shaken, rendering them unable to move.

On the other hand, the Lions' Soul-Seizing Roar was not as good as the Tigers' ability. Their ability can only be used for the first time. After using it once, their effect would be less than before.

Moreover, the Lion-headed Race's fighting strength was a bit lower than the Tiger-headed Race. This made the overall strength of the Tigers much stronger than the Lions. Therefore, the Tigers were able to suppress the Lions.

When the Tiger Warrior looked at Zhao Hai, he became surprised. Under his gaze, Zhao Hai didn't have any unusual reactions. This made the Tiger Beastman very curious.

After Zhao Hai entered the tent, he saw that various Patriarchs of various races were present. Among them were Wales, Buzeer, the Wolf King, and the Black Bear Patriarch. The other Patriarchs were people he hadn't met before. Then in the center of them all, a Tiger Beastman was seen sitting down.

This Tiger Beastman seemed to be quite old. The hairs on his face had already turned white. However, this aspect actually made him look much more wise. When Zhao Hai saw this Tiger, he suddenly remembered a saying, Old tigers are treasure troves of knowledge! This Tiger Beastman gave Zhao Hai the same feeling.

Zhao Hai gave his greetings to the Tiger Patriarch first before giving his greetings to the others as well. Those who knew Zhao Hai were being polite to him. After all, from the Black Bear Patriarch's perspective, Zhao Hai was the owner of Magic Lily Shop. Zhao Hai's identity was very attractive to these Beastman Patriarchs.

The Tiger Patriarch stared at Zhao Hai for some little time, then he suddenly smiled and said, "Young man, why would we believe the information that you brought?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Honored Beast King, do I have any reason to lie to you? I have great enmity with the Radiant Church, it's an enmity of life and death. At the same time, I'm the Cow-headed Race's Foreign Prince, if I harm the Beastmen, then I would only be helping the Radiant Church, and in turn, harming myself. I believe any sane person wouldn't dare to do so."

Although the leader of the Beastmen wasn't fixed, but no matter who the leader was, all of them were referred to as Beast King. Therefore, Zhao Hai's greeting wasn't wrong.

The Beast King looked at Zhao Hai and said, "You said that our attack is part of the Radiant Church's plan. That they had poisoned the waters of the Purcell Duchy while waiting for us. Is this true?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "It is. This plan was executed by the Radiant Church for a long time. They were now unsatisfied in just being a church, they wanted to control a country, and then completely brainwash their citizens. This is the current state of the Aksu Empire. His Majesty Beast King should know what would happen if the Radiant Church came to control the entire Aksu Empire. This would be akin to cutting the passage of Humans going into the Beastman Prairie. After that, Human Merchants who would want to trade with the Beastmen would find it hard to come to the Prairie. With this arrangement, the Radiant Church would be able to control the life and death of the entire Beastman Race.

Even if the Beast King's expression didn't change, the expressions of the others did. They were very clear about what happens if the Radiant Church came to control the Aksu Empire. From this point, all of them knew that Zhao Hai didn't deceive them, he was telling the truth.

Zhao Hai then added, "This matter will also have a similar impact to the Humans. Once the Radiant Church succeeds in repelling the Beastmen, their momentum would be able to soar into the skies. There wouldn't be anyone who would be able to contend with their influence. And as their enemy, I would be one of the first ones to experience bad luck."

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The Beast King stared at Zhao Hai and said, "You're a Human. Would you dare stab your race at the back?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Your Majesty, if I may speak discreetly. My purpose this time is to deal with the Radiant Church. Moreover, I'm different from other people. In my opinion, the Beastmen are the same as Humans, just same intellectual beings of the Continent. I don't think that the Beastmen are any worse than the Humans, and at the same time, I don't think that the Humans are any worse than the Beastmen. I think everyone is equal. To tell you the truth, if the Beastmen decides to invade the Human domain, even if I'm the Foreign Prince of the Cow-headed Race, I would still make a move to stop the Beastmen. And since the Beastmen are doing it for survival, and is now about to fall into the Radiant Church's trap, I couldn't just sit still and watch. In the end, I'm still the Foreign Prince of the Cow-headed Race, I also consider myself as half-Beastman."

The Beast King and the other Beastman Patriarch looked at Zhao Hai in surprise. They didn't think that Zhao Hai's answer would be something that they didn't even think about.

Especially when Zhao Hai said that if the Beastmen would invade the Human domain, he would step in and help resist them. It wasn't only the Beastmen Patriarchs who were surprised about this, even Wales was startled.

The Beast King looked at Zhao Hai and then suddenly laughed. His laughter was in a low sinking voice, it even seemed to resemble a roar. It was a very thick laughter, it shook the entire tent.

After some time, the Beast King stopped his laughter and turned his head to Zhao Hai, "Good, young man. You really are a genuine friend to the Beastmen. I believe you. This information that you've brought is very important to us. I'll have to ask you to provide the antidotes to the poison."

Zhao Hai didn't expect the Beast King to be this open-minded. But Zhao Hai still nodded and then put out a canteen. He passed the canteen over to everyone inside and had them drink from it. After that Zhao Hai said, "I'll have to request His Majesty to prepare wooden barrels. I'll have them filled up with the antidote. After curing the poison, you won't have anymore issues."

The Beast King nodded, then looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Young man, once this war ends, don't forget to visit our Giant Tiger Tribe when you return to the Prairie. Our race lacks almost everything, we'll buy anything you bring to us."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I'm honored to gain the recognition of His Majesty. I'll certainly go visit in the future."

The Beast King nodded, then he waved his hand to Zhao Hai, allowing him to leave the tent. Soon after Zhao Hai left the tent, the Beast King looked at Wales and said, "Patriarch Wales, you understand this Zhao Hai the most. Is he really sincere in what he said?"

Wales didn't hesitate to nod and said, "Yes, Zhao Hai isn't an ordinary Human. He lives up to his own words and doesn't like to talk empty. From the first time that I've met him, I've never seen him look down on other Beastmen. In fact, the first friendship flag that he gained wasn't from our Herculean Bull Tribe, but from the Big Bellied Pig Tribe. After I met him, I immediately had someone go check and indeed, the friendship flag was willfully given by them to Zhao Hai. I also know that he's feeling very indignant towards our current situation right now, so he will naturally do his best to help us."

The Beast King nodded, then he turned to Buzeer and said, "Patriarch Buzeer, tell me what is your thinking."

Buzeer nodded and said "I agree with Wales' views. Little Hai is a good person. In fact, if he wanted to harm us, we wouldn't even know that this matter was because of the Radiant Church."

Without waiting for the Beast King to speak, the Old Wolf King added, "I also think that this Zhao Hai is a person who could be trusted. He is very different from the other Humans, this we saw from the first time we met him. Otherwise, our Wolf Tribe wouldn't have traded with him."

The Black Bear Patriarch added as well, "I believe Little Hai wouldn't deceive us. I think the most important thing we need to do right now is to send some people back to the Prairie, informing all of the tribes to pay attention to the Human fleet. It's for certain that the fleet had elite troops within. If we don't do anything about that and make them land on the Prairie, the damage that they can do would be certainly huge."

The Beast King nodded and said, "Hawk Tribe Patriarch, immediately send this information over to the Prairie. Have some smaller tribes group up and head towards the shorelines. Make them prepare to engage the disembarked Human troops. I don't believe the Humans can compete to our own Cavalry. Also, have some Prophets help them defend. The Humans might have sent some Mages to help in this operation."

The Hawk Tribe Patriarch immediately nodded. He knew that this matter was very important for the entire Beastman Race. He cannot be careless in this, he must then assemble his most capable men to accomplish it.

The Beast King then looked at the others and said, "The Humans are already expecting our attack, they're now waiting for us inside the Purcell Duchy. This is not a good news for us, but it can also be an opportunity for our Beastman army. The Wolf Tribe, Tiger Tribe, Lion Tribe, Leopard Tribe, Dog Tribe, and also the Hawk Tribe need to stand by. In the next few days, we would have the other Tribes carry an attack towards the Purcell Duchy. But remember, this is only a diversion, our main offense would not be situated there. Those Tribes that I mentioned earlier will need to get your most silent mounts and use them. In the following evenings, we shall be shifting our offense towards the Iksa Family Domain. The Iksa Family is no longer in control of that place. Moreover, there are armies stationed there, waiting to ambush us in the Purcell Duchy. We will do the same to them. Your strengths aren't weak, so you would be able to overwhelm the domain in a short period of time. After that, when the armies turn towards you, lessening the troops focused on the Purcell Domain, we shall then go all out in overcoming Iron Wall Fortress. With our two fronts, we should be able to advance much easier."

These Beastmen don't accept any orders from anyone during peacetime, especially the Big Warring Races. Every one of them held equal status. Even the Beast King couldn't casually throw out some commands for them to follow. However, since it was wartime, the Beast King's words held very heavy authority.

Therefore, the people in the tent immediately issued a shout of agreement. Then they went on to prepare their troops. These Patriarchs were veterans in combat, the Beast King only needed to tell them where and when to attack, anything else can be managed by them.

After all, each race had their own preferences of attack, and the most familiar with them were the Patriarchs. The only thing that the Beast King needed to do was provide them with a direction.

After these Patriarchs left the tent, they gawked. They were presently looking at their tribemates happily drinking the antidote. And when they walked closer to look, it wasn't actually water, but instead liquor.

This was a way that Zhao Hai came up with. He gave them liquor because Beastmen preferred wine over water.

Zhao Hai had only remembered this point after he left the tent. So he put some Spatial Water into the liquors before he handed them over to the Beastmen. Not only would it have the effect of an antidote, the Beastmen would also enjoy drinking it more.

When Wales asked Zhao Hai what happened, he felt relief. Even if the Beastmen weren't permitted to drink too much liquor during wartime, it wasn't prohibited. Disallowing the Beastmen to drink was an utterly impossible thing to do.

Zhao Hai went with Wales in returning to the Herculean Bull Tent. After they sat down, Zhao Hai looked at Wales and said, "Brother, since this matter had already been completed, I think I need to head back. I cannot be here for too long."

Wales nodded, "Brother should head back. Rest assured, we'll surely let the Radiant Church suffer a big loss this time. If possible, we would surely flatten the entire Aksu Empire to take revenge on your behalf."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That would be really good. But Brother, you must pay attention. If the other Beastmen still wants to fight after clearing the Aksu Empire, you should stop them. I've already become quite famous in Rosen Empire, it wouldn't be good too attack them. At the same time, after you clear the Aksu Empire, I will talk to the Rosen Emperor and have him trade food with the Beastmen in a cheap price. This arrangement is greater than fighting, I'm sure the other Beastmen would agree."

Wales nodded, even if the other Beastmen weren't familiar with Zhao Hai, he was. He fully knows that Zhao Hai has an Undead Army numbering about a million. Moreover, some of them were Beastmen, imagining how strong they were made Wales shudder inside.

Actually, Wales had underestimated Zhao Hai. At this point, Zhao Hai's undead had already reached 1.5 million. And these undead are all equivalent to 8th rank experts.

1.5 million 8th ranks? Such an army can ravage the entire Human Continent. Naturally, Zhao Hai didn't do so. Such actions would only make him the enemy of all the races. He still doesn't have the ability to defend himself if he became the enemy of everyone in the Ark Continent.

Zhao Hai looked at Wales and said, "Brother, take care of yourself. When the war ends, I'll go to the Prairie and have a drink with you."

Wales laughed and said, "Alright, I'll wait for you. I believe this war would end quickly. As soon as we finish attacking the Aksu Empire, I expect that the end would be too soon."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and didn't say anything more. But he still regarded Wales' words. Whether it be the Radiant Church or the Aksu Empire, both of them had underestimated the combat power of the Beastmen. They thought that with their plan, the Beastmen would surely suffer a lot. But now that the Beastmen had known their arrangement, the trump card that they had prepared was now useless. It would now be very difficult for them to succeed. At this point, the Beastmen wasn't afraid of anyone.

After chatting with Wales for quite some time, Zhao Hai left the Beastman Camp. He then walked towards the direction of the Prairie before vanishing to the Space when no one can no longer see him.

At this time, Laura and the others were inside the Space. Although Laura was busy with handling the Markey Family, she still loved staying inside the Space. The atmosphere inside the Space was very good, and it was also very comfortable inside. It was no wonder that people were reluctant to leave.

Aside from handling the Markey Family's matters inside the Space, Laura had also chosen to simply live inside the Space. In fact, Zhao Hai did the same, he was now mainly staying inside the Villa.

Lizzy was now back at Carson City's Imperial Palace. Naturally, that was only for formality. In reality, the majority of her time was spent inside the Space. She would only exit during the times where she would accompany the Emperor. The Emperor didn't know about any of these, he thought that Lizzy wanted to stay here with him, this made him unbearably glad.

Seeing that Zhao Hai had returned, Laura and the others went to greet him. Everything that Zhao Hai said and did while in the Beastman camp was known to them. After seeing the arrangements of the Beast King, Laura and the others knew that the time of war was already decided.

After the group sat down, Laura looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Brother Hai, isn't this just like watching a play? To be honest, I think that there would be no suspense in the result of this war."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It is indeed like a play. With the Beastmen's arrangement, the Radiant Church wouldn't be able to gain any advantage. Even if the Beastmen didn't go all out, all of their troops were still the elite. This attack would certainly give a lesson to the Radiant Church. With how the church underestimates the Beastmen, the result of this war wouldn't be a huge mystery."

Lizzy frowned and said, "Big Brother Hai, what if the Radiant Church goes all-out desperately, making their 9th ranks move? You should know that the Radiant Church are able to do this."

Zhao Hai's brows wrinkled and then said, "That is possible. But I think that the Beastmen should already be prepared for this outcome. After all, this war is extremely important to their survival. It would be impossible for the Beastmen to prepare poorly. Cai'er, in the Beastman Camp, can you spot any 9th rank experts?"

Cai'er shook her head and said, "Not in the Beastman Camp. However, I can detect several 9th ranks outside the camp. From what I can see there were no less than ten 9th rank Beastman experts."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned his head to Laura and the others and said, "I thought so. You should have seen the Beast King, he isn't a simple character. He can't allow their army to be overly underprepared. After all, elites of the Beastmen Race came to participate in the war. If a 9th rank was to come and eradicate them, the damage done to the Beastmen would surely be severe."

Megan nodded and said, "I also think that the Beast King isn't simple, just by what I can see in the monitor. Although he is a Beastman, his temperament doesn't have any difference compared to Human Monarchs. Even his Majesty the Emperor looked worse compared to him."

Lizzy wasn't offended, instead she nodded and said, "That's true, compared to the Beast King, my father looked less domineering. Most importantly, the Beast King seemed to be a veteran fighter himself. No wonder he can make decisions in such a short period of time."

Chapter 544 - The Fight Begins

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "He became the Beast King, how could he be so simple? Beast Kings are different from Human Monarchs. Beast Kings aren't permanent, if the Beast King becomes unqualified, he would immediately get dethroned."

Laura nodded, and then said, "I think this is a great method. This way, they would gain a good leader that will benefit the entire Beastman Race."

Zhao Hai faintly smiled, "This is in line to the nature of the Beastmen. They need a strong leader, but that leader must also gain their recognition."

Megan then said, "Big Brother Hai, since the Beastmen changed their point of attack to the Iksa Family, will the Purcell Family be more relaxed?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "Not necessarily. The Beastmen would still be doing an attack to Iron Wall Fortress as a diversion. But don't expect that this diversion would be any weak. Moreover, once they pierce through the Iksa Domain, the attack on Iron Wall Fortress would certainly turn more violent. The Beastmen wanted to advance in two directions since this would derail the Radiant Church's preparations."

Megan sighed and said, "So you're saying, that there's only a small chance for the Purcell Duchy to be spared?"

Zhao Hai sighed, he already thought about this situation. It was already on his mind when he asked Evan to leave. No matter which way the Beastmen move, the Purcell Family would still suffer bad luck.

The position of the Purcell Family determined their fate. Their territory was too close to the Beastman Prairie. Because of this, once the Beastmen decided to attack, they would be the first ones to experience it.

Fortunately for them, the relationship between the Beastmen and the Humans were going peacefully in the past few years. Because of this, the Purcell Family has been living good lives. And as a result they had increased their grain trade towards the Prairie. This would not only bring them profits, it would also provide the Beastmen some food, making them refrain from attacking the Duchy.

The Beastman Prairie is too big, but there were still Beastmen who couldn't have their own land there. Therefore, once the Beastmen go to war with the Humans, the latter would definitely have a hard time. So the Humans weren't willing to act unreasonably and spite the Beastmen's rage.

Laura also sighed, then she turned her attention to the screen and said, "Who knows how many people are going to die in the Aksu Empire."

Zhao Hai sighed as well, "We can only accept this outcome. Don't forget, if it weren't for us, not only would there be deaths in the Aksu Empire, a lot of Beastmen would die as well. The Radiant Church are planning genocide, they're religious maniacs, that's what they do."

Laura felt helpless, she knew that what Zhao Hai said wasn't nonsense. The people of the Radiant Church had clear intentions. They always regarded all of those who didn't believe in the Radiant God as heretics. And for the Church, the Beastmen were the greatest heretics out there. If the Radiant Church managed to deal with all of the Beastmen Elite at this time, then the other Beastmen wouldn't be able to fare very well.

Lizzy looked at the monitor and said, "We shall see what the Radiant Church would do in the next few days. But in my opinion, they are going to fail this time. However, this shouldn't be affect them in a big way. After all, they only sent in a Red-robed Archbishop this time. Also, the bulk of their manpower was still from the Aksu Empire. They didn't use much of their own strength."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "But with this failure, their reputation should suffer quite a blow. And with their occupation of the Aksu Empire, those other countries that they had been friends with would become more vigilant. They would be afraid of falling into the same state."

Lizzy nodded, "That would be better. The Radiant Church's present influence had gone too big. This is a bad thing for the stability of the Continent."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he looked at the Beastmen on the monitor. They didn't make a move immediately, and were still in the middle of preparation. Since there was nothing else to look at, Zhao Hai looked at the others and said, "Alright, let's take a break. I think the Beastmen will move tonight. Let's wait until then and watch."

Laura nodded, then she looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Now that the entire continent knows the bad things that had happened to the Iksa Family as well as the current situation of the Purcell Duchy, they would surely start to pay attention towards the Radiant Church. The Radiant Church should be attaching great importance to this war, otherwise, they would be placed in a disadvantage once they get defeated."

Zhao Hai agreed, "I think that the Radiant Church already understood this point. However, they are too convinced of their flawless preparations. But they didn't expect us to have the scissors that would cut a hole in their plans."

As soon as Laura and the others heard Zhao Hai, they smiled. After looking at the time and chatting for a few moments, all of them took a rest. Zhao Hai believed that the Beastmen would take action in this evening. He wanted to see how they plan to move.

It was not only Zhao Hai who thought about this, the entire continent was also paying attention. They wanted to know how the Beastmen would start the war. Although they didn't know about the Radiant Church's poison, they knew about the arrangements that the church has made. They wanted to know how the Beastmen would get cornered.

The night after Zhao Hai's visit to the camp, the Beastmen made their move. By the Beast King's orders, the assigned races left the camp in batches. They didn't immediately go towards the Iksa Family's territory. Instead, they turned around and headed back to the Prairie.

With regards to understanding the Prairie, the Humans cannot compete with the Beastmen. Therefore, what they decided to do right now was to head back to the Prairie and the circle around towards the Iksa Family domain, this way they cannot be seen by Humans.

The Prairie was too large that it would be impossible for the Humans to send their assassins and observe the movements of the Beastmen.

Zhao Hai sat in the Space and calmly looked at the movements of the Beastmen. He knew that the war was starting. But in this war, his contribution was only the information that he gave, he will not be involved firsthand. At the very best he can be described as a bystander.

Laura also observed the Beastmen's movement. After looking at the monitor for a while, Laura turned her head to Zhao Hai and smiled, "Brother Hai, if another person tells me that the Beastmen are dumb, I would scold them like child."

Megan and the other ladies were observing as well. The movement of the Beastmen were done discreetly. They didn't move a lot of troops nor did they take them all. They left some in order to act as decoys, confusing the enemy. This actions were very remarkable, one that deserved merit.

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "The Beastmen aren't really dumb, they are just seen like that because of their temperament and the way some of them easily trust people. Right, no need to talk about that. It seems like there's nothing else to see right now. Damn, we miscalculated, I slept too much during the day. Now I cannot sleep anymore. My wives, should we do something else?"

When they heard Zhao Hai, they stared for a moment before they understood. All of their faces couldn't help but get red, then Laura snorted and said, "All of us are here. Can you handle it? Are you going to be okay?"

Zhao Hai seemed offended as he said, "I will prove it today!" Then he threw himself towards Laura and the others as a squeal was heard in the villa.

The next morning, the Beastmen started their attack on Iron Mountain Fort. Their attacks were loud like thunder but was weak like raindrop. Although they looked aggressive, their contact with the enemy was not really a lot.

This made Evan and the others surprised. They understood that this wasn't how the Beastmen were supposed to fight. Did the Beastmen change their ways?

Zhao Hai knew that the Beastmen didn't change, they just didn't want too many casualties in this deceptive attack. Although Zhao Hai can just tell these matters to Evan, he chose to refrain from doing so. There were times where a person cannot be too selfless.

If he tells Evan about the Radiant Church's poison and Evan connects it to the response of the Beastmen, Evan would find out that he leaked the information to the Beastmen. If Evan knows, then it wouldn't take a long time before everyone in the continent knows. When this spreads, Zhao Hai would become a traitor to the eyes of the other humans. And this wasn't something that Zhao Hai wanted to see.

Although in the mind of Zhao Hai, the Humans and the Beastmen were no different. But in the Ark Continent, the two of them were distinct. This sentiment wasn't something that Zhao Hai can change alone.

If he makes the Humans know that he helped the Beastmen deal with other Humans, then he would certainly become the Human race's number one enemy. He will turn into a traitor, this was not a wonderful outcome.

Because of this, Zhao Hai didn't tell Evan about the situation of both the Radiant Church and the Beastman Race. After all, Evan and the others were already convinced that they'd die, and Zhao Hai also needed to consider the entire Buda Clan.

The Beastmen weren't fools, they knew that if their deceptive attacks were done halfheartedly, people would start to doubt. Therefore, when evening came, they also made a night assault. This made Evan prepare for battles at night in addition to the battles at day.

Naturally, the night assault didn't succeed, but this also dispersed some of the doubts that Evan had. But at the same time as the assault on Iron Wall Fortress, the relocated Beastman army proceeded to head towards the Iksa Family's territory. The Hawk Tribe then sent this information over to the Beast King at the soonest possible time.

Now, the Radiant Church was playing a game with the Beastmen. The Radiant Church had opened a poisonous bag for the Beastmen to crawl into. But the Beastmen actually put out an act while at the

same time, sending a knife to cut the bag at the side. If the Beastmen succeed, then the Radiant Church would have to take a long time before they can recover.

The Radiant Church wasn't aware that the Beastmen had already found out about their poison plan. They had always thought that the Beastmen would obediently go enter their trap. The Radiant Church's understanding about the recent encounter was that the Beastmen had come from afar and still hasn't adapted to the environment, which explains the weakness of their initial attack.

Chapter 545 - The Radiant Church's Hope

The next day, the Beastman attack on the Wall had suddenly become violent. The Beast King understood that if the Beastmen were to continue on with its half-hearted attack, the Humans would start to look down on them. Therefore, he made the army increase the intensity of their assault. This motion can also shield the other group much more effectively.

Sure enough, the continent began to focus their attention towards Iron Wall Fortress. The Humans were very familiar with the Beastman Race, they knew that the Beastmen had combat capabilities not lower compared to the Humans. At the same time, the Beastmen weren't mindless fighters as well. Then can also do advanced movements such as carrying out reconnaissance missions, especially the Hawk Tribe. With their flying abilities, their scouts were vastly better than the Humans.

Because of this, the Radiant Church had placed a large amount of their army in the Iksa Territory while leaving the Purcell Family to face the Beastmen alone. This way, when the Beastmen see the heavily armored soldiers in the Iksa Territory, they would think twice in attacking there and would instead opt to attack the Purcell Duchy. This was the script that the Radiant Church had written for the Beastmen.

And so, the Beastmen were fully cooperating in this play. They launched a frantic attack at Iron Wall Fortress, making the Purcell Family suffer huge losses. The Beastmen's losses weren't small either, but they were used to it, this was the Beastmen's way of attack, frantic, and without a shred of holding back.

This crazy attacking method of the Beastmen was something that only few humans can withstand. Therefore, ordinary human armies wouldn't go to field battles with the Beastmen. This was because they were aware that the Beastmen Cavalry would have its greatest strength in the field.

Although the Heavy Armored Infantry of the continent can cope with the Beastman Cavalry, that consideration was only made against general Beastman Cavalry. When it comes to the Big Warring Races, those Heavy Armored Infantry would become totally powerless.

Naturally, the Humans also had a way of dealing with these Beastman Cavalries. Most Beastmen didn't have any armor, but Humans have Heavy Armor Cavalry. The charge of these Heavy Armor Cavalry can be lethal against the Beastmen. However, creating Heavy Armor Cavalry was extremely expensive. Even a powerful empire such as the Aksu Empire only had a few of these cavalries on hand.

Also, Beastmen weren't very good at siege warfare. Beastman wars generally happen on the flat fields of the Prairie, with both cavalries going head to head with each other. Because of this, the Beastmen didn't have much experience when it came to attacking a city.

On the other hand, Humans were experts in siege warfare. In the entire human history, most of its battles were siege battles. So they were knowledgeable about attacking and defending a city. Therefore, in a war between Beastmen and Humans, the most important thing that Humans could do was barricade a city and establish a line of defense. Stacking them layer by layer in order to stop the Beastman attacks.

The people wanted to see when the Beastmen can break through Iron Wall Fortress. One must know that Iron Wall Fortress was very famous in the Continent. This was because the Fortress was able to block a Beastman attack in the past. Now, the people want to see if the Purcell Family can make a miracle this time.

The Beastmen attacked Iron Wall Fortress for seven days. Although these seven days weren't long, they weren't short either. One must know that the Beastmen had sent an army that exceeded 1 million soldiers. While at the same time, the defenders were numbering less than 100 thousand.

And these 100 thousand people were all the soldiers that the Purcell Family can send out. All of them were already convinced of their deaths, this made the battle even more fierce.

In seven days, the Purcell Family had lost nearly 50 thousand people, but the Beastmen had lost close to 100 thousand. The battle loss ratio numbered 1 to 2. This was something rare for a battle between Humans and Beastmen. Because of the innate disadvantage in strength by the Humans, their losses should be higher than that of the Beastmen. For the Beastmen to lose more than the Humans was something that was very abnormal.

However, only the Purcell troops knew that the army that was attacking the Fortress wasn't the main force of the Beastman race. With their main force not participating, it was natural that the battle loss

ratio would be like this. If the Main force of the Beastmen would attack right now, then they're afraid that they would not be able to defend.

Evan and the others knew about the Beastmen from their past battles. In the past, the Beastmen would send their Main Force 2 or 3 days after the initial skirmish. But this time, 7 days had already passed, but the Warring Tribes were still not in sight. What was happening?

And at this moment, a shocking news spread out to the Continent. On the seventh evening after the attack on the Purcell Duchy, the Iksa Family was suddenly attacked by a large group of Warriors from Big Beastman Warring Tribes. Although the Radiant Church had stationed a large army in the Iksa Domain, they were still caught off guard by the Beastman assault. The Beastmen Cavalry quickly pierced through their defense line and ravaged through their formation. This led to the three hundred thousand army inside the Iksa Domain to throw their helmets down and abandon their armor in order to escape, they were completely routed!

The force that attacked the Iksa Family was the Main Force of the Beastmen army. They were the elite of the elites, and they were highly experienced in battles. With them numbering 100 hundred thousand, they were able to swiftly deal with 300 thousand human soldiers. The battle can only be described as a textbook victory.

Both the Human forces and the Radiant Church didn't expect the Beastmen to attack like this. The continent immediately went into an uproar. They didn't think that all of these crazy Beastman attacks towards the Iron Wall Fortress were only a cover for their surprise attack on the Iksa Domain.

Even if they lost 100 thousand in attacking the Fortress, it was definitely worth it. They had managed to rout a 300 thousand Human army as well as occupy a very large Domain in the Human Territory.

One should know that even if the commoners of the Purcell Family withdrew, the commoners in the Iksa Domain didn't. This was because there was an army stationed here, and they have gathered a lot of supplies. But now, all of these supplies fell into the hands of the Beastmen, aiding them in overcoming their food crisis.

The Radiant Church clearly didn't expect the Beastman attack, they had been caught off-guard. All of their previous plans were starting to form cracks. Fortunately, they still had room for movement. The Church immediately withdrew some of their troops in the Purcell Duchy and prepared to lead them to encircle the Iksa Domain.

But just as the Radiant Church troops were being mobilized, the beastmen began to attack Iron Wall Fortress non-stop from day to night. Although the Purcell Family were doing their best to block the Beastmen offensive, they couldn't block it in the end. At the last moment, Evan was forcibly carried away by some loyal subjects of the Purcell Family. The direction that they were retreating to was Stony Mountain.

This was a hidden move orchestrated by Zhao Hai. After he left Ruyen and the others at Golden Island, he requested Origin Sword Saint to act. Origin Sword Saint convened with some of the Purcell Family's loyal 8th ranks secretly. Origin Sword Saint asked them that no matter what happens, they should protect some important members of the Purcell Duchy and had them retreat towards Stony Mountain. Once they retreat to Stony Mountain, their lives would certainly be protected.

Origin Sword Saint's words were much more powerful compared to Evan, therefore, those 8th ranks didn't disagree. So they immediately grabbed Evan and then rode some Magic Beasts that they prepared before. Carrying food and water with them, they immediately headed straight to Stony Mountain.

The Purcell Family members who escaped this time numbered less than 200 altogether. Majority of these people were Foreign Elders of the Family, in fact, most of them were 8th rank experts.

The Beastmen didn't pursue them this time. They didn't pay any attention to measly 200 people. What they were eyeing right now were those soldiers that were heading towards the Iksa Domain to encircle the 100 thousand Beastmen.

Once again, the Radiant Church didn't expect that just as they transferred the troops, the Beastmen would suddenly break through Iron Wall Fortress. Now, the troops that the Radiant Church had sent over were in fear of being sandwiched by two Beastmen armies.

The Radiant Church expected the Beastmen army in Iron Wall Fortress to be just a normal decoy, their fighting strength shouldn't be that strong. The Main Force should be the 100 thousand that just attacked the Iksa Domain. They didn't expect that the decoy would become another attacking force and had broken through Iron Wall Fortress in one stroke, becoming a threat to the Church's armies.

Passive! The Radiant Church had turned passive. One must know that the force that was currently occupying the Iksa Domain were the collective forces of various Warring Tribes, and were numbering

100 thousand. At the same time, the 1 million Beastman army that had just broken through Iron Wall Fortress were at their back. This made the Radiant Church army feel a sense of crisis.

But the Radiant Church didn't give up, they were still hoping that their trump card would have some use. They still have the poison that they had prepared. Even if the Iron Wall Fortress was broken through, the experts sent to the Purcell Domain were still there, lying in ambush.

These people were waiting in the Purcell Duchy for the time when the Fortress falls. As long as the Beastmen enter the Duchy, they would immediately be poisoned, then the Radiant Church can deal with the Beastmen Army easily.

In the mind of the Radiant Church, even if their plans were somewhat derailed, they were still heading towards the right direction. The losses that they incurred in the Iksa Domain was nothing remarkable. Having a victory in the Iksa Domain might even make the Beastmen complacent, making the Radiant Church's plan much easier to implement.

At the same time, the two-pronged attack by the Beastmen still gave some losses to the Radiant Church. But this was what they exactly need, they wanted the Beastmen to enter the Aksu Empire before they start to clean them up in one swoop. That way, the Beastmen would have no opportunity to escape.

Chapter 546 - Negotiations

The ideal situation is good, but reality is different! This might have been the current mindset of the Radiant Church. They wanted to deal with the Beastman Race alone in order to gain prestige. They had rejected the help of the Rosen Empire and several nations in order to show their own strength.

One should know that if Zhao Hai didn't help, then the Beastmen might possibly suffer a huge loss. But that and right now were two completely different matters.

The people from the Radiant Church thinks that their poison can deal with the Beastmen. But they haven't thought that the Beastmen were already aware of this, and had also drank the antidote.

Since the Beast King knew about this plan of the Radiant Church, therefore, he decided to cooperate with the Radiant Church. This way, he would reverse the situation and make the Beastmen the ones who would sweep the Church's troops in one blow. And when the Aksu Empire is devoid of its defenders, then the Beastmen can do whatever they wanted to do.

Information was truly important, having and not having information can change everything. And it was evident that the Radiant Church had lost in this aspect.

After the Beastmen entered the Purcell Duchy, they didn't destroy anything and just started to loot. Everything that they find useful was carried off.

This was also the goal of the Beastmen for this war. However, they also did it deliberately. They wanted to slow down their offensive and give the Radiant Church some time to make their move.

The Beastmen gave the Radiant Church some time because they wanted them to think that things are all going according to their plan. This way, the Radiant Church would drop their vigilance. And then the Beastmen can use this opportunity to thoroughly deal with the Radiant Church.

The time for all of this to pass might be very long, but in fact, it only happened for a short time. Upon entering the Purcell Duchy, the Beastmen directly became a threat to the left wing of the Church's army. But they didn't go and attack the army immediately, instead they went to occupy the Duchy first. Although the Purcell Duchy people had left, it was impossible for them to carry everything that they had. Moreover, the Purcell Family didn't burn the granaries of the Duchy. Therefore, the Beastmen had gained a lot in pillaging the Duchy.

The Radiant Church wanted the Beastmen to do exactly this. If the Beastmen immediately attacked the Radiant Church, then it would be very troublesome, the Church's losses would surely be big. But since the Beastmen stopped for now, this gave the Church the opportunity to lay their ambush.

Although the Radiant Church had prepared to use poison to deal with the Beastmen, the poison would need to be administered through either food or water. But it was difficult to poison the food right now. After all, the grains were under the care of the Purcell Family in the past, it wasn't easy to lace them at that time. Therefore, the only choice they had right now was the water.

But everyone shouldn't forget that water does flow. Even if it was well water, it was still running water. If one places poison in it, then it would be purified after several days. Therefore, one needed to find an opportune moment to administer the poison.

If the Beastmen continued to attack the troops of the Radiant Church, then the Radiant Church wouldn't have found an opportunity. But since the Beastmen stopped, then the opportunity for them to deliver the poison has come.

The Radiant Church couldn't help but thank the Beastmen secretly. But what they didn't expect was that they were spied on by the Black Panther Tribe.

The Black Panthers were dark attributed Beastmen. Their innate talents were quite formidable, they were the Beastmen version of Human assassins. Therefore, they were the ones who were responsible for facing the Human assassins. After the Beast King knew about the Radiant Church's plan, he had some 8th rank Black Panthers check the water sources near their camps. When a Human was spotted, the Black Panthers didn't stop them, their movements were just reported over to the Beast King.

Just on the third day after the Beastmen entered the Purcell Duchy, the Black Panthers had seen people from the Radiant Church poison their water source. So they immediately passed this information to the Beast King. Once the Beast King heard about this, he knew that the time for action was drawing close. Therefore he immediately sent Hawks towards the Iksa Domain and coordinated their actions with the Beastman army there.

At this time, the Purcell Family people had already reached Stony Mountain. Upon arriving, Zhao Hai was already there waiting for them.

When Evan saw Zhao Hai, his eyes couldn't help but turn red. Then with a sincere voice, he said, "Little Hai, thank you. If it weren't for you, I might have already died."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Uncle, you can't blame me for being good. Right, come with me to the courtyard. Then we'll head to Golden Island." Evan and the others already understood what Zhao Hai meant. So they didn't say anything else and just nodded, then they went to the courtyard together.

After arriving, Zhao Hai didn't take Evan to Golden Island using the Space. He wanted to use a Blood Hawk to send Evan and the others to the shore and had them take a boat to Golden Island.

This time, most of the people who came with Evan weren't from the Purcell Family. The majority of them were Foreign Elders. Although they are loyal to the Purcell Family, and haven't left Evan after all this time, Zhao Hai still cannot be assured that information about Space would not be spread around.

The reason why he revealed his secret to Origin Sword Saint was because Zhao Hai knew how attractive the Space was towards the 9th rank expert.

The energy in the Space was very active, moreover, it was very rich. For 9th rank experts, it was the best place to cultivate in. Such a place can may allow them to break through the last barrier and get more powerful. For a 9th rank expert, this was a very big deal. Therefore, Zhao Hai was not afraid that Origin Sword would tell others about the Space.

After resting at Bluestone Villa for some time, Zhao Hai made them board the Blood Hawks. Zhao Hai rode a Blood Hawk as well. Then he delivered the group to the shore and had them board a ship towards Golden Island. He didn't go with them since he still had to watch a play.

After the Radiant Church delivered the poison towards the water sources of the Beastmen. They stayed at the water source and waited for the Beastmen to fetch some water.

What worried the people of the Radiant Church was that the Beastmen might have fetched some water the day before. If they will not get water, then the poison would not be delivered.

But when the Beastmen started to continually fetch water, moreover, it was a lot, the people of the Radiant Church immediately got excited.

After eating their meal, the noise Beastman camp surprisingly became quite. The people from the Radiant Church wanted to confirm and entered the Beastman camp to take a look. Presently, there were a lot of Beastmen who were on the ground and can't get up. When the people were about to kill some, they immediately heard a Hawk's cry. This frightened the people from the Radiant Church. They were finally reminded about the Hawk Tribe. Therefore, they immediately left the camp and notified the Radiant Church.

After confirming that those people had left, the Beastmen immediately got up and livened up. But this time, it wasn't for leisure, it was instead to prepare to receive the attack of the Radiant Church.

They knew that once the Radiant Church heard succeeded in poisoning them, the Church would definitely send people to attack. Once they arrive expecting to kill the Beastmen, the Beastman army would then strike them immediately and then extinguish the remaining Radiant Church army.

When Lundi Becker received the word, he immediately issued an order for an all-out attack. But little did they know, the Beastmen were already preparing an encirclement and were only waiting for the Radiant Church's army to come forward.

The next events can be clearly predicted. When the Radiant Church's army entered the Beastman's encirclement, they were immediately eliminated. Then the Beastmen proceeded to push through deeper into the Aksu Empire. The two armies looked like two unstoppable arrows as it pieced the empire. They were rarely met by any resistance, this was because most of their soldiers were already killed off by the Beastmen.

The entire continent was shocked, the Radiant Church was shocked, and most importantly, the Aksu Empire was shocked. At this point, the Aksu Empire had already lost all forms of resistance.

The Beastman army had already eliminated about 2 million Aksu Empire soldiers, this was almost equal to the Empire's entire national defense. One must also consider that fact that they had lost a lot of people at Golden Island. The Aksu Empire was now very weak.

The Beastmen didn't go too far this time. Instead of dealing with the commoners, they directly pillaged the Nobles, especially those who had connections with the Radiant Church.

Additionally, every time they take over a city of the empire, they would wantonly shout that the reason for their assault towards the Aksu Empire was the Radiant Church's involvement in their food shortage.

Originally, this news had already spread on the continent, but it was only hearsay and wasn't confirmed. But now that the Beastmen were saying it, how could it be wrong? This immediately made the Radiant Church the most despised people in the Aksu Empire.

The Beastman attack was also peculiar this time. They didn't go and take some humans to be their slaves. They just came and grabbed some food, they didn't rob the commoners and only pillaged the storehouses of the Nobles as well as the national granaries of the Aksu Empire.

Actually, the Beastmen were still harming the commoners with this action. Because the national granaries were robbed, the grain market of the Aksu Empire would surely be affected. The prices of food

would rise and the commoners would suffer. But the commoners weren't thinking about this, the Beastmen not robbing them was already a blessing. Their minds were on something else.

The Aksu Empire cannot fall right now. So they had to seek aid from the Rosen Empire. The Rosen Empire also complied and negotiated with the Beastmen.

Naturally, the Rosen Empire didn't want to wipe the Radiant Church's buttocks. Therefore, they didn't go and resist the Beastman army. Instead, they directly went and negotiated with the Beastmen.

Although the Beastmen hasn't overrun the entire Aksu Empire, one might as well consider it as so. But when the Rosen Empire sent people to negotiate, they immediately stopped. After all, the strength of the Rosen Empire was something that they needed to consider. If they involved the Rosen Empire in this war, the Beastmen would suffer a lot more losses.

The Beast King was also a very astute person. Their attack against the Humans had gone smoothly. Although they had lost some men, compared to their previous wars, this time was the one they had lost the least while having the biggest harvest. And at this time, if the Humans were to agree to trade them grain at a fair price, they would immediately retreat.

Just as what Zhao Hai has thought before, the Beastmen didn't want to occupy the Human Domain. They weren't interested in Human lands. In their view, the Prairie was their home, it was where their root was. If they settle inside Human territory, then a time would certainly come when they would become as weak as the Human race.

In the minds of the Beastmen, the Humans were very weak, this was their belief. Therefore, they preferred to drink and sing on the Prairie.

The Beast King making the decision to stop was also largely because of Zhao Hai. When Zhao Hai left the Beastman camp, the Beast King sent someone to go and fetch Wales. Naturally, the Beast King asked Wales about Zhao Hai's strength. And when Wales told him, this made the Beast King look at Zhao Hai in another light.

Although the Beast King appreciated Zhao Hai before, he didn't care too much about him. But when he heard Wales say that Zhao Hai had a 1 million Undead army, he immediately took Zhao Hai seriously.

One could say that the most annoying thing for the Beastmen to face were the Undead. This was because one cannot obtain any advantages against the Undead, if one doesn't have the means to deal with the Dark Mage, then one shouldn't dare go and offend them. For the Beastmen, doing so would only bring them losses. Zhao Hai can just attack the Prairie and make some undead along the way, this was truly something terrible to think about.

The Beast King also understood that they were now in Human Territory. If they offend the Rosen Empire as well as Zhao Hai, the terrifying Dark Mage, it certainly wouldn't be a good thing for the Beastmen. And this time, the reason for their attack on the Aksu Empire was to get some food. As long as the problem of food is solved, then they would return to the Beastman Prairie. After all, they had already acquired a lot of things.

The purpose of the negotiation of the Rosen Empire was to let the Beastmen retreat. Additionally, the Rosen Emperor believed in Zhao Hai's words and hoarded a lot of food in advance. Now that they had the stockpile they can go and talk with the Beastmen. They would have the Beastmen retreat, and later on, they would provide a food supply to the Beastmen at a fair price.

No country liked to go to war, especially a war that the Radiant Church had started. This would only result in them cleaning up after the Radiant Church's mess. This made the other monarchs unhappy, if they were to send people to help, how many of them would have to die? They don't want this outcome.

Chapter 547 - Damaged Vitality

Benefit! Everything was for benefit! The Beastmen went to war because of benefits, the Radiant Church plotted war with the Beastmen for benefit, the Rosen Empire stepped in for benefit as well.

Speaking about sentiment to these big influences was a behaviour of a complete idiot. Even the stern and straightforward Beastmen move according to benefits. If they cannot get any benefits, they they wouldn't hesitate to continue on with this war. The reason why the Beastmen went to war was because they knew that they can get benefits out of it. But the Humans didn't like war, it was because they cannot gain anything about it. It was this simple.

The negotiations were conducted very smoothly. The Beast King wanted a result where they can get grain at a fair price. This way, the Beastmen can get more benefits.

Naturally, they also knew that if they conquer the Humans, the Humans can continue to plant some grains for them. But at the same time, they also knew that it was impossible for them to rule over the Humans. They can gain benefits in this war, but it was impossible to conquer the Humans because of the vastly different cultures. Since the Beastmen cannot rule the Humans for too long, they'd rather settle for an agreement on selling food at a fair price.

However, after bargaining for the price of food, the Beastmen made a request. They demanded that the Radiant Church should be severely punished. This war was after all caused by the Radiant Church.

Regarding this request of the Beastmen, the negotiators from the other nations had differing thoughts. Some of them had relationships with the Radiant Church, while some of them did not.

However, if they don't comply, the Beastmen might decide to stay and attack again. Even if they repel the Beastmen, what did they obtain? Nothing. This was an outcome that the various nations didn't want to see.

In the end of the day, the representatives from the other nations decided that they would comply with the Beastmen's demands first. In any case, after the Beastmen left, the judgement would still depend on their respective countries.

After obtaining a satisfactory result, the Beastmen finally returned to the Prairie with a large amount of food that were compensated to them by the Aksu Empire. However, things among the Humans weren't finished yet.

The Aksu Empire's vitality has been severely damaged. But the Rosen Empire cannot just let the Aksu Empire go. You had made your own trouble, and we helped you solve it, and you want to place that in the past? How could that be possible?

Therefore, the Rosen Empire and the others made demands towards the Aksu Empire. Among those demands were money while some had others. The Rosen Empire didn't ask for monetary compensation, they only had one request. And that request was to give the Purcell Duchy to the Buda Clan as a fief.

The Buda Clan being a Noble of the Aksu Empire wasn't false. But, there was an ongoing resentment between the two. Even children in the continent knew about the enmity between the two. Therefore, it was a non spoken decision that the Buda Clan was no longer a part of Aksu Empire.

But even so, the Buda Clan was still a Marquis in the Aksu Empire, and they also had their own fief. They were also people of the Aksu Empire.

However, the Rosen Empire's request placed the Aksu Empire in a very awkward position, so the agreement was still put on hold. The Aksu Empire was in its weakest state, while the Rosen Empire's condition was still as smooth as silk, left completely unharmed. The Rosen Empire can definitely demand for a piece of territory. If the Rosen Empire would occupy the lifeline canyon, the Aksu Empire would be in trouble.

But if they comply to the Rosen Empire, it would be equivalent to placing a thorn on the side of the Aksu Empire. Under this circumstance, the Aksu Empire's future wouldn't be so good.

Like the Rosen Empire, the other three countries also put forward their own demands. They didn't ask for land, after all, they were too far away from the Aksu Empire. Getting land would be useless. Instead, they demanded a huge amount of money as compensation. This made the Aksu Empire not know what to do.

This time, it wasn't one Empire that were making things difficult for them, but instead four Empires working simultaneously. The Aksu Empire cannot even think of what to do next. Most importantly, most of their forces were already gone. Which made their power of negotiation very weak.

The reason why the Rosen Empire didn't conquer the Aksu Empire was because the latter had just suffered defeat under the Beastmen. If they invade the Aksu Empire, they would be looked down by everyone on the continent.

But even if the Rosen Empire cannot invade the Aksu Empire, they can still make an outrageous demand, enough to economically cripple the Aksu Empire.

If the Aksu Empire were still in its most flourishing time, they might decline to the Rosen Empire's demands. But it was unfortunate for them that they were currently in their lowest point. This weakness was not only in terms of military power, this also included their damaged economy.

Although the Beastmen didn't take anything away from the commoners, they still emptied the national granaries of the Aksu Empire. Moreover, they also killed some Nobles of several cities and then snatched their belongings, especially the grain. Because of this, one can consider that the economy of the Aksu Empire had been held back for at least 20 years. In this case, if they don't agree to the demands of the Rosen Empire as well as the other countries, then the four countries would definitely choke their economy. When that happens, it would be impossible for the Aksu Empire to return to its original state.

Most importantly, the two northern strategic places of the Aksu Empire, the Purcel Duchy and the Iksa Domain, has been completely destroyed. The two families had ran to Golden Island, this was something that the continent already knew. Moreover, the vitality of these two families were damaged severely as well. They simply don't have the ability to continue managing their former territories. This was also the reason why the Rosen Empire proposed that the Aksu Empire would give the Purcell Duchy over to Zhao Hai.

However, the Aksu Empire understood that no matter what happens, they cannot hand that territory over to Zhao Hai. If they gave it to the Buda Clan, the Aksu Empire would get pincerd once the Rosen Empire decides to attack in the future. Therefore, they had a difficult negotiation with the Rosen Empire.

There is only one thing in the Aksu Empire's mind, as long as their territory wasn't divided, they wouldn't counter any demands from the Rosen Empire.

In fact, everybody had already seen it, the Rosen Empire didn't really want the Purcell Duchy. They only wanted to get better benefits.

After an arduous conversation between the two sides, the Aksu Empire agreed to compensate the Rosen Empire with a huge amount of money. At the same time, they also removed all of the tariffs given to Rosen Empire's traded commodities.

But what made people feel strange was the unusual disappearance of Zhao Hai. One must know that the Rosen Empire had used his name in negotiating with the Aksu Empire. However, he still didn't appear even at the very end. This was really not like Zhao Hai's action.

In reality, Zhao Hai was also very busy in the past few days. He was currently collecting war corpses. The war had produced a lot of corpses, moreover, the majority of them were strong soldiers. Their corpses were incredibly useful to Zhao Hai.

This war between the Beastmen and the Humans had made more than 1 million corpses. Some of these bodies were buried by the Beastmen, but some were not. After all, Zhao Hai also knew that if corpses were left out for too long, diseases would start to take form and might even start an epidemic. Therefore, he decided to take those corpses and make them into undead.

Even so, Zhao Hai was still aware about the negotiations. But he didn't think too much about it. He knew from the very beginning that it would be impossible for the Aksu Empire to agree. Although the Aksu Empire was currently weak, the Rosen Empire still wouldn't go too far in causing them trouble.

On the other hand, Zhao Hai despised the people of the Radiant Church. Everyone was now aware that Boris had become the emperor, but by then, the Radiant Church had already left the Aksu Empire.

Zhao Hai hated the action of the Radiant Church, this was just like the Church had just left behind their ally and ran away.

Currently, Boris didn't have the best appearance in the world. Dealing with the Purcell Duchy and the Iksa Domain was his idea. But now that they had failed, the Empire had been placed in a very bad situation. If the Aksu Empire wasn't given 20 years, then it would be impossible for them to recover.

Even if they recover 20 years later, their strength wouldn't be the same as before. Not only would they compensate the Beastmen, they would also give some compensations to the four other Empires. This truly damaged the Aksu Empire's core foundation.

After the negotiations were settled, the Aksu Empire started to officially recover. But this time, the Radiant Church had already become the most hated people in the Aksu Empire. Nobody inside the Aksu Empire had any good feelings towards the Church. One could say that if the Radiant Church wanted to preach here again, it would be more difficult than in the Rosen Empire.

Now that the restoration of the Aksu Empire had started, what they most needed was nothing else other than food. They needed large quantities of them in order to stabilize the market prices. And they need large quantities of them to resume production. After the negotiations with the other empires, the

other empires agreed to sell a large amount of food to them at a low price. This had greatly eased the food problem of the Aksu Empire.

Among them, the most famous one was Zhao Hai, who brought a large amount of grain to the Purcell Duchy. This played a very important role in the reconstruction of the Duchy.

The Purcell Duchy and the Iksa Domain now has new lords. The nobles in these two places were the most loyal men of Boris. They hated Zhao Hai before, but they had no choice but to welcome him at this time. This was because whether it be the Purcell Duchy or the Iksa Domain, both needed large amounts of grain in order to settle the residents down.

The grain that Zhao Hai brought, wasn't the Bread Fruit, but instead the ordinary Bamboo Rice. Zhao Hai believed that the Bread Fruit was more popular among the Beastmen.

Chapter 548 - Cooperation

While the Aksu Empire was reconstructing, an upsurge of Anti-Radiant Church sentiment had unknowingly spread out on the continent. This time, it wasn't only the Rosen Empire, but all countries were starting to do so.

However, the Radiant Church still had their 9th ranks. It wouldn't be good for the nations to go too far. However, the Radiant Church's momentum has evidently slowed down.

The reason why the Radiant Church was rapidly growing before was because they had recruited a large number of Nobles into their fold. And this was because they had brought a lot of benefits for these Nobles.

However, in recent times, the Radiant Church had suddenly left their allies, which was maybe good in their opinion. However, it wasn't for their subordinates, therefore, the church had been pushed into becoming passive.

The Radiant Church had already behaved. Besides the Rosen Empire and the Aksu Empire, the others had now started to fully suppress the church. Their followers were now decreasing massively. It was now very difficult for them to regain their original momentum.

Besides all of these, it was still impossible for the Empires to extinguish the Radiant Church. The church had 9th ranks, for the Great Nobles, these experts were effective deterrents.

Under the suppression of the big Empires, the only thing that the church can do was to best maintain their strength. But a lot of Nobles still decided to withdraw from the organization

One the other hand, Zhao Hai didn't care much about all of these. He was currently on Golden Island, discussing the future development of the Buda Clan to Evan and Robert.

Zhao Hai had already told the secret of the Space to Evan and Ruyen, but for the other members of the Purcell Family, they were still on observation. Those people weren't the same as the Iksa Family which hadn't been infiltrated by the Radiant Church. In truth, Zhao Hai still wasn't comfortable with those from the Purcell Family.

Although the Buda Clan's territory didn't increase, their reputation in the continent did. This was because the Rosen Empire had used the clan's name as a bargaining chip to negotiate with the Aksu Empire. The Buda Clan was now famous in the entire continent.

The future of the Buda Clan is mainly based on the Black Wastelands, where it was possible to create a country, Now that the Iksa and Purcell Family were already rootless and floating refugees, if they don't side with the Buda Clan, they it would be difficult for them to appear on the continent in the future.

In the end, what Zhao Hai and the two others decided on was that the Iksa Family would send a team lead by Fernand to Golden Island in order to do business. At the same time, Ruyen would be sent back to the Purcell Duchy. A large amount of grain was brought by Zhao Hai to the Duchy, which helped establish their business there. Now, Zhao Hai wanted to use this opportunity to make a trade network starting from the Purcell family's previous territory.

If it was before, then there would be some difficulties. But now that the Purcell Family had joined, it doesn't matter. The family was very familiar with the Duchy, and along with the managers of the Markey

Family, the Buda Clan can definitely build a distribution center in the Duchy, seizing the entire grain market.

Zhao Hai contacted Bell again through the Calci Family, having him come back to Iksa Domain and establish another distribution center there. This center would be a collaboration between the Buda Clan and the Calci Family, so the latter didn't oppose.

By having these two sales networks, Zhao Hai's sales would definitely increase in the future. This was very important to the Buda Clan.

The reason why Zhao Hai didn't go to the Prairie after the war was because he knew that the Beastmen were busy as well.

The Beastmen had snatched a lot of things from the humans, and those items needed to be distributed. And because of these things, the Beastmen shouldn't need anything at this time. So Zhao Hai decided to postpone his trip to the Prairie to the future.

At the same time, the situation of the Continent was a good opportunity for the Buda Clan. The Continent was now suppressing the Radiant Church, which was also the biggest enemy of Zhao Hai. In the past, the Radiant Church had suppressed them before, but now the situations had been reversed. The Radiant Church was now being suppressed, and the Buda Clan can't just let this opportunity go.

Although the Buda Clan was still lacking in people, but with the Purcell Family, Markey Family, and Iksa Family joining them, the Buda Clan's management was now enough. Although some of these people cannot be trusted with the Black Wasteland, managing the Clan's businesses wouldn't be an issue.

Zhao Hai was planning to show his business to the Continent in the following days. It was important to know that if the Buda Clan's business were to be expanded, it would immediately take a superior position. A reason for this was the Haven products, these products' quality were already quite well-known in the continent. Moreover, one shouldn't forget that Zhao Hai still had seafood and Prairie products in his hands.

Products from the Prairie cannot possibly be unique to Zhao Hai. This was because a lot of Human Merchants were also doing business with the Beastmen. Therefore, there were a lot of places in the continent that sold these items.

However, marine products were incredibly rare in the continent. Because of this, these items were in high demand. As long as nobody suppresses them, the Buda Clan would surely be able to quickly expand on the Continent.

Moreover, Zhao Hai wasn't planning on doing this business alone. He was prepared to cooperate with the Calci Family, Crook Family, Charlie, Rosen Empire, and the Shelley Family.

Working with these people would not only make the Buda Clan's products spread in the continent at the shortest time, the Buda Clan can also draw its relationship closer with these people.

With this plan in mind, Zhao Hai immediately returned to Wild Dragon Castle outside Carson City after he handled the matters with the Iksa and Purcell Families. Then he prepared himself to fetch Lizzy from the Imperial Palace.

Although Lizzy had been spending the majority of her time inside the Space, if Zhao Hai didn't meet Lizzy officially, the Emperor might suspect something. Therefore, Zhao Hai must show his face from time to time.

When Zhao Hai returned to Wild Dragon Castle, a servant informed him that Jason had visited several times. Moreover, he had left word that if Zhao Hai comes back, he must immediately go to the Crook Family's castle.

Zhao Hai stared for a moment before he nodded. Then he immediately rode his carriage and headed towards the Crook Family. It wasn't the first time that the Crook Family's servants had seen Zhao Hai, so they immediately removed the road block and had Zhao Hai directly enter the mountain.

Outside the castle, Jason was already waiting for him. When Zhao Hai got down from his carriage, he went towards Jason and laughed, "Brother Jason, I heard that you had come over for a few times. What made you so anxious? But this is also good, even if you didn't go and find me, I'll still come and look for you."

Jason walked forward and then hugged Zhao Hai, "Brother, what took you so long? Come quickly, Grandfather is waiting for you."

Then the two entered the castle using a carriage. And then they quickly went towards Jesse's study. Seeing Zhao Hai arrive, Jesse smiled and said, "Kid, it's been a long time before you've come to see this old man. What are you afraid of? You're a Patriarch of a Great Family, you should have some subordinates to keep your schedule free."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile helplessly and said, "Grandfather, you really are living comfortably. How can our Buda Clan compare with your Crook Family? If our Buda Clan had a few tricks of yours, then I would be able to sleep at home all the time."

Jesse laughed and then said, "Sleeping all the time? Kid, you're going to turn into a pig. Come sit down, I have a matter to speak with you."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he and Jason sat down. After a servant sent some drinks in, Jesse looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, your current spotlight was not small. I really didn't expect the Rosen Empire to make you into a bargaining chip. But that's good, the Aksu Empire yielded because you you."

Zhao Hai forced a smile, "What's good about that, I didn't gain anything. Right, Grandfather, why did you ask me to come immediately? Is something wrong?"

Then Jesse smiled and said, "You had been busy since after God's Grace day, so I didn't have any opportunity to ask you to come. I just wanted to ask you if you have any business that you wanted to do with us?"

When Zhao Hai heard Jesse, he couldn't help but smile, he also came today because of this matter. Zhao Hai immediately nodded and said, "You don't need to look for me, I'm actually planning to come here soon. I have some business that I'd like your help with. Now that the Radiant Church has been suppressed, there's nobody blocking us from expanding anymore. Therefore, I want you and father-in-law to cooperate and sell our products in your stores. But I want the prices of our Buda Clan's products to be uniform in all the stores."

Jesse stared, then his eyes turned bright. He knew that Zhao Hai has a lot of good things in his hand. If he works with them, then it would be greatly benefiting the Crook Family .

He immediately nodded and said, "Alright, this is not a problem. As for the price? You go can just go and tell us."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he expressed that their cooperation would include Haven products as well as some Prairie products. He didn't have a lot of seafood right now, so they had to mainly sell the other two.

But even so, Jesse was still very happy. Haven products and Prairie products were very popular in the continent. Especially the Haven products since they were almost considered to be a unique business. Although they had similar products in the continent, the Buda Clan's Haven products were the best in terms of quality and price.

Chapter 549 - Hundred Thousand Slaves

After Zhao talked with Jesse about their cooperation, they ate a meal together then Zhao Hai returned to Wild Dragon Castle to rest. The next day, he went to Dark Soldier Fort and talked to Randolph about the partnership. Naturally, Randolph also agreed, since the Radiant Church has been suppressed, the Calci Family was also preparing to go all out.

After taking care of everything back at Dark Soldier Fort, Zhao Hai returned to his castle. Laura and the others didn't follow Zhao Hai, they were inside the Space and handling the matters of the Markey Family and the Buda Clan.

Zhao Hai had always been disinterested in dealing with those things, and his wives had enough strength to handle them, therefore Zhao Hai simply placed those things to be taken care of by them.

The second day after he returned from Dark Soldier Fort, Zhao Hai rode his carriage and headed towards the Imperial Palace. He needed to see the Emperor in order to fetch Lizzy and at the same time, discuss the matter of cooperation.

The Imperial clan also had their own businesses. If Zhao Hai was able to cooperate with them, he could achieve a lot of things in exchange for a low amount of effort. Zhao Hai now had a high place inside the Rosen Emperor's heart so when the palace guard saw that Zhao Hai had come, he didn't dare to neglect him. He immediately arranged a room for Zhao Hai to rest in before he went to report to the King.

The Emperor didn't make Zhao Hai wait for too long, he immediately invited Zhao Hai to his study room. When Zhao Hai sat down, the Emperor looked at him and said, "The Radiant Church had been dealt with this time thanks to you. But the Radiant Church has been repelled for a few days now, how come you've only come this time?"

Zhao Hai quickly responded, "I went back to the Purcell Duchy and established a network of shops there. This time, I came to pick up Lizzy. Another thing was to discuss a partnership with father-in-law."

The Emperor looked at Zhao Hai and said, "You mean a partnership with those products that you have?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I currently have a lot of those in hand. In the past, because of the Radiant Church's suppression, nobody would buy these things. But now, I can definitely turn this into money."

The Emperor nodded and said, "Right, it's no use if those aren't made into profits. You don't need to discuss with me about this matter. You go to Charlie and discuss the particulars with him."

Zhao Hai stared, then his two eyes lit up as he lowered his head to nod. At this time, Lizzy also arrived at the study. Lizzy and the Emperor exchanged some few words for a while before Lizzy left.

When they were at the carriage heading to Wild Dragon Fort, Zhao Hai turned to Lizzy and said, "It looks like father-in-law is already planning to hand the throne over to Third Brother."

Lizzy stared, she didn't hear about Zhao Hai and the Emperor's exchange. Therefore, when she heard Zhao Hai, she became confused so she asked, "Why? Did father tell you that?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "He didn't explicitly tell me. But when I told him that I would like to cooperate with the Imperial Clan, father-in-law passed the responsibility over to Third Brother. If father-in-law didn't plan to hand the throne over to third brother, then why would he let him handle this business?"

Lizzy's eyes were shining as she replied, "If father really said so, then that can prove that he indeed wanted to give the throne over to Third Brother. Hehe. It seems like Third Brother needed to thank Brother Hai."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I really don't need him to thank me. As long as he sits on the throne, our Buda Clan can certainly obtain a lot of benefits. How about we go to Third Brother tomorrow and discuss this matter of cooperation with him. But let's not tell him about the matters related to the throne. Then the day after tomorrow, we'll go to the Slave Market to see Lin and ask him if he has our slaves already prepared."

Lizzy smiled and said, "We don't really need to state it clearly, if Third Brother hears that we'll have a partnership with him, he should already know what is going on. But Big Brother Hai, isn't it too soon for us to get the slaves? The Black Wasteland still isn't prepared."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "It's not too soon, planting season will come along with spring. Before that time arrives, we should already have the slaves prepared to cultivate the lands. If we miss this season, then it would be too late for planting."

Lizzy nodded and didn't say anything more. She was not very knowledgeable regarding the matters of farming. It was much different than managing stores, of which she understood much of. There was really no way for a Princess to touch the topics related to farming, therefore, Lizzy didn't have much to say.

The next day, Lizzy and Zhao Hai went to see Charlie. Charlie was still very low-key in doing his business, but ever since he cooperated with Zhao Hai, his income had already increased by a lot. It can be said that there aren't any other Prince that can compare to his income. It was precisely because of this that Charlie had placed great importance on Zhao Hai.

When Zhao Hai came to him to discuss the matter of cooperation, Charlie couldn't help but get excited. He already knew about Zhao Hai's intention of cooperating with the Crook Family, Calci Family, and the Imperial Clan. Charlie understood the implications of this partnership, so it couldn't be helped that he became elated. He even wanted to invite Zhao Hai for a drink. However, Zhao Hai had to decline. He still needed to visit the Shelley Hotel in the afternoon and talk about his partnership with the Shelley Family.

The last time Zhao Hai went to Marriott was to ask the Shelley Family for help. Spreading the news about the Iksa Family's demise was perfectly executed by the Hotel. Therefore, Zhao Hai wanted to further improve his cooperation with the Shelley Family.

In addition to the Haven products, fire fish and seafood, he also cooperated with the Shelley Hotel by providing Milk Wine. But this time, Zhao Hai was planning to have them sell Rice Wine and Beer as well.

Currently, the Black Wasteland can now make Rice Wine as well as Beer. However, ways of mass producing these items were still under development.

The Ark Continent was still very backwards in their winemaking. If one wanted to mass produce these two products for the continent, one doesn't only need 1,800 people to work on it, those people needed to be skilled as well.

However, Zhao Hai was planning to offer these two wines as samplers first, like what he did with the Milk Wine in the past. He'll put them in the Shelley Hotel for a trial run and when the people of the continent becomes used to the two liquors, then the factories would be built. Then the mass production would begin.

The cooperation with the Shelley Family came very smoothly. At this point, the Shelley Family almost has a blind faith in Zhao Hai. They think that as long as they cooperate with Zhao Hai, they can make a lot of money. This preconception was backed with their one year of experience. From the very first day that they partnered with Zhao Hai, they had been making more and more money.

This result satisfied Zhao Hai. After him and the Shelley Family had reached an agreement, he immediately returned to Wild Dragon Fort. Then he prepared for his trip to the Slave Market the next day.

After going to the Slave Market and bringing those slaves to the Black Wasteland, Zhao Hai would then head to the Beastman Prairie. It was already a month after the Beastmen had retreated, going to the Prairie should be alright now.

The next day, Zhao Hai and Lizzy headed to the Slave Market and went to see Lin. Lin told Zhao Hai that the slaves were ready for quite some time. But because of the war that was going on, they decided to refrain sending them to Golden Island. If Zhao Hai wanted, he can take those slaves right now.

Zhao Hai immediately paid the price of those slaves, and then had them transported to Golden Island at the shortest time possible. Then, Zhao Hai left with Lizzy. After returning to Wild Dragon Fort, Zhao Hai immediately rode a Blood Hawk and then flew towards Golden Island.

The third day after Zhao Hai arrived at the island, dozens of huge slave transport ships arrived. Zhao Hai had them dock at the naval base and had the slaves kept there.

Golden Island naval base was very big. In addition to the fact that most of the Undead in the base were out patrolling around the island, it wouldn't be a problem having 100 thousand people there.

What made Zhao Hai happy was that Lin actually had those 100 thousand slaves be families. All in all, there were about 20 thousand households that were sent over. This completely fulfilled Zhao Hai's requests.

Zhao Hai immediately took advantage of the dark evening to send the slaves over to the Black Wasteland. It was now spring and the weather outside wasn't that cold. Although there weren't enough houses in the Wasteland, they can just construct it themselves, and the materials were already prepared by Zhao Hai.

After the slaves arrived at the Black Wasteland, Zhao Hai then had people give them some living necessities. He told the slaves that these living materials are their private property, so they must cherish it.

Many of these slaves were generational slaves, very similar to the original slaves of Iron Mountain Fort. Some of them might even be inferior than those slaves. So when they held their first pieces of property, all of them couldn't help but get very excited.

The next day, Zhao Hai organized some slaves who had become commoners and divided them into villages. In fact, these villages were already planned by Zhao Hai. The only thing that was needed to be done was built it.

The building materials were already prepared, and at the same time, Zhao Hai also released some Undead to help them build. He already mapped the location of each village and the overall layout of the structure. Therefore, building them shouldn't be very troublesome.

Zhao Hai wanted to build a village for every one thousand household. And no matter how many members a household had, the lands would be divided accordingly to their structure. An old man would have 5 mu of land, mature men and women would both have 10 mu of land, and each child would merit

5 mu of land. Every family would be provided by either a bull or a scaled horse. Farm supplies and daily necessities were going to be provided as well.

As for the water supply of the villages, Zhao Hai had already prepared them long ago. The channels for water to flow through were made using Earth magic. What kind of plant to cultivate and where to cultivate it was already planned. There were lands made to specifically grow Bamboo Rice and there were also some lands to be used to grow wheat.

The remaining lands were left for the Beastmen slaves. Zhao Hai planned to have the Beastmen slaves herd here first and then train them to farm bit by bit.

The lands of these slaves weren't given by Zhao Hai. The slaves would cultivate this land and by the end of the year, Zhao Hai would collect 40% of their harvest as tax. The remaining 60% would be left to the hands of the slaves.

Although this tax was very high, it was already a heavenly provision for the slaves. They didn't expect that when they arrive at this place, they would be given land, their own property. One must know that this condition was only enjoyed by special commoners back in the continent.

But what made these slaves most excited was the fact that they have the opportunity to turn into a commoner in this place. They saw people who had similar slave imprints like them working in the fort and was eating meat everyday. At the same time, their children were given the opportunity to learn how to read as well as to play. This made the new slaves quite envious of them.

Zhao Hai didn't immediately enact his plan of universal education. He must regard this matter as a reward. He wanted to reward those who do good. And those good slaves would not only become commoners, their children would be able to go to school as well. It was even possible for them to become Nobles.

Those slaves thought that it was too good to be true. But when they saw the slaves who became civilians, they couldn't help but believe in Zhao Hai's words and become motivated.

Zhao Hai also distributed some seeds to them as well as some rations and farming tools. He only managed to do all of these in seven days because of the his Undead. Otherwise, it would be impossible for this matter to be completed in a short period of time.

After all of the things were distributed, Zhao Hai also told them that they could practice other crafts after their work. As long as they learn well, they can become civilians immediately. And if they have some special talents, they can just go to the fort and have it tested. If it was satisfactory, they would be turned into civilians as well.

It took half a month before all of these things had been taken care of. This speed was also because Green and the others already did a lot of work ahead of time. Each step in the process were carefully planned by them, otherwise it wouldn't have been this smooth.

Also, if Zhao Hai did this with commoners, it wouldn't have been completed this flawlessly. Slaves were already trained and were very obedient. Whatever you wanted them to do, they would do it without much fuss. So it only took half a month for these 100 thousand slaves to be settled. At this time, the slaves have already begun to cultivate the land.

Sustaining 100 thousand lives requires a lot of things. This made Zhao Hai's Space unable to be idle. Zhao Hai was even afraid of becoming poor in managing these people. However, he thought that as long as he provided these people with food and firewood right now, they would become self-sufficient come this fall harvest.

The Black Wasteland had been improved to become fertile lands. As long as these slaves work hard in cultivating the land, their future days would surely be good. The 40% tax that Zhao Hai enacted was fixed. If one got 100 jin of grain, Zhao Hai would take 40 jin. If you have 200 jin, then 80 jin would be taken away. The remaining 120 jin would be up to the slaves to use. After the slaves knew about this setup, they immediately became happy. And adding on to the fact that it was possible for them to become commoners, they immediately became hard working people.

Chapter 550 - Trivial Matters

With the addition of the 100 thousand slaves, the Black Wasteland had finally gained some human atmosphere. Although 20 villages were still too few for the Black Wasteland, it was still much more vigorous compared to before.

These villages weren't very far from Iron Mountain Fort. After all, the fort was the Buda Clan's administrative center. The villages that had been constructed cannot be too far from the fort.

After the slaves settled down, they immediately started to work. Because they now have farming tools as well as work animals, a family can easily plant in their respective fields.

The majority of these slaves had family backgrounds as farmers. Therefore, taking care of a farm wasn't very foreign to them, on the other hand, they were actually very adept in the practice.

But before, the farms that they worked on were owned by their masters. Even if they cannot slack off, it was impossible for them to give their all towards the job. But now was different, the land was now bestowed to them and the only thing that they needed to do was hand over 40% of their harvests, while the rest were their own. This way, the higher their harvest, the more food they have.

However, farming was a seasonal activity, one doesn't need to be busy in the field all year round. There are only two seasons where the farmers would get busy, it was the spring for sowing seeds and autumn for the harvest. Other than these two seasons, farmers didn't have much to do, so Zhao Hai instructed them to learn another craft.

At the same time, Zhao Hai also had Green prepare the wineries while the slaves were planting in their land. After the wineries are built, the slaves should be finished in their busy schedule at spring. Therefore, the slaves can go to the wineries and work. Naturally, their efforts would be reciprocated with pay.

Settling the slaves still wasn't completely finished, after all, the wineries would still take a lot of time.

However, Zhao Hai can just hand these matters over to Green, he doesn't need to monitor all of it himself. The stones that were needed for the wineries as well as other particulars can be found in Golden Island. If Iron Mountain Fort needs anything he can just get it there.

A lot of Great Nobles have businesses in Golden Island, and their goods and services have a huge range. They can provide anything that one wants in the continent. If Zhao Hai wanted something special, he can contact them in order to get it.

Zhao Hai didn't need to worry too much about building the structures. He has a 2 million undead army, building should be alright for them to do, the only thing they need is to have an artisan providing them guidance at the side.

While the factory was being built, Zhao Hao also gave his product orders to the Great Nobles who manufacture them. After that, he didn't think to much about it. He still has something else to do, and that was going to the Beastman Prairie.

It was now two months after the Beastmen had returned to the Prairie, so Zhao Hai wanted to see them and take a look at their situation. Two months was enough for them to divide their spoils of war. Now they should be needing something again.

Besides, he still needed to deliver new goods to Ah Tai. Zhao Hai plans to contact a lot of Beastmen when he goes to the Prairie this time. He also wanted to get in touch with the Beast King and try if he can have a business cooperation with him. As long as he has a business with the Beast King, the Buda Clan would certainly gain huge profits.

Zhao Hai wanted to gain several large clients in the Prairie and form a large network of business there. This was also part of his plan to expand the businesses of the Buda Clan.

After all, the Buda Clan's roots have been placed in the Black Wasteland. If all of the lands in the wasteland were to be developed and used for farming, how much food would they be able to produce? The amount would surely pose a huge threat to the food market of the Human Race,

At the same time, the Humans had already signed a fair price agreement with the Beastmen. And with this agreement, the Merchants would have to fork out the expense of transport. Merchants weren't like Zhao Hai, who can just carry his goods through the Space.

Therefore, the prices of food on the Prairie would still be high, but much lower compared to before. However, this would mean that Merchants wouldn't be able to earn as much, aside from the large Merchants. Those small Merchants wouldn't be able to do business in the Prairie anymore since the profits wouldn't be enough anymore.

But as the matter stands, the Beastmen cannot have another food shortage anymore. If it happens again, another war between the two races would surely happen. Therefore, what Zhao Hai meant to do was to sell the grain from the Black Wasteland to the Beastman Prairie. This way, not only would the Beastmen's food problem be solved, it would also stabilize the food market in the Prairie.

Zhao Hai also discovered that the Beastmen weren't like those ancient Prairie dwellers back on Earth. For generations, the people living on the Earth's Prairie has always been very eager to conquer the land of the Han people. They were bent on being the rulers of that land. Therefore, they were waiting for the Hans to grow weak, and then they would invade China.

On the other hand, these Beastmen had their own civilization. Moreover, their society wasn't any worse than the Humans. This stopped them from having thoughts of going to the Human domain. In this world that depends heavily on strength, the ones who advocates this rule the most were the Beastmen Race, this made them dislike the Humans. In their opinion, Humans were too starved, which explains their weak and thin appearance, so their lands shouldn't be that good. Because of this, the Beastmen didn't covet the Human lands. At the same time, the Beastman Prairie was already too big for the Beastman Race to thrive in.

Since the Beastmen didn't have much thoughts towards the Human lands, it wasn't common for them to wage war. The only reason for them to wage war was in the situation where their survival was threatened.

A Beastman's aggression was deeply connected to their straightforward temper. In their eyes, black is black, white is white. Not unlike other people where grey was in between black and white. The Beastmen simply didn't have this view.

It was because of these violent tendencies of the Beastmen that they would go into a fight over the smallest details. It gave people the impression that they were warfreaks. But in truth, the Beastmen disliked war as well.

Even if the Beastmen looked down on Humans, they actually depend on human grain to survive. At the same time, the Humans also need Beastmen beast skins, wool, and beast meat. Therefore, it was possible for both sides to depend on each other.

The Beastmen had a straightforward attitude, very much unlike the Human Merchants who were very greedy for benefit. There were several times where Humans and the Beastman went to war because of their greed. They priced their goods too high, negatively affecting the survival of the Beastman race. So in order to survive, the Beastmen would have no choice but to take up their weapons and pillage the Human lands.

Zhao Hai sending his grain to the Prairie would definitely solve this situation. If he becomes the top grain merchant in the Prairie, the Beastmen wouldn't be able to worry about grain anymore. In this case, it would be impossible for the Humans and Beastmen to wage war with each other anymore.

And if that happens one day, what benefits would the Buda Clan gain? It was even possible for them to be the ones who would have the most profits in the entire Human race.

To be honest, Zhao Hai had thought about the time when the Rosen Empire negotiated for him to have the Purcell Duchy. If he gains control of that territory, it would be equivalent to adding the Purcell Duchy to the Black Wasteland. When that happens, he wouldn't even need the Space to transport the food to the Prairie using the Space. He could just directly transport the food using normal means. However, it was a pity that it didn't succeed.

However, Zhao Hai didn't become anxious about this. As long as there is time, avenues of progress would be found. Later, he would slowly make his own grain route, this was because he didn't know for how long he'll live. If he dies, the Space would cease to exist. And when that happens, the Buda Clan would be able to use that route for their business.

Walk one step, look forward three steps, this was Zhao Hai's attitude. He knew that the Space wouldn't disappear with no reason, but he was afraid that it would be gone once he dies. Nobody was immortal, even 9th ranks were the same. Therefore, Zhao Hai considered the Buda Clan heavily in his decisions.

It was because of this that Zhao Hai invested his time on the Prairie. As long as he gains big clients in the Prairie, the Buda Clan's future development wouldn't be very difficult.

After handling the matters of the Black Wasteland, Zhao Hai went back to the Rosen Empire. Even if he had established his cooperation with the Calci Family and the others, the details would still be needed to be discussed well. At the same time, the logistics of the business needed to be considered, otherwise their costs would increase by a lot.

It was important for a store to have a stable transport network so that it could sell and restock its items on time. Because of this, logistics was one of the most important aspects of a business.

There were only two forms of transporting goods in the Ark Continent. One was through the water, with the use of ships, while the other was through land, by having beast-pulled carriages.

Comparing these two, using the waters was much convenient. It was quicker, and it costs was much lower as well. Carriages might cost less in short distance transport, but ships were the most suited for long-distance shipment.

Even if it was good that Zhao Hai had established some good partners, the logistics wasn't a well oiled machine. Those families have their own transport networks. Zhao Hai's supplies cannot be just placed at one location, that would be very inconvenient.

In the end, Zhao Hai decided that with the current numbers of the Buda Clan, even with the addition of the Markey Family, it would be impossible for them to have a lot of shops. Therefore he settled for the second choice, establish some supply locations at some major cities. This would save a lot on transportation towards the nearest cities as he handed the goods over to the other families.

The Calci Family and the others naturally agreed to this. They were afraid that the Buda Clan would establish their own sales network since that would mean that they would have a new competitor. But even so, the Calci Family and the others didn't extend their hands too far. Ruyen was currently managing a Buda Clan business in Purcell Duchy. This was the sole place in the entire continent where the Buda Clan directly sells Haven products.