

Black Iron 1251

Chapter 1251: Returning to Taixia Country

The special envoy assigned by the pope of Sacred Light Empire was called Astor. Although he was just a chief pastor, his title as the clerk of pope clearly indicated that he was the henchman of the pope. Astor came to the Sacred Iceland Kingdom to negotiate with Zhang Tie about how to diffuse the conflicts between the two countries as the plenipotentiary of Sacred Light Empire.

Golden Roc Bank had spoken volumes for the identity of a special envoy to the Sacred Iceland Kingdom before his arrival.

Astor arrived at Ice and Snow Wilderness by an airboat of Golden Roc Bank on April 19th. Zhang Tie received him in a pavilion of the garden of Summer Palace on the second day.

According to diplomatic customs, after coming to Saint Petersburg, Astor met Elder Gulas who was responsible for diplomatic affairs, the Cardinal Elders Committee and Queen O’Laura consecutively. After releasing those merchant ships and businessmen of Sacred Iceland Kingdom which were intercepted and detained by Western Continent and compensating for that, Astor was received by Zhang Tie in the garden of Summer Palace.

At his 50s, Astor looked a bit fat with a kind smile. If not that religious robe and the faint knight’s wave and qi, this man was like a common boss of a bar.

All the big figures must be handsome, ugly, abnormal or have some strange hobbies or exceptional temperaments. These contents were all plots in novels and stories. Zhang Tie also thought so when in Blackhot City; however, as his experience grew rich, Zhang Tie gradually found that it was far-stretched. Although those big figures had distinctive temperaments and impressed people deeply, Zhang Tie found that over 80% of big figures above knight level didn’t look much different than commoners.

Zhang Tie himself was not outstanding.

So was Astor. Now that he could become the henchman of the pope of Sacred Light Empire, how could he be average?

At the sight of Astor, Zhang Tie was not cheated by Astor’s smile; instead, he told himself to be vigilant inside.

“Your Majesty, this is Astor the personal secretary of the pope and a chief pastor of Sacred Light Empire!” Astor put his right hand on his chest sincerely as he bowed towards Zhang Tie sincerely.

“I’m not the tsar anymore. You can call me Zhang Tie or Qianji Hermit, please take a seat!” Zhang Tie told Astor politely.

The two people then sat down in the pavilion. There were a pond and a garden in the surroundings. It was April, the best season in Ice and Snow Wilderness and Gozidari Plain. It would be the traditional flowers picking festival of Slavs in Ice and Snow Wilderness after a few days. At this moment, the garden of Summer Palace had been covered with various fresh flowers such as rose, herb trinity, marigold and

iris. Swarms of bees and butterflies were flying across the garden. Sitting in the pavilion and smelling the fragrance of flowers, they became reassured at once.

“The secular imperial crown is eye-catching and could be easily put down. However, the imperial crown of one’s belief is invisible and immortal!” Astor said as he came to Zhang Tie’s front and sat down on the opposite of Zhang Tie’s seat; at the same time, he started to look Zhang Tie up and down decently.

Zhang Tie’s young look and his great fame among humans made Astor curious.

Zhang Tie revealed a smile as he said, “You’re right. Invisible things are always more valuable than visible things!”

“It’s not my words, it’s our pope’s proverb!”

“If so, we have a common habit. Your pope and I always pay more attention to invisible things than visible things...”

Zhang Tie faintly expressed his sincerity for compromise. No matter what the others said, Zhang Tie was clear that there was no real heavenly knight or semi-sage knight in the Sacred Iceland Kingdom. He might be advantageous for one or two times; however, Sacred Light Empire had a much deeper background than the Sacred Iceland Kingdom. Additionally, the pope of the Sacred Light Empire was a real heavenly knight. The Sacred Iceland Kingdom couldn’t maintain its long-term advantageous position in the wrestle with Sacred Light Empire. Now that the opponent would like to compromise, Zhang Tie would seize this opportunity for sure.

As Zhang Tie had a good card for the time being, he would make the greatest profit for Sacred Iceland Kingdom while diffusing the threat from Sacred Light Empire. Otherwise, even if they returned to Taixia Country, they would not be reassured as Sacred Light Empire would always cast greedy eyes on Ice and Snow Wilderness. In this case, they didn’t need to be deadlocked. If Zhang Tie was too soft; the opposite would engulf Sacred Iceland Kingdom completely; if he was too hard, those crazy guys who had been brainwashed by Sacred Light Church could do anything. The best way was to inflict heavy losses on the opponent and save the opponent’s face at the same time.

After hearing Zhang Tie’s words, Astor’s eyes turned bright. Actually, Astor’s mission was not easy. As for Sacred Light Empire, Sacred Iceland Kingdom was just a tiny sesame. Ockham the jerk halos pastor of the eastern parish of Sacred Light Empire and his subordinates created so many troubles only for such a tiny sesame. Finally, they ruined the reputation of the entire Sacred Light Empire; additionally, the pope might offend a heavenly knight or a semi-sage knight. Of course, the pope was irritated by what they did.

“In Sacred Light Empire, the halos pastors in each major parish had pretty great rights. They could make decisions on many issues. The expedition towards the Sacred Iceland Kingdom is not out of the original intention of the pope. It’s definitely a pitiful mistake. Even our pope is very furious about this outcome!”

“I also believe in the foresight of the pope of Sacred Light Empire. I don’t think he wants this fuss...” Zhang Tie said with a smile too.

Astor’s words were true. The power of the expeditionary fleet of Sacred Light Empire indeed came from the eastern parish under the leadership of Ockham. Because the Sacred Iceland Kingdom was too small,

such an expedition would almost not fail. Even if the pope knew it, he would absolutely acquiesce in the action of the eastern parish. However, the pope didn't wish to see it if this action failed.

"Ockham should be fully responsible for this event..."

"I also think so!"

"Sacred Light Empire will compensate for Ockham's mistake; however, our pope wants to know whether Ockham is still alive or not. If he's still alive, could Sacred Iceland Kingdom give him back to us?" Astor said while looking straight into Zhang Tie's eyes.

To confirm whether there was a heavenly knight on the back of Sacred Iceland Kingdom and bring Ockham back if he was still alive was one of Astor's missions.

Zhang Tie had long prepared for this question.

Zhang Tie shook his head as he said calmly, "I don't know whether Ockham is still alive or not. That day, Ockham displayed a powerful ability in crisis. He escaped away in a speed of about 8 times the speed of sound in the air towards the northwest of Ice and Snow Wilderness. He moved so fast that even heavenly knight couldn't catch up with him..."

After hearing Zhang Tie's words, Astor's eyes turned bright at once. Ockham grasped the secret method of life halos. Therefore, he could escape away from Saint Petersburg at such a high speed. Pope said that Ockham's flight speed was 8 times the speed of sound in the air. Only a couple of people in Sacred Light Empire knew this secret. Now that Zhang Tie said that Ockham could fly at such a high speed, he was definitely not telling a lie. Additionally, there must be a heavenly knight on the back of Sacred Iceland Kingdom; otherwise, Ockham wouldn't fly at such a high speed.

After escaping away from Saint Petersburg using his life halos, Ockham had not contacted the pope yet. Nobody knew whether he was alive or not. If not being severely injured by the heavenly knight, Ockham would never use this secret method. The northwest of Ice and Snow Wilderness was a vast, unpopulated ice-capped land, which was far away from the sphere of influence of Sacred Iceland Kingdom. Therefore, it tallied with Ockham's thought in that case.

"I wonder about the heavenly knight on the back of Sacred Iceland Kingdom..." Astor asked carefully.

"He's a friend of mine. We got acquainted with each other in Earth-elements Realm. We're good friends despite the great difference in age. He's not famous and likes to be alone. He's entering a secluded cultivation somewhere in Ice and Snow Wilderness..." Zhang Tie said solemnly as if it was true.

After analyzing all the information that he received, Astor stretched out his hand while a scroll suddenly appeared in his hand. He put the scroll onto the desk and pushed it in front of Zhang Tie as he said sincerely, "This is a bit sincerity of our pope. His Majesty hopes that this gift could express that Sacred Light Empire is not ambitious about the territory of Sacred Iceland Kingdom and diffuse the misunderstanding between the Sacred Iceland Kingdom and Sacred Light Empire..."

Zhang Tie opened the scroll and found that it was a map. The name of the map was the Fadillan Province of Sacred Light Empire, which was a piece of land in the southwest corner of the Western Continent. It was far away from Sacred Light Empire. Fadillan Province neighbored a country called Federation of Barbarians in the northeast. and another powerful Rhesa Republic on the Western Continent in the

northwest. In the south of this piece of land, it was a coastline. On the map, this piece of land covered over 6 million square miles, which was almost half of that of Sacred Iceland Kingdom. However, it was definitely larger than that of Zhang Tie's Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory although it couldn't match that of Sacred Light Empire and Western Continent.

Zhang Tie looked up at Astor.

"This is an enclave that Sacred Light Empire acquired dozens of years ago. It's far away from Sacred Light Empire. Although being not large, it belongs to you from now on, Qianji Hermit..."

After watching Astor for a few seconds seriously, Zhang Tie revealed a smile. Closely after that, he put away the scroll as he stretched out his hand and said, "As it's in the holy war, all the human countries could seek for peace commonly. Let the bygones be bygones..."

"Pah..." Astor clapped with a big smile.

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After Astor left the garden of Summer Palace for less than half an hour, Zhang Tie had gained the information about this "gift" from Golden Roc Bank. The predecessor of Fadillan Province was Fadillan Empire on the Western Continent. Since Sacred Light Empire let Fadillan Empire "voluntarily merge into" Sacred Light Empire in various means and made the imperial households of Fadillan Empire have no offsprings 6 decades ago, this enclave had become Fadillan Province of Sacred Light Empire.

However, this piece of land was always in troubles over the past 60 years. The dignitaries of the former Fadillan Empire constantly opposed with the secret support of the Federation of Barbarians and Rhessa Republic. As a result, pastors and chief pastors of Sacred Light Church were always assassinated here. Even so, Sacred Light Empire still tried its best to maintain its ruling in this piece of land for the sake of face. That was to say, Sacred Light Empire had not completely ruled this piece of land. With this opportunity, Sacred Light Empire used this piece of land to pacify the conflict between Sacred Light Empire and Sacred Iceland Kingdom.

Zhang Tie didn't care about the intention of Sacred Light Empire. In Zhang Tie's opinion, this piece of land could work as his springboard and base to enter the Western Continent. What was more, over 600 square miles' land was not small? Although it lagged behind Western Continent economically, it was still much more prosperous than Ice and Snow Wilderness.

Zhang Tie really made a big fortune this time.

Being different than the fact that Ice and Snow Wilderness belonged to so many Slavic tribes. Zhang Tie gained this piece of land from Sacred Light with his own ability. He didn't use any force of Sacred Iceland Kingdom. Sacred Light Empire also expressed that they would send this gift of Zhang Tie; instead of Sacred Iceland Kingdom. Of course, this piece of land belonged to Zhang Tie's personal property.

Zhang Tie didn't care about the current situation facing Fadillan Province and whether he could rule this piece of land effectively. Now that Sacred Light Empire had gifted him this piece of land, legally, Zhang Tie and his descendants would be the owners of this new piece of land. Nobody could replace them. As long as he wanted it, he could take over this piece of land in a justifiable way whenever he wanted.

On the same evening, Zhang Tie had called in all of his lovers and kids in Ice and Snow Wilderness. Like holding a family party, he showed that map and the corresponding certificates left by the special envoy of Sacred Light Empire to those kids as he told them, "Andre is your eldest brother; therefore, I leave Sacred Iceland Kingdom to Andre. When you grow up, if you want any land, this piece of land on the Western Continent belongs to you. It depends on you how much could you take. If you couldn't even safeguard what I left to you, stop thinking about others. Just live your steady and leisure lives!"

Alexander and the other kids couldn't fully understand Zhang Tie's words. However, Zhang Tie's women exchanged a glance with each other as they nodded. Zhang Tie had too many kids, as the moms of these kids, they should consider about the future of his own kid.

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After becoming reconciled with Sacred Light Empire, Zhang Tie stayed in Saint Petersburg for 1 more month.

Although those women and kids would still come back after returning to Taixia Country, they should make a long-term plan. They had a lot of things to deal with in Ice and Snow Wilderness and Ewentra Archipelago. They should take some people away. It would take them about 1 month to deal with all the things.

On May 9th, at Zhang Tie's request, Gold and Power Law directly drove a heavenly cloud-class airboat to the Summer Palace of Saint Petersburg. When the airboat arrived, all the people across the Summer Palace were gathering in the square and watching the huge airboat to slowly decline.

The heavenly cloud-class airboat was customized by Gold and Power Law for Zhang Tie. Given its speculations, it was on the same class with that of the military commanders and the elders of the top 7 sects in Taixia Country. The airboat that Zhang Tie won from Taiyi Fantasy Sect was also a heavenly cloud-class airboat, which could rank top in luxury and specifications.

Of course, this airboat aroused a shock in Saint Petersburg once again. Few people across Ice and Snow Wilderness had seen such a huge airboat, not to mention taking a ride in it. Not only Zhang Tie's lovers and kids, but even the members of the Cardinal Elders Committee also visited it.

This airboat was Zhang Tie's new Iron-Dragon Airboat.

After the iron-dragon airboat arrived at Ice and Snow Wilderness for 1 week, Zhang Tie left for Taixia Country with his lovers, kids and the other relevant personnel...

During the month when Zhang Tie was in Ice and Snow Wilderness, the severest crisis since the beginning of the holy war broke out in Taixia Country...

Chapter 1252: The Great Catastrophe Facing Taixia Country (I)

Ninghe Prefecture was a big prefecture in Yanzhou Province. Because Ninghe River flew across this prefecture, this prefecture was called Ninghe Prefecture. After the surging Ninghe River flew by Yanzhou Province, it made two convolutions on the southeast part of the vast land of Yanzhou Province like an

undulating huge dragon, each convolution covered over 1,000 miles. After that, the surging Ninghe River turned winding and headed for the east like a masterpiece and a splendid landscape work of a painter.

Tender wind and winding river both benefited Ninghe Prefecture a lot. The great convolutions of Ninghe River irrigated thousands of miles' fertile land and led to the prosperity of the entire Ninghe Prefecture.

Ninghe Prefecture was called the Granary of Yanzhou Province. The entire Ninghe Prefecture was famous for its grains across Youzhou Province, Northeast Military Region, even across Taixia Country. Xuanyuan Hill would assign officials to purchase the best grains from Ninghe Prefecture every year for the dignitaries in the Emperor's Imperial City and the imperial palace of Xuanyuan Hill.

The Ninghe River and the fertile black earth led to Ninghe Liquor, one of the top 10 liquors in Taixia Country.

Ninghe Liquor was brewed by the fall wheat in Ninghe Prefecture. The fall wheat in Ninghe Prefecture was sowed in late September and became ripe in late May. When it came to the bumper harvest, the entire land of Ninghe Prefecture would be covered with endless golden color. The return of the earth brought hope to many people.

Previously, in each late May, when the fall wheat became ripe, a lot of airships and airboats would arrive at Ninghe Prefecture. Of course, they were not here for reaping ears of wheat, but for enjoying the scenery.

Sitting in the airships or airboats, travelers would watch the vast land being paved with a golden carpet. When the breeze blew over, the golden carpet would undulate like sea waves, which became a wonderful scenery.

At this moment, some airboats were suspending over a piece of a wheat field in the main producing area of Ninghe Prefecture. However, being different than those in the past years, these people were not here for enjoying the scenery. Hundreds of people were standing on one side of the golden wheat field in different colors such as green, red, purple and blue.

Green, red, purple and blue represented different ranks in Taixia Country. All the big figures in northeast military region headquarters, Yanzhou Provincial Governor's Mansion and Ninghe Prefecture were here. Such a grand reunion could be barely seen in normal times except for the banquets held by the commander-in-chief of northeast military region. Commander-in-chief always held banquets; however, today, they all reunited on one side of the wheat field in Ninghe Prefecture.

Although the breeze blew over with the faint heat of early summer at noon, the place where they stood almost froze. Many officials especially officials in Ninghe Prefecture looked poor as their legs shivered. The sweat on their backs and their temples made their uniforms wet all over.

Nobody dared utter any voice; even the Yanzhou provincial governor clenched his fist as he stood on one side of the wheat field with a cold look.

The commander-in-chief looked like an experienced old farmer. He squatted down as he stretched out one hand and broke a handful of ears of wheat. Closely after that, he opened all the hulls of the ears of wheat by rubbing them. There was nothing inside the hulls, not even a single wheat. Commander-in-chief clapped his hands, having the handful of wheat hulls fly away lightly in the breeze.

He broke other ears of wheat and got the same result.

All the ears of wheat were empty.

Watching the handful of wheat hulls flying away in the breeze, some officials felt that it was their bodies and souls that were broken by the hands of the commander-in-chief.

With a sound of “Dong”, a grey-haired official in class 8 uniform passed out as he fell down onto the ridge between wheat fields with a red face and closed eyes.

If it were in normal times, the other officials had long swarmed up to look after him; however, at this moment, nobody dared move or even have a smooth breath.

At this moment, if the commander-in-chief was irritated, many officials’ heads would be chopped off, not to mention passing out.

The commander-in-chief stood up as his face turned darker and colder. All the people at present sensed a great killing intent from Commander Cheng’s frown.

Commander Cheng took in a deep breath as he glanced around those officials and asked calmly, “Where’s Liu Yuntao the magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture?”

“This humble man is here!” After hearing Commander Cheng calling his name, a 60-year old official who looked loyal and honest quivered a bit before walking out of the crowd and bowing deeply towards Commander Cheng.

“Do all the ears of wheat in Ninghe Prefecture face the same problem?”

“Yes...all...all of them...” The magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture quivered once again as he answered.

“What about the loss?”

“This year, Ninghe Prefecture plant 111,955,950,000 square meters’ wheat in total. As the soil in Ninghe Prefecture is fertile, plus the irrigation of Ninghe River, the wheat fields in Ninghe Prefecture always have a high yield. We could usually produce 920 kg per mu. We lose over 154 billion kg’s wheat this year...” Although the magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture was intense, he could still report the relevant data easily.

Ninghe Prefecture was a big farming prefecture. The magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture was previously a farmer. After being promoted to a farming official, he was favored by Zhu Tong the Yanzhou provincial governor and was finally promoted to the magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture. Of course, he was very familiar with agriculture.

“Over 154 billion kg’s wheat. It’s almost one year’s grains for 400 million people...” Commander Cheng let out a deep sigh as he looked at the quivering magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture for a short while before asking in a kinder voice, “As you were a farmer, you excel at farming works. In your opinion, can the autumn grains this year and summer grains next year be guaranteed in Ninghe Prefecture?”

After hearing this question, the magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture’s face turned pale at once as he looked up at the other officials at present before stammering, “I...I don’t know...”

Commander Cheng's eyes turned serious at once as he said, "As the magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture, you don't even know this, what a good-for-nothing!"

The magistrate answered with a bitter look, "This...this is really not under my control..."

"Why?"

"This humble man dare not say that..."

"Just say it!"

The magistrate gritted as he raised his head at once and said, "Now that Commander Cheng allows me to say it, I will put it straightforwardly. This year, Ninghe Prefecture's agriculture is good in all aspects such as fertility, farming season, climate, tillage, irrigation and insects and disease prevention. In normal times, it should be a bumper harvest like usual. However, the wheat failure is too severe and special. Given its scale and severity, it's definitely not caused by ordinary plant pests or the weather and the fertility of the soil. There's only one reason, namely all the wheat in Ninghe Prefecture have been demonized. Only demonized plant seeds could lead to such a large-scale crop failure!"

All the people at present listened to his explanation quietly, including Commander Cheng. Therefore, the magistrate said loudly with a red face regardless of any outcome.

"The seeds of fall wheat in Ninghe Prefecture don't come from only one clan. Many seeds were preserved by farmers themselves. In this case, they could still sow the demonized seeds unconsciously, it indicates that the farmlands in Ninghe Prefecture might have long been contaminated by demonized seeds dozens of years ago. Only after generations' constant contamination and dissemination could cause such a large-scale crop failure. If it is real, not only the summer crops this year, the farmlands in Ninghe Prefecture would not produce any other grains in the future!"

Commander Cheng's face turned black as ink as he said, "What about using pure seeds?"

"Commander Cheng, as you know the seeds' genes have been contaminated. Take this piece of farmland as an instance, If demonized seeds were planted on its neighborhood; even if the seeds in this farmland were pure, these pure seeds' next generations would also be contaminated by the demonized genes of those neighboring demonized seeds through pollen dispersal between crops, farming tools, transport vehicles even the same water source and the same soil. Besides mutual contamination between plants, after humans or animals had those demonized grains, those contaminated genes would stay in farming fertilizers. Through fertilizers, they would contaminate the farmland for the second time. Therefore, after being contaminated by that, even a pure farmland would face a crop failure." The magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture revealed a bitter smile as he continued, "Given the current situation facing Ninghe Prefecture, if this demonized contamination had sustained for several decades, the 111,955,950,000 square meters' farmland which suffered from a crop failure probably have been contaminated completely, including the soil and the water source. If so, the future grain yield would never be guaranteed."

"Do we have any method to wipe out the pollutant source?"

"If it was in lab, all the materials should go through inactivation treatment before being taken out of the lab in case of gene pollution and flow; all the demonized plants should be burned in the lab, even the

soil in the lab should be steamed at high temperatures in boilers before being taken out of lab. Therefore, unless all the soil across Ninghe Prefecture were steamed in boilers..."

Chapter 1253: The Great Catastrophe Facing Taixia Country (II)

'Are you kidding me? Steam all the dozens of billions of square meters' soil in a boiler so as to eliminate the contamination of demonized plants? Who could do that? I've not heard that any brick kiln could hold dozens of billions of square meters' soil in Taixia Country.'

After hearing the magistrate's words, all the officials at present swore inside; however, nobody dared burst out into laughter or refute him. Because the magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture was undoubtedly an agricultural expert. Nobody else at present knew agriculture better than him. Liu Yuntao might be like a bookish; however, Commander Cheng couldn't doubt Liu Yuntao's authority even though he was a shadow knight.

However, after hearing Liu Yuntao's words, Commander Cheng's frown grew deeper.

"You mean, Ninghe Prefecture as the granary of Yanzhou Province would not only suffer from a wheat failure this year but also from a constant failure in the future even if pure seeds are sowed here..."

"The gene contamination and flow caused by demonized plants would not only cause gene change of near-source species; in the worst scenario, the entire ecological environment would change structurally. Take these farmlands in Ninghe Prefecture as an instance, demonized grains not only cause crop failure. As these demonized grains root in soil, they could cause severe impact and a major change to the microbial system in the soil. As a result, the specialties of the soil would be changed..."

Commander Cheng waved his hand to interrupt the magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture impatiently as he asked straightforwardly, "Just tell me whether the fertile soil in Ninghe Prefecture could produce any grains in the future?"

The magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture gritted once again as he nodded forcefully, "Yes, they will. However, the yield would be reduced. These high-yield farmlands might be low-yield farmlands and couldn't recover the high yield until dozens of years later..."

"As Ninghe Prefecture is suffering from a summer wheat failure, what's your countermeasure as the magistrate of Ninghe prefecture?"

"Burn them!"

"Burn them?"

"Yes, as there's no yield, these ears of wheat are not qualified to be reaped. In case of greater contamination, we'd better burn them all. After that, the ashes could serve as fertilizers. Through careful tillage, as long as the next batch of grain seeds are pure, we will have a harvest more or less!"

"Good, burn them then..."

"However, as the entire Ninghe Prefecture is suffering from summer wheat failure. All the people in Ninghe Prefecture are in a state of anxiety. If we want to recover the fertility of the farmlands in Ninghe

Prefecture, we need to invest more into it. This humble man sincerely expects Commander Cheng to exempt this year's taxes for Ninghe Prefecture. Additionally, please deliver farming loans to farmers in order to make people reassured in case of other concerns. Furthermore, please open the top 6 warehouses of class A cities within Yanzhou Province and deliver pure grain seeds to the farmers. In this way, I promise that all the farmers of Ninghe Prefecture would put their full efforts in farming work sincerely..."

The magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture proposed three suggestions.

"Well, I will exempt 3 years taxes for Ninghe Prefecture. 3 years later, the taxes of Ninghe Prefecture will be halved. Additionally, the northeast military region headquarters will allocate 20 million gold coins to Ninghe Prefecture..." Commander Cheng said after hesitating slightly for less than a second. If not on his side, perhaps nobody could discover his hesitation at this moment, "As to the other suggestions, as you wish!"

"Thanks, Commander Cheng!" The magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture bowed deeply towards Commander Cheng as he said generously, "If so, if Ninghe Prefecture's fertile land still suffered from such a crop failure 3 years later, this humble man would like to commit suicide for that!"

"No need to commit suicide, just do your job at your full efforts!" Commander Cheng said. After that, he threw a glance at the official who had passed out and fallen onto the ridge between fields before waving his hand and sending an order, "Carry him away and cure him. Given his age, he's not suitable to serve as any local official in Ninghe Prefecture. After he wakes up, let him resign and return home."

"Yes!"

"Let's go..." Commander Cheng said as he flew off towards his airboat which was suspending in the sky, followed by some attendants. All the attendants were knight-level officials in the northeast military region headquarters.

"Bon Voyage, Commander Cheng..." All the other officials in Yanzhou Province and Ninghe Prefecture below said as they saw Commander Cheng flying away. As Commander Cheng didn't kill anyone to have them assume the responsibility for this crop failure, many officials had let out a deep sigh inside. However, it was just a temporary relaxation. Looking at the large-scale crop failure, everybody was in a low mood.

"Now that Commander Cheng has sent the order, let's do it..." Zhu Tong the Yanzhou provincial governor finally opened his mouth...

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Zhu Tong was silent just now because he was also in a low mood.

Zhu Tong had already guessed why Commander Cheng didn't lose his temper here today. Because Ninghe Prefecture was not the only place that suffered from a large-scale crop failure. Most of the top 100 crops production places in Taixia Country suffered from similar large-scale crop failures. This summer harvest was in an unprecedentedly worse situation. 80% of all the other places across Yanzhou Province suffered from the same crop failure.

Even idiots knew that agricultural production which was concerned about the stability and lifeline of Taixia Country was facing a big problem. It could be confirmed from the prices of the crops in the latest 2 months. The crops' prices across Taixia Country had increased by two times in April and May. All the major clans had started to stockpile grains. Official grains were put into the market. Additionally, major clans were limited to purchase grains. As a result, the prices of crops were stabilized slightly.

Taixia Country was facing a big problem in agriculture. Of course, this problem was closely related to Han Zhengfang the former finance minister, Heavens Reaching Church and demons. Any smart one could understand the cause and the effect.

However, the storage of official grains was limited. If the farmland across Taixia country couldn't produce any grains, the official grains in military regions and prefectures couldn't stand too long.

'As one of the top 9 ministers in Taixia Country, Han Zhengfang surrendered to demons. How many fatal plots have Han Zhengfang set in Taixia Country over these years?' Zhu Tong felt chilly inside the moment he thought about this.

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——Hope no more problems in the future.

Liu Yuntao the magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture was also restless. 'After the summer harvest, according to farming season and customs, soya beans should be sowed in the most part of farmlands in Ninghe Prefecture in late June. If these soya beans suffered from a failure too...'

Liu Yuntao dared not think about it anymore. 'If such a situation really cropped up, the farmers in Ninghe Prefecture would reap nothing after one years' hard work. If so, before demons arrived, Taixia Country would be in a large-scale chaos...'

Liu Yuntao only expected that the soya beans in the top 6 warehouses in class A cities had no problem.

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The officials started to leave the ridge. After receiving the order, the soldiers started to burn the ears of wheat in the farmlands.

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Only after a few minutes, before the Cheng Honglie's airboat left Ninghe Prefecture, heavy smoke had risen from the farmlands below within 1,000 miles...

The flames were at most higher than 10 m. However, the smoke was heavy. Looking down from the airboat, they found the farmlands were covered with smog by lots.

Standing in the airboat, Commander Cheng frowned as he watched the rising smoke. When the magistrate of Ninghe Prefecture mentioned about using the stored grains in the top 6 warehouses in Taixia country, Commander Cheng hesitated slightly. Because he was not sure whether the stored crops in the top 6 warehouses of class A cities in the northeast military region were safe or not.

The grains in the top 6 warehouses in class A cities couldn't be stored forever. When they reached the corresponding time limits, they would be replaced by new grains. Otherwise, those grains would go bad.

If Han Zhengfang and demons determined to demonize grains in Taixia Country, now that the grains across Taixia Country were demonized unconsciously, it was hard to say those grains in the top 6 warehouses across Taixia country were safe although the process for entering warehouses was very strict.

‘Demons and Three-eye Association clans had demonized human grains before the Catastrophe. As long as humans ate demonized grains for a long time, they would be infertile, weak, sick and be inflicted by various incurable diseases. This point could be discovered from the epidemic data collected by those hospitals. Taixia Country could make and have made preventions and countermeasures about that; however, each time, demons could use the same trick to have Taixia Country as a whole suffer from crop failure in a specific period, sparing no time for Taixia Country to make any response and early-warning to it. Besides making Taixia Country run out of grains, they also destroyed the fertile land in Taixia Country. What a vicious plan!’

Commander Cheng let out a deep sigh inside.

Although demons had not arrived, Taixia Country had been chaotic. Xuanyuan Hill was missing; the crown prince was acting as regent; the catastrophe of bloody figures across Taixia country had not been pacified; the remnants of Heavens Reaching Church had not been exterminated; Taixia Country’s agriculture faced a big problem. In the past half a year, the prices of grains had been roaring; the housing prices in cities started to skyrocket; major clans across Taixia Country started to build high city walls and expand their private armies in the name of exterminating bloody figures. All this indicated that Taixia Country was going to be in big chaos.

The moment he thought about this, Commander Cheng would be worried...

...

“Commander, we’ve inspected Gaozhou Province, Mozhou Province, Tongzhou Province, Qiongzhou Province, Yanzhou Province, Huizhou Province and Chaozhou Province. Where do we go now?” Gao Tianqi the assistant of Cheng Honglie drew Commander Cheng back from his train of thoughts.

“We’ve not been to Youzhou Province yet. Have you received any message about Youzhou Province these days?” Commander Cheng turned around as he asked Gao Tianqi calmly.

“Youzhou Province has started its summer harvest. They’re not severely affected by demonized grains. It’s said that only two prefectures in Youzhou Province suffered from crop failures. Yanghe Prefecture and the other prefectures in Youzhou Province even have greater yields than previous years. As Commander Cheng was busy patrolling across northeast military region these days, you might have not heard that. This humble man heard a shocking news about Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory from one of my friends recently!”

“Is that about Fiery Oil or Zhang Tie’s romantic affairs in the subcontinent?”

Speaking of Zhang Tie, Commander Cheng’s tone turned strange. Gao Tianqi remembered that when he said that Zhang Tie came back to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory with a lot of wives and kids from the Sacred Iceland Kingdom in Waii Subcontinent a few days ago, Commander Cheng replied with a cold harrumph in his study as he replied, “Naive!”. Commander Cheng still seemed to be dissatisfied about

Zhang Tie as the latter only cared about his own family. However, Commander Cheng couldn't stop Zhang Tie as Zhang Tie was not an official of Taixia Country anymore.

"Ahem, ahem, it's neither about Fiery Oil nor Qianji Hermit's dissolute affairs in the subcontinent!"

Gao Tianqi pretended to cough twice. Although Commander Cheng could call Zhang Tie's name directly, as a black iron knight, it was improper for Gao Tianqi to call a legendary earth knight who was famous across Eastern Continent and Western Continent like what Commander Cheng called. When Zhang Tie served as the Youzhou provincial justice, Gao Tianqi might be able to call Zhang Tie's name directly; however, he couldn't do that now. Only after a few years, the man who had met him a few times and was on the same footing with him before had grown increasingly powerful. Gao Tianqi didn't even know what he felt at this moment. When he mentioned about Zhang Tie, Gao Tianqi would unconsciously recall the scene that Zhang Tie squatted down on the riverside outside Youzhou City and washed tableware. A powerful black iron knight traveled with his family by touring care and was responsible for washing tableware. Nobody else might believe in it. It was definitely a fairytale. Gao Tianqi had not washed tableware since he was born, whether at home, in the sect or on the side of Cheng Honglie.

"It's said that Qianji Hermit the master of Iron-Dragon Sect took out a great treasure that he gained from Earth-elements Realm a few days ago. It's called bloody sacrifice furnace. One could improve his cultivation base and cure his incurable diseases and wounds by sacrificing bloody figures in the bloody sacrifice furnace. Only in a few days, the bloody sacrifice furnace has aroused a shock. Due to the existence of the bloody sacrifice furnace, the prices of bloody figures across Youzhou Province and Tongzhou Province rose amazingly and are in short. Many major clans across Youzhou Province and Tongzhou Province have assigned more manpower to hunt for bloody figures alive. Someone even purchase bloody figures at high prices. Being allured by such a high profit, bounty hunters across Youzhou Province and Tongzhou Province are all in action..."

Commander Cheng turned around immediately. Looking at Gao Tianqi, he suddenly asked, "What do you think about Zhang Tie..."

After hearing Cheng Honglie's question, Gao Tianqi took in a breath before replying calmly, "Commander, you might not know that, this humble man has met Qianji Hermit outside the city before we met Qianji Hermit in Youzhou Province. When this humble met Qianji Hermit, he was squatting down and washing tableware on the riverside beside an army ranch!"

"What? Squat down and wash tableware on the riverside?" Commander Cheng asked with an amazed look as if he felt that Gao Tianqi was joking. A knight would wash tableware? Neither Gao Tianqi nor Commander Cheng had ever done that since they were born.

"Yes, he was. Qianji Hermit was driving a new touring car and traveling in Youzhou Province with his parents, wives and kids. They traveled all the way towards Youzhou City. At that moment, Feng Cangwu and I were trying horses in the military ranch. When we came to the riverside, we saw Qianji Hermit. At that time, we didn't find that teenager who was washing tableware on the opposite side of us was a powerful black iron knight. Over these years, the scene when I met Qianji Hermit for the first time always appeared in my mind and reminded me that I should treat people and things in ordinary mentality. After these years' experience, I feel making a great improvement in my mental realm. I feel

that Qianji Hermit grasps mysterious earthshaking skills although he looks average. He's definitely qualified to be Qianji Hermit. I really admire him..." Gao Tianqi said solemnly.

After hearing Gao Tianqi's comment about Zhang Tie, Commander Cheng's eyes gleamed as he said, "Go to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory..."

...

Chapter 1254: A Live Military Drill

Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory neighbored Gaoping Prefecture in Yanzhou Province. It only took Commander Cheng's airboat 3 hours to arrive at Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory from Ninghe Prefecture in Yanzhou Province.

Even though nobody reminded him, Commander Cheng had already known when the airboat entered the air territory of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory.

A team of 9 silver airplanes flew over from below the airboat of Commander Cheng in a tidy herringbone formation over 2,000 m high with the booms of engines.

Compared to the airboat, airplanes were much smaller and slower. However, at the first sight of those airplanes, Commander Cheng was indeed attracted by them.

Soon after Commander Cheng entered the air territory of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, he had relieved his slight frown.

"Are these airplanes being driven by Fiery Oil?" Commander Cheng asked Gao Tianqi while gazing at those airplanes flying across the clouds below with shiny eyes.

"Yes, they're airplanes!" Gao Tianqi also seriously watched that team of airplanes below the airboat. Although Gao Tianqi was Commander Cheng's chief guard nominally, he was always trained as a provincial governor. Therefore, Gao Tianqi also served as Commander Cheng's secretary. He also paid attention to the military and political affairs in the northeast military region. Of course, Gao Tianqi had channels to acquire the messages about Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory in late months. He replied, "These airplanes are Air Cavalry Type-I. Over the past 2 months, all the cities in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory were building and renovating the universal airports for airships, airboats and airplanes. Additionally, they established an air cavalry academy outside Xuantian City, which drove the youngsters in Youzhou Province mad. Youngsters from other military regions and prefectures also went to learn how to drive airplanes over there..."

In this age, besides knights, nobody else could fly; therefore, it was very attractive for these youngsters to fly in the sky by driving a set of machine.

"Air cavalry academy? Where do their coaches come from?"

"It's said that coaches were recruited from the crew of airships who could drive gliders. Nice treatment. The manipulating and flight principles of airplanes are not too much complex than that of driving gliders. They could attempt to drive an airplane only after being familiar with that. Aww, the teaching material

of Iron-Dragon Air Cavalry Academy is called “Pilot Driving Manual”. It’s said that it was compiled by Qianji Hermit himself!”

After hearing that, Commander Cheng became really surprised, “Zhang Tie compiled that?”

“Commander, don’t forget that Qianji Hermit was known as Selnes Eagle before promoting to a knight and coming to Taixia Country when he was in the fiercest battlefield between humans and demons in Waii Subcontinent. It’s said that Qianji Hermit was the only air cavalry on the battlefield. He could drive the only artificial man-powered airplane on that battlefield. At that time, Qianji Hermit protected the entire airship troop in the sky alone and was regarded as the patron of many crews of airships in the sky!”

When Zhang Tie was a black iron knight, Gao Tianqi might still be jealous of Zhang Tie. However, due to the increasingly greater difference between them, Gao Tianqi only admired him.

“Let’s take a look downside there...” Commander Cheng became interested in the airplanes.

In this case, Gao Tianqi could only notice the crew of the airboat before following Commander Cheng off the airboat.

...

When the 9 airplanes were flying below the airboat, Cheng Honglie and Gao Tianqi suddenly appeared to one side of the first airplane. Being a few meters away from that airplane, they started to observe that airplane seriously. Meanwhile, they started to assess the performance and value of this airplane.

Thankfully, it was not the first time for the pilot to meet knights in the sky. Although the appearance of Cheng Honglie and Gao Tianqi shocked him a bit, he recovered his composure soon.

The pilot made a hand gesture to tell the other pilots to fly as scheduled.

The pilot of the first airplane was the team leader of this formation.

Behind the cockpit of the first airplane, the crew member who was responsible for manipulating a crossbow was only over 20 years old. He was watching Cheng Honglie and Gao Tianqi with widely opened eyes who were a few meters away.

Common fighters could barely see two flying knights in such a short distance.

When he found that this flight formation was not in a panic after seeing the two knights, Commander Cheng nodded inside.

Compared to the prototype that Zhang Tie once tried, the Air cavalry type-I was slightly modified in the cover of the cockpit, the chair in the cockpit, the rearview mirror, breathing system and the type of the steam crossbow behind the shooting cabin according to the opinions of the pilots and the bowmen after large-scale training over the past 2 months. After making these modifications, the 9 Type-I air cavalries were finally produced as the fixed type for mass production.

Just now, Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi didn’t see the item below the abdomen of these airplanes due to visual angle. When they approached, they saw an item which was similar to that of white phosphorous gel incendiary bomb under each airplane.

The airplanes flew rapidly. Like that in Ninghe Prefecture, the land in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory was also golden all over. It was the season for summer harvest in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory.

Ninghe Prefecture's summer harvest turned into a big fire on the fertile land. By contrast, the summer harvest in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory was ongoing fervently. When the prices of grains were rising across Taixia Country, the bumper harvest in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory made all the major clans and commoners in farming villages across Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory happy and spirited as if they were in a Shangri-la.

Farmers were busy reaping ears of wheat in farmlands. When they saw airplanes flying over, those people would raise their heads and wipe off their sweat as they waved their hands and cheered towards those airplanes.

In the half past month, Commander Cheng had inspected all the main grain producing areas across the entire northeast military region except for Youzhou Province. Wherever he was, he would always see miserable scenes. This summer grains failure was absolutely a large-scale catastrophe. Facing such a miserable situation, both officials and commoners were frightened, sad and restless. Therefore, the moment Commander Cheng saw the vigorous and hopeful scene in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, Commander Cheng felt pretty good immediately.

Although with two uninvited guests on their side, the formation of airplanes still stuck to their flight route as they were not affected by it at all.

After over 1 hour's flight, the 9 airplanes finally entered the air territory of Yangui Mountain Range after passing by Wugong City and Dongyang City. After flying another half an hour over Yangui Mountain Range, they saw a valley being covered with mud, rocks and few shrubs and weeds within 100 miles under the formation of airplanes.

In the sky, they could see a huge, round area being drawn by lime whose diameter was hundreds of meters. Many people in military uniforms were waiting for something a few miles away from the other side of the round area.

When the 9 airplanes entered the air territory of this valley, all the airplanes suddenly tilted their wings as the entire formation divided into two groups. Closely after that, they dove down from thousands of meters high at high speed, causing wuthering sounds.

When the two groups of airplanes were hundreds of meters high above the round area, they suddenly dropped off the item which looked like white phosphorous gel incendiary bomb which flew towards that round area. When those bombs were dozens of meters away from the ground, all the bombs burned while giving out raging flames. In a split second, hot waves rushed into the sky. As a result, the greater part of the round area was covered by the hot flames. The land, weeds, shrubs even rocks in the white round area were burning heavily. Weeds and shrubs were burned into ashes; rocks were collapsed; mud was hardened. In the center of the white circle, the air turned thin due to surrounding flames...

When those airplanes started to dive down, Cheng Honglie and Gao Tianqi suspended in the sky. Actually, at the sight of the huge white circle on the valley, they had realized what these airplanes were doing.

It seemed like a live military drill. The achievement of this drill was really out of the imagination of the two people. The 9 incendiary bombs turned the round area into a purgatory in a split second. Even being thousands of meters high, Cheng Honglie and Gao Tianqi could still sense the hot wave.

Ordinary white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs could never be that powerful. That was not a white phosphorous gel incendiary bomb, but a more powerful and destructive incendiary bomb which had never existed in Taixia Country before...

Chapter 1255: Fiery-Oil Incendiary Bomb

After throwing off the bombs, the 9 airplanes made a circle above the valley before heading far away, leaving raging flames within the white circle. Commander Cheng watched the scene for a short while before flying towards those people on the hillside, closely followed by Gao Tianqi.

In the blink of an eye, Commander Cheng had landed in front of those people in military uniforms on the hillside.

Those people neither wore the military uniforms of the regular army across Taixia Country nor that of the top 4 armies in Taixia Country; instead, they wore grey-green military uniforms which were similar to that of the armed forces of business groups and private armies of major clans. The sharp difference between this military uniform and that of the regular army in Taixia Country lay in that there was an eye-catching diamond-shaped mark on the sleeve of this military uniform. Those who were familiar with the military legal system in each military region could find more information from the details such as their shoulder mark, collar badge, cap badge and armband. Their cap badge was a sword made of crisscrossed steel gears.

Among the crowd, there were 5 people in blue engineer's uniform and eyeglasses, which looked a bit eye-catching.

There were 50-60 people on the hillside. All of them were capable and vigorous. Additionally, there were more than 10 six-wheeled SUVs in the nearby. Compared to that of ordinary steam vehicles, those vehicles' steam engine, boiler, accumulator and smoke evacuation system which were easily identified could be barely seen from outside...

After landing on the hillside, Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi glanced around these people and those vehicles behind them for a short while out of curiosity.

When Cheng Honglie and Gao Tianqi landed on the hillside, those people were all shocked a bit as they gazed at the two strangers; however, they didn't look afraid or intense.

"You're in the Arms Testing Field of Fire-Dragon Corps. May I know your purpose here?" A youth official at his 20s asked.

Unless making a report to Emperor Xuanyuan in Xuanyuan Hill, Commander Cheng would not wear the official uniform. Although being a shadow knight, he didn't release his battle qi purposefully when he was not in a battle; in that case, people below knight rank could barely identify the concrete rank of a knight.

Cheng Honglie threw a glance at that youth official who was only LV 9 before asking in an imposing and direct manner, "I'm Cheng Honglie the commander of the northeast military region, who's your head here?"

After hearing Commander Cheng's words, these officials were in an uproar. As many knights had been to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory these days, they had been used to see knights here. However, they had not imagined that they could see the commander of the northeast military region here.

Zhang Su, who was younger than 40 years old with a handlebar mustache in a military uniform, walked out of the crowd as he said, "I could make decisions here. As we've not seen Commander Cheng before, please prove your identity; otherwise, please leave this important military place!"

Zhang Su said in neither humble nor pushy way. He was not afraid at all even in front of the two knights.

Commander Cheng nodded inside, 'That's how soldiers should behave. As these people have not seen me before, if they believe in my words immediately, I would feel that these people are idiots and don't comply with military disciplines.'

Commander Cheng moved his hand while a big, brilliant seal appeared in his hand. He had the "words" side face Zhang Su and the other officials. After everybody else saw the words "Seal of Cheng Honglie the Commander of Northeast Military Region in Taixia Country" clearly, Cheng Honglie put it away in his portable space-teleportation equipment.

"Welcome, Commander..."

Zhang Su gave a military salute to Commander Cheng, followed by all the others.

Commander Cheng nodded as he moved his eyes onto Zhang Su, "What's your name?"

"This humble man is Zhang Su!"

"What's your title in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory?"

"This humble man is the deputy regimental commander of the Fire-Dragon Corps of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory!"

Besides being fluent in reply in neither a humble nor a pushy way, Zhang Su's look always felt familiar as if Commander Cheng had seen him somewhere. After watching Zhang Su's face carefully for a short while, Commander Cheng asked, "What's the relationship between you and Zhang Tie?"

"I'm Zhang Tie's cousin..."

'I see!' Cheng Honglie nodded. As cousins, Zhang Tie and Zhang Su were close in blood ties. Therefore, the facial contours of Zhang Tie and Zhang Su especially their jaws and noses were similar to each other. "Were you testing the news arms?"

"Yes!"

"What's that?"

"It's Fiery-Oil Incendiary Bomb!"

“Fiery-Oil Incendiary Bomb?” Commander Cheng’s eyes turned bright as he asked, “Is it made of Fiery-Oil?”

“Yes!”

Pointing at the raging flame on the barren land in the far, Commander Cheng let out a sigh, “Only 9 Fiery-Oil Incendiary Bombs could reach such a great effect. At least 20 white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs are required to reach the same effect. What a sharp weapon!”

“This benefits from our far-sighted master!”

“Oh?”

“Our master said Fiery-Oil could release greater heat than that of gasoline before the Catastrophe. Before the Catastrophe, humans invented powerful gasoline incendiary bombs. In this age, we’ve got white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs. Our master enlightened us to draw the strengths of the two kinds of weapons and make a new incendiary bomb made of Fiery-Oil. Through months’ experiments, our engineers and researchers finally invented the new Fiery-Oil Incendiary Bomb!”

Of course, the white phosphorous gel bomb was a weapon of mass destruction on the battlefield and a strategic human resource in the holy war. As the commander of the northeast military region, Cheng Honglie was clear about the high cost and complex manufacturing process of a white phosphorous gel bomb. A 500 kg’s white phosphorous gel incendiary bomb would cost at least 3,000 gold coins. Additionally, due to rare raw materials and strict requirements on the manufacturing process, the largest official factory within the northeast military region could only make fewer than 10,000 tons’ white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs a year. Although this figure seemed big, it indicated a very small production scale.

Especially in the holy war, none of countries or troops would feel that they had enough white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs. Those white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs that were produced in the largest factory within the northeast military region had almost been shared by all the troops across the northeast military region before leaving the factory. In order to get more white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs, generals and provincial governors of each province would almost stir up trouble in the northeast military region headquarters yearly, which made Commander Cheng pretty upset.

The major clans in each province across the northeast military region also had clan factories and enterprises which could produce white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs. By contrast, these clan enterprises had poorer production capabilities. Although these clan enterprises would sell white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs before the holy war, after the holy war broke out, these clans would keep stockpiling these arms except for selling them to the other clans which got along well with them.

It was said that Zhang Tie’s Fiery-Oil was made of fermented straws; therefore, the cost of Fiery-Oil should be low. Additionally, its manufacturing process should not be that difficult. If Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory got hang of the method of manufacturing Fiery-Oil Incendiary Bomb in a large scale at a low cost, they could shock the military of Taixia Country for sure.

Over the past 2 months, the names of Fiery-Oil and Airplanes had shocked the world. Nobody could imagine that Fiery-Dragon Bounty Territory could make new arms using Fiery-Oil so fast.

Besides ordinary white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs, Cheng Honglie knew that the military of Taixia Country had been dedicated to studying minimizing white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs and expected to turn them into individual equipment. After so many years' study, they had made major progress. Minimal white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs had been gradually put into use in the battle fields of Earth-elements Realm. However, due to some reason, minimal white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs couldn't be matched to troops in a large scale due to low capacity.

Commander Cheng glanced around those engineers in blue uniforms as he asked Zhang Su directly, "Besides Fiery-Oil, what other raw materials are needed to make Fiery-Oil Incendiary Bomb? Can you realize continuous production? What's the maximal yearly output in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory?"

"Sorry, Commander, it's classified in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. Without the consent of the master of Iron-Dragon Sect, I have no right to reveal this intelligence to you!" Zhang Su shook his head with a solemn look as he refused to answer this question immediately.

"Audacious!" Commander Cheng widely opened his eyes as he released his overwhelming qi towards Zhang Su and all the others at present. As a result, they all felt like falling into a 10,000 years' ice cave while their body, battle qi, qi, blood even mindset were frozen at once. In front of the majesty and qi field of a shadow knight, all the people at present whose highest rank was lower than a battle spirit felt like being ants at the crater. As long as Commander Cheng ran his spirit and waved his arm, all the people at present would become sh*t.

"Even if the commander wants to kill us, I will still stick to my words. Without the consent of our master, I have no right to reveal this intelligence to you!" Zhang Su said while gritting his teeth.

"Hahahaha..." Commander Cheng burst out into laughter at once while the overwhelming stress disappeared. He then pointed at Zhang Su as he nodded and commented, "You're not bad. You're polite and disciplined. Zhang Tie selects the right man. I'm looking for Zhang Tie, please be my guide..."

Chapter 1256: Zhang Tie's Entertainment

As soon as the overwhelming stress disappeared, those people in military uniforms recovered their composure; however, those engineers lost their balance. If not being held up by someone on their side, they might have sat on the ground.

It was out of their imagination that Commander Cheng could play such a terrifying joke with them.

Zhang Su let out a sigh inside too. 'Although one life for one life is applicable to knights in Taixia Country; in fact, the number of knights who compensated for commoners with their own lives is definitely fewer than that of shadow demons that I've ever heard. If Cheng Honglie killed everybody at present out of fury, I'm afraid that nobody else would like to find him trouble except for Zhang Tie. Not only that, someone might find various reasons to prove the "necessity" and "legitimacy" of Commander Cheng's deed such as moles of Three-eye Association are discovered among the crowd, disrespect Commander Cheng or Commander Cheng kills us by mistake when he's hunting for bloody demons. Wherever it is, as there are humans, power would predominate. It's determined by humanity. It's the same wherever it is.'

After such a train of thoughts flashed through Zhang Su's mind, Zhang Su took in a deep breath before saying, "I could take Commander Cheng to find our master. However, he's about 120 miles away. I wonder which traffic tool did Commander Cheng take? Do you need me to have people pick you up by the airboat of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory?"

Zhang Su didn't see the airboat of Commander Cheng; therefore, he thought that Commander Cheng and his assistant just flew over here themselves. Given the status of Commander Cheng, he deserved such a hitchhike.

Cheng Honglie waved his hand as he pointed at those cool military SUVs over there and said, "No need, let's go there by that vehicle..."

"Sure, please follow me, Commander Cheng..." Zhang Su immediately took Cheng Honglie and Gao Tianqi towards one military SUV after saying something to one military official on his side.

After coming to the front of a military SUV, Zhang Su opened the trunk and took out a metal cranking bar. Closely after that, he came to the front of the vehicle and inserted one end of the cranking bar into a hole. Only after waving the cranking bar for a few circles forcefully, he had already started the engine of the SUV, causing a muffled and euphonious sound; at the same time, the exhaust at the end of the vehicle started to smoke.

Gao Tianqi's eyes turned bright as he asked, "Is this vehicle's engine driven by Fiery-Oil?"

"Right..."

Cheng Honglie looked at this military SUV for a short while before sitting on the back seat. Zhang Su put the cranking bar back in the trunk before sitting in the front of the vehicle together with Gao Tianqi.

"Bang...bang..." After they closed the doors. Zhang Su pulled down the handbrake. After that, he put the vehicle into gear and pressed down on the accelerator. The vehicle started to move rapidly. This vehicle was much better ordinary steam vehicles in starting speed, acceleration performance, ride comfort, controllability and the output range of torque. Although there was also noise in the vehicle, it was much lower than that of the ordinary steam engine. After closing the windows, the noise inside the vehicle was only about 40-50 decibels.

After getting on the vehicle, Commander Cheng didn't speak anymore. He just watched the scenery outside the window. By contrast, Gao Tianqi was more interested in this vehicle. He then started to chat with Zhang Su. As a result, the atmosphere in the vehicle was not embarrassing.

"Is the engine of this vehicle as same as that of the airplane above Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory?"

"No, this engine is much smaller than that of the airplane. Its cylinder is only 5 liters. Its driving force is over 320 horsepowers. By contrast, the engine of Air Cavalry Type-I is 18.5 liters and could output 1,500 horsepowers comprehensively. The two engines are also different in structures. This engine is the latest product produced in the factory of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory; this vehicle and those vehicles that you saw are the trial vehicles of the first batch of vehicles which are going to be handed to Fire-Dragon Corps. They're not in official production and matched with the corps yet. They're used for discovering problems..."

"Is there any problem?"

“Yes, there is!”

“What’s that?”

“The problem is that this vehicle drives pretty well. Anyone who has tried this vehicle would not like to drive those steam vehicles anymore...”

Gao Tianqi looked at Zhang Su who was driving solemnly as he wondered whether Zhang Su was joking or not!

The military SUV soon rushed out of the mountainous road and came to the vast plain. It was rough land all over. As Zhang Su changed his gears and gradually accelerated the vehicle, the speed of the SUV gradually reached 120 miles per hour. Ordinary steam cars could never reach such a high speed. Only expensive alcohol cars such as Faerie-Dragon sports car could make that on the standard highway.

After half an hour later, the vehicle entered a residential area and moved onto the highway. There were large areas of farmlands, cities and towns on both sides of the highway. The summer wheat harvest led to a prosperous and pleasant scene everywhere.

When they passed by a piece of wheat field, Commander Cheng let Zhang Su pull over the vehicle when he saw those farmers busy working in the field. After that, he got off the vehicle. He then picked up a heavy ear of wheat and rubbed it.

After breaking the hulls, he saw full and crystal kernels. It seemed to be a new species as the kernels were full; besides, the two ends of the kernel were a bit slim. Under the sunlight, the kernels gave out shiny, golden light. After looking at it carefully, he found that the kernels even looked a bit reddish. Holding it, he could smell the faint fragrance of the kernels.

Even if Commander Cheng had no experience in farming, he also knew that this wheat was good. He had not even seen this kind of wheat before.

“Hey, man, how’s your harvest?”

Commander Cheng asked a 40-year-old farmer who was busy working kindly.

As a steam wheat reaper was working in the field, the farmer was shoveling the straws left by the steam reaper onto the oxcart.

When the farmer found Zhang Su’s military uniform of Fire-Dragon Corps and the unusual looks of Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi, that farmer stopped what he was doing for the time being as he pulled off his gauze scarf which was used to cover his mouth and nose and revealed a swarthy and honest face. He then replied with a smile, “It’s better than last years. I’m afraid that each mu could produce over 800 kg’s grains...”

Of course, the farmlands in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory were not as fertile as that in Ninghe Prefecture. In Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, each mu of land could at most produce a bit more than 700 kg’s wheat; therefore, over 800 kg’s wheat per mu was a big harvest in the eyes of the farmer.

Commander Cheng nodded as he asked, “How’s your harvest last year?”

“About 700 kg’s wheat per mu!”

“Why so many this year?”

“Thanks to Qianji Hermit the master of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. Soon after Qianji Hermit arrived at Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory last year, he had sent people to deliver many wheat seeds to us. As those seeds looked fuller than those wheat seeds that we usually preserved for sowing, we sowed his seeds with uncertainty. We’ve not imagined that it could have such a high yield. A few days ago, someone came here and wanted to purchase our wheat at 30% higher price than the market price. But I didn’t agree. It’s my first time to see such good wheat after being a farmer for so many years. I plan to use them as seeds...”

“You don’t need to sow many seeds!”

“I have some relatives in Spiritualmaple Prefecture. It’s said that they suffered from a crop failure this summer. After hearing that I didn’t suffer from a crop failure, they all came here.”

After chatting with the farmer for a short while, Commander Cheng returned to the vehicle. Gao Tianqi and Zhang Su changed their seats.

...

1 hour later, this SUV entered Yangui Mountain Range which was over 60 miles away from Xuantian City in the south. After entering this region, they passed two posts before entering a manor on one side of a lake.

The scenery in this manor was beautiful. With a lake in the front and a mountain on its back, it’s a rare scenic spot. Soon after they got off the vehicle, Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi had noticed that there were posts everywhere in the landscape, visible or invisible as they were targeted by those hidden sentries. If not being knights, they could not sense such a considerate arrangement.

Zhang Su took them all the way to a leisure wharf on the lakeside after passing by a garden and a pine wood in the manor.

Many people were over there. Some distinctive top beauties were standing in the pavilion beside the wharf, talking and laughing while pointing at something in the center of the lake...

In the center of the lake, a steel-hull boat was dashing forward on the lake, leaving a white line at the stern. It almost flew off. In the rapid movement, the boat rose waterdrops in the air. Under the sunlight, a small rainbow was looming at the stern...

Each time the boat bumped and flew off on the lake, kids’ exclamations and Zhang Tie’s chipper and pleasant laughter would drift from the boat to the lakeside, “How about that? Is your papa something...”

Chapter 1257: The Most Shameless Old Guy

Zhang Su led Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi to the lakeside. Before they approached there, the steel-hull boat had made a turn before heading for the lakeside.

When the boat approached the riverside, Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi finally saw it clearly. It was not an ordinary boat. This boat neither had paddles nor hand- or feet-operated impellor. Instead, there

was an item which was similar to the steering wheel of cars. At the stern, there were two engines being aligned with each other which could drive the impeller. The greater part of the engines was exposed in the air while being covered by a beautiful white iron hull. There was no boiler or smoke. The engines were smaller than steam engines. They were driven by Fiery-Oil. The 10-m longer steel-hull boat being painted with white lacquer had a beautiful and smooth look. It was not an ordinary boat anymore; it was more like a yacht which could move many times faster than steam yachts. It felt like flying on the water...

When the yacht approached the wharf, it decelerated at once. Zhang Tie who manipulated the rudder immediately jumped onto the plank, followed by two people. His kids left in the end.

Over 10 people made this yacht full.

"Go find your moms, take some fruits. Your father has guests. I will play with you tomorrow!" Zhang Tie said with a smile as he stroked those little guys' heads and pointed at those women in the pavilion. As those little guys were already sensible, they immediately ran over there with twitters cheerily.

Ms. Olina, O'Laura, Sabrina, Linda, Beverly, Aimei and Aixue were in the pavilion. Besides Bai Suxian, almost all of Zhang Tie's women were here. After coming to Taixia Country for a few days, they had been familiar with each other and got along well with each other.

After those kids ran over there, those women took their kids into a lakeside villa after throwing a glance at Zhang Tie, Zhang Su and their guests.

"Old Zhou, how about this yacht?" Zhang Tie patted that tough man's shoulder enthusiastically as he asked him with a smile after those kids left.

That tough man was Old Zhou whom Zhang Tie got acquainted with on the bank of Golden Water River in Xuanyuan Hill last year. After the new year festival, Zhang Tie grew increasingly famous across Taixia Country. Even Old Zhou who was far away in Xuanyuan Hill had heard about his fame; therefore, after making a preparation, Old Zhou directly came to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory by airship together with one of his sons as he wondered about the exclusive business that Zhang Tie promised him on the Golden Water river. As this chance might improve the destiny of the Zhou family, of course, Old Zhou didn't want to give it up.

After coming to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, through 2 days' efforts, Old Zhou finally found the residence of Iron-Dragon Sect. After showing that gold coin with Zhang Tie's fingerprint to one person, he was taken here.

Just now, Zhang Tie had Old Zhou and his son board the yacht before driving the yacht and showing them around on the lake, having them enjoy the lightning speed on the water.

"Are...are you gifting me this yacht..." Old Zhou asked Zhang Tie with an unbelievable and thrilled look.

"Of course not!"

After hearing Zhang Tie's words, Old Zhou's face became stagnated at once. However, Zhang Tie revealed a smile as he continued, "This yacht has been used. Of course, you need to take a new yacht back to Xuanyuan Hill. Transport it back by airship. I've prepared 3 sets of spare engines and components for you. You can have your son learn how to maintain Fiery-Oil engine in Fire-Dragon

Bounty Territory. When this yacht arrives at Xuanyuan Hill, you will monopoly this business on the Golden Water River. You can have each people pay 20 gold coins for traveling around Golden Water River by your yacht. It could hold 10 people at a time. In this way, you could easily make hundreds of gold coins. If anyone wants to rent it, you can ask him 1,000-2,000 gold coins per day. Later on, you will be responsible for the business of yacht on the Golden Water River. I promise no other Fiery-Oil yachts would compete with you. Otherwise, I will stop providing Fiery-Oil for them. You'd better prepare for some oil storage tanks in Xuanyuan Hill. I will deliver dozens of tons of Fiery-Oil to you per year. When you could purchase Fiery-Oil in Xuanyuan Hill in the future, you could buy it over there..."

Dozens of gold coins for traveling on Golden Water River might be unimaginable for commoners in other places as it was too extravagant; however, in Xuanyuan Hill which was full of rich men and dignitaries, money was sh*t. As it was a fresh thing, a lot of people would even spend hundreds of gold coins to try it, not to mention dozens of gold coins.

Now that Zhang Tie could control the production and provision of Fiery-Oil, he could control this business too.

Old Zhou's eyes turned red as he directly pulled his son to kneel down and kowtow towards Zhang Tie. This business could definitely reinvigorate the Zhou family. Of course, they had to extend their thanks to their savior.

Zhang Tie hurriedly pulled up Old Zhou and his son as he said, "Old Zhou, don't do that. We're destined to get acquainted with each other. Just take it as an advertisement for my Fiery-Oil in Xuanyuan Hill. In fact, I'm taking advantage of you..."

Old Zhou let out a long sigh as he wiped off his tears and said, "Hermit, don't comfort me. These days, I found that Xuantian City and Iron-Dragon Sect are pretty boisterous. Those major clans couldn't even have a chance to see hermit even if they queue up. Many dignitaries in the emperor's imperial city must be longing for such a business every day, not to mention me, a boatman on the Golden Water River. Hermit is really a good and faithful man. If I'm not clear about this point, I spent my life in vain. I know hermit doesn't lack money. This Old Zhou doesn't know how to repay you for your generosity, I hope that this Old Zhou could still have the strength to show you around the Golden Water River by paddle and invite you for a bottle of peach flower liquor which is made by my wife one day..."

"Fine, that's the deal then. When I come to Xuanyuan Hill next time, I will definitely taste your peach flower liquor on the Golden Water River!"

Old Zhou nodded forcefully.

After chatting with Old Zhou for a short while, Zhang Tie had a servant take off Old Zhou and his son. Now that Zhang Tie had promised Old Zhou, his subordinates would accomplish that for him.

After seeing off Old Zhou, Zhang Tie directly walked towards Commander Cheng who was standing not far away.

Of course, Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi had heard the talk between Zhang Tie and Old Zhou. As they were both smart, they could already guess how Zhang Tie got acquainted with Old Zhou. They had not imagined that Zhang Tie could make friends with such a commoner sincerely and frankly and be so

faithful to him. Watching Zhang Tie coming over here, Commander Cheng's and Gao Tianqi's eyes turned a bit weird.

"Long time no see, Commander Cheng, Brother Tianqi..." After approaching them, Zhang Tie greeted them with a faint smile before nodding towards Zhang Su.

Zhang Tie called them as same as before. However, Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi had utterly different feelings after hearing his greetings.

Gao Tianqi dared not call Zhang Tie "brother". After hearing Zhang Tie calling him in that intimate way, the assistant of Commander Cheng hurriedly bowed towards Zhang Tie. Gao Tianqi sensed that Zhang Tie still respected him. The appellation "Brother Tianqi" sounded pretty comfortable and intimate as if being blown by the spring breeze.

It was Commander Cheng's 3rd time to see Zhang Tie. Zhang Tie still respected him like how he did before. However, this time, it sounded that he intended to make friends with Commander Cheng on the equal footing instead of looking up to him. If Zhang Tie was an ordinary earth knight, Cheng Honglie would feel that he was pretty arrogant; however, as he had seen how Zhang Tie chatted with "Old Zhou", Commander Cheng didn't feel unhappy about Zhang Tie's appellation at all; he just thought up a proverb—a gentleman is like a jade, being firm yet not outstanding, being smooth yet not enchanting; being beautiful yet not excessive.

Watching the unchanged young face, Commander Cheng suddenly understood that Zhang Tie was not the same Zhang Tie anymore; he's already the world-famous Qianji Hermit.

'Those old d**chebags of Heavens Fortune Sect are really far-sighted.'

"I appoint you as the director general of the financial administration of northeast military region, do you take it?" Commander Cheng put it straightforwardly.

After hearing that, Zhang Tie's heart couldn't help but pound for a short while. The director general of the financial administration of the northeast military region was responsible for the economy of the northeast military region. Its position was even one level higher than that of provincial governors.

Zhang Tie became slightly stunned as he revealed a bitter smile, "If Commander Cheng let Meng Shidao resign, I would consider about this suggestion. Otherwise, are you screwing me up?"

After hearing Zhang Tie's words, Commander Cheng let out a long sigh. Being involved with the case of Han Zhengfang, the prime minister would resign. The one who was going to be the next prime minister was Meng Shidao. After promoting to a semi-sage knight, Meng Shidao was being more and more popular in Xuanyuan Hill. Additionally, he was favored by the crown prince. Who else dared stop him?

Commander Cheng shook his head as he said, "It's my first time to come to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, just accompany me to take a look around..."

"Right!"

Soon after Zhang Tie finished his word, Commander Cheng had flown off as fast as a lightning bolt, closely followed by Zhang Tie and Gao Tianqi.

"Commander Cheng, what do you want to see?"

"If you do not want to keep it a secret, show me around where you produce Fiery-Oil Incendiary Bombs..." Commander Cheng kept his close eye on Zhang Tie.

"Erm..." Zhang Tie scratched his head.

Commander Cheng widely opened his eyes as he looked at Zhang Tie with a strict look in an imposing manner, "If you dare keep your secret in front of me, I will demolish the site of your f*cking dragon sect. I will demolish it whenever you build it in the future. I will see how do you save your face in front of your disciples. Don't think that I dare not do that. I will ruin their nest wherever I doubt that the remnants of Heavens Reaching Church are hiding somewhere. Even the imperial court and Taixia Law couldn't have me lose one hair!"

'F*ck!'

Zhang Tie looked at Commander Cheng with a dumbfounded look as he found that Commander Cheng was the most shameless old guy.

After finding that Zhang Tie became silent, Commander Cheng directly told Gao Tianqi with a solemn look, "Send my order, assign 2 corps of 500,000 people here from the army corps of engineers of northeast military region; tell them that I have discovered the trace of the remnants of Heavens Reaching Church near Xuantian Eighteen Mountain Peaks of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. Let them dig the entire region..."

After hearing Commander Cheng's order, Gao Tianqi twitched his face as he threw a glance at Zhang Tie. Closely after that, a military remote-sensing communications device appeared in his hand silently...

"Enough, Commander Cheng, I owe you because I drank your Dragon's Marrow Liquor. Follow me..." Zhang Tie put up his hands hurriedly...

Chapter 1258: The Trump Card of Fire-Dragon Corps

It was hills and basins in the periphery of Xuantian Eighteen Mountain Peaks. The largest basin covered over 16,000 square miles. The basins were surrounded by grotesque and magnificent high mountains. The lowest mountain was over 1,000 m high. Looking down from the sky, the mountains around those basins were like petals of an open flower. However, Xuantian Eighteen Mountain Peaks looked like special stamens in the flower.

After a few months, a wide and tidy industrial park covering about 10 square miles had been built near that town of the residence of Iron-Dragon Sect at the foot of the Xuantian Eighteen Mountain Peaks.

Outside the industrial park was a universal airport, which was connected to Tongzhou Province, Yanzhou Province and Youzhou Province through railways and highways.

Zhang Tie directly took Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi into a factory of that industrial park.

The factory director was selected from one of those dare-to-die people who was gifted by Lord Guangnan's Mansion. Of course, he knew Zhang Tie. After Zhang Tie expressed his intention here, the factory director fetched three sets of clothes and let Zhang Tie, Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi put them on. After that, Zhang Tie took them into the workshop of the factory.

“All the workshops of Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs are anti-explosive. Anything that might cause sparkles through friction is forbidden inside. According to the production regulations of the factory, people are not allowed in unless they wear special uniforms.” Zhang Tie explained to Commander Cheng.

Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi didn't refuse to put on special uniforms. Whatever, each industry had their own regulations and requests which were not transferable according to the status and power of the visitors. Even Emperor Xuanyuan couldn't stop an accident if he entered there without the anti-explosive uniform.

In the following half an hour, Zhang Tie introduced the entire production process of Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs to Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi.

The main material of Fiery-Oil incendiary bomb was Fiery Oil. They made Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs by mixing Fiery Oil with carbon powder, thermit reagent and palmitic acid according to certain proportions.

Carbon powder was a very ordinary industrial raw material, which could be acquired through the fractionation of coal under high temperature.

Thermit reagent was made of aluminum powder, alum powder and limonite powder according to certain proportions.

Palmitic acid could be acquired from palm trees or animal fats such as lard and beef tallow through saponification.

As the main raw material of Fiery-Oil Incendiary Bomb, Fiery Oil could be acquired through the fermentation of straws.

After knowing that Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs could be acquired only by mixing these ordinary raw materials, Commander Cheng watched Zhang Tie with a more amazed look.

“If so, what's the cost of a 500 kg's Fiery-Oil incendiary bomb?” Commander Cheng asked Zhang Tie.

“Less than 10 gold coins!” Zhang Tie replied honestly.

“No limit on output?”

“Yes, as long as these raw materials could be provided constantly and the capacity of the factory could catch up with that, the output of Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs is indeed unlimited!”

“Do you know the cost and raw materials of a 500 kg's white phosphorous gel incendiary bomb?”

“White phosphorous gel incendiary bomb is indeed expensive. Additionally, it's made of over 40 raw materials, some of which are rare. Therefore, we could barely realize a mass production of white phosphorous gel incendiary bombs!”

“I really wonder about your brains. How could you develop such a marvelous thing!” Commander Cheng let out a long sigh.

“I just mentioned it. It's my subordinates who developed the Fiery-Oil incendiary bomb. Actually, as long as they have Fiery Oil, many people could figure out the formula!”

After visiting the workshop of Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs and entering another workshop, Commander Cheng's eyes turned bright at once.

"These are Fiery-Oil spears and Fiery-Oil grenades..." Zhang Tie answered.

This workshop was producing individual weapons instead of heavy Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs which were dropped by airships or airplanes. They were actually two minimal Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs. As for the Fiery-Oil grenade, it looked like an average bottle with a wooden handle. It was similar to the grenade that humans used before the Catastrophe. As for Fiery-Oil spear, it was longer than 1 m in the shape of a spear. It could be thrown. The former one weighed about 1 kg while the latter was lighter than 3 kg.

Commander Cheng couldn't help but hold them and made some gestures to throw them. Closely after that, he realized the strengths of the two weapons. As they were portable, they could absolutely be individual weapons on the battlefield; besides a Fiery-Oil spear, throwing troops could be established which could further narrow the gap between human corps and demon corps.

As long as a LV 9 demon fighter was struck by a Fiery-Oil spear which was thrown by a LV 3 or LV 4 human fighter, it was destined to die. Similarly, Fiery-Oil grenade also had a great destructive power over a short distance.

"Will you match Fire-Dragon Corps with these weapons?"

"Yes, I will match a part of soldiers with these weapons. After they gain experiences in using them, they could make improvements in them. When the corps come into being, I will match the entire corps with these weapons. By then, the Fiery-Oil grenade will be the standard weapon of the fighters of Fire-Dragon Corps. Each fighter should carry at least 3 Fiery-Oil grenades. According to my plan, Fiery-Oil spear fighters would become an independent arm of the services. A squad should have at least 3 Fiery-Oil spear fighters; a platoon should have at least a squad of Fiery-Oil spear fighters; a company should have at least a platoon of Fiery-Oil spear fighters and the like. Fiery-Oil spear fighters should not be fewer than 1/3 of the total ground troop in the frontier..."

"That's a high percentage! Are you confident about that?"

Zhang Tie became silent for a few seconds before lowering his voice, "I'm not the most powerful fighter in Taixia Country; however, I have the richest experience in fighting demon fighters on battlefields. I'm clear about the combat mode of demon corps, the combat abilities and features of demon fighters. Commander Cheng, you might not have sensed how disappointing it was when common human fighters faced corps of LV 9 demon fighters. When in Selnes Theater of Operations, due to the sharp difference in the battle strength between two parties, many brave human fighters couldn't even have a LV 9 demon fighter die with them. Millions of human elites over Waii Subcontinent couldn't resist the corps of 100,000 LV 9 demon fighters..."

"I don't believe that human fighters are afraid of death or our humans lack eggs than those demons. Sometimes, even the timidest person would pluck up his greatest courage on the battlefield at the critical moment. We have many dauntless human fighters; especially in the dilemma. However, what makes human fighters most despaired and scared on the battlefield is that they find that they will die in vain. By then, they would collapse mentally and couldn't stick to their belief; they would be waiting to

be slaughtered. As long as 10 human fighters could kill a demon on the battlefield, their sacrifice would be meaningful...”

Chapter 1259: A Trade

After visiting the factory of Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs, Commander Cheng visited the Fiery-Oil production bases, airplane manufacturing plant, engine manufacturing plant, vehicle manufacturing plant and Air Cavalry Training Academy within Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory.

One Fiery-Oil production base within Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory had been officially put into use, 6 more were going to be put into use. In the following 2 years, Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory would be able to produce 4 million tons of Fiery Oil per year. Being corresponding to it, the arable land in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory would be further expanded; especially the corn planting area would be doubled each year. In this critical period, they planted corns not only for food but also for the holy war.

The airplane manufacturing plant within Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory could produce 70 air cavalry type-I airplanes a day, the type of which had been completely fixed. This capacity was constantly growing. When showing Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi around the airplane manufacturing plant, Zhang Tie generously admitted that the daily production of 70 airplanes was far from his anticipation. Zhang Tie expected that this airplane manufacturing plant could at least produce 100,000 various airplanes a year within Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. It meant that he should expand the current capacity by 4 times so as to meet his demand.

Besides air cavalry type-I, they were also developing air cavalry type-II which was larger in size, longer in flying range and heavier in load.

The engine plant in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory could already produce 4 types of engines: one dual-drive engine for air cavalry airplanes, one dual-drive engine for vehicles, two for tanks and armored vehicles.

It only took them a bit more than 2 hours to look around all the important places in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory under the guidance of Zhang Tie.

After visiting the Air Cavalry Training Academy, Commander Cheng posed to take a look at the encampment of Fire-Dragon Corps. Zhang Tie then took them over there.

Over 300,000 fighters were being trained in the encampment of Fire-Dragon Corps.

Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi were both shocked at the sight of over 300,000 fighters training spear throwing skills in the training field which covered almost 24 square miles.

Although there were spear throwing elites in the official corps and troops of Taixia Country, Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi had never seen such a grand scene before.

On the training field, almost all the fighters only wore one pant and a pair of field boots. Under the hot sunlight, hundreds of thousands of male fighters were sweating heavily. Due to long-term exposure to the sunlight, everyone's upper body had been dark red. Many newbies' skins were cracking. After tearing off their skins, their flesh looked like being hurt by boiling water.

The dust over the training field changed the look of those fighters. Their sweat caused clear gullies on their chests and backs...

“Thunder...” With the roar of a coach, a matrix of 900 fighters threw out their spears in standard gesture, which fell onto the land over 100 m away while the greater part of those spears entered the soil.

“Wind...” With another roar on the other side of the training field, a row of 100 fighters moved forward rapidly in tidy steps. After rushing over 10 footsteps ahead, they threw out their spears towards afar almost in a line in a lower angle of elevation.

Soon after that, this row of fighters squatted down at once. In the following 2 seconds, the second row of 100 fighters had rushed out and come to the front of the first row before throwing out their spears. Closely after that, the second row of fighters squatted down. The third row of fighters repeated the same process and the like. When the 9th row of fighters finished their action, the first row of fighters had taken out their second spears and prepared for the second round...

This was called 9-section spear strike. In this striking state, a spear striking matrix could build a steel wall in front of them in a short period.

With the roar of “electricity”, a matrix of hundreds of fighters on the other side of the training field threw out their spears, all of which hit the mound over 200 m away precisely...

On the training field, over 100,000 fighters were throwing spears in different patterns. At the same time, more fighters were gritting and doing a martial-art squat while

There were many other training methods and battle skills...

...

Standing on a hillside nearby the training field of Fire-Dragon Corps and watching those fighters receiving tough and special training, Commander Cheng became silent for a short while before suddenly turning around and looking at Zhang Tie, “Who developed these training methods and spear battle skills?”

“Ahem, ahem, I have a bit knowledge about spears. I compiled the training outlines for these Fiery-Oil spear fighters!”

“Do you prepare to turn all these people into Fiery-Oil spear fighters?”

“Of course not, a basic requirement for becoming a Fiery-oil spear fighter is that they could throw a spear over 200 m away. Not everyone could do that. Through such a training, I intend to select Fiery-Oil spear fighters and have all the members of Fire-Dragon Corps to be familiar with the main combat mode of the corps in the future. The combat mode of Fire-Dragon Corps is utterly different than that of the other corps!”

“How?”

“In the cases where common fighter’s battle strength couldn’t match demon fighters, I only have one request to Fire-Dragon Corps, namely, throw all your weapons onto the demons’ heads and evacuate as fast as possible so as to survive themselves...”

“You treat them as cavalry archers!”

“Yes, however, cavalry archers ride horses; the fighters of Fire-Dragon Corps should realize the mechanization through steel and technologies...”

“Are you preparing to fight or what? If not in the holy war, I would have already accused you as an insurgent!”

Zhang Tie let out a sigh, “I’m indeed preparing to fight. I don’t believe that Commander Cheng didn’t know that demons would never spare too much time for Taixia Country to make preparations. From now on, demons might appear in Taixia Country at any time. If not make preparations at this moment, what if demons suddenly launched a strike towards Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory?”

“It’s just a small problem. Even if all the provinces and prefectures across Taixia Country are suffering from a crop failure, Taixia Country’s storage is enough for 10 years’ demand across the country. Why are you so confident?” Commander Cheng asked calmly.

“Commander Cheng, based on your identity and position, you must know how Xuanyuan Hill is preparing to resist demons!” Zhang Tie revealed a smile as he moved his eyes onto the training field and said, “Starting from Pingsha Valley, the moment those bloody seas were discovered across Taixia Country, they would be immediately taken over and demolished by the supreme court and the military of Taixia Country. The catastrophe of bloody figures broke out suddenly; however, I think Xuanyuan Hill must have got the time for bloody figures to grow mature in bloody seas spontaneously from those dead bloody figures or bloody seas. In my opinion, those bloody figures would have grown mature completely at most this June, namely now. Perhaps Commander Cheng is the first one who has received the notice from Xuanyuan Hill about this. Am I right?”

Cheng Honglie’s eyes gave out a shrewd light at once as he fixed his eyes onto Zhang Tie.

“Commander Cheng, relax. I’ve not arranged any mole on your side. It’s unnecessary for me to do that. However, now that Xuanyuan Hill could get the intelligence, it doesn’t mean that the others couldn’t get it across Taixia Country!”

Commander Cheng frowned as he suddenly recalled something. After that, he let out a sigh, “You’re really qualified to be Qianji Hermit. I believe that you didn’t get this news from Zhang Taixuan because even Zhang Taixuan didn’t know that. Now, I really wonder about the heavenly knight on your back who helped you exterminate the expeditionary fleet of Sacred Light Empire. Did you get the news from those old d**chebags from Heavens Fortune Sect?”

Zhang Tie shrugged. He didn’t make any explanation about that. Since he returned to Taixia Country with so many wives and kids, all the people across Taixia Country were guessing about the identity of that heavenly knight on the back of Zhang Tie. Many people guessed that the heavenly knight on the back of Zhang Tie should be a grand elder of Heavens Fortune Sect because only Heavens Fortune Sect could be so close to Zhang Tie. Many people wondered what benefits had Zhang Tie promised to Heavens Fortune Sect for having a grand elder give him a favor.

Zhang Tie didn’t care about such gossips and speculations at all. Because he could never clarify it. Additionally, if he intended to clarify it to the others, they would feel that he was covering something. If

he didn't explain it, everybody would feel that there was a heavenly knight on his back. With such a powerful reliance, no ordinary people would dare offend him from then on.

"Now that the time when bloody figures would grow mature is inconsistent with that of the grains crisis, why do we still believe that demons would spare time for Taixia Country and allow Taixia Country to deal with them leisurely after solving these problems and recovery in about 10 years? When alchemist's bombs explode at the same time, they would have the greatest destructive power; similarly, only when these crises facing Taixia Country were detonated at the same time could demons make Taixia Country flurried and more chaotic. Therefore, Taixia Country have less time left in preparation for the coming demons. If I were the demon general, after knowing that the bloody figures in bloody seas were exposed in advance, I would definitely plan ahead in case of sparing any chance for Taixia Country to train its soldiers leisurely!"

After hearing Zhang Tie's words, Commander Cheng's eye light recovered back to normal. After looking at Zhang Tie for a short while seriously, he suddenly opened his mouth, "You're right, demons are coming soon. They've already found the way to Eastern Continent after detouring the Lion Fortress in Earth-elements Realm. Few people know this news. According to Xuanyuan Hill's judgment, demons would arrive at the Eastern Continent at the end of next year at most!"

After hearing Commander Cheng's words, Zhang Tie's heart pounded as he asked, "How did Xuanyuan Hill know that?"

"It was told by Han Zhengfang when he fought Meng Shidao in Sincerity Garden. In that case, Han Zhengfang would never lie about this thing for the sake of the dignity of heavenly knight no matter which side he was on. After receiving this news, Xuanyuan Hill had already contacted Lion Fortress and had Lion Fortress investigate and prove it. Last month, Du Guyi the Demon-Suppression General wrote a letter to Xuanyuan Hill and revealed that demons indeed have found the method to enter Taixia Country by detouring Lion Fortress. You could never imagine what suggestion had Du Guyi proposed to the imperial court."

"What suggestion?"

"Du Guyi wants Lion Fortress to destroy itself so as to block the tunnel from the Military Province to the Earth-elements Realm. After that, have all the human knights in Lion Fortress fight demons before breaking into the underground demon's world unexpectedly..."

As Zhang Tie had been in the Lion Fortress in the Earth-elements Realm, he was dumbfounded by the Demon-Suppression General's opinion...

Watching Zhang Tie's shocked look, Commander Cheng finally had a strange feeling. After being shocked by Zhang Tie for so many times today, it was finally his turn to see Zhang Tie's shocked look.

"Xuanyuan Hill would never agree with that!" Zhang Tie shook his head.

"Of course not. If they drop tens of thousands of human knights into the Earth-elements Realm like dropping a dice, they have to bear the great stress from human countries, major clans and sects.

Zhang Tie replied with a frown, "Commander Cheng, why did you tell me about this?"

"Because I want to make a deal with you!"

“What deal?”

“Help me train 10,000 military officials. I request these people to be as same as your military officials in Fire-Dragon Corps when they leave. Additionally, give me 10 Fire-Dragon Corps’ war preparedness equipment!” Commander Cheng said straightly. As a far-sighted man, he had already seen the value of Fire-Dragon Corps; especially the special training method of Fiery-Oil spear fighters.

“I could help Commander Cheng train 10,000 military officials. But the capacity and equipment in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory should meet the demand of Fire-Dragon Corps ahead of the outside demands. If you want to match troops of 5 million people with these war preparedness equipment, you might need to wait for a few years...”

“If so, expand the capacity!”

“But I’ve not got enough people!”

“I will assign one most powerful arm corps of engineers within the northeast military region to you. Additionally, I will allocate 100,000 technicians and engineers to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory from Aibei Prefecture, Yanzhou Province. With this manpower, you could build a powerful industrial production base in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory in the shortest period. As for the resources, I don’t think that Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory and Youzhou Province lack resources...”

Aibei Prefecture was the industrial center of the northeast military region. It gathered the most excellent industrial elites across the northeast military region. Wherever these people were, they were always popular.

“That’s a deal!” Zhang Tie nodded at once. After thinking for a few seconds, he added, “However, if the industrial production base in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory wants to survive, it has to produce blood itself. The later trades shouldn’t be one-way blood output, we have to follow commercial rules. Of course, all the equipment that I provide to Commander Cheng will be sold at cost price.”

Commander Cheng wanted 10 Fire-Dragon Corps’ “war preparedness equipment” instead of “equipment”. The two terms were sharply different from each other. The prior required at least 3 times military supplies of weapons and ammo of that of the later. It indicated that Zhang Tie should produce more Fiery-Oil incendiary bombs and Fiery-Oil incendiary spears so as to make Commander Cheng satisfied. It was definitely an astronomical amount of cost. Fewer than 5 clans within the northeast military region could afford it, including Zhang Tie’s clan. Additionally, they had to suffer a great loss.

Commander Cheng left a good impression in Zhang Tie’s mind; however, it didn’t mean that Commander Cheng could make Zhang Tie suffer a great loss and work hard until death for the benefit of the official only by one sentence.

Commander Cheng waved his hand with a smile as he said, “If you give me these things, I will have all-purpose medicament enter the purchasing storage contents of the top 6 warehouses within the northeast military region!”

Zhang Tie looked at Commander Cheng while still feeling like suffering a great loss. No matter what, he always felt the black face of Cheng Honglie was very cunning. After a while, he finally nodded forcefully as he said, “That’s a deal!”

After being solemn for quite a while, Commander Cheng finally revealed a faint smile. However, the faint smile flashed over at once and was soon replaced by an expression which felt like suffering a great loss. Commander Cheng then told Zhang Tie with a faithful look, "Don't feel that you've suffered a great loss. How about this? From today on, I will hand the best 120 million mu official fields in Ninghe Prefecture in Yanzhou Province to you. You rent it for 100 years. You know that so many major clans and dignitaries in Xuanyuan Hill liked to rent those official fields through relationship, but I didn't agree with them. They're the best official fields in the northeast military region. You only need to submit 50% of the grains output on those fields last year to the northeast military region headquarters each year as a rent. That's a deal! Here's a remote-sensing communication device; you can contact me with it. I have to go now!"

After throwing a remote-sensing communication ring to Zhang Tie, Commander Cheng immediately flew off before Zhang Tie opened his mouth. In the blink of an eye, he had disappeared in front of Zhang Tie. After blinking his eyes towards Zhang Tie, Gao Tianqi also rushed into the sky and disappeared...

Not knowing why, seeing Commander Cheng leaving so hurriedly, Zhang Tie always felt being screwed...

...

Only after a short while, Commander Cheng and Gao Tianqi had returned to their airboat. The moment they entered the airboat, Commander Cheng had ordered the pilot to return to Youzhou Province as fast as possible.

Not only small figures felt being guilty as thieves.

"Commander, why did you..."

Gao Tianqi looked at Commander Cheng with a curious expression.

"Ahem...ahem..." Commander Cheng pretended to cough twice. The benefit of having a black face was that people could not see his blush. He replied, "His byname is Qianji Hermit. Erm...someone might give you a surprise if you force him to do something!"

Gao Tianqi became speechless as he could only pray for Zhang Tie inside. The farming rent in Ninghe Prefecture was at most 40% of grains output last year. Previously, many major clans and dignitaries indeed wanted to rent the official fields in Ninghe Prefecture; however, they were all scared away by the rent of 50% of grains output last year in the mouth of Commander Cheng...

However, Ninghe Prefecture suffered from a crop failure this summer...

Chapter 1260: A Peaceful Family Will Prosper

After Commander Cheng left, Zhang Tie inspected the encampment of Fire-Dragon Corps. He held a meeting with Zhang Su and the other officials such as Liu Xing; by the way, they fixed the military supervision system of Fire-Dragon Corps.

The disciples of Iron-Dragon Sect were absolutely different than the other sects. Most of the other sects' disciples always cultivated in mountains. they barely went off their mountains unless contingencies. By contrast, disciples of Iron-Dragon Sect would practice and cultivate in the secular world at Zhang Tie's

request. If it were not in the holy war, Iron-Dragon Sect might imitate other sects by having the disciples cultivate on mountains. Now that the holy war was going to break out in a large scale, besides enclosed cultivation in mountains, they should also practice and cultivate in the army and the secular world.

Additionally, they should touch something the earlier the better. In the future, these disciples would be better adaptable to the chaotic world.

Zhang Tie served as the commander-in-chief of Fire-Dragon Corps. All of his disciples above LV 9 held positions in Fire-Dragon Corps, male or female. Male disciples directly entered the combat troops of Fire-Dragon Corps while female disciples directly served in administrative and logistic agencies of Fire-Dragon Corps.

Fire-Dragon Corps was a military unit. Of course, military ranks counted in such a military unit. Besides, all the fighters in Fire-Dragon Corps were divided into two parts, ordinary fighters and disciples of Iron-Dragon Sect, which included Zhang Tie's indoor disciples and many outdoor disciples, etc..

In some republic or federal countries which were founded by a certain party, in order to prevent armies from being controlled by hostile forces or Three-eye Association, these parties always seized upon the armies. In the army, besides the main battle officer, there were also political officials who were loyal to the party in order to make their armies loyal to them. Sacred Light Empire set pastors, chief pastors and the like to ensure that the armies were in the hand of Sacred Light Church.

The history proved that this was an effective means for human countries to control their armies. Therefore, all the human countries would adopt the same means to control their armies whether they were democratic countries or centralized religious countries. With these experiences, although Zhang Tie was accompanying his wives and kids these days, he had gradually framed up the military supervision system of Fire-Dragon Corps.

Some disciples of Iron-Dragon Sect directly served as battle officials; some served as supervisory officials. To be honest, supervisory officials were used to guaranteeing a country's leadership about the army. They were similar to political officials in countries which were ruled by parties and pastors in Sacred Light Empire. With the effect of the supervisory officials, the corps would always be loyal to Zhang Tie.

In Zhang Tie's opinion, members of parties, followers of religions or apprentices of sects were all the same. They were just interest groups with different names. Some names were for political pursuits; some were for religious beliefs. However, in the final analysis, all the interest groups were pursuing meeting people's demands on different levels, such as living, eating, avoiding from being bullied, gold coins, land, sex, power, battle strength, fame, dreams and the realization of self-worth, etc..

In Fire-Dragon Corps, any excellent fighters could promote to outdoor disciples through approval. After that, they would gain certain resources and higher positions and have chances to learn greater battle skills. Additionally, they could serve as officials in the corps. In the future, they might promote to indoor disciples from outdoor disciples and win the favor of the mountain peaks' owners even the master of the sect. By then, they would have a promising future.

All the supervisory officials in Fire-Dragon Corps were at least outdoor disciples of Iron-Dragon Sect.

Starting from companies of Fire-Dragon Corps, the lowest supervisory official was supervisory sergeant; the supervisory officer was a bit higher; the supervisory major was higher than a supervisory officer; the supervisory ambassador was the highest supervisory official. Supervisory sergeant, supervisory officer and supervisory major were divided into gold, silver and copper. The supervisory ambassador was corresponding to the commander-in-chief of the corps.

In the conference, Zhang Tie gave them the topic of military supervision system. In order to avoid from the disputes between supervisory officials and main officials in the troops in the future, Liu Xing and the other people suggested to record the functions and responsibilities of supervisory officials on papers in terms of articles and deliver them to all the members of Fire-Dragon Corps so that everybody could be familiar with them. After 2 hours' discussion, they formulated nearly 100 genuine opinions and suggestions.

Zhang Tie had someone collect those opinions and suggestions. After Zhang Tie's review, these articles would be delivered to all the people of Fire-Dragon Corps as "Articles for Supervisory Officials".

After fixing the frame of supervisory officials system, Zhang Tie didn't care about it anymore. He handed the affairs about Fire-Dragon Corps to Zhang Su and returned to the manor on the bank of Cloudwashing Lake over 60 miles away from Xuantian City in the south before sunset.

This was a large manor. Right on one side of the lake, the villas and courtyards were connected to each other in a classic style. Additionally, there was a universal airport. It was evidently a major clan's manor. Previously, it was a summer resort built by the magistrate of Gaoping Prefecture in Yanzhou Province for the officials of Gaoping Prefecture. Pitifully, before this project was completed, it had been merged into Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. In Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, all the official assets of Taixia Country were transferred to Zhang Tie.

This manor was not far from Xuantian Eighteen Mountain Peaks. Zhang Tie had not been here before. Not until Donder came to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory to count properties for Zhang Tie did he know that he had a real estate on the bank of Cloudwashing Lake.

On the bank of Cloudwashing Lake, there were many manors and villas of major clans. This manor was in the largest basin around Xuantian Eighteen Mountain Peaks. Additionally, it was in the center of the 10 cities of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. It was very convenient to go to Miyun Prefecture in Youzhou Province, Gaoping Prefecture in Yanzhou Province even Xingyuan Prefecture in Tongzhou province from here by airships or airboats. After having people build the highways, it was just 2 hours' ride from here to Xuantian City and Dashang City.

Before coming to the Sacred Iceland Kingdom, Zhang Tie told Lu Yishan to renovate this place so as to welcome its new owners.

After O'Laura and the other women followed Zhang Tie to Taixia Country, this manor had become the residence of these women and their kids. Zhang Tie knew that these women would never feel relaxed in Jinwu City, he only stayed in Jinwu City for 3 days with them. After they got acquainted with Zhang Tie's family members, they had been taken to this manor together with Linda, Beverly and Fiona by Zhang Tie.

It was the first official reunion for the entire Zhang family except for Zhang Chenglei , Zheng Chengting and Zhang Chengpei who were still in Heavens Fortune Sect.

Over these days, Zhang Tie accompanied his wives and kids to travel across the entire Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory.

It was the most leisure time in Zhang Tie's life. During that period, he only showed them around Xuantian Eighteen Mountain Peaks; he didn't even return to Iron-Dragon Sect.

When he returned to the manor, he found his wives and kids were waiting for him to have supper.

The moment he entered the main hall, Zhang Tie had seen over 10 women chatting something attentively while those kids were playing toys and games in a dollhouse on one side.

"Papa, papa, I will learn how to fly too; I will learn how to fly too..."

The moment Zhang Tie came back, those kids had surrounded him as they looked up at him with smiles, while jumping and exclaiming.

"Hahaha, when you grow a bit elder, I will teach you how to fly step by step, how about that?" Zhang Tie said as he stroked the heads of these kids.

"Great..." Those kids became thrilled. In their eyes, their dad was almighty.

His wives also walked towards him with smiles.

"What're you talking about?" Zhang Tie asked Olina.

Olina just shook her head with a smile. All the women then exchanged a glance with each other. After that, Beverly said mysteriously, "We'll tell you in the evening..."

"So mysterious?"

"Certainly!" Ballier replied with an enchanting smile.

Zhang Tie waved his hands as he burst out into laughter, "Well, let's have supper first. After wandering outside for a few hours, I'm really hungry..."

There were two tables in the dining hall. Each table could hold more than 10 people. Zhang Tie and his wives were at one table; their kids were at the other table. The dining hall was in a festive atmosphere.

Sitting in the dining hall and watching his 10-odd wives and 10-odd cute and vigorous kids, Zhang Tie really felt being the owner of a family and a real man.

It was a bizarre sense of achievement, which made Zhang Tie feel warm, satisfied and happy. Additionally, Zhang Tie could sense his accountability. Watching those beautiful and cute smiles, Zhang Tie suddenly recalled his father's tender smile whenever he pushed open the door and saw him and his elder brother when in Blackhot City.

When Zhang Tie was young, no matter how tired his dad was, he would always look brilliant when he saw his two kids and wife at home. Additionally, his dad always got up the earliest in his family, who was always diligent in work and never complained about that.

At that time, Zhang Tie could only see his dad at supper. If his dad worked overload, Zhang Tie could not see him for a long time. During the period that his dad worked overload, his dad would not come back until he went to bed; before he got up, his dad had long got up and went to work.

Previously, Zhang Tie always thought that his dad loved his work because he hadn't seen anyone else being that serious and passionate about their work.

At that time, Zhang Tie didn't understand it; but now, he suddenly understood that his dad was diligent everyday not for that work but for this home. As that man loved his home so much, he had to be serious about his work. Over 10 gold coins' annual salary meant the hope and dependence of the home in Blackhot city, the clothes and food of Zhang Tie and his elder brother, the shelter of the family and the calmness when they walked on the streets of Blackhot City without shamelessness and inferiority...

Therefore, that man had more and more wrinkles for all of the above things. Even the hair near his temples turned grey and his straight frame turned humpbacked and obese, his dad had never complained about being tired...

A man couldn't understand the love of a man and a father until he became a real man and a father. A real man had two chances to become the idol and good example of his sons: first, when his sons were still young; second, when his sons had families and became fathers.

Zhang Tie's hand suddenly became still in the air as his eyes turned red...

"What's wrong with you?" All the women stopped what they were doing as they turned around to see Zhang Tie.

"Nothing!" Zhang Tie revealed a smile while his red eyes recovered. He then changed the topic, "Don't you want to know why Commander Cheng was looking for me?"

Since he returned to the manor, Zhang Tie had been talking with his wives in Hua language. In other places outside Taixia Country, Hua language was widely accepted by the upper class and dignitaries. As for those women from Ice and Snow Wilderness, the 6 women had started to learn Hua language since they were young; after Olina ruled Navyblue Castle Business Group, she also started to learn Hua language; as the princess of the wild bear tribe, Sabrina had started to learn Hua language since young. The old wild bear was far-sighted in educating his children.

Only O'Laura started to learn Hua language after becoming the queen of Sacred Iceland Kingdom. However, after so many years, O'Laura had been able to speak Hua language fluently; she could also read and write. Especially after they followed Zhang Tie back to Taixia Country, they had made great progress in Hua language. They became more adapted to live in Taixia Country too. At the table, they had been adapted to use chopsticks instead of knives or forks. Of course, these women knew clearly about the influence of the commander of the northeast military region in Taixia Country.

"Commander Cheng should be asking for your help!" Olina said with a smile.

"I think it should be related to Fiery Oil!" Sabrina said.

"As Taixia Country is suffering from a large-scale crop failure, only Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory have a bumper harvest this summer; therefore, it should be related to grains!" O'Laura said affirmatively.

"Although hubby has a large undertaking, you also have a lot of wives and kids to feed. I think you would not just let Commander Cheng take away our things for free!" A Spencer woman said as she covered her mouth with a smile.

Zhang Tie was dumbfounded. These women just stayed at home. However, they had already almost known why Commander Cheng was looking for him. Zhang Tie suddenly realized that he had looked down upon his wives. Zhang Tie then looked up at the sky as he let out a long sigh, "You could really be my interior of wives..."

"Ahh, you've guessed that?" Fiona suddenly looked at Zhang Tie with widely opened eyes.

"Guess, guess what?"

"Guess what we've been negotiating about..." Innocent Fiona immediately exposed the "secret" at the table.

"Do you really want to be my interior of wives?" Zhang Tie became shocked.

"As you've got such a big undertaking. Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory covers over 5 million square miles and contains 10 cities; plus your Fiery Oil which has rocked the whole world. Now that you couldn't take care all of them; neither could Donder alone deal with so many things, our sisters were thinking about helping you deal with the affairs inside Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory in case you're concerned about the business and the odd jobs in your territory!" Beverly opened her mouth.

Watching these women sitting around the table, Zhang Tie suddenly patted his head forcefully. He was worried about having no reliable assistants these days. He had forgotten that his women could help him a lot.

'Now that Olina could push Navyblue Castle Business Group into top places across Ewentra Archipelago where males dominate the commercial world, she must be a far-sighted and talented iron lady in commerce. At least, I've not seen any woman greater than Olina in the commercial world.'

'As Sabrina grew up in wild bear tribe, she is also visionary. Now that she could play tricks with old wild bear Dally and cheat those men across Ice and Snow Wilderness for so many years, of course, Sabrina is not an ordinary woman.'

'Not to mention O'Laura. As the clan head of grey eagle tribe since young, now that she could keep grey eagle tribe from being annexed for so many years, this woman is definitely very smart, diligent and persistent. Additionally, after being the queen of the Sacred Iceland Kingdom for so many years, O'Laura has been more experienced in controlling her power and her subordinates. She could definitely be responsible for something.'

'When in Ice and Snow Wilderness, O'Laura and Olina didn't get along well with each other and were always distant of each other. After coming to Taixia Country, the two women forgot about the past resentment and form a close ally. Therefore, they became close to each other at once.'

'Spencer women are a famous brand over Ice and Snow Wilderness. With the special training, when they are in banquets and balls, they could be powerhouses in social intercourse and dancing; when they are in offices, they could be accountants and actuaries; when they are on the bed...ahem ahem...'

‘Although Linda, Beverly and Fiona couldn’t match Olin and the other women in Ice and Snow Wilderness in experience and insight, they also had two strengths: first, intelligence. They could do whatever well soon after they were instructed; second, tenacity and meticulousness; especially Linda. Although Linda is tender, her tenacity and meticulousness make her especially attractive; third, the relationship between them and me and their loyalty to me. It could be said that they are the last ones who would betray me and the most reliable ones in this world.’

‘Aimei and Aixue are also smart and have an innocent background. They have both promoted to LV 6 at a young age; additionally, they grasp two battle qis with the attribute of water and wood. After so many years’ diligent cultivation, they have both promoted to LV 8. As long as there are opportunities, the two sisters are definitely the most flexible ones among those women.’

Zhang Tie burst out into laughter, “There are two Hua lines, people don’t know the true look of Lushan Mountain because they are in the mountain. After staying with wives so many days, I almost forgot about your talents. You’re qualified to be my good helpers and help me manage many affairs in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. A peaceful family will always prosper. It’s my great honor to have you be my assistants...”

“Ahh, you’ve agreed?” Fiona asked with a surprised look.

“Of course, I agree. You could help your husband manage the Master’s Intelligence Center. Starting from the Master’s Intelligence Center, you will further develop your Interior of Wives. With your help, I would not have any concerns...”

...

On the same evening, in Zhang Tie’s huge bedroom, after hours’ sweaty “Pah Pah Pah”, those women finally lay on the huge bed lazily in a crisscrossed manner. As they were in half coma, Zhang Tie had already sat up. Leaning against the bedstand, he quietly watched those beautiful, smooth naked bodies under the hazy moonlight which threw into the bedroom through the window...

Commander Cheng’s visit meant an opportunity for Zhang Tie and that the overall situation facing Taixia Country was growing increasingly worse. Even Commander Cheng had sensed a heavy sense of crisis. The previously accumulated crises in Taixia Country were breaking out concentratively. As a result, the world was becoming more and more chaotic...

Over these days, Zhang Tie just stayed with his women and kids and had fun with them as he wanted to compensate them for what he owed them. Therefore, he didn’t pay attention to what happened outside. Zhang Tie didn’t know that whether he could continue to stay with his family members as the most famous knight in Taixia Country if demons arrived at Taixia Country.

However, people could not evade something only by not thinking about it.

‘The fundamental principle of Iron-Dragon Sect is to enable commoners to resist demons with the help of steel and Fiery Oil. If demons really arrived at Taixia Country one day, numerous commoners would face the same miserable fate as those commoners in Waii Subcontinent. By then, will I still stay here and do nothing?’

Zhang Tie didn't care about fame because he had not thought about pursuing anything at all. However, he should be worthy of his conscience.

'If you kill one LV 9 demon fighter, it means that you might save 100 commoners' lives. As an earth knight whose battle strength might match that of a shadow knight and a human fighter who could easily kill tens thousands of LV 9 demon fighters in a battle, do you feel reassured when you watch hundreds of millions of people die miserably? Don't you fight demons until they arrive at Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory?'

Zhang Tie couldn't do that.

Some people were born to be unable to tolerate and do something. After being born in Blackhot City and living 16 years among commoners, Zhang Tie felt that some of his temperaments had been fixed, which couldn't be changed for the rest of his life.

"What are you thinking about..." Olina who made love with Zhang Tie in the end didn't pass out due to extreme excitement. After a few hours' rest, she woke up closely after Zhang Tie. After waking up, her hair was disordered while her skin was covered with fine, sweat drops, which gave out the rosy luster. Her hot skin soon turned a bit cold. As Zhang Tie was sitting against the bedstand, Olina leaned against Zhang Tie's thigh with her head.

"Nothing..." Zhang Tie stretched out his hand and pulled over the thin quilt to cover Olina's smooth and elegant back. By the way, he helped her smoothen her hair, revealing her face...

"Are you thinking about when to leave us, right?" Olina whispered.

Olina's words made Zhang Tie's hand slightly stagnated. Zhang Tie then said, "You've guessed that?"

"If not, how could we behave so crazily tonight? Didn't you want to accompany us more before you leave us?"

Zhang Tie revealed a self-mocking smile, 'It seems that my women have long discovered my intention.' The women around him murmured, "Will you blame us?"

"As of now, the best love for you is to have you live without regret!" Olina closed up her eyes as she muttered as if she was going to fall asleep. At the same time, she put her arms around Zhang Tie's waist.

At this moment, Zhang Tie was completely moved once again.

"Sometimes, I really want to take you to a place where nobody else could find us and live with you. It has been my dream when I was young!"

"We're in the holy war, we cannot hide anywhere, Ice and Snow Wilderness, Eastern Continent or Western Continent. As long as I'm on your side, I will not feel regretful even if we're waiting for the whole world to be destroyed. What you need to do now is to give a promising future to Alexander and the other kids. We all support you, have more sleep..."

Olina and the others fell asleep; however, Zhang Tie became spirited all over.

'Yes, besides those things that I have to do, what I should do now is to give my kids and more kids a promising future...'

'Nobody could stop me, the Gobbling Party, Three-eye Association, the Heavens-Reaching Church or demons!'

Zhang Tie's eye light became faintly firm...