

## Es. Benefits 141

### Chapter 141: Yelv Nanyan's Plan\_2

They could neither believe nor dare to believe the words spoken by Yelv Nanyan.

That was an army of three hundred thousand!

And moreover, three hundred thousand cavalry!

The most important thing was that this time there were several Grandmasters, and no one knew how many Ninth Grade Martial Artists there were, while North City only had thirty thousand soldiers.

How could they possibly be defeated!

Even if they could not conquer Yan County, their king would not have died in battle under the walls of Yan County. The Barbarian Tribe's three hundred thousand cavalry moved with such speed; if they wanted to flee, they could easily retreat back to their royal court.

But now the queen had informed them that not only had two hundred thousand Barbarian Tribe soldiers died, the remaining one hundred thousand Barbarian Tribe soldiers had all been captured by the people of Great Xia!

How could this be possible!!!

Yelv Nanyan saw their disbelief, and knew they dared not believe it, but the message was brought back by Wu Yuan, and soon they would be able to verify this news.

In fact, from the lack of messages from the Sky Wolf King for so long, Yelv Nanyan had felt an ominous unease in her heart, but from the beginning, she had not imagined that the Sky Wolf King's army would end up with such a fate.

None of the three hundred thousand Barbarian Tribe soldiers managed to make it out of North City!

What did this indicate? It indicated that North City must have been prepared, and it was highly likely that the Sky Wolf King's army had been surrounded, which left them no chance to escape, otherwise those hundred thousand Barbarian Tribe soldiers wouldn't have ended up surrendering and becoming captives of Great Xia.

Yelv Nanyan couldn't figure out what had gone wrong.

At this time, two of the older Elders, upon hearing Yelv Nanyan's news, directly threw their heads back and fainted.

The other Elders were brought back to their senses, and they quickly approached the two Elders.

"High Priest, Elder Fu, you must hold on!"

"High Priest, are you alright?"

“Elder Fu, wake up!!!”

Seeing the tent turn into chaos, Yelv Nanyan did not stop them.

After who knows how long, the High Priest and Elder Fu finally regained consciousness, and the elderly were gradually beginning to accept this cruel news.

They were very clear in their minds that now was not the time for sorrow, nor the time to seek blame.

The Sky Wolf King’s tribe had suddenly lost hundreds of thousands of men, and moreover, many tribes knew the location of the Sky Wolf King’s royal court.

Once those tribes learned of the Sky Wolf King’s death and the loss of hundreds of thousands of soldiers, they would surely send people to plunder them.

Especially the North Fre King from the north.

Therefore, the most important thing now was to move immediately; they could not continue to stay here.

However, relocating the royal court would take a lot of time, and since their tribe now had hardly any men of age, it would take even longer. They were very worried that if the news were to leak out at this time, it would attract the attention of other tribes on the steppe prematurely.

At this moment, the High Priest, with the support of the Elders, looked at Yelv Nanyan and asked: “Queen, has the defeat of our king been confirmed?”

Yelv Nanyan replied, “Not yet; this is the news Wu Yuan brought back from North City. However, I will arrange for someone to confirm it shortly.”

“For now, let’s assume the news is true.”

Thinking for a moment, the High Priest then asked, “Queen, what should we do next?”

This defeat was not blamed on Yelv Nanyan by the Elders; after all, it was an army of three hundred thousand cavalry. Such a large cavalry force being defeated by Great Xia could not possibly be the fault of a woman.

Logically, even if they fell into a trap by the Great Xia Dynasty from the start, with an army of three hundred thousand moving south, it seemed implausible that the entire army would be annihilated; there must be other factors involved.

The people who could become Elders of the Sky Wolf King’s tribe were all relatively clever, and they were well aware that now was not the time for accountability.

After pondering for a moment, Yelv Nanyan said: “We absolutely cannot let the ordinary people of our tribe know about this. After the council meeting later, you go out and tell our people that the king has conquered North City. Tell them to pack up immediately, we’re moving to North City.”

Hearing Yelv Nanyan’s words, the Elders instantly understood the reason for her actions.

If we tell the tribespeople about the defeat now, it will inevitably cause panic.

Panic is one thing, but the main concern is the risk of the news leaking out.

If the other tribes on the grasslands learn of their defeat, they will surely seize the opportunity to launch a surprise attack against them.

On one hand, they tell the people that the Great King has conquered North City, while on the other, they prepare them to move to North City. Even if some tribes discover their plan to relocate the royal court, they might be deceived by their own people into thinking that they truly have conquered North City and that the relocation of the royal court there is imminent.

But in fact, they are merely moving to a different place.

Yelv Nanyan continued, “Additionally, I will send Wu Yuan to North City to negotiate with the North Prince to see if we can use cattle and sheep to exchange for our soldiers.”

“A tribe cannot be without its able-bodied men.”

Upon hearing Yelv Nanyan’s words, the Elders fell into silence; now, this was the only course of action available to them.

Meanwhile.

Outside the tent.

Xiao Wen Yao sat on a grassy slope, gazing quietly in the direction of North City.

At that moment, Wu Yuan came to her side and then said, “Your Highness, I’m not sure whether I should tell you this, but I found out that General Xiao hasn’t died and is currently imprisoned in the dungeons of Yan County.”

Upon hearing this, a flash of brightness erupted in Xiao Wen Yao’s eyes. She immediately turned to look at Wu Yuan and, grabbing his collar, she asked, “Wu Yuan, is what you’re saying true?”

“My uncle isn’t dead? He’s really alive, right?”

Seeing how agitated Xiao Wen Yao was, Wu Yuan sniffled and said, “Yes, I’ve learned that General Xiao is locked in the dungeons, enduring torment every day.”

“It’s all my fault. If I had gathered more intelligence about North City, perhaps General Xiao wouldn’t be in this situation today.”

“I deserve to die!”

After hearing Wu Yuan’s words, Xiao Wen Yao let go of his collar and then muttered to herself, “That’s great, my uncle isn’t dead!”

At this point, Xiao Wen Yao suddenly thought of something and continued to ask, “Wu Yuan, do you know what the North Prince likes? I must exchange for my uncle’s return!”

The exchange of prisoners between the Barbarian Tribe and the Great Xia Dynasty was actually a very common practice. Since its establishment, the Great Xia Dynasty had engaged in countless wars with the northern tribes.

After every war, the Great Xia Dynasty and the Barbarian Tribe would exchange prisoners. If one side had no prisoners to offer, they would use resources for the exchange instead.

Such as cattle, sheep, or provisions like grain, salt, and iron.

If the Barbarian Tribe wanted to redeem their people, they would use horses, cattle, and sheep, while the Great Xia Dynasty would use salt and iron to retrieve their soldiers.

Of course, even though the Great Xia Dynasty would retrieve their soldiers, those soldiers would not be relied upon as before. However, to prevent the common folk from losing heart, the Great Xia government would usually expend some resources to bring back their soldiers.

It is precisely because of the frequent exchange of prisoners that Yelv Nanyan, upon learning of the Sky Wolf King's defeat, immediately thought of exchanging cattle and sheep for prisoners.

Xiao Wenyao had also considered exchanging something to rescue her uncle.

After hearing Xiao Wenyao's question, Wu Yuan sighed and then said, "Alas, Your Highness, as far as I know, the North Prince seems to only like one thing, and that is the company of beautiful women."

"Moreover, he favors only the most stunning women; only our Queen and you would be of the type the North Prince favors."

Xiao Wenyao's mind went blank, and she froze on the spot.

After a long pause, Xiao Wenyao, unwilling to accept the situation, asked, "Can't we use cattle and sheep to exchange for my uncle?"

Wu Yuan said, "If it were only ordinary soldiers, the North Prince might allow us to exchange them for cattle and sheep, but General Xiao is a Master Level Martial Artist. If he is released, the next Sky Wolf King could very well be him. The Great Xia will not let him return so easily unless we can present something that truly appeals to them."

After hearing Wu Yuan's words, Xiao Wenyao fell silent.

Just then, a Barbarian Tribe soldier approached Wu Yuan and said, "Wu Yuan, the Queen requests your presence; she has a task for you."

Wu Yuan then said to Xiao Wenyao, "Your Highness, I must go to the Queen now. Don't let your thoughts run wild, and please do not consider using yourself as a trade for General Xiao. The North Prince is a lecherous man; if you go to North City, who knows what sort of torments you would endure.."

Chapter 142: We Negotiate in Person i

Hearing Wu Yuan's parting words, Xiao Wenyao's heart skipped a beat.

How had she not thought of this before? If North Prince liked beautiful women and she was his type, couldn't she also be used to exchange for her uncle's return?

But-

Xiao Wen Yao remembered the reminder Wu Yuan had given her.

The North Prince was a lecher and she herself was a woman from the Barbarian Tribe.

If she really went to North Prince Mansion, she would likely only become one of North Prince's female slaves, and how he would torment her was unpredictable.

She only knew that her father often sneaked Great Sum women into a certain tent behind the Queen's back, where he would torment them in various ways, often leaving those women wanting to die from their screams of agony.

If her own father routinely tormented women from Great Sum, how could the North Prince treat the daughter of the Sky Wolf King kindly?

At the thought, Xiao Wen Yao's delicate body shook uncontrollably.

However, when she thought of how kind her uncle had been to her since childhood and that, if she did not try to save him, he might die in a North City prison, her resolve strengthened.

Now, he was her only remaining relative and she did not want to lose this last kin.

Moreover, even if she did not go to North City, it was very likely that the North Pre King would come to take her away.

Her father had originally offered her to the North Pre King and now that he had been defeated, once the North Pre King learned of this, he would certainly come to their Prince's Mansion to seize her.

Compared to the North Pre King, Xiao Wen Yao would rather suffer at the hands of the North Prince.

After all, the North Prince was a man of Great Sum who did not have the habit of cannibalism and also bathed. Even if tortured, it would still be better than dealing with the still uncivilized North Pre Tribe.

With this in mind, Xiao Wen Yao made a silent decision.

At the same time.

Wu Yuan arrived at Yelv Nanyan's tent.

As Wu Yuan entered and was about to speak, Yelv Nanyan said, "Wu Yuan, I have a very important task for you. I hope you won't let me down. If you can complete this task, I will give you a hundred thousand taels of silver!"

Upon hearing this, Wu Yuan immediately knelt and said, "It is my duty to serve the Princess, and I dare not take your silver."

Yelv Nanyan said, "If you can accomplish this task, you will have done a great service to the entire Sky Wolf King Tribe, and a hundred thousand taels of silver is what you deserve."

Wu Yuan quickly said, "Please tell me, Princess, no matter what it is, I will try my best to complete it. I will exhaust my life in your service and die only after I have fulfilled my duties."

Yelv Nanyan said, "I need you to go to North Prince Mansion and negotiate with North Prince. We, the Sky Wolf King Tribe, plan to use horses or cows and sheep to exchange for our soldiers."

Upon hearing this, Wu Yuan was stunned for a moment before saying, "Princess, I fear that I won't be able to play a decisive role in this matter."

Yelv Nanyan asked, "Why is that? Are you worried that North Prince will find out you're working for the Barbarian Tribe and have you captured and killed on the spot?"

"If that's the case, you don't need to worry at all. We will not reveal a word of your involvement to North Prince. Just say that your caravan happened to have traded with the Sky Wolf King Tribe for cows and sheep; North Prince is likely not to trouble you then."

Many caravans in North City have had such transactions with the Barbarian Tribe, like fur trading and, of course, trading cows and sheep.

If one were to be killed simply for transacting with the Barbarian Tribe, then caravans would probably stop coming to North City, and the city would become even poorer.

North City is already so poor that a caravan's main purpose in coming there is to pass through and trade with the northern Barbarian Tribes.

Yelv Nanyan believed that even if North Prince did not understand business, surely someone under him would understand this logic, and they would most likely not trouble Wu Yuan, the merchant.

Wu Yuan said, "Princess, that's not what I meant. What I'm saying is that if North Prince truly wants to negotiate with the Sky Wolf King Tribe, he will likely only speak directly with you. I'm just a merchant and at most can only relay a message."

With Wu Yuan's words, Yelv Nanyan instantly understood his point.

Now that the Sky Wolf King Tribe had few men left, North Prince would probably guess the situation of the tribe, and since they had proposed an exchange of prisoners, they would certainly need to talk terms.

If she did not appear in person, North Prince might think the Sky Wolf King Tribe lacked sincerity.

Besides, this was not a small number of captives, it was not a matter that could be settled in one or two discussions, and North Prince might even make exorbitant demands.

Having Wu Yuan, a merchant, negotiate might not lead to terms the Sky Wolf King Tribe could accept.

With this in mind, Yelv Nanyan's brows furrowed slightly. Did she really need to meet North Prince herself?

After a long contemplation, Yelv Nanyan eventually decided to take the initiative to represent the Sky Wolf King Tribe in negotiations with North Prince.

She then said, "Here's what we'll do: you first convey our intention to negotiate to North Prince and see if he has any conditions. If he is willing to let our soldiers leave, then propose that we meet in person for negotiations."

Wu Yuan said, "Yes, Princess, I will go to North City right away and convey your intentions to North Prince."

As he said this, Wu Yuan prepared to rise and leave the tent.

At that moment, Yelv Nanyan suddenly thought of something and continued, "Wait, when you go to North City this time, inquire whether any of our Barbarian Tribe generals are still alive.."

#### Chapter 143: We Negotiate in Person\_2

Wu Yuan immediately said, "Replying to the Princess, this servant knows that General Xiao is still alive and is imprisoned in the jail of Yan County, and it seems that the North Prince has no intention of presenting the prisoner to the Great Sum court."

Hearing Wu Yuan's answer, Yelv Nanyan was slightly excited, and she immediately asked, "Are you sure General Xiao is still alive?"

Wu Yuan answered, "This servant only heard about it, and cannot be entirely sure. Moreover, this news seems to be known by many, and this servant bought the intelligence from a soldier in North City."

"According to what that soldier from North City said, after the war ended, the soldiers of North City sent a general of the Barbarian Tribe to be imprisoned in the jail of Yan County, and the North Prince even had a physician treat him. Based on the description by that soldier, this servant deduced that the general he spoke of must be General Xiao."

Yelv Nanyan took a deep breath. Now that the Sky Wolf Tribe had no Master Level warriors left, if Xiao Pengthian was still alive, they must retrieve him at any cost.

If the Sky Wolf Tribe lacked a powerful warrior to oversee them, it would be difficult to survive on the grasslands of the North Land.

Having calmed her emotions, Yelv Nanyan continued, "When you go to North City this time, you must gather more intelligence about General Xiao. Once it's confirmed that General Xiao is still alive, immediately have someone send us a message."

Wu Yuan said, "Yes, Princess."

Yelv Nanyan then said, "Alright, make haste with your preparations and leave for North City immediately."

Wu Yuan bowed and said, "This servant takes his leave."

Right after that, Wu Yuan turned and left the tent.

Watching Wu Yuan's departing figure, Yelv Nanyan heaved a deep sigh.

The royal court of the Sky Wolf Tribe had relocated many times, and she had followed the migration of the Sky Wolf King's court multiple times, until they finally chose this place near a river.

She had thought that when they next moved the royal court, they would go straight to North City and would no longer live a nomadic life chasing water and grass.

Little did she expect, they were about to embark on a life of constant upheaval once more.

At this thought, images of the life her mother had described to her as a child came to mind.

A life without worrying about hunger or cold, without fear of wolves and wild beasts, with bright lights in every household at night, streets and alleyways filled with food vendors, tasting delights wherever she walked, returning home at night to find a bath prepared by servants, bathing immediately, and sleeping in a warm, fragrant bed, waking up the next day to a beautiful and worry-free day.

Perhaps she would never live such a life.

Her mother, once a person of Great Sum, had not lived such a life since being brought to the Barbarian Tribe, and died without experiencing it again. How could she ever live such a wonderful life?

Yelv Nanyan tried to calm herself, not to think too much. Right now, the most important thing was to ransom the Barbarian Tribe's able-bodied men and Xiao Pengthian.

To protect the Sky Wolf Tribe first.

If the Sky Wolf Tribe were lost, her fate would be even more tragic; she couldn't bear to live the miserable life she had as a child again.

A few days later.

North Prince Mansion.

Lu Chen was examining intelligence reports from the Brocade Guard in his study when there was a knock at the door.

Lu Chen said indifferently, "Come in."

Immediately, the door opened, and Qin Yushan entered the study.

"Your Highness," he greeted.

Lu Chen, looking at the intelligence in his hand, hummed in acknowledgment and asked, "What's the matter?"

Qin Yushan placed the intelligence in his hand on Lu Chen's desk, "Your Highness, Wu Yuan has returned, and he brings news that the Sky Wolf King's wife wishes to negotiate with you in person.



They plan to redeem the captives of the Barbarian Tribe and Xiao Pengthian with horses or livestock.”

At these words, Lu Chen was momentarily taken aback, then put down the intelligence in his hand and glanced over the report Qin Yushan had placed on the desk.

Lu Chen had initially guessed that the Sky Wolf Tribe would concede, but he didn’t anticipate that the Sky Wolf King’s wife intended to negotiate with him in person.

After all, negotiation is a dangerous matter; it’s very possible that those coming to negotiate might never return.

The Sky Wolf King’s wife was braver than he had imagined.

Truly worthy of a woman who could wield power within the Sky Wolf Tribe.

Lu Chen had initially thought of making Xiao Pengthian the Sky Wolf King to divide the tribe, but now it seemed unnecessary.

From the intelligence, Lu Chen learned that the royal court of the Sky Wolf King had already begun moving. This was clearly a precaution against the North Fre King and other Barbarian Tribe factions.

It appeared their recent defeat had made them feel a great crisis, and there was no need to provoke them further with Xiao Pengthian.

Whether Xiao Pengthian returned or not, in the eyes of the Sky Wolf Tribe’s people, he was the next Sky Wolf King.

Now, with no Master Level warriors in the entire Sky Wolf Tribe, even if reluctant, they could only acknowledge Xiao Pengthian as the new Sky Wolf King.

So for them, acknowledging Xiao Pengthian as the Sky Wolf King actually won’t serve to divide them; instead, they would try all means to ransom Xiao Pengthian back.

At this point, Lu Chen put down the intelligence report on the desk and rose from his seat.

“Let’s go take a look at Xiao Pengthian,” he said.

With those words, Lu Chen left the study and headed to the prison where Xiao Pengthian was held.

For the upcoming negotiations with the Sky Wolf King’s wife, Lu Chen planned to bring Xiao Pengthian along, intending to bring the entire Sky Wolf Tribe under the control of North City.

#### Chapter 144: We Negotiate in Person\_3

It all depends on what Xiao Pengthian has in mind now.

If Xiao Pengthian agrees, North City will then have more Barbarian Tribe soldiers. When it comes to combat on the plains, it will be much easier to locate the other tribes of the Barbarian Tribe.

Before long, Lu Chen appeared before Xiao Pengthian.

At this moment, Xiao Pengthian was evidently in much better spirits compared to before. Although his hair was still a mess, he looked much cleaner overall.

The jailer had granted him the best treatment available in the prison, a luxury those Barbarian Tribe captives outside couldn't enjoy.

When Lu Chen arrived, Xiao Pengthian simply lifted his head to glance at him. He didn't rise from the bed but instead lowered his head and continued lying on his side, his eyes slightly closed, as if he were asleep.

Lu Chen asked indifferently, "General Xiao, what have you decided?"

Xiao Pengthian didn't answer directly but instead said, "I can't guarantee that everything you've said is true, nor can I guarantee that you will keep your promises."

If it were anyone else from Great Sum proposing that condition, perhaps he might have believed it was possible, but the offer to make him the Sky Wolf King came from the North Prince.

How could he dare to trust a North Prince who had feigned incompetence to deceive the Barbarian Tribes and ensnared the three hundred thousand strong Barbarian army all at once? The North Prince's schemes ran too deep.

Although the North Prince was only sixteen or seventeen years old, the current Xiao Pengthian couldn't dare to treat him as a child. If he viewed the North Prince as just a petty child as before, his Sky Wolf King tribe might suffer calamitous destruction.

It sounded as though the North Prince had rejected his proposal, but Lu Chen, through Xiao Pengthian's loyalty level, discerned the inner turmoil in Xiao Pengthian.

Name: Xiao Pengthian

Status: Great General of the Barbarian Tribe Sky Wolf King tribe, prisoner of North City.

Strength: Grandmaster Realm (Sealed State)

Loyalty: 60

Xiao Pengthian's loyalty had reached a usable level; he must certainly want to agree to the proposal. After all, a stable life was something the Sky Wolf King tribe had always desired.

If it weren't for the stability of life, to avoid starvation and the cold as before, they wouldn't have led three hundred thousand troops to attack North City this time; that was their primary goal.

If Lu Chen truly agreed to allow the entire Sky Wolf King tribe to relocate to North City and settle down and also teach them how to cultivate, he would definitely agree.

But the key point was that he didn't trust the North Prince.

The North Prince's cunning was too profound. Xiao Pengthian, who had been outsmarted once before, was naturally very cautious.

At that moment, Lu Chen said, "I have come today not only to ask about your decision but also to share some news with you."

Xiao Pengthian asked with curiosity, "What news?"

"Your queen is planning to meet with me to negotiate. She wishes to exchange horses, cattle, and sheep for the release of your Barbarian Tribes' soldiers and you."

"General Xiao, do you think I will agree?"

Hearing this, Xiao Pengthian's mind went blank for a moment.

But he quickly calmed down because he had already anticipated that the queen would do this. Now, besides negotiations, they had no other option.

If it were anyone else from Great Sum, there would be a very high chance for negotiations, and maybe they could indeed exchange some horses and livestock to retrieve some Barbarian Tribe soldiers.

But they were facing the North Prince!

Xiao Pengthian could tell that this young man's eyes revealed immense ambition; he might not agree.

No! Rather, he definitely wouldn't agree!

If the North Prince was willing to negotiate, he wouldn't have offered Xiao Pengthian the position of the next Sky Wolf King.

Seeing that Xiao Pengthian remained silent, Lu Chen continued, "During these negotiations, I will take General Xiao with me. I believe that after the negotiations, General Xiao will immediately make a decision."

Xiao Pengthian frowned.

Take him along?

What was the intention behind that?

Could it be that he was to be used as a bargaining chip to threaten the Sky Wolf King tribe?

Just as Xiao Pengthian was about to speak, Lu Chen already turned and left.

Lu Chen's main purpose in visiting the prison was to personally deliver the news to Xiao Pengthian, without the intention to waste too many words with him.

The annexation of the Sky Wolf King tribe was a foregone conclusion. In the end, the Sky Wolf King tribe had no choice, unless they decided to seek shelter with other Barbarian Tribes. Otherwise, once the negotiations ended, Xiao Pengthian would have no choice but to agree to their terms.

Chapter 145: Not a Single One of the Hundred Thousand Captives from the Barbarian Tribe will be Released by This Prince!\_i

After Lu Chen left the prison, Xiao Pengthian let out a deep sigh. They had now completely run out of options.

To survive, to protect the entire Sky Wolf King tribe, they might have only one choice—to pledge loyalty to the North Prince.

But...

They had just been slaughtered by the soldiers led by the North Prince—two hundred thousand of their own kin.

How many in the tribe would be willing to pledge loyalty to the North Prince now?

If the North Prince sincerely planned to relocate the Sky Wolf King tribe to North City without any deceit, it was very likely that he would also disperse the entire Sky Wolf King tribe and not allow them to stay together.

If that were the case, would the Sky Wolf King tribe still be the Sky Wolf King tribe?

Once their people were scattered across various places in North City, their tribe would essentially cease to exist.

By then, his title of Sky Wolf King would be nothing but that, a title—he would have neither land nor followers.

Xiao Pengthian had pondered long and hard in the prison, yet in the end, he could not make up his mind. He decided to wait until the King's wife and the

North Prince negotiated before making a decision.

A month passed in the blink of an eye.

Thanks to Wu Yuan's shuttling back and forth, eventually, a negotiation time and venue were set between Lu Chen and Yelv Nanyan.

Soon, Lu Chen led his people northward to the grasslands of the North Land.

Lu Chen was no fool; he naturally would not venture deep into the grasslands. The negotiation site was located beside a tributary of the Wanning River.

By agreement, each side was only allowed to bring five hundred men.

Lu Chen also took only five hundred Black Cavalrymen to the North Land.

Of course, Mu Changtian, Qin Yushan, and Wenren Lie also went along.

Yelv Nanyan did the same. Although their tribe hardly had any men left, in order not to show their dire situation to the North Prince, they managed to gather five hundred robust men, who appeared to be quite powerful. However, among them, there was not a single martial artist of the Master Realm.

As Lu Chen was about to reach the designated location, he saw a troop of cavalry already waiting on the riverbank, and tables along with woolen seating had been arranged.

As Lu Chen's group gradually approached the meeting place, his eyes caught two beautiful figures.

One of them was a voluptuous woman draped in a fur cloak with various ornaments and a hair bun, catching Lu Chen's eye.

The woman was dignified and elegant, looking nothing like a woman from the Barbarian Tribe; she seemed more like someone from the Great Xia.

At this moment, Lu Chen used the system to identify the woman's information.

[Name: Yelv Nanyan]

[Identity: Former Sky Wolf King's wife, 32 years old, Ninth Grade Martial Artist, mother was a young lady from a certain family in Great Xia Dynasty; kidnapped by the Barbarian Tribe in her youth, gave birth to Yelv Nanyan in the Barbarian Tribe; influenced by her mother from a young age, she harbors longing for Great Xia, served Sky Wolf King for many years as he was already old when she married him, leaving her still a maiden; she wields great power within the Sky Wolf King tribe, having led the tribe to further growth and formidable strength while caring for the former Sky Wolf King.]

[Rating: 96]

[Favorability: 45]

After reading Yelv Nanyan's information, Lu Chen wasn't too surprised; this information was more or less the same as what the Brocade Guard had collected about her.

Then, Lu Chen's gaze moved to the woman next to Yelv Nanyan, who wore fur clothes and looked somewhat young and naive.

[Name: Xiao Wenyao]

[Identity: Sky Wolf King's daughter, Barbarian Princess, Seventh Grade Martial Artist, Uncle Xiao Pengthian, 18 years old this year; doesn't want to marry the North Fre King, has tried to escape to Great Xia to live several times, Xiao Pengthian planned to secretly send Xiao Wenyao to live in Great Xia after taking down North City; knowing that the Barbarian Army failed, Xiao Wenyao plans to trade herself for Xiao Pengthian.]

[Rating: 94]

[Favorability: 50...51-55 (continuously rising)]

Upon seeing Xiao Wenyao's information, Lu Chen was somewhat surprised. As the daughter of the Sky Wolf King, having taken her father's life, she not only held no resentment toward him but also had a favorability of over 50 towards him, which was still increasing.

Interesting.

Meanwhile.

Xiao Wenyao and Yelv Nanyan both scrutinized Lu Chen, who was approaching from a distance.

Yelv Nanyan had long known that Lu Chen was but a teenager of sixteen or seventeen. However, all the information she had received about him previously painted him in a negative light, such as him being a hedonist keeping many beauties in the Prince's Mansion and indulging in pleasure all day, and already hollowed out by luxury.

But now, it seemed all that information was false.

The young man riding towards them, dressed in a cyan-black Python Dragon Robe, appeared elegant, handsomely extraordinary, and his physique seemed robust and strong. He was nothing like someone who had been hollowed out by debauchery.

Clearly, they had been deceived.

No, more accurately, everyone had been deceived by the North Prince.

Yelv Nanyan immediately reassessed Lu Chen, identifying him as a man of great ambition.

Yelv Nanyan couldn't help but worry; today's negotiation might not go smoothly.

Moreover, Yelv Nanyan also noticed the Black Cavalrymen following behind Lu Chen. There might only be five hundred of them, but these Black Cavalry exuded a fierce aura; they were elite Heavy Cavalry.

Clearly, the North Prince's victory over the three hundred thousand Barbarian Army must have involved these Heavy Cavalry. Even though the North Prince had only brought these five hundred men, Yelv Nanyan knew there must be more than just five hundred Heavy Cavalry in North City. The North Prince bringing these five hundred Heavy Cavalry was a clear show of military prowess.

Chapter 146: Not a Single One of the Hundred Thousand Captives from the Barbarian Tribe Will Be Spared by This Kingl\_2

At this moment, Xiao Wenyao's eyes were fixed intently on Lu Chen. At first, she was very nervous; after all, the thought of becoming the North Prince's female slave and being tormented by him every day terrified her after she arrived at the North Prince Mansion.

But the moment she saw Lu Chen, she was instantly captivated by his looks.

Compared to the crude men of the Barbarian Tribe, Xiao Wenyao naturally preferred the people of Great Sum; moreover, she had long heard of the North Prince's handsome and dashing reputation. Under Wu Yuan's influence, Xiao Wenyao had entertained thoughts about Lu Chen a long time ago.

She used to think that after her father conquered North City, she would ask him to reward her with the North Prince as a slave.

Of course, that thought had now completely shattered; not only was it impossible for the North Prince to become her slave, but she might even become a little female slave to the North Prince instead.

However, if she could become the North Prince's woman, the grievance of her father's murder seemed insignificant.

Just as Xiao Wenyao was staring at Lu Chen and daydreaming, suddenly, a familiar figure appeared behind the North Prince.

The tall figure was also on horseback, but he looked unkempt and very exhausted.

Seeing that Lu Chen had actually brought Xiao Pengthian with him, everyone from the Barbarian Tribe was unsettled. The High Priest excitedly said, "It's Xiao... General Xiao!!!"

Xiao Wenyao snapped out of her infatuation at once; seeing Xiao Pengthian really alive filled her with immense excitement. She was about to run over, "Uncle... Uncle!!!"

Yelv Nanyan quickly grabbed Xiao Wenyao's hand, preventing her from going over.

The North Prince brought Xiao Pengthian to increase bargaining chips; it was not convenient for them to contact each other at this time, as every action had to follow protocol.

It wasn't long before Lu Chen arrived at the riverbank.

He dismounted directly from his horse and then looked at the beautiful Yelv Nanyan with a smile, saying, "They say the Sky Wolf King's wife is dazzlingly beautiful, that any man who sees her can't look away. I didn't believe it at first, but having seen you today, it is indeed well-deserved."

Yelv Nanyan wasn't annoyed by his words; she replied with a smile, "Thank you for your compliments, North Prince. Please, take a seat."

Without hesitation, Lu Chen approached the table and sat down.

He wasn't accustomed to kneeling, and sitting cross-legged was also uncomfortable, so Lu Chen was eager to finish the discussion and return home soon.

At that moment, Yelv Nanyan said, "North Prince, I wonder what you think about the conditions we initially proposed?"

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "One hundred thousand horses, one hundred thousand sheep, and twenty thousand cattle. Under normal circumstances, that would indeed be enough for the release of one hundred thousand Barbarian soldiers."

"However..."

Upon hearing the word 'however,' Yelv Nanyan's eyebrows furrowed slightly, and the formal negotiations began.

Lu Chen gazed into Yelv Nanyan's beautiful eyes and said, "However, if I were to release all these one hundred thousand Barbarian soldiers, wouldn't that be like causing trouble for myself? What if

you all decide you can no longer stay in the steppes and one day lead an army to attack North City again?”

Yelv Nanyan had anticipated that Lu Chen would say this and quickly replied, “We can sign a treaty, promising that for a hundred years, the Sky Wolf Tribe will not venture southward again.”

Lu Chen said, “A treaty is a fine thing, but how is it that I remember the Sky Wolf Tribe has signed not just one treaty with Great Sum before?”

“To your Barbarian Tribe, it seems that treaties are something that can be torn apart at any time.”

“Even if you keep the treaty, how can you ensure that your successor, or the next Sky Wolf King, will adhere to it?”

Hearing Lu Chen’s words, Yelv Nanyan’s expression soured.

What Lu Chen said was true. The Sky Wolf Tribe had indeed signed several treaties with Great Sum, but it was always the Sky Wolf Tribe that had broken them first.

Furthermore, North Prince pointed out a crucial issue: the next person to control the Sky Wolf King Tribe might not honor the alliance.

Given this, it would be incredibly difficult to get North Prince to sign an alliance agreement.

At this point, Yelv Nanyan spoke up, “I wonder what kind of terms North Prince desires, please speak frankly.”

“However, I would like to remind North Prince that even without these one hundred thousand Barbarian Tribe soldiers, our Sky Wolf King Tribe can still stand tall on the grasslands.”

“If we don’t sign the alliance and some soldiers can’t resist the urge to plunder southwards, that would no longer be associated with our Royal Court.”

Lu Chen chuckled and then said, “Queen Yelv, if you truly believed these one hundred thousand Barbarian Tribe soldiers were expendable, you wouldn’t be here negotiating with me.”

“You are well aware of the current state of your Sky Wolf King Tribe,” he continued.

“Without men, after this winter passes, whether the Sky Wolf King Tribe will even exist is questionable, especially with North Fre King to the north.”

“With the sudden loss of over two hundred thousand men, if North Fre King learns of this, he will certainly not let this opportunity slip by. Eliminating the Sky Wolf King Tribe would leave the entire North Land under North Fre King’s sole dominance; they have no reason not to proceed.”

Yelv Nanyan’s hands shook uncontrollably upon hearing Lu Chen’s words, which she had anticipated, yet she had never figured out a proper retort.

The only thing she could do was pretend to be strong.



Yelv Nanyan then said, “Don’t you think it’s a bit naive of you, North Prince? The Sky Wolf King Tribe has been in the North Land for a century, and has produced countless offspring. Do you really think a loss of over two hundred thousand is enough to topple us?”

Lu Chen said indifferently, “Queen Yelv, let me be clear, there’s no need to keep pretending that your Sky Wolf King Tribe is still powerful. From the first day I arrived in North City, I’ve been keeping an eye on every move you make. I’m well aware of the approximate number of people in your tribe, how many horses, cattle, and sheep you have, your collusion with the merchants from Great Sum, and your dealings with the Aristocratic Family and Prince Lu Shuyun.”

Hearing Lu Chen’s words, Yelv Nanyan and the Barbarian Tribe’s elders’ faces changed drastically.

Their transactions with the Great Sum Aristocratic Family and Prince Lu Shuyun were supposed to be known only by the Barbarian Tribe’s leaders, yet North Prince had laid it bare, which meant he had a thorough understanding of the Sky Wolf King Tribe.

Of course, they couldn’t be sure whether this information came from spies within their soldiers or a betrayal by Xiao Pengthian.

They were clear on one thing now: their negotiations were extremely passive with barely any room for bargaining.

After a long pause, Yelv Nanyan snorted and finally spoke, “So, North Prince, you’ve been plotting the obliteration of the Sky Wolf King Tribe since you came to North City?”

Lu Chen replied, “Destroy? No, no, no, I have no such intentions.”

Hearing this, Yelv Nanyan was immediately puzzled. If not to wipe out the Sky Wolf King Tribe, what was the purpose?

Lu Chen continued, “There are many tribes in the North Land, not just the Sky Wolf King Tribe, and there are even more tribes to the west. Even if one tribe is wiped out, other Barbarian Tribes will migrate to the North Land.”

Yelv Nanyan then asked, “Since North Prince isn’t aiming to eradicate our tribe, may I know exactly what your conditions are?”

Lu Chen, feeling a bit sore in his legs, stood up and, glancing towards the Wanning River, said, “I’ll be straightforward. I have no intention of releasing any of the one hundred thousand Barbarian Tribe captives.”

Upon hearing this, Yelv Nanyan and the elders of the Barbarian Tribe were momentarily stunned.

Yelv Nanyan’s complexion turned somewhat pallid. This was the worst outcome she had anticipated. After all, we are talking about one hundred thousand Barbarian Tribe captives, and with such a prime opportunity to destroy the Sky Wolf King Tribe, how could a man as cunning as North Prince miss it?

At that moment, Yelv Nanyan said, “If North Prince has no intention of releasing our people, then why agree to negotiate? Could it be that North Prince intends to use this opportunity to eliminate us as well?”

Considering this possibility, Yelv Nanyan had from the start ordered the Barbarian Tribe's Cavalry to stand by in the distance. In such negotiations, it was improbable for either side to come with so few people.

As Yelv Nanyan finished speaking, the atmosphere on the scene became incredibly tense; the soldiers of the Barbarian Tribe tightly gripped their knives, ready for combat, while the Black Cavalry stood prepared to charge at a moment's notice.

#### Chapter 147: You Must Stay by My Side as a Hostage

Lu Chen seemed utterly unaffected by the tense atmosphere surrounding him as he stood with his hands clasped behind his back, gazing into the distance at the Wanning River.

"Queen Yelv, I have a question for you. What was the initial reason you attacked North City?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's sudden question, Yelv Nanyan grew even more puzzled. What was the point in asking such a question at a time like this?

She simply couldn't fathom what the young man, more than a decade her junior, was thinking.

Nevertheless, Yelv Nanyan eventually responded, "North City is surrounded by mountains, which block the northern winds, and it's rich in rivers. It's a treasure of land. Since Great Sum treats North Land with such disregard, why shouldn't we take it for ourselves?"

Lu Chen's face remained calm as he said, "Your answer has a flaw. It sounds like you're saying that you attacked North City for its land."

This...

When Lu Chen said this, some of the Barbarian Tribe Elders were confused. Weren't they attacking North City precisely for its land? How had the North Prince managed to suggest that their objective in attacking North City had somehow changed?

At that point, Yelv Nanyan asked, "Oh? Then, North Prince, what do you think our reason was for attacking North City?"

Lu Chen continued, "You did it for a better living environment, for the chance to have the same beautiful life as Great Sum, and that's why you attacked North City."

This...

Yelv Nanyan did not rebut, for Lu Chen was right.

If it had been in the past, the Barbarian Tribe would descend south to plunder mainly for food and women, but this time was different. This time they were establishing a nation to secure the same beautiful life as Great Sum.

Lu Chen then said, "This king can offer you an opportunity to change your living environment."

Hmm?

Yelv Nanyan suddenly felt she was struggling to keep up with the young man's thoughts upon hearing this unexpected proposition from Lu Chen.

Yelv Nanyan then asked, "Would the North Prince be so benevolent?"

Lu Chen went on to say, "I've heard that under Queen Yelv's leadership, the Sky Wolf King Tribe has been learning from Great Sum. Many people have adopted the same living habits as those in Great Sum, and the majority have even learned the language of Great Sum."

"Out of benevolence, I believe you are worthy of becoming citizens of Great Sum. Therefore, I permit the Sky Wolf King Tribe to relocate and settle in North City."

His words exploded like a bombshell.

The Barbarians behind Yelv Nanyan were instantly unsettled by this proclamation, bursting into a flurry of discussion.

"The North Prince is allowing us to move into North City? How is this possible?"

"It must be fake, definitely fake. He must be plotting to wipe us out in one fell swoop!"

"How could the North Prince possibly be so kindhearted!"

"Exactly, we just fought a battle against North City and lost so many lives. He couldn't possibly be so kindhearted!"

Unlike the agitated Barbarian Tribe behind her, Yelv Nanyan fell into deep thought. After a long silence, Yelv Nanyan finally spoke up, "The people of Great Sum often say that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Since the North Prince has allowed the Sky Wolf King Tribe to move into North City, what are the conditions?"

Setting aside the possibility of any conspiracies for the moment, Yelv Nanyan decided to hear out the North Prince's conditions first. If the North Prince had already prepared the conditions, then they could discern from them whether he harbored any ulterior motives.

After hearing Yelv Nanyan's question, Lu Chen turned his head to look at Yelv Nanyan and Xiao Wen Yao before saying, "Indeed, there's no such thing as free pies falling from the sky."

"I do have several conditions for allowing the Sky Wolf King Tribe to move into North City."

"The first one concerns you and the Sky Wolf King's daughter."

Upon hearing this, Yelv Nanyan and Xiao Wen Yao were both startled, their delicate bodies trembling slightly. They couldn't believe what they were hearing and stared at Lu Chen's eyes in disbelief.

Regaining her composure, Yelv Nanyan asked with a smile, "Is the North Prince jesting?"

Lu Chen said, "As to what kind of person I am, Queen Yelv should be very clear. I have a fondness for beauty, which is common knowledge. Thankfully, Queen Yelv and the young princess beside you are just my type."

“Of course, that’s not the most important point. The most important thing is that you are the Sky Wolf King’s queen and hold great power in the Sky Wolf King Tribe. You’re one of the most important figures there, so you must stay with me as a hostage.”

No sooner than Lu Chen had spoken these words did the Elders behind Yelv Nanyan start to protest.

“Queen, you must not agree!”

“Yes, Queen, if you’re not in the tribe, our tribe will truly be finished!”

“Queen, don’t fall for the North Prince’s trick; he surely has ill intentions!”

The significance of Yelv Nanyan was clear. The prosperity of the Sky Wolf King Tribe today couldn’t be separated from Yelv Nanyan, although the defeat of the thirty-thousand-strong Barbarian Army at North City also had a lot to do with her decisions.

However, the people of the Sky Wolf King Tribe had no intention of blaming Yelv Nanyan. On the contrary, at that moment, Yelv Nanyan became even more important to them—she was at the core of their power and the hope of the entire tribe.

If Yelv Nanyan were to leave the Sky Wolf King Tribe, once the tribespeople learned of the defeat of the Barbarian Army, the morale of the whole tribe would collapse, and the Sky Wolf King Tribe wouldn’t last much longer.

Yelv Nanyan did not heed the words of the Elders behind her; she was contemplating the truth behind Lu Chen’s words.

After a while, Yelv Nanyan spoke up, “Aside from the first condition, may I know what the other conditions are?”

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Lu Chen said, “Since I have allowed your people to move into North City, from now on, every member of the Sky Wolf King Tribe is my subject. They must obey my commands, actively integrate into North City, and abide by the laws and regulations of North City.”

Hearing this, Yelv Nanyan thought for a moment. If the Sky Wolf King Tribe were to really relocate to North City, obeying the commands of the North Prince was certain, but Yelv Nanyan didn’t think it would be that simple.

After all, the Sky Wolf King Tribe was a Barbarian Tribe; how could the North Prince be at ease with them moving into North City? There must be other conditions.

Just as Yelv Nanyan was about to ask if there was a third condition, Lu Chen spoke up, “That’s right, once the Sky Wolf King Tribe moves into North City, they must settle separately. From then on, the Sky Wolf King Tribe will cease to exist.”

Upon hearing these words, before Yelv Nanyan could say anything, the Barbarian Tribe's High Priest, who stood behind her, immediately said, "Impossible! We absolutely cannot agree to such a condition!!!"

To move into North City, and even unsure if it was a plot by the North Prince, they had to dissolve the entire tribe. How could they possibly accept that?

They would definitely not accept such conditions!

Yelv Nanyan's face turned dark as well, just as she had thought; the North Prince wanted to dismantle the entire Sky Wolf King Tribe, erasing it from history completely.

At that moment, Yelv Nanyan coldly asked, "If we do not accept the North Prince's conditions, what will the North Prince do?"

Lu Chen said indifferently, "If Queen Yelv does not accept, then I will have to learn from your Barbarian Tribe and simply take you back to the Prince's Mansion by force, making you my woman."

Hearing the blunt words of Lu Chen, Yelv Nanyan coldly said, "Does the North Prince think I am just a weak woman?"

As she spoke, Yelv Nanyan exuded the aura of a Martial Artist.

Over the years, she had collected much of Great Sum's Martial Arts through various means, and she had been practicing martial arts in secret. Very few in the Sky Wolf King Tribe knew of her martial prowess. She rarely used her skills, but that didn't mean she was a weak woman.

Yelv Nanyan thought to herself, she was a Ninth Grade Martial Artist, and although the North Prince was very calculating, his strength was at most at around Fifth Grade.

If they were to really clash, with the distance between them, it wouldn't be difficult for her to capture the North Prince directly.

At that moment, the soldiers behind Lu Chen stopped pretending and released their Martial Artist auras. Mu Changtian and the others even displayed their Protective Gang Qi directly.

Lu Chen of course knew why Yelv Nanyan still had the confidence to speak to him like this; she was a concealed Ninth Grade Martial Artist, surely thinking she was not his match.

To make Yelv Nanyan utterly despair, Lu Chen also directly released his own Protective Gang Qi.

When Mu Changtian and the others, along with Lu Chen, released their Protective Gang Qi, the Barbarian Tribe soldiers immediately became restless.

Even Yelv Nanyan showed an expression of disbelief.

Four... Four Grandmasters!

The North Prince is also a Grandmaster!!!

How is this possible? Isn't the North Prince only sixteen or seventeen years old?

Seeing Lu Chen release his Protective Gang Qi, all the Barbarian Tribe Elders wilted. No wonder their army of three hundred thousand fell at North City; even the North Prince, this boy of only sixteen or seventeen, was a Grandmaster.

At this moment, Xiao Pengthian was also stunned in his place.

He now understood why Lu Chen had told him a month ago in prison that after the negotiations ended, he would make a choice.

A sixteen or seventeen-year-old Grandmaster; he no longer needed to consider anything, did he?

This was an existence bound to become a Great Grandmaster, and might even break through to the Celestial Realm in the future.

The rule on the grasslands was to bow to the strong, the strongest is the leader.

To submit to a future possible Celestial realm power was not shameful at all.

Feeling the formidable aura of the Martial Artist coming from Lu Chen, Yelv Nanyan's delicate body trembled slightly.

She had no choice left.

Either become this young man's woman, or have only a dead end.

At this moment, a Barbarian Tribe soldier suddenly ran from behind to Yelv Nanyan's side, and with a panicked look, whispered something in her ear. Yelv Nanyan's face turned even paler.

Yelv Nanyan couldn't help but look up at the young man before her, her eyes filled with complex emotions.

Lu Chen had already guessed what the Barbarian Tribe soldier had told Yelv Nanyan, so he took the initiative to say, "Oh, that's right, I forgot to tell you, half a month ago I had already sent word to the various tribes of the grasslands about the defeat of the Sky Wolf King. I believe by now the North Fre King must be searching the world over for your Sky Wolf King's royal court."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the Barbarian Tribe elders' faces changed drastically, knowing that once the North Fre King learned of their defeat, he would definitely search everywhere for them and then plunder their tribes.

Lu Chen continued, "You now have only two choices, either accept my terms and move all your people into North City, and your queen marries me, becoming my woman,"

"Or, you can retreat and fight the North Fre King in a battle to the death."

"Additionally, the North Fre King might not know the location of your royal court, but I do. I believe this information would be of great value to the North Fre King."

At this moment, the Barbarian Tribe's elders all wanted to curse Lu Chen for his despicable and shameless behavior, but like fish on a chopping board, they had no choice but to bow their heads.

“I have plenty of time and can wait for you to discuss this slowly, but before the sunset, I expect a definitive answer from you.”

With that, Lu Chen turned and walked towards the Black Cavalry, but he did not leave.

At that moment, the Black Cavalry brought out a table and immediately spread out all the food they had prepared onto it, and even poured a cup of wine for Lu Chen.

Lu Chen sat at the table and sipped the fine wine.

Meanwhile,

Yelv Nanyan and a few elders of the Barbarian Tribe still hadn't spoken, remaining silent.

It seemed they had reached a dead end already.

No, to be more precise, they had embarked on a path of no return since the moment they decided to attack North City.

They had chosen a foe they should never have engaged.

Without doubt, the North Prince was the nemesis of their Sky Wolf King tribe, they hadn't faced anyone like him before.

The end days for the Sky Wolf King tribe had indeed arrived.

After a prolonged silence, Yelv Nanyan finally said, “Setting aside whether we can leave this place today in front of four Grandmasters, even if we return, I fear we cannot withstand the North Fre King's slaughter.”

The High Priest said, “Queen, do we really have no choice but to disband our tribe?”

Yelv Nanyan replied, “If the North Prince genuinely wants to take in our Sky Wolf King tribe, relocating to North City might not be a bad thing for us, but he would never allow us to keep the tribe intact. That would be a huge threat to North City, and he wouldn't permit such a threat to exist.”

Hearing Yelv Nanyan's words, the High Priest of the Sky Wolf King tribe closed his eyes, appearing utterly exhausted. He then said, “Queen, whatever you decide, we will follow.”

Just then, Lu Chen said to Xiao Pengthian behind him, “General Xiao, you can go and reunite with your people now.”

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Xiao Pengthian was slightly taken aback.

He asked in disbelief, “You dare let me go over there? Aren't you afraid I'll just run away?”

Lu Chen took a sip of wine and then said, “If you think you can escape, you're welcome to try.”

Xiao Pengthian glanced at Wenren Lie not far away. It was Wenren Lie's hammer strike that had knocked him unconscious before, and he was still daunted by the thought of Wenren Lie's hammer.

He let out a deep sigh, then walked towards Yelv Nanyan and the others.

Seeing Xiao Pengthian coming from Lu Chen's side, Xiao Wenyao was extremely excited. She hurried over, grabbed Xiao Pengthian's hand, and sobbed, "Uncle! Thank goodness you're alive!"

Xiao Pengthian patted Xiao Wenyao's head and said, "Yaoyao, don't cry, your uncle is fine, let's go over there first."

Xiao Wenyao nodded, and the two approached Yelv Nanyan.

Xiao Pengthian, seeing Yelv Nanyan, bowed and said, "My respects to the Queen."

Seeing that Xiao Pengthian was released by Lu Chen, Yelv Nanyan sighed and asked, "General Xiao, what is your choice?"

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Xiao Pengthian was the only Grandmaster strength in the Sky Wolf King tribe, and although his Realm might have declined, there was still hope for him to recover to the level of Grandmaster Realm in the future.

With Xiao Hongbo dead, Xiao Pengthian was the only one who could become the next Sky Wolf King.

Now that the Sky Wolf King tribe had reached a desperate situation, Yelv Nanyan wanted to know what Xiao Pengthian planned to do.

Upon hearing Yelv Nanyan's question, Xiao Pengthian fell silent for a moment.

After a while, instead of answering Yelv Nanyan's question, Xiao Pengthian asked, "Princess, if we return to the grasslands, will the North Fre Tribe let us go?"

Yelv Nanyan replied, "No."

Xiao Pengthian continued, "At that time, whether it's you, Princess, or Yaoyao, you will both be captured by the North Fre King to become his female slaves. Would the Princess rather be the North Prince's woman, or a female slave for the North Fre King?"

Yelv Nanyan did not answer this question. If she had to choose between the two, Yelv Nanyan would inevitably pick that little man not far away; she would definitely not choose that old coot, the North Fre King.

However, Yelv Nanyan also knew very well that in the Sky Wolf King tribe she was a Princess with power in her hands, and once she went to the North Prince Mansion and became the North Prince's woman, she would lose all her power, and by then, she would just be an ordinary member of the North Prince's harem.

Moreover, she was already in her thirties this year, older and aging faster compared to the North Prince's women.



Perhaps at the beginning, the North Prince might covet her beauty, but it might not be too many years before she grew old and faded, the North Prince would lose all interest in her, and she could only end her days alone in the North Prince's harem.

But thinking about this was useless now; she already had no choice.

Moreover, the life in Great Sum was something she had yearned for since childhood, and if she missed this opportunity, she might slip back into the previous life of wandering.

She had had enough of living a nomadic life following the water and grass.

Seeing that Yelv Nanyan did not reply to his question, Xiao Pengthian said, "The North Prince is only seventeen years old at most this year, yet he is already a Grandmaster. I believe he has a strong chance of becoming a Heavenly Human Realm expert in the future. Since our tribe's inception, we have revered the strong, and since he is strong and has defeated us, we have no reason not to submit to him."

"The Sky Wolf King tribe has achieved what it has today through constant warfare and the assimilation of smaller tribes. Now that we have lost, our fate is no different from those smaller tribes we once conquered, and I think it's not something difficult to accept."

Hearing Xiao Pengthian's words, the elders of the Barbarian Tribe fell into thought.

Indeed, the reason the Sky Wolf King tribe had reached its current stature was through the constant warfare and assimilation of surrounding smaller tribes into its fold.

Among these elders, some were originally from other small tribes, like Elder Fu, who was absorbed into the Sky Wolf King tribe after it had assimilated his former small tribe.

If North City were seen as a larger Barbarian Tribe, then moving to North City seemed not so unacceptable.

At this moment, the elders of the Barbarian Tribe were no longer strongly opposed to moving to North City, after all, they had no choice. If they returned to the grasslands and were discovered by the North Fre King, they would only face being conquered.

And the people of the Sky Wolf King tribe had already grown to desire the lifestyle of Great Sum under the leadership of Yelv Nanyan over the years.

Now with such a good opportunity before them, how they chose seemed to need no further discussion.

At this point, the High Priest opened his eyes and said, "Let's vote, those in favor of moving to North City raise your hands."

Upon hearing this, the High Priest was the first to raise his hand.

The High Priest of the Barbarian Tribe held a pivotal position within the tribe, and since he agreed, the others could hardly disagree. Following suit, Elder Fu raised his hand, and soon after, the various elders raised their hands to vote for the relocation to North City.

The moment the High Priest raised his hand essentially represented their agreement to move to North City.

The High Priest was the most conservative person among the entire tribe, and since he had agreed, it was unlikely that others would not.

But at this time, Yelv Nanyan did not raise her hand.

Seeing that Yelv Nanyan had not raised her hand, Xiao Pengthian asked, "Princess, what is this...?"

Yelv Nanyan said, "I do not have the right to vote on the future of the Sky Wolf King tribe."

"But since you all agree, General Xiao should go and convey this message to the North Prince."

Xiao Pengthian then said, "I understand."

Afterward, Xiao Pengthian turned and walked towards Lu Chen and his group.

Seeing Xiao Pengthian return, Lu Chen, with a smile on his face, said, "It seems you have made a decision, but I'm curious whether you have chosen survival or destruction."

No sooner had Lu Chen spoken than Xiao Pengthian immediately knelt on one knee, and with a salute, said loudly, "This subordinate, Xiao Pengthian, pays respect to the Prince. From today onward, I wish to serve as the Prince's sword, to clear the path ahead for the Prince!"

Hearing this, Lu Chen glanced at Xiao Pengthian's Loyalty, which had reached 75, a not insignificant number.

It appeared that the Sky Wolf King tribe had chosen to move to North City.

Then, Lu Chen stood up and said, "General Xiao, please rise."

Xiao Pengthian said, "Thankyou, Prince!"

As the words fell, Xiao Pengthian got up from the ground, and at that moment, Lu Chen walked directly towards Yelv Nanyan and her group.

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Soon, Lu Chen came back to the place where they had just negotiated. He once again seated himself on the fur carpet and then said to Yelv Nanyan, "It seems that you have agreed to my conditions?"

"Yes," Yelv Nanyan said, "but we have one more condition."

"Oh, what is the condition?" Lu Chen asked.

Yelv Nanyan didn't answer directly, but instead asked, "Does the Prince really not intend to release those one hundred thousand soldiers? If we join North City, those one hundred thousand soldiers will no longer be captives, but Your Highness's subjects."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen immediately understood what Yelv Nanyan meant, and then said, "I can release them, but not now."

"I need them to do ten years of labor in North City. If their performance is good, I can release them early, and during this period, I will allow their families to visit them. If their performance is excellent, they can be temporarily allowed to return home and reunite with their families."

Hearing this, Yelv Nanyan sighed in her heart, thinking that this was probably the biggest concession the North Prince could make.

Beyond this concession, they probably couldn't get any more favorable terms from the North Prince.

Yelv Nanyan continued to ask, "Once the Sky Wolf King Tribe migrates into North City, how does the North Prince plan to arrange things?"

"Once you arrive in North City, you will naturally find out," Lu Chen replied.

Yelv Nanyan asked, "Isn't the Prince worried that our people will clash with the commoners of North City? The war has just ended, and because of this war, quite a few people must have died in North City, right? The hatred of the North City commoners towards us cannot be erased in just a day or two."

Lu Chen didn't discuss this topic further, only saying indifferently, "North City is vast, and the population is sparse."

Compared with the other counties of Great Sum, North City was typically characterized by its vast land and sparse population. Even if all the Barbarian Tribes from the North Land were to migrate there, North City would still have the capacity to accommodate them.

The key was that Lu Chen would soon bring the North Land under his territory, and at that time, his territory would continue to expand northward, and there would be even more land available.

The population of the Barbarian Tribes was negligible in comparison.

As for the hatred of the commoners, it was certainly not something that could be eradicated in a short period, and it would require a long time to blend in.

Lu Chen then said, "If you have any other questions, you can ask them all at once. I can personally answer them for you today."

After contemplating for a moment, Yelv Nanyan spoke up, "When we get to North City, I would like to see our soldiers."

Lu Chen didn't even need to think about it and immediately answered, "That's possible."

Lu Chen had actually been planning to take Yelv Nanyan to see those Barbarian Tribe captives anyway; mainly to stabilize the Barbarian Tribes and keep the captives from entertaining any extraneous thoughts.

Since Yelv Nanyan had taken the initiative to ask to see them, Lu Chen had no reason to disagree.

Yelv Nanyan then took a deep breath and said, “Thankyou, North Prince, for making this possible. We have no further issues.”

“Good,” Lu Chen said, “Since you have no further issues, then Queen Yelv and Princess Xiao will immediately accompany me back to North City.”

Upon hearing this, the faces of the Barbarian Tribe elders showed an expression of immense pain, struggling with their emotions.

If the Queen left and the Sky Wolf King Tribe moved into North City, it would mean the end of the Sky Wolf King Tribe.

Although their lives might be better than before, their attachment to the Sky Wolf King Tribe wasn’t something they could let go of overnight.

At that moment, Lu Chen stood up and walked toward the Black Cavalry. Watching his retreating figure, Yelv Nanyan felt incredibly complex emotions.

She never imagined that at her advanced age, practically old enough to be considered an elder to the North Prince, she would end up as the North Prince’s woman.

Yelv Nanyan then turned her head to look at Xiao Wen Yao, who had been lost in her thoughts throughout the proceedings. “Yaoyao, let’s go.”

Xiao Wen Yao, stunned, asked, “Queen, are we really going to the North Prince Mansion?”

“Between the North Prince and the North Fre King, how would you choose?” Yelv Nanyan countered.

Xiao Wen Yao didn’t answer, but said dejectedly, “I understand.”

Afterward, Xiao Wen Yao walked toward where the Black Cavalry was positioned.

After returning to the front of the Black Cavalry, Lu Chen said to Xiao Pengthian, “General Xiao, the matter of settling the Sky Wolf King Tribe into North City will be entrusted to you.”

Upon hearing this, Xiao Pengthian was momentarily stunned.

He had only recently pledged his loyalty to the North Prince, and now he was tasked by the North Prince with this mission.

Wasn’t the North Prince afraid that he might have other intentions?

Lu Chen didn’t care what Xiao Pengthian was thinking; he said directly to Qin Yushan, “Commander Qin, didn’t you say you had some pill that could restore one’s skill? Give one to General Xiao.”

Qin Yushan didn’t hesitate; he took out a small porcelain bottle from his sleeve and handed it to Xiao Pengthian, saying, “This is the Great Returning Pill. Just one is enough to help you regain your skill, and you should be able to return to the Master Realm within no more than half a month at most.”

Seeing the small porcelain bottle in Qin Yushan's hand, Xiao Pengthian's heart was filled with immense excitement. He had always thought he was crippled for life, and that regaining his skill would be very difficult. He hadn't expected the North Prince to have such a miraculous medicine.

Xiao Pengthian took the small porcelain bottle from Qin Yushan's hand and immediately said to Lu Chen, "Prince, your trust in your subordinate will certainly not be let down by me."

Having said that, Xiao Pengthian opened the bottle and swallowed the pill inside without hesitation.

He did not even consider the possibility that it could be poison; even if it were, he would just have to accept it, for he was already crippled and had little chance of regaining his skill.

Once Xiao Pengthian had taken the Great Returning Pill, he instantly felt his skill returning to his body, and a Protective Gang Qi even emerged around him.

Although he did not know what the Great Returning Pill was, Xiao Pengthian knew that it must be extremely precious, and the fact that Lu Chen had given him such a valuable pill to consume showed how much Lu Chen valued him.

For a moment, Xiao Pengthian's loyalty shot up rapidly, reaching 89 in an instant, nearly hitting 90.

Seeing that Xiao Pengthian had regained his skill, Lu Chen continued, "General Xiao, you should return to the Sky Wolf King Tribe with the elders of your tribe today."

Upon hearing this, Xiao Pengthian was once again stunned.

Once he regained his senses, Xiao Pengthian immediately asked, "Prince, aren't you afraid that your subordinate might just run away?"

Now that he had regained ninety percent of his strength, if he were to be allowed to return to the Sky Wolf King Tribe, some people would probably just take to their heels and never come back to North City again.

Xiao Pengthian did not understand why Lu Chen was so confident in him.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "It's the same as before. If you think you can escape, you're welcome to try."

With that, Lu Chen walked over to his horse and swung himself into the saddle.

At that moment, Yelv Nanyan and Xiao Wenyao approached the Black Cavalry.

Wenren Lie led two horses over and said to Yelv Nanyan and Xiao Wenyao, "Ladies, please!"

Hearing Wenren Lie call her "Lady," Xiao Wenyao's face instantly turned a shade rosier; she stole a glance at Lu Chen who was already on his horse.

Xiao Wenyao did not believe that Lu Chen intended to marry her, nor did she consider herself marrying Lu Chen.

In Xiao Wenyao's view, she was just Lu Chen's slave.

Xiao Wen Yao had grown up on the grasslands, which had shaped her understanding of the world.

In the grasslands, the vanquished were always slaves; there was no room for human rights there.

Yelv Nanyan did not think too much about it; she swiftly mounted her horse.

Once Yelv Nanyan was on horseback, Xiao Wen Yao came back to her senses and quickly mounted her horse as well.

Being a slave was better than being married to the North Fre King, an old fool who devoured people without even bathing.

With that thought, Xiao Wen Yao accepted her fate and implanted in her mind the identity of being the little female slave of North Prince.

From now on, the North Prince was to be Xiao Wen Yao's master.

At this time, Xiao Pengthian looked at Xiao Wen Yao and then said, "Yaoyao, your uncle is going back to the tribe for now, I'll come and check on you after a while."

Upon hearing this, both Xiao Wen Yao and Yelv Nanyan were taken aback.

They had not known beforehand about Lu Chen's plan to let Xiao Pengthian return to the Sky Wolf King Tribe.

When she recovered, Yelv Nanyan's beautiful eyes were fixed on Lu Chen's back, as she tried to see through this young man.