

Es. Benefits 191

Chapter 191: The Prince's Move is Beyond Wordsi

Great Sum originally had over twenty thousand Heavy Cavalry, and the military power had already been concentrated in the hands of the Sum Emperor. Now, the Sum Emperor had another fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry at his disposal. The key point was that, in the eyes of the Aristocratic Families, these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry belonged entirely to the Sum Emperor and no one else could lay their hands on them. This situation prevented the Aristocratic Families of Great Sum from being able to sleep peacefully.

Therefore, Mu Changtian believed that if the warfare between Great Wu and Great Sum was instigated by the Aristocratic Families, their ultimate goal was most likely to disintegrate these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry.

After listening to Mu Changtian's analysis, Lu Chen fell into deep thought.

Of the three objectives Mu Changtian discussed, the second was the least likely, while the third had the greatest probability.

It was certain that the Aristocratic Families wanted to replace the Sum Emperor, there was no doubt about that, especially since the current Sum Emperor was not obedient at all and even intended to eradicate the Ancient Families within Great Sum.

But replacing the Emperor was not to be done at this moment. With various factions thriving, if they were to replace the Emperor, who would they choose as the new Emperor?

Fearing that elevating any Prince to the throne would provoke dissatisfaction amongst many, the eventual outcome would be the splitting of Great Sum and the outbreak of a civil war.

For the Aristocratic Families, the disintegration of Great Sum was incompatible with their interests, so they would rather let the Sum Emperor continue sitting in that position.

What the Aristocratic Families needed to do now was to exchange interests with the various factions as much as possible, and then determine who the next Emperor would be. They would not move against the Sum Emperor's position before deciding on the next Emperor.

As to why they were so quick to provoke warfare between the two countries, it was probably partly to pressure the Sum Emperor and partly to eliminate the forces under the Sum Emperor's control, possibly even aiming for the military power he held.

Once war broke out between the two countries, the Sum Emperor was unlikely to personally lead the troops in the beginning. In doing so, a part of the military power in the Sum Emperor's hands would be handed over, rendering his earlier action of reclaiming military power fruitless.

After some thought, Lu Chen continued to ask Mu Changtian, "General Mu, if the imperial court orders North City to send troops, what do you think I should do?"

North City might be Lu Chen's feudal state, but it still belonged to Great Sum, and Lu Chen remained a Seigneur of Great Sum. If the imperial court ordered him to send troops, he had the obligation to do so.

However, it was apparent that Lu Chen would not send his Black Cavalry to the frontline to be depleted in war.

General Mu did not directly say what Lu Chen should do, but reminded him, "Prince, North City is in the early stages of development, and you have only just gained a firm foothold there. If the imperial court issues an order and North City still does not send troops, it would be tantamount to rebellion. Raising troops at this time would bring no benefits to North City, or to you."

General Mu could also see Lu Chen's thoughts. The Black Cavalry constituted the most important military force of North City. How could Lu Chen bear to send the Black Cavalry to the front lines to be consumed by the enemy?

But if the imperial court issued an order and Lu Chen still refused to send troops, there would be no difference between that and rebellion. Once North City rebelled, it would become even more difficult for North City to develop in the future.

Most of North City's resources were transported from other parts of Great Sum, even the grain consumed in the North Prince Mansion was bought from within Great Sum. To rebel at such a time

would result in the cutting off of various resource transfer channels, which would be extremely detrimental to the development of North City.

At this point, General Mu said, “Prince, in my opinion, if the imperial court truly issues a military command, you do not have to send all fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry over. Just send a portion of the soldiers, and then claim that most of the Heavy Cavalry were annihilated by the enemy on their way to the frontlines, leaving only those soldiers.”

“This approach would comply with the imperial court’s military command without being considered a rebellion, and you would also avoid losing too many Black Cavalry.”

Upon hearing General Mu’s suggestion, everyone else in the study thought it was a feasible plan.

In any case, it was an absolute must not to rebel at this time. Rebelling now would be tantamount to seeking one’s own doom.

Although North City possessed fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry, having them did not make one invincible.

Speaking realistically, the materials for producing gunpowder and cannons were all transported from other parts of Great Sum; if you rebelled now, even the production of gunpowder would become problematic.

After reflecting for a moment, Lu Chen then turned his gaze to Qin Yushan, “Commander Qin, dispatch the Red Ribbon Messenger immediately to seek aid from the imperial court.”

Upon hearing this, everyone in the study was taken aback.

Seek aid?

What aid do they seek?

Isn’t the court requiring them to send troops? Why, at this time, is the North Prince sending a Red Ribbon Messenger to the Capital instead?

What is the situation here?

Even Qin Yushan was stunned in place at this moment.

Lu Chen continued, “Just say that the North Fre King’s vast army is pressing on the border, and the last time we dealt with the Sky Wolf King’s tribe severely depleted North City’s forces, leaving North City unable to engage in battle. We hope the court can send more troops this time to assist North City in repelling the North Fre King’s invasion from the south.”

Ah, this...

Everyone quickly realized what was happening.

The serious expression on Mu Changtian’s face immediately dissipated, and then he said, “Brilliant... truly brilliant! The Prince’s tactic is pure genius!!!” “This way, all of our troops in North City are dealing with the North Fre King and simply have no strength left to support the court’s forces. At this time, the court cannot fault us for anything, the Prince’s move is simply indescribable genius!!!”

Lu Chen continued, “Alright, stop wasting time, send the Red Ribbon Messenger to the Capital at once, preferably before the court’s military order reaches Yan County.”

“Additionally, I have already moved north to resist the Barbarian Tribes’ invasion from the south. If anyone comes looking for me, they should be told that I am not here.”

Everyone instantly understood Lu Chen’s intention: if the court’s envoy did indeed arrive and could not find Lu Chen, they would have no way to deliver the military order into his hands.

“Let’s leave it there for today; you may all leave now. Remember my words, I am no longer in the North Prince Mansion from this point on,” he said.

The group then bowed and said, “Your subjects shall take their leave.”

Following that, Qin Yushan indeed sent out the Red Ribbon Messenger. In order to make the situation appear more urgent, Lu Chen this time personally wrote a battle report. In the report, he

cried and wailed, “tears streaming down,” hoping the court would send troops to support North City.

Meanwhile.

In a private room of a tavern in the Mysterious Moon Palace.

Chen Wanrong sat in a chair, her cold and stunningly beautiful face becoming a bit more serious as she looked at the newly received intelligence.

Calculating the time, she and Lin Wanyun had been in North City for several months now, with Lin Wanyun even becoming the Deputy Commander of the inner guard at the Prince’s Mansion. Yet, they still had no way to get close to Lu Chen.

Lu Chen’s daily life was too routine: eating, sleeping, dealing with political affairs in the study, and then creating offspring with his women in his room.

Although Lu Chen seemed to have accepted the Mysterious Moon Palace, the Palace was unable to assist him in any matter. It appeared that the North Prince Mansion didn’t need any help from the Mysterious Moon Palace at all, leaving Chen Wanrong without a single opportunity to use the Love Worm on Lu Chen.

At that moment, Lin Wanyun, dressed in a light blue long gown, entered the room with smooth steps.

Chen Wanrong spoke softly, “Madam Lin, Great Sum and Great Wu have gone to war.”

Upon hearing this, Lin Wanyun was slightly startled.

This surely was an excellent opportunity for Chen Wanrong; as long as Great Sum’s military power was greatly weakened, they could directly act against the Sum Emperor.

Even the restoration of Chen Wanrong’s country was not a problem..

Chapter 192: Chen Wanrong’s Problem 1

Since the day Chen Wanrong joined the Mysterious Moon Palace, she had been thinking about restoring her nation, but with Great Sum's powerful military, a short-term restoration was simply impossible.

However, the opportunity had now arrived.

As long as the war between Great Sum and Great Wu dragged on for a few more years, once Great Sum's national strength was almost depleted, if they could rally the former forces of Chen Nation, the restoration would have a significant chance of success.

Lin Wanyun naturally saw through Chen Wanrong's intentions, but she still reminded her, "Palace Master, the elders of the Mysterious Moon Palace have sent people to remind us several times to return to the Mysterious Moon Palace. If we do not go back soon, I'm afraid..."

Although Chen Wanrong was the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace, the Palace wasn't solely under her control; the real power lay in the hands of those elders behind the scenes.

The reason Chen Wanrong had become the Palace Master was due to her extremely high martial arts talent, but this did not mean she could act as she pleased.

Lin Wanyun mentioned the elders directly, mainly to remind Chen Wanrong that if she wanted to restore the nation, there was a great possibility the elders would object.

As the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace, running off to restore a nation, especially using the power of the Mysterious Moon Palace, was something those elders could hardly accept.

Moreover, the Mysterious Moon Palace rarely interfered with the matters of great dynasties and did not want to get involved with their complicated affairs. Very few in the Mysterious Moon Palace knew the purpose of Chen Wanrong's descent from the mountain.

Hearing Lin Wanyun's reminder, Chen Wanrong spoke indifferently, "I will take the time to place the Love Worm on North Prince. After the Love Worm is planted, I will return to the Mysterious Moon Palace and then descend the mountain again."

As long as she could plant the Love Worm on Lu Chen, he would be under her control from then on, and there would be no need for her to stay in North City.

The only reason she remained in North City was that she had not found an opportunity to use the Love Worm on Lu Chen.

After all, Lu Chen had too many women, and all of them were of stunning beauty. It was normal for him to show no interest in her, given his harem full of exquisite women.

She needed to be more proactive.

However, she had never pursued a man before and did not know how to make a man fall for her. Everywhere she went, the men captivated by her beauty would fall in love with her without her having to deliberately seduce anyone.

Chen Wanrong was convinced that Lu Chen did have feelings for her; it was just that he was very good at restraining his desires.

To be precise, it wasn't that he restrained his desires, but that he could release them at any time without any buildup in his heart.

Therefore, he had no need to pursue her, a woman who obviously had designs on him.

Thinking this, Chen Wanrong looked at Lin Wanyun and then asked, "Madam Lin, do you know how to make a man fall for you?"

Hearing this question from Chen Wanrong, Lin Wanyun was suddenly dumbstruck.

To make a man fall for oneself?

She was already in her thirties and had never had an intimate or ambiguous relationship with any man. How could she possibly know how to make a man like her?

Nevertheless, Lin Wanyun had guessed why Chen Wanrong would ask such a question. She then said, "Palace Master, I believe that with your beauty, even if you do nothing, North Prince will be moved by you."

Chen Wanrong said softly, "I need to make him fall for me as quickly as possible."

This...

Lin Wanyun then said, "Palace Master, I don't know much about men."

Hearing Lin Wanyun's words, Chen Wanrong said no more. She also realized that Lin Wanyun had never actively seduced another man. Like her, Lin Wanyun was completely inexperienced in this regard, so even asking her was useless.

Just as Chen Wanrong was contemplating how to make Lu Chen fall for her, a disciple of the Mysterious Moon Palace knocked on the door saying, "Palace Master, there is new movement at the North Prince Mansion."

Chen Wanrong said coldly, "Come in."

The next moment, a disciple of the Mysterious Moon Palace entered the private room.

Chen Wanrong asked, "What's the matter?"

The disciple hurriedly reported, "North Prince went to North Land, saying that he is there to resist the southward advance of the North Fre King, and he has also dispatched a Red Ribbon Messenger to seek aid from the Imperial Court. It seems another war is about to break out in North City soon."

Upon hearing this first report, both Lin Wanyun and Chen Wanrong were momentarily startled.

Chen Wanrong had just been pondering how to seduce Lu Chen, but in the next moment, he had run off to North Land.

Wouldn't this mean that a lot of time would be wasted?

Or should she also follow him to North Land?

If that were the case, her intentions would be too apparent, and Lu Chen would surely become even more cautious of her.

The biggest issue in getting Lu Chen to develop feelings for her now was his strong vigilance; he constantly guarded himself against her, which prevented her from finding a way into his heart.

If she did anything unnecessary, it would just make Lu Chen even more wary of her.

So she definitely couldn't follow him to North Land.

However...

She feared that she would have to wait a long time in North City before she could use the Love Worm on Lu Chen.

She could wait, but having been away from Mysterious Moon Palace for so long, the Elders there would surely be even more dissatisfied with her.

With this in mind, Chen Wanrong eventually came up with a plan.

"Madam Lin, you continue to stay in North City. I will return to Mysterious Moon Palace for a while."

Hearing Chen Wanrong's decision, Lin Wanyun said, "Mhm, alright."

Lin Wanyun agreed with Chen Wanrong's decision to return to Mysterious Moon Palace first; after all, they had been out for several months and had made no progress whatsoever.

Initially, they had misjudged Lu Chen's character, thinking that as long as they got close to Lu Chen, he would fall for Chen Wanrong.

But they hadn't foreseen that although Lu Chen was fond of beauty, he was a man who was very cautious and careful; they had wasted so much time in North City for nothing.

In the end, Chen Wanrong, along with some disciples from Mysterious Moon Palace, headed straight back to the Palace, leaving Lin Wanyun to continue serving as Guard Commander in Lu Chen's inner court.

A few days later.

In Great Sum, Capital City.

On the way to Xuanzheng Hall, the ministers whispered among themselves, discussing the matter of the war with Great Wu.

At that moment, Assistant Minister Wang Chengshuo of the Ministry of War and a group of people from the Eighth Prince Faction approached Prince Lu Shuyun, discussing something in hushed tones.

An official whispered, "The battlefield is tense, and it's about time His Majesty's fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry were deployed."

Another official said, "Now that Great Wu has declared war on Great Sum and other dynasties are eyeing Great Sum with predatory intent, if we do not strike a resounding victory now to intimidate our enemies, our future plight will likely be even worse."

Then Assistant Minister Wang Chengshuo of the Ministry of War spoke up, "I will suggest to His Majesty that we directly deploy the fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry from North City to the front line to alleviate the pressure on the Imperial Army."

Hearing the topics of discussion among the officials, Lu Shuyun could not help but slightly curl his lips upward, thinking that this war could not have come at a more opportune time.

He had been discussing with the Wang Family how to dissolve these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry for some time but hadn't found the opportunity; unexpectedly, the chance had now presented itself so swiftly.

Chapter 193: Drafting the Decree, North Prince is Brave and Skilled in Battle..._i

Great Sum, Capital City.

Inside the Xuanzheng Hall.

The officials were buzzing with discussion. The entire hall was like a marketplace.

At that moment, the voice of a eunuch echoed through the air.

“His Majesty arrives!”

The chaotic noise in the hall disappeared instantly, and silence once again prevailed.

Wearing a yellow dragon robe, the Sum Emperor slowly made his way onto the platform. With a wave of his sleeve, he then sat upon the Dragon Throne. His piercing gaze swept over the officials below, especially those from the Aristocratic Family.

After a while, the Sum Emperor finally spoke, “Regarding the war between Great Wu and Great Sum, what opinions do my esteemed ministers have?” Assistant Minister Wang Chengshuo stood up without hesitation and said directly, “Your Majesty, the Great Wu’s army is ferocious. As of now, the situation on the front lines is intense, and the Imperial Army has suffered countless casualties. If we continue to fight like this, I fear that the number of our military forces will be greatly reduced. I believe we should summon the armies of the Seigniors to the front lines to resist the Great Wu invasion.” Hearing Wang Chengshuo’s words, the Sum Emperor’s eyes narrowed slightly. He was no fool. Although Wang Chengshuo only mentioned the Seigniors without naming names, the Sum Emperor instantly guessed Wang Chengshuo’s intention.

At this time, Right Minister Zhao Wenhan also stood up and said, “Your Majesty, I think what Assistant Minister Wang has said is not without reason.” “According to the reports from the front, in just half a month, the court has lost nearly one hundred thousand troops. It is clear that Great Wu came prepared and are still reinforcing their numbers. This is obviously not a minor skirmish.” “Although it appears that we started the war, but Great Wu was able to gather so many troops in such a short time and swiftly conquered two of our counties. It is obvious that they had anticipated a war like this. Therefore, I believe that the outbreak of this war between the two countries is being deliberately instigated by someone within Great Sum.”

Hearing Zhao Wenhan’s words, the Sum Emperor sneered coldly; of course, he knew the instigator of this war was within Great Sum’s interior. It was evident that it was those from the Aristocratic Family.

His Shadow Guard had already found that the Chu Family had close relations with the Great Martial Royal Family. This war was likely instigated by the Chu Family and other southern Aristocratic Families.

As for their motives, he did not need to rush to guess; soon, they would reveal them themselves.

At this moment, the Sum Emperor said coldly, "Continue."

Zhao Wenhan went on, "I believe it very likely that a Seignior within Great Sum has instigated this war, someone who wants Great Sum's court to exhaust its elite fighting Great Wu. Once the court's forces are significantly depleted, that person will directly rebel. And then, the court will no longer be able to stop that person."

'Therefore, I think in order to avoid the Seigniors from rebelling after the war has ended, we should send all the troops from their domains to the front lines.' Hearing Zhao Wenhan's words, the Sum Emperor showed a hint of a smile and then said, "Zhao makes a very good point, and that is what I have been considering as well. However, moving the soldiers from the Seignior's territories so freely could possibly lead to dissatisfaction among them." Zhao Wenhan said, "As Seigniors of Great Sum, defending Great Sum is their duty. Your Majesty was benevolent, and it was already generous to allow them to retain armies within their domains. If at this time they are unwilling to send troops, it would be tantamount to rebellion."

At this time, Wang Chengshuo said, "Your Majesty, I believe the North Prince is brave and adept at war, and with fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry in his hands, he is the strongest military power among all the Seigniors. As long as he goes to the front line, he will surely drive the Great Wu army out of Great Sum and uphold the might of our nation!"

"Moreover, with the North Prince sending troops, he will set an example for the other Seigniors. Then the others will also have to follow suit and send troops."

Hearing Wang Chengshuo's words, the Sum Emperor chuckled softly; there you have it, the Aristocratic Family's real purpose was now exposed, without any need for him to speculate.

The Sum Emperor had long anticipated that such a day would come.

After all, from the perspective of the aristocratic families, he possessed fifty thousand heavy cavalry. This fact caused those families sleepless nights, as they would not rest until they had dissolved those fifty thousand heavy cavalry. In fact, it wasn't just those aristocratic families who

were losing sleep; he himself also harbored fear towards the fifty thousand heavy cavalry and was considering how to deal with them.

However, for the time being, he did not wish for the fifty thousand heavy cavalry to be dissolved, after all, he still needed to use the fifty thousand heavy cavalry of North City to deter the aristocratic families who were contemplating rebellion.

But judging by the behavior of these aristocratic families, it seemed they could hardly wait any longer.

At this moment, the Sum Emperor's gaze fell upon Lin Gaoyuan.

Lin Gaoyuan naturally felt the Sum Emperor's gaze but did not immediately stand up to say anything.

After his son, Lin Xiuming, returned from North City, he reported the details of the situation there without omission, making Lin Gaoyuan the most knowledgeable about North City among the entire court.

Lin Gaoyuan did not wish to offend the North Prince, nor did he want to get involved in the current affair. After all, the Right Minister and the aristocratic faction had suggested that the Seignior might rebel, and if he stopped the North Prince from going to the front at this time, wouldn't it seem like he was colluding with the North Prince?

Seeing that Lin Gaoyuan did not speak, the Sum Emperor's brows furrowed slightly, clearly displeased with Lin Gaoyuan's silence.

At this time, the Minister of Revenue, Wang Hai, stood up and said, "Your Majesty, I am aware that North City is in poverty and might lack the provisions for the campaign; therefore, I prepared in advance supplies sufficient for a hundred thousand troops to last for half a year. This would be enough for the North Prince's fifty thousand heavy cavalry to remain at the front for half a year, so the North Prince needn't worry about running out of food."

The Sum Emperor looked coldly at the Minister of Revenue, his face void of any expression.

These people were really well-prepared. A few months ago, when the Barbarian Tribe's three hundred thousand army moved southward, the Ministry of Revenue dragged out the preparation of supplies for seventy thousand troops for more than a month.

And now, without the court having decided to send the North Prince to the front, the Ministry of Revenue had already prepared half a year's worth of supplies for the North Prince's troops.

At this time, the Sum Emperor looked towards the Minister of War who had not yet spoken.

"Chu, how is it that in the Ministry of War it's the Assistant Minister who makes decisions? Don't you have any other opinion?"

The Assistant Minister of War, Wang Chengshuo, was from the Wang Family, and the newly appointed Minister of War, Chu Qinwu, was from the Chu Family. It was clear that the two families had completely colluded, their interests intertwined, with no distinction between them.

Chu Qinwu now stood up and said, "Your Majesty, I believe what Assistant Minister Wang and the Right Minister have said is not without reason. The North Prince possesses a force of heavy cavalry far exceeding that of the court. During Great Sum's time of foreign invasion, it is his duty to step forward." "This is not only my opinion but also that of the imperial officials, and even more, it is the expectation of the commoners. There are many amongst the public who believe that the court should dispatch the North Prince to the front to teach the invaders a harsh lesson."

"And the soldiers at the front also need a great victory to boost their morale." After hearing Chu Qinwu's words, the Sum Emperor took a sweeping glance around the hall at the other ministers, then asked, "Do any other esteemed ministers have differing thoughts?"

At this moment, the great hall was extremely quiet; no one spoke up. Whether it was the faction of Prince Lu Shuyun or that of other princes, none wanted the existence of the fifty thousand heavy cavalry of North City; thus, they were all pleased at the prospect of the North Prince's troops being sent to the front line.

Seeing that no minister spoke further, the Sum Emperor chuckled and was about to proceed when suddenly, from outside the hall, the voice of a soldier rang out.

"Urgent report from the North Land!!!"

Chapter 194: Where are there Barbarian Tribes moving south in winter_1

Hearing the words “urgent report from the North Land” outside Xuanzheng Hall, everyone inside the grand hall was momentarily stunned.

Especially the officials from the Southern aristocratic families who were aligned with Prince Lu Shuyun; their hearts skipped a beat, and they immediately had a bad feeling.

An urgent report from the North Land?

What could possibly happen in the North Land at this time?

Not long ago, the Sky Wolf King’s army of 300,000 had just suffered a setback in Yan County, and there were rumors that the North Prince had already disbanded the entire Sky Wolf King’s tribe.

The greatest threat from the North Land was already gone; how could there still be urgent reports from there?

Could it be...

Has the North Prince rebelled???

Just as people were puzzled about what could have happened in the North Land, a Red Ribbon Messenger entered the grand hall and spoke aloud, “The North Fre King is marching south with nearly two hundred thousand troops, North City is in imminent danger!!!”

Upon hearing the words of the Red Ribbon Messenger, everyone in the grand hall was taken aback, even the Sum Emperor was momentarily startled.

Isn’t this too much of a coincidence?

The court had just decided to dispatch the North Prince’s 50,000 heavy cavalry to the front lines, and suddenly trouble erupted in the north.

Just when the Sky Wolf King's 300,000-strong army had suffered a setback in North City, the North Fre King actually dared to lead an attack on North City?

Is the North Fre King's head that hard?

Doesn't he know about the 50,000 heavy cavalry in North City?

Or does he simply not fear these 50,000 heavy cavalry?

The eunuch below the Dragon Throne came to his senses, hurriedly took the battle report from the Red Ribbon Messenger, then approached Sum Emperor and handed over the report.

Sum Emperor directly opened the battle report and read through the written military situation with a serious expression.

At this time, all the ministers in the grand hall were watching Sum Emperor, eager to know what exactly was written in the report.

After reading the entire battle report, Sum Emperor let out a cold huff and said, "To come raiding again and again, they are truly too outrageous.

With that, Sum Emperor scanned the ministers and then spoke, "North Prince has requested reinforcements in the battle report, saying that after the battle at Yan County, North City has suffered heavy losses and is unable to contend with the North Fre King's army of two hundred thousand. He hopes the court can send a large army to help North City withstand the invasion of the Barbarian Tribe. My dear ministers, what are your opinions?

This...

The ministers in the grand hall looked at each other, uncertain. They had just been considering sending the North Prince's 50,000 heavy cavalry to the front lines to fight against Great Wu, and now the North Prince was seeking aid from the court instead.

Something didn't seem right.

It's unheard of for the Barbarian Tribe to head south in winter.

Their southern invasions are typically raids for food to last the winter and to capture some women, mostly taking place in autumn or at most just before winter sets in.

Now that the North Land is covered in ice and snow, heading south at this time would just bring trouble upon themselves, wouldn't it?

Has the North Fre King grown old and lost his wits?

Or is there some other special reason behind this?

Could it be that North Prince knew the court was planning to send the North City heavy cavalry to battle Great Wu, so he conspired with the North Fre King, creating this illusion of the North Fre King's southern raid?

But the imperial court has just decided to dispatch North Prince to the front lines! Even the Sum Emperor's imperial decree has not been drafted yet; how did North Prince know in advance that the court would send him to fight against Great Wu?

After a while, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of War Wang Chengshuo stood up and said, "Your Majesty, I have never heard of the Barbarian Tribe invading the South in winter. Could there be a problem with the North Prince's intelligence?"

Throughout the history of Great Sum, the Barbarian Tribe had invaded the South in spring, plundered in summer, and also in autumn, but they had never done so in the deep winter.

This makes it hard to believe that this war report is true.

The key issue is that not long ago, the Sky Wolf King's tribe was defeated by North Prince in North City, and nearly two hundred thousand Barbarians were killed; isn't North Fre King the least bit afraid they'll meet the same fate in North City?

Moreover, this time North Fre King only has two hundred thousand men, even ten thousand fewer than what Sky Wolf King had when he attacked North City.

If Sky Wolf King's three hundred thousand men were defeated, how dare North Fre King, with only two hundred thousand men, attack North City in winter? Who gave North Fre King such courage?

Hearing Wang Chengshuo's words, the Sum Emperor said with a poker-face, "It is the duty of the Shadow Guards to verify the authenticity of the battle reports. What you need to discuss now is whether or not to send troops north to aid North Prince in resisting North Fre King's army."

As soon as these words were spoken, Minister Chu Qinwu immediately retorted, "Your Majesty, the frontline battle is pressing, and the court is already stretched thin with no troops to spare; if we send troops north now, we are likely to be unable to resist Great Wu's assault."

"I believe that North City has fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry, and North Prince is brave and good at fighting. Last time, when Sky Wolf King led an army of three hundred thousand down south, North Prince was able to achieve a glorious victory. This time facing North Fre King's army of two hundred thousand, there should not be too big of a problem."

Just after Chu Qinwu finished speaking, and before the Sum Emperor could say anything, the long-silent Left Minister Lin Gaoyuan finally stood up to speak. "Your Majesty, I believe that the last time North City resisted Sky Wolf King's three hundred thousand strong army, it already caused heavy losses to our forces, and the victory at Wanning Valley was solely due to North Prince's advantage of terrain."

"The Barbarian Tribe has been fooled once; they may not make the same mistake again. Therefore, I believe we should send some soldiers north to join North Prince in resisting the Barbarians. Even if we decide not to send troops, we should at least send some supplies to North Prince."

"If North City falls, Great Sum will be sandwiched between the attacks of both Great Wu and the Barbarian Tribe, and our situation will become even more perilous."

Hearing this, Minister Chu Qinwu was about to argue, but Right Minister Zhao Wenhan stepped forward and said, "Your Majesty, I agree with Prime Minister Lin's view. North City is mountainous, an excellent position to hold against the Barbarian Tribe. If North City falls, the entirety of Great Sum will be at the mercy of the Barbarian blade."

This...

Upon hearing Zhao Wenhan's words, the officials from Prince Lu Shuyun's faction were dumbfounded.

Wasn't this old Zhao part of their camp? How come he's speaking in favor of North Prince now?

They were actually hoping North Prince's Heavy Cavalry would be wiped out by North Fre King.

Wiry dispatch troops to the north at such a time?

At that moment, Zhao Wenhan continued, "However, I believe that rather than focusing on North City, we should pay more attention to the warfare with Great Wu. Dividing our forces is extremely disadvantageous for the court, so I suggest sending only thirty thousand soldiers, along with some supplies northward. North City has the advantage of terrain, coupled with the bravery and skill of North Prince in battle; if it's just about holding North City, there shouldn't be too much of an issue."

After pondering for a while, the Sum Emperor then said, "Ministers Wang, Minister Chu, Prime Minister Lin, and Prime Minister Zhao, stay behind. The rest are dismissed from the court."

As the words fell, the Sum Emperor rose from the Dragon Throne, then swished his robes and departed directly.

Seeing the Sum Emperor leave, the hall of Xuanzheng immediately burst into discussions. There were still those who doubted the authenticity of the battle report from North City; North Fre King had not joined Sky Wolf King in the previous invasion of the South, only lending some troops to the Sky Wolf King, so how could he possibly lead a raid to the South on his own now?

Especially in the dead of winter.

Even more so, the timing of this event was too coincidental; the court was originally planning to send North Prince to the front lines to fight against Great Wu, and now with North Fre King's move, North Prince no longer needed to battle Great Wu.

This coincidence inevitably raised suspicions that North Fre King's move southward was no mere chance.

At this time, Chu Qinwu looked at Zhao Wenhan and asked, “Minister Zhao, why did you still advise His Majesty to dispatch troops northward?” Hearing this question, the eyes of several ministers turned on Zhao Wenhan, who gave a cold laugh and said, “North City is the gateway of Great Sum; without it, the entire realm will face the threat of the Barbarian cavalry. Even if I didn’t advise His Majesty to dispatch troops, wouldn’t His Majesty still send them north?”

This...

Chapter 195: Lin Gaoyuan’s Little Scheme 1

Upon hearing Zhao Wenhan’s words, the crowd pondered and felt there was some truth to them.

North City is indeed important for Great Sum, so the Sum Emperor couldn’t possibly stand idly by as it fell; hence, the dispatch of troops northward was inevitable.

Didn’t the Sum Emperor send an army of seventy thousand north last time?

At this moment, Zhao Wenhan glanced at Chu Qinwu and Wang Hai, then said indifferently, “Let’s go, His Majesty is awaiting our discussion regarding important matters.”

As his voice faded, Zhao Wenhan walked toward the side hall, with Chu Qinwu and Wang Hai exchanging a look before hurriedly following.

At this time, Wang Chengshuo approached Lu Shuyun and, seeing Lu Shuyun squinting at Zhao Wenhan’s retreating figure, Wang Chengshuo whispered, “Your Highness, I think Prime Minister Zhao’s approach is correct. Since we cannot prevent His Majesty from dispatching troops to the north, why not take the initiative to offer support for North City? By doing so, the number of troops sent north becomes a matter for the Ministry of War to discuss.”

After hearing Wang Chengshuo’s analysis, Lu Shuyun contemplated for a moment and found some merit in the idea.

It seems Elder Jiang is indeed astute. If it were him, he would surely find a way to stop my father, the emperor, from sending troops to the north.

With fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry in North City, why send more troops there? They would rather see those fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry dissolved; that kind of thinking reveals their impatience for quick success, which leads to inconsiderate decision making.

Lu Shuyun felt somewhat relieved that the old fox Zhao Wenhan was on his side.

Now, all that was left was to wait for the outcome of their discussions.

About two hours later, Lin Gaoyuan was the first to exit the Sum Emperor's study. Today, he seemed much calmer, not as frustrated as he was last time over the matter of dispatching troops to the north.

Lin Gaoyuan quickly returned home.

Coincidentally, Lin Xiuming was also at home at that time.

Upon seeing Lin Gaoyuan's return, Lin Xiuming proactively asked, "Father, when can I go to the front lines?"

Lin Xiuming's army of seventy thousand had only recently returned from North City, so when the conflict between Great Sum and Great Wu erupted, Lin Xiuming and those seventy thousand soldiers were repairing in the Royal Capital and had not been sent to fight Great Wu on the front lines. This made Lin Xiuming grow increasingly anxious.

After all, which man doesn't wish to achieve great deeds and carve out a legacy, especially in a state war unlike the skirmishes in North City? The scale of this war was immense; Great Wu had already assembled an army close to eight hundred thousand strong, while Great Sum had sent over four hundred thousand.

If Lin Xiuming could distinguish himself in this great battle, his prestige in the army would grow tremendously, and his status would be significantly elevated. Hence, Lin Xiuming eagerly hoped that the court would deploy him to the front lines as well.

Upon hearing Lin Xiuming's question, Lin Gaoyuan revealed a slight smile and then stroked his beard.

“You’ll be going to the front line soon.”

At this revelation, Lin Xiuming was stunned for a moment and then overjoyed, “Really? How many soldiers is His Majesty planning to give me?”

Lin Gaoyuan responded, “Don’t celebrate too early. His Majesty is only planning to allocate twenty thousand soldiers to you, and your main task won’t be fighting, but transporting supplies.”

Lin Xiuming was dumbfounded. He, a General, not leading troops in combat but managing logistics instead?

Seeing Lin Xiuming’s astonishment, Lin Gaoyuan continued, “Additionally, the front line I’m talking about is not the conflict in the west but in the north.”

“The north... North?”

Lin Xiuming was full of confusion.

Hadn’t the northern conflict already ended? The Sky Wolf King’s tribe was dismantled by the North Prince, and he had only recently returned from North City. Why was there conflict in the north again? Who would dare provoke the North Prince, who commanded fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry, at this time?

Lin Gaoyuan went on, “We just received the battle report during the court session. The North Ere King is leading an army of two hundred thousand southward. The North Prince has sent a Red Ribbon Messenger seeking Imperial support. Zhao Wenhan and the others believe the confrontation with Great Wu is of greater importance, so they plan to dispatch you to North City to transport some supplies and incidentally assist the North Prince in repelling the North Ere King’s southern advance.”

After hearing his father’s words, Lin Xiuming was somewhat bewildered.

So soon after returning from North City, I have to go there again?

What’s he going to North City for, to help the North Prince clean up the battlefield and carry bodies?

Reliant on the soldiers from North City, the North Prince was able to defeat the grand army of three hundred thousand led by the Sky Wolf King; there's no need for the imperial court to send troops northward.

Seeing Lin Xiuming seemed somewhat reluctant, Lin Gaoyuan directly asked, "What's wrong, you don't want to go?"

Lin Xiuming came back to his senses, "Dad, with those fifty thousand heavy cavalry in North City, there's surely no need for the imperial court to send additional troops, right?"

Lin Gaoyuan said, "Do you think you're being sent north to hold off the twenty thousand strong army of the North Ere King? The court is sending you there merely to stabilize the North Prince's position. After all, the North Prince has sent a Red Ribbon Messenger for aid. Who doesn't know of the North Prince's extraordinary strategies, suffice to say he doesn't need the help of the court. Your twenty thousand soldiers and the peasant soldiers of the transportation team are no different."

Lin Xiuming spoke unhappily, "Then it's all the same no matter who is sent. Why must it be me? I still want to go to war with the Great Wu dynasty and earn more military exploits."

Lin Gaoyuan chuckled, then said, "How old are you this year, why are you in such a hurry to earn military exploits? Look at Zhou Wangtian and Mu Changtian, did either of them end up with a good fate?"

Hearing Lin Gaoyuan say this, Lin Xiuming was stunned for a moment, then realized indeed, having too many military exploits was not necessarily a good thing.

Lin Gaoyuan stroked his beard and then said, "Now, ministers of the court along with those aristocratic families generally believe those fifty thousand heavy cavalry are the Emperor's private troops, but based on the information you brought back from North City, to my understanding, the fact that the State Preceptor personally made a trip to North City and asked you so many questions means the Emperor doesn't really understand North City."

"These fifty thousand heavy cavalry likely only obey the North Prince's commands. The North Prince is not a simple character, it wouldn't harm you to make more contact with him."

When Lin Xiuming heard this, he felt a sudden jolt in his heart.

His father was extremely cautious about the issue of succession, treating every Prince who came to see him with the same attitude, that was to decisively not stand with anyone, adopting an attitude of staying well clear of the affair.

But today, his father actually suggested he make more contact with the North Prince. Could this mean his father saw favorably the North Prince and that he was his father's choice for Crown Prince?

Seeing Lin Xiuming looking at him with a surprised expression, Lin Gaoyuan said, "What's with that look? Is there something on my face?"

Lin Xiuming regained his composure, then said, "Dad, do you really think the North Prince might eventually..."

Lin Xiuming did not continue, as such matters were not convenient to discuss openly.

Lin Gaoyuan said, "Who can tell for certain? By the way, didn't you mention you saw Yun last time you were in North City?"

Having stayed in North City for quite a while, Lin Xiuming naturally heard about the Mysterious Moon Palace opening an inn there; he had even met and spoken with Lin Wanyun.

Lin Xiuming said, "Yes, I heard she seems to have been staying in the North Prince Mansion."

Lin Gaoyuan pondered for a moment and then, with a smile on his face, said, "Although I have no idea what the Mysterious Moon Palace hopes to gain from the North Prince, if your sister could become the North Prince's woman, it would be more than good for you."

Um... that...

Lin Xiuming reminded, "Dad, if I'm not mistaken, Yun is already in her thirties this year. Some people her age have children almost as old as the North Prince..."

Although he did not spell it out, what Lin Xiuming meant was clear: Lin Wanyun was old enough to be the North Prince's mother.

Lin Gaoyuan glanced at Lin Xiuming, then said, "What do you know, the North Prince lost his mother at a young age. People like him prefer mature women who are older than them. Look at Chu Yuqin, isn't the Sky Wolf King's wife also of a significant age?"

"Enough talk, get ready quickly."

"The supplies for the campaign have been prepared by the Ministry of Household; you'll be heading north in no more than five days."

Lin Xiuming sighed and said no more.

Chapter 196: The First Batch of Gunpowder Weapons_1

Half a month had flown by in the blink of an eye.

North City.

Tianguang City.

Lu Chen, clad in brown armor, stood atop the city wall, gazing into the distance at the snowflakes swirling in the sky.

Scouts from the North Land had already returned in considerable numbers, many of whom were soldiers of the Barbarian Tribe.

It must be said that the barbarians had a significant advantage on the plains, especially in the area of scouting enemy movements.

At this moment, Xiao Pengthian leaped from below the city tower and landed beside Lu Chen, "Prince, judging by the rate at which the tribes of the North Land plains are gathering, it will probably take another month before they can head south."

“Moreover, I have estimated that the North Fre King’s call to arms will not rally more than one hundred and fifty thousand barbarian soldiers.

Hearing this, Lu Chen pondered for a long while.

One hundred and fifty thousand barbarian soldiers, daring to march south in the winter to attack North City?

What on earth was the North Fre King thinking?

At this time, Lu Chen asked, “Have our spies found out why the North Fre King is choosing to march south in winter?”

Upon hearing this question, Xiao Pengthian immediately replied, “Back to you, Prince, indeed some soldiers have heard the reason for the North Fre King’s march in some small tribes. However, they only heard it in small tribes, and I cannot vouch for its authenticity.”¹

The scouts they had sent out included many soldiers from the former Sky Wolf King’s tribe of the Barbarian Tribe. Aside from being familiar with the steppes, they had a significant advantage: they could communicate with other barbarian tribes, gathering more information about the various tribes on the plains.

After hearing what Xiao Pengthian had said, Lu Chen immediately responded,

“I will be the judge of its truth, you just tell me what you found out.”

Xiao Pengthian immediately spoke, “According to the soldiers who returned, the North Fre King is descending in winter because he believes you stole his queen-to-be. He cannot swallow that slight.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen was taken aback for a moment.

If he had not defeated the Sky Wolf King’s army of three hundred thousand, Xiao Wen Yao would indeed have been married off to the North Fre King.

However, to wage war on North City over a woman, Lu Chen still found it somewhat far-fetched.

Lu Chen continued to ask, “Is there no other reason?”

Xiao Pengthian said, “There is another reason, and that is the North Fre King believes that the Sky Wolf King’s tribe’s army of three hundred thousand severely weakened North City, and that North City is now powerless to defend against their march south.”

As he spoke these words, Xiao Pengthian’s emotions became complicated; he had once participated in the battle against North City, only to be captured by a General under the North Prince.

Then, Lu Chen chuckled and said, “That’s probably the real reason the North Fre King has in mind, no wonder they are marching south in winter.

At first, Lu Chen could not fathom why the North Fre King would decide to march in winter—as the barbarians had never done so before.

Even the Sky Wolf King’s tribe had never braved a blizzard to march across the steppe before; the decision of the North Fre King was indeed bold.

If they were to march in winter, it was quite possible that many of the barbarian soldiers would die before even reaching North City, which would be extremely disadvantageous to the barbarian tribes.

Just as Lu Chen was about to speak, a man dressed in a black and red Brocade Guard uniform approached him.

“I greet you, Prince!”

Seeing this Jinyiwei, the expression on Xiao Pengthian’s face darkened instantly, and he even felt the urge to draw his sword.

The Jinyiwei Guard standing before him was none other than Wu Yuan, the merchant who had been undercover in the Sky Wolf King’s tribe.

Now that the Sky Wolf King’s tribe had all relocated to North City, there would be no more Sky Wolf King’s tribe from now on. Due to his contribution in gathering information about the

barbarians, and with the Brocade Guard recently expanding its recruitment, Wu Yuan had been promoted to the rank of a Jinyiwei Commander.

Although Xiao Pengthian had already submitted to Lu Chen, and he and Wu Yuan were both Lu Chen's subordinates, Xiao Pengthian could not help but feel a surge of emotion whenever he thought of past events, an impulse to cut down Wu Yuan on the spot.

Lu Chen asked, "What's the matter?"

Wu Yuan replied, "Prince, the craftsmen have made the first batch of what you need, and we have secretly transported it to North City."

Hearing this, Lu Chen's eyes lit up. It hadn't been long since the craftsmen from Great Yu City arrived at North City, and yet they had already produced the items he needed.

Lu Chen immediately asked further, "Have the Brocade Guards tested their power?"

Wu Yuan answered, "Yes, they have been tested. The power is not as great as that of the grenade cannons, but it is not far off. And according to your suggestion, we added a lot of metal fragments inside, the lethal effect will be much better."

Hearing the words "grenade cannons," Xiao Pengthian stiffened beside them.

He had joined North City for a while now; how could he not know what "grenade cannons" were? Although he still didn't have the clearance to access the grenade cannons, he knew the name of the terrifying weapon that had bombarded them before.

Upon hearing that the North Prince had actually created weapons comparable to the grenade cannons in power, Xiao Pengthian felt a chill run down his spine.

Was it indeed the end of the era belonging to martial artists?

He also wondered where the North Prince had acquired such devastating weapons!

If the Sky Wolf King's tribe had known that North City possessed such weapons, they wouldn't have come to attack North City and would not have been annexed by it.

But those matters were no longer of importance, Xiao Pengthian thought to himself with only a sense of reflection.

At this time, Lu Chen said, "General Xiao, come with me to see our new weapons."

Saying this, Lu Chen leaped down from the city wall. At this moment, Xiao Pengthian's eyes widened as he looked at Wu Yuan.

Seeing Xiao Pengthian staring at him with eyes that seemed to wish they could flay him alive, Wu Yuan said with a smile, "General Xiao, we're now on the same side. There's no need for you to look at me with such hatred, right?"

Xiao Pengthian snorted and said, "Lackey!"

As his words fell, Xiao Pengthian also jumped down from the city wall and followed Lu Chen to see the new weapons.

Wu Yuan shrugged his shoulders, utterly unconcerned. The Brocade Guards were indeed the North Prince's lackeys, Xiao Pengthian wasn't wrong in saying that, and Wu Yuan didn't feel insulted by it at all.

In the eyes of the Brocade Guards, being called a lackey of the North Prince was more of a compliment than an insult.

Soon, Lu Chen and his companions approached the convoy transporting the military equipment.

Lu Chen immediately ordered the chests to be opened, inspecting the gunpowder weapons brought by the Jinyiwei Guards.

Since these were the first batch of gunpowder weapons crafted by the artisans, they appeared somewhat crude; basically, an iron ball wrapped around gunpowder accounted for a bomb.

There were also no cannons yet; the launching could only be done using catapults.

To create cannons, further development of materials was needed, something that couldn't be rushed, and Lu Chen was aware of this.

Lu Chen then said, "Take two to the grasslands, I want to test the effects myself."

It so happened that Tianguang City was now only a military fortress, devoid of civilians, with only stationed soldiers throughout the city.

And outside Tianguang City was a vast expanse of grasslands, making it the perfect place to test out these gunpowder weapons.

Hearing Lu Chen's command, some Jinyiwei Guards immediately moved a bomb onto a wooden cart and started pulling it towards the grasslands.

Seeing those round iron balls, Xiao Pengthian was somewhat baffled. Were these iron balls the ones that defeated the thirty thousand-strong army of the Barbarian Tribe at Wanning Valley?

Isn't this just an iron ball?

Why does it have such devastating power?

Could it be that this iron ball contained the life's skill of a Grandmaster?

Chapter 197: Thunderous 1

The Brocade Guard transported a box of bombs to the grassland, and quickly brought in some cattle and sheep, wrapped in armor, to use them as experimental subjects.

At this time, Lu Chen took out a bomb made of a two to three kilogram iron ball from the box, and glanced at the ignition fuse on its tail.

The current bombs did not have detonators, and needed to be ignited by hand. These bombs were very susceptible to moisture and would likely be unusable once dampened.

However, these were the first batch of bombs, so they would make do for now. He believed that in the future, it would be possible to manufacture bombs with detonators.

At that moment, Wu Yuan reminded him, “Prince, the craftsmen said this is the simplest type of bomb made from gunpowder, the power might not meet your expectations.”

The blueprints that the system provided Lu Chen weren’t just one but a whole stack, and there were also more than ten types of gunpowder.

Among these types of gunpowder, several were unattainable with the current conditions.

The craftsmen from Great Yu City, although more inventive than those from Great Sum, still lacked modern chemical knowledge. There were things that they simply could not understand, they couldn’t decipher the blueprints right away even if they had them.

Hearing Wu Yuan mention the simplest gunpowder, Lu Chen immediately guessed that these bombs were probably filled with black gunpowder.

If it were black gunpowder, so be it; it wasn’t as if it couldn’t be used.

Lu Chen said at this point, “It’s fine, we’ll make do.”

At this time, Wu Yuan immediately took out a tinderbox and handed it to Lu Chen. Without any hesitation, Lu Chen ignited the fuse of the bomb and threw the bomb into the distance where a war simulation scenario had been set up. After all, the bomb had a fuse and did not explode immediately. Instead, after a while, it exploded with a loud “booming” sound.

Hearing this deafening noise and seeing the cattle and sheep drenched in blood at a distance, Xiao Pengthian shivered, his mind suddenly filled with the scene from Wanning Valley where the limbs of the Barbarian Tribe soldiers were blown to pieces by grenades.

After the explosion, a large amount of white smoke was produced.

Seeing so much white smoke, Lu Chen knew the power was probably not great.

He immediately went to inspect the scene.

Everyone quickly followed suit.

When they got to the corpses of the cattle and sheep, Lu Chen found that the shrapnel from the recent explosion had pierced straight through the armor. However, there wasn't a large pit on the ground. With the same weight in grenades, one could definitely leave a big pit. The three-kilogram bomb he recognized just created a small dirt pit, and the area affected wasn't very big. Of course, they weren't using this weapon to create pits; as long as the shrapnel inside could effectively kill the enemy after the explosion, there was no problem.

As for the size of the blast pit, that was not a concern.

Thinking of this, Lu Chen said, "Well, the power is good. When the North Pre King's army arrives, we'll properly test the power of this first batch of bombs." Hearing this, Xiao Pengthian couldn't help but feel some sympathy for the North Pre King.

Whom else to provoke but the North Prince? It was inviting death.

Particularly since their Sky Wolf King Tribe had recently suffered a defeat in North City, yet the North Fre King still didn't learn the lesson and even advanced south to attack North City during winter.

At this moment, Xiao Pengthian felt as if he could already see the inevitable end of the North Fre King.

He couldn't help but feel sentimental; it seemed another great tribe of the grasslands was about to disappear, and afterwards, North Land would likely belong entirely to the North Prince.

At that moment, a Jinyiwei Guard came before Lu Chen, handing him a bamboo tube for passing messages, "Prince, intelligence from the Capital city." Upon hearing this, Lu Chen immediately took the bamboo tube from the hand of the Jinyiwei Guard, then took out the intelligence and read it carefully. After reading the intelligence from the Capital city, Lu Chen chuckled, relieved that their

response was quick. Those Aristocratic Families really did intend to dispatch him to the front lines to wage war against Great Wu, then wipe out all of North City's Heavy Cavalry.

If it hadn't been for the approach of the North Fre King from the south, he would indeed have found it difficult to find an excuse.

At this time, the Jinyiwei Guard delivering the intelligence spoke up, "Prince, the twenty thousand Imperial Army dispatched by the court has already reached North City, and is estimated to arrive at Tianguang City in less than ten days."

Lu Chen said in surprise, "That fast?"

The soldier answered, "I set out with them from the Capital city, they only carried some supplies, and all these twenty thousand soldiers are cavalry." Hearing this, Lu Chen fell silent. It was evident that the court had not planned to send troops to help North City resist the North Fre King's attack; after all, he still controlled fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry, so their reluctance to dispatch troops was to be expected.

However, to be fair, the court sending some supplies was somewhat helpful. After all, North City was poor and lacking in everything; even a mosquito's worth of meat was still meat.

Just then, Xiao Pengthian reminded from the side, "Prince, if we let the Imperial Army come to Tianguang City, wouldn't that expose these weapons?" As Xiao Pengthian understood, it seemed that only the North Prince currently possessed such formidable weapons of mass destruction in the entirety of Great Sum. Clearly, the North Prince also had his own schemes and wouldn't hand over the weapons to the Great Sum court.

Upon hearing Xiao Pengthian's reminder, Lu Chen pondered for a moment.

The court's army was indeed a problem.

The North Fre King's forces would take at least another month to reach North City, and if they encountered any dangers on the road, like severe blizzard conditions, the North Fre King's forces might even arrive later in North City. If the Imperial Army arrived at Tianguang City before the war, when the North City soldiers used these bombs against the North Fre King's army, wouldn't it expose North City's secret?

Initially, Lu Chen had thought that the court would refuse to send troops to support North City on the grounds of the impending war with Great Wu, but he hadn't expected the court to still symbolically send twenty thousand cavalry. After some thought, Lu Chen said to the Jinyiwei Guard who delivered the message, "Go to Yan County immediately, and tell Qin Yushan and Li Rui to find a way to keep the court's twenty thousand Imperial Army there. Let them stay on the second line of defense; there's no need for them to come to Tianguang City."

The one the court had dispatched this time was the son of the Left Minister, Lin Xiuming, a clever individual. Lin Xiuming had previously been to North' City and had behaved; he strictly controlled the seventy thousand soldiers of the court from wandering around aimlessly.

It was apparent Lin Xiuming did not want to clash with him, the North Prince. Lu Chen believed that when Lin Xiuming heard his order to stay in Yan County, he would likely understand his motive and, not wishing to conflict with him, ' would probably obediently remain in Yan County.

They didn't need the court's twenty thousand light cavalry for the war with the North Fre King.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, the messenger replied at once, "Yes, Prince."

"Alright, make haste and return to Yan County."

"This subordinate takes his leave." Having said this, the Jinyiwei Guard turned and quickly departed.

Just as Lu Chen was about to turn and leave, Wu Yuan spoke up, "Prince, these weapons still lack names. Why don't you give them one?"

Considering Wu Yuan's suggestion, Lu Chen thought for a moment, then said, "Our enemies often mistake us for calling down Heavenly Thunder, so from now on, these bombs will all be known as Thunderous."

"That will be all for today's testing. Take these Thunderous to the arsenal, and make sure they're kept moisture-free."

Lu Chen was very pleased with the power of this batch of bombs. He felt that no further testing was needed; now, all that remained was to wait for the arrival of the Sky Wolf King. He was sure the Sky Wolf King would be moved to tears by the surprises he had prepared..

Chapter 198: Of course, we must obey the command of the North Prince 1

Lin Xiuming, leading twenty thousand cavalry, had reached Yan County in less than a month; unlike the last time, the speed of their march was evidently much faster.

Once again at the southern gate of Yan County, Lin Xiuming's heart was filled with a myriad of emotions; the last time they had rushed to Yan County, they had even prepared for defeat.

But upon entering the city, they realized that the North Prince had already dealt with the Barbarian Tribe's massive army of three hundred thousand, and the seventy thousand soldiers he had brought were merely porters.

Looking at the opening of the southern gate of Yan County and the common folk bustling to and fro on the road, a soldier beside Lin Xiuming said, "General, why do I feel like North City doesn't seem to have experienced a war at all?"

Hearing the soldier's remark, Lin Xiuming fell silent.

When they had come to Yan County the last time, the city gates were closed tight, and on the road, it was hard to see even a mouse, let alone people. How could Yan County look so calm today? There was no serious atmosphere of war.

Could it be that they had arrived late again and the war had already ended? Could his twenty thousand men have become a corpse removal squad?

Just then, a stout man dressed in black and red clothes and a man in coarse blue clothes appeared at the city gate.

At this moment, the man in black and red spoke, "By the North Prince's command, this subordinate has been waiting for the General in Yan County for some time."

Upon hearing the man's words, Lin Xiuming immediately dismounted and approached Qin Yushan and Li Rui, whom he had met during his last visit to Yan County.

Qin Yushan often conveyed messages for the North Prince, so Lin Xiuming was somewhat familiar with him and knew that Qin Yushan was a very important Grandmaster at the side of the North Prince.

Lin Xiuming then politely said, “Lord Li, Grandmaster Qin, wasn’t it said that the North Fre King was leading an army of two hundred thousand south? Why does it seem like all of North City is tranquil, not at all like there had been any conflict?”

Li Rui, wearing a full-faced smile, said, “General Lin, the North Fre King did indeed intend to lead an army of two hundred thousand southward, but the Prince chose to set the battlefield at Tianguang City, which is why Yan County appears serene.”

Lin Xiuming said, “So that’s the case, I thought the war had ended already.”

“By the way, I am here under the imperial court’s orders with some provisions and supplies for the cold; this is the supply list for you to check.”

“Once you’ve verified the supplies and there are no issues, I’ll then lead the twenty thousand cavalry behind me straight to Tianguang City to assist the Prince in resisting the North Fre King’s army.”

Hearing Lin Xiuming’s words, Li Rui glanced at Qin Yushan beside him, clearly waiting for Qin Yushan to speak.

Qin Yushan then said, “General Lin, the Prince instructed me to tell you that the imperial court’s twenty thousand troops should stay in Yan County, which is the second line of defense against the Barbarian Tribe’s incursion southward; its importance is paramount. One needs courage, strength, strategy, and...” Before Qin Yushan could finish, Lin Xiuming quickly interjected, “Stop, stop, stop, Grandmaster Qin, I understand the Prince’s wish. Later, I’ll lead the twenty thousand soldiers behind me to the same campsite we used during our last stay in Yan County.”

Seeing how understanding Lin Xiuming was, Qin Yushan did not say much more; at this point, Li Rui, with a smiling face, said, “General Lin, if there’s anything you need, you can send someone to find me directly, and I will certainly do my best to fulfill your needs.”

Lin Xiuming said, “Then I’ll have to trouble Lord Li.”

Afterward, not indulging in further small talk, Lin Xiuming once again led his troops to the campsite they had used during their previous visit to Yan County. Seeing the traces they had left from their prior encampment, Lin Xiuming was awash with emotions.

He just knew that after coming to North City, there would be nothing for him to do.

The imperial court might as well have sent him to fight against Great Wu.

In North City, he couldn't earn any military merit, only able to stay in the barracks every day.

At this moment, one of Lin Xiuming's confidants asked in a low voice, "General, are we really going to be stationed here? The imperial court did issue military orders for us to assist the North Prince in repelling the southward invasion of the Barbarian Tribe. If the imperial court learns that we've been staying behind in Yan County all this time, without even seeing a Barbarian Tribe soldier, I'm afraid a number of officials will impeach you."

Hearing this, Lin Xiuming smiled and then said, "It's true that the imperial court ordered us to assist the North Prince in repelling the Barbarian Tribe, but the military orders also stated that after arriving in North City, we must obey the North Prince's command. Since the North Prince has ordered us to stay in Yan County, of course, we should follow his orders."

Hearing this, the soldiers behind Lin Xiuming thought about it and felt there was some sense to it.

However, being stuck in the barracks all the time was intolerable for them. The twenty thousand soldiers assigned by the imperial court to Lin Xiuming this time happened to be the cavalry from that previous group of seventy thousand. They had stayed in North City for so long last time, doing nothing but staying in the barracks every day.

To avoid conflict with the North Prince and refrain from letting them wander around, the soldiers had never felt such tedium, even during battle. They felt as though they were imprisoned in the barracks.

Having been confined for so long last time, they had only returned to the Capital City for a short while, and now they were to be locked up in the barracks again. Truthfully, this was something the soldiers found hard to accept internally; they would rather take to the battlefield and earn their glory by killing enemies.

Although most people do not like war, not everyone is afraid of death, the twenty thousand men Lin Xiuming brought with him are who? They are the elites of Great Xia!

They are veterans of battlefields, many of whom even took part in the war that annihilated Chen Nation. To confine such people to the barracks, doing nothing, would only make them more irritable.

At this time, one of Lin Xiuming's confidants could not bear it any longer and said, "General, you're not planning to have us stay in the barracks again, are you?"

Lin Xiuming thought for a moment and felt that confining the soldiers all the time didn't seem like a good idea, so he said, "During your stay in Yan County, after drills are completed, you may enter Yan County to relax. However, I must remind you, if anyone causes trouble in Yan County, I will not show mercy and will hand you directly over to the North Prince Mansion for punishment."

Seeing Lin Xiuming allowing them to relax in Yan County, the soldiers immediately responded with an elevated voice, "Yes, General!"

Although they couldn't go to the front lines to kill enemies and earn merit, being able to enter Yan County for food and drink was still better than being confined to the barracks every day.

The soldiers were very happy, finally not having to be shut in the barracks every day like last time.

Meanwhile.

In the Great Wu Dynasty, at the Li Zheng Palace.

A middle-aged man with graying hair, but who looked only to be in his thirties or forties, was standing in front of all the officials, addressing the Martial Emperor. At this moment, he was the only voice in the entire hall, echoing ceaselessly.

"Your Majesty, twenty years of foreign wars have already caused countless people to be displaced from their homes, families torn apart. Now there is widespread public outrage among the common folk. If this continues, Great Wu is in danger of collapsing!"

“In the past, Great Wu’s foreign wars were only against some minor nations, but the Great Xia Dynasty is a thousand-year-old empire. Even though they are rife with internal strife, the military strength of Great Xia is still not far off from that of Great Wu. Even if it is a sick tiger, as long as its teeth remain sharp, we should not provoke it.”

“I humbly request Your Majesty to rein in the warlike tendencies and send envoys to Great Xia as soon as possible. Sign a treaty with Great Xia to end the war!”

Chapter 199: Wu Junwan_1

As the words of Prime Minister Chai Jiliang fell, the court of the Great Wu

Dynasty was incredibly quiet.

All the officials looked at Chai Jiliang, who stood at the forefront, with disbelief on their faces; evidently, no one had anticipated that Chai Jiliang would actually advise the Martial Emperor to end the war.

Ever since the Martial Emperor ascended to the throne, he had been constantly waging wars. Now, the territory of the Great Wu Dynasty had increased by a third, all thanks to the Martial Emperor’s accomplishments, which he always proudly boasted about.

And yet, someone dared to step forward and advise him against initiating more wars, even warning that the Great Wu Dynasty faced the risk of collapse-was this not akin to seeking death?

Although Chai Jiliang was the Prime Minister, within the Great Wu Dynasty, this was not a secure position. Since the Martial Emperor’s accession, no one knew how many Prime Ministers had been dealt with, and some even suspected the Martial Emperor planned to abolish the position altogether, henceforth discontinuing the appointment of a Prime Minister.

Chai Jiliang’s head really was made of iron!

The war between Great Wu and Great Xia had just begun, and he dared to jump out and advise the Martial Emperor to end the war.

How could the Martial Emperor possibly agree to ending the war? The conflict had only just started, and Great Wu had already seized two counties from Great

Xia.

It was clear that Great Xia was no match; to a king obsessed with territorial expansion, this was a golden opportunity. How could he possibly stop now?

At this moment, the Martial Emperor, dressed in a black robe with golden dragon embroidery, was staring intently at Chai Jiliang from his throne.

The atmosphere in the hall was exceedingly oppressive; sweat trickled continuously from the bodies of the officials below the throne, and the stifling air made it difficult for people to breathe.

After what seemed like an eternity, the Martial Emperor finally chuckled and said, “Chai Jiliang, it seems that after a few years as Prime Minister, you have begun to lose sight of your position.”

“Since my accession, I have conquered so much land for our future generations. In your eyes, Chai Jiliang, have I become a tyrant who cares not for the people’s lives and only knows how to wage wars?”

Hearing these words, Chai Jiliang continued with neither humility nor arrogance, “Your Majesty has indeed conquered numerous lands for posterity, and at first, the common people praised you greatly. But the continuous wars year after year have now wearied the people of Great Wu. No matter how much more land you conquer, there will be no smiles on the people’s faces. Your Majesty, you are moving too fast, and the common people can no longer keep pace with you.”

“Your Majesty, it is time to rest!”

“You need to rest, the Great Wu Dynasty needs to rest, and the common people need it even more!”

Hearing these words from Chai Jiliang, the Martial Emperor scoffed. As the Martial Emperor’s expression grew darker, Minister of Rites Geng Chengguang stood up and said, “Prime Minister Chai, surely you haven’t been bribed by the Great Xia Dynasty to advise His Majesty to end the war, have you?”

“Now, who doesn’t know that Great Xia is riddled with internal strife and has considerably weakened? If we don’t annihilate them now, we may not have such an opportunity in the future.”

Chai Jiliang said coldly, “Minister Geng, perhaps you are the one who has been bought with money. I have long heard that you are closely associated with the Chu Family of Great Xia, receiving quite a number of gifts from them every year, while the Sum Emperor has long wanted to eradicate the Chu Family.”

“You have repeatedly urged His Majesty to attack Great Xia without regard for the lives of the people of Great Wu; you know your own motives best.”

Geng Chengguang immediately retorted, “Prime Minister Chai, do not casually tarnish someone’s reputation! Everything requires evidence!”

Just as Chai Jiliang was about to speak, the Martial Emperor atop the throne commanded in a booming voice, “Enough!”

After his word, the Martial Emperor looked at Chai Jiliang and said indifferently, “Prime Minister Chai is unwell. From today onwards, stay home and take good care of yourself. The position of Prime Minister will be temporarily assumed by Geng Chengguang.”

Hearing this, Chai Jiliang immediately bowed and said, “I thank Your Majesty

for his graciousness.”

The Martial Emperor, not wanting to waste more words, stood up and with a wave of his sleeve declared, “Court is dismissed!”

After that, the Martial Emperor left Li Zheng Palace.

No sooner had he left than some officials began to take pleasure in Chai

Jiliang’s misfortune, making snide remarks.

“Mr. Chai, what necessity was there for this? Now look, you’ve lost your position because of it.”

“Mr. Chai, I think His Majesty is absolutely right; you’ve been Prime Minister for a few years, and you’ve forgotten your place.”

“Our Great Wu army is about to reach the capital city of Great Xia, and Mr. Chai dares to oppose His Majesty. If they say you haven’t been paid by Great Xia, I certainly don’t believe it.”

“Mr. Chai, you might as well go home and recover. Better yet, see a doctor about your head,haha!”

Hearing the officers’ sneers and jeers, Chai Jiliang didn’t take it to heart and headed straight for the exit of the grand hall.

In Great Wu, the Prime Minister was merely a workhorse, and while he did wield some power, it was indeed limited.

The extent of that power was evident from the mocking Chai Jiliang had just endured; his influence was virtually negligible.

His authority could be stripped away at anytime, so few court officials were afraid of him as the Prime Minister.

Great Wu.

Imperial Palace, Green Cloud Hall.

A woman clad in a purple gown sat on a couch, her long legs crossed elegantly.

She was stunningly beautiful, with a visage that could topple kingdoms and a complexion like ice and jade, seemingly radiating a holy glow.

Presently, she held a bamboo slip in her hands, her gaze intently focused on it. At that moment, a maid entered the hall and said, “Princess, Prime Minister Chai is here.”

The woman softly replied, “Let him in.”

Her mature and melodious voice was like a warm spring breeze to the ear.

Soon after, Chai Jiliang entered the hall.

“Your servant greets Princess Junwan.”

Wu Junwan uttered a sound of acknowledgment, then asked, “What brings Prime Minister Chai to my Green Cloud Hall today?”

Chai Jiliang spoke frankly, “Your Highness, today I advised His Majesty to end the war with Great Xia and angered him. As a consequence, he has stripped me of my position as Prime Minister, and I am no longer in that role.”

Upon hearing Chai Jiliang’s words, Wu Junwan slightly raised her eyes and could not help but let out a soft laugh.

“Ending the war, Mr. Chai? You do have quite a sense of humor.”

With that, Wu Junwan fixed her gaze on Chai Jiliang before continuing, “Speak up, what brings you to me? Do you perhaps intend to have me persuade my father to end the war?”

“If that’s what Mr. Chai believes, then you might as well leave now.”

Chai Jiliang immediately responded, “You misunderstand, Princess. I am here to ask that you use your connections to keep the Yue Emperor mindful of the situation in the north at all times.”

Wu Junwan was clearly puzzled upon hearing Chai Jiliang’s request.

“The north?”

“Our relations with the Yue Emperor are indeed good, but why should I prompt the Yue Emperor to pay attention to the north?”

Chai Jiliang explained, “To the north, Great Xia has fifty thousand heavy cavalry. If these troops were to pass through Great Jue, they could potentially cut off Great Wu’s military supply lines.”

Wu Junwan maintained her smile upon hearing Chai Jiliang’s words.

“Is Mr. Chai referring to the North Prince of Great Xia’s fifty thousand heavy cavalry?”

Wu Junwan was no ordinary princess; she wielded considerable power and was well-versed in the affairs of all great dynasties and nations. She was also aware of what Chai Jiliang meant by the fifty thousand heavy cavalry.

Chai Jiliang affirmed, “Exactly.”

Wu Junwan then dismissed the concern, “There is no need for Mr. Chai to worry. Those fifty thousand heavy cavalry won’t be able to pass through Great Jue. To prevent the Barbarian Tribes from moving south, Great Jue has dispatched two hundred thousand soldiers to the north.”

“Even setting aside the Yue Emperor of the Great Jue Dynasty’s likely refusal to allow the North Prince passage, even if they tried to sneak across the land of Great Jue, those two hundred thousand troops would stop them.

Chapter 200: This Palace is Quite Interested in the North Prince i

Upon hearing Wu Junwan’s words, Chai Jiliang said, “Since Princess Junwan has spoken thus, your servant feels at ease.”

At this moment, Wu Junwan gave Chai Jiliang a glance and then continued, “This palace is curious, Mr. Chai, why do you wish to have my imperial father end the war? Could it be that Mr. Chai has accepted silver from Great Sum?”

Chai Jiliang immediately replied, “Princess, the reason why your servant has advised His Majesty to end the war is purely because Great Wu can no longer bear the dire consequences of the conflict.”

“The people of Great Wu are now struggling to survive. With an army maintained at over a million men year-round, the number of peasants available for farming is ever decreasing. If the war drags

on, it may not only incite a rebellion among the people, but Great Wu may also soon face a widespread famine.”

“The commoners have grown weary of the war, and so have the soldiers. Even with the acquisition of more land, there is no joy on their faces—only numbness and exhaustion.”

Hearing Chai Jiliang’s words, Wu Junwan let out a clear, ringing laugh, “Mr. Chai truly worries for the nation and its people, no wonder your hair has nearly turned white, though you are hardly much older than this palace.”

“However, this palace advises Mr. Chai it would be best not to defy my imperial father. He still tolerates you now, but if you continue to oppose him, Mr. Chai, stripping you of your position as Prime Minister might be the least of your concerns.”

“Since his accession to the throne, there have been five Prime Ministers, and none of them met with a good fate. Mr. Chai, you do not want to follow in their footsteps.”

Bowing deeply, Chai Jiliang said, “Thankyou for the warning, Princess. Your servant will be mindful in the future.”

At that time, Wu Junwan thought back to the earlier topic and continued, “Mr. Chai, what is your view on Great Sum’s fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry in the North Land? Many officials in court currently believe that these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry are the Sum Emperor’s private force, but from what this palace has gathered, it seems the Sum Emperor has always disliked the North Prince, and this dislike stems from the prince’s mother—it does not seem feigned.”

“This palace finds it hard to believe that the Sum Emperor would entrust such an important force of Heavy Cavalry to a son he does not favor.”

Upon hearing this, Chai Jiliang pondered for a moment before saying, “Your servant also thinks the appearance of these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry is somewhat sudden. Even if they are the Sum Emperor’s private force, producing armor for fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry would surely have attracted the attention of the Aristocratic Families within Great Sum. However, as far as your servant is aware, right before these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry appeared in North City, the Aristocratic Families within Great Sum were completely unaware of them.”

“Moreover, North City does not have the capacity to produce armor for fifty thousand men, not to mention it’s virtually impossible for the North Prince to have done so within just a year or so since arriving in his fief.”

In Chai Jiliang’s view, the Sum Emperor’s every move was under the scrutiny of the Aristocratic Families. If it were just a few thousand sets of armor, perhaps the Aristocratic Families could be unaware.

But producing the armor required by fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry is different; it requires a great number of craftsmen and a substantial amount of resources.

The Aristocratic Families of Great Sum control the economic lifeline of the empire and hold sway over its various resources; it is impossible that they would have not noticed the Sum Emperor creating armor for fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry.

Even if they had not noticed directly, there would always be some traces to follow.

But according to the intelligence collected by Great Wu, those Aristocratic Families of Great Sum were completely taken by surprise by the existence of a fifty thousand man Heavy Cavalry unit under the Sum Emperor’s command.

Hearing this analysis from Chai Jiliang, Wu Junwan placed the bamboo slip she held on the table and then stood up. At this moment, a breeze blew by, making her purple gown flutter and dance in the wind.

Wu Junwan, with a thoughtful look, asked, “So, Mr. Chai, you too believe that these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry are not the Sum Emperor’s private troops but rather under the North Prince’s command?”

Chai Jiliang replied, “Your servant does not think these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry are the North Prince’s private troops either. If the Sum Emperor were producing armor for Heavy Cavalry, it would be noticed by the Aristocratic Families. It doesn’t make sense for the North Prince to produce fifty thousand sets of Heavy Cavalry armor without the Aristocratic Families catching wind of it. Therefore, your servant believes that the fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry under the North Prince’s command may well come from another dynasty.”

With a smile, Wu Junwan said, “Mr. Chai’s conjecture is indeed interesting.”

“However, have you considered, Mr. Chai, if these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry came from another dynasty, how did they reach the North Land?”

“North of North City lies the Barbarian Tribe, the southwest corner is Great Jue, and to the east is the great sea. It is impossible that these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry could head to North City without any news at all.”

Chai Jiliang said, “Your servant has also been pondering this question recently. According to my analysis, it is most likely that these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry come from somewhere north of the North Land.”

“Only the Barbarian Tribe is in the North Land. What lies beyond the north of the North Land, even the major dynasties do not know. We have never explored it either. Hence, your servant suspects that there exists another kingdom to the north of the North Land, one that we simply do not know of.”

Hearing Chai Jiliang’s words, Wu Junwan fell into deep thought, murmuring, “The land north of the North Land...”

“This indeed is a place worthy of attention.”

“The winters in the North Land have even driven the Barbarian Tribe away, so I am rather curious about what kind of race could survive in the area north of the North Land, even to the extent of establishing a nation.”

“But then again, since both Mr. Chai and I do not believe these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry are under Great Sum’s control, Mr. Chai need not worry that these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry will appear on the battlefield between Great Sum and Great Wu.”

Chai Jiliang said, “Princess Junwan, even though your servant does not believe these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry are completely under Great Sum’s control, considering that these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry helped North City defeat a thirty thousand strong army of the Barbarian Tribe, clearly the master behind these Heavy Cavalry is biased toward Great Sum. Therefore, your servant still believes that these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry will appear on the battlefield, and Great Sum’s Aristocratic Family will certainly find a way to send these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry to the battlefield.”

Just at this moment, a maid entered the palace and walked straight to Wu Junwan's side, whispering, "Princess Junwan, intelligence from Great Sum."

With that, the maid handed over the intelligence to Wu Junwan.

Wu Junwan immediately took the report and glanced at it carefully, then, smiling at Chai Jiliang, she said, "Mr. Chai, now you need not worry about those fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry appearing on the battlefield. My people have sent news that the North Fre King is leading two hundred thousand troops southward, and the North Prince still needs those fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry to resist the North Fre King's army."

This...

Chai Jiliang was stunned for a moment.

He then asked with a skeptical tone, "Princess Junwan, how could the North Fre King head south in the winter?"

Wu Junwan replied indifferently, "This I do not know, but the Great Sum court has already dispatched twenty thousand Cavalry along with supplies to go north to support North City. This information has been confirmed by multiple sources."

Seeing that Wu Junwan said so, Chai Jiliang felt somewhat relieved.

At this time, Wu Junwan said, "However, speaking of which, I am quite interested in this North Prince."

"Despite being seen as a good-for-nothing by everyone, he manages to hold everyone's attention."

"To my knowledge, besides these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry, someone from the Mysterious Moon Palace also went to North City, and it was none other than the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace."

"If he did not bear special value, the nation behind these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry would not possibly dispatch fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry to North City to help the North Prince withstand a three hundred thousand strong Barbarian army."

“And it’s even less likely for the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace to make a personal visit.”

I really want to know what kind of value he holds.”