

## Es. Benefits 741

### Chapter 741 Attack the City\_2

Du Yongyuan glanced at the deputy general who had spoken, then said, "Deputy General Liu, today at noon you will lead the troops to guard the North City gate."

Deputy General Liu immediately said, "Please rest assured, General, your subordinate will absolutely not allow North Country soldiers to approach the city gate!"

Du Yongyuan didn't say much more. He watched the North Country cavalry in the distance still shouting and wondered what they were planning.

He had long heard that the weapons of the North Country were powerful, though they had never seen them firsthand.

Before laying siege to the city, the North Prince had specially sent someone to remind them of the power of his own weapons.

Although it seemed like an attempt to intimidate them, urging them to surrender quickly, Du Yongyuan felt there was another meaning hidden in it—that the weaponry of the North Country was indeed terrifying, and the North Prince was trying to win people's hearts by sending an advance warning to prevent them from taking cover on the city walls.

Du Yongyuan furrowed his brow, wondering what kind of weapon was so fearsome that the North Prince had specially sent someone to warn them not to stand guard on the city walls.

The more Du Yongyuan thought about it, the more uneasy he felt. He had specifically instructed Deputy General Liu to guard the North City gate for a very important reason: this deputy general wasn't one of his own men. It was the perfect opportunity to observe the terrifying power of the North Country's weaponry as they attacked the city.

If people were to die, they wouldn't be his own men.

Afterward, Du Yongyuan continued to arrange for more soldiers to guard the city gate, giving the appearance that he took the North Country's impending siege very seriously. However, the soldiers he stationed on the city walls were all crafty veterans who didn't particularly heed his commands.

In the meantime, a few hundred North Country cavalymen had been shouting outside the walls of Ziyang City in the North City for half the day. Not only were Great Sum soldiers aware of the situation, but soon the common people of Ziyang City were also informed.

The commoners didn't really care who the Emperor was, but war was a disaster to them; they were terribly afraid that once the North Country soldiers entered the city, they would start to pillage and slaughter.

Suddenly, Ziyang City was filled with anxiety and fear.

The morning passed quickly, and though Du Yongyuan was not on the watchtower, he wasn't far from the North City.

At that moment, Deputy General Liu was still completely unaware of the impending danger. He stood on the watchtower, quietly watching North Country soldiers push strange carts to an area not far from the North City.

He thought to himself, how Du Yongyuan was a man afraid of death for making him guard the gate.

He also planned to report today's events to the Sum Emperor once he got back.

Just then, a continuous drumming came from outside the city.

Du Yongyuan, standing on the rooftop, frowned as he looked in the direction of the North City.

The sound of the drums signified that the North Country's main army had begun their assault. Let them come, he thought, let's see just how formidable the weaponry of the North Country really is, the same weapons that allowed them to defeat the Barbarian Tribe and forced Great Wu to cede territory and pay reparations!

At the same time, an iron ball flew directly onto the watchtower of the North City. Seeing the iron ball, Deputy General Liu thought little of it and shouted, "Prepare..."

Boom...

But before Deputy General Liu could finish his command, the shell exploded, instantly collapsing the watchtower, and he and the soldiers on it were blasted into countless pieces.

From a distance, Du Yongyuan heard a huge explosion and saw the watchtower collapse in an instant, causing him to freeze in shock.

However, the bombardment from the North Country had just begun. The next moment, another loud boom was heard, and a huge hole was blasted through the North City gate.

Du Yongyuan stood dumbfounded on the rooftop. Then, one after another, shells rained from the sky, and all the soldiers atop the North City walls were swept away in one stroke.

Witnessing the flying debris of the city walls and the limbs of soldiers, Du Yongyuan finally understood why the North Prince had sent someone to shout outside the North City before the siege.

Du Yongyuan doubted that if he had still been on the North City watchtower now, he feared his body wouldn't be left intact.

Is this the weaponry of the North Country?

It's terrifying!

How could this war continue?

With such dreadful weaponry in the hands of the North Country, the Great Sum court would stand no chance.

Suddenly, Du Yongyuan was consumed by fear.

About two hours later, the city gate was directly blasted open, creating a huge breach, and the wall had collapsed. If the North Country's soldiers were to attack now, the two hundred thousand soldiers within the city would have no means to defend.

However, at that moment, the rumbling noises ceased, and the sound of drums came from outside the city.

General Du Yongyuan immediately led his men towards North City, where the scene was utterly tragic; not one of the defending soldiers' bodies was left intact.

By this time, the fear in the eyes of the soldiers behind General Du Yongyuan had extinguished any remaining fighting spirit.

Through the breach in the wall, they could clearly see the North Country's massive army just a short distance outside North City, but the North Country soldiers showed no signs of attack. They just stood there, seemingly waiting for something.

The flag of North Country fluttered in the sky above, the sight of the blood-colored banner inducing heart palpitations and panic.

At that moment, one of General Du Yongyuan's confidants asked, "General, what should we do now?"

The original intent of their two hundred thousand strong army was merely to defend the city, not to engage directly with the North Country's mighty army. Now that Ziyang City's walls had collapsed, the North Country's forces could charge in at any moment. What city was there left to defend?

Were they now expected to use their bodies to plug the massive gap?

After scanning the distant North Country army, General Du Yongyuan said, "The North Country has not launched an attack, which suggests the North Prince intends to continue negotiations with this general."

Just then, the drumbeats sounded once more. Hearing them, the soldiers behind General Du Yongyuan feared another assault from the North Country and trembled uncontrollably. However, contrary to expectations, the North Country soldiers did not advance but began to retreat instead.

Seeing the North Country soldiers outside North City growing fewer and fewer, General Du Yongyuan and his soldiers finally breathed a sigh of relief. If the North Country's weapons had continued their onslaught, they feared they too would soon be reduced to large chunks of flesh.

Even such sturdy walls couldn't withstand the North Country's weaponry; how could their flesh and blood possibly hold up?

At that time, General Du Yongyuan gave the order, "Clean up the battlefield!"

Upon his command, the soldiers hurriedly began clearing the field, and as they dealt with the remains of the defenders, the desire to surrender resurfaced within them.

Before long, surrender became a collective sentiment—no one believed they could defeat the North Country's army. The weaponry of the North Country was simply too terrifying.

In the deep silence of the night,

General Du Yongyuan sat at his desk, staring blankly at the flickering candlelight.

He was analyzing the current situation in his mind, contemplating what he should do next.

According to the Sum Emperor's instructions, he was supposed to feign defeat against the North Country's mighty army and then flee. However, the war had just begun; if he were to lead his troops in retreat now, even if it was the Sum Emperor's will, he would likely face punishment upon his return to the Capital City.

Furthermore, judging by the current circumstances, with the North Country's troops being so formidable and their weapons so fearsome, the likelihood of the North Prince ascending the imperial throne was significant.

In his heart, General Du Yongyuan believed that even the Zhao King's forces, if faced with the North Country's army, would only be able to flee in disarray.

If there were no unexpected developments, the North Prince had a high probability of becoming the next Sum Emperor, and besides, as the son of the Sum Emperor, he was rightfully entitled to the throne.

Already, the idea of surrendering had taken root in General Du Yongyuan's heart. Even if he fled with his soldiers, when the North Prince eventually besieged the Capital City, he would still have to confront the North Prince's army.

However, his family was in the Capital City, and should he surrender now, their deaths were certain.

Moreover, with the Shadow Guard of the Emperor within the army ranks, the moment he truly considered surrendering, it was likely they would take immediate action against him.

Just then, a soldier's voice rose from the outside, "General, an envoy from the North Prince Faction has arrived!"

General Du Yongyuan immediately responded, "Bring him in at once."

Shortly after, a North Country soldier entered General Du Yongyuan's study, presenting a letter and saying, "General Du, this is a personal letter from our great king."

Without hesitation, General Du Yongyuan took the letter from the soldier's hand and began to read it carefully.

Upon reading the contents of the letter, General Du Yongyuan's previous concerns evaporated. He had not anticipated that the North Prince had made so many arrangements.

Chapter 742 Capturing Ziyang City\_1

After receiving Lu Chen's second letter, General Du Yongyuan did not immediately choose to surrender.

However, in the following days, the army of North Country did not launch an attack, and the soldiers of Ziyang City were all on edge.

Most of the soldiers understood that the main reason the North Country soldiers hadn't attacked after the city walls had collapsed was because the Prince of the North was persuading their General to surrender.



The soldiers were overwhelmed with panic. Having seen their comrades from Great Xia blown to pieces by artillery, they had long since lost the will to fight. They now only wanted to surrender, but the court would never allow it. If they did surrender, their families might suffer.

Of course, whether to surrender was not up to these low-ranking soldiers; the key lay in the intentions of their General and the deputy generals.

Several days later, General Du Yongyuan summoned his trusted deputy, Gao Yong, to his study.

When Gao Yong was summoned alone by Du Yongyuan, he realized that the General must have an important task for him.

General Du took Gao Yong to an underground chamber and, after confirming there was no eavesdropping, Du Yongyuan finally spoke, "Deputy General Gao, do you know why I have summoned you?"

Gao Yong said directly, "General, you raised me from the start and led me through many wars. I will absolutely obey your orders. If you have any special mission for me, just say it, and I will definitely fulfill the task you assign."

General Du patted Gao Yong on the shoulder and said, "With those words, I can rest assured."

Then General Du said, "I plan to withdraw a hundred thousand soldiers from Ziyang City. You will continue to hold Ziyang City and attract the attention of the North Country army."

Hearing this, Gao Yong was stunned. He thought that General Du was planning to surrender to the Prince of the North, but he did not expect General Du's real intention was to flee Ziyang City.

If it was about fleeing, it was not impossible, but after General Du took a hundred thousand soldiers with him, the remaining hundred thousand soldiers in Ziyang City would be even less likely to stop the North Country army's advancement.

Most likely, the remaining hundred thousand soldiers in Ziyang City would end up being blown to pieces by the secret weapon of North Country.

Seeing Gao Yong shocked, Du Yongyuan continued, "Once we withdraw, prepare the hundred thousand soldiers you lead for evacuation as well."

"I've pretended to agree to surrender to the Prince of the North, which should keep him at bay for a while. They shouldn't notice our movements."

Gao Yong asked with some concern, "General, do you really believe the Prince of the North will trust your surrender?"

General Du answered, "He will believe it. The North Prince is young and arrogant, and with such a fearsome weapon at North Country's disposal, he will certainly think I will surrender out of fear."

Gao Yong continued, "If you retreat like this and Ziyang City is lost, wouldn't the Emperor..."

Gao Yong stopped midway, feeling that if General Du fled, even if he did make it back to the Capital city, he would most likely be put to death.

To flee was to die, not to surrender was also to die. It might be better to simply surrender to the Prince of the North outright.

General Du sighed and then said, "I don't intend to flee; I am merely planning to withdraw to another city and seek help from the Prince of Qi."

Gao Yong immediately saluted and said, "I will definitely defend Ziyang City and buy enough time for your withdrawal."

Suddenly recalling something, General Du added, "Right, after I withdraw, I will send someone to deliver a letter to you. When you receive the letter, prepare to evacuate as well."

Gao Yong replied, "Yes, General!"

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The next morning, when the sky was still dim, General Du Yongyuan quietly led a hundred thousand imperial soldiers out through the south gate. They moved so stealthily, fearing discovery by the North Country soldiers.

Watching the retreating figures of General Du leading the soldiers, Gao Yong sighed deeply. Although he had always followed General Du and had been promoted by him, being left to cover the rear made him uneasy.

General Du could have taken the entire two hundred thousand soldiers in one go, but he didn't, likely fearing that the North Country soldiers would notice and chase after them, resulting in none of them escaping.

With a hundred thousand soldiers remaining to cover the rear, even if the North Country army discovered General Du's intention to escape, the hundred thousand soldiers could delay them, buying sufficient time for General Du to flee.

Soon after General Du's hundred thousand strong force had left Ziyang City, they had not gone far when, upon reaching a canyon, a deafening blast of cannonfire erupted not far away.

Before long, General Du and his hundred thousand soldiers were trapped in the canyon by the North Country army.

The soldiers became panic-stricken.

When had the North Country soldiers gotten behind Ziyang City?

At this moment, General Du roared, "Nobody panic! Follow me and charge out!"

As he said this, General Du drew his sword.

However, just then, more deafening cannonfire erupted in the distance. Barrages of artillery shells fell before and behind the hundred thousand soldiers, raising dust and causing such terror that the soldiers had no idea where to run.

The artillery barrage soon ceased, clearly a tactic by North Country to intimidate them, signaling that there was no escape.

Soon after, a voice called out from the mountaintop, "The King's command: You are all subjects of Great Xia. Those who abandon their weapons and surrender shall be spared their lives, and after the war, you may choose to go home."

Upon hearing this, some soldiers immediately discarded their weapons. Seeing this unfold, General Du roared, "Do not surrender! Whoever dares to surrender, I will execute myself!"

By that time, no soldiers were obeying General Du's command, and more and more soldiers dropped their weapons.

Realizing the situation was beyond hope, General Du looked to the heavens and howled, "Your Majesty, it is your servant's incompetence for failing to defend Ziyang City. I shall atone with my death!"

With those words, General Du lifted his sword and slashed it across his throat.

Seeing that even Du Yongyuan had committed suicide by cutting his own throat, the soldiers who had initially planned to attempt a breakout had no choice but to abandon the idea of resistance.

Eventually, the entire army of one hundred thousand was captured.

At the same time.

Gao Yong also noticed the commotion in the south, and realizing that something was amiss, he quickly dispatched scouts to investigate the situation, and he himself went up to the southern city tower.

Before long, the scouting soldiers returned, their expressions filled with panic and their faces ashen.

Gao Yong hastily asked, "Speak up, what's happened!"

One of the soldiers replied, "The general encountered an ambush by the forces of North Country, and General Gao, seeing no way out, chose to take his own life!"

This...

Gao Yong's face instantly turned pale, and he collapsed onto the ground, weak and powerless, "How could this..."

"The forces of North Country had actually circled to the rear of Ziyang City to lay an ambush..."

In this era of warfare, battles generally required the capture of one city after another—without capturing the cities, the enemy forces inside could potentially escape and sever one's supply lines. If logistics were cut, the soldiers fighting at the front might end up in a rout.

Gao Yong was somewhat taken aback that the forces of North Country had not followed customary practices and instead bypassed Ziyang City to move to its rear.

What to do now...

The fact that the forces of North Country had moved to the rear of Ziyang City meant Ziyang City was now surrounded.

Du Yongyuan had already taken away an army of one hundred thousand, and now Ziyang City was left with only one hundred thousand soldiers. Considering that the walls had been breached and North Country possessed such powerful weapons, an attack by North Country would ensure that Ziyang City could not be held.

Gao Yong's face was filled with defeat as he sighed deeply.

At that moment, a soldier from North Country suddenly appeared below the city tower, shouting, "General Gao, here's a letter found on General Du, please take a look."

Seeing it was a letter delivered by a soldier from North Country, Gao Yong's brow furrowed, suspecting it was a letter urging surrender.

Gao Yong then had his subordinates take the letter from the North Country soldier.

However, when Gao Yong got hold of the letter, he hesitated for a moment. It was not a letter urging surrender, but one from Du Yongyuan.

What did this mean?

Gao Yong promptly opened the envelope and read the contents.

The letter was very straightforward; it simply told Gao Yong that if their evacuation failed, he should just surrender. It was almost as if Du Yongyuan had foreseen their fate.

Gao Yong sighed deeply once again. He did not for a moment doubt that the handwriting was anyone's but Du Yongyuan's, especially since Du Yongyuan had told him the day before that a letter would be coming.

There on the city wall, Gao Yong asked the soldier from North Country, "Is General Du truly dead?"

The soldier from North Country replied, "Aye, General Gao, General Du has indeed taken his own life."

With a definitive answer, Gao Yong no longer resisted and immediately told his subordinates, "Raise the white flag!"

Hearing this, those behind Gao Yong finally breathed a sigh of relief. They had feared that Gao Yong might seek to avenge Du Yongyuan and fight North Country's forces to the bitter end without regard for life. They had already prepared to join forces to kill Gao Yong and then surrender.

Since Gao Yong had taken the initiative to surrender, there was nothing more to say.

Surrender, for their general had already taken his life.



In the end, Gao Yong led the remaining defenders of Ziyang City out to surrender to North Country.

Several hours later.

In Lu Chen's study.

Lu Chen sat at his desk and said to the robust man before him, "General Du, what do you think of my arrangement?"

Du Yongyuan immediately knelt halfway and said, "Thank you, Prince, for sparing my life. From now on, I am willing to serve Your Highness."

Lu Chen continued, "I have already sent people to protect your family. Once the news of your 'suicide' reaches the Capital, I trust that the court will not trouble them. In a while, I will bring them to North Country. For now, you should stay in Anping City and keep out of sight."

Du Yongyuan said again, "Thank you, Prince!"

For Lu Chen, the two hundred thousand prisoners of Great Sum were still of great use.

In ancient warfare, capturing a city was not the most challenging task—holding onto conquered land was harder.

After Lu Chen conquers Qi Country, he will need a large number of soldiers to occupy the cities won. If he lets the soldiers of North Country take over those cities, how many would remain by the time he reached the Capital?

Now these two hundred thousand prisoners can play their role. He could indoctrinate these two hundred thousand soldiers to become his own. He did not need them to be absolutely loyal; after all, he had no intention of giving North Country's weapons to them so soon.

With North Country's weapons as a deterrent, they would not dare to oppose North Country lightly.

Chapter 743 The Naive General of Qi Country\_1

Qi Country's Royal Capital.

Qi Prince Mansion.

Qi Prince stared at the map on his desk, pondering on how to fend off the invasion from the North Country.

Just then, a guard entered the study and said, "Your Majesty, there's terrible news!"

The guard's voice was so loud it directly interrupted Qi Prince's train of thought, and seeing the guard's flustered appearance, Qi Prince spoke with some displeasure, "What's the panic!"

The guard hurriedly said, "Your Majesty, Ziyang City has fallen!"

Upon hearing this, Qi Prince was immediately stunned.

"What! Ziyang City has fallen?"

"How many days has it been?"

"How could it be so fast!"

The guard immediately handed over the intelligence collected by the scouts to Qi Prince, "Your Majesty, this is the intelligence from the front line scouts, please look it over."

Qi Prince snatched the letter and began to read it earnestly.

As he read the intelligence recorded in the letter, Qi Prince's face grew increasingly grim.

The next moment, he tore the letter to shreds, cursing loudly as he did so, "Incompetent fool! This Du Yongyuan is nothing but a waste!"

"An army of two hundred thousand, just gone like that!"

"He didn't even have the face to see His Majesty, and took his own life!"

Qi Prince had originally planned to coordinate with Du Yongyuan to defend some crucial cities, but now, in just a few days, Ziyang City had fallen, and Du Yongyuan had committed suicide.

How could the court send such a good-for-nothing to Qi Country!

After venting his rage, Qi Prince quickly calmed down and then said to the guard, "Summon all officials immediately!"

Now that the court's two hundred thousand army was gone, and it was impossible for the court to send additional forces to support Qi Country in the short term, they had to rely on themselves.

They must, at all costs, prevent the soldiers of the North Country from advancing south.

When the officials of Qi Country learned that the court's two hundred thousand army had been defeated and Du Yongyuan had killed himself, they were all frantic.

An army of two hundred thousand, unable to hold even for half a month before being defeated—and that was the court's army. If it had been their own Qi Country's army, would they have been able to withstand the North Country's military onslaught?

Although they were extremely panicked, so far, very few officials in Qi Country entertained the idea of surrender.

The reason was simple: behind these officials were various aristocratic families and large landlords, who would never allow the North Prince to rule. If the North Prince took power, their lands would be confiscated.

For their own interests, they had to resist to the death.

Eventually, after the deliberations, Qi Prince dispatched an army of one hundred thousand, planning to intercept the North Prince's two hundred thousand army in Dichang Valley.

Of course, Qi Prince did not entertain the idea of annihilating the North Prince's two hundred thousand army; he merely aimed to stop the North Country's military forces and prevent them from advancing further south.

South of Dichang Valley was Wanchang City. By holding Wanchang City, the North Country's army would have to take a detour if they wanted to move south, and the routes in other areas were difficult to navigate, considering the many mountainous regions within Qi Country's territory, which would significantly delay the North Prince's army from advancing south.

This time, the one hundred thousand army was equipped with Piercing Cloud Bows and Piercing Cloud Arrows, and Qi Prince believed they would certainly stop the North Country's army from moving southward.

To ensure no chances were taken, Qi Prince also dispatched another one hundred thousand army to garrison a key city near the coast. If the North Country's army failed to take Wanchang City, they might try to bypass it from the east and hence would come around to the sea.

However, clearly, Qi Prince was overthinking it.

Let alone one hundred thousand soldiers, even if all the soldiers within Qi Country were assembled together, they could not stop the North Country's army from moving south.

Meanwhile.

Inside Anping City, Lu Chen was holding a military meeting with a group of military generals.

What they discussed that day was how to capture Qi Country.

At that moment, Xuanyuan Chen suggested, "Your Majesty, why don't we divide our forces into two, one marching south along Dichang Valley to attack Wanchang City, drawing Qi Country's attention, while the other takes a detour through the mountains, heading straight for Qi Country's Royal Capital."

"Once we capture the Royal Capital of Qi Country and take Qi Prince, we can force most of Qi Country's military forces to surrender."

Hearing Xuanyuan Chen's suggestion, Lu Chen thought for a moment, then said, "If we go through the mountains, it may be difficult to transport heavy artillery, and I'm not sure how much time it would waste."

After thinking it over, Lu Chen continued, "The best strategy is to gather our forces at one point, rapidly take down Wanchang City, and then advance towards the Royal Capital."

Xuanyuan Chen said, "Your Majesty, if we do that, we are giving Qi Prince plenty of time to escape. Our army might not even have reached Qi Country's Royal Capital before Qi Prince flees south."

Lu Chen spoke indifferently, "What I want is Qi Country's land; if he wants to flee, then let him flee."

Xuanyuan Chen's concern was that, as a seignior, Qi Prince had a certain influential power in Qi Country. If they didn't capture Qi Prince and allowed him to escape, once the North Country's army occupied Qi Country, Qi Prince would surely secretly contact his former subordinates and incite them to stir up trouble within Qi Country's borders.

Xuanyuan Chen's thinking had no fault, but his perspective was different from Lu Chen's. Lu Chen planned that, after taking Qi Country, he would not rush south immediately but would first stabilize the situation in Qi Country and pacify its people.

As long as they could calm the people of Qi Country, even if Qi Prince managed to escape, it would not be easy for him to make a comeback, as the hearts of the people would have changed.

At this time, Lu Chen said, "I am aware of General Xuanyuan's concerns, but after occupying Qi Country, I will not leave immediately; I will stay in Qi Country for a while. Once I have dealt with the unstable elements, I will continue moving south."

Chapter 744 The Naive General of Qi Country\_2

Xuanyuan Chen said, "Your Majesty, I understand your intentions."

Lu Chen glanced at the military generals in the room and then said, "Alright, proceed as I have instructed, immediately march south and conquer Wanchang City."

All the generals stood up in unison and said, "We will strictly follow Your Majesty's command and will not disappoint your expectations!"

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A few days later, Anping City dispatched one hundred and fifty thousand North Country soldiers, heading straight for Wanchang City.

Meanwhile, the commander of Wanchang City didn't pay much heed after hearing that the North Country had only mobilized one hundred and fifty thousand soldiers.

Inside Wanchang City.

Prefectural Government.

A group of military generals were discussing countermeasures.

At this moment, the leading Master Level General Cao Xun said, "The North Country really underestimates me, to think they only sent one hundred and fifty thousand troops."

Then another Master Level General said, "General Cao, don't say that. It took less than half a month for the North Country soldiers to capture Ziyang City, which was defended by two hundred thousand of the imperial troops. If we underestimate our enemy, we could be in trouble."

Cao Xun replied with disdain, "The troops sent by the Imperial Court were a bunch of misfits, can they even compare to our Qi Country's soldiers?"

"General Xiong, don't lose our spirit while boosting others' prestige."



"Moreover, we are equipped with the Wang Family's Piercing Cloud Bow and Piercing Cloud Arrows. When facing Master Level generals from North Country, a single arrow is all it takes to kill them. What could they possibly bring to fight against us?"

Having said that, Cao Xun stretched out his hand and drew a circle on the map on the wall around Dichang Valley, "I have decided to take the initiative and lead the troops out of the city to ambush the North Country army. I want to see for myself if the North Country soldiers all have three heads and six arms."

Hearing this, Xiong Yuan's face darkened instantly, and he promptly said, "General Cao, have you lost your mind? We only have one hundred thousand men. The Imperial Court's two hundred thousand troops were defeated by North Country, and you dare to ambush them with only one hundred thousand soldiers!"

"If the North Country army reacts, we might not even have time to retreat back to Wanchang City!"

Cao Xun glanced at Xiong Yuan and said indifferently, "General Xiong, this time I am the Main Commander, and you are only here to assist me as ordered by the King."

"You just need to follow the orders. Could it be that you are planning on overstepping your bounds?"

Xiong Yuan's brows furrowed, and his face turned gloomy in an instant, "General Cao, don't blame me for not warning you. If anything goes wrong, you won't be able to handle the consequences."

Cao Xun said nonchalantly, "What could possibly go wrong?"

"The terrain of Dichang Valley is so conducive to ambushes. Should we just wait for the enemy to come and lay siege?"

"The best defense is to take the offensive!"

"General Xiong, if you don't even understand this principle, it's no wonder you are not the Main Commander."

"If General Xiong is scared, I will give you a few thousand soldiers, and you can stay in Wanchang City waiting for us to return victoriously."

Xiong Yuan was about to speak, but Cao Xun cut him off, "Enough, it's settled. Prepare immediately according to my orders. I want to give the North Country soldiers a big surprise."

Seeing that Cao Xun had made up his mind, Xiong Yuan did not say more. He had a faint premonition that this would lead to disaster, so he immediately sent a message to the Qi Prince, reporting Cao Xun's reckless behavior.

A few days later.

Xuanyuan Chen led one hundred and fifty thousand troops to Dichang Valley, but he did not immediately enter the valley.

With such terrain, if they entered directly, they could easily be ambushed by the enemy. They had used such tactics to ambush the Sky Wolf King's army before.

Xuanyuan Chen immediately dispatched a vanguard squad to scout the area ahead.

It didn't take long for a few soldiers from the vanguard squad to return.

Xuanyuan Chen asked, "What is the situation ahead?"

The Scout Team Leader immediately answered, "General, there are enemies ambushing on both sides of Dichang Valley."

They were using high-powered telescopes. If they had relied solely on their naked eyes, they might indeed not have been able to spot the enemies hiding on both sides of the valley, but with telescopes, they could detect even the smallest details.

The vanguard soldiers had noticed that the trees on both sides of Dichang Valley looked suspicious and they had also spotted some people laying in ambush on both sides of the valley.

After pondering for a moment, Xuanyuan Chen ordered, "Artillery camp, get ready! After entering Dichang Valley, cleanse both sides of the valley for me."

The next moment, the drumbeat sounded, the Messenger Soldier beside Xuanyuan Chen waved their flags, and shortly after, the artillery entered Dichang Valley.

Meanwhile, Cao Xun, who was lying in ambush on the mountain, was stunned upon hearing the drumbeats.

Why had the North Country army started beating the drums before even entering Dichang Valley?

Could it be that their ambush had been discovered by the soldiers of the North Country?

Thinking of this, Cao Xun still didn't take it seriously. Even if they were discovered, what could they do? They were located on both sides of the Dichang Valley.

When fighting from high to low, the advantage is with Qi Country!

He refused to believe that the North Country army outside wouldn't enter the Dichang Valley.

Just as Cao Xun thought this, a soldier came to him, ecstatic, "General! The North Country soldiers have started to enter the Dichang Valley!"

Hearing this, Cao Xun's lips curled up slightly, see, they entered after all!

Next, it's up to them. Immediately after, Cao Xun said, "Archers, get ready!"

As his words fell, Cao Xun himself picked up a Piercing Cloud Bow, planning to shoot down the commanders of the North Country's army.

However, just at that moment, the sound of horns came from the distance, a "woo-woo-woo" sound that instantly filled the entire Dichang Valley.

Although he heard the sound of the horns, Cao Xun noticed that the North Country army did not continue to advance.

Cao Xun was puzzled. Wasn't that the sound of attack horns? Why had they suddenly stopped?

The range of bows and arrows was not far; if the North Country army did not come closer, they would not be able to hit those soldiers.

Thinking this, Cao Xun wondered, were the soldiers of the North Country scared?

As Cao Xun pondered, suddenly there came a loud "boom" from the distance, and the next moment, countless fragments of rock erupted in the opposite side of Dichang Valley, and the bodies of Qi Country's soldiers were blasted high into the sky.

This sudden turn of events stunned the ambushing soldiers of Qi Country; they were frozen for a long moment before they could react. By the time they recovered, the valley echoed with the rumbling sound of cannon fire.

Countless Qi Country soldiers were blasted out from the forest.

For a moment, Cao Xun was dumbfounded.

What kind of weapon was that...

How could there be such a terrifying weapon...

Although he had heard early on that the North Country possessed a mysterious weapon, and its power was immense, in his eyes, the so-called mysterious weapon of the North Country was probably similar to the Piercing Cloud Bow and Piercing Cloud Arrow.

Only after witnessing it today did he realize he had been completely wrong.

Cao Xun immediately shouted, "Retreat! Retreat quickly!"

Soon after, the sound of the Qi Country army's retreat horns echoed in the Dichang Valley.

But because they were ambushed in the forest, their retreat was very slow. Before they could even leave the battlefield, North Country's cannonballs were landing on their heads. In no time, the valley was filled with cries of agony.

Even as Cao Xun fled, he was ripped to pieces by North Country's heavy artillery, and this celebrated general of Qi Country fell.

Xuanyuan Chen, observing the scene through a telescope from a distance, felt that they had done enough, and so he immediately led his troops to launch an attack.

Before long, the Qi Country soldiers ambushed on both sides of the Dichang Valley were either killed or captured.

This battle, from beginning to end, took less than four hours.

At the same time, Xiong Yuan was anxiously awaiting news from Dichang Valley on the watchtower of Wanchang City.

He had faintly heard the rumbling noises from inside the Dichang Valley, which made him feel very uneasy.

Just then, some broken soldiers escaped from the Dichang Valley. As soon as Xiong Yuan recognized the uniforms they were wearing, sweat poured down his face.

The fleeing broken soldiers were indeed from Qi Country. Something had truly gone wrong in the Dichang Valley!

Xiong Yuan hurriedly said to the soldiers defending the city, "Quick! Open the city gates!"

Soon, the first group of remnant soldiers fled into Wanchang City. Xiong Yuan immediately approached one of them and demanded, "Speak! What happened in the Dichang Valley! Why have you run back!"

The soldier's face was filled with panic, and he said ashen-faced, "The... the Heavenly Thunder... it was Heavenly Thunder! The soldiers of the North Country can summon Heavenly Thunder!"

"Most of our soldiers were blasted to death by the Heavenly Thunder, and even General Cao's body was blown to pieces!"

Upon hearing the soldier's answer, Xiong Yuan felt completely powerless and collapsed to the ground.

"It's all over... all lost..."

Cao Xun had only left a few thousand soldiers in Wanchang City. How could those few soldiers withstand the attack of the North Country's mighty army? The fall of the city was only a matter of time.

Chapter 745 Qi Prince: Is North Country Really That Strong?\_1

Xiong Yuan, upon hearing of Cao Xun's defeat, did not hesitate for a moment and immediately chose to surrender.

When the North Country's vanguard Heavy Cavalry arrived at Wanchang City, they found several fluttering white flags on the city tower, and Xiong Yuan, along with the soldiers of Wanchang City, stood respectfully outside the city awaiting their arrival.

Xiong Yuan did not harbor the slightest intention of resistance; he had already grasped the situation through those soldiers who had escaped back and knew about the power of the North Country's weapons.

He did not believe that the city walls of Wanchang City could withstand the mysterious weapons of the North Country.

Seeing how quickly Xiong Yuan kneeled, the vanguard soldiers of the North Country were stunned; they had originally planned to call out under the city gate of Wanchang City, only to find that the gates were already open, simply waiting for their arrival.



When Xuanyuan Chen arrived with the main army, Xiong Yuan glanced at the distant North Country troops and felt a shock in his heart. Cao Xun, after all, had taken the initiative to ambush the North Country soldiers, but now it seemed that the North Country's one hundred and fifty thousand troops appeared to have suffered no losses at all.

Not only had they suffered no losses, but their numbers seemed to have increased. Of course, where those extra troops came from, Xiong Yuan was very clear.

Seeing the captured soldiers, Xiong Yuan sighed. This was all Cao Xun's fault; if it weren't for Cao Xun's impatience for quick success, they might not have been defeated so swiftly.

But now none of that mattered anymore, for he had already surrendered.

At this moment, Xuanyuan Chen rode up to Xiong Yuan and asked, "Are you the defending general of Wanchang City?"

Xiong Yuan immediately bowed and said, "Yes, General."

Feeling the aura emanating from Xuanyuan Chen, Xiong Yuan was somewhat frightened inside. This person's presence was so terrifying, obviously a Grandmaster.

Had the North Country become so luxurious as to let a Grandmaster lead the army? With a Grandmaster present, even without those so-called weapons capable of summoning Heavenly Thunder, they still wouldn't stand a chance.

Xiong Yuan was somewhat worried, uncertain whether Xuanyuan Chen would choose to execute him on the spot.

It was then that Xuanyuan Chen said, "Our king is merciful. As long as you cooperate with us in attacking Qi Country, our king will spare you. After the war ends, you may choose whether to return to your homeland."

At that moment, Xuanyuan Chen's gaze fell on Xiong Yuan, "Seeing that you're also a Grandmaster, you must have a not insignificant status and know quite a bit. Tell me everything you know about the affairs of Qi Prince."

Xiong Yuan respectfully said, "Yes, General."

Then Xiong Yuan led Xuanyuan Chen and the one hundred and fifty thousand troops of the North Country into Wanchang City.

When the North Country troops entered Wanchang City, there was not a single civilian on the streets; the civilians were afraid that when the North Country troops invaded, they would plunder and loot, so they simply hid in their homes, with their doors and windows tightly shut.

However, the civilians soon discovered that the soldiers of the North Country were just marching in orderly rows, quietly passing through the streets without harassing the city's civilians.

Witnessing this scene, even Xiong Yuan himself was astonished. Had the military discipline of the North Country reached such a level?

Apparently, the strong combat power of the North Country's army was not just due to the fierce power of their weapons but also had a lot to do with their army's strict discipline.

With such powerful weapons and firm military discipline, could Qi Country really withstand them? Xiong Yuan harbored deep doubts about this.

In his view, the Qi Prince probably had only one path left now, which was to surrender quickly. Perhaps the North Prince would then show leniency, considering their familial ties, and allow him a worry-free existence for the rest of his life.

If they continued to resist, he estimated that there would only be one path left: death.

In the following days, the civilians of Wanchang City remained highly cautious of the North Country soldiers, but the soldiers only encamped in specific areas. They didn't harass the civilians; in fact, they hardly left their temporary encampments at all.

Just when people were starting to lower their guard, the civilians inside the city became anxious once again. Xuanyuan Chen had the temporarily appointed Prefecture Governor assess the land and property of each household.

The first thought that came to the people's minds was that the North Country army was planning to confiscate the land. After all, that was exactly what the North Prince had done in the North Country.

Although worried, given the deterrence of the North Country's military, the common people of Wanchang City and those Aristocratic Families could only cooperate.

Of course, among them, there were some who harbored ulterior motives, such as those who underreported a lot of land, wishing to hide their assets. As a result, those families who were sly quickly disappeared from Wanchang City.

A few days later, Wanchang City regained some of its vitality, and the townspeople were willing to go out again.

The common people also noticed that the North Country soldiers really did not loot, kill, or plunder. At least they had never troubled ordinary people. Those who suffered were the landowners or Aristocratic Families who hoarded land and did not cooperate with the land statistics.

People were soon surprised to find that the number one Aristocratic Family in Wanchang City, the Qi Family, was still doing well. The Head of Qi Family was seen running around as if nothing had happened in the following days.

Everyone had thought that the Qi Family would certainly be purged, but unexpectedly, the Qi Family was left unscathed.

Some people who were on good terms with the Head of the Qi Family asked why their family had not been eradicated, and the Head of the Qi Family replied that they had cooperated with the North Country's military in reporting the land, completed the transfer of land ownership, and submitted some uncultivated land to the Prefectural Government.

After releasing the surplus family retainers, they encountered no trouble at all.

Soon, people understood that the North Prince had only legally confirmed the ownership of the land to belong to the North Prince, but he had no intention of taking back the land, for the North Prince lacked the capability to cultivate such vast fields.

With the Qi Family as an example, the common people in Wanchang City and nearby were even more proactive in cooperating with the Prefectural Government in reporting their land and completed the transfer of land ownership in a short period.

Of course, this was not the most important. What mattered most was the sudden announcement by the Prefectural Government that henceforth, under the rule of the North Prince, the agricultural tax would be collected at a rate of one percent and that no other taxes related to agriculture would be additionally levied.

Upon the release of this policy, the common people of Wanchang City and the nearby towns embraced the rule of the North Prince, praising the North Prince as a merciful Seignior and believing that if the North Prince could become the Sum Emperor, he would surely be a merciful Emperor as well.

The news of the collapse of Wanchang City and the actions taken by the North Country's military there quickly reached the ears of the Qi Prince.

When the Qi Prince learned that Wanchang City had been captured, he literally became sick with anger.

Qi Country, Royal Capital.

Qi Prince Mansion.

Qi Prince lay on his bed, his face haggard. At this time, his wives and children had come into the room.

With a face full of sorrow, the Qi Prince said, "The hundred thousand-strong army in Wanchang City was equipped with Piercing Cloud Bows and Piercing Cloud Arrows. How could it have been defeated so quickly? Is the North Country's strength truly that formidable!"

The charming Qi Queen sat by the bed, looking worriedly at Qi Prince and said, "Your Majesty, your health is what's important!"

"We still have another hundred thousand-strong army in East Sun City. We still have hope."

However, just at that moment, a panicked voice of a soldier came from outside the room, "Your Majesty, urgent report from East Sun City!"

Hearing these words, Qi Prince's heart skipped a beat.

Qi Prince coughed violently several times, then said, "Come in."

The next moment, a soldier entered the room and knelt down, saying, "Your Majesty, dire news. East Sun City has been taken by an invading North Country fleet!"

Upon hearing this, Qi Prince's eyes went dark, and he collapsed.

"Your Majesty..."

"Your Majesty, what's wrong with you..."

"Quick... call the physician..."

Chapter 746 This Prince Will Never Run Away!\_1

Qi Prince held great expectations for Wanchang City, believing that with its strategic location in Dichang Valley, which allowed for both offense and defense, securing Wanchang City meant that the North Country's army could no longer continue marching south.

Yet, in such a short time, Wanchang City had fallen to the North Country's army.

Moreover, after capturing Wanchang City, the North Country's army immediately appointed a new Prefecture Governor and began to reform the land policy, transferring all land ownership rights to the North Prince and drastically exempting taxes, implementing a rate of one in a hundred.

Qi Prince could not fathom how the North Prince had the audacity, not only to eliminate other agricultural taxes but to also implement a tax rate of one in a hundred. If it came down to it, even if he recaptured the territory, the local people might not support him as the Qi Prince anymore.

Had his grandnephew lost his mind?

Agricultural taxes were the foundation of their rule as seigniors; how could he dare set the taxes so low!

Of course, what Qi Prince was most concerned about at the moment was not the issue of taxes but whether he could hold on to Qi Country.

Now that Wanchang City and East Sun City had fallen, Qi Country had instantly lost an army of two hundred thousand.

There were still some troops in the Royal Capital, and if they conscripted forcefully, they could gather another army of approximately two hundred thousand soldiers in a short period.

However, such soldiers would basically possess no significant combat power, though they would suffice to take a few arrows.

Although Qi Prince had fallen ill, to resist the North Country's army, he still gave orders while dragging his sick body.

Qi Prince was now completely tied to the chariot of war; even if the current Qi Prince wished to surrender, those Aristocratic Families wouldn't allow it. If the leading Qi Prince surrendered, what would become of their families?

They had heard about the things the North Country's army did after occupying Wanchang City, especially the reclamation of land into the hands of the North Prince, which deeply struck a nerve within them.

The Aristocratic Families absolutely would not permit such a policy to befall them.

Swiftly, Qi Country assembled another army of two hundred thousand in the Royal Capital, but most of these soldiers were forcibly conscripted peasants, with little to no combat effectiveness.

But given the dire situation, the fighting capability of these peasant soldiers was of less concern.



In an effort to prevent the North Prince from taking over Qi Country, the domestic Aristocratic Families truly exhausted every method possible.

Inside Anping City.

In the dead of night, Lu Chen looked at the battle report sent back by Xuanyuan Chen and couldn't help but sneer.

Did these Aristocratic Families of Qi Country really intend to perish together with him?

Yet, when an egg smashes against a rock, it's only the egg that breaks.

At that moment, Bai Qingqing, dressed in a black guard's uniform, entered the study. "Prince, it's time for you to rest."

This time, Lu Chen had traveled south following General Xuanyuan. He was not the Main Commander, nor was he leading troops, so he had maids to serve him, with Bai Qingqing being one of them.

Since leaving the North Prince Mansion to head south, Bai Qingqing had been in charge of arranging Lu Chen's daily life, including his meals and his bedtime, all scheduled by Bai Qingqing.

Before departing south, Chu Yuqin had instructed Bai Qingqing to take good care of Lu Chen, which led Bai Qingqing to take extra care of his needs.

Of course, even without Chu Yuqin's reminder, she would have devotedly cared for Lu Chen.

Seeing the expressionless and astonishingly beautiful Bai Qingqing, Lu Chen put down what he was holding and then said, "Alright, it really is time to rest."

Following Bai Qingqing, Lu Chen then returned to his room, and upon entering, said to her, "Bai, stay with me tonight."

Hearing this, Bai Qingqing showed no reaction on her face; she was already accustomed to serving at the bedside, and such matters were nothing new to her.

"Yes, Prince."

As soon as Bai Qingqing finished speaking, Lu Chen pulled her into his embrace, holding her slim waist, and said, "Bai, you've been back by my side for so long; why are you still so reserved?"

While speaking, his hand began to slip inside Bai Qingqing's clothes.

The usually expressionless Bai Qingqing now showed a hint of blush on her face, but she did not say much, quietly leaning into Lu Chen's embrace, allowing him to have his way with her.

Seeing a flush of shyness on the face of the cold beauty, Lu Chen no longer held back, promptly carrying Bai Qingqing to the bed.

Eventually, under Lu Chen's guidance, Bai Qingqing finally began to call out 'darling'.

The next morning.

Dressed with the help of Bai Qingqing, Lu Chen put on his clothes.

Just as he was about to eat the breakfast prepared by his servants, a maid came up to him and said, "Prince, the Head of the Qi family requests an audience."

Hearing this, Lu Chen was momentarily stunned.

The Head of the Qi family?

Which Qi family?

Lu Chen immediately asked, "The Qi family? Which Qi family is that?"

The maid replied, "It's an Aristocratic Family within Qi Country's territory. Their family is located in Wanchang City. According to the family head, he was guided by General Xuanyuan, and he specifically wished to meet with you."

With the maid's words, Lu Chen then realized it was the Aristocratic Family from Wanchang City.

After Wanchang City was captured, land ownership around the city changed, and from Xuanyuan Chen's letters, Lu Chen had heard that the leading Aristocratic Family of Wanchang City was particularly cooperative; not only did they hand over a lot of gold and treasure, but they also actively cooperated with the changes in land ownership.

After pondering for a moment, Lu Chen decided to meet with the Head of the Qi family.

Normally, the head of a regional Aristocratic Family like the Qi family would not have the standing to meet with a Seignior like Lu Chen. However, Lu Chen considered that the Qi family still wielded some influence within Qi Country and he could support them in the future to set an example for other minor families.

After breakfast, Lu Chen met with the Head of the Qi family. The family head had come not with important matters, but simply to demonstrate his loyalty.

Furthermore, the Head of the Qi family also smartly handed over a list of families within Qi Country that had backed the Qi Prince in resisting the army of North Country descending from the south, clearly acting as a guide for Qi Country.

With the list provided by the Qi family, Lu Chen felt more prepared to settle scores with those families when the time came. Of course, this did not exclude the possibility that the Qi family might want to use this as a chance for revenge, but Lu Chen was indifferent to that, as he already planned to clean up the Aristocratic Families within Qi Country.

After meeting with the Head of the Qi family, Lu Chen issued a military order to Xuanyuan Chen, ordering him to advance towards the Royal Capital of Qi Country.

At the same time, Lu Chen didn't stay in Anping City but led fifty thousand soldiers southward, heading for Wanchang City.

The current Lu Chen no longer needed to be present on the frontline; he was a great king, and waging war was not his duty. He only needed to command from the rear. How to use people was what he, as a ruler, should consider.

Upon arriving in Wanchang City, the streets were deserted as the common people of Qi Country lined up on both sides of the road, warmly welcoming his arrival.

Not to mention other benefits, just the exemption from taxes alone made the common people deeply grateful to Lu Chen.

Previously, Qi Country was controlled by local Aristocratic Families, and their various and complicated taxes not only were plentiful but also burdensome. The arrival of North Prince meant those taxes were abolished, earning him the adoration of the common people.

When Lu Chen reached Wanchang City, Xuanyuan Chen had already led a hundred and fifty thousand troops straight towards the Royal Capital of Qi Country, and in the half month that followed, Xuanyuan Chen advanced forward at the pace of conquering a city almost every day.

As news of each city's capture reached the Royal Capital of Qi Country one after another, the Qi Prince grew increasingly fearful, as did the Aristocratic Families of Qi Country.

Finally, in a mere month's time, Xuanyuan Chen fulfilled Lu Chen's expectations and led the one hundred and fifty thousand troops of North Country to the outskirts of the Royal Capital of Qi Country.

When the Qi Prince learned that the army of North Country had reached the Royal Capital, he was so frightened that he collapsed to the ground.

At this moment.

Inside the Qi Prince Mansion, within the Royal Capital of Qi Country.

The Qi Prince sat on the ground, his face filled with fear.

"How is this possible... "

"How could it be so fast..."

Then, the Qi Queen, who was beside him, anxiously held onto the Qi Prince and said, "Your Majesty, let's flee!"

The Qi Queen's words immediately provoked the Qi Prince, who promptly said, "No! I will not run away!"

"I still have two hundred thousand troops!"

"I've already written to the court; the court will surely send reinforcements. I refuse to believe that the Sum Emperor will just watch idly as Qi Country falls!"

The face of the Qi Prince twisted fiercely, still devoid of any thoughts of fleeing or surrendering.

## Chapter 747 Qi Prince, Dies!\_1

Xuanyuan Chen led an army of 150,000 to the Royal Capital of Qi Country but did not immediately launch an attack.

After all, Qi Prince was North Prince's uncle, so of course, it was not possible to resort to violence right from the start.

On one hand, Xuanyuan Chen was waiting for Lu Chen's order to attack the city, and on the other, he sent people to shout outside the walls of Qi Country's royal city every day, urging Qi Prince to surrender as soon as possible.

For a time, the noble families within the Royal Capital of Qi Country were as anxious as ants on a hot pan.

Originally, they were quite confident that they could stop the North Prince's advance southward, but to their surprise, the Northern Army had reached the Royal Capital of Qi Country in such a short time.

Now they were in trouble—if the Northern Army really broke in, their noble families would inevitably be raided and annihilated!

In their fear, some noble families suddenly came up with a good plan, which was to push all the responsibility onto Qi Prince.

If the army of Qi Country really could not withstand the attack of the North Country's soldiers, they would immediately lead people to break into the Qi Prince Mansion, capture Qi Prince's entire family, and then take the Qi Prince's family to seek refuge with North Prince.

Perhaps North Prince, seeing their initiative in surrendering and capturing the "main culprit" Qi Prince, would spare the noble families.

They had also heard that the Qi Family of Wanchang City was now living well, although the Qi Family might have lost wealth to avert disaster; however, this was better than being raided and exterminated.

Two days later.

Lu Chen's military orders reached Xuanyuan Chen's tent.

The next morning, the sound of drums began to echo in the camp of the North Country's soldiers.

As the drums sounded, everyone within the Royal Capital of Qi Country tensed up, guessing that the Northern Army was about to launch an attack.

At that moment, Qi Prince was still inside Qi Prince Mansion.

He did not hear the drumming, but a guard rushed into his courtyard in a panic and said with a terrified expression, "Your... Your Majesty, disaster has struck, the... the Northern Army has launched an attack!"



Upon hearing this, the ailing Qi Prince rose abruptly from his chair, and the Qi Queen hurriedly supported him, "Your Majesty, let's escape quickly!"

The Qi Queen was very scared; she did not believe that the Royal Capital of Qi Country could withstand the North Country's army's assault. If they had truly been able to hold off the North Country's attack, Ziyang City would not have fallen, and neither would Wanchang City and East Sun City, and other cities that stood in the Northern Army's way would not have been taken.

With so many cities already captured, how could the Royal Capital withstand the attack of the North Country's army?

After hearing the words of the Qi Queen, Qi Prince pushed her away and headed outside, saying as he walked, "I, the prince, will absolutely not flee. I cannot believe that North Country's 150,000 soldiers can breach my Royal Capital!"

"Come, armour up; I will command the battle personally!"

Hearing this, the Qi Queen's face turned deathly pale, "Your Majesty, you must not do this!"

The Qi Queen quickly approached Qi Prince and clung tightly to his arm, "Your Majesty, you cannot go!"

Once again, Qi Prince pushed her aside forcefully, this time with such strength that he knocked her to the ground.

"I want to see for myself just how formidable the North Country's troops are in battle!"

At that moment, the Qi Queen cried out, "Your Majesty, don't go! Your Majesty..."

Qi Prince then ordered his men to hold the Qi Queen back, and after donning his armour, he rode to the city tower, leaving only the weeping Qi Queen behind in the courtyard.

Meanwhile.

The noble families within the city gathered at the Han Family, the largest aristocratic family within Qi Country.

After Qi Prince was assigned to the territory of Qi Country, it was the Han Family that had always supported him, providing Qi Prince with many resources that enabled him to grow rapidly and strengthen. One could say that without the Han Family, there would be no Qi Prince.

There were many concubines in the Qi Prince Mansion who hailed from the Han Family, tying the Qi Prince and the Han Family together in deep bonds.

It was precisely because of this that the Han Family was the Aristocratic Family most fearful of the Northern Army breaching the Royal Capital.

At this moment, the heads of the Aristocratic Families were discussing how to avoid the impending calamity.

Running away was definitely too late by now; after all, the Northern Army was already at the gates. Even if they attempted to flee, not to mention their inability to take their ancestral wealth with them, they would likely end up captured or killed by the Northern soldiers.

Now they had to change their way of thinking.

At this time, the Han Family's guest hall was eerily quiet, and the faces of the Aristocratic Family Heads were fraught with anxiety, making the atmosphere in the hall incredibly somber.

Just then, a servant rushed into the courtyard, running and shouting, "Family Head! Family Head! Something terrible has happened!"

The servant's abrupt entry into the guest hall caused Han Fu's face to instantly darken as he said with a grim expression, "What's all this fuss about? What has happened?"

The servant hurriedly said, "The Northern Army has begun their assault, and the Qi Prince himself has donned armor to ascend the city walls and supervise the battle!!!"

Upon hearing this, the Aristocratic Family Heads in the guest hall erupted into chaos.

"What shall we do now?"

"Can the city's troops withstand the Northern Army?"

"Why did the Qi Prince even go up to the city walls? What if something happens to him..."

...

The Aristocratic Family Heads babbled on, and after a while, a Family Head finally said to Han Fu, "Family Head Han, we must get the Qi Prince back as soon as possible. If something happens to him, what will happen to our plan then?"

Their plan was to seize the Qi Prince and pin all the blame on him if the Royal Capital were to fall, and then surrender to the North Country.

But now, with the Qi Prince on the city walls, if he were to be shot dead by an arrow, wouldn't that spell the end of their prime culprit?

No, the Qi Prince must not come to harm!

At this thought, Han Fu immediately said to the servant, "Send Han Wu at once to bring the Qi Prince back. He absolutely must not come to any harm!"

The Han Wu mentioned by Han Fu was a General of Qi Country, and most importantly, he was a member of the Han Family.

In the current situation, Han Wu would naturally no longer heed the Qi Prince's commands; he would indeed side with the Han Family. As soon as Han Fu gave the order, Han Wu would surely follow his directives.

As he spoke, Han Fu suddenly thought of something else and continued, "We must prepare for both possibilities. Someone, send Han Yu to surround the Qi Prince Mansion and ensure no one from the Qi Prince's Mansion is allowed to leave."

As the Aristocratic Families within the city were making their moves, the Northern Army was also taking action.

No sooner had the Qi Prince ascended the city walls than countless cannonballs rained down from the sky, and in the next instant, the soldiers on the city walls were blown into the air.

Witnessing this sight, the Qi Prince collapsed to the ground in fright, muttering, "What... What kind of weapon is this..."

"How could there be such a terrifying weapon..."

Before the Qi Prince had time to recover, the city gates were blasted open with a huge gap, and the stalwart walls were likewise breached.

The Qi Prince was completely stupefied, even forgetting to flee.

It wasn't until the soldiers on the city walls panicked and ran in all directions due to the bombardment that the Qi Prince snapped back to his senses. However, it was too late for him to escape; the cannonballs did not discriminate, and soon one landed beside the Qi Prince, causing his mind to go blank as he lost consciousness entirely.

The Qi Prince met his end.

The siege of the Royal Capital by the North Country did not take much time—the soldiers of Qi Country hardly possessed any will to fight, and upon witnessing such a terrifying weapon, their thoughts of resistance dissipated entirely.

The key point was that their king had been blown to pieces—even with their king dead, what was there left for them to fight for?

In less than four hours, tattered white flags began to flutter atop the battered ramparts of Qi Country.

The Northern Army quickly stormed into the city, delivering a final blow to the Qi soldiers who were still stubbornly holding out.

At the same time, Han Fu had already had the Qi Prince Mansion completely surrounded.

When the Qi Queen saw the sudden appearance of so many soldiers armed to the teeth around the Qi Prince Mansion, she panicked and shouted loudly, "Who are you people? Are you planning a rebellion?"

The leading military general, Han Yu, said with a smile, "Sorry, Qi Queen, we're doing this for the safety of Qi Prince Mansion. The city outside is at war, what if thieves break into Qi Prince Mansion and harm you?"

The Qi Queen was no fool; how could she not perceive what Han Yu intended to do?

The Qi Queen was suddenly thrown into a state of panic; now that the Qi Prince had gone to supervise the battle from the city walls, there was hardly any military force left in Qi Prince Mansion. She was just a woman with no course of action available to her.

Meanwhile.

As the heads of the aristocratic families were still discussing how to surrender, a soldier burst into the Han Family's reception hall, "Family Head, it's terrible news!"

A startled feeling arose among them all.

Their first thought was not that the city had been breached, but whether the Qi Prince had encountered some misfortune.

As the soldier rushed into the reception hall, Han Fu anxiously asked, "Has something happened to the Qi Prince?"

The soldier stammered out, "No... it's not that... it's... the Northern Army has broken through, the city has fallen..."

What!!!

The heads of the aristocratic families in the reception hall all stood up, their expressions revealing shock and panic. Although they were aware of the Northern Army's strong fighting power, which had sobered them up through a series of previous wars,

they had still assumed that it would take at least several days for the Northern Army to breach the Royal Capital, given the city's more formidable and towering walls.

Yet from the onset of the Northern Army's assault, it hadn't even been four hours before they had broken in.

In abrupt realization, the heads of the aristocratic families all fell into panic.

At this moment, Han Fu urgently asked, "Where is the Qi Prince now? Where is the Qi Prince?"

The soldier was momentarily dumbfounded.

Impatient by this time, Han Fu bellowed, "Didn't you hear me? I'm asking about the Qi Prince! Why hasn't the Qi Prince come back!"

In a panic, the soldier replied, "My... my subordinate doesn't know, but when I was on my way back, I seemed to hear some soldiers saying the Qi Prince had... already..."

Everyone felt as if they had been struck by lightning, with a pretty clear guess as to the Qi Prince's current situation.

At that point, Han Fu viciously pressed on, "Already what! Speak clearly!"



The soldier hastily responded, "He has passed away!"

Upon hearing the soldier's affirmative answer, Han Fu's vision darkened, and he felt unstable on his feet, ending up seated heavily in a chair.

However, he quickly snapped out of it and urgently said to the other family heads in the reception hall, "Gentlemen! To the Qi Prince Mansion at once!"

"The Qi Prince may be dead, but his family remains. If we capture the Qi Prince's family, we can still surrender to the North Prince!"

Upon hearing Han Fu's words, like waking from a great dream, they all rushed toward the Qi Prince Mansion.

Before long, the heads of all the major aristocratic families gathered at the Qi Prince Mansion—quickly, the Qi Queen and the other relatives of the Qi Prince were all tied up.

The Qi Queen shouted angrily, "What is this you are doing! I am the Qi Queen, how dare you treat me this way!"

Han Fu sneered and said, "Queen? Now that Qi Country has already been annihilated, what kind of queen do you consider yourself to be?"

Upon hearing these words, the Queen of Qi Country felt her heart skip a beat.

She looked at Han Fu in horror and said, "You... what do you mean by that?"

Han Fu spoke indifferently, "You may not know yet, but the Royal Capital has fallen, and the Qi Prince has died in battle. The soldiers of North Country have entered the city by now."

Instantly, the Queen of Qi Country was dumbfounded, murmuring, "No... it's impossible... How could the great king..."

Before the Queen of Qi Country could finish her sentence, she blacked out and fainted on the spot.

Han Fu frowned slightly, then ordered the soldiers, "Take them all!"

Subsequently, the aristocrats brought along a group of officials from Qi Country to the city gate and actively surrendered to the Northern Army.

When Xuanyuan Chen entered the Royal Capital of Qi Country, the aristocrats and those officials from Qi Country were already kneeling on the ground, foreheads touching the dirt, a vast expanse of them.

Xuanyuan Chen swept his gaze over these aristocrats and officials from Qi Country, then it landed on the relatives of the Qi Prince.

At that moment, Han Fu hastily raised his head and pointed to the people of the Qi Prince Mansion, saying, "General, those are the relatives of the Qi Prince. He is already dead. We were afraid they would escape, so we captured them. Please, General, deal with them!"

Hearing this, a glint of murderous intent flashed in Xuanyuan Chen's eyes. He did not harbor any good feelings towards the aristocrats just because they had surrendered on their own initiative.

On the contrary, the behavior of the aristocrats, pushing out their sovereign as the scapegoat, displeased Xuanyuan Chen greatly.

He understood all too well why the aristocrats did this—it was nothing but a way to shirk responsibility and ensure their own survival.

Although he held the aristocrats in contempt, Xuanyuan Chen did not say much. He simply stated, "My king is merciful. As long as one has not participated in resisting the advance of the Northern Army, they will not be held accountable; you may all temporarily return to your homes."

Upon hearing this, everyone was stunned.

They were all seasoned players in the game of power, and they easily grasped the implication behind Xuanyuan Chen's words.

Xuanyuan Chen spoke of those who did not participate in resisting the advance of the Northern Army. These aristocrats had supported the Qi Prince by default, and they undoubtedly counted as resisters. Wouldn't the North Prince settle accounts with them afterward?

Although the heads of the aristocratic families were extremely anxious, they said nothing. At this moment, Han Fu stood up and said, "Thank you, North Prince, thank you, General!"

"The North Prince is merciful. We will surely support the North Prince to the death!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Han Fu, pretending as if nothing was amiss, led the Han Family away.

Seeing that the Han Family had left, the other aristocratic families also dispersed one after another, leaving behind only the officials from Qi Country and the people of the Qi Prince Mansion.

At this time, the Queen of Qi slowly regained consciousness. When she saw the Northern Army before her, she was instantly filled with panic and confusion.

By this point, she had accepted the fact that the Qi Prince had died in battle.

But the following question was, what should the people of the Qi Prince Mansion do, and how could they ensure their survival?

Then, Xuanyuan Chen glanced at the people from the Qi Prince Mansion and said to the soldiers behind him, "Find the body of the Qi Prince!"

"Yes, General!"

They needed to see the body whether alive or dead; Xuanyuan Chen would not assume the Qi Prince was certainly dead based on just a few words from the Qi Prince's soldiers.

At that moment, the deputy general beside Xuanyuan Chen asked, "General, what should we do with them?"

The deputy general's gaze was on those from the Qi Prince Mansion.

Xuanyuan Chen said indifferently, "First, take them back to the Qi Prince's Mansion and confine them there. We'll discuss what to do after the Prince arrives at the Royal Capital."

After all, the Qi Prince was Lu Chen's uncle. Although the Qi Prince had fallen in battle, how to handle his family members was still a decision that only Lu Chen could make.

After Xuanyuan Chen finished speaking, the soldiers escorted all the people from the Qi Prince Mansion back to the Qi Prince Mansion.

Chapter 749 Sum Emperor: I Will Personally Use This Divine Weapon\_1

The people of the Qi Prince Mansion, upon returning to the Qi Prince Mansion, were filled with panic. Now that the Qi Prince was dead, they had lost their patron, and they became prisoners. According to precedent, it was very likely that all the people of the Qi Prince Mansion would be executed.

While the people of the Qi Prince Mansion were feeling panic-stricken, some were even more fearful—the aristocratic families within the city.

Although Xuanyuan Chen seemed to have spared them, it was only temporary.

Once Xuanyuan Chen had clarified their relationship with the Qi Prince Mansion, he would very likely settle scores with these aristocratic families.

Thus, they absolutely could not sit back and wait for death.

Of course, they had no intention of clashing head-on with the soldiers from the North Country, especially since the Northern Army possessed such terrifying weapons. Even the hundreds of thousands of soldiers from Qi Country had been defeated by the Northern Army, so their own private soldiers certainly stood no chance against them.

The best strategy now was to find a way to flee the Royal Capital.

The major aristocratic families had already shown subjugation to the North Prince, and it was very likely that the Northern Army would relax their vigilance.

The heads of the major aristocratic families had come to the same conclusion and quickly got in touch in secret, beginning to plan their escape.

The great families were located in various directions around the Royal Capital, and once they made a move, it would certainly cause a great commotion; they could not gather in one place in a short time. However, precisely because they were spread out in different directions, they had the opportunity to escape.

If they fled in one direction, it would instead be possible for the Northern Army to encircle them tightly, capturing them all in one fell swoop.

If they fled through the various city gates, they could disperse the attention of the Northern Army, increasing their chances of escaping.

After Han Fu had confirmed his plan to escape, he immediately instructed his family to pack up and sought to make contact with the captive soldiers.

A few days later, one evening, the most prosperous pleasure quarters in the Royal Capital of Qi Country were set ablaze, attracting almost everyone's attention.

Several groups followed the routes they had previously planned and rushed toward the city gates in the east, south, west, and north.

Although these aristocratic families did not have a Grandmaster among them, they did have Master Level martial artists. Just when they thought they could rely on Grandmasters to break out of the city gates, the Northern Army's weapons quickly shattered their illusions.

The Master Level martial artists from all the great families had not even come close to the soldiers guarding the gate when they were turned into sieves by the firearms of the soldiers from the North Country.

However, there is always a chance for the unexpected.

Because there was a huge gap at the North Gate, a number of the Han Family, under the protection of their private soldiers, actually managed to escape through the gap.

When Xuanyuan Chen learned that some had actually escaped, far from getting angry, he instead revealed a smile.

If the aristocratic families did not flee, it would be inconvenient for him to make his move. Since they had initiated trouble, they could not blame him for what followed.

Xuanyuan Chen then ordered the Messenger Soldier to fire a signal flare, a huge firework bloomed in the dark night sky, and immediately, the Cavalry that had been prepared long ago, set out.

The night quickly passed.

The major aristocratic families within the Royal Capital of Qi Country became history.

The news of the fall of the Royal Capital of Qi Country quickly spread among all the major powers, reaching the royal court.

The Great Xia Dynasty, the Capital city.

Inside the Imperial Study Room, the Sum Emperor frowned as he looked at the intelligence report in his hand.

Although he had anticipated that the fall of Qi Country was only a matter of time, he did not expect the day to arrive so swiftly.

Are that rebel's weapons truly so terrifying?

The soldiers of Qi Country, numbering hundreds of thousands, together with the twenty thousand soldiers from the royal court, could not at all withstand the rebel Nan's southward march. Judging by their speed, it might not take long before that rebel could reach the Capital city.



At that moment, the flames of the room's candles suddenly flickered, as if two gusts of wind had blown into the Imperial Study Room.

The next instant, Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou appeared inside the Imperial Study Room.

The Sum Emperor said displeasedly, "Although we have already joined forces, it does not mean you can do as you please in my Imperial Palace and go wherever you wish."

Yu Changqing paid no heed to the Sum Emperor's words. Stroking his beard, he said, "I presume Your Majesty has already heard about the annihilation of Qi Country?"

The Sum Emperor said, "What of it if I know."

Yu Changqing continued, "We have confirmed through our scouts that the former Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace and the current one have headed south with the North Prince. According to their pace, they will reach the Capital city within three months. We need to be prepared."

The Sum Emperor replied indifferently, "I have been prepared for a long time."

Fu Hongchou asked on the side, "Since Your Majesty says you are prepared, may I know whom you plan to entrust with the use of that Divine Weapon?"

Upon hearing this, the Sum Emperor's brows immediately knitted.

After a moment of silence, he cast a sharp glance over both Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou, "What, are you interested in that Divine Weapon?"

The Sum Emperor suddenly felt that these two were coveting the Divine Weapon; otherwise, why would they come to ask about this matter?

Seeing the Sum Emperor's misunderstanding, Yu Changqing chuckled and said, "Your Majesty may not know that a weapon of such power is not something just anyone can wield."

"You've mentioned before that one of your soldiers accidentally triggered the Divine Weapon once, and as a result, the soldier was instantly struck by backlash and died on the spot."

"If such a dangerous weapon isn't placed in the hands of someone reliable, not to mention the risk of it backfiring on them, there's even a question of whether it would hit the former Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace."

Hearing what Yu Changqing had said, the Sum Emperor fell into deep thought; this was indeed a problem.

He had been considering for a long time who should wield this weapon. If he entrusted the weapon to someone else, and that person betrayed him during battle, wouldn't he end up being killed by the Divine Weapon?

Yet that weapon was so wickedly strange. Every time he saw the Divine Weapon actively sucking the blood of Martial Artists, he felt exceedingly creeped out.

Such an uncanny weapon—if he were to wield it personally, what if it backfired...

After much deliberation, the Sum Emperor still declared, "I will personally use this Divine Weapon. There's no need for you two to worry."

After hearing the Sum Emperor's words, Yu Changqing smiled and said, "What courage Your Majesty has!"

"Since Your Majesty has decided to wield the Divine Weapon yourself, we won't say any more."

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Cloud City.

Lu Yi's temporary residence.

Within the courtyard of the residence, the Military Generals were silent.

Nobody knew what to do now.

Many of those present had originally joined Lu Yi's forces mainly because the North Prince supported him. But now, the North Prince was marching south with an army, using the pretext of aiding the Emperor.

Moreover, he had conquered Qi Country in such a short time; they weren't fools and could see what the North Prince's southern march was really about.

It was clear he was after the throne!

Although it seemed that Lu Yi was surrounded by powerful forces, these people all had their own ulterior motives and were not genuinely loyal to Lu Yi.

Many had already considered leaving Lu Yi's forces to join the North Prince.

And Lu Yi himself lacked confidence. The thought of the North Country's mysterious weapons sent chills down his spine; the memory of Xuanyuan Chen leading the assault on Heyang County was deeply etched into Lu Yi's mind.

He still dreamt at night of being blown to pieces by the North Country's cannons.

Just then, a sudden burst of excited news came from outside the courtyard, "Your Highness, Your Highness, great news!!!"

Everyone in the courtyard immediately turned towards the gate as a soldier rushed in.

Lu Yi, with a stern face, said, "What great news?"

Lu Yi didn't believe there could be any good news for him at this point.

After the soldier ran into the courtyard, panting, he said, "We've found something that can explode just like the North Country's iron spheres!"

Chapter 750 Crown Prince, Truly the Destined Son of Heaven\_1

Hearing the soldier's words, Lu Yi and everyone in the yard were stunned.

They were somewhat incredulous at what they had heard.

Regaining his composure, Lu Yi quickly asked, "What! What did you say! You've found something that can be used to make the weapons of the North Country?"

The soldier replied excitedly, "Yes, Your Highness, our men encountered a group of Fake Taoist Priests who were selling some useless fake pills. Many of our soldiers were duped by them, spending a great deal of silver on those worthless pills."

"When our men discovered the hiding place of these Fake Taoist Priests and were about to capture them, they happened to be in the midst of alchemy. Just then, their Pill Furnace suddenly exploded, and several of the Fake Taoist Priests were injured by the flying fragments of the furnace."

"I immediately realized that the explosion of the Pill Furnace was very similar to the explosion of iron balls, so I captured these Fake Taoist Priests to interrogate them. According to their confession, their furnace often exploded during their alchemy."

"As long as we replicate what causes their furnaces to explode, we will be able to produce weapons like those of the North Country!"

Hearing the soldier's response, Lu Yi was momentarily perplexed. Then, regaining his senses, he suddenly burst into loud laughter.

"Hahahaha, hahahaha, truly, heaven has not forsaken the lonely path!"

At this, the others in the yard started saying, "Congratulations to the Crown Prince, best wishes to the Crown Prince!"

"Once we produce weapons similar to those of the North Country, we will no longer have to fear them!"

"The Crown Prince is truly the Son of Destiny!"

...

Listening to the congratulatory voices, a brazen smile appeared on Lu Yi's face. After laughing for a while, he immediately stood up and said, "Take me to see those Fake Taoist Priests!"

"Yes, Your Highness!"

The soldier then led Lu Yi to where the Fake Taoist Priests were being held.

Upon seeing Lu Yi, the Fake Taoist Priests were terrified, assuming he would have them all executed. But to their surprise, when Lu Yi saw them, he wore a smile and seemed to have no intention of killing them.

After glancing at the Fake Taoist Priests imprisoned in the cell, Lu Yi said to the soldiers by his side, "They are all talents. How can you keep them locked up? Quickly, let them out."

The soldiers immediately realized what he meant and quickly opened the prison door.

At this sight, the Fake Taoist Priests were baffled; they had sold fake pills to Prince Lu Yi's soldiers, yet he seemed not the least bit angry and even called them talented. What was going on?

Just then, the leader of the Fake Taoist Priests hurriedly knelt down and said, "Thank Crown Prince for your mercy in sparing our lives!"

Seeing their leader kneel, the rest of the Fake Taoist Priests also quickly knelt down and said in unison, "Thank Crown Prince for your mercy in sparing our lives!"

Smiling, Lu Yi said, "All of you, rise."

The crowd expressed their thanks in unison, "Thank you, Crown Prince!"

After everyone stood up, Lu Yi's smile left them confused about how he planned to deal with them.

Was he simply going to let them go?

That seemed unlikely, right?

At that moment, the leader of the Fake Taoist Priests spoke up, "Crown Prince, if there is any way in which we can be of service, we will not hesitate to lay down our lives."

They weren't fools; if Lu Yi had spared them, he surely had plans for them.

Lu Yi said, "You're a smart man, so I will speak frankly."

"I need you to stay by my side to make weapons,"

Upon hearing this, the fake Taoist priests were momentarily stunned.

Make weapons?

They didn't know how to make weapons.

The leader of the fake Taoist priests quickly said, "Your Highness, we are not blacksmiths and do not know how to make arms. Keeping us doesn't serve much purpose—we can at best only assist the blacksmiths."

Lu Yi spoke indifferently, "The weapons I need are not ordinary weapons."



"I have heard that during your pill-making, the pill furnace often explodes. I need you to write down the ingredients that cause the furnace to explode and to create something that can reliably trigger the pill furnace to explode."

Listening to Lu Yi's words, the fake Taoist priests instantly understood what he needed. However, they didn't respond immediately. Seeing their leader in contemplation, Lu Yi's expression turned grim instantly, then he coldly asked, "What, can you not do it?"

This question from Lu Yi jolted the leader of the fake Taoist priests back to reality, and he hurriedly said, "We can do it, we can! We know how to make the pill furnace explode!"

The leader of the fake Taoist priests knew very well that if they admitted they couldn't do it at this point, they would have no value in the eyes of Lu Yi, and they would likely face execution.

Upon hearing the fake Taoist priests' words, Lu Yi showed a satisfied expression, then said, "Tell the soldiers whatever you need next, and they will provide it for you."

"As long as the explosions your creations produce can kill people or animals, I will give you a thousand gold taels! When I ascend the throne, I will confer official titles and noble ranks upon you!"

The fake Taoist priests quickly said, "Thank you, Your Highness, we will surely live up to your expectations!"

Lu Yi then turned to his trusted aide and said, "Arrange the best lodgings for them and prepare the best provisions."

"Yes, Your Highness."

Lu Yi said no more and turned away, returning to the courtyard he had come from.

At that moment, a military general approached Lu Yi and asked, "Crown Prince, now that the North Prince's power is great and, judging by his movement, it looks like he could reach the Capital City within half a year, should we continue to close in on the Capital City?"

Hearing this question, Lu Yi fell into deep thought. After a while, another military general said, "With the Aristocratic Family's heavy cavalry blocking us ahead, it may be very difficult to advance further. Moreover, when the North Country army moves south, we will only be able to make way for them."

"Now that you possess the method of making the North Country's weapons, perhaps we should avoid direct conflict for the moment and head to the south. Once we have a large number of those iron ball weapons, then we can fight our way back."

Hearing this suggestion, Lu Yi said, "That is indeed a good plan."

"Good, we will move south in some time."

Although Zhao King's army was in the south, Zhao King was now focused on the Capital City and hardly had the energy to pay attention to them.

Moreover, since Zhao King had previously annihilated many Seigniors, some of their subordinates had always been dissatisfied with Zhao King. Furthermore, there were offspring of Seigniors who harbored delusions of re-establishing their nations. Now, if he went south, as long as he could make

some promises to those offspring of Seigniors, it was very likely that they would switch allegiance to him.

Conquering a piece of territory for himself in the south was not a particularly difficult task.

A few days later.

In the Royal Capital of Qi Country.

An imposing and exceptionally handsome man rode a white horse slowly into the Royal Capital, and the common people of Qi Country lined the road on both sides.

After the North Country army captured the Royal Capital of Qi Country, the soldiers did not harass the commoners. The North Country army only eradicated a few Aristocratic Families, then propped up a new ruler, instructing the common people to conduct land surveys and sign agreements for land ownership transfer.

Beyond that, the North Country army had not committed any acts detrimental to the commoners, and most importantly, they immediately declared a tax exemption upon arrival, which earned some goodwill from the common people toward the North Prince.

After laying the groundwork, Lu Chen finally arrived at the Royal Capital of Qi Country.