

## Oasis 121

### [Lord of the Oasis](#)

#### Chapter 121: The Wind on the Mannheim Coast

Summer had passed.

Although the Mannheim Coast was close to the Nahrin Desert and had never experienced four seasons, the many races living on the Coast could still sense that the sweltering heat of summer had begun to fade.

The breeze coming from the Sea of Stars crept over the Coast.

The leaves swayed with the wind. Sensing the arrival of autumn, they would turn light yellow within a few days.

Autumn was around the corner.

However, the autumn wind filled the sails that were hanging on the mast on the merchant ships on the Sea of Stars that were loaded with goods, bringing the ships to the fertile Mannheim Coast.

There were also a large number of merchant ships entering and leaving the port of the Kingdom of Grey Mane.

And there were quite a number of them.

On both sides of the stone wharf, various merchant ships were docked.

The Jackalan laborers were loading and unloading goods for the merchant ships at the wharf.

In the market at the wharf, merchants from all races could be seen.

Jackalan, Lizardmen, elves, humans, and even the Beastmen.

They were all discussing fervently or haggling intensely. The straightforwardness, honesty, friendliness, and cowardice of all the races had all turned into the craftiness of the merchants without leaving a trace on their faces.

All for the sake of earning a few more Great Silver coins.

This shiny round silver object was something that all races sought after.

Including these Jackalans.

The port in the capital of the Kingdom of Grey Mane was the only deep-water harbor on the entire Mannheim Coast. Although the Jackalans weren't good at ocean navigation, just the berthing fees and business taxes would make them rich.

This was how they maintained a monopoly on the Mannheim Coast.

The only port that could harbor a large number of merchant ships and accommodate a huge amount of business trade was the port of the Kingdom of Grey Mane.

This was also something that the lizardmen had been brooding about.

They were good at sailing and ocean trading, but in their own Lizardmen Kingdom, there were only two small ports. The number of merchant ships that could dock there every day was pitifully small, and only very few large merchant ships that had a deep draft could dock.

It was nothing compared to the king's city port that could accommodate at least 50 large merchant ships.

However, the two races had a long-standing feud.

In order to sustain their trade, the Lizardmen chose to compromise.

However, the Jackalans' term was that the Lizardmen had to rent a pier at a high price. At the same time, they had to pay a huge amount of business tax for each deal. The conditions were extremely harsh, and it was almost blatant extortion.

Because of this, the two races had even gone to war.

The population of the Kingdom of Grey Mane was 40,000.

The population of the Kingdom of Lizardmen was 70,000.

Although the infantry of the Kingdom of Grey Mane was the strongest, the crossbowmen of the Lizardmen were not bad either.

Besides, the Lizardmen had their own navy, as well as a few fierce pirate gangs that they had secretly trained. When the war started, they sealed off the port of the capital, making the Kingdom of Grey Mane, which relied entirely on taxes to survive, hesitate to take action.

It was because no one could do anything to the other, and they were all afraid of each other's strength, that this tradition continued.

It was only until the elven parliament came across the sea and established a colony city on the east side of the Mannheim Coast. Although there were only a few thousand people, they were good at fighting, and their combat strength was extremely strong. This caused the Lizardmen Kingdom, which originally occupied the east side of the Mannheim Coast, to suffer a fair amount of losses. Only after negotiations did they reluctantly acquiesce to the existence of the elves.

The fragile peace created by the three races also continued because of mutual fear.

But early this morning, five warships slowly sailed into the port of the king's city.

The streamlined hull accurately cut into the side of the dock and slowly docked.

The many merchant ships that docked there were puzzled. They glanced at the empty flagpole that did not indicate any race and power. The faces of some shrewd merchants suddenly turned pale, and their hearts beat faster.

There were many pirates on the Sea of Stars.

Among them, there were Jackalan pirates who liked jumping overboard. They wore chainmail armor and held two-handed battle-axes in their hands.

Usually, if these ferocious pirates jumped onto the deck, the battle would be over because no merchant of any race could defeat these strong and burly Jackalans on the deck.

Just like those burly Jackalan warriors who were lining up to come down from the five battleships.

If the merchants' eyes were sharp enough, they could even see the familiar faces who had once robbed them.

However, the entire port received a statement from the Kingdom of Grey Mane. They claimed that for the stability of the Sea of Stars and the safety of many merchants who had come to the port of the capital, they had already recruited and reorganized these pirate gangs of their own race, by including them in the Army of the Kingdom of Grey Mane. This vicious Jackalan pirate gang would no longer appear on the Sea of Stars in the future.

The new young merchants might believe these words.

However, those experienced merchants secretly sneered.

This vicious Jackalan pirate gang had roamed the Sea of Stars for so many years. It was absolutely impossible that they did not have a backer, and there was only one person who could fully support this Jackalan pirate gang.

However, the merchants could totally live without these pirates.

But the Lizardmen and elves were all shocked.

As forces that had already taken root in the Mannheim Coast, they naturally understood that this pirate gang, which was all made up of Jackalans, was a force that the Grey Mane Kingdom had secretly set up on the Sea of Stars.

Now, they were called back, claiming that they had been recruited and reorganized.

It was like handing over the authority of the Sea of Stars to someone else. How could anyone believe that?

After all, if the Kingdom of Grey Mane, which only relied on the harbor had power over the deep-water harbor in the capital, they would be in trouble if they lost control over the Sea of Stars.

Some things could not be done openly.

For example, one would wonder why were the Lizardmen's merchant ships often plundered.

And some merchants who relied on the port for a living and were on good terms with the Jackalan would also be visited by the pirates.

These were all hidden truths.

Losing these measures was like losing some of their partners. Even for merchants who had formed good trade relations, they had to consider whether or not they should befriend other races.

The king's city port was indeed under the control of the Jackalans.

But it did not mean that they would be in the Jackalan's hands for the rest of their lives.

The Mannheim Coast was surging with undercurrents.

But for the upper echelons of the Kingdom of Grey Mane, this was just a way to distract the enemy.

Calling back these 300 fierce pirates was also part of their plan because these Jackalan pirates would, together with the 1,000 elite Jackalan soldiers and 2,000 Jackalan warriors that were transferred from the army, form an expeditionary force of 3,300 people. This force would go past the Nahrin Desert and head to the strange world on the other side to plunder as many resources as they need.

This was what they had been planning for ten years. If possible, the Kingdom of Grey Mane would even extend its territory to the south of the Nahrin Desert, conquering the humans there, and creating a rear area for the high-level Jackalans.

They were creatures on land.

The vast and turbulent sea was not the ideal battlefield for the Jackalans.

The undulating deck was not as good as the thick and stable land.

After these high-level Jackalans of the Grey Mane Kingdom came into contact with and fought with the Lizardmen and elves, they had to admit that when they were on land, their vanguard was invincible in the field.

But on the sea, they were no match for the Lizardmen Navy or the Elven Navy.

The Lizardmen were agile, good in the water, and preferred crossbows.

The elves were intelligent, had all kinds of extraordinary spells, and excellent archery skills.

These tall and burly high-level Jackalans had nothing worth mentioning other than their close combat skills, or even more violent close combat after the shamans used the basic witchcraft.

That's right.

Even they themselves concluded that they weren't suitable for the sea.

Thus, they made a strategic decision.

Since they weren't suitable for the sea and couldn't have a powerful navy, then they would give up the hegemony of the Sea of Stars and guard the only deep-water port on the Mannheim Coast, extending their power towards the human kingdoms to the south of the Nahrin Desert. They would create their land hegemony and even conquer the human kingdoms. Then, they would take the opportunity to develop and devour the Mannheim Coast.

In the Nahrin Desert, the Jackalans who had good stamina had nothing to worry about. They could endure the heat and cold and march during the day and night to launch surprise attacks.

Therefore, they recalled the 300 most elite Jackalan pirates.

They were all experienced elite soldiers who had fought against the Lizardmen and the Elven Navy every day.

In addition, there were 1,000 elite Jackalan elite soldiers stationed in the capital, 2,000 brave Jackalan warriors, and a few shamans who had magical powers. They were enough to conquer the human kingdoms.

Of course, this colonizing army would set off in a month.

Now, the first to go was the 300 most elite Jackalan pirates.

They would seize the recorded Oasis Lookout and lead the low-level Jackalan tribe in the Nahrin Desert to establish an outpost base so that the remaining 3,000 Jackalan expeditionary soldiers would be able to set off safely.

This conquest of the human Kingdoms could not fail.

And the upper echelons of the Grey Mane Kingdom thought that even 500 weak human soldiers could not stop 50 ordinary Jackalan warriors.

Although the human soldiers also had long-range weapons such as bows and crossbows, their shooting skills were not as good as the elves. Moreover, their close combat skills were too poor, and they could not even jump into the sea to hide temporarily and waited for an opportunity to strike like the Lizardmen.

The actual examples had already shown that.

There were indeed brave men worthy of praise among the humans.

However, most of the time, when the ferocious Jackalan pirates resisted the arrows and jumped onto the deck of the human merchant ships, it meant that a massacre was about to begin.

The humans were really weak.

300 of the most elite Jackalan pirates were enough to seize the Oasis Lookout.

Perhaps, they could also order the low-level Jackalans who lived in the desert to attack first.

They didn't need the main forces of the Kingdom of Grey Mane to be there. They could easily slaughter the human countries.

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#### **Chapter 122: Trade Caravan Heading for the Pass**

Nahrin Desert, Oasis Lookout.

The sun had just begun to rise, and the darkness of the night had yet to completely fade away.

It was dawn.

Last night's banquet did not lower the soldiers' guard, they were still very vigilant.

These outstanding soldiers from Swadia, Sarradia, and Vaegir, even after drinking, did not forget their duties. On the contrary, they were worried that the enemy would launch a sneak attack, so they did not sleep deeply.

The first rays of sunlight had just appeared.

On the arrow tower, the other soldiers took over the position of the Vaegir archers who were on night duty.

On the city wall, where an attic was built, the Swadian archers holding crossbows were on alert behind the shooting window.

The 50 Vaegir archers and 50 Swadian archers were scattered on the city walls and were not in a large number, but the interior of the Drondheim fortress was only half a hectare. If there was a problem, they could mobilize troops to provide support at any time.

Although the fortress was small, it was also convenient to defend.

Outside the Council Hall.

Kant walked out, full of energy. He no longer had the tiredness he had when he had just woken up.

Walking out of the room, Kant walked quickly to the right. At the same time, he asked in a deep voice, "Is everything ready?"

"Yes," Manid was following behind him.

The two came to the sugar workshop.

The sacks of coarse salt that were piled up on the street had all disappeared.

Brand new sacks were piled on the wooden shelves beside the city wall. To ensure that the surface of these sacks was clean, two layers of linen were placed on the wooden shelves.

These new sacks were filled with fine white salt that was processed last night.

The workers worked against the clock last night to process the salt.

"Lord Kant, Lord Manid."

At the entrance of the sugar workshop, the peasant men and women who had not slept for the whole night quickly saluted.

Looking at the dark circles under their eyes, Kant knew that they had put in a lot of effort for this. Kant nodded and said, "No need to be so polite. You have been busy for the whole night. Have a good rest today."

"Thank you for your kindness." The peasant men and women bowed and left gratefully.

"Go and rest." Kant smiled and nodded.

These people did this for him. He should definitely be kind to them.

They were no longer needed for the rest of the work.

Manid reported, "Lord Kant, if there is no other situation, I would like to pack up immediately and take off with the team before noon. If I estimated correctly, we will be able to come back with full supplies by next Sunday."

“Okay, let’s do that.” Kant nodded.

It would take four days to travel from Oasis Lookout to the Stone Pass, even if they took the shortest route.

The team was made up of cavalrymen and carriages.

If it was just made up of infantrymen, it would take a longer time. It would probably be similar to the time when Kant first came to Oasis Lookout. They would have to trek through the harsh Nahrin Desert for seven days.

Time had no mercy. Kant did not have much time to waste.

Soon, the peasants moved the carriage over. It was pulled by two horses. It was the same carriage and the horse that Kant came with.

The peasant worked together.

The 20 bags of fine white salt that were piled on the wooden rack were all loaded onto the carriage.

Just beside the street, the other two carriages were also loaded with things, but they were the supplies needed for the team to cross the Nahrin Desert.

For example, fresh water and food for everyday consumption.

These could last for several days.

Ten Sarrandian Horsemen and 20 elite desert bandits were also ready.

After all, when Kant went to the Stone Pass last time, he encountered some bad things. To prevent Manid from encountering those situations again, the guards were indispensable.

Along with him were 10 Swadian recruits.

They carried hunting crossbows and wore iron-plated scale armor.

They also carried a wooden shield and a two-meter heavy spear on their backs, with a combat shovel and a quiver hanging on their waists.

They wore a linen robe on the outside.

These were the 10 peasant soldiers Kant brought to the salt mine last time. After defeating several Jackalans, they were promoted to a higher level. Moreover, they could directly join the Swadian Militia. They were suitable to lead the team to the posthouse and take over the job of receiving guests and protecting the posthouse in the future.

Very soon, the three carriages were all loaded with supplies.

The soldiers were also ready.

“Be careful at the Stone Pass.”

Outside the city gate, Kant’s expression was solemn. He told Manid, “I think you understand.”

"I understand." Manid nodded.

"Take care." Firentis also came over to bid them farewell.

"Goodbye."

Manid waved to the two of them, got on his horse, and began to set off with the team.

Six strong horses pulling the three carriages soon disappeared behind the vast dune.

Manid, as a Kant's representative, would go to the Stone Pass to trade with the lord there, Baron Dylan.

If the table salt trade was successful, the Oasis Lookout would gain an ally that could protect them through most of the storms in the future. At the same time, they would also have a sales agent for a long time, it would be a win-win situation.

Kant stood in front of the city gate.

His face was very serious. Looking at the sea of sand in front of him, he said in a deep voice, "It's up to Manid now."

"He won't let people down," Firentis comforted him.

"Yes." Kant nodded.

Manid, who came from a merchant family in the Kingdom of Nord, was a genius in the business world.

However, Kant was not anxious or worried about business. He only cared about whether there would be greater ostracism and counterattack against the historical legacy of the Stone Pass because of his identity.

After all, the two groups of people he met when he left the last time still made his heart sink.

That was a sign.

Even after being exiled to the Nahrin Desert, many people were still very unhappy to see Kant setting foot in the Dukedom of Leo.

Thus, there was a robbery.

Baron Dylan's vassal knights led a group of armed militia to rob him. They made a fool of themselves. Kant led the cavalry to kill those who overestimated themselves.

Perhaps the robbery was just an accident. They were coveting the armor of his subordinates.

But the beautiful woman they met, who was playing a damsel in distress, was definitely not that simple.

Now that they thought about it carefully, they knew that it was a conspiracy.

A conspiracy against him.

Kant frowned, turned to Firentis, and said, "Get the troops ready. We're now in a critical period before our transformation. Tell our soldiers not to relax. I don't want to see anyone dropping the ball at such a critical time."

“Don’t worry, Lord Kant.” Firentis’ expression was solemn.

“That’s it.” Kant nodded.

It was like the peace before the storm, the darkness before the dawn.

The expedition army of the Kingdom of Grey Mane.

If the Oasis Lookout could survive that, they would receive the best rewards.

For example, troops of the highest rank, a safer territory, and the hegemony of the Nahrin Desert would all be in Kant’s hand. They would become stronger on this barren land. They would build a castle so strong that it made the enemies’ hearts palpitate.

The castle would stand in this Oasis Lookout.

Kant returned to the Council Hall.

He began to plan and make arrangements for the future.

For example, there was a serious shortage of houses in the current Drondheim stronghold.

The soldiers could sleep in it the new attics on the city walls instead of in sandpits and tents.

However, there were still very few civilian buildings.

The most typical building was the Swadian-style houses, but there were only seven of them now.

“System, construct some buildings.”

Kant frowned and sat on his seat, giving the order regarding the buildings.

The system instantly showed a dialog box.

A dense list of buildings that Kant could build at the moment was in it.

However, he did not hesitate and said, “Build 43 houses.”

[ Ding... System’s notification ]

[ Each house costs 100 Denars. 43 houses will cost 4,300 Denars. ]

[ Yes/No? ]

The system gave a prompt.

“Build!”

Kant was sure about his decision.

It was costly, 4,300 Denars, a terrifying number, it was one-third of Kant’s current savings. But in reality, when 43 houses were built, it would be clear that the cost was worth it.

House could be built in seven days.

If they were all built at the same time, it meant that Kant would get 43 houses in seven days.

Including the seven houses that were existing, there would be 50 houses.

If each house could accommodate 10 people, 50 houses could fully meet the housing needs of 500 people.

This also meant that Kant could increase the number of civilians up to 500.

The background data of the house showed this property. When the number of houses in the town was larger than the number of civilians currently living there, refugees would be attracted to settle in the village, and in a short time, the number of civilians would reach the saturation point.

This was one of the reasons why Kant bought so much food.

More people meant higher food demand.

But it was not a waste of food.

The civilians were not a burden because Kant could recruit soldiers from these civilians at any time.

Class 1 troop class 1, the Swadian recruits, came from the civilians.

And when the enemies became stronger and more frenzied, causing Kant to lose his current troops, these recruits, who gained Experience Points after being in the battle for days and could be upgraded to a higher troop class, would be valuable.

As long as there were civilians, Kant's Oasis Lookout would have an endless supply of reserve troops.

Even if all the elite troops were wiped out, Kant would still have a chance to start over.

As the defender of the city, Kant wanted to gain a large number of Experience Points from the enemy's siege. It was really simple. As long as these recruits, or even the peasants, kept transporting supplies during the battle, they could be promoted to a higher level because they had gained a huge amount of Experience Points.

"And, there's also this thing," Kant's eyes narrowed when he looked at the other buildings on the building interface.

He suddenly discovered a very special building on the list of fortress' buildings.

The bell tower.