Oasis 125

Lord of the Oasis

Chapter 125: Saturday's Busy Morning

The return of Manid and the trade caravan was approaching midnight.

The twinkle stars and the majestic moon were shinning bright.

As they got closer and closer to the fortress, smiles appeared on their faces.

They were going home.

However, there was no smile on the faces of the sentries in charge of night duty in Drondheim Fortress.

Vaegirs archers, who were stationed at the top of the arrow tower, had already discovered a black dot that was rapidly approaching from the far end under the hazy night sky.

They were all experienced veterans and excellent archers who had survived the chaotic war.

They were very vigilant.

Moreover, when they came to this world, Knight Firentis had already reminded them that the Kant's Lord had many enemies. Apart from the six kingdoms from Caradia, no one could be trusted.

This was even after considering the words of the Vaegirs and Sarrandian.

What Firentis had said to the Swadian, was that no one could be trusted except Swadian.

However, these Vaegirs archers with keen eyes had already sensed that strangers were approaching.

They quickly gave the notice.

In the desert bandits' camp, ten fully armed elite desert bandits immediately came out. They led their desert horses in the stable and quickly rushed out of the east gate that was slowly opening for them.

As for the light cavalry soldiers on night duty, they would go to investigate when they received the news.

If they were friends, they would be the first to welcome them.

If they were enemies, they would use the speed of light cavalry soldiers to circle them in the desert.

They came from the Sarrand Desert and had a lot of similar experience.

10 Swadian footmen and 20 Swadian light footman had also appeared behind the city gate. If anything happened, they would took the lead to defend the city gate until reinforcements arrived.

In order to deal with the expedition army of the Kingdom of Gray Mane that could appear at any time, the Oasis Lookout had already prepared everything.

However, in a instant, their originally vigilant appearance became gentle.

The archers on the arrow towers had already received the news that the strangers were actually friends.

This was because behind the dune not far away, the 10 elite desert bandits who went to investigate were following behind those people like loyal guards. Their attitude was not only friendly, but also quite modest.

Vaegirs's archers were deep in thought.

Especially when they looked at the three carriages filled with goods, they had already understood.

This unfamiliar group that had arrived late at night was actually the trade caravan. The trade caravan set off by the time when these archers had just arrived at Drondheim fortress. The leader of the trade caravan was Manid, the renowned Nord genius merchant of the entire continent of Caradia.

The city gate made of thick and heavy wooden planks was slowly opened.

The Sarrandian footmen and light footmen stood upright on both sides. They were in high spirits and did not seem to be tired from the late night at all.

Manid rode his horse in.

Behind him were ten Sarrandian horsemen and thirty elite desert bandits.

There were also three carriages full of goods.

"Manid, Welcome back."

Having received the news, Firentis, who was sleeping, immediately got up and rushed over on his horse.

Looking at the full load of goods, as well as the fatigue on Manid's and the cavalries's faces, Firentis thoughtfully nodded and said, "Seeing you all return safely is really something to be happy about. However, I think what you all need most is to return to your own rooms and rest well."

"This is indeed what we need most.", Manid nodded with a wry smile.

From Oasis Lookout to the Stone Pass.

Then from the Stone Pass to Oasis Lookout.

They went back and forth for seven days, and it took them five days and five nights to trek through the desert alone.

Even the strongest Sarrandian horsemen were exhausted.

Not to mention that Manid, who was a businessman, was almost exhausted to the breaking point on the way back.

"I have already asked people to prepare food.", Firentis looked at his tired appearance and said, "Eat something to replenish your strength. Lord Kant means that if there is no urgent matter, then report it tomorrow."

"Thank you, Lord Kant.", Manid thanked him gratefully.

Back to the council hall.

The chefs brought the food to the long table.

The food was roasted until it was soft, and it was coated with a layer of honey. There was also meat porridge made from chopped antelope meat and wheat grains.

There was also date palm, which was like an energy bar that able to quickly replenish one's strength.

"Hurry up and eat. It's been hard on you."

Kant sat in his seat and said to Manid, who was beside the long table, "These are all easily digestible food. I will hold a banquet here alone at noon the next day to welcome your return."

"I am very touched by your kindness, Lord Kant.", Manid stood up and bowed respectfully with his hands on his chest.

"You are welcome.", Kant nodded with a smile. "Hurry up and eat."

Manid gobbled the food . His hunger made him lose his usual etiquette manner.

No matter who had gone through the arduous journey, he could still endure the temptation of food.

At least, Manid could not endure it.

Firentis walked in from outside the door and saw Manid was eating bread and meat porridge. He smiled. The two of them had known each other for a long time, but they had never seen this arrogant and educated Nord genius merchant, swallowed his food without any table manners.

This was the first time.

Firentis smiled. He understood that his friend was really tired and hungry.

Instead of mocking him, he reported to Kant with a straight face, "Lord, the cavalries' food and beds are ready. They have been excluded from the patrol duty tomorrow morning. I gave them a day off."

"They deserved it.", Kant nodded.

Manid ate quickly.

There was not much honey bread in the supper prepared by the kitchen.

On the contrary, the meat porridge was boiled to the brim, allowing Manid to eat three bowls in a row.

The cooked wheat grains, together with the chopped antelope meat, mixed with cabbage and flour, made the meat porridge very sticky, and it was quite easy to digest. It was the best choice for travelers that returned from a long journey.

The cavalries outside also ate the same thing.

After drinking the meat porridge, their body had warmed up, dispelling the cold of the night.

He finished his supper.

Manid's stomach was slightly bloated.

If he did not knew that it was not good to eat too much after a long journey, Manid would have ordered three more bowls of meat porridge.

"Rest."

Kant saw that he finished eating, so he nodded and said, "Let's have lunch together tomorrow at noon."

"It's my honor.", Manid and Firentis nodded respectfully.

This was, of course, Kant's arrangement for the two of them.

It was late at night after all. Manid had rushed all the way back, so his mental and physical strength had long been exhausted.

He would rest well first, and when he reported tomorrow, he would be full of energy. Instead, he would not miss any details.

Kant returned to his room on the third floor.

Firentis and Manid's room was on the second floor.

The silence of the night was restored outside the council hall. Other than the sentries on night duty and the two teams of light footmen patrolling in the fortress, the entire Drondheim fortress was extremely quiet.

The night was getting darker and it was already completely late at night.

The snoring could be heard from the residential area and the city wall.

Everyone was sleeping very soundly.

Time passed.

The sentry on the arrow tower was also replaced twice until the darkest hour of the night. The eastern horizon was showing a bit of light.

The sky was about to brighten.

At the wheat field on the north side of the city wall, there were some noises coming from five chicken coops.

The sand grouse seemed to have sensed something.

When a ray of light pierced through the dawn, almost in no particular order, five male sand grouse with crowns appeared on the roof. They flapped their wings, stretched their strong bodies, raised their necks, and chirped like domestic chickens.

"Cluck, Cluck, Cluck..."

The rooster announced the dawn.

That ray of light finally pierced through the thick darkness and brought the message of dawn.

The sky quickly brightened up in the shortest time possible.

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"Dong — Dong — Dong —"
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The bronze bell was rung, ringing a melodious and long chime.

The bell tower, which was about to be completed, had finished installing the bronze bell yesterday. It was rung by the construction workers who woke up in the morning. This long chime followed the sound of the rooster, ringing the arrival of a new day.

In the residential area, the peasant and peasant women opened the doors and windows.

The sound of washing could be heard.

Soon, they were all in high spirits and walked out with clean faces.

The busy and fulfilling day had begun again.

The archers who had woken up walked out of the attic that had been reinforced by the city wall.

The attics that surrounded the city wall had basically become the places where the archers slept at night. They were wrapped in thick woolen blankets and covered with linen mats. Even the cold of the night could not do anything to them.

If the enemy invaded, they could also set up a defensive line at the fastest speed.

Of course.

The footmen and cavalries still slept in tents and sand pits.

The three-meter wide city wall was not enough to let too many soldiers sleep on it. If they really squeezed into these attics, they would probably get in the way and cause some trouble when the enemies invaded.

For safety reasons, it did not matter much if they temporarily slept in the sandpit before the military camp was built.

They were as busy as usual.

The soldiers patrolled, went out to scout, or trained their martial arts skills on the training ground.

The peasants continued to take care of the wheat fields and the date palm jungle.

They also fed the sand grouses with grain to make these little cuties lay eggs as soon as possible.

Because just a few days ago, the farmers had discovered that the 50 grouses produced more than 50 eggs a day just like domesticated chickens . With enough grain to feed them, sometimes even more than 60 eggs.

It was really as economic as the chickens.

It was like the grouses were a mixture of domestic chicken and sand grouse, inheriting all the advantages of both sides.

Smoke rose in spirals.

The kitchen was preparing breakfast for everyone.

Large amounts of bread and flour, as well as antelope meat, heaps of dried sausage and dried meat, were gathered together.

Food for nearly 600 people was not easy to make.

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Chapter 126: The Idea of Forming A Camel Caravan

As the smoke rose in the kitchen, the aroma of food began to permeate the air.

The ingredients that had been prepared last night were all processed in the kitchen. The peasant women were more meticulous as they were as strong as the male peasants. In terms of taste and texture, they were much better than before.

The entire Oasis Lookout welcomed this warmly.

No one would refuse them.

For example, the bread and dried meat that they usually ate the most could became a favorite delicacy by the hands of these peasant women.

The bread was sliced and roasted on a small fire until both sides turned golden yellow.

The dried meat was torn into strips and roasted until it dripped with oil and had a slightly charred fragrance.

After eating this delicious breakfast, there was no problem for them to last until noon. This was especially so for the light cavalries who went out to patrol the dune. Every time, they would bring a few more pieces of bread and dried meat. If they missed lunch, they could made do a small meal in the desert.

This included the new inventions of the last two days.

The wheat grains became extremely soft after being boiled. Date palm and sugar cubes were added.

20 eggs were added to form a thin and long egg flower. Finally, flour and water were added to thicken the soup.

Sweet egg flower oatmeal.

It had only been launched for two days, but this slightly sweet oatmeal was already popular among everyone.

There was even a unique way to eat it.

The brown and crispy bread was coated with a layer of oatmeal. With a bite, the slightly soft sweetness and sticky taste mixed with the crispy taste of the bread filled up the mouth, allowing the tongue to absorb the sweetness and charred aroma. Then, there were the roasted and greased salted dried meat. The feeling was too wonderful.

Even if he was used to eating the expensive dishes in the Castle of Leo, Kant still gave this sweet egg flower oatmeal a good review.

Of course..

As a Lord, Kant's meals were even more sumptuous.

This was one of the privileges of being a lord and a superior. People from the continent of Caradia, who had a strong principle of class and hierarchy, should feel that this was normal.

As a superior and a person vested interests.

Kant certainly would not mind about it.

With 10 Swadian footmen, Kant made a routine inspection of his "Drondheim" fortress.

This was his morning job.

But this routine was indeed a routine. Usually, it was just patrolling around the fortress. The civilians and soldiers who came to this world were usually very serious, they had the spirit of a pioneer, and did not slack off at all.

Even the workers of the construction team were quite conscientious.

At least, Kant had never seen his subjects being lazy in the slightest.

The soldiers did not relaxed at all.

"This is very good.", Kant made a round of inspection and nodded in satisfaction as usual.

Back in the council hall.

He found that Manid was already waiting in the hall.

When he saw Kant coming over, he immediately bowed and said solemnly, "Lord Kant, I have successfully completed my mission and returned. I have also bought a large number of tools, some grain, and fur products to block the coldness at night."

"Yes.", Kant nodded and said with a relieved tone, "I can rest assured when you do things."

Manid bowed respectfully again. "Thank you for your trust."

Kant came to his seat, Manid reported, "This time, I went to the Stone Pass, Baron Dylan was still the same. Fortunately, the salt trade was very smooth. We obtained a profit of 1,000 great silver coins from 20 bags of table salt. At the same time, I used 100 great silver coins to purchase 500 iron farm tools and two whole carts of wheat."

"We won't be short of farm tools for the time being. Well done."

Kant nodded in satisfaction.

When the peasants unloaded the goods from the carriage this morning, he had already seen bundles of farm tools, including hoes, shovels, forks, and logging axes. They were all made of iron, and their prices were much higher in the iron-deficient northern county.

However, it was useful in the Oasis Lookout. After all, most of the peasants were refugees, and they did not brought too many things with them when they fled.

Manid continued to describe what he had seen and heard when he went to the Stone Pass.

Kant also interrupted and asked, "I didn't see any arrows or crossbows in the carriage." After a pause, Kant narrowed his eyes slightly and said in a mocking tone, "Could it be that my uncle Dylan did not agree to the small request that I mentioned to him in the letter?"

"Yes, he rejected the idea of purchasing a large number of arrows and crossbows."

Manid shrugged and said, "In fact, the purchasing process of these farm tools is a little difficult. This baron is very tricky. If I didn't give the merchant who provided the farm tools 10 great silver coins as a rebate, it would be impossible to buy so many farm tools. After all, as you know, if you melt these farm tools, they can be completely forged into weapons."

"Just like the low-quality goods used by the conscripted peasant at the Stone Pass?", Kant could not help but sneer. "You must be joking."

Kant was backed by the continent of Caradia.

With the entire level up system of the Kingdom of Swadia, as well as the support of the other four countries.

Would Kant need these low-quality weapons?

Impossible!

However, Kant was very clear about what this Baron Dylan was planning. He was simply afraid that after the Oasis Lookout obtained so many farm tools, they would be smelted into weapons, which might affect his plans in the future.

Kant's proposal to purchase a large number of arrows and crossbows was probably rejected because of this reason.

"But I think that perhaps we can purchase these materials in the future."

Manid shrugged, but his tone was calm. "At the moment, both side don't have the least bit of trust."

"Trust?", Kant's lips curled slightly. "With those guys, this thing never existed."

"But it has to be.", Manid added.

Manid shook his head and continued, "Profits are the best foundation to ensure trust. When we let this Baron Dylan rely more and more on the profits brought by the table salt trade, trust was born."

Kant shook his head and chuckled. "At that time, it's probably his time to make a move on us."

This was the truth, and it was also in line with the thought of Baron Dylan.

Towards this, he and Manid could not help but laugh.

If they really attacked, then this Baron Dylan would understand how weak an army without logistic supplies was in the Nahrin Desert. In just a few days, they would be defeated into a pile of sand, the most common sand in the desert.

The seven-meter-high city wall and about 600 soldiers and civilians.

It was as easy as flipping one's hand to defend this fortress.

Humans were not Jackalan who could resist hunger, thirst, and heat. The conquest of the Oasis Lookout by the Dukedom of Leo 10 years ago had proved this point. If they really wanted to forcefully attack, a 2,000-man army without tens of thousands of logistical supplies. They even couldn't defeated the messily-charging low-level Jackalan with no weapons and armors,

The harsh natural environment made the Dukedom of Leo not be able to maintain the conquest for too long.

In less than a month, they retreated from the Oasis Lookout and left the Nahrin Desert. Instead, they conferred the Stone Pass, which was then the logistics center, to Dylan and promoted him to a Baron, who was in charge of guarding this important pass.

"Take a break for a while."

Kant arranged for Manid, "Go to the Stone Pass at the end of the month. I will ask you to bring more fine white salt. After all, there are only 20 bags. Even the noble and knights in the northern county can't satisfy with it."

Manid nodded, "Understood.". However, he still suggested to Kant, "Lord, we have to increase the scale of the trade. Especially at the moment, our three carriages are not enough to transport too many goods. Although the profit of this trade is big enough, it is still too little for us to buy some goods."

"This problem.", Kant frowned and ordered his most trusted merchant, "You are in charge of handling it. Buy a carriage and a horse carriage. As long as you can transport the purchased goods back, it will be fine."

"Okay.", Manid nodded.

However, Kant thought for a moment. He obviously understood that relying on a carriage and horse carriage alone was not the best solution.

The soft desert was not suitable for this kind of plain carrier.

When Kant and the carriage came to the Oasis Lookout, they encountered some dune that were difficult to pass through. They had to let the peasants push the wooden wheel. Otherwise, the soft desert would not be able to bear the force and the carriage would tremble, they would not be able to pull the carriage that was full of goods.

The best solution, of course, was to form a camel caravan.

The history of Earth had proved that a camel caravan formed by single humped camels was completely capable of serving as a carriage to cross the desert.

However, Kant only had 10 single-humped camels.

Compared to the size of a camel city formed by hundreds of camels, or even thousands of camels, it was pitifully small. This was also the reason why Kant did not use these 10 camels as a trade vehicle.

The cargo that 10 camels could carry was too little.

Compared to the horse carriage, this was the disadvantage of camel caravan.

"Stabilize the Oasis Lookout first."

Kant shook his head and did not continue thinking about this problem.

There was no single-humped camel in this world. Kant had never seen a creature similar to a camel in the books or travel stories of this world.

This meant that there was no way to build a camel team apart from relying on the system.

But if he had the chance, Kant would definitely build a camel caravan.

With this camel caravan, perhaps it wouldn't be too much of a problem to pass through the cruel devil's land that the Jackalan had mentioned. As for the Mannheim Coast, which could only be reached after a 30-day journey, he would also have the chance to extend his force there.

Kant's eyes flashed with a cold light. "The most crucial thing is the Jackalan in the Kingdom of Gray Mane."

Victory would grant him a new qualification.

That was to step into a new world, the world north of the Nahrin Desert!