

Oasis 75

[Lord of the Oasis](#)

Chapter 75: Requirements to Level Up

The needlegrass meadow was quite lush.

The entire west side of the lake had been occupied by the stubborn vegetation that grows on the sandy land.

There were even quite a number gazelles that were on their own. They looked like they had stumbled upon a whole new world when they saw the grass between the dune in the distance. In a split second, they burrowed into the needlegrass meadow and disappeared within the acre of land.

It was obvious that these sand gazelles, in a panic and not knowing where to go, treated the needlegrass like a meadow within which they could hide from hunters.

“They’re so foolish it’s adorable.”

Kant shook his head and smiled helplessly at these little cuties.

If they were really treating the acre of needlegrass as a hideout that could save their lives, then they were like sheep walking towards a tiger, pointlessly offering up their tiny bodies for burial within.

But as Kant thought of this, an idea flashed through his mind.

He turned his head to look at Ma Nide and asked, “Can we tame them?”

“The sand gazelles?” Ma Nide’s tone reflected his doubt.

“Yes. They look tameable.” Kant nodded.

Ma Nide hesitated, but he still shrugged and said, “My lord, although sand gazelles are indeed tameable, there is little value to taming them. Why don’t we just buy some sheep or goats to raise? The wool, sheepskin, mutton, and goat milk produced, they’re all much better than what we’ll get by simply taming these sand gazelles for food.”

“Is that so?” Kant paused and smiled ruefully.

Ma Nide was right.

Sand gazelles were wild animals. Aside from the fact that they were difficult to domesticate, the value of domesticated gazelles on their own was not much.

This kind of gazelle that lived at the edge of the desert was not as valuable as goats and sheep. One could not gather wool from it, and it could not be milked to make cheese. Unless it was killed for meat or for its hide, either of which would be of a little value.

In short, they made for good prey, and there was no need to tame it.

“It’s a new week, let’s get moving.”

Kant clapped his hands and signaled for the soldiers gathered at the street corner to disperse.

But as he looked at the sand gazelles that they had brought over and piled up beside where they stored their spices, Kant still instructed, "Skin them. We'll feast on the fresh meat today, and if we can't, then we'll let it dry into air-dried meat."

"Yes, my Lord." The soldiers behind nodded.

The soldiers surrounding the street dispersed and continued with their own matters, allowing Drondheim to resume its work.

At the dune, another batch of sand gazelles arrived.

However, it was a relatively small batch this time. There were only about 500 of them, which could be considered a small herd of gazelles.

Kant did not order the hunt either.

Right now, Drondheim had no lack of food. In total, there were only about 100 people. Even if there was an unlimited supply of food, they could eat until they were full every meal. The bread, dried meat, flour, and other reserve foods that they currently had could feed them for a month.

Moreover, at the end of every month, there would be new sand gazelles arriving.

Kant did the math. "If this is how it is, then we should get around to forming a trade caravan as soon as possible."

Forming a trade caravan was one of Kant's current strategic goals.

It was obviously irrational to spend precious Denar and rely on system merchants to purchase certain materials.

After all, relying on a country like the Dukedom of Leo that was rich in resources was better. Some of the higher-priced food and tools sold by system merchants, for example, were extremely cheap in the markets of the Dukedom of Leo.

Here was the most typical example of all.

The system merchants sold tools, such as axes and hoes, for a total of 100 Denar.

This amount of money was almost on par with how much it cost for a Swadian Knight to level up, which was 120 Denar. One would only have to think about it briefly to realize that this was not cost-effective at all, and that it was better to spend a few silver coins to buy a dozen or so tools.

As for a precious trade item like table salt, there was no issue in exchanging one bag of it for hundreds of tools.

Kant was thinking.

The system dialog box appeared on his retina.

Ding! A new week has begun, following the sunrise.

Income: You have collected 0 Denar(s) worth of taxes in Drondheim (village).

Expenditure: You have paid 2,186 Denar(s) of wages to the entire army.

Summary of finances: Currently, there are no civilian, merchant, or factory taxes imposed in Drondheim. There is no income. The main expenditures were: 369 Swadian footmen, 1472 Swadian heavy cavalry, 145 Denar for Sarrandian Horsemen, 100 Denar for Firentis, and 100 Denar for Ma Nide.

This was the financial report that appeared early Monday morning.

Kant glanced at the numbers on it and his expression was calm.

He had long been mentally prepared for this.

Drondheim was currently relying solely on the help of the system, and this was how they had been able to hold on until now.

Moreover, the population had all been converted into soldiers for combat. The overall development model was also based on military priorities. If one wanted to build factories and carry out commercial activities, at the very least, they would have to wait for Drondheim to develop further.

Just like now, Drondheim could continue to level up.

“Remember, I still have a level up card.”

Kant did the math.

This was the reward from the mission that he had obtained after helping the system absorb the strange items.

Looking at the Golden Card floating in his mind, Kant’s mind contact system silently said, “Use.”

Ding! System prompt.

Unable to raise the level of the village. Please construct all buildings needed for the village to level up in time. The village can only level-up after construction is complete. Remark: Please base your consideration of the number of houses to be built upon the subsequent upgrade.

The system spat out a dialog box.

The golden card in his mind did not disappear. On the contrary, it was still floating in Kant’s mind.

Looking at the introduction, Kant frowned. “Build all the buildings needed for the village to level-up?”

As Kant let himself think, a dialog box appeared on his retina again. It was the existing buildings in Drondheim, as well as the buildings that had yet been built and the construction pack.

Constructions available: Council Hall, House (6 buildings), Watchtower, Desert Bandits’ camp, grocery store, sugar mill, training ground.

Constructions available: House, City Wall, Mill, Well.

Construction Pack: Posthouse, Stone City Wall.

Kant understood.

“City wall, mill, and well?”

He spoke softly, but his brows were slightly furrowed.

The reason why he did not build these three buildings was that they were currently useless in Drondheim. Even if they were built, it would only be a waste of time and Denar.

An introduction of the building popped up on his retina.

Mill: Agricultural Building. It can be divided into wind and hydraulic power. It can grind barley and other grains to produce flour. Construction takes 14 days, at a cost of 200 Denar.

City Wall: Military Building. Stones are piled up into half a meter and then surround the village. The purpose is to prevent poultry from running into the wild, not to defend against the enemy. Construction takes seven days, at a cost of 100 Denar.

Well: A civilian building built by digging the ground. There needs to be a water vein underground, otherwise the dug well will not produce water. Construction takes seven days, at a cost of 100 Denar.

Kant was still helpless.

His wheat field had not been harvested yet, so it was useless to build a mill so early.

The half-meter-high city wall could only stop the livestock from running into the wild.

As for the well..

Kant currently had spring water and lake water. This thing was practically useless, and he would only be wasting his energy if he constructed it.

Were they a village situated amidst the area ravaged by the tribe of Jackalans, Kant might have been able to build a well. But in the Oasis Lookout, one would have to be exceedingly naive to build a well in an area with abundant water.

“Hang on...” But Kant was slightly stunned.

His mind was wandering as he looked at the posthouse of the construction pack. He suddenly had a bold idea.

The posthouse was the transit station between the Oasis Lookout and the Senwaya Range.

If the table salt trade started, Kant planned to build a posthouse midway and arrange for some soldiers and peasant to be stationed there to provide some services for the trade caravan between the two places.

This included fresh water and accommodation.

Kant’s previous idea was to use a water sack to transport the water, but now it seemed that it did not need to be so troublesome.

“System, build a posthouse. Can we build a well next to it?”

Kant’s thought communication system inquired.

“Yes.” The system’s answer was still straightforward. “As long as there is a water vein underground, we can build a well.”

“Okay.”

Kant nodded his head lightly, his eyes twinkling.

If that was the case, then the well was not that useless. If it was well-matched with the posthouse, it could definitely become the next village gathering point. It was also, to a certain extent, Kant’s bridgehead to the Dukedom of Leo, an observation outpost.

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Chapter 76: Preparation Before Leaving

In order to bring the village to a higher level, Kant would not hesitate.

At present, only three more buildings were needed for the system upgrade. They could be built with only 400 Denars. It was not expensive, but Kant was worried about the construction time.

The construction of the mill required 200 Denars and took 14 days.

The construction of the city wall required 100 Denars and took 7 days.

The construction of the well required 100 Denars and took 7 days.

if his calculation was right, 28 days would be wasted, and that's almost a month.

Although it was much faster than real construction, Kant could not wait.

Kant intended to put the table salt trade, which could bring huge profit, on the agenda before the end of the last week of this month. It would be best if the candidate for the sales agent could be confirmed so that the trade could start directly.

The other trade between the Oasis Lookout and the Lion Kingdom would also be opened after the table salt trade.

This had a huge impact on development.

That was why Kant was not happy about the 28 days, and he wouldn't allow it.

"System, is there any way to quickly build a building? "

Kant's thought contacted the system.

If he did not understand anything, he would just ask. The system would give the most reasonable explanation for this kind of question regarding the system.

Soon, the system replied.

"100 reputation points can reduce construction time by one day. "

The system also offered another method, "Many buildings can be built at the same time. For each additional building, an additional 100 Denars will be charged as the cost of labor. "

"Huh? " Kant was stunned.

Of course, he knew the method of using reputation points to build.

Wasting the hard-earned reputation points to reduce the construction time was obviously not cost-effective at all. After all, he had worked so hard, but his reputation points were only a little over a thousand now, and that was only enough to reduce the construction time by ten days.

What he found heart-stirring was the second method given by the system.

"Construct more buildings at the same time. "

Kant muttered to himself, "So, for every additional building, an additional 100 Denars of labor cost is charged? "

"That's right, " the system quickly replied.

"Oh. " Kant raised his eyebrows.

The corners of his mouth curled up into a smile as he scanned how much Denars he had in his mind. His heart swelled with pride, "It's no big deal! "

Reward: 10,000 Denars for completing the Main Quest.

Reward: 5,000 Denars for completing the Special Quest.

In addition to the 1,000 Denars he previously had, Kant's savings had soared to 16,000 Denars.

Even though he had spent 2,186 Denars on military expenses this morning, he still had 10,000 plus Denars left.

Three buildings with an additional 100 Denars?

That'd only cost 700 Denars in total. It was really a piece of cake!

"Build the buildings. "

Kant communicated with the system in his mind. At the same time, he set up the mill at the empty desert on the east side of the spring water.

The mill was useless at the moment, but it could be used as a warehouse.

Once there was a good harvest of barley, and when Kant also bought all kinds of grains from the Lion Kingdom, the mill could be put into use. The empty desert in the surroundings could be used as an open-air warehouse temporarily, killing two birds with one stone.

Kant thought about the city wall carefully.

Although this half-meter-tall building was defined as military construction, it had no use to Kant at the moment.

They were in the Nahrin Desert.

It was not an area that had lots of natural resources or a forest with a complicated environment.

There were no ferocious carnivores.

There were no thieves or burglars.

Most importantly, Kant did not have much livestock.

The warhorses had already recognized their owner and would only stay close to the Swadian cavalry. Even if their owner died on the battlefield, they would not leave the battlefield too far without anyone controlling them.

"But... This would work."

Shaking his head helplessly, Kant discovered the function of the city wall.

Through the communication system in his mind, Kant confirmed to start the construction of the city wall, "Build the city wall around the 7.5 acres of barley fields and the 2 acres of date palm jungle. I don't want those desert gazelle that would appear nearby at any time to enter. "

[Building the mill costs 200 Denars. It will take 14 days.]

[Construction of the city wall costs 100 Denars. It will take 7 days.]

[Due to the simultaneous construction of multiple buildings, you will need to pay an additional 200 Denars.]

Dialog boxes appeared on Kant's retina.

"Confirmed. "

Kant frowned but did not mind.

He looked at the construction time for the mill. 14 days were equal to two weeks. The construction time made him hesitate for a moment, but he still made up his mind and said, "I will spend 700 reputation points to reduce the construction time of the mill by 7 days. "

[Ding... System's notification]

[You have used 700 reputation points. The mill's construction time has been reduced by 7 days.]

He needed all the buildings to be completed by the end of this week.

It was time to bring the village to the next level.

Kant speculated that after the village being leveled up, two choices would appear.

One was a military "Fortress", and the subsequent level up in the game would be "Castle".

The second one was "Town" the represented economy, and the next level up in the game was "City".

Of course, Kant would choose to build Drondheim according to the castle interface.

If he didn't have sufficient military force and defense capability, he wouldn't be able to keep a foothold in this area. No matter how prosperous Kant's city was, it would only benefit other parties in the end.

Power came from the barrel of a gun.

Kant would not forget this saying and did not dare to be careless.

At this moment, a large number of construction workers appeared behind the dune. There were 200 of them in total. Besides, 10 carriages that accompanied them were filled with various construction materials.

They were heading toward the Oasis Lookout.

The leader of the caravan was the construction coordinator who had left after building the house in seven days.

Now the chubby coordinator was all smiles. He thought that nothing would go wrong sucking up to the Lord. It had not been long since he left, and now there were already new orders and missions for him. It really made him happy.

Especially when he thought that he could make a fortune this time, happiness was written all over his face.

Kant also noticed them.

He walked over and chatted with the construction coordinator. Since they were all acquaintances, he did not ask too many questions.

These construction workers' craftsmanship had left a good impression on Kant.

Now, other important matters were waiting for him to deal with.

For example, the table salt trade, and the construction of the posthouse and well.

"Go and tell Manid and Firentis to see me. "

Returning to the Council Hall, Kant casually ordered.

"Yes, sir. " A member of the heavy Swadian cavalry, who was in charge of standing guard, immediately responded and left quickly to search for the two targets.

Soon, the two arrived at the Council Hall.

"My Lord."

Manid and Firentis respectfully placed their hands on their chests and saluted.

"Have a seat." Kant gestured and went straight to the point. He said, "Now that the development of the Oasis Lookout has basically come to an end, I plan to go to the Lion Kingdom. Manid, you will go with me. Firentis, you will stay behind and be in charge of guarding this place."

"Yes, my Lord. " Firentis immediately nodded.

However, Manid frowned and asked Kant, "My Lord, isn't this too impatient? After all, we haven't started producing table salt yet. At the very least, we have to do a background check on the candidates for sales agents. "

"Candidates? "

Kant's lip quirked upwards in one corner. After living in the Lion Kingdom for 16 years, he was not completely ignorant.

Letting out a breath, he looked at Manid casually and said, "I have a candidate in mind. As long as you can make him understand what profit means and persuade him to work closely with us. "

"I will do as you say, my Lord. " Manid nodded.

"Very good. " Kant smiled.

The Senwaya Range, which separated the Nahrin Desert from the Lion Kingdom, was not completely impassable. There was a gap in it. It was the passage that the Jackalan tribes in the desert used to enter the Lion Kingdom. It was also the only passage that connected the two places.

Now, of course, the Lion Kingdom had built a fortress to defend the gap in the mountain range.

The Stone Pass.

The name meant that the fortress was as solid as stones, firmly guarding the pass.

It had not been built for long, its construction started 10 years ago to defend against the Jackalan. Its function was just like its name, guarding the passage like a solid stone. Even the Jackalan tribes that were scattered on the Senwaya Range could not casually pass through the gap in the mountain range to travel between the Nahrin Desert and the Lion Kingdom's mountain range like they used to.

However, Kant knew better that the baron who was responsible for guarding this pass was also a little short on cash...