

Perish 221

Chapter 221: Conquering Two Fortresses in a Row

Cabdes felt a bit uneasy. Now, he only hoped that the warriors in the village had seen the banners they raised, heard the blaring horns, understood their arrival, and started preparing...

The village walls were already empty. Wallis must have gathered all the warriors in the village, ready to launch an attack at any moment... Cabdes stared forward, his confidence surging again: when it comes to battle, Wallis is indeed reliable!

When the two sides were less than 100 meters apart, "Woo!... Woo!... Woo!..." The sharp sound of copper horns suddenly echoed. The enemies standing still ahead roared in unison and charged toward Cabdes's side, their momentum as imposing as a mountain collapse he'd once witnessed.

"Blow the attack horn! Let the men charge!" Cabdes shouted urgently.

Before the horn could blow, the front-line Pannonian heavy warriors clad in armor had already started their charge, driving the light infantry behind them forward...

The soldiers on both sides slammed into each other with ferocity while running at high speed.

"Leader, quick! Look behind us!" A guard's terrified voice made Cabdes, who had been watching the battle intently, turn around to see a chilling sight: hundreds of fully armed enemy soldiers burst out from the forest by the riverbend side, gathering near the riverside behind his troops...

I've fallen into an ambush! Cabdes's heart sank to the depths. If not for a guard supporting him in time, his dazed state might have caused him to fall off his horse.

"Blow... blow the attack horn again!" His face pale, he gripped the reins tightly with both hands, his wide-open eyes staring through the battling soldiers of both sides toward the village ahead. His only hope was for Wallis to lead the army out quickly and crush the enemies in front!

However, the village gate remained tightly closed, while the enemies behind had already formed their ranks and were rapidly advancing toward them.

"Leader, you must flee! If we don't, we'll be surrounded!" The Guard Captain urgently reminded him, "If you are... trapped here, what will happen to our tribe?"

After a year of tranquil living, Cabdes was swayed: Indeed, I still have a tribe to protect! I must return quickly!... This is Wallis's fault! That damn man is hiding in the village, leaving my people surrounded by the enemy!...

Clenching his teeth, Cabdes turned his horse around, glancing back one last time before departing—the village gate remained tightly closed...

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"Leader, we've killed or injured over 500 enemies, captured around 1,500, with only a few managing to escape—this is a great victory!" Camillus excitedly reported the results after counting the battlefield to Maximus.

"What are our casualties?" Maximus asked calmly.

"36 dead, 120 wounded." Camillus's tone lowered slightly.

Maximus knew that this time, the casualties were higher than the last battle because the troops launched the offensive first and couldn't maintain a tightly defensive formation. Coupled with the enemy's counter-charge, the initial melee led to a surge in casualties.

But to prevent the enemy from getting closer to the village, discovering anything unusual, and retreating, initiating the charge was necessary. It allowed them to quickly engage the enemy, making it impossible for them to escape. The subsequent battles confirmed this strategy—as the ambush forces struck from the rear, the enemy leader abandoned his troops and fled first. This two-sided attack caused the enemy's morale to collapse rapidly, resulting in fewer casualties and more prisoners.

Maximus, without dwelling much on the casualties, asked, "Has Oluus gone to pursue the fleeing soldiers?"

"Yes, he took 3,000 men to chase the escaping enemies, hoping to seize the opportunity to capture their village just as we did here."

"Let's hope so." Maximus sounded uncertain. Earlier, from the wall, he'd noticed a few of the fleeing enemy soldiers riding horses. If they returned to their village early, alerting them to prepare defenses, the pursuers' plan of overtaking the village via scattered enemies might become unfeasible.

At that moment, Pequot walked over with a grim expression: "Leader, I interrogated several prisoners. They said there are still 800 warriors remaining in the village."

Noticing Pequot's blood-stained hands, Maximus didn't ask him how he conducted the interrogation. Instead, raising his head to observe the sky, he commented with some disappointment, "It seems we won't have much time to attack the next village if this is true. Let's hope there's still time today—"

Suddenly realizing something, Maximus asked, "By the way, did you directly question the prisoners? Could you understand their words?"

"Their speech is somewhat strange, but by listening carefully, I could understand most of it," replied Pequot.

It seemed the word of the Aldean Great Chief might be correct—the Pannonians could indeed be an offshoot of the Illyrians. This was good news!... Maximus's spirits lifted; scanning the surroundings, he asked, "Where is Quintus?"

"He went over there," Akegu pointed toward the nearby village.

When Maximus found Quintus, he was standing by the wooden wall, sometimes digging into the wood with his hands, sometimes kicking the wooden wall, sometimes inserting his fingers into the gaps between the planks.

"What are you doing?" Maximus asked curiously.

"I'm studying the wooden walls built by the Pannonians." Quintus patted the wooden wall, speaking with some disdain, "What they've made here is far too simple! The gaps between the wood are too large; the base isn't dug deep enough into the soil. Some of the wood is already rotting inside, yet they haven't replaced it promptly. What's more, some parts—who knows if it's out of laziness—only have a single row of planks..."

Chapter 222: Consecutive Breakdown of 2 Forts_2

Maximus patiently listened to his criticism of the wooden wall of the Pannonian village and asked, "So?"

"And there's no moat dug in front of the wooden wall. If the village over there is like this, it can be easily breached. When I was campaigning with General Sula in the province of Little Asia, I once saw barbarians use a simple method to breach hastily built wooden camps of the enemy..."

As expected, this old man had long realized the next village would be difficult to capture and was pondering the method to breach Segestica Village alone here... Maximus asked in as calm a tone as possible, "What should be done?"

"Find some sturdy ropes, then a few robust long logs, and more importantly, select a few strong bulls... These are all available in the villages. In theory, horses would also work and can arrive at the village quickly, but unfortunately, when I walked around inside, I didn't see any horses." Quintus showed confusion: "This is very strange! Even if the Pannonians used to be Illyrians and disliked raising horses, they should have developed the habit after being enslaved by the Scodisqi people from Gaul for so long."

"This matter can wait until after the next village is captured; we can then ask the captives." After Maximus said this, he immediately arranged for Pequot to prepare these things and also selected a dozen soldiers from those left behind who used to feed cattle and sheep for the nobles.

Soon, Maximus, with the Guard in tow, herded eight bulls, marching east along the river.

When they arrived at the village, they found the forces commanded by Oluus indeed faced obstacles attacking the village.

Maximus followed Quintus' suggestion, distributing many long spears they had seized and brought to each Centurion, then had the Centurions form a turtle formation, approaching under the village wall and throwing spears inside to force the enemy away from the walls...

Then, he sent a team of soldiers to throw the logs, secured at both ends with ropes, across the village wall. The other end of the ropes was tied to the bulls. With short swords, the soldiers stabbed the bulls' hindquarters, causing them to charge and pull the logs lodged between the wooden village walls. Unable to withstand the bulls' immense strength, the logs either broke or were pulled down, and the rebel army soldiers, long prepared, surged through the opening...

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Two great victories in a row, capturing two villages, and the newly formed Nix Tribe created a radiant achievement in one day.

At this moment, though, Maximus had no time to savor the wine of victory. He had to arrange for the soldiers who captured the village and the personnel of the Supply Team arriving later to transfer all the supplies and captured population in the village to the first captured village before nightfall.

Grain, smoked meat, smoked fish... these foods were the priority transport targets. The Supply Camp personnel brought over a dozen carriages from the temporary camp, but since they also had to transport the supplies from the first village simultaneously, it was not enough.

Fortunately, the village was not short of carriages, as Cabdes often had to transport supplies to support the Wallis Tribe and help continue the assault on the Aldeans. Although the village lacked horses, it had many oxen and donkeys, whose wagons' craftsmanship was not inferior to those brought by the rebel army from Italy. After all, the Gauls were famous in the Mediterranean for their cart-making skills, and even the Romans' direction carriages came from learning from them. The Pannonians lived with the Scodisqi people for decades and naturally learned these skills.

Maximus also discovered a simple dock in the village, with four spindle-shaped flat-bottomed single-masted boats that could accommodate seven or eight people. They were unsuitable for transporting soldiers but could carry supplies. Many sailors from Campania and Sarabia were among the rebel army, capable of steering ships on the high seas against winds and waves, so handling a few small boats to transport supplies on the calm Kupa River was a breeze.

At the same time, Maximus felt puzzled: since this village had a dock and boats, why didn't the village to the west have them? Otherwise, some Pannonians could have completely escaped by boat when they surrounded and captured that village, floating downstream to arrive here, and then the people here wouldn't have gone to aid, reducing today's achievements by at least half.

Later, Maximus learned that the Pannonians indeed could build ships and river ports, but that was on the Sava and Delaware Rivers. The invasion of the Segestica Tribe into the midstream plains of the Kupa River happened only four or five years ago. This village's tribe only settled down at the beginning of the last year, beginning to build a dock, but the timber for shipbuilding needed to dry for at least a year. The tribal leader couldn't wait that long and instead traded for boats from the neighboring eastern Segestica Tribe. The western Pannonian tribe built its village later and had been busy fighting the Aldeans, so they hadn't had the time to build docks or make boats...

Maximus was therefore thankful.

The next priority for the rebel army was to transport livestock and poultry: cattle, sheep, donkeys, pigs, chickens, ducks, and geese. The livestock and poultry were abundant and varied, as the land here was fertile, grain plentiful, fish and shrimp abundant in the Kupa River, and lush forests nearby, enabling the Segestica people to sustain more livestock and poultry to provide themselves with eggs, milk, and a variety of food.

Next, they took various tools and materials: iron tools, furs, cloth, timber... Maximus found the Segestica people's iron plows for farming and long-handled sickles for cutting crops, showing their level of agricultural farming was not minor.

He also discovered a complete set of iron processing tools for leather making used by the Segestica people, including scissors, rubbing sticks, leather punching pliers, cutting knives, awls, and thimbles... crafted delicately, showing their metalworking and skin processing skills were notable.

Finally, they gathered daily life supplies: pottery jars, wooden frames, chairs, tables, barrels, boxes, bed sheets, clothes... In short, the rebel army greedily took whatever they could see and use, given they had damaged and discarded many items while crossing mountains. Now, building a new home meant lacking everything.

As a result, the entire village, apart from the houses and wooden walls, was stripped clean; even the large stone mill in the middle of the village was dismantled and laboriously moved onto the boats for transport.

The supplies in the village had to be taken, and the people here also had to be moved. They were divided into four categories: injured Segestica warriors, young Segestica males, elderly, women, and children of Segestica, and Scodisqi slaves.

The rebel army made the Segestica male residents carry their injured tribesmen on bed boards or door panels, with extra young males carrying sacks full of wheat, leaving them no strength to resist;

The elderly, women, and children supported each other while walking, with those able carrying some daily necessities;

Among the Scodisqi slaves, aside from the young males carrying supplies, the elderly, women, and children could proceed lightly, a noticeable difference in treatment that surprised the Scodisqi slaves.

Taking this opportunity, Maximus arranged for some Illyrian soldiers to announce among the Scodisqi slaves that "they were once slaves too and thus understood the hardships of slavery, viewing the Scodisqi as friends..." Words like these (the Scodisqi could mostly understand what the Illyrian soldiers were saying, due to their decades-long close contact with the Pannonian Tribe, not to mention learning Illyrian during the recent slave years) evidently touched these slaves, most of whom complacently obeyed the rebel soldiers' commands, with some even actively helping with supplies.

Chapter 223: The Shock of the Aldeans

Maximus observed closely from the side and found that the Scodisqi slaves in this Segestica Village seemed to be scattered like loose sand. Unlike the slaves in the village to the west who could take advantage of the chaos to organize their people and start a revolt, this showed that the Segestica people in this village effectively controlled these slaves, which was somewhat beneficial to the rebel army.

The more than 3000 rebel soldiers who captured this village remained fully armed. Most of them were responsible for escorting thousands of prisoners, and they maintained a high level of vigilance, ready to mercilessly use their short swords to teach the restless prisoners a bloody lesson if anything unusual was detected.

Another group of soldiers acted as the rear guard, preparing to defend against any other Segestica tribal armies that might come from the east.

The rebel army had fiercely charged earlier, and a few hours later, the attack turned into a mass migration: some members of the supply camp drove carts loaded with goods, others controlled boats laden with supplies, and some herded bleating sheep, grunting pigs, and erratic poultry... All had cheerful expressions on their faces;

Some Segestica people carried their injured compatriots, some bore heavy goods, and others assisted the elderly and young. They hid their hatred in their hearts, letting terror and sorrow mix on their faces, moving forward with difficulty amidst the cries of women and children;

The Scodisqi slaves, though some of them also carried goods, looked somewhat happy. Yes, seeing the enemies who had oppressed them for years in such a miserable state now, how could they not be pleased! So, whether men, women, young or old, their steps seemed lighter, though a little fear lingered in their hearts because they didn't know where this strange army would take them to or how their future lives would unfold...

A mixed group of more than ten thousand people stretched over two miles, moving slowly toward the western sun...

Meanwhile, western this village was also undergoing a large migration of goods and people, leaving behind rebel soldiers and supply camp personnel to transfer the population and goods from the village to a temporary camp. This was all pre-planned, primarily led by Capito and Volenus.

Since this village had been captured in the morning, the migration operation began earlier. By afternoon, the leading unit transporting goods had already reached the temporary camp.

The personnel staying at the camp had been on edge for most of the day, and upon hearing the news of the rebel army's great victory, the entire camp erupted in cheers.

Besides the rebel personnel guarding the camp, there were also some outsiders, mainly the Aldeans led by Karsipengpas and Budocaribas.

Karsipengpas had initially decided to return to his pirate camp on the island but temporarily halted his trip because the rebel army was going to launch a war. He even requested Maximus to let him personally go to the battlefield and witness the rebel army's first battle in the mountains, but Maximus tactfully refused him.

The main reason Maximus refused was that the battle against the Segestica Tribe was based on a series of tactics such as luring, deception, and ambush. As far as he knew, the fierce Illyrian Mountain People prized direct, bloody confrontations. If they learned about the entire battle process of the rebel army, they might not only fail to gain respect but also have other thoughts.

Budocaribas waited here not only due to concern over the loss of the thousand long spears and shields he lent out but also out of fear that the rebel army's defeat would extinguish the newly rising hope of the Alde Tribe, and his village would face the wrath of the Segestica people.

Watching the endless flow of carriages loaded with grain enter the temporary camp and hearing the sustained cheers of the rebel army, Budocaribas seemed in a daze and muttered, "They won?..."

"Of course they won! I told you they would win!" Karsipengpas cheerfully slapped his back soundly, "Now you can rest assured!"

Budocaribas snapped out of it and asked, "How did they win?"

"I also want to know," Karsipengpas's eyes were full of curiosity. He pointed to the carriages passing by, "And they not only defeated the Segestica people but also broke into their village, otherwise where did all the things in these carriages come from!"

Prompted by his reminder, Budocaribas's eyes grew even more astonished.

At this moment, Alakosia walked towards them, the newly appointed Deputy Officer of Commerce, smiling and said, "Elders, sorry to keep you waiting. I have been ordered by the leader to return the long spears and shields borrowed earlier, and also to fulfill the promise to give your tribe - 1000 long spears and 1000 shields."

After speaking, he waved his hand, and ten cattle-drawn carriages bypassed the temporary camp, heading towards the Alde Village behind the camp, each carriage loaded with long spears and shields.

Before Budocaribas could respond, Alakosia continued, "The leader also sent you a gift!"

"Gift?" Under Budocaribas's puzzled gaze, two rebel soldiers lifted a corpse from a carriage and placed it on the muddy ground before him.

The corpse was extremely robust, with a large gash on its neck, its right eye missing, and the blood-red eye socket was still oozing a yellow-white mixture, looking gruesome and terrifying...

Chapter 224: The Shock of the Aldeans_2

"This is... Wallis!" Despite the disfigurement, Budocaribas recognized him instantly. With this exclamation, his whole body trembled: "That guy is dead! He's finally dead!!..."

He shouted uncontrollably, tears beginning to glisten in his eyes.

It was no wonder he was so excited. Although the war between the two tribes was initiated by the Segestica Great Leader Andres, Wallis, as the vanguard, was the greatest nightmare for the Aldean Tribe. Over the years, countless Aldean warriors had perished under his large sword, and under his fierce onslaught, the Aldeans eventually lost the fertile lands along the Kupa River. But this greedy wolf continued his assault...

Now he was finally dead, and the nightmare that made the Aldean people tremble and quieted children could finally dissipate...

Having roamed the seas for years, Karsipengpas didn't feel too deeply about this, nor did he try to suppress his compatriots' emotional outbursts, instead he curiously asked, "How did you win this battle?"

Alakosia, having anticipated the question, immediately replied proudly, "We first dispatched 4,000 soldiers to line up on the flat ground next to the river by the hills. The soldiers in the front line were equipped with your weapons, making the Segestica people who came to inspect them think it was you Aldeans challenging them, so this guy—"

Alakosia stomped on Wallis's corpse: "Led over 4,000 people to meet us, but ended up being defeated by us. We pursued them all the way to their village entrance, where the fleeing soldiers blocked the village gate, and we seized the opportunity to charge in—"

"And then you seized the entire village and killed this evil wolf?!" Budocaribas interjected excitedly, giving a fierce kick to Wallis's face.

"Uh..." Alakosia didn't continue that thread, though he had vaguely described the battle process, who exactly killed Wallis was a specific pointer. Seeing that the Aldeans valued this matter, if he falsely claimed that the rebel army killed him, and if the Aldeans found out the truth later, the trustworthiness of the rebel army might be questioned.

So, he changed the topic: "Not only did we capture that village, but our leader also led 5,000 soldiers to continue eastward, defeating another 3,000 Segestica warriors who came to the rescue, and pursued them again to their village entrance. I estimate that the Segestica Village is now occupied—"

What?!... The two Aldean Elders looked at each other in shock, thinking they had heard wrong: Defeating Wallis's army and capturing his village in one day was shocking enough; now they even defeated another Cabdes's army and occupied their village, how was this possible?!

"You mean you captured two Segestica Tribe villages?!" Budocaribas widened his eyes and asked urgently.

"It seems the two elders find it hard to believe, but don't worry, you'll get confirmed news by tomorrow." Alakosia smiled, looking at them: "Elder Budocaribas, our leader wants to ask you for help with two things."

Immersed in shock, Budocaribas pulled himself together, speaking in a very gentle tone: "What does Leader Maximus need my help with?"

"We will soon escort several thousand Segestica prisoners here, but this camp can't accommodate so many people. We hope to expand the camp with your permission."

"That's no problem at all, feel free to expand." Budocaribas replied straightforwardly.

"Thank you for your generosity! Moreover, our leader hopes you can send some warriors from your tribe to help us temporarily guard these Segestica prisoners so that we can free up hands to expand the camp. The leader also said he would reward your warriors for their assistance."

"That's no problem at all!" Budocaribas agreed without hesitation.

"Since you've already captured the Segestica people's village, why not just settle there?" Karsipengpas questioned in confusion.

"The leader didn't tell me the reason, but I guess it might be that the war has just begun, and having the prisoners and supplies temporarily in the rear might be safer?"

Alakosia's answer cooled Budocaribas's excitement quite a bit. He quickly returned to the tribe, first gathering a few hundred warriors, and, feeling it was insufficient, sought help from neighboring tribes.

When the leaders of these tribes learned the reason for Budocaribas's request, they were shocked and personally led their warriors to see for themselves.

When they led their teams to the temporary camp, the prisoners escorted by the rebel army were already arriving one after another.

All the Aldean Warriors widened their eyes in amazement, watching these Segestica people who had once taken their land, killed their kin, and been fierce and well-equipped, now half-naked, dejected, stumbling like homeless dogs. In contrast, the fully armed rebel soldiers escorting them were all holding their heads high, imposing and majestic.

Before long, many Aldean women and children heard the news and came to join the spectacle, seeing the same scene as the men did.

This was the first time the Aldean people had such close contact with the rebel army, leaving them with an extremely deep impression.

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The migrating main force finally arrived at the western village, where Gaius and others staying in the village hurried out to greet them.

"Leader, congratulations on your triumphant return!" Gaius greeted Maximus immediately upon seeing him.

"You've all worked hard." Maximus smiled comfortingly, "But I'm afraid we still have hard work ahead."

"If we can have such victories every day, we are willing to work hard every day!" Gaius responded.

Maximus teasingly said, "Did you hear that? This is a higher requirement for your army."

"Of course, we have no problem with it; it's just a question of whether the enemy is willing," Oluus replied.

Everyone burst into laughter.

The group followed the carriage through the village gate when suddenly someone rushed out from the roadside.

"Who is it?!"

"Leader, be careful!" Pequot stepped in front of Maximus, while guards with sword and shield rushed forward, intending to cut the intruder down.

The person, however, knelt with a "thud," loudly proclaiming, "I am Scodisqi slave Emmerich; I want to see Leader Maximus!"

His accent was a bit strange, but Maximus understood: the name Emmerich sounded familiar...

"Damn it! Didn't I tell you to wait obediently in the house first? How dare you not listen, barging in and scaring our esteemed leader!" Gaius, infuriated, stepped forward and kicked the man to the ground.

Maximus saw that it was a long-haired, bearded old man, suddenly realizing: "I remember now, you are the one who organized the Scodisqi slaves to riot in this village before."

The old man, disregarding the pain, quickly said, "Yes, it's me! Esteemed Leader Maximus, I want—"

"No matter what you've done in the past, since you've become a prisoner of our army, you must do as we require and not act on your own." Maximus interrupted him, saying coldly, "Pequot, take him away, and bring him back when I'm free to hear what he has to say."

"Yes." Pequot waved a hand, and two guards stepped forward, roughly grabbing the man by the arms.

The man wisely stopped talking, allowing the guards to lead him away.

Chapter 225: Druid Emery

Gaius hurried over to explain, "Leader, after we occupied this village, this old man voluntarily approached us, saying he wanted to offer us help. At that time, we were eager to transfer the population and resources within the village to a temporary camp, so we agreed.

So, he ordered all the Scodisqi slaves to follow our instructions, voluntarily assisting us in transporting resources, finding those Segestica people hiding within houses and cellars, and uncovering the Nobles hidden among the Segestica citizens...

It was precisely because of the full cooperation of the Scodisqi slaves that we could evacuate this village so quickly. So when he requested 'not to go with other Scodisqi slaves to the temporary camp, but instead to stay here to see you,' we discussed and agreed again. But unexpectedly, he didn't stay put and sneaked out; this is all my fault!"

"Who do you mean by 'we'?" Maximus coldly asked.

"It's Capito, Volenus, me, and Pigeris."

These are the four department Chief Officers I temporarily appointed to be responsible for the transfer and takeover of this village... Maximus's mind turned, and his expression then softened, "This isn't entirely your fault, we'll let it slide this time, but be careful in the future. Let's go inside first."

Gaius secretly breathed a sigh of relief. In the past, he didn't feel anything when he just muddled along, but now that he had aspirations, standing beside Maximus felt a bit stressful.

"How have you arranged for our soldiers who will stay here tonight and these prisoners? Where are the transferred supplies temporarily stored?"

Maximus looked at the carriages entering the village and reminded, "You should know that tonight, there are not just over 3000 soldiers staying here, but also more than 6000 Segestica prisoners, including over 2000 Scodisqi slaves. Besides, we also brought a large amount of resources."

"Leader, please rest assured, the original population of this village was about 15,000, including over 3600 Scodisqi slaves, our troops can completely fit in." Gaius confidently answered.

"There are so many people in this village?" Maximus was somewhat surprised, because from the outside, the eastern village looked even bigger than this one, yet its population was less than ten thousand."

"Leader, we asked, this is not a normal tribe. It was only established to fight against the Alde, hence most are young and strong, often with many people living in one longhouse." Gaius said, pointing to a house at the roadside, "Leader, look, it's a house like this."

It was a wooden house over 15 meters long and only 4 meters wide, with a thick thatched roof.

Matthias pushed the door open and entered. The space inside was slightly cramped, but the lighting was decent. Besides a long bunk, several wooden cabinets, and shelves, there was nothing else.

Maximus immediately realized a problem, "How do they cook?"

"They don't cook. Instead, they go to the training ground of the tribe's main house, where the Scodisqi slaves cook for them."

The Segestica people even have a large canteen... Maximus felt a bit surprised and asked, "What identities do the Segestica people living in such longhouses have?"

"The vast majority are not the tribesmen of this leader, but come from other tribes of Segestica, drawn by the call of their Great Chief and admiration for this leader. They came to this tribe. Since they are newcomers, they don't have their own houses yet, but they have been allocated land, which is cultivated by Scodisqi slaves."

"Not bad, you've understood the situation of this village so clearly in such a short time." Maximus praised.

"This was mainly due to Capito and Volenus's efforts." Gaius said ashamedly. Previously, due to his own issues, he hadn't interacted much with Maximus, unlike Capito and Volenus, who understood this young leader better, thus could work in a more targeted manner.

Maximus saw his thoughts and encouraged, "I believe you won't perform worse than them in the future!"

This statement made Gaius emotional, almost bringing him to tears.

Maximus walked out of the longhouse and looked around: there were many such longhouses nearby, and the distance between them was relatively close, making it seem a bit dense.

He walked back to the roadside and looked at the other side: there were no longhouses, but typical wooden grass-roofed houses, similar to what he had seen of Aldean houses before, just larger, better quality, and each house had a small yard enclosed by a wooden fence, with chicken coops, pig troughs, and cattle pens in the yard... thus, the smell was somewhat unpleasant.

"These houses are probably where the Old Clan Members of this tribe live, right?" Maximus asked.

"Yes, Leader."

"How much grain did you obtain here?" This was what Maximus cared about the most.

"Due to time constraints, we didn't do a detailed measurement, but according to everyone's estimation, it's at least enough to feed our entire team for a year. Including the prisoners captured here, it's enough for half a year."

"There's actually so much?" Maximus was somewhat surprised, "I remember Budocaribas saying that this Segestica village was newly built and just started farming last year."

"That's correct." Gaius replied, "However, because it's just after the autumn harvest, there's quite a lot of grain in these Segestica tribe homes. Most importantly, this village has several large warehouses stocked with a substantial amount of grains and meats."