

Perish 291

Chapter 291: Surprise

"What did I just say, didn't you understand? Cough! Cough!" Acoupaigos coughed angrily again, "...One Segestica almost wiped us out, and now you're preparing to provoke Brochi! Do you think the suffering our tribe has endured is not enough?"

"This can't be done! That can't be done! Our tribe is the way it is now because of your cowardice! Hmph!" Aristakas stormed off in frustration.

Acoupaigos watched his departing son, shook his head helplessly, and in his eyes were both disappointment and worry. He said softly, "Alas, look, this is the future Great Chief of Alde... Brotas, if I'm not here tomorrow, you'll have to support the tribe!"

Cleobrotas quickly comforted him, "Great Chief, what are you saying! You're in good health, you can at least lead us for another ten years!"

Acoupaigos shook his head and calmly said, "I know my body, living another year would already be good. Aristakas is still acting recklessly right now. When he sits in my position, he will realize the hardships of being the Great Chief. By then, you, as his uncle, must help him more!"

Facing Acoupaigos's expectant gaze, Cleobrotas replied without hesitation, "Great Chief, rest assured, I watched Takas grow up from a young age, I will do my utmost to help him!"

"Ah, Brotas, you didn't see it wrong. Judging by the recent performance of those outsiders, that Maximus is indeed an extraordinary figure. The Nix Tribe he established may very well become a fierce beast on this Great River Plain. It's a pity I won't be able to see that day..."

Acoupaigos squinted his eyes, gazing at the sun in the sky, and said wistfully, "But it's good that Alde and they have already formed an alliance, and you're quite friendly with Maximus. I believe, with you around, both sides will maintain a very good relationship. If one day Nix indeed becomes powerful, Alde following behind it wouldn't be bad either..."

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Maximus received reports from spies: the Panoni Alliance Army is retreating east without stopping, even the garrisons of the two camps to the east have left with them, taking all food and other supplies with them...

The leaders of the Nix Tribe could finally confirm: the Panoni Alliance Army had truly retreated.

Although they missed the last chance to counterattack, Maximus did not regret too much, after all, the Pannonians attacked the camp twice fiercely, causing over 1,000 casualties to the troops. The multiple battles exhausted the Pannonian warriors, and it was no different for the Nix Soldiers. Even if they won, a risky attack would increase casualties greatly, and winning without increasing casualties is indeed a good thing for the current manpower-short Nix Tribe.

The Nix people emerged from the inner camp, and the first thing to do was to clean the battlefield: eliminating remaining traps and avoiding accidental injury to their own people were secondary; the most important task was to clear away the corpses. The Pannonians took away their companions' bodies, and the battlefield was left with the fallen soldiers of Nix. A few were Pannonian warriors who fell off the wooden walls and died in the ditch during the first attack because the corpses were outside the camp and couldn't be retrieved. By now, the bodies had started to rot, crawling with maggots...

Maximus ordered the soldiers to cover their noses and mouths with clean linen to prevent insect bites. They carried the bodies to burn on wood piles, then scattered lime powder from the Aldeans throughout the camp.

Cleaning the battlefield, re-erecting tents, and repairing damaged wooden walls... By dusk, the troops led by Camillus and Oros returned to the camp, and that night, all the Nix people in the camp slept soundly.

In the following days, the Nix people were actively rebuilding the camp, as Maximus and others were unsure whether the eager Segestica Great Leader would soon lead his troops back.

It wasn't until news from Segestica came: Andres was injured and unconscious, and the tribe was temporarily under the charge of Cabdes, who had once been captured by the Nix people.

This news delighted Maximus: While Andres was not a tactically brilliant general, his never-give-up personality, combined with the Pannonian tribe's formidable strength, was a difficult opponent, causing

the Nix leaders considerable headache. They dared not rashly move the troops to the vacant camps in the east. Now that he was bedridden, Segestica couldn't possibly launch another attack on Nix shortly.

Thus, Maximus immediately sent someone to find Budocaribas to reclaim the several thousand Segestica families previously entrusted to the Aldeans for safekeeping. As for the nearly ten thousand Pannonian warrior captives, they were generously given to the Alde Tribe, becoming labor and a target for venting anger.

But whether to abandon the temporary camp immediately and relocate the entire troop to the camps by the Kupa River sparked intense debates within the Political Affairs Hall, yet no consensus was reached.

Many Chief Officers had such concerns: although because of Andres's injury, the Segestica people likely wouldn't invade in the short term, but if one day he recovers, learns from this failed attack, and seeks help from the Pannonian Tribe Alliance, bringing even more armies than this time. And if Nix had already moved to the eastern camps, distanced from the Alde Tribe, they would be fighting alone, surrounded by the Panoni Alliance Army, the situation would undoubtedly be even more difficult than this time.

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Because Maximus also had concerns in this regard, he did not make a clear statement, and the issue remained unresolved.

"Leader, Great Captain Pequot is back!" Akegu excitedly burst into the command tent.

"Oh, where is he?!"

"Right outside the camp, and he's brought a whole lot of people!"

Maximus rushed to the camp gate, where a sizable crowd had already gathered, blocking the passage in and out. He heard Fesaros's voice coming from ahead: "Pequot, you had us all worried sick! The leader ordered you to lead your men into the mountains to ambush the Pannonians' supply route. But after the Pannonian Army retreated, we searched for days without finding you. We thought that you and the soldiers you led had all been wiped out by the Pannonians! I...I almost erected a wooden memorial for you and conducted prayers for your soul!"

"Well now, Pequot, you really got guts, don't you? I never noticed it before, but taking such a small band and stirring up such a commotion in the Brochi Territory? That's really something!" That was Torrelugo's praise.

"A few days ago, we led a nighttime raid on the Pannonians' camp and thought we did quite well. But now you've come back and stolen all our thunder!" Camillus said modestly.

"Pequot, bringing all these people back safely couldn't have been easy. How did you do it?" Oluus inquired earnestly.

"... Leader Maximus is here. Make way, please!" As soon as Akegu shouted, both warriors and team officers blocking the gate quickly stepped aside to clear a path.

When Maximus laid eyes on Pequot, standing just outside the camp gate, he almost didn't recognize him: wearing a crudely made fur tunic, with long, unkempt hair, a thick beard reaching his chest, wrinkles on his face, and steadiness in his gaze, the fierce and ruthless expression he once had was nowhere to be seen.

"Leader, I'm back!" The moment Pequot saw Maximus, he immediately gave a military salute.

Oh, even his voice had grown deep and raspy... Maximus's face broke into a delighted smile as he strode forward, completely disregarding the dust and strong stench of sweat on the other man, and gave him a tight embrace, saying, "Welcome back, Pequot! We have been so worried about you, and now, at last, we can breathe a sigh of relief!"

Though Pequot was somewhat unaccustomed to this enthusiastic form of greeting, he felt the excitement and warmth conveyed by Maximus. Awkwardly returning the embrace, he subtly stepped back before speaking, "Leader, my apologies! Bringing everyone back safely took more time than expected."

Following Pequot's gaze, Maximus saw the masses of people behind him. Dressed in peculiar outfits, most were young men, though there were elderly, women, and children among them...

The men, like Pequot, were bearded, disheveled, and weatherworn. A closer look revealed them to be Skodisqi people. Many held shields and long spears, gazing all around the camp with faces that showed excitement and curiosity, mingled with a hint of apprehension...

The sheer number of people assembled before the camp trench produced a clamorous racket, no less imposing than the assault of a Pannonian Army. No wonder the patrolling team mistakenly believed an enemy force was attacking, prompting the soldiers to man the walls in defense.

"How many people did you bring?" Maximus eagerly asked.

"There are 5,300 people here, with another one or two thousand likely to be brought back in the coming days by my team officers," Pequot answered.

"Are they all Scodisqi slaves?"

"Aside from the 500 troops I originally led, the rest are all Scodisqi slaves from Brochi. They've all decided to join our ranks and become part of our Nix tribespeople!" Pequot emphasized as he finished his last sentence.

Maximus nodded, paused briefly in thought, and immediately issued an order: "Akegu, Casius, you two go fetch Volenus and Capito. Have them handle settling these new members of our Nix tribespeople as soon as possible.

Manas, go and bring Emmerich—"

"Leader, I'm already here!" Emmerich's voice came from behind Maximus as he struggled to push through the crowd.

"Perfect timing. You'll be responsible for calming your fellow kinsmen. Pequot, after helping Volenus and Capito settle these people, come to my command tent right away to recount what you've experienced during this time."

"Yes, Leader."

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"...Leader, after raiding the supply convoy near Segestica, I realized we could no longer carry out your original plan—to conduct guerrilla warfare in the mountains against the Pannonian Alliance Army and continue to threaten their rear lines.

Too many Scodisqi slaves joined our ranks, swelling our numbers and making it nearly impossible to evade enemy pursuit. Food supplies were also insufficient... Still, I was unwilling to return hastily without achieving greater contributions in this war. That's when I decided to head into Brochi Territory—"

Hearing this, Maximus sternly corrected him: "Who says your actions were just raiding a Pannonian supply convoy and making no significant contribution? You foiled the Pannonians' plan to use Scodisqi slaves to attack our camp!

Think about it. If those Scodisqi slaves had reached the Pannonian Alliance Army's base and then, as in the past, were used as the vanguard to assault our camp, would our soldiers dare to throw javelins, short spears, or hurl logs and stones at them?"

"Probably not. At that time, many of our units had recently recruited new Scodisqi soldiers. They definitely wouldn't have permitted others to ruthlessly kill their kin," Fesaros interjected, adding his explanation.

Curious about Pequot's experiences, several Legion Commanders sought Maximus's consent to join him in the command tent to listen.

"If we were eventually forced to attack those slaves, the new Scodisqi soldiers would likely resent us, seriously affecting morale, and possibly even shaking the army's cohesion!" Oluus interjected with a grave expression. "If we didn't act, the Pannonians could exploit them to fill our carefully constructed traps and trenches without suffering any losses, leaving us unable to inflict heavy casualties—or worse, causing us significant harm!"

"Do you see now? Your decisive raid on that supply convoy essentially saved our entire force! It's a far greater achievement than raiding ten Pannonian supply convoys!" Maximus declared loudly, pointing at

the others in the command tent in a tone of praise. "I've decided...er, continue sharing your experiences in Brochi Territory to satisfy everyone's curiosity."

Emboldened by Maximus's commendation, Pequot's confidence swelled, and he raised his voice as he continued: "...I led my troops to the Kupa River and spotted a Brochi village on the riverbank, just as described by a recently freed Scodisqi slave. The village had only partial wooden walls and its inhabitants were completely unguarded.

We immediately launched an attack and swiftly captured the village. Not only were our food and accommodation issues resolved, but all the Scodisqi slaves in the village joined us. I also looted some weapons and shields to arm them.

The next day, we followed the Kupa River further east and captured another Brochi settlement, gaining more slave recruits... Then, one of my scouts returned with news: 'A Brochi Army of over 2,000 men is approaching from the east...'

Chapter 293: Knowing the Existence of the Skodisqi Tribe

Pequot paused for a moment, seeing everyone was listening intently, and couldn't help but feel a bit smug: "I thought of a strategy, sending out some slaves with wooden shields and spears to engage the enemy, while I led the original team and other slaves to ambush in the dense forest by the riverside, waiting until the enemy defeated those slaves and pursued, at which point I would lead the team to suddenly attack and defeat the enemy...

Since that victory, everyone's morale has been boosted. Then I led them on a rapid march eastward, reaching the Sava River, where there were many Brochi tribes, one after another, but none were heavily defended.

Before they could react, I split my forces to attack the surrounding Brochi tribes. These tribes had warriors, but not many, and were quickly defeated by us. We captured food supplies and gained more Skodisqi slaves, our ranks swelled significantly.

However, I grew increasingly afraid, fearing a sudden appearance of a large Brochi army that would annihilate my forces. So I stationed scouts everywhere to monitor the movements of the Brochi army... Later, I received information that 'a force of eight to nine thousand Brochi soldiers was advancing towards our camp along the Kupa River...'

I immediately thought this was the army Brochi had sent earlier to attack our camp. Although at the time my forces were not much different in size, they were mostly Skodisqi slaves and certainly couldn't match their combat strength. Of course, I didn't dare to engage them directly and was also worried they would cut off my forces' return route to camp, trapping us in the heart of Brochi territory, which would be disastrous for us.

So I thought of a solution. Under the cover of night, I led the main force to hide in the mountains while having my subordinates lead another 2000 Skodisqi slaves eastward along the Sava River the next day, feigning an attack on the Brochi main camp...

The Brochi army indeed fell for it. Without thorough investigation, they hastily pursued eastward. I seized the opportunity to lead the main force out of the forest and quickly head west, along the original route to Brochi territory...

At that point, I thought since the Brochi army of nearly ten thousand had returned, the Pannonia Alliance's attack on our outlying camps should not persist. However, to be safe, I still first led the team to hide in the mountains by the Kupa River and sent scouts to investigate... I thought at the time if the Pannonians were still besieging the camp, I would lead the team to risk a night raid on the Pannonians' settlement by the Kupa River, burning their stored food...

Finally, the news the scouts brought back allowed me to breathe a sigh of relief..."

Everyone listened carefully to Pequot's account. As soon as he finished speaking, the military tent became exceptionally quiet, and everyone was clearly aware: although Pequot spoke lightly of it, in reality, leading such a large number of untrained Skodisqi slaves, which included many old men, women, and children, into enemy territory was a massive survival challenge, with the risk of catastrophic failure at every turn. Yet, incredibly, he managed to safely bring out more than half of them, a feat that could only be considered a miracle!

"Clap! Clap! Clap!..." Maximus was the first to applaud with a broad smile, and the others in the tent followed suit. The enthusiastic applause was a tribute to the creator of this miracle, Pequot.

The thunderous applause left Pequot overwhelmed with emotions at this moment.

Maximus gazed at him, full of appreciation in his eyes, and said loudly, "Now I understand why the Pannonia Alliance chose to retreat the day after capturing our outlying camp!

It's not just because of the brave defense of our soldiers that dealt significant damage to the enemy! Nor solely because of Camillus and Oluus leading their soldiers in a daring night raid on the Pannonian camp that severely damaged their morale! But also because of your actions in Brochi territory, greatly disturbing the military mind of the Pannonian army!

Pequot, I truly didn't expect you to carry out the task I gave you so well! Not only did you solve a major problem for us, but you also boldly ventured to Brochi territory, causing upheaval there, spreading the renown of our Nix Tribe to other major tribes in Pannonia, and bringing us so many new forces! Your contributions are immense! Immense! Immense!"

Maximus repeated 'immense' three times, his emotions extremely passionate: "Although previously the Political Affairs Hall issued a decree that if this time the Pannonian army is repelled, all ordinary Nix tribesmen will be promoted by one level, and all reserve tribe members will have their observation period shortened by one year.

But I think promoting by only one level is not enough to recognize your achievements this time. I will propose to the Political Affairs Hall to promote you by two levels to become a First-class Tribesman! Those Skodisqi slaves who have joined you and our Nix Tribe, who risked and fought in Brochi territory, also played a crucial role in the Pannonian army's retreat. Their observation period as reserve tribe members should also be reduced to two years! I believe the Political Affairs Hall will accept my suggestion!"

Of course, the Political Affairs Hall will agree because, in this newly established Nix Tribe, Maximus' word is law.

Pequot didn't expect Maximus to grant him such high praise and unique rewards, he was so excited that his voice trembled: "Th... Thank you, Leader! Thank you, Leader!"

Chapter 294: Knowing the Existence of the Skodisqi Tribe_2

The look in the eyes of Fesaros and the other generals as they gazed at Pequot was full of envy: the first person in the entire tribe to be promoted to a First-class Tribesman!

However, no one voiced any objections, because the battle merit Pequot achieved this time was indeed unparalleled.

"Pequot, having you serve as my Guard Captain truly wastes your military talents." Maximus glanced at Quintus and Flannius beside him, before solemnly continuing: "I will discuss with the Military Department to find you a suitable position, so you can fully utilize your talents."

Pequot felt his blood boiling with excitement, causing his face to flush red with color. After all, the main reason he took the risk to attack Brochi Territory was to prove himself, and now his goal was achieved.

"However, during this operation, you made a mistake." Maximus restrained his smile, his tone becoming somewhat stern: "When you decided to lead your team to Brochi Territory, you should have sent someone to slip back to the camp and inform us of your decision, so we could be aware of your movements. This would allow us to adjust our plans to respond to new changes in the battlefield and support your military actions in the east."

If you had done that, perhaps the Pannonian Army would have suffered greater losses before their retreat, and your return with the troops could have been more composed... I hope I won't see you make the same mistake next time, because an excellent general must not only complete tasks well but also actively cooperate with other teams to steer the entire war in a more favorable direction for us."

Maximus' words were like a warning bell for the overly excited Pequot, causing his heart to tighten suddenly. He immediately replied, "Leader, I won't make such mistakes again."

"That's good." Maximus nodded, his tone becoming gentle again, as he asked, "How have you arranged for that team left in Brochi Territory to hold back the enemy, to retreat and return?"

"I instructed them to discard all baggage before the Brochi Army catches up, quickly delve into the southern mountains, then disperse into several squads, roughly following the route I took on my return. I've buried quite a lot of supplies along the way and marked them, so they can resupply and return to the camp as quickly as possible..."

"Your escape plan for them is fairly thorough, but with your main force having already escaped, it's likely to infuriate the Brochi people, who will definitely intensify their efforts to besiege that squad. It might be difficult for them to return safely..."

These words struck at the hidden anxiety in Pequot's heart, making his earlier joy vanish, leaving him to reply sadly, "Yes..."

"Quintus, Flanitus." Maximus looked at the two Chief Officers of the Military Department, his demeanor solemn as he said, "Quickly discuss how to send troops to assist this squad, and try to minimize their casualties!"

"Alright."

"Thank you, Leader!" Pequot was sincerely grateful, as Maximus' decision greatly relieved his sense of guilt.

From being praised and rewarded, to being criticized and feeling guilty, and then to being immensely grateful, Pequot's emotions underwent a roller-coaster ride in such a short period. He was a bit unwilling, wanting to prove himself again: "Leader, I discovered a significant secret that the leaders of the Pannonian Tribes have been hiding while in Brochi Territory!"

"What secret?!" Pequot's words attracted the attention of everyone in the military tent.

Clearing his throat, Pequot raised his voice and said, "Brochi is also a major Pannonian Tribe. However, when I led my team to raid its territory, it couldn't quickly dispatch a strong army to besiege me, which I found very strange.

Coincidentally, I captured their leader when I occupied a tribal village. After interrogation, I finally learned that Brochi, while sending reinforcements to Segestica to counter us, also dispatched over ten thousand reinforcements to another major Pannonian Tribe.

This major tribe, called Andizeti, is located east of Brochi, and its territory is currently being invaded by the Dacians and—" Pequot suddenly lowered his voice, "the Skodisqi people—"

"What did you say?! The Skodisqi people invading the Pannonians' territory?!" Everyone in the military tent was both shocked and puzzled.

Pequot was satisfied with everyone's reaction, looking solemnly at Maximus, he said, "According to the confession of the Brochi leader, the Pannonians achieved great victory over the Skodisqi people in their war years ago, but the Skodisqi Tribe was not completely annihilated. Remnants still exist in the area south of the Sava River and the Danube River.

Supported and aided by the East Dacians, the Pannonians couldn't completely eliminate them, and this time the Dacians even sent a large army to help the Skodisqi there defeat the Andizeti's tribal army and invade its territory. Hence, the Pannonian Tribe Alliance is requesting the other major tribes to dispatch as many reinforcements as possible to help Andizeti repel the enemy..."

Pequot's words shocked the people inside the tent. As everyone tried to digest the information they received, Quintus was the first to react, eagerly saying with a look of delight, "Leader, this is a good thing!—"

"Let me think first." Maximus raised his hand to stop him from continuing, the mention of Dacia stirred his memories, leading him to recall some information about the Pannonia Plain during this era.

The fact that remnants of the Skodisqi still existed was indeed beyond Maximus' expectation! In his past life, he knew nothing about when this Celtic tribe rose or declined, as he wasn't a history major, yet it was enough to demonstrate that this tribe didn't have much illustrious performance in history.

But Dacia was different. Maximus clearly remembered that Dacia was a formidable power, later occupying most of the Pannonia Plain. Decades from now, the Roman Empire's Emperor Trajan mobilized hundreds of thousands of troops to declare war on Dacia and only then succeeded in conquering it... So if the Dacians are choosing to help the Skodisqi people at this moment, standing against the Pannonians, that's going to be a big problem for the Pannonians. The conflict between them might not end so easily...

Maximus pondered for a while, then suddenly asked in a deep voice, "Pequot, besides you, who else in your team knows about the existence of the Skodisqi tribe remnants?"

"Just me." Pequot hurriedly explained: "I used some special methods during the interrogation, and didn't want anyone else to see, so it was conducted alone."

Pequot spoke the truth, being an experienced pirate, he was often responsible for interrogating hostages about their origins after raiding a merchant ship to demand ransom, thus he was skilled in some bloody and ruthless methods. However, while leading troops into battle alone this time, he realized such practices might affect the soldiers' perception of him, prompting him to avoid everyone's sight and interrogate quietly.

"What about the Pannonian leader?"

"I dealt with him after the interrogation." After answering, Pequot added, "Leader, I understand that if the news about the Skodisqi remnants existing gets out, the vast majority of Skodisqi slaves will flee over there rather than join our ranks!"

"It's good you understand." Maximus surveyed the others in the tent, solemnly saying, "I believe everyone understands the seriousness of this matter. I hope you can strictly keep this secret. If anyone leaks it, they will become the enemy of the entire tribe and will face severe punishment!"

"But Leader, the existence of the Skodisqi tribe is a fact, and eventually, these Skodisqi slaves will find out." Fesaros reminded.

Chapter 295: Matchmaking Convention

Maximus had considered this, and he answered seriously, "Yes, it can't be concealed forever, but as long as we can keep it hidden for a year or two, by that time these Scodisqi tribe members will have their own houses, their own land, even marriages and children in our tribe. They won't be willing to give up all that they've worked hard to gain, and take the risk to run off to the unstable, possibly war-torn east, even if they learn that the Scodisqi tribe still exists."

Maximus' words received widespread approval, because everyone had been a slave before and knew what slaves yearned for the most.

"Pequot!" Maximus looked at his Guard Captain, a smile once again breaking out across his face, "I didn't expect you to bring such good news to the tribe while achieving such great battle meritorious deeds! If the Political Affairs Hall doesn't promote you two levels, not only I, but all the tribe members won't agree."

Pequot smiled but didn't reply, feeling relieved inside. He could sense that Maximus's appreciation for him had increased.

"Quintus!" Maximus's spirits were high, his brows relaxed, "We need to hold a Political Affairs Hall meeting immediately. Since the east of the Pannonians is threatened by Dacia and the Scodisqi people, I believe the war between them will likely continue. The other major tribes of the Pannonia can't spare any effort to aid Segestica. We should come to a conclusion about the discussion on relocation!"

With these words, everyone else in the tent became excited.

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With Maximus's full support, the Political Affairs Hall approved the proposal for the entire tribe to settle by the middle reaches of the Kupa River, but the tribe couldn't migrate immediately. First, people had to be sent to the two vacant villages by the Kupa River to count the number and size of the houses and make plans for allocation and reconstruction in advance.

Meanwhile, the Legal Department at the temporary camp issued the Nix Marriage Decree to all tribe members.

Then Maximus announced that all Second-class Tribe Members of the Nix Tribe who intended to marry the women in the tribe should register their marriages with the Legal Department within three days, as this would determine the subsequent distribution of houses and land.

Upon this announcement, the entire camp erupted. Countless men immediately flocked to the Female Camp. Although Karina received orders from Maximus to temporarily allow men the right to enter during the daytime, too many came, causing chaos in the previously orderly Female Camp, with even several violent incidents over women occurring.

Karina, furious, ran to Maximus to protest.

Maximus immediately realized he had made a wrong decision. The troops he led had always managed matters between men and women most strictly in the entire rebel army. Once the restrictions were lifted, the soldiers' hormones, repressed for over a year, exploded.

Maximus, along with the Guard, swiftly went to the Female Camp. With his prestige, he managed to drive all the men out of the Female Camp with considerable effort, and publicly punished the troublemakers by the Military Law, depriving them of the right to participate in this marriage registration, instantly intimidating the young men in the tribe. Then, on site, he convened the Chief Officers of nine departments for an emergency discussion and decided to hold an extraordinary matchmaking event.

Originally joining the rebel army were over 3,000 women from the Nix Tribe, more than 1,400 Scodisqi women newly joining the tribe (including those just brought back by Pequot), and over 3,000 Pannonian women captured after conquering the two villages to the east (almost half unmarried or had husbands who died in battle), amounting to over 7,400 people.

They were all required to assemble in the open area outside the northern camp and line up largely in a giant semicircle as instructed, with the original rebel army women in front, Scodisqi women in the middle, and Pannonian women in the back.

Men from the Nix Tribe entered the central area in batches to be chosen by the women. If a woman selected and the man agreed, the couple could leave the formation hand in hand.

Subordinates from the Legal Department brought several wooden tables and sat not far from the crowd to register the marriages of successfully matched couples.

Maximus, learning from his previous mistakes, dispatched two platoons of soldiers to maintain order at the entire venue to ensure no more chaos occurred during the matchmaking process. Of course, these soldiers would be rotated.

Everything was set up, and the women began to enter and take their seats. The women of the rebel army and the Scodisqi female slaves followed the arrangements conscientiously, but many Pannonian women had to be forcibly made to enter the venue and reluctantly sat on the grass.

"Leader, some people have not come for the matchmaking!" suddenly someone from the front stirred up.

"That's right, our supervisor Acronis hasn't come. She's hiding behind that squad of soldiers!"

"And our Female Camp Captain Karina too!"

"They order us to obey their commands all day, yet they want to have special treatment. That's not fair!"

"Usually, Sister Acronis takes care of us very well. Now that we're all about to wed and start families, we don't want her to be alone."

"Captain Karina is usually quite fierce, and we're curious to see if she'll be better after finding a man?"

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It was Maximus's first time witnessing how terrifying countless women all talking at once could be. He quickly exited the venue, saw the two being forcibly brought over by guards, and with a stern face, criticized, "What is going on with you two! Didn't you hear what I said earlier, all the women in the tribe are to come here for matchmaking. I said 'all'! Is it that your wings have grown strong, and you don't want to follow orders?!"