

Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure #Chapter 701 A poor country (1) - Read Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure Chapter 701 A poor country (1)

Chapter 701 A poor country (1)

In the end, there was nothing that they could do in the face of this royal decree.

It was a fact that they were behind on their payments, so they had to accept the demands that we were making since these demands were related to these payments.

What I was doing was inspecting the resources of their country to see what could be used as collateral for delaying this payment.

So what I was technically doing was the work of a debt collector.

The second reason why they were allowing all of this to happen was because of the wyverns that we had brought with us. It was like bringing a gun with us that would force them to accept our demands.

After all, if the wyverns were to rampage in their capital, the damage would be unimaginable.

That was the last thing that they could allow to happen, so they had to follow our demands.

Once that was settled, there wasn't much else that needed to be said as we were brought to the residence that they had prepared for us.

It was a bit worn down, but it was still considered a large mansion.

Though if one looked carefully, they could see that there were burn marks that were around this area. It seemed that this was one of the places that had been lit on fire when the wyverns attacked the capital.

Was this on purpose or was it just a coincidence.

It really was hard to tell.

Still, it wasn't as if we would be staying in this place forever, so we might as well suck it up for a night.

The inside was at least properly cleaned and decorated, so it wasn't as if it was lacking.

When the morning came, the prime minister was the one that came to pick us up.

It seemed like they were taking this matter seriously that even the prime minister was sent to come with us.

Or at least that was what we thought at first until we saw all the ministers that were coming along.

This wasn't them taking it seriously, this was them being cautious.

All of these ministers were coming along to make sure that we weren't excessive in our demands and that we didn't take anything that they couldn't give up.

If I had to guess, it was very likely that they would try to keep us from certain areas with their numbers alone.

This was certainly a strategy, though I couldn't call it a wise one.

Still, we had our own card to play.

"We'll be taking the wyverns."

The moment that the prime minister and the other ministers from the Beirut Kingdom heard this, all of them had stunned looks on their faces. It didn't take long before those stunned looks turned into ugly expressions.

The prime minister slowly said, "There's no need for that, is there? Couldn't we take the horse carriage?"

I firmly shook my head before saying, "We have little time to spare, so it's best if we are as efficient as possible. We will be taking the wyverns, whether you come with us or not. If you are not coming with us, could you give us a map of the area so we can find the places we need to go? We'll meet you there."

The prime minister once again revealed an even uglier expression when he heard this.

He had never seen a person as shameless as this, asking for a map of another country's important resources like this. This was something that would be considered one of the greatest secrets of a country since they would never let another country learn about the resources they possessed that easily.

So in the end, the prime minister and the ministers had no choice but to get on the back of our wyverns.

They were so scared that we even had to lift them up and toss them onto the back of the wyverns, though it really wasn't my tossing them since I wasn't strong enough for that.

There was a lot of screaming that came from this while we were tossing them up and it attracted quite a bit of attention.

There were even some guards that came since they thought that we were kidnapping people, but the prime minister and ministers quickly resolved that.

Though by the end of it, their faces were completely red since they had been embarrassed in front of their people like this.

Seeing this, the fourth prince and I looked at each other with faint smiles.

This was just one part of our plan.

The second part of our plan would come once we went into the air.

"Ah!"

There was even more screaming that rang out when our wyverns suddenly flew into the air.

The ones that were controlling the wyverns had annoyed looks since their passengers kept moving around. There were even some of them that tried to grab the wyvern riders to stabilize themselves, but they just flopped on their faces since they weren't used to moving on the back of the wyverns.

This wasn't something that anyone could do, let alone a bunch of ministers that spent most of their days in an office.

So most of them were just disorientating themselves as they struggled on the back of the wyverns.

I didn't have to suffer this fate since Joan was special.

She wasn't someone that I could let anyone ride, let alone people from other countries that could be hostile. She was the important Wyvern Queen that would maintain the peace between wyverns and humans, so nothing could happen to her.

Not that they would ever learn of this.

I could see from the back of Joan just how bad they were getting, which meant that our plan was working.

The fourth prince and I had even secretly told the wyvern riders to go as rough as they could with their passengers.

After all, we wanted them to be as dizzy as possible when they got off.

Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure #Chapter 702 A poor country (2) - Read Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure Chapter 702 A poor country (2)

Chapter 702 A poor country (2)

The first location that we were heading to was a village outside of the capital city.

Even though the capital city was the most prosperous location in the kingdom, that didn't mean that there weren't villages in the surrounding area.

This wasn't like the modern era where there was strict planning over the land used.

In this world that was in the middle ages, there was only planning when it came to cities and towns since they were important trade centers. Anything outside of cities and towns went however one wanted to do it.

So there were actually many villages that were outside of the capital.

Villages were created by people gathering and people gathered based on the land that was available.

These villages would generally be built in places where there was fertile soil so they would be able to farm and feed themselves.

From time to time, villages would be favoured by nobles and taken under them as territories.

Or they would be given as territories to nobles for accomplishments even if they had nothing to do with the villages.

That was just how it was sometimes, that was the way of the nobility.

This was a world that worked on the feudal system after all.

When we arrived in the village, the first thing that happened was that there was a panic that came from below.

The villagers scattered like ants when they saw that there were wyverns heading towards them.

The men gathered up with makeshift weapons as if they were prepared to fight while the women and children were all evacuated into the forest. From above, we could see that there was a makeshift shelter in that forest that they were hiding in.

But of course, it wasn't as if we were here to attack them.

So we landed on the outskirts of the village.

After landing, there was a group that came to meet us, but we didn't deal with them first.

What the prime minister and ministers did first was...hug the ground and then spew out their breakfasts. They couldn't control themselves at all as they puked out all of the food that was in their stomach.

It really wasn't a pleasant sight to see, but it could be said that this was our fault.

So it wasn't as if we could just abandon them.

We had to at least help them get over this nausea that they felt even if we were the ones that caused it.

Once they recovered, the prime minister talked to the chief of this village.

The chief was naturally shocked to hear that it was the prime minister himself who came to visit them, but he quickly calmed down and listened to everything that the prime minister had to say.

When they finished their chat, the village chief looked over at our group with a strange look.

There was even a trace of hostility in his eyes, but he quickly hid it since he knew that it would be impossible for him to do anything to this group. After all, this was a group that commanded a group of wyverns.

If they wanted, it would be easy for them to burn down their village.

The chief couldn't make a mistake of accidentally offending them and getting the village destroyed.

That would go against his duties as the chief of this village.

So the village chief quickly revealed a smile and came forward to greet us.

The fourth prince and I had naturally not missed the look of hostility that had been in his eyes, but we ignored it as we followed the village chief into the village.

Though before we did enter the village, the village chief asked us, "Um, my lord, what are you planning to do about the wyverns?"

I just calmly said, "They'll stay there until it's time for us to leave. We'll be taking them back to the capital after all."

There was a bitter look that appeared on the village chief's face when he heard this, but there was nothing that he could say in response to this.

Over the next hour, we were led to different parts of the village.

While we were in the village, we could see that the women and children that had been evacuated were brought back to the village. But they made sure to stay out of our way as we toured the village.

I could even see that some of the women were scared of even matching our gazes as they walked by.

It was as if they were afraid to attract any attention to themselves.

I could already guess why that was the case.

They were afraid of catching the eyes of a noble since it would mean being torn away from their village and their family.

This was a world with the feudal system and one where prima nocta still existed, so these commoners wouldn't be able to resist the nobility at all.

But the way that they looked at us was more than that...

It was as if something like this had already happened before, which was why they were so scared of us.

It seemed like the nobles of the Beirut Kingdom really weren't that good in the first place...

As for the parts of the village that we were shown, we could see that there were crops that were growing quite well in their fields. It seemed like there would be a good harvest this year for this village, but...

I also noticed that the village chief and the men who followed him seemed a bit thin, as if they were a bit malnourished.

So while the prime minister and the ministers seemed to be pushing these crops onto us, the village chief and his men seemed to be staying quiet.

It was almost as if they were praying that we would leave their village alone.

At the same time, it was almost as if they had suffered from an incident that was similar to this before.

That was how expressive the emotions on their faces were.

Chapter 703 A poor country (3)

When we were done inspecting the village, the next place that we went was one of the copper mines near the capital.

This time, it was much more restrictive.

The prime ministers and ministers did all that they could to keep us from going to certain parts of the mine. At the same time, they did what they could to stop us from talking to the people working at the mine.

It was as if they were doing all that they could to stop the mine from catching our eyes.

This was most likely because they didn't want to give up these ores.

They were happy to give up crops as compensation, but it wasn't the same for the ores that they obtained from this mine.

These ores were important for not just creating weapons and armours, it was also what they used for creating the tools and items that they exported. It wasn't just important for the military, it was also important for the economy.

But the most important thing was, it was their benefits that would be hurt if the ores were taken.

The one that benefited from these ores and the sale of the items created from these ores were the nobles of the Beirut Kingdom. They were the ones that pocketed most of the money that came from the sale of these items, so naturally they didn't want to give up these things.

It wasn't a small amount of money that they were siphoning from this.

At the same time, it could also be said that it was a large amount of money that went to support the Beirut Kingdom.

So they didn't want to lose any of this.

But more importantly, the fourth prince and I noticed that there was something very wrong with this mine.

It was that the people who worked here were all clearly malnourished and overworked.

It almost seemed like they would fall over at any moment at this rate with how much it seemed like they were being abused.

It made it very clear that the working conditions in this mine were not very good, but it seemed that the people working here didn't have any choice. After all, there was a large number of guards that were standing all around the mine.

The prime minister and ministers all said that this was to protect their precious mine, but it was clear that this wasn't the case.

"It seems like the situation in the Beirut Kingdom isn't even worse than we thought."

The fourth prince secretly said this to me and I nodded in agreement to this.

The other reason that we had requested to see the mines and farms in the Beirut Kingdom was because of the rumours that we had heard.

Well, it really wasn't the rumours that I had heard, but rather the rumours that the fourth prince had heard.

These rumours had given the fourth prince an idea of how to take care of the Beirut Kingdom, which was why we had to inspect these places first.

And after inspecting them, I had to say that I was far more disappointed than I thought I would be.

It was clear that this place was not a good place for its citizens to live in.

Once we had finished inspecting the mines, the prime minister and ministers looked like they had somewhere else that they wanted to take us.

However...

"We have seen enough. We want to go back and rest for now." I suddenly said this when they asked us where we wanted to go.

The prime minister and ministers were all surprised to hear this, but they couldn't help feeling that something was off.

If it was anywhere else, they might not have been as worried.

But in this place where their interests were, they had no choice but to be worried.

After all, since they wanted to stop after seeing the mine, didn't it make sense that they had already decided on taking the resources from the mine?

But they couldn't let that happen since it would hurt their benefits if the things from the mines were taken.

So they had to do something to distract them.

In the end, they had no choice but to give up.

We were the ones that held all the cards, so the only thing that they could do was try to give suggestions to us. They couldn't force us to go anywhere that we didn't want to go, so they just had to accept that we didn't want to go and bring us back to our residence.

But along the way, they still tried to make more suggestions.

So I had the wyvern riders give them the same treatment as before.

When we arrived back at the residence, the prime minister and ministers were just happy that they could touch the ground.

We didn't give them any time to say anything else before quickly heading into the residence.

With this, they had no choice but to give up on trying to convince us otherwise.

But the one thing that they could do was report this to the king and try to figure something out.

So they didn't bother us anymore and immediately headed to the castle.

That didn't mean that we were idle during this.

The fourth prince and I gathered in one of the rooms of the residence alone.

That was because everyone else that was with our group was standing guard outside this place.

They were completely focused on making sure that not a single thing could enter or escape from this room. They were making sure that no matter what happened, no one would be able to hear our conversation.

That was because we had something important to discuss.

"It seems that this country is much poorer than we had expected." The fourth prince opened up with this.

I nodded in agreement without saying a thing.

"Not only that, it seems that those at the top are quite tyrannical."

It wasn't just the fourth prince, I also knitted my brows when I heard this.

Chapter 704 A poor country (4)

After a long silence, I gave a nod in response and said, "It seems like we don't have a choice. It seems that we really have to go with your plan."

The fourth prince didn't seem happy when he heard this.

With the way that his brows remained knitted, it was almost as if he was disappointed that this was the result.

After all, the fourth prince's idea was to incite rebellion in the Beirut Kingdom and then take over their territory.

But that was supposed to be a long term plan.

If we were to do it now, it would mean having to take in the Beirut Kingdom when it was in this weak state.

The plan was supposed to be long term to give the Beirut Kingdom time to recover before taking it over.

It was just that we might not have that time.

The Beirut Kingdom simply put was too corrupt.

It was a poor country that was filled with corruption at the top, which just fermented more and more hatred in its common citizens.

While the nobles at the top would have the power to suppress the citizens, that was only to a certain extent. Once their corruption reached a certain point, they wouldn't be able to stop an uprising.

Especially since their corruption actually weakened their power.

During the audience with the king, the fourth prince and I had also secretly observed the ministers that were in that throne room to see if any of them had what it took to be a pillar of the country.

If there were any like that, we knew that this country might be able to last a bit longer.

But everything that we had done had gone the way that we had expected.

There wasn't a genius like the fourth prince hidden among the nobles of the Beirut Kingdom.

It was only a matter of time before they collapsed on their own at this rate.

Which was the last thing that we wanted.

After all, if they collapsed on their own, that would mean that we wouldn't be able to benefit from their uprising.

It was only when we controlled the collapse of the Beirut Kingdom that we would be able to benefit from it.

So we had no choice but to get involved much sooner than we wanted to.

I looked at the fourth prince and asked, "How long do you think it'll take before they start collapsing."

This was an indirect way of asking..."How long can you stall it?"

The fourth prince didn't say anything right away as he just had a look of thought on his face.

After a while, the fourth prince said with a sigh, "I don't know, but I can at least guarantee that I can stall it until after your coronation."

I gave a nod in response, but I still asked, "How long after that can you stall it?"

The fourth prince just revealed a bitter smile when he heard this before saying, "That I can't be certain."

This situation really was the worst case scenario for us since the timing really was bad for us.

Until we stabilize the situation in our kingdom, it would be bad for us to take over the Beirut Kingdom. This would especially be true for when I succeeded the throne and took the position of the new king.

It was just that it was impossible to stop what was going to come, so we had no choice but to accept this.

After another silence, the fourth prince said, "While it's impossible to stop it, I can at least think of ways to make it easier for us. So don't worry, I'll think of something to deal with this."

I gave a nod in response, but there was still a worried look on my face.

After a pause, I still asked, "Even if we take them over, do you have a way to solve the poverty in this country? If we try to solve it with our own money, it will take a lot of funds for us to do so. I'm sure that this won't be a small amount that we can pay on our own."

The fourth prince gave a nod, but he didn't say anything.

There was this look of thought that was on his face for a while before he finally said, "I have some ideas, but I need to check a few more things before I can put those ideas into play. I'll ask that you just leave this matter to me, I'll take care of it for you."

Another nod followed in response to this.

If someone asked me who I trusted the most, the fourth prince would certainly be at the very top of that list.

If he was telling me to leave this matter to him, then I would certainly do so.

Especially since I found this matter a pain to deal with in the first place.

Instead of continuing this topic, I asked him about something else.

"What are you planning to do about the collateral for the missed payments? It isn't as if we can just ignore this, right?"

The fourth prince nodded in response before saying, "I've already considered that, but there really isn't much that we can take. However, I've heard a few interesting rumours about the castle, so I want to take a look at some things before making a decision."

"Interesting rumours?" I couldn't help asking.

The fourth prince gave another nod in response before saying with a smile, "There are quite a few interesting rumours about the castle, but I have no idea if it's true or not. I'll have to take a close look to figure this out."

Then after a pause, the smile on his face became wider as he said, "If it is true, we might even find a treasure that everyone else missed."

He rubbed his hands together as he said, "I really hope that it is something that they missed."

Once again, I couldn't help feeling pity for the people of this Beirut Kingdom.

Having to deal with the fourth prince was like facing a natural disaster.

Chapter 705 Without knowledge

The next morning, we went back to the castle.

It wasn't to meet with the king, but rather because there was something else there that we wanted to see.

The prime minister and other ministers were up bright and early to greet us, but they were surprised when they heard where we wanted to go.

"The royal library? Is that really all you want to do today?"

The prime minister asked this with a surprised and confused look when he heard this.

After all, he didn't think that the library was that valuable that it would need inspection, but he also didn't dare neglect us. So the prime minister and the ministers all quickly led us to the royal library.

Once we were there, the fourth prince just ignored them as he started going through the books that were here.

Seeing this, there was a bit of understanding that appeared in the eyes of the prime minister and the other ministers.

It seemed that this group from the Kite Kingdom was just here to read books at the request of this Count Navar. It seemed that they weren't really interested in anything else other than the books.

But they also recognized that this was an opportunity for them.

This royal library was a restricted place, but that was only for normal people.

For nobles like them, it was easy to gain access.

That also included their daughters.

During this time, they had been trying to figure out a way to introduce their daughters to this group from the Kite Kingdom so they could earn some benefits from sending their daughters to them. However, it seemed like nothing would work since they never stayed still and always rejected visits from others.

This wasn't the case now.

If they were going to read books in the library, they would be in that place for a while.

If they knew where they would be, then it was their chance to send their daughters to try and honey trap them.

Of course, that was all because they thought that everything in the royal library was useless. They didn't think any of the books that were there had any value since they were just there to collect dust.

With that, the prime minister and ministers quickly excused themselves, even though they left guards to watch over us.

The excuse was that the guards were there to protect us, but really they were there to monitor us. They wanted to make sure that we didn't go anywhere and if we did, they would know exactly where we would be because they had assigned guards to us.

It was so that they could put their plan in action.

Not long after, there were some girls that wandered into the library.

They acted like they were just there to see the books, but it was clear by the way that they dressed up that they weren't here just for this. After all, no one would wear a dress and heels just to go read a book.

They made sure to show off in front of us, as if they were trying to attract our attention, but we just ignored them as we continued reading our books.

It seemed that they were trying to seduce the fourth prince more than me.

After all, the fourth prince, or rather Count Navar, was someone that I had shown respect to during this time. This wasn't something that the prime minister and ministers hadn't missed.

They knew that this Count Navar had a special position for me to treat him this way.

Or at least that was what I wanted them to think.

I knew that the fourth prince didn't actually want any of this, so being surrounded by girls like this was a form of torture for him.

That was my way of getting a bit of revenge for how he had forced his way into coming with me.

But since all of the girls were ignored, there was nothing that they could do except sit nearby with books in front of them, as if they were pretending to read. However, it was easy to see that they were looking in this direction the entire time.

The fourth prince and I just ignored them as we had our own little conversation.

"So, how is it?" I asked all of a sudden.

The fourth prince gave a sigh before saying, "As expected, it is as bad as you think."

"Is that so?" I raised a brow when saying this.

The fourth prince gave a slight nod before pointing at the book in front of him, as if he was pointing out a part in the book. But he said, "Just take this book as an example. It was covered in dust when I picked it up, showing that they never even bothered reading it or taking care of it. However, as soon as one reads this book, they will understand just how much knowledge is in this book."

I leaned in to take a look at the page that the fourth prince was on and couldn't help slightly knitting my brows.

It wasn't that I could see what he was referring to, it was that I couldn't understand what was written on it. There was this strange language on the page that I just couldn't understand at all.

It was no mystery why they didn't care about this book, but I was surprised that the fourth prince was able to read this without a problem.

It seemed that he was even more high spec than I thought he was.

The fourth prince just ignored the way that I looked at him and continued by saying, "It's no wonder this kingdom is like this. There's no knowledge for them to survive on at all. They are just doing the bare minimum to keeping their kingdom from falling apart, it just takes a single poke for it all to break."

I revealed a faint smile before saying, "Then you've made up your mind?"

The fourth prince gave a nod before saying, "Right, I know what we'll take."

Chapter 706 Are you sure?

The next morning, we went back for another audience with the king.

Once again, all of the ministers gathered and they all had worried looks on their faces.

This was our last day in this Beirut Kingdom after all, so it would be the day that we decided what we would be taking from them. This was what they had been afraid of the entire time.

So naturally all of the ministers gathered so that they could say something if it came to it.

When we stepped into the throne room, we immediately became the center of attention.

The way that everyone looked at us like this would have been enough to put pressure on normal people, but for us...it was nothing. We were already used to it since this was how we had spent our time during our stay in this Beirut Kingdom.

No matter where we went, we had been the center of attention.

So we were already used to it.

We came up in front of everyone and just like before, I greeted the king of the Beirut Kingdom with a slight bow.

It was still as disrespectful as before, but no one seemed to care this time.

All of them had worried looks on their faces instead, as if they were afraid of what we were going to say.

After receiving our greetings, the king said, "Duke Zwein, I hope that you have enjoyed your visit to our Beirut Kingdom. I'm sure that you must have seen many interesting things during your time in our Beirut Kingdom. May I ask if there was anything in particular that caught your attention?"

Though this was a roundabout and indirect way of doing this, what he was basically asking was...

"What do you want from us?"

As soon as he said this, all of the ministers once again looked at us with expectant looks.

I didn't say anything at first as I just looked at the king with a calm look on my face.

But after a while, I said, "I have indeed seen many interesting things in your country, but there wasn't much that actually caught my eyes."

The king and the ministers all revealed ugly expressions when they heard this.

It wasn't as if they hadn't considered this possibility before as well, but to actually hear it was something different.

There was still the possibility that he didn't want anything at all.

If that was the case, wouldn't he insist on being paid the amount of reparations that they were owed?

That was not something that they could do because...they just didn't have that much money.

Well, it wasn't that they didn't have that much money, it was that the country didn't have that much money. The kingdom's finances had taken a large hit after the war, so there wasn't much that was available to be used to pay these reparations.

Yes, it was the kingdom's finances that were drained.

It wasn't the actual amount of money that was in the kingdom that was drained.

The personal wealth of the nobles still remained.

Even the royal family had a personal wealth that was even greater than the finances of the country.

But there wasn't a single moment where they thought about using that wealth of theirs for the country. There wasn't a single moment that it registered in their minds that they could use their personal wealth to pay the reparations.

That was just how greedy they were.

The king gave a cough to calm himself down before saying, "Then Duke Zwein, are you saying that..."

He didn't finish his sentence, but the meaning of his words being left hanging were clear.

When I heard this, I looked at him with a smile and said, "That is what I was thinking, but there was something that did catch my attention in the end."

The king and all of the ministers held their breaths when they heard this.

Whether this was a good thing or not was still to be seen, but at least this saved them from their worst case scenario.

Seeing them like this, I couldn't help giving a sigh deep down.

These people, there really was no helping them.

Taking a deep breath to adjust myself, I said, "Yes, what has caught my eye is your library. I want to take the books in there as collateral for the payment."

"Eh?" There was a look of complete shock on the face of the king when he heard this.

It wasn't just him, it was also the ministers that were shocked when they heard this.

They looked at each other with confused looks before looking at me again as if they couldn't understand what I was saying.

After a long silence, the king asked, "Are you sure about that?"

I just gave a simple nod before saying, "Please make sure to deliver those books to our kingdom within two weeks and we'll take off two months of war reparations for you."

The king and the ministers were even more shocked since they didn't believe that the books in the library held such value. But they didn't say anything since this was the best deal for them.

If there really was anything that was important in the library, they could just remove it during the transporting process. After all, it was impossible for the other side to memorize everything that was in the library.

Or at least that was what they thought until I took out a sheet of paper.

"This is the complete list of books that we expect to receive."

I raised it up in front of me as if waiting for someone to take it.

One of the ministers came forward to take it before bringing it over to the king.

The king looked at it with a confused look before looking up at me and giving a nod since he didn't understand what was so important about these books.

In the end, they didn't have the foresight to understand, so they gave up their precious knowledge.

Chapter 707 The clash of titans

Once we had finished with the Beirut Kingdom, it was time to move to the next kingdom.

However, this was not one that was as easy to deal with as the Beirut Kingdom.

Unlike the Beirut Kingdom that was a den of corruption because of those that sat at the top, this next kingdom had someone who was holding it together. This one person had the same status as the fourth prince in our kingdom.

We were heading to the Midra Kingdom.

I was surprised by the one that greeted us since I never expected this person to come personally.

It was the second prince who led the delegation that welcomed us.

Though, he didn't really lead it in a way that one would expect.

The official leader was the prime minister of the Midra Kingdom, but the way that everyone acted made it clear that the second prince was the one that was actually in charge.

As expected of a hidden mastermind kind of character.

The prime minister of the Midra Kingdom introduced us to everyone that was in their party, but when it came to the second prince...

It almost seemed like he didn't intend to draw any attention to himself.

So the fourth prince was the one that went forward to greet him as a member of our party that was just as insignificant as the second prince was in his party.

This might seem like an inconsequential meeting, but it wasn't the case for me.

For me, it seemed like a meeting of the titans since these two were famous mastermind characters in the game. I was very curious just how the two of them would act towards each other.

And...it was surprisingly simple.

It didn't seem like either of them were saying anything special, it almost seemed like they were just chatting with each other.

It was far from the clash that I thought would happen between the two of them.

When the meet and greet was over, we were brought to the castle by the prime minister.

I found that the second prince had actually disappeared from the area, whether it was to take care of his own matters or if it was because he was planning on heading to the castle first.

The fourth prince came back to me during this time and said, "He certainly didn't disappoint."

I was surprised at first when I heard this, but I quickly started asking him what he meant by this.

The fourth prince didn't really give an answer when I asked him this.

Instead, he just seemed to look off into the distance as he said, "That man is hiding more secrets than anything thinks. He has something that he wants to do, something that is very interesting."

I raised a brow to look at the fourth prince as if I was asking him what that was, but the fourth prince chose not to elaborate.

Instead, he just had an amused look on his face as if he had found something funny.

I really didn't understand what he was thinking, but there wasn't anything that I could do about it if he wasn't going to say anything.

When we arrived at the castle, it was the same as before.

We were led to the throne room where the king and the ministers were all waiting for us.

They wanted the same thing as before, but this time, we didn't have any way of rejecting since we didn't have anything on the Midra Kingdom.

Unlike the Beirut Kingdom, they weren't behind on their reparation payments, so there wasn't anything that we could do to keep them at bay.

They did the same thing as the Beirut Kingdom where the princess came forward to greet us. Then the king of the Midra Kingdom had wanted the princess to guide us around during our stay in their kingdom.

Since we didn't have a way to reject them, it seemed like we would be stuck with this.

Or at least that was what it seemed until the second prince suddenly stepped forward.

We didn't notice him until now since he had been hiding in the crowd, but when he stepped out, he suddenly became the center of attention.

With the way that everyone looked at him, there was no mistaking the second prince's fame in this Midra Kingdom.

In fact, it almost seemed like he was someone who was even more popular than the current king. It was to the point where even the king looked a bit uncomfortable being overshadowed by his son like this.

But the king had been on the throne for a long time, it would take a lot to really shake him.

The king took the initiative by asking, "Do you have some other ideas?"

The second prince nodded before saying, "Your majesty, if you would allow it, I wish to personally show the guests from the Kite Kingdom around."

Everyone was shocked when they heard this.

This further cemented just what kind of position the second prince had in the Midra Kingdom.

After staring at his son for a bit, the king suddenly said, "Are you sure about this? I'm sure that you're still busy with your work."

The second prince said with a casual smile, "Your majesty, please don't worry. I'll take care of all my work and still have time to show the guests around."

The king had an awkward look on his face when he heard this, but he eventually nodded in agreement even though it didn't seem like he was willing.

Once he received permission, the second prince didn't mind anyone else who was here as he turned to look at me to say, "Shall we?"

I was certainly surprised to see the second prince doing all of this, but I gave a nod before following him.

Following close behind me was the fourth prince.

Our group was led by the second prince until we reached a private room in this castle.

Chapter 708 A surprising proposal

When we were in the room, it was only the fourth prince, me, and the second prince sitting there.

The rest were all standing outside keeping guard, but that was quite awkward since it wasn't just our guards that were standing there. There were also the second prince's guards that were standing outside this room.

They just stood on opposite sides and stared at each other awkwardly, but neither side let down their guards as they stared at each other.

Inside the room, that was the least of our concern as we were focused on the second prince.

Though he was the one that had led us here, he didn't say a single word as he sat there across from us.

All three of us just stared at each other as if we were waiting for someone to talk.

Finally, the second prince broke the silence by saying with a smile, "I've long heard of your fame, but it really is an honour to meet you both. Duke Zwein and the famous fourth prince of the Kite Kingdom."

Both of us immediately knitted our brows when we heard this, but we can't say that we were surprised.

The fame of the second prince was just so great that it wasn't surprising that he would be able to see through the disguise of the fourth prince.

It was just surprising that he would reveal this fact to us.

After all, it would make more sense to hide the fact that he knew this so he could use this information to his advantage. The fourth prince being here and away from our kingdom was a serious matter, so he could have used this to do many things.

But the fact that he was willing to expose this meant that he saw more potential from exposing this than keeping it secret.

It really made us wonder just what he was planning...

However, since he was willing to expose this, then we should at least show the same kind of courtesy.

The fourth prince removed his disguise and revealed his true appearance before saying, "I've long heard of the fame of the second prince as well. It seems that the rumours weren't even close to describing the second prince properly."

The second prince revealed a smile as he said, "Rumours are just rumours in the end. I hope that we can forget about all those rumours and just talk properly."

The fourth prince gave a nod before narrowing his eyes to say, "What do you want?"

The second prince was surprised to hear this since he never thought that the fourth prince would be this direct.

However, the fourth prince knew that the only way to catch him off guard and bring the tempo back on their side was to be direct. Only by being direct would he be able to shift the momentum in his favour like this.

The second prince just looked at the fourth prince with a confused look for a bit before suddenly breaking out in laughter and saying, "It seems that the rumours do not do justice to the fourth prince either."

The fourth prince didn't laugh along as he just narrowed his eyes to look at the second prince.

It was clear by the suspicion in his eyes that he didn't trust the second prince, but the second prince didn't seem to care.

Seeing that he wouldn't say anything else, the second prince continued by saying, "It's very simple, I have a request that I want to make of you. It's one that might be a bit hard to accept, but I hope that you will consider it."

Both the fourth prince and I knitted our brows when we heard this, but we didn't reject him right away.

For the second prince to do all of this, it was clear that the request that he had wasn't a normal request.

If that was the case, it actually made us curious about what his request would be.

The second prince saw this and continued saying with a smile, "It's actually a very simple request, I just want to join your country and work for you."

We knitted our brows even deeper when we heard this as the fourth prince and I looked at each other. We could see the confused looks in each other's eyes, showing that neither of us understood what he was saying

But that wasn't strange when the second prince had made such a crazy request.

A prince of a country was actually asking to become a subordinate.

Let alone a prince that had the level of fame and power as the second prince of the Midra Kingdom.

There didn't seem to be a benefit to him switching sides like this.

The second prince could guess what we were thinking based on the looks on our faces, but he didn't panic as he calmly said with a smile, "I know that it must be hard to believe that I would do something like this, but..." The smile disappeared from his face and a serious look replaced it as he said, "There is no future in this country. I am not delusional enough that I can't see something like that. While I might be able to do something for our people if I took the throne, it's clear that this isn't the best course of action anymore."

After saying this, he narrowed his eyes to look at me before saying, "You've done things that I've never been able to imagine. These things almost seem like magic, but I know that it's not that. You seem to possess knowledge that no one seems to have."

A bitter laugh rang out in my mind when I heard this, but I kept the expression on my face calm.

The second prince just calmly said with a smile, "I know that it's hard to believe me right now, but I hope that my actions over the next few days will convince you of my sincerity."

Chapter 709 The second prince's sincerity (1)

The next morning, it was the second prince who came to visit us at the residence that we were staying at.

He had arrived bright and early to show us around, waiting for us even when we weren't ready yet.

It seemed like he was raring to go, which was very surprising.

With the fame that the second prince had, he was certainly a very busy person.

So it was strange that he was able to come this early in the morning.

But what was stranger was where the second prince wanted to take us.

He didn't want to take us to see the capital or bring us to meet with the daughters of the ministers, he wanted to take us out of the capital to one of the surrounding villages.

It was similar to what we had done when we went to the Beirut Kingdom.

Though in the case of the Beirut Kingdom, it was something that we had forced onto them. In this Midra Kingdom, they were willingly showing this to us.

The fourth prince and I both had to double check with the ministers that had come with the second prince. We had thought that they would stop us from going to the villages around the capital, but they seemed like they agreed with the second prince.

It just didn't make sense since they shouldn't want us to see something like this.

When we were heading out, we made the same request as before to take the wyverns, but I found that the second prince agreed without any hesitation.

The look on his face even seemed like he was excited about riding on the wyverns.

Though the same couldn't be said about the ones that were behind him.

When we came to the wyverns, the ministers all had looks of terror on their faces.

It was clear that they didn't want to do this...

But since the second prince had already agreed to it, they had no choice but to ride the wyverns.

The second prince actually went on the wyvern of the fourth prince.

It was the same young wyvern from before, but it had grown a bit so it was able to carry someone other than the fourth prince now. Though I had to admit that I might have had a hand in its growth.

I might have recommended a few things that the fourth prince could feed to his wyvern that would make it stronger.

It wouldn't be stronger than Joan, but there was no doubt that it would become stronger after eating these things.

So other than Joan, it could be considered the strongest wyvern.

But even then, the second prince didn't seem to mind at all as he sat on this roller coaster of a wyvern. It was like he was being thrown around at high speeds when riding on the back of the fourth prince's wyvern.

He just acted like he was on an actual roller coaster and enjoying the ride.

It was hard to tell if he really was enjoying it or not, but I had to admire the courage that the second prince had.

It was a very striking contrast between the second prince and the ministers that came with him

The second prince was just like the fourth prince when he was on his first wyvern ride, even going as far as stretching his hand out to enjoy the wind better.

The ministers on the other hand were all holding onto the wyvern for their dear lives. It was as if they were afraid that if they let go for a single second, they would be thrown off the back of the wyverns.

It really was something seeing the difference between them.

At the same time, it made one admire the second prince more.

Well, it would be a lie to say that one didn't fear the second prince a bit when they saw him like this. It made one wonder just what was going through his mind.

When we arrived at the village, it was the same reaction as last time.

But this time, it was easier for us to convince them that we were friendly.

That was the fame of the second prince.

Even the commoners recognized the second prince and respected him, so they immediately put down their weapons when they saw the second prince jumping off the wyvern.

It made it very clear just what kind of position the second prince had in this country.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that the second prince might even be more important than the country's king.

The ministers on the other hand...

They were actually treated with less respect than in the Beirut Kingdom.

It was as if the commoners of the Midra Kingdom recognized that the ministers of the Midra Kingdom were useless and they weren't afraid of treating them this way.

If I had to guess, I would have guessed that this was related to the second prince in some way.

It was only the second prince that could create this kind of phenomenon.

Once the second prince had finished calming down the villagers, he introduced us to the village chief, "Village chief, these are our friends from abroad who have come to see the sights of our kingdom. I wanted to show them your fields, if that is alright."

The village chief quickly nodded before saying, "Of course, of course. It is an honour for the second prince to come all the way to see our fields."

Though he said this, it was clear by the way that the village chief and the villagers had some hostility towards us.

The second prince didn't say it out loud, but the fact that we had wyverns made it very clear that there was only one kingdom that we could have come from.

This was the kingdom that had caused them quite a bit of pain and suffering during this time.

But out of respect for the second prince, they didn't do anything.

As we headed to the fields, the fourth prince and I were even more confused about what the second prince was doing.

Chapter 710 The second prince's sincerity (2)

By all right, showing us this was showing us how strong their country was.

This should be a secret that was closely guarded by them and the second prince should know this, but he was actually bringing us to tour the farms.

It was almost as if he was inviting us to see the state of his country.

Just how would that help him?

But of course, we wouldn't turn this opportunity down.

In the first place, the Midra Kingdom was still a hostile kingdom to our kingdom, even if we were trying to build relations with them. In the end, we would have to take care of the Midra Kingdom eventually since they wouldn't give up on trying to take down our kingdom.

So we would naturally try to find as much information as we can about the Midra Kingdom.

What we found was...

The Midra Kingdom's crops were growing well.

Unlike the Beirut Kingdom that had poor land and poor farming techniques, the Midra Kingdom's land was well managed and properly equipped. The crops were growing abundantly in the Midra Kingdom, unlike in the Beirut Kingdom.

We could see that they even had enough crops to sustain feeding livestock, something that wasn't present in the Beirut Kingdom.

It was clear that the Midra Kingdom was much better off than the Beirut Kingdom.

However, that was a bit strange since the Midra Kingdom's land shouldn't be that much better. The land that they owned was in the same climate region and had the same fertility as the land in the Beirut Kingdom.

So even if they were in two different kingdoms, the plants should have grown at around the same pace. Of course, that was considering the difference in technique as well.

When asked about this, the village chief proudly said, "Because of our second prince, we put in farming reformations a few years back. Since then, our crops have been growing unlike anything that we've seen before. In just a few years, we have grown more than enough food to feed ourselves and we've been able to sell the excess for plenty of money."

"Farming reformations?" I couldn't help asking about this, "What kind of farming reformations?"

This time, the village chief wasn't as willing to talk.

But it turned out that the second prince wasn't the same.

When the second prince spoke, not only the village chief, but also the ministers were shocked. But that shock kept increasing as they heard what he said.

"It's not enough to praise. It's just a shell that I found that when crushed up creates a powder that helps the growth of plants."

A shell?

The fourth prince was surprised, but I wasn't as surprised since I knew a little about this.

Calcium, it was what was in the powder of the crushed shell that helped raise the quality of the soil. The higher quality the soil, naturally the better the plants grew.

This was something that normal people wouldn't have been able to discover since most people wouldn't crush shells in the first place. So for the second prince to discover this, he or the people that worked for him had quite the curious minds.

But I also knew that it was impossible for crushed shells alone to have this kind of effect.

They had to also have some kind of fertilizer that helped the plants grow.

This had to be fertilizer that was better than the manure that was already used in this era.

I didn't know what kind of fertilizer the second prince had found, but it was certain that he had found some kind of fertilizer.

This was a man that had all kinds of innovation and had all the tools to make his country prosperous. It didn't seem like there was a need for him to want to do something like work for us...

As long as he waited long enough, it would only be a matter of time before he took the throne and he would be able to do what he wanted with his country.

When that happened, this Midra Kingdom might actually become a country that would far surpass the surrounding countries.

So I was more and more confused by what the second prince was doing.

The fourth prince seemed like he wanted to ask a few more questions, but I grabbed his shoulder and stopped him.

When the fourth prince looked at me, I just gave him a look that seemed to be telling him to stop.

I had already gotten enough information from this and I knew that pushing further would only harm us. So I didn't want him to keep pushing or else it would arouse suspicion.

The second prince revealed a faint smile when he heard this before saying to the village chief, "How about showing them the fruit orchard that we have growing?"

The village chief quickly nodded before leading the way with a proud look on his face.

Not only did they grow their normal plants, they had even started a fruit orchard.

It had to be known that a fruit orchard was completely different from just farming normal crops. A fruit orchard was not something that could be created that easily since it took a large amount of time before it could yield fruits.

Yet the fruit orchard in this village was already filled with trees that were fruiting, showing that it had been here for a while.

This was a clear sign of just how prosperous this village, no this entire country was.

This was not a small deal, this was a very big deal.

The ministers revealed proud smiles as well when they saw this.

The reason that they had even agreed to this was because they had been told by the second prince that this was a good chance to show off the might of their kingdom with their resources.

Seeing the look on my face, they knew that I had realized just how prosperous they were, which meant that they had achieved their goals.

The second prince didn't waste any time after that as he finished the tour and led us to another place.