

# The Lord's Empire

## Chapter 16: Human Village

“Your Majesty! We’ve finished researching Taming!” After Zhao Fu gave those orders, Bai Shan ran over with an expression of joy on his face.

When Zhao Fu heard this, he felt quite delighted. After waiting for so long, the Research Workshop was finally showing some results. He nodded and headed over to the Research Workshop, and there, he saw a few Scholars and a new stone stele.

When the Scholars saw that Zhao Fu had arrived, they respectfully retreated to one side. Zhao Fu walked up and placed his hand on the stone stele, and some information was transmitted to his mind:

[Tamer]: F+ grade Military. Description: Receives the ability to tame wild beasts. Effect: Receives skill [Taming].

Seeing this, Zhao Fu brought two villagers to change their profession to Tamer and then ordered people to catch some wild ducks and geese to tame.

Right now, the Great Qin Village severely lacked people. There were many things to do, so they had to use many of the Goblins to make up for their lack of people. As for exploring the crack, they were waiting for the stairs to be constructed before going in again.

After going west of the Great Qin Village, Zhao Fu went to have a look at the newly-constructed Gnome Village. The Gnomes all lowered their heads respectfully and retreated to one side. Zhao Fu found five Mechanics Scholars and instructed them to start researching ballistae.

After returning to the Great Qin Village, Bai Shan came up and asked, “Your Majesty, what would you like us to research next?”

Zhao Fu had almost forgotten that the Scholars didn’t have anything to do now that they had successfully researched Taming. There were simply too many matters to take care of, and Zhao Fu started to feel somewhat overwhelmed. After he thought for a moment, he replied to Bai Shan, “Start researching teleportation channels!”

Teleportation channels were absolutely necessary. If the Great Qin Village could successfully research teleportation channels, they would make going from village to village more convenient, and Zhao Fu also needed to be able to visit a main city. Right

now, they had nowhere to spend the money they had earned, so he wanted to go to a main city to see what they could buy.

After receiving his orders, Bai Shan took his people and returned to the Workshop to start researching.

At this moment, someone came up to report that they had discovered a Human Village about five kilometers north of the Great Qin Village.

Zhao Fu immediately took some people to have a look. He wanted to determine if it was an ordinary village or a village of bandits. However, no matter what it was, Zhao Fu wanted to gain some more villagers from this village. Relying on the summoning each day was too slow, and the Great Qin Village greatly lacked villagers.

An hour or so later, they arrived at the Human Village. They stood on higher ground and looked down at the village, and Zhao Fu inwardly muttered, "Outlander villages can't compare to human villages at all."

For defense, the village had thick wooden boards as walls, and there were people on alert patrolling around. As soon as there was an enemy attack, they would immediately sound the alarm. The guards were also densely gathered because their village was in the wilderness. Because of this, they were constantly surrounded by danger, so they had to focus on defense.

The village had around 400 people. There were around 60 elderly and children and around 160 women. The other 200 or so people were men, making the village seem more like an ordinary village than a bandit village. Moreover, most of the guards had leather armor and iron sabers, so the village was much more prosperous than the Great Qin Village. After all, the Great Qin Village was still using weapons made of Iron Wood, and the soldiers only had 10 or so sets of leather armor.

Most of the soldiers were Militia, but a few of them held bows and arrows and a few others held shields, though they did not have the corresponding profession. Archers, Shieldbearers, and Cavalry needed to be researched or unlocked when a village leveled up. Intermediate Villages could unlock Shieldbearers, Advanced Villages could unlock Archers, and Towns could unlock Cavalry.

Right now, those who were holding bows and arrows and shields were relying on their own efforts and skills. They did not have the profession stats or skills, making them half as effective as those with a profession.

If Zhao Fu could conquer this village, he would be able to instantly gain the numbers he needed for the Great Qin Village. However, if he brought his people and attacked, he would be facing solid defenses and enemies with twice his numbers, so he would definitely lose many of his soldiers and most likely suffer defeat.

It seemed that they would not be able to take care of things through fighting, so Zhao Fu turned and said, "All of you go and hide for now. Bai Qi and I will go negotiate with them!"

Zhao Fu and Bai Qi headed to the entrance of the village, and the guards immediately called out in a loud voice, "Who are you people?"

Bai Qi was about to reply, but Zhao Fu signalled him to stop and said, "I'm the Village Chief of the Great Qin Village, a nearby village, and I've come to visit your village. Could I trouble your Village Chief to meet with me?"

The guards immediately went to report this matter, and after a while, the gates opened as a fair-skinned youth walked out and smiled at Zhao Fu, cupping his hands respectfully as he said, "Father invites you in!"

Zhao Fu returned the courtesy, after which he and Bai Qi followed the youth to a building. After walking in, they saw a white-bearded elder sitting down. When the elder saw Zhao Fu and Bai Qi, he stood up and smiled as he gestured with his hand for them to sit down, and the serving ladies brought some tea.

"I never thought that this village would receive such distinguished guests. I apologize for our poor hospitality," the elder said apologetically.

Zhao Fu calmly smiled as he replied, "Village Chief is too courteous. Our village has not been here for too long, and we've only just discovered your esteemed village and come to visit. We're quite late in doing so, so we hope you don't hold this against us."

The Village Chief felt quite surprised. "This old man was feeling quite curious why a village had suddenly appeared near us. So you've only been here for a short period of time. In the wilderness, dangers lurk everywhere, and it's hard to find a place of safety."

Zhao Fu nodded and was just about to say something when a youth walked in with a serious expression, reporting, "Village Chief! The Wild Wolf Village's people have come demanding food again."

The elder's expression became serious and apologized to Zhao Fu and Bai Qi before leaving with the others.

"Your Majesty!" Bai Qi said as he turned to look at Zhao Fu.

Zhao Fu nodded and they followed the Village Chief outside. They saw 10 or so vicious-looking people standing there, and a big, dark-skinned, and ugly-looking thug roared, "Damn old man, hand over your food!"

The fair-skinned youth became furious and was about to step up to say something but was held back by the elder, who ordered, "Give them the food!"

The villagers complied with the elder's commands and brought out 10 or so sacks of food and placed them at the entrance of the village.

The thug laughed with satisfaction after seeing so many sacks of food and called out, "You're quite a smart one, damn old man." After speaking, the thug ordered the others to carry the sacks of food and left.

When the fair-skinned youth saw them leave, he coldly harrumphed. Zhao Fu went up and asked what had just happened, and the situation was explained to him by the Village Chief.

This village was called the Li Family Village, and the Village Chief was called Li Youcai, while the fair-skinned youth, his son, was called Li Wen.

The Wild Wolf Village was a bandit village about eight kilometers away from the Li Family Village. The Wild Wolf Village had around 300 people, but as a bandit village, it essentially did not have any women, elderly, or children, and most of the 300 or so people were men. They were all bandits, rogues, and thugs, and they had quite a decent fighting force.

If the Wild Wolf Village wanted to attack the Li Family Village, with their solid defenses, the Wild Wolf Village would still lose many people. The Li Family Village was also afraid that the bandits would pillage and destroy their village, so they had maintained a non-aggression pact. However, the Li Family Village needed to hand over a certain amount of food every month.

## **Chapter 17: Poison**

Even though the Li Family Village and the Wild Wolf Village were 'at peace', the Li Family Village was in a weaker position, so the Wild Wolf Village was able to act so arrogantly. Of course, if the Wild Wolf Village found an opportunity, the men of the Wild Wolf Village would definitely break the current status quo and pillage the Li Family Village.

Even though the Wild Wolf Village had been eyeing the Li Family Village for a while, it had never found an opportunity to act, and the Li Family Village had always been on its guard against the Wild Wolf Village.

At this moment, Li Youcai kindly said to Zhao Fu, "Sir, your village will be discovered by them sooner or later. It's best that you make preparations now, or it'll be too late by the time they find you."

Surprisingly, Zhao Fu lightly shook his head and said sincerely, "Village Chief Li, if I help you deal with the Wild Wolf Village, what will I get in return?"

Hearing this, everyone around them looked over at Zhao Fu. Some had looks of doubt, others had looks of trust and gratitude, and several had looks of fear.

“Sir, if you can help us destroy the Wild Wolf Village, the Li Family Village will follow you from now on!” Li Wen said emotionally.

Li Youcai quickly grabbed Li Wen and said, “Apologies, my son is young and insensible; please don’t take his words seriously.”

Zhao Fu smiled and asked, “In that case, Village Chief Li, what can I get if I destroy the Wild Wolf Village for you?”

Li Youcai hesitated. On one hand, he knew that the Wild Wolf Village had been eyeing the Li Family Village this entire time, and he wanted to find an opportunity to act against them. Li Youcai was not stupid, and he believed that the bandits would one day attack the Li Family Village. That was why they were defending with such fear every day. However, they couldn’t keep going on like this – one day, the Wild Wolf Village would attack them, which was why they were attracted to Zhao Fu’s words.

Another one of his worries was that Zhao Fu would not be able to stand up to the Wild Wolf Village, resulting in the Wild Wolf Village directing its anger to the Li Family Village as well. In that case, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Zhao Fu could tell that the Village Chief had his worries, and he said, “Don’t worry, Village Chief Li, we won’t need a single one of your soldiers, and even if something does happen, it won’t affect the Li Family Village at all.”

When Li Youcai heard what Zhao Fu said, Li Youcai finally made up his mind and asked, “What would you like in return?”

Zhao Fu slightly smiled and said, “I want the Li Family Village to join the Great Qin Village!”

Li Youcai hesitated and thought for a while before finally agreeing. If Zhao Fu could really destroy the Wild Wolf Village, the Li Family Village would join the Great Qin Village.

After coming to this agreement, Zhao Fu and Bai Qi left the Li Family Village.

After Zhao Fu left, some of the Li Family Village’s villagers said with displeasure, “The Li Family Village is going to join another village just like that? Isn’t this a bit too rushed? I’m opposed to this!”

Li Youcai coldly harrumphed and said, “You idiot! If the Great Qin Village can easily destroy the Wild Wolf Village, then it must be very powerful. If that’s the case, the Great Qin Village will be able to easily destroy the Li Family Village as well. Their visit this time

was most likely diplomacy before violence, and if we hadn't agreed, it could have been us that was destroyed first."

Hearing this, everyone came to a sudden realization and felt quite fearful.

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After Zhao Fu and Bai Qi left the Li Family Village, they found the Wild Wolf Village based on Li Youcai's directions. After observing it for a while, Zhao Fu smiled with a sense of confidence and returned to the Great Qin Village. He stopped everything that was going on and rapidly gave out commands.

At night, when it had turned completely dark, a skinny youth in the Wild Wolf Village looked around to find a tree to relieve himself when he felt a sharp pain at the back of his head. He then fell to the ground and fainted.

When he came to, he found that he was bound and in an unfamiliar place. There were a few people looking at him, and the youth seemed to detect something as he cried out, "Sirs, please spare me! I have nothing! Are you sure you haven't caught the wrong person?"

Zhao Fu looked at the skinny youth and asked, "What's your name?"

Wang Ergou felt that Zhao Fu was the leader here, so he quickly replied, "Sir, this lowly one is called Wang Ergou."

"Very good! Wang Ergou, I want you to help me with something. If you do it, there'll be many benefits for you in the future," Zhao Fu said with a slight smile.

The Wild Wolf Village, a bandit village, was where the scum and dregs of society gathered, and none of its members felt much loyalty to it, so Wang Ergou quickly replied, "Yes, yes, I'll do anything sir requires of me."

When Zhao Fu heard this, he gave the order, "Untie him!"

A soldier stepped forwards and undid the ropes tying up Wang Ergou, who stood there with his head subserviently lowered.

"I want you to put this in everyone's food at dinnertime tomorrow," Zhao Fu said as he handed Wang Ergou a bottle.

Wang Ergou's face stiffened because he knew that Zhao Fu wanted him to poison everyone in the village. Wang Ergou's hands trembled as he received the bottle.

At this moment, Zhao Fu also handed him a red pill and said, "Eat this!"

Wang Ergou realized that this was not in his best interests, so he brightly smiled as he said, "This isn't necessary, is it, sir? Don't worry; I'll definitely do as you told me."

Of course, Zhao Fu didn't trust his words. If Zhao Fu trusted a bandit like him, he would be sold out in a moment, so he coldly replied, "You can either eat it yourself or have someone help you!"

Wang Ergou took the red pill, looked at it, and hesitated.

Zhao Fu tilted his head, signaling the soldiers to 'help' Wang Ergou with it. Two soldiers stepped forwards, making Wang Ergou finally make up his mind. He swallowed the red pill, and a sullen expression appeared on his face.

Zhao Fu took out a wild rabbit from a cage and fed it an identical red pill. He tossed the wild rabbit to Wang Ergou's side, and after a while, the wild rabbit hopped a few times before its body stiffened and it foamed at the mouth, blood coming out of its eyes as it died.

This caused Wang Ergou's face to become as pale as a sheet. He understood that this would be his outcome if he did not complete this mission.

"This is also for you. Don't worry; after you're done, I'll give you the antidote!" Zhao Fu said as he handed Wang Ergou five silver coins.

Wang Ergou nodded his head, and his hands shook as he received the silver coins. Following this, Zhao Fu ordered the soldiers to cover Wang Ergou's head and to take him back to where they had picked him up.

The next day, Wang Ergou returned to the Wild Wolf Village with a pale face. Because he had been thinking about this matter the entire time, he was careless and bumped into a large thug. He was slapped to the ground, a fiery pain spreading through his face, causing him to come back to his senses and to be filled with resolve.

Zhao Fu also started to gather all of his forces, including the Gnomes and Goblins, and waited for an opportunity.

At night, within the Wild Wolf Village's Hall, a tough, fierce-looking thug sat at the head seat and roared in a loud voice, "Brothers, eat and drink well tonight; tomorrow, we'll go to the Li Family Village and get a few women to play with!"

"Yes! Yes! Big bro!"

Everyone in the hall passionately responded, and the scene seemed quite lively.

Outside of the Wild Wolf Village, Zhao Fu coldly stared at the Wild Wolf Village and said, "Bai Qi! Do you think that Wang Ergou will use the poison?"

Bai Qi immediately lowered his head, cupped his fists, and said, "This subordinate doesn't dare to doubt Your Majesty's brilliant decisions!"

Zhao Fu smiled and said, "Alright, no need to use such formalities. Tell me what you really think."

## **Chapter 18: Mountain Saber**

Bai Qi raised his head and said, "I think Wang Ergou will most likely use the poison. Let alone a bandit village like this, even if it was an ordinary village, there would still be people willing to betray their village for personal benefits.

"This subordinate greatly admires Your Majesty's plan. First, bandits don't cook their food separately like normal households, and they instead cook all of their food in a big batch, making it quite easy to poison everyone. Second, Your Majesty chose an unremarkable and minor person who no one would notice. Even though the lord can see everyone's Loyalty, he needs to manually check each person, making it difficult to detect Wang Ergou's betrayal. Third, Your Majesty used a brilliant carrot and stick strategy. The Great Qin Village hasn't created any poisons or antidotes. Your Majesty merely used a poisonous medicinal pill and a non-poisonous medicinal pill to scare Wang Ergou into submission, making him not dare to betray us. Your Majesty also used money, which bandits love most, to lure him in even further. From this, one can see that Your Majesty's schemes are brilliant. However..." Bai Qi stopped talking and paused.

Zhao Fu nodded and said, "Go on."

Bai Qi continued, "There's still a slight possibility that Wang Ergou won't follow through. After all, as the saying goes, 'planning is with man, but success is with heaven.' In case Wang Ergou doesn't use the poison and is discovered, we need to plan our attack carefully."

"Mm," Zhao Fu replied. Bai Qi was right; this was exactly what Zhao Fu had been thinking as well, so they started to discuss their contingency strategy.

Time gradually passed.

The Wild Wolf Village's Hall had been incredibly lively when suddenly someone fell to the ground and coughed up blood before dying on the spot. After this, other people started falling to the ground and coughing up blood.

The poison that Zhao Fu had given Wang Ergou was refined by Apothecary Zhang Baishu from the venom of 100 venomous snakes, and it was incredibly lethal.



The thug sitting at the head seat was incredibly shocked, and he flipped the food in front of him to the ground. He shot up from his seat, and before he could say anything, someone outside reported, "Fire!"

At this moment, the thug seemed to realize something. His expression darkened, and he drew his large saber and yelled at the few people who hadn't been poisoned, "Brothers, let's go! I want to see who's daring enough to act against the Wild Wolf Village!"

Outside the village, Zhao Fu saw that a few wooden houses had started burning. This was what Zhao Fu had told Wang Ergou to do in order to let him know that the plan had succeeded.

Under the cover of night, Zhao Fu immediately yelled, "Archers, prepare the fire arrows; burn all of the houses in the Wild Wolf Village. Crossbowmen, take down the guards outside the Wild Wolf Village!"

The 10 or so Archers obeyed and shot fire arrows towards the Wild Wolf Village, lighting the Wild Wolf Village's houses on fire, surprising the guards outside. Following this, the 40 or so Gnome Crossbowmen continuously released crossbow bolts, making it seem as if there was a rain of crossbow bolts. The bandits fell to the ground one after another, and they were shot full of holes like a wasp's nest.

Zhao Fu was not in a hurry to attack. He once again gave the order to release fire arrows to set fire to all of the houses and told the Gnome Crossbowmen to fire at will.

Zhao Fu did this to safeguard against any traps. Soon, the Wild Wolf Village was transformed into a sea of flames, and the Gnome Crossbowmen had shot quite a few rounds of crossbow bolts. All of the bandits who wanted to rush out of the Wild Wolf Village were all riddled with holes, causing them to retreat back to the village.

At this moment, 10 fat, sturdy Goblin Warriors, who were two meters tall, raised their massive stone hammers and rushed into the village, wildly smashing whatever they saw, and they were backed by unstoppable momentum.

Zhao Fu then gave the order for all troops to advance. Shieldbearers, Infantry, and Goblin Soldiers raised their weapons and cried out as they rushed into the village.

"So it was you fellows! I'll kill you!"

The leader of the thugs saw his village completely drowned in flames, and when he saw Zhao Fu giving orders, he felt incredible hatred for him. He lifted his large saber and rushed over.

When Bai Qi saw him run over, he drew his sword and met him in battle.

Within the sea of flames, the two of them engaged in an intense battle. The thug's saber techniques were ferocious, and each strike was incredibly unrestrained, carrying immense power as his attacks rained down on Bai Qi. On the other hand, Bai Qi's sword techniques were graceful and nimble.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Sparks flew as saber and sword continuously collided. By now, the thug's strikes started to become weaker, while Bai Qi still looked leisurely and at ease. In the end, the thug carelessly revealed an opening and had his heart pierced by Bai Qi, dying on the spot.

"Your leader has died! Surrender and your life will be spared!" Bai Qi roared after killing the leader of the thugs.

When they saw that their leader had died and that they had been surrounded by enemies with far greater numbers, the remaining bandits could only obediently put down their weapons and kneel on the ground to beg for their lives.

At this moment, Zhao Fu saw a woman with red lips and devilish looks. Her figure was extremely mature and tempting, and she wore a red dress. She was currently brandishing a whip, making it so that the Infantry around her did not dare to approach her.

Wang Ergou walked over with a pale expression and said to Zhao Fu, "Sir! That's the Third Mistress!"

Zhao Fu stretched out his hand to an Archer beside him, who handed him an Iron Wood bow. He drew it and prepared to shoot a Rock Crushing Arrow. A mystical yellow aura appeared around the arrow, and Zhao Fu aimed it towards the seductive woman's chest.

Just as he was about to release the arrow, the woman glanced over in his direction. When she saw the drawn arrow, her face paled. She was already surrounded and would die sooner or later, so she quickly threw her whip to the ground and yelled, "I surrender!"

Zhao Fu felt quite surprised and put away the bow and arrow. The fire was being greater and greater, so he ordered his people to bring out the captives while he hurried to the Wild Wolf Village Hall.

Now that the Wild Wolf Village's lord was dead, it could be directly conquered. If the lord hadn't died, the City Heart would release energy to protect itself.

Zhao Fu put his hand on the floating white cube and chose to [Relocate] the village.

"System Announcement! The Great Qin Village has obtained 345 EXP!"

“System Announcement! You have gained 50 Achievement Points!”

“System Announcement! Your status has been promoted to Citizen!”

Zhao Fu ignored the system announcements and quickly ran out of the Wild Wolf Village. The entire Wild Wolf Village was engulfed by flames, and it soon turned into nothing.

Now, Zhao Fu finally had some time to look at his new status. Before, he had only been a Commoner, and he required 200 Achievement Points to be promoted. Every conquered village gave him 50 Achievement Points, and now that he had conquered four villages, he had enough Achievement Points to be promoted.

He now needed 500 Achievement Points to be promoted from Citizen to Esquire, which meant that he would be promoted after conquering ten villages.

“Your Majesty! We confiscated these from the bandits!”

Bai Qi walked over with a sack of money, a piece of paper, and a large sabre, and handed them to Zhao Fu.

Zhao Fu took the items and looked them over. The sack of money had about 30 or so silver coins. Zhao Fu did not care much about the money, but he was quite interested in the paper.

[Little Spirit Pill – Pill Recipe]: White grade, Required Ingredients: Little Spirit Grass, Treebud Root, and Eternal Stone. Effects: Can increase cultivation speed by 200%.

Zhao Fu was quite delighted when he saw this pill recipe. Treebud Roots and Eternal Stones were quite common, but Little Spirit Grass was harder to find.

Zhao Fu then looked at the large saber:

[Mountain Sabre]: Grade: Blue, Stats: Strength +1, Description: An abnormally sharp saber that can crush rocks.

Bai Qi used swords, so this saber was not suitable for him. As such, he stored it away until he wanted to use it to reward someone for his or her meritorious service.

Zhao Fu then turned to look at the captives.

## **Chapter 19: Death Contract**

There were 64 captives in total. There was only one woman, who was the Third Mistress. For any of these people to be able to survive in a bandit village, they definitely weren't righteous and moral people.

Zhao Fu thought for a moment and said, "Wang Ergou, come over here. Tell me who has committed the most evils or was a leader in the Wild Wolf Village."

Wang Ergou shakily went over to Zhao Fu with a pale face. The Wild Wolf Village's people furiously glared at him because they knew that he was a traitor.

However, even though they were furious, they did not dare to openly express it. After all, their lives were currently in Wang Ergou's hands. If he claimed that someone had been a leader or had committed great evils, he or she would definitely die. Wang Ergou also felt this heavy burden, and he did not dare to look into anyone's eyes.

What surprised Zhao Fu was that Wang Ergou suddenly knelt to the ground and begged, "Sir! The First Master was the leader and committed the most evils, but he's been killed, and the Second Master was also poisoned to death. Please spare their lives; I'll even kowtow to you." After saying this, Wang Ergou heavily kowtowed a few times before raising his head and looking at Zhao Fu with a pleading expression.

Zhao Fu fell deep into thought. He knew that the loyalty of these bandits would be an issue, so he had wanted to kill some of the leaders before handing them to Bai Qi to be properly disciplined and trained. Now that Wang Ergou was pleading for their lives, Zhao Fu turned to look at the Wild Wolf Village's people.

Finally, he said, "Are you willing to offer your loyalty to us?"

Hearing this, a look of surprise and joy appeared on the bandits' faces, and they immediately half-knelt and said in unison, "We are willing to serve sir to the death!"

However, there was one person who did not kneel down, and the person instead stood there with a look of hesitation – it was the Third Mistress.

The Third Mistress was quite beautiful, but Zhao Fu was not that interested in those sorts of things. Zhao Fu hadn't wanted to spare any of the leaders originally, and seeing this, he waved his hand, saying softly, "Kill her. Bai Qi, I'll leave the rest of these people to you. Make sure you train them well!" After saying this, Zhao Fu prepared to take his people back to the Great Qin Village.

A few soldiers immediately obeyed and went to grab the Third Mistress in order to behead her.

Seeing this, the Third Mistress's face paled, and she hurriedly cried out, "I'm willing to submit to you, but you have to promise not to touch my body!"

“Eh? Who wants her body?”

Zhao Fu stopped, a look of surprise on his face. However, he didn't want to explain anything – after all, for this woman to become the Third Mistress, she definitely wasn't ordinary. It was best to get rid of her, so he once again waved his hand, signaling for her to be killed.

“Wait! I'll give you my first time, but you have to promise to leave me alone afterwards!”  
The Third Mistress called out as she bit her lip and came to a decision.

“First time?”

Zhao Fu was speechless. Did she really think that he was that sort of person? He once again waved his hand, signaling for her to be quickly killed.

10 or so soldiers holding Iron Wood Sabers obeyed and surrounded the Third Mistress, preparing to slash her to death.

The Wild Wolf Village's people quickly tried to persuade her, “Third Mistress, it would be best if you submitted to sir. This sir has an extraordinary bearing, and he will accomplish great things in the future!”

Hearing this, the Third Mistress clenched her fists and gritted her teeth as she once again called out, “Alright! I'll agree to once per week at most, and I'll sign a Life-or-Death Contract with you.”

“Life-or-Death Contract.”

Zhao Fu had started to feel annoyed when he heard the Third Mistress speak again, but when he heard “Life-or-Death Contract,” he paused because he had no idea what that was.

Following this, the Third Mistress took out a piece of paper and bit her thumb. She pressed her bloodied thumb to the paper before handing it to a soldier to give to Zhao Fu.

Zhao Fu received it and looked at it:

[Life-or-Death Contract]: Description: Links the lives of two people together. If the master dies, the other side will also immediately die.

“System announcement! Would you like to accept Liu Mei's Life-or-Death Contract?”

So something like this existed in this world. Zhao Fu decided to prepare a few copies when he got back to prevent any betrayals. Zhao Fu thought for a few moments, and because he was not too worried about the Third Mistress, he chose to accept.

The paper suddenly became motes of light and split into two halves: one half went into Zhao Fu's body, and the other half went into Liu Mei's body.

Now that all of the people had surrendered, Zhao Fu could look at their grades. Most of them were F grade, and a few of them were C grade. What surprised Zhao Fu greatly was that Liu Mei was actually S grade, so he couldn't help but stare at her. Seeing this, Bai Qi fell into his own thoughts.

"Alright, let's go back to the village!" Zhao Fu ordered.

When the Wild Wolf Village's people saw that the Third Mistress wasn't going to die, they let out a sigh of relief. Bai Qi looked around and looked like he seemed to understand something.

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After returning to the Great Qin Village, the Wild Wolf Village's people were incredibly shocked when they heard that the Great Qin Village was a Legendary grade Village, and they completely accepted their loss.

When Li Si saw that Zhao Fu and Bai Qi had returned safely, he let out a sigh of relief.

Zhao Fu said to Li Si, "Li Si, I'll leave the arrangements of these people to you!"

Li Si looked at the Wolf Village's people and nodded his head. Bai Qi suddenly walked up and whispered something into Li Si's ears, causing a delighted look to appear on his face. Zhao Fu felt that this was quite strange, but he did not give it much mind. He took a few soldiers and went south of the Great Qin Village. Zhao Fu took out the white City Heart and pressed it against the ground.

"System announcement! Would you like to use the City Heart?"

Zhao Fu replied 'yes,' and just like the Great Qin Village, waves of light rippled out as a few basic buildings slowly appeared.

After walking into the Village Hall, Zhao Fu looked at the stats:

Village Name: Wild Wolf Village (Normal)

Level: Primary (0/5000)

Village Area: 1 square kilometer

Village Territory: 5 square kilometers

Residents: 0/300

Military: 0/100

Popular Support: 0

Village Special Stats: Territory Crop Output +2%, Territory Crop Growing Time -2%.

Subsidiary Village Limit: 0

These were the stats of a Normal Village, and the difference between the Wild Wolf Village and the Great Qin Village's stats was like the difference between the heavens and the earth. Currently, the number of residents and Popular Support in Wild Wolf Village were both 0 because Zhao Fu brought the Wild Wolf Village's villagers under the Great Qin Village's name. Otherwise, the Wild Wolf Village's Popular Support would be in the negatives, and any new villagers there would be bandits.

Currently, the Wild Wolf Village did not have a Tailor, Blacksmith, or Apothecary – they had most likely run away. However, there were three buildings that had Profession Change Stone Steles, and each of those three professions had a limit of one person.

At the Barracks, there was only one Profession Change Stone Stele there:

[Bandit]: F grade Military. Description: A scourge that appears when Popular Support goes into the negatives. Effect: Receives [Bandit Saber Technique]

Zhao Fu wanted to destroy the Bandit Profession Change Stone Stele and change it to [Militia], but after thinking about it, he realized that it might be useful in the future, so he chose to keep it for now.

He found an elder in the Great Qin Village with management experience and made him the new Village Chief of the Wild Wolf Village. He also left behind a few soldiers to look after the Wild Wolf Village. From the next day onwards, normal villagers would start to be summoned.

After dealing with these matters, Zhao Fu returned to the Great Qin Village and planned to discuss with Bai Qi and Li Si about the Li Family Village. However, after chatting for just a short while, Li Si gave Zhao Fu a deep look and said, "Your Majesty, it's getting late, and you've really exerted yourself today. It would be best for you to get some rest."

Zhao Fu felt quite strange when he heard this, but he saw that it was indeed getting late. As such, he returned to his room, but right after opening the door, he was completely stunned. This was because there was a mature, alluring woman lying naked on his bed.

Zhao Fu immediately turned around and closed the door, loudly yelling, "Li Si! Get over here!"

## Chapter 20: – Iron Mine

When Bai Qi and Li Si heard Zhao Fu's summons, they walked over with strange looks on their faces as they asked, "What is it, Your Majesty?"

Zhao Fu frowned and asked, "What's with the situation in my room?"

Li Si immediately understood and cupped his hands respectfully as he smiled and said, "We hope that Your Majesty will have an heir soon."

Zhao Fu's head started to hurt, and he said, "What's the meaning of this?"

Li Si promptly replied, "Your Majesty, Miss Liu Mei has good looks, and we're all delighted that Your Majesty is interested in her. On one hand, Your Majesty will have a concubine, and on the other hand, we'll be able to quickly gain the Wild Wolf Village's loyalty. This is perfect."

Zhao Fu bitterly laughed and asked, "When did I become interested in her?"

Li Si looked at Zhao Fu strangely and said, "Bai Qi told me!"

Upon hearing this, Bai Qi's face paled, realizing that he had misunderstood Zhao Fu's intentions. He quickly started to apologize but was cut off by Zhao Fu. How could he blame them over such a small matter? As such, he said, "Alright, let's just leave it at this. It's getting late, so both of you should get some rest."

Li Si and Bai Qi let out sighs of relief and asked to be excused before leaving.

Zhao Fu turned to look at his room and shook his head before finding another room to cultivate in before falling asleep.

When Liu Mei saw that Zhao Fu wasn't going to come in, she let out a sigh of relief before putting her clothes back on.

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Early the next day, as darkness gradually receded and the world slowly became brighter, the blue sky could slowly be seen, and a few birds happily chirped in the trees.

Zhao Fu woke up and walked out of his room, and he found Wang Ergou holding a washbowl outside his door. Just as Zhao Fu walked out, Wang Ergou said, trying to curry favor, "Your Majesty, you're awake! This lowly one has brought you some water to wash your face."



“Mm,” Zhao Fu replied and took the towel in the washbowl to wipe his face.

Wang Ergou said in a small voice for fear that Zhao Fu would get angry, “Your Majesty, you still haven’t given me the antidote yet.”

So it was that. Zhao Fu laughed as he replied, “That medicinal pill wasn’t poisonous!”

“Really?” Wang Ergou asked happily.

“That’s right,” Zhao Fu replied. “I’ll let you have a taste after we actually create some poison.”

A bitter look appeared on Wang Ergou’s face as he pleaded, “Your Majesty, please, no! I’ll be your servant every day; how about that?”

“We’ll see how you do!” Zhao Fu said as he walked away. Wang Ergou quickly poured out the water from the washbowl and followed behind Zhao Fu.

“Bai Qi! Gather a team and come with me to the Li Family Village!” Zhao Fu looked at the new villagers. There were 14 of them and one of them was B grade. Zhao Fu did not arrange for them to change their profession to soldier, and he instead split them up and sent them to the Smithy, Tailor Shop, and Medicine Shop.

As the Great Qin Village gained more and more people, their consumption also increased, so he needed to arrange for some people to help out in those shops.

Following this, Bai Qi arrived with a team of soldiers. Zhao Fu had done this because he was afraid that Li Youcai might go back on his word, as they only had a verbal agreement. A person’s heart could never be fully relied upon – one moment he or she might confidently promise something just to go back on it in the next moment. As such, Zhao Fu decided to leave himself a backup plan.

“Your Majesty, can you return my weapon to me?” Liu Mei said after she found Zhao Fu and awkwardly saluted him.

Zhao Fu nodded. Her whip was Blue grade, and it had been confiscated when she had surrendered. When Liu Mei saw that Zhao Fu agreed to give it back to her, a look of joy appeared on her face. She had expected that she would not be able to recover it.

“Come with us to the Li Family Village later,” Zhao Fu said to Liu Mei before going over to Bai Qi.

Liu Mei nodded and went to retrieve her whip.

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One hour later, Zhao Fu arrived at the Li Family Village. He told his soldiers to hide while he walked in with Bai Qi and Liu Mei.

The Li Family Village knew that the Wild Wolf Village had been destroyed and reduced to rubble the previous night. When the Li Family Village found out, some were excited while others were fearful. Those who were excited were excited because the Wild Wolf Village, a poisonous blight that had plagued them, had been eliminated. Those who were fearful were fearful because they were afraid that Zhao Fu would make a move against them.

The village gates opened and Li Youcai brought a group of people to welcome them, “Sir, you’re truly a hero – you actually destroyed the Wild Wolf Village, saving the Li Family Village. Our entire village has agreed to join your village.”

Li Youcai was a sly old fellow. When he saw that even the Wild Wolf Village’s Third Mistress had submitted to Zhao Fu, he knew that the remnants of the Wild Wolf Village had joined Zhao Fu’s forces. If Zhao Fu could destroy the Wild Wolf Village and even gain the remnant bandits, the Li Family Village would not be able to resist him at all. As such, Li Youcai chose to surrender while continuously praising Zhao Fu, and he looked quite sincere and loyal.

“System announcement! The Li Family Village has surrendered to you. Would you like to accept?”

Zhao Fu chose to accept and was awarded 60 Achievement Points, which made him feel quite surprised. He looked at the Li Family Village’s stats and found that the Li Family Village was a Blue grade Village, which gave him 10 more Achievement Points than Normal grade Villages.

However, Zhao Fu currently already had 4 Subsidiary Villages, so after thinking about it, Zhao Fu made the newly-rebuilt Wolf Village an Affiliated Village instead.

Affiliated Villages were different from Subsidiary Villages: Affiliated Villages still belonged to the Great Qin Village, but they did not receive any stat bonuses from the Great Qin Village.

Following this, Li Youcai invited Zhao Fu and his followers in to talk about the details of joining the Great Qin Village. As they walked through the village, many of the Li Family villagers looked at Liu Mei with curiosity. They had heard about her evil deeds, and it was said that she was a ferocious shrew. However, none of them expected her to be so pretty.

Facing these stares, Liu Mei turned and glared at them savagely, saying, “What are you staring at? If you keep staring, I’ll rip your eyes out.”

The Li Family villagers were so scared by how ferocious she looked that they involuntarily took a step back.

Zhao Fu turned to look at her and frowned, causing Liu Mei to lower her head. After much discussion, Zhao Fu took away two-thirds of the Li Family Village's people. Under Li Youcai and Li Wen's request, Li Wen also went with Zhao Fu to the Great Qin Village.

Li Youcai did this because the Li Family Village had joined the Great Qin Village, and after hearing about the Great Qin Village, he felt that its future would be quite bright. As such, he wanted his son to join the Great Qin Village as soon as possible – who knows, he might be able to receive some benefits.

After taking these people back to the Great Qin Village, Zhao Fu went to look at the Great Qin Village's military. Zhao Fu now had more than 200 soldiers, and he left them in Bai Qi's care to be trained. Following this, Zhao Fu received a great piece of news: some villagers had discovered a small iron mine about five kilometers west of the Great Qin Village.

Zhao Fu was delighted and sent some people to mine the iron. He also sent more people to work on the stairs at the massive crack. After all, there was a treasure trove at the bottom – killing a few Skeletons at the bottom would net them skills and items that were worth tens of gold coins, so Zhao Fu couldn't help but feel incredibly moved.