

The Lord's Empire

#Chapter 41 - Read The Lord's Empire Chapter 41 Chapter 41: Kobolds

A few hours later, Zhao Fu arrived at Nankou City in the private jet. There was then a private car to take Zhao Fu and the others to a high-class district.

The high-class district that Zhao Fu was taken to was one of the Ying family's assets. Not only was the scenery around it quite good, but the security was also quite high as well. There were a couple thousand people living here, and all of them had the Ying family's bloodline. Of course, these people were not from the main branch of the Ying family – those who were from the main branch lived in an even better place.

Here, Zhao Fu met his maternal grandparents. After they hugged him and cried for a while, they asked him why he hadn't returned to live with them.

Zhao Fu was grateful that he was able to see his maternal grandparents. As for why he hadn't returned to live with them, it was because he didn't want to be a burden to anyone. They were getting to be quite old, and Zhao Fu was unfamiliar with his other relatives on that side of the family. His maternal relatives were quite cold towards him, so he was not very interested in staying in contact with them.

Afterwards, Zhao Fu was given his own house. It was about 100 square meters in area and luxuriously decorated. There were all sorts of electronic appliances, and it was clear just how wealthy the Ying family was.

After turning on his brand-new computer, Zhao Fu went onto the Heaven Awaken World forum out of habit to see if there was any news. Right now, the other powers were developing slowly because creating a massive enterprise was something that took many months and years and could not be done in an instant.

Because the regions were all separated, many of the powerful families were fragmented and separated into different places. As such, they established guilds to recruit normal people. Of course, these normal people could not be disciplined and controlled like in the military because who would want to do such a thing after living in comfort in the real world?

Moreover, after players died, the penalties were incredibly onerous. Players lost all of their levels and equipment upon death, and they would not be able to enter the Heaven Awaken World for 10 days. Those who were not Lords would also randomly spawn in another place. Essentially, the players that guilds recruited were not very reliable and very few became elites that were nurtured by the large families.

Apart from the large and powerful families, there were also ordinary people who were doing quite well. After all, it was not just the large families that had great ambitions – chaotic times often produced heroes, and every person, regardless of birth, could become someone great. Even ordinary people who were not from large families were able to rise above the masses.

“Gu Jun led hundreds of players to take down a mountain stronghold with 1,000 people!”

“Liu Xiuming took hundreds of people to destroy 3 Outlander Villages!”

“Jiang Changshui received the recognition of a village and became the Village Chief of Sanjiang Village, obtaining 600 villagers!”

After looking through these threads, Zhao Fu once again returned to the Heaven Awaken World. Compared to the real world, Zhao Fu felt a greater sense of belonging in the Heaven Awaken World.

After returning to the Heaven Awaken World and thinking about everything he had read on the forum, Zhao Fu felt a sense of pressure. He realized he could not be careless and started to carry out a census.

Right now, the Great Qin Village had 1,340 people, and there were 4 other Human Villages, 3 Goblin Villages, and 1 Gnome Village.

After these few days, those villages had gradually recovered. The 4 other Human Villages collectively had 524 people, the 3 Goblin Villages had 410 Goblins, and the Gnome Village had 189 Gnomes.

Zhao Fu went to the different villages and chose some more people to become Great Qin Soldiers. Now, there were 930 Great Qin soldiers, 150 Goblin soldiers, and 100 Gnome soldiers for a total of 1,180 soldiers.

However, Outlanders could also change their professions into Great Qin Soldier. There was no limit to how many Great Qin Soldiers there could be, nor were there any race requirements. It was just that each village had a military limit, and any additional soldier would not receive that village's stats.

As such, all 1,180 soldiers were Great Qin Soldiers, and they received the stat bonuses from their professions. 35 of them were responsible for exploring the passages, 245 were responsible for protecting the village, and Zhao Fu led the other 900.

Zhao Fu led these 900 Soldiers and explored the region outside of the surrounding 20-kilometer radius. Things were much more convenient now with horses, but only a minority of them knew how to ride. As such, most of the soldiers still walked – after all, there were only 200 Cavalrymen.

Right now, Zhao Fu was riding Little Black, the Black Forest Horse King, at the front of the army while Little Grey walked beside them and sniffed around.

Suddenly, Little Grey discovered something. It howled before running forwards, and Zhao Fu followed behind it on Little Black.

After a while, they discovered an Intermediate Village on a plain. It was an Outlander Village, and the beings that lived there had the head of a dog and the body of a human, looking quite like Kobolds.

It was a Kobold Village and had roughly 1,000 Kobolds. There were 700 Kobold soldiers and the remaining 300 were all elderly, women, or children.

The Kobold soldiers either held sabers or spears. Zhao Fu did not dare to get too close to observe because it was possible that their noses would be as sensitive as a normal dog's.

1,000 Kobolds was quite a large force. If there were only 500 or 600 Kobolds, they could wait until night time to ambush the village.

“What should we do?”

Zhao Fu suddenly thought of something and looked over at Little Grey. Little Grey, who had completed its task and was lying down to rest, suddenly felt a chill and turned to see Zhao Fu looking at it with an evil look. Immediately, Little Grey felt like running away.

This time, Zhao Fu didn't have to do anything. Little Black bit Little Grey's tail as revenge for the bullying from before. How could it give up a chance to take revenge?

Little Grey turned around and howled to tell Little Black to let go. Little Grey knew from his shameless owner's look that he was having wicked thoughts.

Little Black also whinnied as it held on and seemed to smile as it revealed its white teeth. It seemed to be saying, “_Heheh, the one who's going to suffer is you, not me; I'm just being a good and obedient boy!”_

Little Grey was incredibly furious and turned to bite Little Black, that shameless horse. However, Little Black held on and constantly dodged.

Zhao Fu couldn't help but lightly laugh and said, “Alright, you can both stop!”

In actuality, Zhao Fu didn't want to make Little Grey do anything like last time. Rather, it was because he remembered how much of an advantage Little Grey's sensitive nose was!

However, an advantage could be turned into a disadvantage if abused. The Kobolds most likely had sensitive noses too, so Zhao Fu thought about how to make use of this. Zhao Fu took his soldiers back to the Great Qin Village so that they wouldn't inadvertently alert the Kobold Village.

After returning to the Great Qin Village, Zhao Fu gave the order for everyone to work on one thing: to collect chilis and then dry them over a stove before crushing them into powder. Zhao Fu and his soldiers prepared a few hundred kilograms of chili powder before confidently going back to the Kobold Village.

Rate Translation Quality

Chapter 42: Spearwielder

After coming near the Kobold Village, Zhao Fu first told everyone to get ready. Everyone covered their noses and mouths with pieces of cloth to prevent themselves from being affected.

In order to convince them to submit, Zhao Fu ordered his people to catch a Kobold. After forcing him to submit, he obtained the Kobold's language skills.

Following this, the soldiers got into formation and marched towards the Kobold Village.

Before they had even revealed themselves, the entire Kobold Village became alert because the Kobolds had already detected many enemies through their noses.

A while later, Zhao Fu and his 900 soldiers reached the front of the Kobold Village, while all of the Kobolds were standing at the entrance with their weapons. The two sides faced off against each other.

Zhao Fu did not do anything, and the Kobolds were too scared to make the first move. Zhao Fu had 900 soldiers while they barely had 1,000 Kobolds in total, so if Zhao Fu did attack, the Kobold Village would suffer countless casualties.

"I don't want to kill any of you. It is in your best interest to surrender; I will treat you as I treat my own people!" Zhao Fu shouted while on top of Little Black.

After shouting, Zhao Fu gestured for the Kobold by his side to translate.

"jicha owolo gulo..."

The Kobold loudly translated, after which what seemed to be the leader of the Kobolds stepped out and spoke for a long time. Zhao Fu could not understand him, so he looked at the Kobold beside him.

The Kobold immediately translated, “He says, ‘Humans, go back. We will not easily submit to anyone.’”

Zhao Fu’s expression remained calm because he had expected this. He did not hold back anymore and gave the order to use the secret weapons as the Shieldbearers raised their shields and the Archers nocked their arrows.

There was a small cloth pouch tied to each arrow. Of course, they were filled with chili powder, and the friction against the air would cause the chili powder to spill out.

Swish, swish, swish...

Arrows flew through the air and left behind red trails behind them as they flew towards the Kobolds. The arrows did not hit any Kobolds, and they instead flew high above their heads, causing the red powder to descend on them.

The leader of the Kobolds was about to order the Kobold Spearwielders to attack, but in the next second, he breathed in some chili powder, causing a fiery pain to erupt in his nose. All of the Kobolds desperately coughed as tears began to flow out of their eyes.

Even normal people would have been completely overwhelmed if they had breathed in so much chili powder, so Zhao Fu had ordered all of his soldiers to cover their noses and mouths. In fact, Zhao Fu did not even bring Little Grey this time. One could only imagine how much pain the Kobolds were feeling.

Zhao Fu did not stop, and he once again gave the order for the chili powder arrows to be fired towards the Kobold Village. The chili powder once again descended from the air, making it seem as if there was a red mist around the Kobolds.

Within the Kobold Village, no one could remain standing. They all covered their noses and howled on the ground, tears streaming down their faces as if they had been affected by a biological weapon. Then again, chili powder was like a biological weapon to the Kobolds.

A trace of a smile appeared on Zhao Fu’s face as he gave the order to capture the Kobolds, who couldn’t resist him at all now.

In the end, Bai Qi and Zhang Dahu brought the Kobold leader to Zhao Fu. After pouring a few buckets of cold water on his head, he was able to somewhat recover, and he hatefully glared at Zhao Fu as he rapidly barked in his language.

Zhao Fu was currently riding on Little Black and was looking down at the Kobold leader. He couldn’t understand what the Kobold leader was saying, so he looked at the Kobold beside him.

The Kobold translated somewhat fearfully, “Lord! The leader says that you’re too despicable and that you don’t dare to fight with them directly, which was why you used such a shameless tactic. He feels embarrassed for you.”

Zhao Fu couldn’t help but smile.

Even though no one else could understand what the Kobold leader was saying, everyone could tell that it was cursing at Zhao Fu. Liu Mei, who enjoyed abusing others, rode her horse over and said to Zhao Fu, “Your Majesty! I’ll teach him a lesson for you.”

In response, Zhao Fu nodded before riding Little Black towards the Kobold Village.

Liu Mei grinned and slowly took out her whip as she looked at the Kobold leader.

[Kobold Warrior]: F grade Military. Description: Warriors among the Kobolds. Effect: Receives [Kobold Saber Technique].

[Kobold Spearwielder]: F+ grade Military. Description: Spearwielders among the Kobolds. Effect: Receives [Spear Throw].

What surprised Zhao Fu was that the Spearwielder profession wasn’t a special military profession, and there was no limit to how many people who could have this profession.

After looking at the Barracks, Zhao Fu went to have a look at the other places and did not find much. However, the Kobold leader could not take Liu Mei’s abuse anymore and chose to surrender to Zhao Fu.

“System announcement! Doke Village has surrendered to you. Would you like to accept?”

Zhao Fu chose to accept before walking to the Village Hall. He chose to conquer the village and received 100 Achievement Points. Now, Zhao Fu had risen from Citizen to Esquire. He needed 1,000 Achievement Points to go from Esquire to Third-Ranked Baron.

Zhao Fu then looked at the Kobold Village’s stats:

Village Name: Doke Village (Blue)

Level: Intermediate (400/30,000)

Village Area: 3 square kilometers.

Village Territory: 15 square kilometers.

Residents: 1002/2040

Military: 618/618

Popular Support: 78

Village Special Stats: Territory Crop Output +8%, Territory Crop Growing Time -8%, Population Limit +2%, Military Limit +2%.

Subsidiary Village Limit: 2

In terms of stats, it was much better than a Normal Village's, but it could not compare to the Great Qin Village. Zhao Fu decided to [Relocate] it and received 540 EXP (Because it took 5,000 EXP to level up from Primary to Intermediate level village, Zhao Fu received 540 EXP as opposed to 40 EXP).

This time, he obtained more than 1,000 pieces of Normal equipment and 8,000 or so copper coins. The most important thing, however, was the 1,000 or so villagers that he had gained.

Now that these 1,000 Kobolds had joined him, the Great Qin Village had the strength to start protecting itself against the 5,000 Orcs – that was the key thing. Out of the 1,000 Kobolds, Zhao Fu picked 500 Kobolds for his army: 300 Kobold Warriors and 200 Kobold Spearwielders.

Now, the Great Qin Village's military numbered 1,400, and it had once again become much more powerful. This was Zhao Fu's new strategy. Even if it took more time, he wanted to gain as many villagers as possible. What every power always lacked was people.

Chapter 43: Iceborn Tiger

Now, the Kobold leader, Doke, had also become one of Zhao Fu's main fighters. Zhao Fu looked at his stats and found that he was S grade and used sabers. Zhao Fu greatly lacked those who used sabers, so he directly gave Doke one of the Silver grade sabers.

Because Doke had been severely abused by Liu Mei, he was a little traumatized. Every time he met Liu Mei, he actively avoided her. Zhao Fu had no idea what Liu Mei had done, but when he returned, he saw Doke covered with wounds and on his final breath.

Now, the Great Qin Village's main task was to continue exploring!

Bringing along Little Grey was something that was now essential to Zhao Fu. With its nose, he could find other Outlanders and animals much faster.

Little Grey led the way as it sniffed around, and Zhao Fu followed behind it while riding on Little Black. Suddenly, Little Grey discovered something. It raised its head with a serious expression on its face as it looked ahead before turning around and calling out a few times to Zhao Fu. This meant that there was some sort of powerful creature ahead.

Zhao Fu nodded and told everyone to be careful.

Roar!!!!

As everyone advanced, a massive tiger roared. A ferocious tiger the size of a cow walked out. The tiger's fur was snow-white without any blemishes, and it gave off a cold aura.

[Iceborn Tiger]: Ice-type Chief class creature.

Zhao Fu immediately gave the order to attack when he saw the tiger. Arrows started to fly towards it, but in the next second, an ice wall appeared in front of the Iceborn Tiger, blocking most of the arrows. However, a few of the arrows from the soldiers with Refined Martial Souls were able to pierce through the ice wall, though the Iceborn Tiger was able to easily evade them by the time they arrived on the other side.

When the Iceborn Tiger saw so many people, even though it wasn't weak, it wasn't stupid and knew that it would lose, so it chose to run.

Zhao Fu immediately gave the order for the Kobold Spearwielders to attack.

In order to increase the strength of the Spearwielders, Zhao Fu prepared 10 iron javelins for each Spearwielder and gave them a bag to carry them on their backs. This was so that they would still have a weapon if they threw their weapon and was not able to retrieve it in time.

The might of 200 javelins at once was simply terrifying. Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! The air was torn as the javelins rained down towards the Iceborn Tiger.

Facing so many javelins, the Iceborn Tiger immediately summoned another ice wall. However, the ice wall simply could not stand up against so many javelins, and the Iceborn Tiger was still hit by 7 or 8 javelins.

Because the Iceborn Tiger was a Chief class creature, it had powerful defenses and only the heads of the javelins pierced into its body, and they were not able to deal fatal damage to it.

In its immense pain, the Iceborn Tiger lost its rationality and leapt at Zhao Fu's soldiers, opening its massive mouth.

Roar!!!!

The Iceborn Tiger roared as washbowl-sized ice bullets shot towards Zhao Fu's soldiers. The Shieldbearers immediately raised their shields and stepped forwards.

Bang!

Massive explosions sounded out as the ice bullets smashed onto the shields and exploded, sending the Shieldbearers back by one step. Frost also started to cover their shields.

Zhao Fu's expression did not change as he ordered his Archers to attack. The Iceborn Tiger rapidly dodged the arrows, but it was still hit by quite a few of them. Currently, the Iceborn Tiger's body was covered with arrows, but it still angrily charged over.

Bai Qi, Zhang Dahu, Doke, Old Logue, and Liu Mei went forwards to meet it, launching their various skills.

First was Old Logue's two blood-colored fireballs, which flew towards the Iceborn Tiger.

The Iceborn Tiger dodged to the left, avoiding Old Logue's attack. However, in the next second, Liu Mei's Wind Blade flew at it from the direction that it had dodged in, hitting it and leaving a wound on its body.

Roar!!!!

The Iceborn Tiger roared in pain.

Following this, Zhang Dahu and Doke attacked from its right and left, and the Iceborn Tiger raised its paws to swipe at the two people. However, the two of them instead ran past it, not only dodging its paws but also leaving cuts on its sides.

The Iceborn Tiger furiously turned to bite Doke when a ray of sword light suddenly flashed and massive amounts of blood spurted out – Bai Qi had slashed its throat with a single strike.

Zhao Fu did not do anything the entire time as he sat on Little Black, and he did not take a single step. He calmly watched his subordinates attack the Iceborn Tiger. After all, that was the role of a Lord: to sit at the back and look calm while watching his or her subordinates get rid of enemies.

“System announcement! Your General has killed a Chief class magic beast, Iceborn Tiger, and has gained 27 Achievement Points.”

“System announcement! You have gained 23 Achievement Points.”

After the Iceborn Tiger died, it dropped 100 or so silver coins and 3 items.

The first item was a cube that shined with blue light – Zhao Fu knew that this could be used to create a village. In actuality, Elite magic beasts could drop White grade City Creation Stones; Chief class magic beasts could drop Blue grade City Creation Stones; and Lord grade magic beasts had a chance of dropping Silver grade City Creation Stones.

The City Creation Stones obtained from killing magic beasts were not restricted to any race. The race of the villagers that spawned from it was determined by the user's race.

Zhao Fu put the City Creation Stone away and looked at the orb of light in front of him that gave off a chilling aura – this was similar to something Zhao Fu had seen before.

[Innate Elemental Orb]: Description: After using the orb, one will obtain the D grade skill Ice Explosion Bullet.

Ice Explosion Bullet was most likely the skill that the Iceborn Tiger had used just then. Zhao Fu thought about it, and his main subordinates who did not have Magic skills were Bai Qi, Zhang Dahu, and Doke. Because Bai Qi solely focused on using his sword, Zhao Fu decided to give the Innate Elemental Orb to Zhang Dahu.

After receiving the orb, Zhang Dahu happily thanked Zhao Fu deeply and used it, making Doke, who had just joined Zhao Fu, to feel quite a bit of admiration.

The third item was something that Zhao Fu did not recognize. It was an unevenly-shaped stone that gave off traces of chilling aura.

[Ice Strengthening Stone]: Description: An Ice-type Strengthening Stone that can strengthen all equipment and give Ice-type damage bonuses or Ice-type defense bonuses.

After looking at this information, Zhao Fu said, "Bai Qi! Give me your sword for a minute."

Bai Qi did not hesitate at all when giving his Gold grade Star Slashing Sword to Zhao Fu.

Zhao Fu took the Star Slashing Sword and placed the Strengthening Stone against it and chose to use it. The Strengthening Stone turned into a cold mist that surrounded the Star Slashing Sword before slowly merging into it.

The Star Slashing Sword now seemed to have a layer of frost on it, and it had an icy feeling when held in one's hand.

Zhao Fu looked at the Star Slashing Sword's stats:

[Ice – Star Slashing Sword]: Grade: Half-Legendary (Incomplete), Stats: Strength +10, Constitution +6, Agility +4. Description: A Half-Legendary grade weapon that has become rusty due to the passage of time, becoming an ordinary Gold grade weapon. After being strengthened by the Ice Strengthening Stone, it has recovered some of its Half-Legendary power and deals bonus Ice damage.

Chapter 44: Ice Strengthening

After looking at the Star Slashing Sword's new stats, Zhao Fu was quite shocked. The Strengthening Stone increased each of the three stats by two points and added bonus Ice damage. What's more, it brought the Star Slashing Sword back to its original grade.

Strengthening Stones had excellent effects, but they were quite rare. It reminded Zhao Fu of the Soldier Souls, which also strengthened equipment. He did not know what sorts of effects they had, and just thinking about it made Zhao Fu quite excited.

However, after remembering that General Armaments required 100 Soldier Souls, Zhao Fu could only forget about it for now. If Soldier Souls had similar effects to Strengthening Stones, then 100 Soldier Souls combined together would have monstrous effects. Even though it seemed quite far away, Zhao Fu was greatly looking forwards to having a General Armament someday.

Right now, Li Wen was exploring the passages with some other soldiers and had collected 47 Soldier Souls over the past few days, so the day that Zhao Fu would obtain a General Armament was quickly approaching.

After giving the Star Slashing Sword back to Bai Qi, Bai Qi looked at its new stats and felt quite ecstatic.

The Iceborn Tiger's body had all sorts of valuable materials, so Zhao Fu ordered his soldiers to take care of its corpse. After all, most of these materials could be used to create Silver grade equipment. By looking at the position of the sun, Zhao Fu was able to determine that it was lunch time, so he decided that it would be best to eat the Iceborn Tiger's meat.

They rested and prepared the Iceborn Tiger's meat by splitting it into chunks and roasting it. Zhao Fu ate a piece of the meat and felt that it was quite tasty and chewy, and he even obtained a system announcement telling him that he had received +1% Ice Resistance.

Who would have thought that the meat would be so good? It was a pity that there was only enough of it for 100 or so people, so many people couldn't taste it.

Afterwards, they continued exploring. After eating a few pieces of the Iceborn Tiger's meat, Little Grey worked harder and led the way as it sniffed around. Little Black liked to eat grass, so it was not given any of the Iceborn Tiger's meat, making it feel slightly unhappy. However, after being appeased by a Little Spirit Pill, its mood became better and it lightly walked behind Little Grey.

"Awoo..."

Little Grey seemed to smell something and howled before running and stopping near a Gnome Village.

The village was a Primary Village and only had 300 or so Gnomes. There were 2 types of military units: Gnome Crossbowmen and Gnome Warriors, who used scimitars. The Gnome Warriors had fairly weak fighting power, and they were much weaker than the Goblin Warriors.

Zhao Fu didn't bother with special tactics when facing the 300 Gnomes. He now had 1,400 soldiers, and they could completely suppress the other side. As such, he took his soldiers and tightly surrounded the Gnome Village before telling his Gnomes to ask the Gnome Village to surrender.

What surprised Zhao Fu was that the Gnome Village wasn't willing to surrender and wanted to fight to the death despite seeing Zhao Fu's numbers. Zhao Fu was not in a hurry, and he prioritized gaining as many villagers as possible. As such, he ordered his soldiers to cut down trees and to build a simple barrier around the Gnome Village like they were creating a dumpling.

When the Gnomes saw that Zhao Fu was building a barrier outside, they understood what Zhao Fu was doing and started to panic. There seemed to be quite a lot of chaos and dissension as a result.

Zhao Fu observed everything in the village and understood that the Gnome Village had split into factions. One faction wanted to surrender because it understood that it was impossible to fight against Zhao Fu's forces. Moreover, they saw that there were many Gnomes in Zhao Fu's army, making it unlikely that they would be killed after surrendering, so they wisely wanted to surrender.

However, the other side was stubborn and refused to surrender because those Gnomes wanted to die with the village.

At this moment, Zhao Fu gave another order. He told the Archers to light up fire arrows. By now, the Gnomes knew that they would be burnt to death if they didn't make a decision.

A large group of Gnomes walked out from the village and knelt on the ground, indicating their surrender.

Zhao Fu nodded to show that he accepted and looked at the 50 or so Gnomes who were still in the village that refused to surrender. Zhao Fu changed his mind and ordered the Archers to aim for the Gnomes who refused to surrender instead of the buildings.

Of course, Zhao Fu would not kill all of them – he just wanted to send a warning that he would not act softly against their stubbornness. He didn't believe that those Gnomes truly did not fear death and wanted to die with their village.

“Fire!”

Zhao Fu gave the order and the arrows flew towards the Gnomes. The Gnomes desperately fought back by shooting with their crossbows, but the crossbow bolts were completely blocked by the Shieldbearers. Zhao Fu's Archers' arrows contained immense strength, and they instantly pierced 10 or so of the Gnomes.

After seeing those that they had just been speaking to suddenly shot to death, the aura of death quickly spread around the other Gnomes. Facing true death, the remaining Gnomes became terrified, and when Zhao Fu was about to order the second wave of Archers to fire, the remaining Gnomes cried as they ran out of the village and knelt on the ground, choosing to surrender.

Zhao Fu accepted their surrender – this time, he had gained 301 Gnomes. Following this, Zhao Fu went to the Barracks and had a look at the Profession Change Stone Stele for Gnome Warriors.

[Gnome Warrior]: F grade Military. Description: Warriors among Gnomes. Effect: Receives [Scimitar Control].

It was an ordinary trash profession, and Zhao Fu did not take much interest in it. He went to the Village Hall and chose to conquer and [Relocate] the Village, earning him 50 Achievement Points and the Great Qin Village 169 EXP.

After conquering this Village, Zhao Fu wanted to take everyone back to the Great Qin Village. However, they soon found a bandit village

The bandit village had roughly 400 bandits, and after the bandit leader left the village to hunt, Zhao Fu took advantage of the situation by attacking the village. After receiving a notification that the village was under attack, the bandit leader hurried back, but he was ambushed and killed by the soldiers that Zhao Fu had waiting for him.

This time, Zhao Fu obtained 340 bandits, all of whom he placed in the army. However, because of a thread he had read on the forum, he decided to closely monitor them.

Most of the villagers that spawned in bandit villages were men, and all of them had decent fighting strength, as opposed to ordinary villages which also spawned elderly, women, and children.

Someone had wanted to use bandit villages to quickly spawn men for his or her army, so the person took over two bandit villages. He or she did not turn the bandit villages into ordinary villages afterwards, allowing the bandit villages to continue spawning bandits. However, once more than half of the person's army comprised of bandits, they immediately rebelled.

Even though ordinary villages would spawn all sorts of villagers, they would be absolutely loyal to their Lord. As long as one did not oppress them or force them into dire straits, they would always remain loyal. However, bandits were different. If one did not manage them rigorously and keep their collective Loyalty above 60, it was possible for them to rebel. If someone had more bandits than loyal soldiers, it would be extremely dangerous.

Chapter 45: Oracle Message

Out of the 301 Gnomes, Zhao Fu added 100 Gnome Crossbowmen into his army. After returning to the Great Qin Village, he re-established the Gnome Village and the bandit village.

He then went west of the Great Qin Village, took out a blue cube, and pressed it against the ground. Following this, blue light rippled out as a system announcement sounded, "System announcement! Would you like to use this City Creation Stone?"

Zhao Fu replied, "Yes!"

The hazy images of a few structures appeared and gradually solidified as another system announcement sounded out, "Please give this village a name!"

Zhao Fu thought about it and decided that since this village was established west of the Great Qin Village, it would be called Westwood Village.

After naming the village, four figures slowly appeared. One was a white-bearded elder and the other three people were the Blacksmith, Apothecary, and Tailor. The white-bearded elder was B grade while the other 3 were C grade. Following this, Zhao Fu brought over 10 or so people from the Great Qin Village to build some basic buildings for the Westwood Village.

Zhao Fu then went to the space of bones and placed the bandit leader's corpse on the altar. He activated the Heaven and Earth Refining Formation and obtained an S grade

Orb. By now, they had used around 1% of the remaining energy stored in the energy stones and would be able to refine about another 100 corpses or so.

As for who Zhao Fu would give this S grade Orb to, he had long since made the decision: Li Wen. Zhao Fu felt guilty towards him because he had voluntarily taken the Skeleton General profession and had been sent into the darkness every day to explore the passages.

“Li Wen, here!”

Zhao Fu called Li Wen over and personally handed him the orb.

Li Wen knelt on one knee and looking incredibly excited and moved that Zhao Fu would think of him first. He thanked Zhao Fu profusely before choosing to use the orb.

The Grade Orb shined with a slightly blood-colored light and floated to Li Wen’s head. It slowly enlarged until it became a bubble that surrounded Li Wen’s entire body. Within the bubble, Li Wen tightly closed his eyes as if there were intense changes happening, and after a while, the bubble disappeared and Li Wen’s grade rose to S grade.

After he saw Li Wen’s grade rise, Zhao Fu went back to the surface.

Now, Zhao Fu had conquered 11 villages. There were 6 Human Villages, 3 Goblin Villages, and 2 Gnome Villages, and he now had 1,800 soldiers in total.

Now that he had such a large army, Zhao Fu thought about launching some attacks against the Orc Village 100 kilometers away. Of course, Zhao Fu would not be so stupid as to reveal his own villages; rather, he wanted to see the Orc Village’s true strength. Compared to living in fear of a possible Orc attacking every day, it was better for them to take an active role.

Zhao Fu once again gathered his army when a Gnome Mechanics Scholar ran over and said something to him. A look of delight appeared on Zhao Fu’s face and he decided not to set out for now. Instead, he decided to remain in the Great Qin Village for another few days. During this time, he gave the soldiers to Bai Qi to do some training.

A few days later, Zhao Fu once again gathered his forces and brought some food, preparing to move out.

Suddenly, Zhao Fu’s body trembled as a system announcement sounded out in his mind.

“You have received an oracle message!”

A strange look appeared on Zhao Fu’s face; he had almost forgotten about his Demon Priest profession. The so-called oracle message was most likely from the ‘god Kerr’.

Zhao Fu looked at the oracle message and saw that it wanted him to develop the number of believers and make a sacrifice.

After looking at the oracle message's contents, Zhao Fu slightly frowned. He could make a sacrifice, but he wasn't willing to make his villagers believe in a god to increase Kerr's believers. After all, Zhao Fu did not believe in any gods – he believed that man could conquer nature.

Suddenly, he remembered that the Heaven and Earth Refining Formation's description said that it could 'refine anything.' Zhao Fu mumbled to himself, "Then... can it refine godly spirits?"

After this thought appeared in his mind, Zhao Fu started to feel quite excited. Plans rapidly formed in his mind and he had a feeling that it was possible for them to succeed.

The god Kerr didn't know that Zhao Fu was starting to have wicked thoughts about it, and of course, Zhao Fu wouldn't directly go and kill a god. First off, he did not have the power to cross the plane of existence, and even if he could, he and his soldiers would be instantly killed. Even though that god Kerr was a weak godly spirit, it was still a godly spirit, and it definitely wasn't something that Zhao Fu could fight against.

Zhao Fu understood all of this clearly, but he had a crazy idea. However, he wouldn't think about it for now – it was best to deal with the Orc Village first.

Finally, Zhao Fu and his soldiers set off.

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The sky was overcast, making the lighting quite dim, and the wind that blew through the trees was quite chilling. Zhao Fu and his soldiers had traveled for a few days and had traveled 100 kilometers away from the Great Qin Village. Because there were a few Grey Dwarves leading the way, Zhao Fu and his soldiers found the Orc Village quite quickly.

The Orc Village was situated at the bottom of a mountain, and there were definitely more than 5,000 Orcs. There were 1,000 or so elderly, women, and children, and the remaining 4,000 were Orc warriors. The Orcs were all incredibly tall and muscular, and they had grey-white skin. Their faces were terrifying, wore beast skins, and normally held hatchets or maces.

Zhao Fu knew that his side would definitely not be able to win if he launched a direct attack when facing so many Orcs. The Orcs had incredibly powerful bodies, and ordinary people would have a hard time fighting against them. However, Zhao Fu's soldiers had various professions and profession bonuses, so things would be slightly better for them.

If it was just Zhao Fu's soldiers, it would be quite difficult for them to defeat the Orc Village, so Zhao Fu fell into deep thought.

Bai Qi said, "Your Majesty! You should look to see if there are any other factions around here. After all, we're from over 100 kilometers away, so we should gain some information before creating battle tactics."

Zhao Fu nodded in response and understood that he was being too hurried. As such, he asked the Grey Dwarves to introduce him to the surrounding powers.

After listening to the Grey Dwarves, Zhao Fu learned that there were three big factions in the surrounding 50-kilometer radius. One was 18 kilometers to the south, a Goblin Village with around 5,000 Goblins; another was 21 kilometers to the west, a Kobold Village with around 4,000 Kobolds; and the final one was 20 kilometers to the east, an Elf Village with around 3,000 Elves.

After receiving this information, Zhao Fu's mind felt much clearer.

In his mind, he had two choices. One was to ally with the three villages to defeat the Orc Village. With the Orcs' brutal and barbaric tendencies, the surrounding villages must have suffered at their hands, so it was quite possible that the alliance would succeed.

The second method was to pit the three villages and the Orc Village against each other. That way, not only would he be able to destroy the Orc Village, but he would also be able to devour the other 3 villages without wasting his own forces.