

Titan King 581

Chapter 581: Do you have any last words?

Aldous roared, emboldened by the presence of Orion and Prince Theodore backing him up.

"And you, damned reptile!"

"How dare you invade ogre territory! I will smash your head and craft your bones into the most perfect club!"

Seeing that neither Orion nor Prince Theodore spoke, Lokiviria and Ssorin focused their attention entirely on Aldous.

"Lord Bluehide(Aldous), this is just a misunderstanding. We are willing to return your territory and make appropriate compensation."

"Sir, if you are willing, we can even form an alliance to maintain peace in this region together."

Ssorin yielded, willing to compensate Aldous.

But Aldous's purpose here today wasn't to gain benefits; it was to exact revenge.

Furthermore, if they negotiated peace, the share of benefits promised to Orion and Prince Theodore would vanish into thin air.

"It's too late, damned lizard!"

Aldous launched his attack, targeting Lord Ssorin.

Orion and Prince Theodore exchanged a glance and also made their moves.

Prince Theodore went to assist Aldous, while Orion, wielding his trident, appeared not far from Lokiviria.

"Lord Lokiviria, I didn't expect that when we met again, it would be under arms."

Orion was very calm; he paid no mind to Lokiviria's current strength.

The reason Orion hadn't acted was merely to use Ssorin to gauge the capabilities of Aldous and Prince Theodore.

Aldous certainly hadn't used his full strength during the North-South War.

As for Prince Theodore, apart from the time he acted when retrieving Princess Ava from Stoneheart City, Orion knew nothing of his true depth.

And this occasion served as an opportunity to gather intelligence.

"Lord Orion, this truly is just a misunderstanding! I was deceived and coerced by Ssorin into invading the ogre territory with him."

"Lokiviria holds no hostility towards the Giant tribe."

Lokiviria's entire body tensed. He was extremely nervous, hoping his explanation could spare the Insectoid race from this disaster.

"Lord Lokiviria, you had best not move, or you will face the consequences."

Orion's expression betrayed no emotion, but his cold gaze swept over, sending chills down Lokiviria's spine.

"Lord Orion, I am willing to cede half my territory in exchange for peace talks."

"I am also willing to offer vast amounts of crystal cores, minerals, and magical plants, only asking the great Giant King to forgive the Insectoid race."

Orion smiled faintly but didn't respond to Lokiviria, instead turning his gaze towards the ongoing battle between Aldous, Ssorin, and Prince Theodore.

"Look, it was two against one back then too. This was the predicament Aldous faced before."

"Shameless lizardfolk! You dared to make Aldous wander, make Aldous homeless!"

"Aldous will settle this score with you now!"

Aldous vented, chattering endlessly.

For the highly intelligent Aldous, physical violence couldn't truly harm him; expulsion and coercion were the greatest insults.

"Smash his head, scoop out his tasty brain..."

Aldous's other head took control of the body. Terrifyingly, the spiked club ignited with a layer of blood-red flames as it smashed violently towards Ssorin.

Ssorin transformed into the shape of a giant lizard. In this form, both his combat power and size increased, and he needed no weapons, as his teeth and skin were the most powerful weapons.

"Damned ogre! I have already apologized and offered compensation!"

"What more do you want?"

"Do you really think you can kill me?"

Ssorin let out a furious roar, like that of a dragon, actually carrying draconic pressure.

However, the draconic pressure caused no harm whatsoever to the four beings present.

Nevertheless, after roaring, Ssorin successively activated several of his bloodline abilities.

Dragon's Bloodline, Hardened Skin, Thorn Spikes. Ssorin's body expanded once more.

Correspondingly, Ssorin's strength and self-healing ability also increased considerably.

"Filthy ogre, today I will show you the true difference between you and a dragon!"

Yes, Ssorin also possessed dragon blood within him; he had some dragon genes.

Ssorin was not like Slagor; he truly belonged to the dragon race.

However, most lizardfolk were merely the lowest tier of dragonkin.

Ssorin completed his self-enhancement; his defensive capabilities increased, and bony spikes grew out from many parts of his body.

Aldous was not about to be intimidated by this; his attacks instead grew fiercer.

Prince Theodore, clad in sacred armor and wielding a one-handed greatsword, followed behind Aldous, also launching sharp attacks.

"You can't escape!"

On the other side, Orion's cold voice rang out, freezing Lokiviria, who had been about to turn and flee, in place.

Ssorin was besieged and fighting back, meaning the situation was irreconcilable.

Lokiviria wanted to flee, but Orion's pressure locked onto him completely.

Although Orion had been watching the other battle just moments ago, his peripheral vision had constantly tracked Lokiviria.

"Lord Orion, this truly is just a misunderstanding!"

"The Insectoid race is willing to pay any price to end this war."

Lokiviria's voice was polite and sincere. Given the circumstances, he had no choice but to bow his head and accept defeat.

"If you want peace talks, first have your people stop resisting."

"After Ssorin is killed, you can negotiate with the Ogre Lord yourself."

Orion's cold voice put Lokiviria in a very difficult position.

While Aldous and Ssorin clashed, down on the earth, insectoids, lizardfolk, humans, giants, gnolls, orcs, and beastfolk were already locked in a chaotic melee. Blood and fire burned, unleashed.

The green earth was quickly stained red with blood.

If Lokiviria ordered his people to stop resisting at this moment, the Insectoids faced only one outcome: ruthless slaughter.

The soldiers on the battlefield, driven mad by killing, wouldn't care whether you surrendered or stopped resisting.

Their fallen comrades and brothers had already ignited their inner bloodlust and hatred.

At such times, only killing could stop the killing. Their war would only end when the enemy was exterminated, or they themselves collapsed from exhaustion.

"Unwilling?"

"The opportunity has slipped away!"

Orion withdrew his gaze from Aldous. The siege of Ssorin by Aldous and Prince Theodore wouldn't conclude anytime soon.

Orion had also realized that Prince Theodore was still holding back, unwilling to reveal his trump cards.

Therefore, the plan to gather intelligence had failed.

"Do you have any last words?"

Boom!

When Lokiviria heard this sentence, he was stunned.

Lokiviria looked down, staring at the trident protruding from his heart, his eyes first filled with disbelief, then transforming into overwhelming fear.

Too fast!

And Orion had disregarded all conventions! He had attacked while asking Lokiviria if he had any last words.

With Orion's current strength attacking Lokiviria, the latter didn't even have time to react.

"Im... possible... too... fast!"

Chapter 582: Are my eyes playing tricks?

Lokiviria wanted to turn back, wanted to see the giant who had killed him.

"You... you..."

Splat!

Orion reached out, crushed Lokiviria's head, and put away a Lord's Stone.

"He's dead, and free. Do you want to join him?"

Orion looked up, grinned, and glanced at Lord Aldous, Prince Theodore, and Lord Ssorin, who were staring blankly at him from nearby.

Lokiviria was dead. Died too suddenly, too absurdly.

This was something Aldous, Theodore, and Ssorin found utterly unbelievable!

If they hadn't seen it with their own eyes, they would never believe that a mid-tier Legendary level being couldn't even withstand a single blow from Orion.

The scene froze for a second or two, and then, Ssorin turned tail and fled.

Aldous and Prince Theodore reacted quickly, just about to give chase to Ssorin.

But, the next moment, a 'pop' sound echoed in their ears, like the sound of air vibrating.

Immediately after, Aldous and Prince Theodore saw Ssorin's massive body suddenly plummet, crashing to the ground.

Orion's figure appeared atop Ssorin's corpse, a flicker of pleasant surprise in his eyes.

Orion hadn't expected Ssorin's death to yield a survivor treasure chest.

It was known that the higher the level, the lower the probability of dropping a treasure chest.

Orion cut open Ssorin's body, searching for the Lord's Stone within him.

A few minutes later, with the Lord's Stone secured, Orion also placed Ssorin's body into his storage ring.

A moment later, Orion returned to the side of Lord Aldous and Prince Theodore.

"The battle is over. What are you thinking about?"

Orion's voice held a mischievous smile, asking a question to which he already knew the answer.

Honestly, Lord Aldous and Prince Theodore were truly frightened by the overwhelming power Orion had displayed.

They too were mid-tier Legendary level, meaning they also couldn't withstand a single blow from Orion.

"Friend... please tell me... Aldous... are my eyes playing tricks?"

Aldous stammered, his words unclear. The larger head beside him looked at Orion with eyes full of dread.

Also filled with dread was Prince Theodore standing nearby.

Orion glanced at Prince Theodore and tossed Lokiviria's Lord's Stone to him.

"Your Highness, I hope the information you gave me is truly worthy of this Lord's Stone."

This was both a threat and a warning.

Orion's voice was calm, but Prince Theodore could hear the cold killing intent beneath the placid surface.

"Giant King Orion, you will certainly feel it was worth the price!"

Prince Theodore did his best to steady his breathing, forcefully suppressing the fear and worry in his heart.

Putting the Lord's Stone away, Prince Theodore let out a long sigh.

"This time, there was an unexpected discovery."

"The Giant King's strength is too terrifying. The Human Kingdom's attitude towards him needs to change."

"The relationship between the Human Kingdom and the Stoneheart Horde must also be adjusted."

These were the first thoughts that surfaced in Prince Theodore's mind. The Giant King's power had far exceeded his expectations.

"Giant King Orion, your power is incredible."

"I believe the friendship between the Human Kingdom and the Stoneheart Horde will endure from this point on."

"Of course, and Lord Bluehide(Aldous) too!"

Orion nodded without saying more. Displaying some of his strength was also an indirect way of sending a signal to the Human Kingdom.

"I am very strong. In our cooperation, you humans had better not try any underhanded tricks, or the Stoneheart Horde has the power to flip the table."

This was the message Orion wanted conveyed through Prince Theodore.

Only by making the Human Kingdom take Orion and the Stoneheart Horde seriously could the Horde become an entity like the dwarves or blood elves.

Only then could the Stoneheart Horde become the fifth major race of the South and gain recognition from the other four major races.

With recognition, the Stoneheart Horde wouldn't be excluded from many important matters and decisions, gaining the qualification to intervene.

"Next, it's time for you to receive your territories!"

With Lokiviria and Ssorin dead in battle, the insectoids and lizardfolk would face suppression from the victors, left with no hope of glory or survival.

Orion's calmness helped Lord Aldous and Prince Theodore quickly regain their composure.

Orion was very powerful; this was a good thing.

As long as the alliance between the Stoneheart Horde, the Ogres, and the Human Kingdom continued, it would benefit all three parties.

For the Stoneheart Horde and the Ogres, the threat to their southeastern border was eliminated, avoiding war.

For the Human Kingdom, war would not erupt on its northwestern border either.

It was a win-win choice!

However, after the Human Kingdom occupied the lizardfolk territory, the lords to the north would certainly strengthen their defenses.

Whether this would trigger other incidents remained difficult to say.

Next, the armies of the three races united, invading from the south all the way to the somewhat more northern insectoid territory.

...

North, within an unknown forest somewhere.

Inside a hollowed-out treetop, Rowena held her swaddled son, her face etched with sorrow.

Such an expression had last appeared when her brother Reynard died in battle.

Suddenly, an insect egg charm hanging on Rowena's son cracked open. A stream of turquoise liquid flowed out from within, merging into the swaddling clothes.

That was Lokiviria's legacy mark. If not activated by Lokiviria himself, it meant Lokiviria had met an unexpected end.

"This... Lokiviria..."

Rowena's expression froze, worry and distress instantly transforming into fear.

Rowena couldn't believe it, couldn't imagine that the greatest support for her and the child in her arms had fallen.

That was a Legendary level expert!

One of the absolute top tier beings on this continent!

But the fact lay before her eyes; Rowena had no choice but to accept it.

"Why... why..."

"My brother was like this, and now Lokiviria too!"

Rowena whispered in a low voice. She had been willful in the past, but she had also endured much suffering because of it.

Ever since discovering her pregnancy, Rowena had placed her hopes of revenge upon her child.

However, after the child was born, Rowena let go of her hatred, actively forgetting the past events.

Rowena hoped her child wouldn't bear the burden of hatred like her, because that would be exhausting.

Rowena hoped her child could grow up normally under Lokiviria's protection.

Yet, Lokiviria, that towering tree, had also been blown down.

At this moment, Rowena once again felt that familiar despair from the past.

Fortunately, Rowena was now Alpha-level and had also contracted her own thunderhawk. She already possessed the ability to protect herself.

"Gregor, Scrab, Chiton, Krik, we're leaving here. Continue heading north."

Chapter 583: We are friends

Gregor, Scrab, Chiton, Krik—these were the guards Lokiviria had left for Rowena and her son. All of them were at the peak of Hero level.

Rowena could command them, and they possessed sufficient capability to assist mother and child.

"As you command, Madam!"

Late at night, Rowena and her son traveled under the cover of darkness, continuing their flight north.

South, Stoneheart City.

On the third floor of the Mysterious Tavern, Delilah stared blankly at the intelligence report in her hand.

Rose Manor, a royal estate located in the southern part of the Human Kingdom, was one of the kingdom's top ten manors.

Its mistress was Princess Ava of the Human Kingdom.

One day prior, Princess Ava had given birth to a son at Rose Manor, and that infant bore some resemblance to a giant tribe cub.

Calculating the dates, Princess Ava must have conceived while in Stoneheart City.

"This... this... she's too lucky!"

Initially, Delilah couldn't believe the intelligence she was seeing.

However, slowly, Delilah's disbelief transformed into sour envy and jealousy.

She thought of the twin royalty of her Succubus race, who had exhausted countless methods, mobilized vast manpower, and attempted innumerable secret techniques just to successfully conceive Orion's offspring.

Unexpectedly, that human woman, treated almost like a plaything, had conceived just like that?

Delilah felt struck, deeply struck.

Princess Ava's conception was like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, leaving Delilah unable to reconcile it for a long time.

"Were my sister and I not trying hard enough?"

"Do we need more positions and variations next time we make love?"

"Why did it happen like this?"

"..."

Just as Delilah was lost in thought, an even more troublesome idea surfaced in her mind.

According to the current date, the child Princess Ava gave birth to would count as Orion's firstborn son.

This was a problem Delilah suddenly realized, and it made her scalp tingle.

In the future, a power struggle between the firstborn and secondborn sons, a bloody storm, seemed to be brewing.

At this thought, Delilah's breathing even quickened.

"No... wait, there's still a chance. That child, he was born in the Human Kingdom."

"Whereas Lilith's child will be born in the Stoneheart Horde. He is the legitimate one."

"We hold the advantage from the start!"

"Lilith's child involves not just the Succubus tribe, but also the Giant tribe. Even the entire Stoneheart Horde stands behind him."

"As for the human princess's child, he definitely won't receive the Horde's support."

A series of thoughts flashed through Delilah's mind. She had to think this way because these matters would soon become reality.

"What should I do?"

"Should I inform Lilith of this news?"

Delilah hesitated. Lilith's due date was still some time away; she worried that if the news got out, Lilith might let her thoughts run wild.

And then there was Orion; he had personally provided the intelligence about Rose Manor.

At this moment, Delilah truly wanted to suppress this news, not even telling Orion.

However, reason told Delilah she couldn't do that.

"Has Orion already received word beforehand?"

"..."

Lizardfolk territory. While Delilah was in turmoil, Orion and Theodore were dividing the spoils of war.

From the lizardfolk territory, they had harvested a great many crystal cores, minerals, and magical plants.

Orion wasn't reserved; he took the larger share of all spoils.

Regarding the division of spoils, Prince Theodore raised no objections.

It seemed that after Orion displayed his Legendary level peak strength, Prince Theodore had lost all resistance to any of Orion's ideas.

Orion eyed Prince Theodore with some suspicion. The man wasn't in a good state; he seemed preoccupied.

"Your Highness, do you feel the division of spoils is unfair?"

Prince Theodore shook his head, denying Orion's suggestion.

"Giant King Orion, you were the one who exerted strength to kill the enemies this time. Whatever you want is not excessive."

"Being able to reclaim the lizardfolk territory is the greatest gain for us."

This was the truth. With the lizardfolk territory returning to the Human Kingdom, a large number of nobles would receive fiefdoms as a result, and Prince Theodore's prestige would rise significantly again.

This way, when the old king abdicated, more nobles would support Prince Theodore's ascension to the throne.

Furthermore, this new territory would also bring countless riches and benefits to Prince Theodore.

"Hahaha... the Insectoid territory is too big! We ogres can't swallow it all."

"Friend, I've decided. The territory bordering yours, I will cede a portion."

In this war, Aldous had vented his anger and reclaimed his former territory.

Furthermore, Lokiviria's entire territory would now belong to the Ogre race.

It was a vast territory, difficult for the Ogre race to manage completely.

Thus, Aldous had an idea: cede the portion connecting to the Stoneheart Horde to Orion.

This way, the Ogre Tribe provided benefits to the Stoneheart Horde, and the friendship between the two races would deepen further.

Besides, it was Aldous who had requested Orion's intervention this time.

Setting aside friendship, Orion's action deserved reciprocation.

This was Aldous's thinking, and also his wisdom.

Aldous understood clearly that friendship and alliances were, to a large extent, intertwined with interests.

Moreover, doing so had an even greater advantage: the territories of the Stoneheart Horde and the Ogre Tribe would have a larger shared border.

If the Ogre Tribe were invaded, the Stoneheart Horde would also be affected.

At that point, invaders would face the combined forces of the Ogres and the Stoneheart Horde.

And this was Aldous's clever calculation!

"Aldous, we are friends. You don't need to do this!"

Orion spoke up. He understood Aldous's meaning and greatly appreciated his gesture and wisdom.

Because doing so would make the alliance between the Ogre race and the Stoneheart Horde even more solid.

"It must be done! In this joint operation of three races, only the Stoneheart Horde didn't gain territory. That's not fair."

Aldous was very insistent. After pondering for a moment, Orion nodded in agreement.

Subsequently, Prince Theodore spoke up.

"The portion of territory Lord Bluehide has lost [by ceding it], I am willing to compensate with the northern part of the lizardfolk territory."

"This way, the territories of our three races can be considered tightly linked together."

"Allies should look out for each other, shouldn't they?"

Chapter 584: I will go confirm it personally

Orion hadn't expected Prince Theodore to be willing to use a portion of the newly acquired territory to compensate Aldous, thereby easing the distribution of benefits among the three parties.

This action earned Orion's appreciation.

Of course, it also gained the approval of the Ogre Bluehide (Aldous).

"Human prince, your decision just now makes me re-evaluate the alliance between us."

"You have gained the goodwill of us ogres!"

Prince Theodore nodded, a smile on his face.

Honestly, establishing good relations with Orion and Aldous was also beneficial for him.

Although this territory would be enfeoffed, it would most likely be done under his name, granted to other nobles.

Before ascending the throne, this territory served as one of his potential fallback positions.

Of course, all of this was predicated on Orion's immense strength.

If Orion hadn't delivered such a stunning performance today, neither Aldous nor Prince Theodore would have proposed concessions.

...

Human Kingdom, Soaring Bird City.

News of the successful invasion of the lizardfolk territory by the combined forces of humans, ogres, and giants quickly reached Soaring Bird City.

The Alpha-level beings stationed here, Henrik and Mateo, were busy organizing troops, preparing to head to the lizardfolk territory.

Especially upon hearing that the lizardfolk territory would fall under the Human Kingdom's rule, many of the merchant groups and mercenaries here went into a frenzy.

They had already earned fortunes on the human-ogre-giant trade route.

Now, the opening of the lizardfolk territory would similarly create vast wealth and give many more people a chance to improve their fortunes.

"So the Prince's real purpose in coming to Soaring Bird City was the lizardfolk territory."

"He really deceived everyone!"

The speaker was Knight Lambert, currently a guest in the palace.

As Princess Ava's representative, he was Torin's equal in both strength and status.

Having dealt with Torin before, Lambert found him easy to talk to, and their relationship was quite harmonious.

At least, on the surface.

"Sir Lambert, does Her Highness the Princess have any instructions?"

Truthfully, Torin also had some ideas regarding the lizardfolk territory.

He couldn't gain much more benefit in Soaring Bird City; perhaps the lizardfolk territory could offer a fresh start.

The more chaotic a place, the easier it was to acquire slaves, and also the less risk involved.

"Lord Torin, forgive my bluntness, but your current situation is very difficult."

"If you encroach upon the interests of the Kingdom's established nobles again, you will find it even harder to move forward."

This was a well-intentioned reminder from Knight Lambert.

Although a large amount of profit flowed out of Soaring Bird City, Torin still received a 10% share and obtained a free palace.

Here, Torin was the lord; he could act freely without being deliberately targeted by anyone.

However, the moment Torin's hand reached for the cake belonging to other nobles, it would surely be severed.

At that time, Torin would suffer disastrous losses.

"Thank you for your reminder. Alas, what a pity!"

Torin nodded, his brow slightly furrowed, his expression uncertain.

Torin naturally understood what Lambert said, but he was unwilling to give up the opportunity presented by the period of chaos in the lizardfolk territory.

Chaos was a prime opportunity for Torin's slave-catching group to profit handsomely.

"Truly a pity! If Wyatt hadn't gone to the giant territory, I would definitely send him out now."

Lambert glanced at Torin. Honestly, this Lord was quite pitiful. His story had become a laughingstock among the Kingdom's noble class.

"Lord Torin, let's discuss the matter of the Rose Knight Regiment's caravans operating under your name."

Soaring Bird City was nominally Torin's, and he possessed tax exemption rights.

And this was what the Rose Knight Regiment needed.

With tax exemption, the Rose Knight Regiment could earn greater profits on this trade route, allowing the cavalry regiment to develop.

"Absolutely no problem. Everything will be done according to Her Highness the Princess's wishes."

Torin was sensible and offered no resistance.

He knew very well that everything he currently possessed was bestowed upon him by Princess Ava and Prince Theodore.

Without these two royals standing behind him, he would likely already be dead somewhere.

Torin looked up, gazing at the busy pedestrians outside the residence. His eyes began to drift, then firmed with resolve.

"Soon, I'll advance to Alpha-level. Then, even in Soaring Bird City, I'll have some say."

"This is just the beginning!"

...

Stoneheart City, Mysterious Tavern.

Victory in the invasion war; the news reached Delilah's hands immediately.

The Mercenary Corps and caravans under the Sentinel Corps received the news and directly crossed through ogre territory towards the lizardfolk lands to transport the various resources plundered by the armies.

"Lord Orion, I..."

Orion used his will projection to inform Delilah of the general situation in the lizardfolk territory and the specific coordinates of the main forces, allowing her to make advance arrangements.

As Orion's will projection was about to fade into silence, Delilah had something she wanted to say but couldn't bring herself to voice it.

"Have you found the intelligence on Rose Manor?"

Having slept together often and spent much time together, Delilah knew Orion well.

Conversely, Orion also knew Delilah very well.

Delilah's current state indicated something was weighing on her mind, something she wanted to say.

Orion pondered briefly and guessed the outcome.

"Speak. I'm very curious what kind of information could be worth a Lord's Stone."

A trace of bitterness flashed in Delilah's eyes, but she quickly composed herself.

Since the news couldn't be suppressed, she couldn't choose concealment.

"Rose Manor is in the Human Kingdom. Its mistress is the human Princess Ava."

"Seven days ago, Ava gave birth to a son at Rose Manor. The child's appearance is very similar to a giant cub."

The atmosphere fell silent. On the third floor of the Mysterious Tavern, only the steady sound of Delilah's heartbeat could be heard.

"Very well. I will go confirm it personally."

After a long pause, Orion's calm voice finally sounded.

Delilah breathed a sigh of relief, as if liberated. She leaned weakly against the table and chair, staring blankly at the sky outside the tavern.

"If only he were born a few months later, there would be much less trouble!"

The birth of Orion's firstborn would, in the future, cause trouble for Lilith and her child, and also for the Succubus tribe.

This was unavoidable!

"It seems some arrangements must be made now!"

"..."

Will the Stoneheart Horde face a power struggle between the firstborn and secondborn?

Delilah didn't know. She hoped Orion would take a clear stance to avoid such pointless internal conflict.

If that day truly came, Delilah naturally hoped Lilith would win, hoped the Succubus race would win.

Chapter 585: The child was innocent

Near the area bordering the insectoid territory, Orion, walking between the other two, suddenly stopped and turned to look at Prince Theodore.

"Giant King Orion, do you have doubts about our distribution method?"

Prince Theodore was somewhat baffled, assuming Orion wanted to discuss the allocation of resources in the insectoid territory.

Orion shook his head, indicating he had no issue with that.

"Theodore, Aldous, I have urgent business and need to return. I leave the matters concerning the insectoid territory to you."

Amidst the astonished gazes of Aldous and Prince Theodore, Orion transformed into lightning and sped rapidly south.

"Orion is my friend. He trusts Aldous greatly. Aldous won't let his friend suffer a loss!"

Ogre Aldous didn't inquire out of curiosity about what matter had arisen for Orion.

Aldous expressed to Prince Theodore that he would safeguard Orion's interests.

Prince Theodore, however, gazed in the direction Orion disappeared, frowning slightly.

"The Giant King headed south... and that strange look in his eyes just now... could it be..."

Could he have already found the information about Rose Manor?

This thought leaped into Prince Theodore's mind!

The deeper he considered it, the more certain Prince Theodore became.

"Surely the Giant King doesn't intend to force his way into the Human Kingdom, force his way into Rose Manor?"

At this thought, Prince Theodore felt the impulse to turn and give chase.

However, in the end, Prince Theodore did not turn back.

Because the Human Kingdom was protected by the King and two Grand Dukes; once Orion entered deep into the Human Kingdom, he would certainly be detected.

As for Rose Manor, his woman and child resided there; what could the Giant King possibly do to them?

Prince Theodore sighed. He was the one who had released the information; he had, in fact, somewhat anticipated Orion's current actions.

"Aunt, I hope the Giant King's appearance can change your situation."

Several days later, traveling at full speed, Orion quickly entered the Human Kingdom.

With Orion's current strength, no one could stop him, not even if the Human Saint appeared.

Orion could sense his own son through their bloodline connection.

However, if the distance was too great, even Orion couldn't manage it.

To verify if the giant cub at Rose Manor was indeed his bloodline, Orion, upon receiving the news from Delilah, resolutely decided to go and confirm it personally.

Rumble!

Thunder roared, and lightning flashed.

After entering the human nation, Orion made no attempt to conceal his aura. Instead, he unleashed the pressure of his Legendary level peak strength, sweeping southwards all the way.

As the terrifying pressure passed, every city it swept over attracted countless onlookers and alarmed numerous human experts.

Such a large commotion quickly alerted several Legendary level beings, and the news swiftly reached the royal palace, reaching the ears of the King and the two Grand Dukes.

Inside the royal palace, King Harold dismissed the maidservants and guards, approached a floor-standing magic mirror, and activated it.

Soon, the figures of Grand Duke Richard and Grand Duke William also appeared within the magic mirror.

"That Giant King is heading straight south. His destination is Rose Manor in the south."

"His target should be the newly born infant."

King Harold's voice was measured and calm, betraying neither anger nor joy.

In the magic mirror, Richard and William also offered no opinion.

Beings of their strength had long seen through many things; they looked only at the essence of matters.

"Cross-species offspring are exceedingly rare; we are all clear on this point."

"For that Giant King to recklessly enter our Human Kingdom shows he cares greatly about his son and is very anxious."

The speaker was Grand Duke Richard, who spoke while lowering his head in thought.

Regarding Orion's abrupt intrusion into the Human Kingdom, none of the three present raised an objection.

Frankly, giving Rose Manor to Princess Ava was also a result of the three of them secretly arranging it and reaching a consensus.

"News confirms the Giant King hasn't disturbed our cities. He went straight towards Rose Manor."

King Harold didn't offer an opinion but updated Orion's movements based on the latest information received, sharing it.

"It seems Giant King Orion still acts with measure. He doesn't wish to provoke conflict between our two races."

Grand Duke Richard had dealt with Orion before. Orion not destroying a single blade of grass or piece of wood in the human nation showed respect towards them.

Of course, this was also Orion expressing his own attitude.

With this bottom line established, any future matters between the Human Kingdom and the Stoneheart Horde could be discussed calmly.

"He has advanced to Legendary level peak!"

This was the information shared by Grand Duke Richard. Clearly, he had sensed Orion's aura.

Grand Duke Richard's voice held considerable surprise; this was the first time any emotional fluctuation had occurred since the three activated the magic mirror.

Legendary level peak!

This was an existence surpassing the three of them. In the current Human Kingdom, likely only the appearance of the Saint could expel Orion.

"It seems the Giant tribe will be the fifth major race of the South."

"The original Five-Race Alliance is now truly worthy of its name."

This was an affirmation from King Harold, an affirmation of the Stoneheart Horde.

"Your Majesty, what are your thoughts?"

Ava was King Harold's sister. The King's opinion, in handling this matter, served as both an instruction and a definition.

And Richard and William would unconditionally support His Majesty the King for their common interests.

"Let's wait. Wait until the outcome between them emerges, then we'll see!"

'Them', of course, referred to Princess Ava and Giant King Orion.

The imperial princess had been abducted to the giant territory. Although she was welcomed back, her reputation had been damaged.

If, through the child, Princess Ava and Giant King Orion could marry and be together, it would actually be a good thing for Ava.

Of course, for the Human Kingdom, it would be an even better thing.

If Giant King Orion acknowledged Ava, it would mean the relationship between the Human Kingdom and the Stoneheart Horde would transform into one of marriage alliance.

This held significant and far-reaching importance for the stability of the Human Kingdom's surrounding environment.

Naturally, for Princess Ava, she would also wash away the stigma of her violated chastity.

For the newly born infant, it was also a very positive development.

This way, Ava's child wouldn't grow up filled with negative emotions regarding his origins.

Such considerations were all things King Harold had to think about.

From the perspective of a king, he did not wish for war to break out in the kingdom, nor did he wish for his sister to live amidst the slander and gossip of others.

Of course, he also didn't wish for his newly born nephew to be plunged into dire straits from the moment of birth.

The child was innocent.

Chapter 586: Kronos Stoneheart

South, Rose Manor.

A fierce wind blew, the thunder abruptly ceased, and as the pressure swept past, all the roses were flattened.

Princess Ava was somewhat stunned; the giant who had raped her countless times had actually appeared at Rose Manor.

This was an extraordinary event!

"Are the kingdom's Legendary level beings just decorations?"

Clearly, that was impossible.

Ava felt despair once more. If she couldn't even be guaranteed safety within the Human Kingdom, under her brother's protection, it was a situation that brought utter hopelessness.

Orion landed in the backyard of Rose Manor, where Ava was currently strolling with her son.

Orion didn't speak but made a grabbing motion with his large hand. A suction force formed, pulling the child from Ava's arms towards him.

This was his bloodline; Orion could sense it.

"What are you doing here?"

Beneath the facade of despair was coldness and stubbornness. Ava, expressionless, coldly questioned Orion.

However, Orion paid her no heed.

The best way to throw someone into self-confusion was to ignore them, pay them no mind.

Now, Ava was being ignored by Orion.

Orion lifted his palm, holding the giant youngling who was looking up at him curiously with wide eyes.

Perhaps due to the blood connection, the giant youngling didn't cry or fuss, but instead stretched languidly and yawned.

"This is my bloodline. His future lies in the Stoneheart Horde!"

Orion held his son aloft; the feeling of their blood connection brought a special kind of joy to his heart.

"I have given him a name: Kronos Stoneheart!"

Orion shouted it out, the sound shaking the land for miles.

"He's mine!"

"Please, I beg you, don't take him away!"

Ava's pleading voice rang out. Just moments ago, she had already figured it out: Orion being able to reach the depths of the Human Kingdom meant it had been tacitly permitted by the kingdom.

Ava seemed to have realized her fate.

Her expression revealed begging and sorrow.

Orion looked down, gazing at Ava kneeling on the ground, clutching his trouser leg. The inexplicable emotion in his heart softened slightly.

Orion looked up at his son in his hands, then down again at Ava, whose face was streaked with tears.

At this moment, Orion felt somewhat conflicted.

"I give you two choices!"

After a long pause, Orion's deep voice sounded, presenting Ava with two options.

"First choice: you take Kronos and follow me back to the Stoneheart Horde."

"Second choice: I take Kronos, you stay."

Orion's tone allowed no room for doubt. His bloodline could not remain outside, be bullied, be treated with indifference.

"No, I won't choose!"

"Kronos is mine! He's my child! Please, I beg you, let me go!"

Teary-eyed, pitifully appealing—this was Ava's state at this moment.

Orion raised an eyebrow, about to refuse.

However, just then, a spatial ripple occurred. King Harold stepped out from the void, sighing.

"Giant King Orion, the child is Ava's hope for living. Do you intend to strip her of that hope?"

"Do you want a mother to lose her child right after giving birth?"

"Do you want them, mother and son, to be separated like this?"

"Do you want two people who are closest kin to be left lonely and helpless?"

King Harold, having teleported to Rose Manor, showed no anger. He reached out to help Ava up, his face full of affection and apology.

"Brother, I won't go to the giant territory! I won't go!"

King Harold nodded, wiped the tears from Ava's face, then turned to look at Orion.

"The harm the Stoneheart Horde inflicted upon Ava was immense. Giant King, please do not force the unwilling."

Orion stared at the king of the Human Kingdom. This was their first meeting. The latter possessed a dignity that wasn't lacking in warmth, handled matters with composure, as if capable of resolving anything.

This was a true king, qualified for an equal dialogue with Orion.

"Kronos stays in the Human Kingdom. I guarantee his safety."

"After he comes of age, I will not interfere. Kronos himself will decide whether to stay or leave."

"Giant King, what do you think?"

Regardless, King Harold would not let Orion take Kronos.

Privately, this was Ava's son, his nephew; Kronos also carried half of their family's bloodline within him.

Moreover, King Harold would not permit Ava and Kronos to suffer cold stares and bullying within the Stoneheart Horde.

Publicly, the upper echelons of the Human Kingdom all hoped to use Kronos to deepen ties with the Stoneheart Horde.

In the future, if possible, they might even directly support Kronos in establishing his own power base within the Stoneheart Horde.

If Kronos grew up in the Human Kingdom, he would certainly develop feelings for it and form many bonds during his upbringing.

Orion stared intently at Harold, who met his gaze directly without flinching.

"Orion, can you guarantee that Ava and Kronos will not suffer a single grievance in the Stoneheart Horde?"

"I trust the Giant King's prestige and methods, but I do not trust others."

Harold had laid his cards on the table, and Orion understood his meaning.

Setting aside the Succubus race, the factions behind Soraya, Kitsune Sylvana, and Lysinthia alone would not be friendly towards Kronos.

Furthermore, Lilith was also about to give birth; at such a sensitive time, the Succubus race would be highly alert.

Orion fell silent!

He had to admit that the two choices he had just given Ava were indeed somewhat domineering, somewhat ill-considered, and made without careful thought.

In the backyard, Orion held the child, King Harold supported Ava, and the three stood facing each other.

An unknown amount of time passed before Orion slowly handed the child back into Ava's arms.

Simultaneously, Orion secretly left a will projection within Kronos.

"After Kronos comes of age, whoever restricts his freedom, I will execute."

Orion's Legendary level peak power erupted violently, targeting only King Harold.

Under this ferocious pressure, King Harold swayed precariously.

However, after a soft golden light emanated from the crown atop Harold's head, he immediately returned to normal.

Orion knew when to stop; he withdrew his pressure.

Within his perception, several Legendary level auras had already appeared nearby, one of which felt familiar.

Clearly, the upper echelons of the Human Kingdom had made preparations; if necessary, they would forcibly keep Kronos.

Orion slowly exhaled, his gaze falling upon Ava, then upon Kronos in her arms.

"I will watch over him!"

"If any problems arise, or if I feel anything is amiss, I will take Kronos back."

"No one can stop me, not even your Saint."

With these words, Orion transformed into lightning and, after a clap of thunder, departed from Rose Manor.

Bang!

In the distance, a large explosion suddenly occurred. A figure was knocked back, its face extremely unsightly.

Chapter 587: That is my child

"Remember, I keep my word!"

Orion departed, heading north all the way towards the ogre territory.

Not long after, King Harold, having comforted Princess Ava, returned to the royal palace, back beside the magic mirror.

Within the magic mirror, the figures of Grand Duke Richard and Grand Duke William reappeared.

"William, are you injured?"

"No, that Giant King didn't truly attack me, just threatened me a bit."

Before leaving, Orion, to strengthen his persuasiveness, had attacked Grand Duke William.

As for why it was him, and not King Harold or Grand Duke Richard:

King Harold represented the Human Kingdom; losing face himself meant the entire Human Kingdom lost face.

Orion was not a fool; he knew where the line was.

As for Grand Duke Richard, he and Orion were acquainted; they had fought together in the dragon territory.

Furthermore, privately, Grand Duke Richard was one of the Stoneheart Horde's largest partners. Orion certainly couldn't cause him to lose face either.

"He was demonstrating his power to us!"

"None of us can stop him. He wasn't lying."

Grand Duke Richard stated Orion's intention. This point, surely everyone present understood; Grand Duke William was just rather unlucky.

"The current situation is quite good. Kronos stays in the kingdom; our relationship with the Stoneheart Horde now has a connecting link."

"Henceforth, Kronos's treatment should follow that accorded to a prince."

Everyone remained silent, none objected.

Experts of their status held little resistance or objection to racial divides.

Some nobles, in order to improve their family bloodline, would even choose beautiful blood elves or succubi as lovers to bear offspring.

This was one reason why succubus slaves were highly sought after in the Human Kingdom.

"What about the lizardfolk territory?"

"So many idle nobles in the kingdom; they nearly went mad when the news arrived."

This was fact. With the kingdom newly acquiring the lizardfolk territory, the nobles enfeoffed under the King and the two Grand Dukes had been bringing gifts these past few days, nearly wearing down the thresholds of their residences.

Next, after a round of bargaining, a list designed to win over the nobles was born in King Harold's hands.

Just as Prince Theodore had anticipated, the lizardfolk territory became his fiefdom.

However, his fiefdom was packed full of nobles, large and small, from all over the kingdom.

...

Stoneheart City, Tavern third floor.

Delilah remained in a daze, but her mind was full of concerns.

Back then, to ensure Lilith successfully conceived, the Succubus tribe had obtained two fruits from the Beastfolk territory.

One had already been used by Lilith, resulting in successful conception.

The other remained in Delilah's hands.

At this moment, Delilah hesitated, debating whether she herself should personally use it, allowing the Succubus race to produce two of Orion's heirs.

Tossing and turning the idea, the agitated Delilah couldn't make a decision.

However, just then, the will projection slumbering near Delilah's brow awakened.

"Delilah, have Brom and James take a squad of Raptor cavalry to Rose Manor in the Human Kingdom."

"That is my child. His name is Kronos Stoneheart."

"This news can be selectively disclosed within the Horde, but limited only to council members."

"Kronos will live in the Human Kingdom until he comes of age. Have the scouts watch over him."

The voice of Orion's will projection was calm, showing no emotion.

However, Delilah, having shared countless intimate moments with Orion, immediately understood that Orion was very serious at this moment.

A serious Orion was calm and profound.

Furthermore, this was an order issued by Orion, an order from the Giant King.

"Understood. I will handle this matter properly!"

This was why Orion favored Delilah and entrusted her with authority.

Delilah certainly had her own thoughts, but she would strictly execute Orion's commands.

As for the individuals Orion specified, Brom and James, they were Orion's childhood playmates from the Blackstone Tribe.

With the help of abundant Alpha-level life essence, Brom and James had also recently advanced to the Alpha-level.

Orion's meaning was also simple: appoint Brom and James as Kronos's guards.

One was an Alpha-level giant bloodline warrior, the other an Alpha-level giant shaman. Coupled with a squad of Raptor cavalry, it was sufficient for Kronos's needs.

Moreover, Brom and James served as guards, but also as supervisors—supervising both Kronos and the Human Kingdom.

Orion would never allow the nobles of the Human Kingdom to brainwash his son; he had to have contact with giants and the Stoneheart Horde from a young age.

"Soon, I will return with the various armies."

"Make preparations. The area of ogre territory bordering ours—a portion will be ceded to the Stoneheart Horde."

"I need you to send people to receive it, demarcate the boundaries, and construct watchtowers."

Hearing this, Delilah's eyes brightened slightly.

More territory meant more cities could be built, more lords could be enfeoffed.

The voice of Orion's will projection grew fainter, finally falling back into slumber.

Only at this moment did Delilah's heart truly relax.

The giant cub at Rose Manor was indeed Orion's bloodline; this was within expectations.

Now that Orion had confirmed it, although Delilah felt somewhat complex emotions, she had come to accept it.

Especially when Orion mentioned that the giant cub would live in the Human Kingdom until adulthood, Delilah's heart had already begun to cheer inwardly.

This meant that the future Kronos could absolutely never become the legitimate heir of the Stoneheart Horde.

Would a prince who didn't grow up witnessed by his own people be acknowledged by the various races?

Clearly, that was impossible.

More severely, even the younger generation growing up alongside the prince wouldn't acknowledge him.

"Kronos Stoneheart?"

"Is the hope that he too becomes a Titan King?"

"But is that possible?"

At this moment, a smile finally appeared on Delilah's face.

Unlike Kronos, Lilith's child was destined for the spotlight, destined to grow up under the focus of all the tribes.

Such a giant prince would receive everyone's acknowledgment, everyone's support, everyone's allocation of resources.

Thinking of these things, the pressure Delilah carried truly lessened significantly.

"Poor Lilith. I wonder what your reaction will be when you hear the news about Kronos."

"..."

Valkorath Realm, Soraya City.

Inside Dusk Castle, Lilith, who was speaking with Soraya, suddenly froze, rooted to the spot.

"What's wrong?"

"Is the little one in your belly causing trouble again?"

The Legendary level Soraya easily detected Lilith's abnormality and inquired with concern.

Lilith didn't speak. After remaining stiff for a quarter of an hour, she finally let out a slow sigh.

"That princess in the Human Kingdom... gave birth to a son for Orion."

"His name is Kronos Stoneheart. Orion's firstborn."

This news stunned Lilith, and even the Legendary-level Soraya.

For a time, silence fell over Dusk Castle.

Chapter 588: Aura Lock

After leaving the Human Kingdom, Orion returned to the lizardfolk territory.

By this time, the various armies had already invaded Lokiviria's territory. Orion stopped at a temporary outpost of the Sentinel Corps.

With Lokiviria dead in battle, and Lord Aldous and Prince Theodore overseeing things, there was no need for Orion to continue towards the insectoid territory.

Inside a temporary tent, Orion opened the survivor treasure chest dropped by Ssorin.

It contained a skill scroll, quite practical for Orion.

[Aura Lock]

Type: Locking Skill

Skill Description: Locks onto an enemy's aura, suppressing them. Within perception range, the target cannot be lost.

Without any hesitation, Orion directly tore the scroll and learned Aura Lock.

Combined with Orion's throwing skill, the effect of Aura Lock would be incredibly effective.

Afterward, Orion immersed his consciousness into the Survivor's Platform, entering the Champions Alliance public channel.

The reason Orion had stopped at the Sentinel Corps temporary outpost was because something had occurred within the Champions Alliance.

To be precise, a new member had joined.

Alexander: "Welcome our new partner, Isabella!"

This was Alexander's introduction; clearly, the new member Isabella was brought in by him.

Isabella: "Hello everyone, please take care of me in the future!"

Edward: "Welcome!"

Leonidas: "Welcome!"

Kraken: "A warm welcome!"

Apart from the slumbering Commander and Arthas, Deputy Commanders Edward, Leonidas, and Kraken all expressed their welcome.

Being pulled into the Champions Alliance indicated that Isabella was at least a Legendary level existence.

Hulk: "Welcome! Should I add, 'first send a nude selfie for us to see'?"

Orion spoke up promptly to welcome her, intending to make a joke, but unexpectedly elicited a different kind of information.

Isabella: "Besides sex and women, what else is in your brain?"

Hulk: "?"

Edward: "..."

Leonidas: "Hahaha... Orion, you got told off!"

Kraken: "I can already sense a certain dominance!"

Orion was somewhat speechless. His comment was clearly meant as banter; he just wanted to liven up the atmosphere.

He hadn't expected Isabella to take it seriously and even retort.

Just as Orion was grumbling to himself, Alexander stepped in to smooth things over.

Alexander: "Everyone, don't mind her. Isabella is just an ignorant little girl, accustomed to being a queen."

Isabella is just a little girl? How old is she, is she even 18?

This thought popped into the minds of all Champions Alliance members.

Edward: "Isabella, see that prize wheel?"

Edward: "That's the Commander's joining benefit for every new member. Input a trace of your transcendent power into it, and you can draw a reward."

At this moment, the Deputy Commander spoke again, and everyone fell silent.

This was a test, to determine if Isabella had reached the Legendary level, if she possessed the transcendent power exclusive to Legendary level beings.

Of course, it was also a benefit; Orion himself had obtained the dragonscale leather armor through this test previously.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, the prize wheel was activated, and a treasure chest was retrieved by Isabella.

This signified that Isabella was a Legendary level being; she possessed the status of a lord.

Edward: "Isabella, congratulations on becoming the eighth member of our Champions Alliance!"

Leonidas: "Well done, Alexander! Quietly nurtured such a fierce female general!"

Alexander: "Not a fierce female general, a queen!"

Hulk: "Formal welcome!"

Kraken: "Time to move on to the next stage!"

After a bout of chatter, everyone fell silent.

Kraken was right; it was time to proceed to the next stage.

For every new member, everyone would prepare a welcoming gift.

Orion had gone through this process as well, only now he had shifted from receiving gifts to giving them.

After pondering for a moment, Orion couldn't find a suitable gift.

The Stoneheart Horde, unlike other members of the team, lacked distinct characteristics or weaknesses, being more of an all-around type of force.

This resulted in Orion not having any exclusive specialty products on hand.

Items like magical plants or minerals felt inadequate to offer.

Ultimately, Orion initiated a trade with Isabella, sending over a clump of Legendary level life essence.

For Isabella, who had just advanced to the Legendary level, such an item was undoubtedly rare.

"Thanks. I forgive your earlier offense towards me!"

Seeing Isabella's reply, Orion felt an urge to curse.

Turns out, that woman Isabella still remembered the earlier incident.

But thinking it over, Orion let it go.

There would be plenty of time to interact with Isabella in the future.

Her true age and true temperament would only be revealed after spending more time together.

One couldn't define a person solely based on their initial words and actions; Orion understood this.

Exiting the Survivor's Platform, Orion felt a sense of urgency.

At this time, the addition of a new member would certainly mean that the benefits from the fungal creatures in the Valkorath Realm would be further divided.

Everyone understood this point.

"Need to wrap things up here quickly and return to the Valkorath Realm sooner."

Gathering more resources for the Stoneheart Horde, accumulating a deeper foundation—this was what Orion should prioritize now.

With resources, the Stoneheart Horde could develop; development led to acquiring more population and territory.

And these were all necessary processes for Orion to advance to Arch Lord.

If there were shortcuts to reaching the Legendary level, then becoming an Arch Lord truly required grinding it out bit by bit.

Even Arthas, Leonidas, and Alexander within the Champions Alliance had spent a very long time progressing from Legendary level to Arch Lord peak.

"Warfare here in the Titanion Realm has temporarily concluded. We just need to maintain stability."

"The fungal creatures in the Valkorath Realm will also continue to dwindle."

"The plan to make designs on the Emerald Dream Realm should be put on the agenda!"

Currently, the Stoneheart Horde had opened up territories in three realms.

The territory in the Valkorath Realm was the safest, serving as the main rear base, a safe zone.

As long as the Deputy Commander and the realm formation existed, Orion wouldn't have to worry about his rear.

The other two territories were located in the north and south of the Utessar continent within the Titanion Realm.

The north was harsh and cold, and the surrounding lords weren't powerful, making it relatively safe.

The south, conversely, though rich in resources and diverse in species, was the most unstable region.

Especially the Stoneheart Horde's external environment, constrained by humans, blood elves, dwarves, and dragons.

If problems arose with any one of these factions, it could potentially drag the southern territory into war.

Fortunately, after the North-South War, the neighboring blood elves and humans showed no inclination towards large-scale warfare, so the south was temporarily stable.

Orion walked out of the temporary tent, gazing at the distant plains. As his faction and status rose, the number of things requiring his consideration grew ever larger.

Chapter 589: Good days are coming

South, Whitecliff City.

This was the territory of the dragons. At this moment, seawater surged backwards, washing away the mottled bloodstains on the city walls.

Clearly, a battle had occurred here not long ago.

Attacks from the Sea Race had pinned down the dragons in the far south, consuming most of their energy and significantly diminishing the dragons' influence over the continent.

This was a situation the Human Kingdom, dwarves, and blood elves were happy to see, and one that Orion also welcomed.

Inside a palace in Whitecliff, the Glacial Dragon Jorik communicated with the will projection of the white dragon Frostsire, reporting the recent situation.

"Ancestor, the lizardfolk Ssorin died in battle. He was jointly killed by ogres, giants, and humans."

There was a reason why Ssorin's territory bordered those of the ogres and humans.

During the North-South War, the lizardfolk were one of the main combat forces in the central region and were a race that had submitted to the white dragon Frostsire early on.

The lizardfolk race was a chess piece planted by Frostsire outside the human territory.

And now, this chess piece had been removed!

Orion's idea of pulling the humans onto his war chariot had actually played right into the humans' hands; they had long sought an opportunity to kick the lizardfolk out of the game.

The appearance of Orion and Aldous directly gave the humans their chance.

Furthermore, this war was not led by humans, but by the ogres.

Even if complications arose, the Ogre race would ultimately take the blame, having nothing to do with the humans.

"Why did they kill Ssorin?"

"According to intelligence, it was Ssorin who invaded the ogre territory, affecting the trade route of humans, ogres, and giants, thus provoking the punitive expedition."

"Foolish!"

After cursing Ssorin as foolish, the white dragon Frostsire spoke no more.

Ssorin had been placed north of the human territory by him, with the aim of one day launching a pincer attack against the humans.

Knowing this earlier, it would have been better to bring Ssorin to Whitecliff, which would have further enhanced the dragons' overall strength.

"Find a way to gather those scattered lizardfolk onto our territory."

"As for the humans, ogres, and giants, ignore them for now. There will be plenty of opportunities to deal with them later."

"What is the situation with the Sea Race?"

Losing a chess piece, though somewhat regrettable, wasn't enough to truly anger the white dragon Frostsire, nor did it affect the larger picture.

Currently, the Sea Race was the stumbling block to the dragons' resurgence. Only after resolving the Sea Race issue would the dragons have the confidence to confront the races on land.

"Ancestor, the Sea Race has been continuously invading our territory recently."

"It's clear their invasion intensity is gradually weakening."

"As long as we defend the major cities tightly, nothing will go wrong."

Having experienced more battles, Jorik grew increasingly confident.

"Stabilize the situation. I have already connected with a Dragon Isle from another realm. They will soon dispatch allied forces to Whitecliff."

"Once the Sea Race matter is resolved, in my name, demand that the humans, ogres, and giants give the dragons an explanation."

"Tell them the lizardfolk race is our vassal race, and the actions of the humans, ogres, and giants have offended us."

Jorik was overjoyed upon hearing this; the arrival of reinforcements would greatly alleviate his pressure.

As for making demands and seeking benefits from other races, there would naturally be a plan once the reinforcements arrived.

...

Half a month later, the various armies of the Stoneheart Horde that had set out on the expedition returned to Stoneheart City under Orion's leadership.

The countless goods and slaves left the foreign merchants and mercenaries who came to Stoneheart City for trade wide-eyed.

Stoneheart City, Fatty's General Store.

"Haha... Kadir, good news! They won another battle!"

Fatty Nico turned his corpulent backside, walked into his general store, and relayed the latest news he had received to his friend and shopkeeper, Kadir.

"Kadir, you should have seen it! Strings upon strings of slaves, cart after cart of various goods, and the lizardfolk locked in iron cages..."

"The whole city is buzzing! Those merchants and mercenaries have gone crazy too!"

"Do you know what I saw? Blackstone coins, endless Blackstone coins!"

Kadir ignored the eloquent, spittle-flying Nico, instead craning his neck to gaze at the procession entering the city.

"There are many goods. The Stoneheart Horde will certainly release some to promote prosperity here."

"Nico, if you want to stock up, you can go give gifts to the city administration now."

This was a reminder, and also showed foresight.

Nico nodded; he had the same thought. Kadir saying it out loud made him more determined.

"The stronger the Stoneheart Horde becomes, the more it proves our choice was right."

"Kadir, we're going to be rich! Good days are coming!"

Nico was very excited and headed towards the general store's warehouse. He prepared to take some good items to bribe Delilah.

...

Castle. Orion sat upon the throne, having dismissed the accompanying Earthshaker, Gronthar, Dirtclaw, Drakthul, and others.

Having experienced the Valkorath Realm, the spoils from Ssorin's and Lokiviria's territories simply couldn't capture their interest.

Orion couldn't be bothered with management and dumped the task of sorting and distributing the spoils entirely onto Delilah.

After everyone had left, Delilah approached the throne and sat on Orion's lap.

"Brom and James have already departed. Based on their speed, they should have reached the outskirts of the Human Kingdom by now."

"I specifically dispatched a Sentinel Corps unit to deploy near Rose Manor. They will secretly protect Kronos."

Delilah's voice was very gentle, without a hint of aggression, nor revealing any attempt at probing.

Orion reached out and pulled Delilah into his embrace.

"Kronos's appearance was unexpected for me too."

"Providing him with basic security is what I can do for him."

"As for how he chooses in the future, that's up to him."

"If he holds prejudice against me and the Stoneheart Horde, then so be it."

"The Stoneheart Horde doesn't lack for one prince!"

Orion's voice was calm, rational, and even a bit cold.

When he first sensed Kronos's aura, Orion was indeed somewhat excited and surprised.

His first thought had indeed been to bring Kronos to the Stoneheart Horde.

But what then?

The members of the Stoneheart Horde wouldn't do anything to Kronos overtly, but what about privately?

Gossip and rumors were the easiest way to hurt someone!

Furthermore, separating Kronos from his mother would cause another kind of harm.

The relationship between the Human Kingdom and the Stoneheart Horde would also deteriorate as a result.

Leaving Kronos in the Human Kingdom might cause Kronos to develop prejudice against the Stoneheart Horde, but for Kronos's childhood, it was a good choice.

The reason Orion sent Brom and James out was partly because their strength was sufficient, and partly because they understood Orion, understood his upbringing.

According to Orion's intentions, Brom and James would also become Kronos's first mentors.

Under the influence of Brom and James, Kronos would come to understand what kind of giant his father was, and what kind of faction the Stoneheart Horde was.

Chapter 590: Submit to me

The Human Kingdom wanting to use Kronos to control the Stoneheart Horde—that was simply an impossible notion, groundless talk.

Orion's goal was to become a demigod, perhaps even a Titan god, to achieve immortality.

As long as he lived, the giant upon the throne could only be him.

Conversely, once Orion became sufficiently powerful, the Stoneheart Horde could potentially control or annex the Human Kingdom through Kronos.

Orion was no fool; he was, of course, aware of the Human Kingdom's petty schemes.

"I'd like to see whether the Stoneheart Horde annexes the Human Kingdom, or the Human Kingdom controls the Stoneheart Horde."

This was Orion's inner thought!

The nascent plan for an invasion of the Human Kingdom, centered around Kronos, had already taken shape.

Delilah didn't speak, but joy already filled her eyes.

She could see that the child born of the human princess and the child born of Lilith held different statuses in Orion's eyes.

The words Orion had just spoken conveyed precisely this meaning.

In reality, Orion's thoughts constituted the dominant will of the Stoneheart Horde.

Subordinates like Delilah and the vassal races could only provide Orion with more options, not dominate, resist, or cause trouble.

Lilith was the wife; her child was the legitimate heir of the Giant tribe, the legitimate heir of the Stoneheart Horde.

This was a fact that even Orion wouldn't easily change, nor did he wish to.

Just as in the past, the chieftains of the Blackstone Tribe were Hyperion and Clymene, not Orion.

To become the heir to the Stoneheart Horde, one must defeat all of Orion's other offspring and achieve countless illustrious battle merits for the Horde.

If Kronos could truly accomplish these things, then many matters would no longer require dispute.

This was also the attitude Orion conveyed to his numerous subordinates and vassal races.

Kronos—they must acknowledge him, must respect him, because he was Orion's son.

But if Kronos desired status, he would have to earn it through strength and battle achievements.

Status and power within the Stoneheart Horde had always been acquired this way.

"This time, our people captured many lizard(lizardfolk). I have already imprisoned them in the underground dungeons of the Colosseum."

"The Colosseum needs a director, one directly under your command."

After conveying his attitude to Delilah and the faction behind her, Orion steered the conversation towards the Colosseum.

"Not observe them further?"

"I can't wait any longer. Summon them to the castle. I will give them a choice."

Orion's cold voice sounded; at this moment, he was high above, imperious.

Delilah snapped her fingers, quickly relaying the message.

Half an hour later, just as Orion and Delilah were reaching a crucial moment, the voice of a guard sounded from outside the castle.

"My lord, the human merchants Nico and Kadir have been brought."

Delilah slid off Orion's penis, changed her clothes with utmost speed, and wiped clean the sexual fluids that had pooled on the spot.

Another quarter of an hour passed before Nico and Kadir were led into the castle by the guards.

"Nico pays respect to the esteemed lord!"

"Kadir pays respect to the esteemed lord!"

A terrifying pressure emanated from the throne, directly forcing Nico and Kadir to prostrate themselves on the ground.

"Submit to me, be enslaved by me, work for me, work for the Stoneheart Horde."

"Otherwise, death, your bodies sacrificed, your souls imprisoned."

Orion didn't want to wait. The Colosseum needed to become operational as soon as possible, to contribute its strength to the prosperity of the Stoneheart Horde.

And Nico and Kadir were the talents he had scouted for the Colosseum.

Orion was tyrannical, giving Nico and Kadir no other choice, directly enslaving them.

If they didn't want to die, they had to submit.

"Willing!"

"We are willing to submit, esteemed lord!"

Saying they were willing to submit was extremely difficult, not because Nico and Kadir felt unwilling, but because under Orion's pressure, even speaking was somewhat arduous for them.

Upon the throne, Orion reached out his hand. Slave contract marks formed and were pressed onto the foreheads of Nico and Kadir.

The contract completed, the pressure vanished. Nico and Kadir had kept their lives.

"Send them to Lysinthia City. Have them participate in the defensive battles there. No withdrawal without achieving merits."

Before Nico and Kadir could even catch their breath, Orion had already arranged their next destination.

"As you command!"

Delilah nodded, staring at Nico and Kadir with a smile, her eyes full of anticipation.

In the Stoneheart Horde, one couldn't attain a high position without merits.

Even Nico and Kadir, destined for future economic roles, were no exception.

"Go out. Close down that general store of yours. It is now the property of the Stoneheart Horde."

Hearing this sentence, Nico, who had reached the doorway, nearly stumbled and fell.

Fortunately, Kadir beside him reached out and steadied him.

That was Nico's entire fortune!

It was his life!

After Nico and Kadir left the castle, Delilah burst into giggles, once again settling onto Orion's cock.

"Honey, this is robbery, forcible seizure! If word of this gets out, the Giant King's reputation might suffer."

"They won't dare spread it. In the future, they will thank me!"

Orion's voice returned to calmness. Having dealt with an annoying matter pleased him considerably.

"Next, what you need to do is increase trade between the Horde and the humans, dwarves, blood elves, and dragons. Let our people live better lives."

"As for the Sea Race on the western coastline, just monitor them adequately."

Orion had a premonition that the flashpoint for the war between the land races and the Sea Race would involve the dragons.

Only when something major happened involving the dragons would the humans, dwarves, blood elves, and stoneheart horde be drawn in.

Ordinarily, the latter four races and the Sea Race engaged in, at most, minor skirmishes, with both sides exercising restraint.

Outer city, Barracks.

While Orion and Delilah discussed the Stoneheart Horde's future development plans, the youth camp was also bustling with activity.

"Rolan, Rolan, come out quick! There's good news!"

Steelblade rushed into the youth camp like a gust of wind, loudly calling Rolan's name.

Rolan, carrying a bundle of spears on his back, emerged from a stone house, watching Steelblade run towards him.

"Rolan, did you know? Earthshaker, Dirtclaw, and the others won another battle!"

"Lots and lots of goods have been transported into the city."

Rolan reached out, steadied Steelblade, and offered his friend a waterskin.

"I already know. The youth camp also received a batch of new supplies."

"The Elder of Stewardship even allocated three lizards for us younglings to try and tame as mounts."

Rolan's clear eyes were filled with yearning, filled with determination.