

Chapter 7281

Maria continued, "Although the Warriors Den has a large number of assassins and high income,"

"The amount of funds needed to maintain the operation of the various governors' offices and headquarters is astronomical."

"Moreover, there are countless scholar families scattered all over the world."

"In order to enable them to receive the best education and access the highest level of society,"

"The funds that the Warriors Den needs to provide for them are probably also enormous."

"So, the amount of money left for the Grand Governor and his family each year is probably not very high."

"Everyone has selfish desires,"

"And it is normal for some people to want to get more money in their hands."

Maria's prediction about the Five Armies Commandery was accurate.

In fact, despite all being of Wu family blood,

The Five Armies Commandery, like the emperor's five sons,

Each had their own vast families and territories.

Moreover, their loyalty to the emperor was even less than that of those outside the imperial family.

In the environment of feudal imperial families, there were very few filial and sentimental sons.

The strongest competition was always between sons,

And between sons and fathers,

It was always a structure in which the son had a chance to rise to power only after the father's death.

Like the Routhchild family, Steve's feelings for his biological father were certainly less than those for the high-ranking officials under his father,

Because the high-ranking officials relied on his father for their livelihood,

While he hoped his father would die soon.

The commanders of the Five Armies Commandery and their families were essentially following the same logic.

Victoria had less than a hundred years left to live,

And every commander of the Five Armies Commandery had to consider one question:

What would happen after Victoria died?

There are two ways to solve this problem,

Which can be divided into A and B.

Option A is for Victoria to appoint a successor capable of leading the entire Warriors Den.

This situation leads to two possibilities:

The first is A1, where the commanders of the Five Military Commands remain hereditary,

And each continues to serve as their own feudal lord.

The second is A2, where the new lord,

To increase control, replaces the entire Five Military Commands.

If it's A1, all will be well.

But if it's A2,

The current commanders must either obediently relinquish their positions or fight their way out,

But the chances of winning are slim unless the Five Military Commands cooperate.

Otherwise, any mutiny by one of them could be crushed by the other four.

Besides the two possibilities below option A,

There is also option B.

Option B is that Victoria's chosen successor is incapable of leading the entire Warriors Den,

Or is not a threat to the commanders of the Five Military Commands.

This leads to two possible outcomes:

B1, a leader emerges from within the Five Military Commands to achieve unification.

B2, the Five Military Commands directly secede from the Warriors Den, declaring,

"I don't care who the leader is."

"Everything on my territory belongs to me,"

"And the leader's words are meaningless."

Of these four possibilities (A1, A2, B1, B2), A1, where everything remains unchanged,

Only has a 25% probability.

The remaining 75% is highly uncertain for all of them.

Therefore, there is a 75% chance that the future will undergo significant changes.

To cope with such changes,

The Five Military Commands are secretly pursuing their own schemes,

The simplest and most direct being internal corruption.

They are doing everything possible to accumulate enormous wealth for their families over the next hundred years,

Ensuring they can cope with whatever happens in the future.

If they were forced to relinquish the Five Military Commands,

They possessed a vast fortune enough to ensure their descendants a life of comfort.

If they were to fight a decisive battle, the more money they had,

The greater their chances of victory.

Ultimately, it all came down to the old adage:

“Dig deep tunnels, store ample grain, and delay declaring yourself king.”

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Shale oil was just one of them. This gave Charlie a good opportunity.