

Herald 661

Chapter 661 Double Spy (Part-2)

Although a bit disjointed in his explanation, Laibak managed to present a very coherent picture of his plan.

And to say Alexander was very impressed with his story would be an understatement.

The story was a masterpiece and appeared air-tight to him.

First was the tale of a fire breaking out.

This was something common, in fact, it was a constant threat to a city, especially at night.

This was because most of the houses kept the hearth in their homes burning all throughout the night.

They did so both for its use as a source of light, for the alternative- candles were very expensive, and also to use it as a source of heat.

There was also the fact if a hearth was allowed to go out, re-igniting it from scratch was a nightmare.

This meant that all the households would have an open, burning fire inside their houses even while they slept.

They would even have to regularly wake every two to three hours to feed the fire to keep it alight.

And with this kind of arrangement, anyone with any kind of foresight could easily guess the number of fire hazards it posed, so although the people tended to be usually very careful, accidents did happen.

Hence Laibak's rhetoric about there being a fire was certainly plausible.

And as for his wife conveniently being at her father's house, well, when Alexander first heard it, he was a bit surprised knowing what it represented.

It was a common tradition between people who were couples but were not legally married.

But as far as he knew, Laibak said he was.

And feeling his curious look, Laibak felt there was no use denying it.

"You guessed correctly my lord. We ...my wife and I are not strictly married, my lord. We"

At this point, Laibak's face turned a tinge bit bitter, and he seemed to hesitate, deliberating on whether he should explain himself.

"Anyway...that is how it is. We live together but are not legally husband and wife, haha"

But it seemed he had decided not to share his circumstance, as he brushed past it, the short chortle seeming to contain a lot of resentment.

So Alexander decided not to pry on another man's private affairs.

Instead, his mind dived into the strange tradition which existed due to many couples wanting to stay together but did not want to get married,

Which was mainly due to legal issues of inheritance as Adhanian laws stated that if a woman got married, all her property would be instantly transferred to her husband.

There was also another ruling that stated if a man and woman spent a whole year together under the same roof they would automatically become a couple in the eyes of the law.

So to get around that, and maintain her financial freedom the wife had to stay away from her 'husband for at least one single day every year.

This usually means going to stay at her father's house for a few days, typically three, ensuring this did not happen.

And through all that hassle the girl would then remain a 'bachelor' meaning her properties would belong to her, or in the more general case her father.

Yes, because in reality a girl would be urged to do so by her male kin,

And though Laibak had not revealed it, Alexander could make an educated guess that that was the case with him.

Alexander felt that since Laibak was not from Zanzan, his father-in-law likely did not want his daughter's property to go to an outsider.

He must have much preferred that the wealth stayed with him, inside the family.

And that was why Laibak, by the slightest technicality, was not married.

As Alexander thought about this, he always began to be somewhat fascinated by this law.

Because anyone with half a brain could see the loophole here.

The ruling stated that the couple had to spend one whole continuous year under a roof.

Meaning if there was even a single day the two did not sleep in the same house, the count would have to restart.

Whereas a far more logical cal ruling would have been to calculate the aggregate.

So the question was then why was it never patched?

It was not as if it was an unknown loophole.

In fact, it was perhaps the most well-known loophole.

So Alexander would do a bit of research regarding it.

And find that the reason it was never rectified was never due to how popular it was.

The regular Adhanian citizens very much supported this loophole because it enabled them to retain their properties. I think you should take a look at

And the support came from both sexes.

Which might seem a bit weird, as from the perspective of the husband, he was being cheated out of a lot of free property due to this.

And one would think he would try hard to close it.

But these men did not just think about the now, they also thought of the future, about the possibility of having daughters of their own.

If that happened, then closing the loophole would be like axing their own feet.

And so the loophole was kept.

Of course, a far better solution would have been to give the women equal rights in owning property.

That would make everything so much simpler and would have even enabled the couple to enjoy certain rights and perks that only a married pair could be granted.

But Alexander feared if he were to actually propose that, he would likely be politely asked by his council members to take the rest of the day off, as they would be worried that he might have overworked himself to a bit of muddle-headedness.

So that law seemed to be here to stay for a while.

Now although Laibak's plan was very well thought out in its intended efficacy, the problem lay in its execution, i.e.- setting fire to that part of the town and making it seem the already dead men died then.

But although this would have been very hard for anyone else to do, for Alexander it was absolutely possible."

"Okay. Let's do it your way." And so he promised Laibak.

Thus, a few days later, all the people around the inn were visited by the army, who told them that they had been selected to move to the newly built apartments, and they were to move right now.

And this was not an offer they could refuse.

They could not say things like this was their ancestral home and they wanted to stay.

No, they had to leave.

In this was everyone was evacuated, and then on one auspicious night, the houses were set on fire in a controlled way.

And once a few of the houses burnt down, with the inn particularly fully turning to ash, the nearby city guards standing ready with water quickly worked to douse the fire, preventing it from spreading.

After that, a few fake charred bodies were very publicly taken out of the rubble and a public statement was released saying that a fire had somehow started from the inn and then spread to a few adjacent houses, claiming a few unfortunate lives.

All the bodies were too burnt to be identifiable and were thus cremated, while their possessions were taken by the authorities.

And that was the end of the act.

Or so one might think.

Because after a few days of that, Alexander, having second thoughts, decided to send those 'neighbors' out of the city completely, splitting them all up.

Some were sent to Jabel to start a new life, others to work the fields far away, and a few were even sent to other nobles to work as serfs there.

This way, not even the most determined bloodhound of an investigator could track these people down and know the correct sequence of events.

Now if Alexander had been even more cruel, he would have killed all of them instead of going through all those troublesome hoops.

But he at least had that bit of a conscience left.

He simply could not bring himself to kill so many innocent people, feeling he would be losing a part of his heart if he did.

And so he basically exiled them to different parts of his land.

And with that, all four of Laibak's request was fulfilled.

A plausible story for both the dead men and him was established.

There were no neighbors to tatlle.

The inn was burnt to a crisp to remove any clues.

And Zanzan's own higher-ups were told to shut up about this.

But what was the ultimate result of all this scheming and planning and theatrics?

Well, fortunately for Alexander, with all this set, Laibak was indeed able to start a 'double agent' spy ring.

It took a bit of effort and some heavy convincing, but he was at last able to hoodwink the people Matbar (Marquis) Kyuam sent.

So Laibak led a very busy life now, cooperating with the enemy spies on one hand, while also running his own counter-espionage ring at the same time.

And to make sure his own Zanzan men did not suddenly shank him out of misunderstanding, or the enemies did not suddenly get wise and try to off him, Alexander formed a ten-man bodyguard squad for him, disguised as one of the new local gangs.

In this way, Alexander had finally managed to get an ear in his enemy's camp.

And though this ear was currently very young, still in its infancy, Alexander had great hopes for it.

Chapter 662 Lord Nuraman's Luncheon (Part-2)

Laibak's operations were still very much in its nascent stage, and he was yet to get Alexander any juicy information, just a few bits of crumbs here and there.

But Alexander was still greatly hopeful that things that would be critical in helping him decide his future plans would soon be unearthed.

And it was with those thoughts that Alexander finally finished reminiscing about these past events and brought his attention back to the conversation at the table.

And heard Kayvan reply regarding his question about Mikaya.

"Ah, sister is fine. She's still in Adhan. I heard father is seriously talking about her marriage!"

"Marriage?" Alexander sounded as if he was hearing that word for the first time.

And at the back of mind, he did think of Mikaya like that, like she could not be married.

Because after he had seen, it was actually impossible for hi, to visualize Mikaya and her two maids getting married and having kids, and staying faithful to their husbands.

So the revelation that she might be getting married was very surprising to him.

"Yes, she is getting not getting any younger. If she does not get married soon, we are afraid... she might not be able to."

But Kayvan did not seem to understand Alexander's surprise, thinking he was just curious about the news, as he then nonchalantly gave the reason, sounding like a dutiful elder brother.

"Who is it? I once heard the Queen Mother say that she wanted His Majesty to take Lady Mikaya!"

Since the act was determined, Alexander now wanted to know who the poor sucker would be, and he tried to pose the question with as straight a face as possible.

"Because he did find the concept of Mikaya getting risible.

"Mmmm, I also heard father say something like that!"

But what Seelima should have said as only a joke now seemed to have the possibility of becoming a reality, as Kayvan answered in a straight-laced tone, and the revelation did catch Alexander a bit off guard.

There was no way the Queen Mother should be unaware of Mikaya's proclivities, so how could she allow that?

Never mind Mikaya was no herbivore, she too was an ambitious woman and with her giant family to back up, she would certainly be able to snatch some parts of Seelima's pie for herself.

The latter might have Ptolomy's heart, but she had no strong ally like a Pasha who was the prime minister.

So if they both had sons, things could get messy.

From this perspective, it made no sense for the Queen Mother to allow Mikaya to get even within 10 feet of Ptolomy.

So Alexander was pretty sure this was Pasha Farzah's wishful thinking.

But then again, if one thought about it from another perspective, this kind of made sense.

After all, whatever shortcomings Mikaya had did not matter to the Queen Mother at all.

So what if SS simply did not care about all the above consequences?

What if she saw Mikaya not as a rival, but as an ally?

For instance, it was no secret that the two women, though they had their differences, generally got along quite well, even tussling under the bed occasionally.

So the two cooperating to control Ptolomy's harem was not a far-fetched idea.

Perhaps Seelima felt that the two of them, plus her daughter, could work to suppress and control Ptolomy.

After all, Alexander perfectly knew well that the Queen Mother did not hold the slightest shred of love for Ptolomy. Just the power he had.

It was not even unthinkable for Alexander to imagine the ruthless Queen Mother could one day kill Ptolomy if the chance rose after she had produced an heir.

Because that way she could control the country through whisperings in her son's ears.

So if one thought about it like that, Mikaya could be a powerful ally, one whose father could be used as the counterweight, as muscle if you will, which these women could use to contend and contain Ptolomy.

But for the moment, all these were mere conjectures in Alexander's mind and felt the pendulum could swing either way.

For now all Alexander could do and wait and see if Mikaya was really married to Ptolomy and what would SS's subsequent reaction be.

"My lord, what you think of the Matrak's Princess marrying His Majesty?"

But just as he was coming to terms with that fact, Lord Nuraman suddenly posed this, with a light, innocent smile on his face

And it was not as an innocent question as it sounded, and his intention was certainly not only one of curiosity.

Because what he was alluding to was that if that were to happen, Matrak would have strengthened its ties to the royal family, while leaving Alexander out to dry.

The old man wanted to know if Alexander could really accept that.

"I think it is a cause of great celebrations!"

And the answer was yes, Alexander could.

Because looking through Alexander's lens, he really had no need to curry favor with Ptolomy.

Alexander wished to expand his influence towards lands that Ptolomy had either promised to him already, like the two provinces Kuleef and Abu Hamam or over hands he had no hand in.

Lands such as Tibias, the island of Galiosis which was currently under Sybarsis rule, the few small kingdoms south of him, and if even would build better ships, land in the 'new world' if it existed.

So he replied such in a breezy, frank tone. I think you should take a look at

And even gave his full support for the union, as he gave a greatly embellished speech

"Also, it is in no small of Pasha Farzah's efforts that His Majesty is where is he. I have great respect for all the hard work and sacrifice he has made. And owes him a lot for where we are today."

"So being able to marry his most precious daughter to the king is something he absolutely deserves."

"I fully support it!"

Alexander was very public in his support.

Something which surprised the two men.

They had been of the unanimous opinion that Alexander would have tried to at least show some sort of dissatisfaction.

After all, currently, Zanzan and Matrak held almost equal value in Ptolomy's ears.

But if Mikaya were to be married, this dynamic would change.

And no reasonable person would like to be disadvantaged.

Especially not someone as ambitious as Alexander, who oozed a desire to improve himself.

So why was he so being so understanding?

The two men felt they were missing something.

"*Cough*, *cough*, *cough*," And so with a distinct cough drawing attention to himself, Kayvan tried to probe further, as he claimed,

"Well, it is not a given that my sister will marry the king."

"His Majesty has not expressed any interest, and there is a lot of politics involved."

"Also even on our side, not everyone is happy with it."

"Particularly my eldest brother...he seems very much against it."

"Apparently, after what happened to Big sister, he came to distrust anyone from the royal family."

"I heard she doted on him very much."

"So once he even furiously objected to my father straight to his face, saying 'Your greed once got my eldest sister killed. And now you wish to kill my youngest sister too!'."

"We are still trying to convince him."

"But if he does not agree...the marriage will likely not happen." Kayvan in a few sentences gave Alexander a lot of information about the internal politics of Matrak and Adhan.

And then waited for Alexander to see his response.

Perhaps Kayvan wished Alexander would step himself up as a candidate, though that last part was Kayvan's own fantasy.

While Lord Nuraman, hearing Kayvan's detailed account, advised this,

"Hmmm, if Lord Farzah is so eager to be part of the royal perhaps he can look for any of His Majesty's brother. A few names come to mind!"

Ptolomy did have a lot of half-brothers, who, though were removed from politics, were still part of the family.

And those could be viable targets, though many were really old and even widowers.

"Let's see. Depends on my father." And it was because of this that Kayvan did not sound very enthusiastic at the suggestion, only giving an anemic reply.

'Hmmm, maybe I should marry one Ptolomy's sisters," While Alexander hearing this, mused as such, thinking since Pasha Farzah got to call the royal family relatives, he should too.

Of course, this was only a passing thought.

Ptolomy did have a few sisters but they were either too old, or their status too low, barely better than the palace maids.

So it was with these types of discussions that the luncheon in Lord Nuraman's house came to an end.

For now it seemed Mikaya's fate was in Adhan, not Zanzan, where she was to be married.

And Alexander was fine with that.

Although he missed the business a bit, but he had already closed his special service.

This was because after that spy incident, the details of the incident came out, drawing many eyes to that red building.

This caused even Menes to ask for Mikaya once, which was of course declined, as Ophenia personally met the man to decline him.

And when Alexander came to know of this, he understood Mikaya was getting too popular for her own good.

So, it was shut down.

And Alexander had no intention of opening it.

His intention of asking about Mikaya here was mostly out of courtesy.

And it was with such banter that Alexander finally finished his feast, by the end of which he was very tipsy.

Chapter 663 Lord Nuraman's Luncheon (Part-3) (R-18)

Alexander really had a lot to drink on the table.

And by the end of it, he could not even properly make out that Kayvan was informing him that the ships Pasha Farzah promised were on the way.

"Ah! Lord Alexander, why don't you rest a little while? It's afternoon and the outside heat is unbearable!" And seeing his state, Lord Nuraman proposed as such.

This was a common practice.

Many people liked to take a few hours of nap in the afternoon.

Both because they would be tired since they would get up to work right from dawn like Alexander had.

And also to escape the heat.

So, hearing the proposal, Alexander was happy to accept.

He really was in no shape to go out.

In fact, he was so inebriated that Alexander did not even fully understand how he got to his bed, or even where his bed was, and simply lost consciousness the moment he hit the soft pillow.

And then he slept there like a baby for a couple of hours, all the traveling around taking a toll on his body, waking up well after dusk, the day having fully rolled into the night.

But this regaining of consciousness was not a pleasant experience at first, for his head stung like crazy due to the hangover from the strong wine.

That special drink Lord Nuraman promised seemed not to take any prisoners and Alexander had really let himself get drunk too much.

Even opening his eyes hurt.

Which was also why he missed that distinct, warm sensation coming from below there, while the sound the act made was very suggestive.

Suck, *Chuu*, *Suck*

It was a lewd sound.

Alexander found that and the sensation to be all too familiar for him not to recognize.

And so raising his head, he tried to focus in his eyes on what or who was causing that sensation, and he was actually unsurprised to see a face down on his crotch, the head buried all the way, both hands firmly grasping the root as the mouth diligently worked to please Alexander.

The girls loved to wake him like that in the morning, be it the voracious Ophenia, the greedy Gelene, or the petite Mean.

But with the way her head was placed, the woman performing the act face was actually hidden, only showing Alexander her jet-black hair that was draped all over her face and cascaded down even to his crotch.

The mane was very smooth and silky, so smooth and silky in fact that it even reflected some of the candlelight lit around the room, and it seemed to be rhythmically bobbing up and down, deftly taking the huge organ with much skill and experience.

Alexander had a hard time recognizing the girl from this angle, but as he attempted to raise his torso to see which of his mischievous women it was, suddenly that killer headache hit him bang across the head.

Alexander felt like being hit on the head with a sledgehammer, as the headache seemed to have increased tenfold the moment he tried to raise his head.

So still groggy from his incomplete sleep, Alexander wisely gave up any idea of trying to get up and obediently went back to lying straight.

And then, in his half-asleep state, Alexander tried to make sense of the unfamiliar scenery, being not even not sure if what he was experiencing was real or a lucid, wet dream.

Everything looked too blurry and the whole world seemed to be spinning around him.

'Where am I?'

'What time is it?'

'I remember drinking and eating...'

Laying still, he tried to organize his thoughts as best as he could.

But that endeavor got quickly put on hold when suddenly he felt the bulbous head of his organ hit the soft end of the throat that it was inside off, causing Alexander to involuntarily release a moan at the sensation, "Ahhh."

After the amount he had to drink and given the supposedly long time for which he had been already pleased, Alexander was currently very sensitive down there.

And as if his moan was a sign of recognition of her effort, after hearing this, the woman deftly moved one of her dainty hands to tenderly cup his balls, while the other one started to gently pump the thick rod up and down.

While Alexander, mistakenly coming to the conclusion that this was all a dream and it was one of his girls doing this to him, laid back and relaxed, as he emptied his mind and forsook himself to pleasure, encouraging the woman below to continue in a muddled, dazed voice,

"Ahhh...good, keep going...I'm close...ahhh..."

And the woman, getting positive reviews from the front, quickened her ministrations, massaging the balls and rolling them in plans as well as stroking Alexander's cock while sucking on him.

The mouth felt heavenly to Alexander, like the softest silk, with the touch of her tongue feeling firm yet pliant. I think you should take a look at

This nimble lilac organ circled around the glan head, painting it with saliva while also flicking the sensitive frenulum, edging Alexander closer, as along the bottom, the hands squeezed and massaged the shaft.

All of this soon caused Alexander to start releasing precum and the taste was like honey to the woman.

She loved it.

Which was why soon she then took the whole length into her throat, not a mean feat given Alexander's size, and positioned the hose directly into the throat.

And feeling the caress of this hot, moist canal, a growl of satisfaction escaped Alexander from deep inside his throat, as the woman began to feel Alexander's balls tighten and his cock twitch.

He was close.

So she moved quickly, creating a piece of audible, lewd music, *chuuu*, *suckkk*, *gulllp* and soon, after one too many strokes, Alexander finally exploded inside her, dying everything white.

In fact, the cum shot out with such force that as skilled as the woman was, she wasn't actually able to swallow it all and after trying for a while, finally gave up as she was forced to pull out, thus letting the ropes of cum shoot right into her face.

The thick, semi-solid goo plastered all over her face and then started to slowly run down her lips, cheeks, and nose, dripping down off her chin onto Alexander's crutch or her ample breasts that hung like heavenly fruits.

But the failure to catch everything did not seem to at all discourage the girl, as even when getting a new facial, she diligently kept her head down and simply continued to suck and stroke him, as he came, determined to get every last drop of the precious liquid out.

And she only parted her mouth once Alexander finally finished cumming.

"Ahhhhhggggg," And once able to finally breathe without restraint, the girl let out a deep, guttural sigh of satisfaction, for Alexander's thick creamy was really on another level.

She even felt her tummy give off a warm, fuzzy feeling.

"Ahhh...that was so good. Bring the chamber pot...I wanna pee," While Alexander, still lying down, and still thinking he was in his home being serviced by Gelene or Ophenia, felt his bladder about to burst.

So asked for the pot to relieve himself.

It was time for all that wine he had to at last come out.

And the long nap had given his body plenty of time to store and prepare for that.

"Right away!" Hearing Alexander's command, this chirpy voice flowed out, which suddenly felt strange to him.

It did not sound like any of his girls.

Also, given the amount of time he had been awake, he was finally starting to get his head going and began to notice other abnormalities that seemed to prove that this might not be his house.

The lighting, the furniture, and even the size of the bed all seemed different.

"Here!"

And it was only when Alexander heard this and got up to ready his body to pee that he got to see who the girl that was holding the earthen jar was.

Right next to the bed, kneeling on the floor and holding a medium-sized clay jar close to her chest, was one of the girls who had greeted him at the door- Akisha!

And even in his current state, Alexander had no doubt it was her.

For the girl was still in that beautiful red gown, the same one that showed half her breasts and snowy deep ravines, while on her face, that same face Alexander had found so charming, now on that face still lingered his cloudy reward, slowly rolling down her contours.

Akisha in her hurry to get the pot did not bother to wipe herself, but by doing that, in an unintended way looked devilishly ravaging, kneeling in front of Alexander's cock, holding a chamber pot, while looking up at him with that face, her amorous eyes twinkling.

"You!" And finally recognizing who had been serving him, Alexander let out a choked yelp of surprise, as the flood of memories came rushing back filling his head with all the context and finally enabling him to understand what was going on.

Clearly after he had gotten sleep, Lord Nuraman had sent him a bed warmer and this was her way of waking him up.

Or Alexander had already slept with her, and this was round two.

He found himself too drunk to remember the details.

Chapter 664 Lord Nuraman's Luncheon (Part-4) (R-18)

"Yes, it is me, my lord. Now, please let it out."

Facing Alexander's welp, Akisha did not seem at all concerned, and only pushed the pot forward with a smile.

Then, in a kind of revelation to her true self, gently grabbed Alexander's harden penis, and looked up with those same raven-black onyx eyes, curving her thick lips just like she had done at the door to mischievously say, "Or mayhaps you rather do it on my face. Hehehe, sure... here...clean me up!"

Akisha seemed to have no problem with Alexander doing that and even positioned the organ that had swollen itself due to the urge to pee directly at her face, one which was covered with his jizz as she then covered her eyes in anticipation.

The girl even appeared enthusiastic at the play.

It was something Alexander had yet to experience.

Splashhhh

And seeing this once-in-a-lifetime view, Alexander finally felt his dam break, and his bladder began to quickly empty, letting out a white streaming jet.

But fortunately, Alexander was not really peeing on Akisha's face.

He at least had that much decency.

He had adjusted his hips at the last second to ensure the stream landed on the earthen chamber pot she was holding.

So as Alexander emptied his reservoir, the rush of water through the one sluice gate made an almost straight line as it hit the walls of the pot, producing splashes of numerous tiny droplets for it hit the surface with great force.

After holding it for so long, he cherished the relief felt, with each second feeling like a pleasure-filled hour, though really it must have been less than a minute in total.

"Ahhhh...", And once Alexander was finally done, the turgid organ returned to its flaccid state, and he let out a very satisfied purr.

While the pot was quite a ways filled with the white, yellowish warm liquid, from where soon a warm trail of light steam began to snake out, filling the nearby area with a strong, musky smell.

The amount of pee there was really telltale evidence of the sheer ridiculous amount of wine Alexander had to drink.

"Ahhh, master you could have done it on my face. I would not have minded hehe" As Alexander finished, Akisha gave a coquettish look, and then

Chuu! *Suck!* *Suck!*

Just as Alexander resting after the blissful release, suddenly he felt a warm mouth kiss his organ again, and soon the head slithered into the mouth, as Akisha started to suck out the remaining liquid still inside his urethra, with movements seemed to show she had done things like this a million times over.

"Ahhh," And this caused Alexander to release a second involuntary moan, as he then felt a second, shorter burst of pee erupt, for he was not quite finished yet, and something that Akisha drank without batting an eye.

She even used her tongue to press against the organ and squeeze out all the fluid, her throat only slightly quivering as she quaffed the warm liquid down.

And given the eagerness with which she drank the objectionable liquid down, it was evident that she loved having it, it being one of her fetishes.

She even screamed joyously in her mind,

'Ah! The taste is so strong and hot. My pussy is aching! Ohhhcoming... ohh... it's happening againahhh ...I'm coming from drinking a man's pee!'

Though largely unnoticed by Alexander as he was distracted by the pleasurable service being provided to him, Akisha had a very strong orgasm as she was in the middle of drinking it, fully wetting the lower part of the gown she wore since she had no underwear.

Looking there, one would even think she had peed herself while drinking it.

Alexander's second release of leftovers lasted a much shorter while, finishing which he was of the mind that his little brother would be once again let out into the air to breathe.

But Akisha seemed to have other plans.

Because once Alexander stopped shooting his jet, she made sure to resume her sucking again, this time truly making sure Alexander's tank was really emptied and all his pipes clean, all of which got another moan of approval from the man above.

Akisha was really diligent.

And she showcased this further by revealing to Alexander that she was still not done, as after finishing that, she gave the hard-working urethra and the glans a nice clean tongue bath with her tongue, very carefully kissing and licking them several times as if to congratulate for all the hard work they did.

Until finally she decided to release the organ.

By the time of which Alexander's cock had a nice, bright sheen to it.

"Here master, all cleaned up, hehe!" The girl seemed very proud of her work, glancing up at Alexander with twinkling eyes, her face still sticky with his cum, some of it even starting to dry up.

And seeing this, all of a sudden Alexander felt even more turned on, and he felt simply giving her service an A+ would be a disservice,

She had gone far and beyond that and there was really nothing he could find fault in.

Not even the most sexually explorative Ophelia had done this.

"You were great. Thank you," But given the circumstance, where another man's concubine was serving him, he kept the praise modest for now, though the genuineness in his voice would not be hidden.

"Hehe, thank you. I'm glad," And hearing so Akisha also seemed happy as she then quickly got up I think you should take a look at

on her feet, appearing eager to go to second base, right here, right now.

But Alexander seemed to not be in the mood, saying,

"Tell Lord Nuraman that I really enjoyed his hospitality. More than I had never thought was possible."

"But it is getting late and I really should be going. Thanks."

Saying this he attempted to get up.

Now, his main objection to this arrangement was of course not the time.

Even if Alexander stayed the night here, it would matter nothing.

Neither would the fact that he was sleeping with another woman.

That was common for him.

But his main sticking point was the fact that Akisha was Lord Nuraman's concubine.

And given Adhania's unique way of receiving and honoring guests, Alexander wanted to distance himself from having any relations like that with any such woman.

This way others could not use this precedence as a pretext to demand him to reciprocate.

"Hahaha, what are you saying master!" But Akisha seemed to not even consider Alexander's rejection, as after getting up, she then flitted to the large wine bottle next to the bed.

From there she poured a large pint, a mega pint if one could call it that, into a goblet, the volume of which made Alexander ask whether happy time was really anytime.

But it seemed that Akisha had not taken such a huge volume to drink, but to rinse her mouth, as she took several sips of the liquid, each time gurgling out the wine into the chamber pot, tuning the liquid their pinkish white, while her own mouth was cleansed of any bad smell.

Now it only smelled of sweet, fruity wine.

Akisha then also at last decided to clean her face, simply rubbing the liquid off with her sleeves, and she finally felt ready.

So she slowly turned to Alexander, first giving him a coy smile plastered over a lascivious face, as she cooed,

"Master! How could you say you are leaving? Even though we have not even started anything yet!"

The tone that Akisha chose was something Alexander was hearing for the first time from her- shy, demure, soft, and even a bit hurt.

It was a tone that tickled a man's heart and enflamed his desire to nurture and protect.

And hearing so Alexander for a brief moment even felt like going along with her.

A feeling that was quickly reinforced by what she did next, for in one simple motion, she then let go of her gown, which almost magically shed itself completely from the body, effortlessly falling to the ground and revealing her nude body in all its glory to him.

Alexander already knew from her service at the table that she wore no underwear, and so expected from her silhouette for her to be a curvy woman.

And she did not disappoint, having all the meat and all the angles at all the right places.

Nice heavy breasts, sexy hips, rich, dense thicket of bush above her flower, and a voluminous butt.

Everything a man could want from a woman.

But Akisha would never be content with simply showing off her body.

She also decided to flaunt it.

"Master!" She hence called out with a soul-stirring maon, as she then bent forward, showing off her white, almost pinkish breasts which she then started to shake and jiggle,

"Hehe, look, look, remember how you were looking at these so eagerly at the table. They are right in front of you now!"

"My boobs!"

Akisha then grabbed her own melons and started to play with them, jiggling them around with her palms, tempting,

"Can you bear to leave without tasting them? Would it not be a great shame! Come master!"

Akisha really showed herself to be a great temptress, tempting Alexander to taste her fruits just like the snake had to Adam.

And perhaps like Adam had felt, seeing the heavenly globules, Alexander certainly felt a certain type of perched thirst rise in his mouth.

He really wished to have a bite.

Chapter 665 Lord Nuraman's Luncheon (Part-5) (R-18)

Alexander must have looked like that one kid standing in front of a candy store, his mouth salivating.

Akisha's breasts looked that inviting.

"Hehe, here, have a feel. You don't have to feel shy, no one is here now. They are really good, I promise."

And as if feeling bad for the poor chap, Akisha thus slowly approached Alexander, her voice silky and wet, almost wet with lewd hunger.

She seemed to truly desire him.

And as if to show her sincerity, she did not simply walk up to him.

No, that would have been too crude and unsexy.

Instead, she got down on her all fours and slowly started crawling towards him.

And seeing such a beautiful woman make her way toward him in such a submissive manner, Alexander's little brother instantly got the message and readily got into the full mast position.

And who blame him?

A beautiful woman was currently on fours, her face flushed with lust and her mouth open with moist eagerness.

The arms supporting her upper torso were intentionally spread wide, letting Alexander have a clear view of the delicious swinging fruits.

They swayed so mesmerizingly with each step, their buds already puffed and erect, while at the back her sexy white butt shook tantalizingly with the slightest movement.

It made for truly a deadly view.

So deadly that Alexander felt almost paralyzed as Akisha slowly made her way towards him, each step actually increasing his anticipation of the pleasure to come.

"Ahhh, master's cock is really something! A true dragon amongst men."

"I never thought would ever get to see something so massive!"

"*Chuu*, truly an honor!"

Akisha, emboldened by the fact that Alexander did not scold her or tell her to stop, quickly grabbed Alexander's cock with her soft hands once in reach, and instantly landed a wet, hot kiss, as if worshipping it.

She was currently on her knees, gently cupping Alexander's balls one one hand, while her lips touched the hot shaft.

And then she started to talk dirty,

"Ahhhh! Master's cock is truly majestic."

"Any man would be ashamed of his after seeing this. And any woman would want nothing more than to be pounded with it,"

"Ahhh! My throat is still sore. And my pussy quivering!"

Akisha talked as she stroked the meat and loved the heavy balls, feeling the intense heat from the organ and the heaviness of the sack.

And then opened her mouth, bringing out her tongue,

"Master was asleep when I gave you my first blowjob. So you might not remember it well, So please enjoy this one fully"

But just as she was about to start giving Alexander a second taste of her mouth, she suddenly felt a very strong hand grab her head very tightly.

Alexander did not seem to be at all in the mood, as looking up, Akisha saw Alexander's stoic, stone-cold face.

Alexander was okay with the eye candy, but going any further with this woman was out of the question.

"Enough! Get up and get dressed." He said in a slightly, annoyed voice.

"Ehhh! Why? Master still wants to go right?" But Akisha really seemed fearless in front of Alexander, as instead of being scared by the cold commander, she simply started stroking the shift and said with a sinful purr,

"Ahhh! I have always wanted to serve you, master. But to think you did not come to visit me even once."

"Even when I made sure to show you my everything back then!"

"How cruel!"

Akisha sounded very hurt like she had been stood up by her lover.

Alexander even imagined a single roll of tears flowing down her cheek.

'Back then? Shown me everything?' But what Alexander was more concerned about was her words of course.

He could not understand what she was referring to.

He certainly did not remember meeting her.

And Alexander was sure he would not have forgotten someone was beautiful as her.

As Akisha saw her master's brows wrinkle in confusion, she let out a satisfied giggle,

"Hehehe, so you don't remember me, master. Oh! I'm a bit hurt... I'm not gonna lie." She put on an exaggerated hurt fake face.

Before looking directly at Alexander to say,

"I'm Akisha, my lord, don't you remember me?"

"..." The girl's answer really did not present Alexander with any great insight.

"What does she mean she's Akisha? That's just her name," Alexander wondered.

But given Akisha was heavily implying they had met, Alexander then tried to scan his memories if that name matched with anyone.

'Arggh!' But after the amount he had to drink, such an effort quickly got him rewarded with a stinging headache.

But Alexander did not give up and after a few seconds of very uncomfortable searching, he found a match.

"Wait...You!...You are Akisha? That Akisha!"

He sounded incredulous.

No wonder he had found that name when Lord Nuraman first introduced her.

He had met her once when he had visited the brothel.

He even remembered finding her different from the other girls and Ophenia also informed him of her backstory.

But the reasons Alexander had failed to make the connection until now were several.

One was he had only met her once, and even that was for only a few minutes among a crowd of other girls.

The fact that Alexander had even remembered her name was due to his great memory and also her interesting backstory.

Secondly, the two personas were too different.

Physically, the curvy, voluptuous fair Akisha in front of him was too different from the much skinnier, petite girl he remembered.

Even her face seemed different.

Whereas previously she looked like a teen, with a much darker complexion, now, possibly due to good nutrition making her gain weight, alongside her makeup, she looked much fairer and mature.

Hence Alexander was not able to? make the connection until she mentioned it

Also, it never crossed Alexander's mind to make that connection.

Because the woman he had met in the brothel should in any way be capable of living inside a lord's manor.

Never mind Lord Nuraman had also introduced her as his new concubine.

How was he to think that a working girl he once met was somehow a noble's mistress?

That did not make any sense.

Alexander would have had to be really familiar with Akisha to recognize her.

"Hehe...I'm not surprised master did not recognise me. I have really changed a lot in the last year, haha."

Finally happy that Alexander was at last able to recognize her, Akisha gave a satisfied chuckle, adding,

"Mistress Tayin has been very good to us. The amount of food she gives us is really generous. Meat, fish, and egg. We always have one such item every day."

As Alexander had guessed, the change was caused by sumptuous food.

And it was something Alexander had specifically asked Ophenia to keep an eye at, as many of the girls there were under-nourished when he first met them.

"I see. But that does not explain how you are here. Or how you became a noble's concubine."

But how Akisha changed her looks was not as intriguing to Alexander as how she was here, and how she got her status.

"Ah, Mistress Tayin one day came to me to say that an important noble had come to visit the city and since I knew the etiquettes, I should accompany him for a few days."

"Then, after a few weeks, Lord Nuraman seemed to have been very satisfied with my service, and so offered to take me out of the brothel and make me one of his concubines."

"That's how I'm here."

Akisha's story was really a fantastic story of rags to riches.

And Alexander had to give it to her, she really had good luck.

He remembered that Akisha had somehow followed Amenheraft's army for almost a year without any soldier forcing him on her, she then ended up in a good brothel in Alexander said so himself, and now she caught the eye of a noble who promptly liberated her.

Better yet that noble was quite old, meaning his due date of expiration was not too long, and once he did, as a widow Akisha would certainly be left a property or two.

Seeing her luck, Alexander even felt a momentary tinge of regret for not being born a woman.

And then at Akisha's recount remembered something additional,

"Ah, yes! I do remember asking Tayin to choose a few girls to entertain Lord Nuraman. So she chose you, huh?"

"What great luck! Congratulations!" Alexander was truly happy for the girl.

Very few people were able to change one's fate so drastically and so quickly.

"Hehehe, yes Mistress did mention that you mentioned me by name. To think esteemed master would remember even someone like me. I'm beyond honored,"

And Akisha added that bit of detail.

Something Alexander might have done but did not remember.

"So how is Lord Nuraman as a master? Does he treat you okay? He doesn't have any weird requests, does he?"

After finding out Akisha was or once was one of his girls, Alexander grew more interested in knowing more about her and posed as such.

He hoped Il's uncle did not have a hidden, dark side, such as torturing new girls.

Although this might sound a bit paranoid, and such practices were very uncommon, but that did mean it did not exist.

They were very rarely heard of, but heard of nevertheless.

"Hehehehe," But upon hearing Alexander's question, Akisha first of all broke off into a peal of giggles.

Chapter 666 Lord Nuraman's Luncheon (Part-5) (R-18)

Alexander's reason behind the inquiry was that he wanted to make sure Akisha was not abused in any way.

At least he would not allow a noble to do so in his own city.

"Hehehe," But somehow, hearing this innocent question, generated a pearl of laughter from Akisha.

Alexander was confused.

"Ahhh, master is truly gentle." The girl happily chimed at Alexander's concern, but then reassured,

"But you do not have to worry. My lord is like the average noble. He treats me well enough for who I am."

"He doesn't force me to do anything extreme and I only have to serve selected guests. Though sometimes I do have to sleep with Lord Kayvan."

She added the last line like a throwaway.

But what she thought was just a bit of throw-away flavor, Alexander found very surprising.

"You sleep with Kayvan! Isn't he here on a honeymoon with his wife?" Alexander asked with a tone of incredulation.

He thought he would be spending his time with his new wife.

"Oh yes, he is!" But so what?" But Akisha did not seem to see the fault with doing both, adding,

"I have served him with Lady Kaiya a few times. The lady is still young, so I showed a few techniques in bed. She was very grateful."

At the description, Alexander's mind could not help but imagine that young, petite, barely legal woman being taken, and instinctually his organ twitched.

But before his imagination could run wild, something that Akisha said caught his full attention, as she continued,

"I usually spend two days of the week with Lord Kayvan. The other five I sleep with my lord. Third mistress no longer sleeps with my lord."

"So on some of those days, Lord Kayvan and my lord have me together!"

Akisha said this so casually as if she was describing the weather.

But that last line snatched Alexander's ear like a hawk snatches its prey and he could not believe it.

He even wondered if his mind was still cloudy from all the drinking.

"Wh...what? You slept with them together?" Alexander tried to sound as calm and nonchalant as possible.

After all, those two men were....

It seemed that Akisha did not notice the weirdness in Alexander's voice, as she very casually revealed,

"Yes. Both me and Lord Kayvan were surprised when my lord at first suggested it."

"But it seems my lord did this before with his other sons-in-law."

"So we did."

"It wasn't bad. Better than I thought"

Akisha very sufficiently finished the last parts, not going into any specific details regarding what they did, as she felt that should be kept private.

Even the things that she was saying right now were only due to it being Alexander who was a sort of benefactor of hers.

So she only said that she enjoyed herself, and was not hurt in any way.

Though hearing of her unusual company Alexander could easily imagine what a devil's triangle would look like.

And it was pretty much as he could have guessed.

Akisha had both the mouth and flower taken at the same time, had both her rear and front filled simultaneously and one time, they had even tied her hands to a hook in the ceiling, put a blindfold on her, and teased her various ways.

'It seems the two are much closer than just son and father-in-law, the two are fucking cave brothers.' The revelation of this caused Alexander to be half impressed, and half disgusted.

He even thought perhaps that's why Lord Nuraman had no problem living in the same house with Kayvan.

So that they could 'bond'.

"I see. Did Miss Kaiya also join?" Alexander's heart shook as he inquired because he was afraid of the reply, but he just could not keep his curiosity in check.

He really had to know if that monstrous thing between a father and daughter had happened.

"Miss Kaiya? No, she was always asleep." And thankfully the answer was negative.

Adhania seemed to have at least the slightest bit of saving grace till now.

"I see." So Alexander felt a great relief wash over him.

Whereas Akisha seemed to have gotten tired of all the talks and urged,

"Ah, master, we have been not doing anything for so long! Let's start! Let's start!"

The hands which had been till now idle soon began to work and Alexander's found his little brother being loving caressed again.

While his mood for the act had also significantly shifted.

After knowing Akisha's identity, and her frequent activities, he was now beginning to reconsider.

Finally mixed in the purple, aphrodisiac atmosphere began to convince himself,

'This is different! Lord Nuraman sent me his woman. I did not ask for it. Besides I could say I was drunk and don't remember anything

'Yeah! That will work. I will just say I was drunk!'

The more he said it, the more it made sense to Alexander.

And with this self-pep talk, Alexander finally made up his mind.

"If Lord Nuraman asks you anything about this, tell him that I seemed really drunk." And Alexander made sure to ask Akisha to play along.

"...Sure, no problem," After the brief pause of surprise at the strange request, Akisha nodded obediently, adding, "My lord never asks this. But if he does, I will do as master asks."

And being pleased with the answer, Alexander quickly expressed his desire to have Akisha.

"Good, now how do you want me to take you?"

"Haha, are you sure you don't want another taste of my mouth, master?"

The kneeling girl teased, before quickly getting up hearing Alexander's request and since her master asked, putting on a tantalizing show, one that really showed her expertise in arousing men,

"Well, you take me like this, like a horse," Getting on all fours on the thick floor carpet, she took the classic doggy pose, pointing her curvacious magnificent butt and both her holes clearly towards Alexander.

He could see the pink hole appeared to be twitching, while the bush underneath was dripping with thick desire.

Akisha was currently very turned on as she bled copious amounts of love juice.

"Or if master wants, you can have me like a dog," Akisha then quickly rolled on the carpet, now taking the probably most common sex-position, the missionary, lying on her back, arms and legs spread wide, letting Alexander have a completely full view of her front side, especially her beautifully breasts, with their large nipples.

"Or..." With this option, Akisha was on her feet, her beautiful bare pussy facing Alexander, which she parted with her hand and then tempted, "Master can take me like the naughty bitch I am!"

Seeing the pink flower bloom so lewdly was a greatly erotic sight for Alexander and given how her pussy squirted a little as she had shown him her cunt, it was clear how Akisha wanted to be taken.

From the back, while standing.

And Alexander was over the moon to oblige.

He immediately jumped behind her and grabbing both her hands and tugging them towards him, he position his hot cock at her entrance before viciously impaling himself inside her, making the girl roll out her tongue and give out a soul-stirringly sinful moan.

"Ahhh! So big! It's even bigger I thought ...Ohh...my womb...no... it's penetrating my womb!"

Akisha immediately felt the hot organ hit the cervix as it then tried to screw it open, causing her to almost lose consciousness at the extreme pleasure.

While for Alexander, Akisha's canal felt fantastic, her hot and humid pussy tightly wrapping around his stiff cock, the soft folds trembling, wriggling, rubbing, and sucking, bringing him intense pleasure.

So to get more of it, he started pistoning hard, producing a loud, lewd, malty clapping sound, Fwap-fwap-plap-plap.

Alexander's strong hips smashed mercilessly against Akisha's bubble cute, while the woman could only lower her head and scream continuously in ecstasy, "Ahhh....ohhh..."

Alexander had stretched her little sister to her limit and the veins rubbing against her felt too good.

This was without the best fuck of her life.

"Mmmmmmmmm!" With that thought she soon came, her body shuddering intensely at the release.

If Alexander had not been holding her arms, she would have certainly fallen to the ground.

But though Akisha came, Alexander was? nowhere done and so he continued his thrusting unconcerned, causing the now sensitive from coming Akisha to soon beg for mercy,

"Ahhh...master...your cock is too bigohhh it's too powerful ...ahhh... I'm about to die...ohh...you will break this naughty whore..."

While Alexander grabbed those melons he had teased so much about and started to knead, finding them delectable.

And like this the two went on for almost two hours, taking various positions as they tried to reach ever higher levels of pleasure

There was no love involved here and so the two went at it rough and strong, a very primal way of mating.

And by the end of it, Akisha had a vast majority of her body covered in Alexander's gift as he did not release inside her due to obvious potential complications.

So she looked very sinful and smelled even more so.

"Ahh...so good...more," While laying down, Akisha herself was very dazed, feeling like she had been fucked out of her brains.

And could barely move due to exhaustion.

Her entire body ached, and her two holes seemed they would never be again satisfied except with Alexander's cock.

While Alexander was also pleased with the hospitality provided.

And that was how Alexander's first trip to Lord Nuraman's house finally came to an end,

Chapter 667 Friends From Sybarsis

Alexander's next few weeks were jam-packed.

First of all, the goods and men Pasha Farzah had promised finally arrived.

And these needed Alexander's personal attention.

Particularly all the precious books that the ships contained were transferred to his house for now, to be stored in his study until the new public library could be finished.

These books, many being their original copies, were almost worth their weight in gold and Alexander was there to personally oversee their handling, to make sure the workers were very careful.

And though Alexander knew the value of books before, but actually seeing it for himself was a very different feeling altogether.

Each time he saw the workers move these stacks of tomes onto a cart for transportation, he felt like he was looking at his children, because only now was he really coming to terms that he had paid around half a million ropals each for only a few pages of simple parchment with ink on it.

It was a very special feeling.

And so take care of his children, he even hired two special people whose only job was to keep them clean, regularly dusting them.

They also ensured nothing like moistness or dampness affected them, or that bugs like silverfish which ate paper could damage them.

Aside from the books, the other main cargo was the new 'to be made into priests' acolytes that Pasha Farzah had sent over.

They were handed over to Theocles, it being his directive to take care of their lodgings.

And after asking for Alexander's permission, he placed them in some of the newly completed apartment buildings.

This was the main event that occupied him for most of August.

Then there was Cambyses's approaching delivery date.

By the midwife's estimate, Cambyses was seven months pregnant and the experienced middle-aged woman recommended Cambyses stay at home and not strain herself too much, only going out for walks around the back garden.

Also Cambyses seemed to have entered a bout of depression around this time, constantly worrying what would happen if it was not a boy.

This type of behavior was common during pregnancy, due to hormonal imbalances and was made worse by the prevailing culture of the culture.

And it seemed this affected Cambyses particularly badly, causing her to break into uncontrollable sobs or hysterical fits of rage over the smallest thing or sometimes nothing at all.

A few times she even got into giant rows with others in the house over insignificant issues.

And though Alexander tried his best to console hers and rein her in her mood swings, it only had limited effect.

So Alexander tried to be with Cambyses as frequently as possible.

This was the second thing that took his attention.

And the last thing that required his presence was the report of a few ships entering the port carrying a particular flag.

It bore the flag of the Margrave Family!

"Lady Lady Miranda, Lord Janus, I'm so glad to see you. Welcome! Welcome! I presume the war went well, haha haha!"

Seeing that his only friendly foreign contact was still alive certainly cheered Alexander, as he enthusiastically welcomed them into his house, telling them to make themselves comfortable on the couch.

"Ahhh, Lord Alexander. It is also a pleasure to meet you again. And yes, thanks to your aid, we did manage to get a favorable result," Lady Miranda in a sweet, cordial tone, warmly replied to Alexander.

Looking at the lady, the most noticeable change Alexander found was that her belly had returned to normal, clear evidence of her delivery, which made the gown she wore fit snugly to her.

While she herself seemed to have also gained some weight, a phenomenon quite common after pregnancy.

So her arms seemed to have gotten a lot meatier and a few folds of flesh seemed to have formed on her cheeks, giving some heaviness to her countenance.

Aside from her figure, Alexander also found Lady Miranda to be even more gaudily dressed than when he had last met her like she had managed to finally retrieve all personal belongings lost in the flood and was now ready to display her true wealth.

To that effect, she had much more lavish and intricate jewelry decorating her, the work on them being exquisite. while the full-sleeved blue gown she wore was studded along the seams with all kinds of rubies, diamonds, and very expensive gold threadworks, making her truly look like the matriarch of a renowned noble family.

"We are sorry, it took us so long to come visit, my lord. It was a true oversight on our part, a true breach of etiquette,"

While next to her was the much older Lord Janus, who looked much livelier than the last time Alexander met him, almost certainly due to him being under much less pressure.

He wore a nice clean, coat, with a single ruby ring on one of his fingers, his white hair brushed back, and beard well-oiled and trimmed.

Compared to his previous sailor outlook, he now looked much more like a noble.

Hearing Lord Janus's apology, which was more courtesy than sincere, Alexander too breezily brushed it off, I think you should take a look at

"No, no, I'm well aware of the difficulties my lord should have been under. I'm simply overjoyed to see you again!"

"I was beginning to get worried that since there was no news."

"Even Mister Harold seemed to be busy, He's not been to Zanzan for almost a year."

Through such small talks, Alexander and the two got to retelling what had occurred in each's life, over the last year, and frankly, it was a lot for both sides.

Alexander went first, telling them very briefly of the war, and how his house burnt down, which also went to explain why he was receiving them in such a shabbier house compared to his grand manor.

"Ah! How terrible! It is truly lucky that my lord was not injured. Truly the gods are with you!" And hearing about his ordeals, Lady Miranda expressed her sympathizes as such, while Lord Janus also made similar comments.

Then, after Alexander, the pair revealed their own goings in life.

Lord Janus went first as he informed Alexander of Harold, who had been made a baron due to his contributions by Lady Miranda's grandfather and was busy managing his territory.

That's why he made no trip to Zanzan.

"Hahaha, it seems the next time I meet Harold, with not Lord Harold, not mister," Alexander, hearing the former merchant's turn of fortunes chuckled as such.

Then Lord Janus went over their battle with Governor Straus, the reparations they managed to get as a result of winning, as well as the current condition of their lands, which was slowly recovering but still needed some time.

But what Alexander paid his ear to most was the Margrave Family's current relationship with Sybarsis.

"After the losses our benefactor family- The Marsh Family suffered, they seem to have fractured and are in a battle of succession."

"There are many who want the main lineage family to take responsibility for the losses and step down, feeling they are not competent."

"While the other thirteen ducal families have yet to interfere, till now content to watch the show from afar."

"But it also means that the Marsh family is in no position to help us either."

"So we have to do what we can do alone."

Lord Janus shook his aged head ruefully as he said, lamenting the fact that when misfortune comes, it never comes alone.

"Oh? Is the Marsh family in that much danger? That they can't come to help even when you have won us a great war!"

"Might they be kicked out of the confederation council?"

Hearing that the family was about to tear itself apart, and vulture's circles waiting for the dead meat, Alexander could not help but think of the worst-case scenario.

And being 'kicked out of the confederation council' was actually a euphemism, what Alexander really meant to say was 'destroyed'.

Because such large families tended to go out with a bang, not a whimper.

"Hahaha, my lord should join the dukes. You will fit right in," And Lord Janus's helpless chuckle revealed the affirmation.

Although the others had not made their move yet, the fact was they were waiting for the Marsh family to weaken itself as much as possible with its infighting.

In fact, they had even started to secretly support some of the factions to do just that, urging them to fight each other, though Lord Janus was not aware of that fact.

But he was aware of their precarious position even after their fantastic win, feeling this was only a prelude to a much longer conflict.

So he revealed to Alexander,

"Because of our win, we have managed to buy us some time, though not much."

"The Marsh family cannot help us, and the other twelve families also seem ambivalent. They gave us nothing solid when we reached out of them."

"Even when we explained we were being unjustly attacked, they pointed to the war reparations we got as compensation and told us to get along."

"What a joke!" Lord Janas seemed particularly worked up about this, as he swung his hand furious.

It seemed that the higher-ups of Sybarsis had no real intention of reconciling with them and intended to let the Kaiser Family do their thing.

This meant the pair was likely here seeking some kind of assistance or even alliance from Alexander.

Or who knows, perhaps even from Ptolomy himself.

Who could say?

Alexander was thus looking forward to the negotiations.

Chapter 668 The Margrave Family's Circumstances (Part-1)

Lord Janus was understandably very angry at the way they were being treated by their home country.

And Lady Miranda seemed to be in simpatico with that.

"Uncle Janus is right. We won this money through our sweat and blood! Our men bled to get it." "And to think the Kaiser Family gets nothing but a slap on the wrist for almost driving us to destruction!"

"Aghhh..." Lady Miranda's emotions got the better of her as she grunted, producing a very unlady-like sound.

But it seemed in this instance she did not care, as after this, she continued her vent unabatted,

"Even the original accusation of us supplying weapons to Iyizarid was all fake!"

"But when we asked the federation council to look into it and hold the Kaiser Family accountable for maliciously starting a war, they brushed it all under the rug like it was nothing."

"Saying things like since we won and the Kaiser Family paid us so much money, they had already been punished"

"Ridiculous!"

It was very apparent that like her counterpart, Lady Miranda too was very vexed.

And as soon as she finished, Lord Janus quickly added to that indignant flame,

"What is even more shameless They did not even give us the full money! Only half of the promised 200 million!"

"The other half they said they paid to the Marsh family. 'To help them in their time of need' they said'."

"Bah! Bullshit." Lord Janus spat in anger and grief, producing a face not expected to be on a nobleman,

"Clearly that Marsh brat used that money to buy time for himself."

"Filthy cheater!"

It took a while for Alexander to understand what Lord Janus was referring to, but basically, it seemed that one of the contenders for the position of the Marsh family head had come to the Kaiser family with the proposal that if they promised to not attack them for a while, they can keep 100 million ropals for themselves.

Then he told the Margrave family that he took half of the money due to his family's time of need as well as payment for all the services and protection they had provided them till now.

Even though the Margraves regularly paid tithes to them.

It was clearly a plot to scam the Margraves, and unfortunately, they were too weak to do anything about it.

"Yes! If we knew this would happen, we would have never let Straus go!" And Lord Janus's reminder of the event, Lady Miranda added this regretfully, her tone bitter.

Governor Straus, who was captured during the war, was kept in captivity for just a few weeks, only until a ransom deal could be reached between the Margraves and Kaisers.

And once the two sides swore on the deal he was let out, as there was seen no reason to hold him any longer.

Because it was unimaginable to think that any party would renege on their promise after swearing to the gods,

And technically, the Kaiser family did fulfill their promise or seemed to on paper.

Alexander very patiently listened to the two nobleman and woman vent, keeping his eyes focused and ears perked up.

And after finally feeling the two had exhausted recounting their misfortunes, he began to form a picture of their circumstances.

Alexander felt that this once strong family now seemed to be surrounded by predators from all sides.

This on one hand might be a good thing as it meant Alexander would be their only ally and he could charge them a premium.

But on the other hand, it could also mean supporting a lost cause, an ally who was destined to be snuffed out, while at the same time possibly their enemies also becoming his.

Opportunity and danger existed side by side it seemed.

But then Alexander seemed to notice a small flaw in his picture.

So he asked,

"It seems quite strange to me that all the nobles would choose to so blatantly ignore the destruction of a powerful noble house like yours?"

"Aren't noble houses supposed to be protected from such blatant direct attacks?"

"Also aren't you one of the biggest weapons producers in this region? Don't you have a lot of influence? Why is everyone willing to overlook that fact?"

He felt all the noble's lukewarm attitude did not make sense.

But Alexander's reasoning here seemed to be a bit faulty as Lord Janus helped him clear some of his doubts.

"Lord Alexander is perhaps misinterpreting the picture." He drew Alexander's attention,

"From our words, it might seem like that all the nobles, including the thirteen dukes, are against us."

"But in reality, most are only curious bystanders."

"The real conflict is between the Kaiser and Marsh family, and as long as they keep it between themselves, none of the other families will intervene."

"That is the rule they set."

"So our real enemy is only the Kaiser family," He emphasized,

And then added with an admitting tone,

"But yes, you are right lord Alexander. Normally such 'under the open sky attacks' would never go over the council."

"But it seems our luck is just bad."

"The losses we suffered at Iyizarid's hands really appeared to have something to do with Lord March's (Head of the Marsh family) generalship."

"I'm still unclear on the details, but that seems to be the prevailing thought."

"So many in the council see our destruction as a way to punish the March family. And the Kaiser Family is leading the charge on that."

"The others are not eager enough to come after us on their own, but like as I have before, they don't seem eager to help either."

"If we can brave the storm and survive against the Kaiser family, they will accept us."

"And if we can't....." Lord Janus helplessly shrugged his shoulder, knowing what fate awaited them upon failure.

While Alexander could help but half smirk, 'What luck! To be sunk by the very family who promised to be your protectorate.'

It seemed to him that the Margrave family was the sailor on the ship called the Marsh Family.

Normally, the ship kept everyone safe and afloat.

But now that the vessel had begun to sink....the sailors were scrambling to survive.

"I see. Thank you, Lord Janus. I did not see it like that," At getting a clearer picture and understanding the Margraves might not be screwed as badly as he thought, he heaved half a sigh of relief.

Business could still continue as was.

As LF finished,? Lady Miranda then added her piece, stating,

"Also...we once did have a lot of influence. But now..." her tone very bitter voice,

"Now with our navy destroyed and all our experienced seamen lost, we are no longer able to wield weight like before behind our words."

"Many people were already greedy for our trade routes before. Now, these are the ones leading the attack, trying to break us and have it all for themselves."

"While many other opportunistic hyenas are tailing them behind."

"*Sigh*"

Lady Miranda seemed much more mature than her previous visit, as evidenced by how eloquently she described her enemies.

It seems greed was truly the source of all sins.

And Lord Janus agreed, saying,

"Mmmm, our current inability to properly protect our shipping routes is certainly a concern." "Many of our ships have even started being attacked by pirates."

"Trade is down by almost half compared to pre-war levels."

"Huh! What pirates! Vultures!"

It was apparent that their enemies were plundering their cargo disguised as raiders.

Both sides knew it, but the Margraves had no proof.

"Hmmm, that is indeed a problem. I would have lent you my navy...but..." Alexander here made an exaggerated claim.

Even if he had the navy, it was unlikely he would have done that.

"Thank you, my lord," And although the other side knew it, well, it was the thought that counted.

"Oh, there was something else I wanted to ask you," Then suddenly Alexander started with this, turning to face the lord and lady and stating,

"I remember Lady Miranda saying you were attacked because? Iyizarid took a lot of Sybarsis's lands and the council in turn wanted yours."

"Now, could it be the reason not more of the dukes have joined to attack you is because they fear an attack by? Iyizarid?"

"Do you know anything about that?"

Alexander made that bold assumption.

Iyizarid was a very expansionist, militaristic nation after all

"....."

But compared to the giant leap Alexander took in logic, the other party seemed mute and unresponsive, as if they hadn't even properly heard the question.

"We..we don't know," And it took Lord Janus a good couple of seconds to give this simple answer in a stuttering tone.

While Lady Miranda was a bit more helpful, as she elucidated,

"Mmm, Uncle Jnaus is right. Although we have a few spies there, they are basically very low-level."

"They can only tell us what the general people know."

"As for knowing? Iyizarid's future military plans, I doubt even Sybarsis's highest spies have anything close to that."

"If we had that Iyizarid would not be such a problem hahaha!"

Lady Miranda seemed to think Alexander's thinking here was totally wrong.

She also felt that given the amount of territory? Iyizarid had just two years ago, they should be busy consolidating it for a few years before they struck again.

While Lord Janus believed that Alexander was reading into this? Iyizarid thing a bit too much.

As for the man himself, he said to himself, 'Well, if they do not want to attack, perhaps I can encourage them.'

Chapter 669 Free Trade Agreement

Alexander's asking about Iyizarid's state was not as much as wanting to warn Sybarsis of an impending attack but more of wanting to find out how he could make that happen.

A Sybarsis- Iyizarid war would not be bad for him, as it would occupy some of the Kaiser family's resources which would help his ally out.

So now the question was how to do it.

The ducal families of Sybarsis did not sit and stand at Iyizarid's actions and even if there was a war, not all the resources of the massive country that was Sybarsis would be diverted to fend off that threat.

So trying to change the course of the fate of entire countries was not something Alexander could easily do, especially given his relative size.

That would be mad.

But it was only something like a pet project for now, as Alexander then forced his focus back to the two people presently sitting in front of him.

And after getting to the full extent of the bind the Margraves were in, at last said,

"I think I get where we all stand."

"It seems the money the Kaiser family has spent as war reparations and the men Governor Straus lost will take some time to recover."

"So we can breathe a bit for now." Alexander lightly nodded his head, but then said in a cautionary tone,

"But I would advise against lowering our guards,"

"It also seems the peace we obtained is a precarious one." Alexander said the word 'we' to show his solidarity with them, adding,

"And given how the enemy is willing to play dirty, such as they did with the ransom money, it would not surprise me to see that they used some excuse to break the treaty ahead of time."

"I hope my lord and lady will be careful."

To Alexander, it was apparent this was only a truce, not a lasting peace agreement.

"Thank you for your reminder. We will keep an eye out," Lady Miranda solemnly replied, though it was unknown how much of Alexander's warning she took to heart.

Breaking treaties were very very rare, nothing like the sly sleight of hand the Kaiser family pulled off with the ransom deal.

So Lady Miranda was a bit skeptical about Alexander's caution.

And Alexander would be very happy if he was wrong about it.

As this part of the discussion ended, then it came Lady Miranda's turn to recount what happened to her personally over the last year,

And for her, the biggest event during that time was of course the birth of her son, which also enabled her to get control of her family.

And over the past twelve months, she mostly focused on him, nursing, and tending to the love of her life.

But that was not only the thing she was engaged in.

She participated in other activities too.

For instance, she had to learn various administrative practices from her grandfather, oversee the reconstruction of their old capital, manage the books, meet with the various nobles under her and ensure their fealty, and in general strengthen her control over the lands.

All this was a lot of work and needed her to physically stay at her fief.

Combining this with the care her son needed, she simply could not make the time to visit Alexander till now.

"Congratulations on having a son, Lady Miranda! If I had known before, I would have certainly sent a great present, What's his name?"

Knowing of the birth, Alexander gave a hearty smile, even proposing a toast to the young boy's health.

"Thank you for your kind word, Lord Alexander. I named him Marcus, after his father,"

At the mention of her son's mention, the overly powdered face of the fair woman seemed to turn a lot gentler, and her eyes dimmed as if she was not looking at Alexander, but her son right now.

Clearly, the lady held immense love for the child.

And after a bit of reminiscing, Lady Miranda further added

"I wished to bring him with me to meet you, my lord. But he fell a bit ill at the last moment."

"So I was afraid I to bring him on the journey."

"He is with his grandfather!"

At Lady Miranda's decision, Alexander was very understanding, nodding and saying,

"Yes, yes, the journey from Galiosos to here is not easy. Especially for such a young child. My lady did the right thing."

"The seasons are changing and people tend to get sick around this time,"

"I pray that your son recovers quickly. Surely the gods will bless him," I think you should take a look at

As Alexander said, he felt like pulling on the collar of his tunic, to let some air in, as he felt too hot and tried to cool himself.

"Besides, the heat in Zanzan for the last week has been unbearable! It would have been too hard for the poor guy, haha," He then added as a comment.

The latter half of August was always like this in Zanzan, unbearably hot

A grueling, sweltering heatwave would always hit the region around this time as if to try and bake everything, just before everything began to cool down by the arrival of fall during September.

It was as if the summer heat wanted one last chance to remind everyone of its existence before it finally disappeared for almost six months.

And as Alexander made mention of the heat, Lady Miranda agreed with a smile, "Haha, yes. It is really too hot," as she fanned her neck with her palms.

The noblewoman was also very hot, as evidenced by the many beads of perspiration running down her cheeks and neck, as well as the fact that her gown was now sticking to her wet back.

And it was no surprise given how heavy the attire she wore was.

Alexander felt hot just by looking at her.

But up until now, Lady Miranda felt a bit shy about saying anything about it as it would make her seem being a demanding guest.

But now that she had euphemistically pointed it, Alexander quickly signaled one of the maids who was serving them food and drinks to start fanning her.

Which got a grateful look from the now feeling much more comfortable woman.

The recounts and conversations Alexander and the two nobles made lasted all noon and eclipsed into the night, with Alexander entertaining them for both lunch and dinner, where he introduced them to many new sweet dishes, such as new biscuits, a novel pastry, and small a saffron pie like cake, much of both's delight.

"My lord, this sugar...how much can we buy?"

And coming to know what was the main missing ingredient, Lady Miranda did not quote how much she wanted to buy, but how much Alexander could sell.

Her language and way of thinking truly spoke of her lineage, a true blue-blooded aristocrat who went back generations,

And Alexander too wished he could one day have a mindset like her's.

"Haha, let us leave the talk of business for tomorrow. Today, let us feast. My lady, eat, eat...!"

But for tonight, he made sure that the two close guests were well entertained.

And it was the next day, after a sumptuous breakfast that the two nobles began their trade negotiations with Alexander.

"My lord, I promised you that free trade agreement if I became the head of the family. Here it is," Lady Miranda handed a formally written contract with everything on her part signed and sealed to Alexander.

The contract was surprisingly written on paper, as opposed to the usual material- parchment, and it was several pages long, detailing both big and small things.

Receiving the page, Alexander was internally a bit surprised.

He had asked for the removal of all trade barriers between the two regions for 20 years as a way to boost trade.

And it seemed Lady Miranda had given him everything he wanted.

Alexander honestly did not think he would get so much, especially the long time.

He had just said the number to shoot for the moon and then intended to negotiate it down to a more reasonable number.

But it seemed that to Lady Miranda since she had promised, she decided to keep it.

And though Alexander would not know, Lady Miranda had to fight quite hard with many of her uncles and cousins and even her own grandfather to make them agree to this, all of whom wanted a more reasonable 10 years.

"I swore in the name of soul that I would get him this trade agreement if I became the head of the Margrave family!" But Lady Miranda had screamed as such and after quite a few row-filled meetings at last had gotten her way.

Alexander's crossbows did play a critical role in the results of the battle and Lady Miranda made sure to leverage that, going through a lot of hardships to place all the letters on the paper

But she did reveal any of this to Alexander and instead just let him carefully go through it.

On the first page was written the intention to form the free trade area zone, as well as listing the names of all the parties involved.

These listed not only the Margrave family but also various trading guilds.

Then came various legal jargon, as well as swearing to the gods to prevent any party from violating the agreement.

And lastly, a place to sign and seal.

Stamp

And as Alexander gave his seal and initials on it,

Voila!

He had his first free trade agreement.

Chapter 670 A Second Deal With The Margraves (Part-1)

Before Alexander signed the contract, he did have a read through it.

The main thing that was written on the paper was that it stated that the ships carrying goods from either region would not be charged any tariffs or tax beyond a port landing fee.

And if these goods were to be moved from city to city, they would only be subjected to an additional 'gate tax' which was a kind of toll some cities charged merchants to enter the city,

But beyond those costs, trade between the two regions would be free.

Alexander would have preferred that 'gate tax' did not exist either, but he knew this was a large source of income for many small nobles and so did not strongly insist on it.

Following this were the various names of the parties involved.

On Lady Miranda's side this not only included the Margrave family but also many of the trade guilds of Galiosos.

This was done so that merchants carrying any of these seals on their product would be seen as being from Galiosos and thus be excluded from any taxes.

Also, in this way, smuggling and unauthorized entry of goods could be prevented.

Lady Miranda had listed a very long itinerary of names on her end who could engage in free trade with Alexander, while Alexander on the other hand only listed one.

Him.

This meant that if anyone wanted to export to Galiosos, they would have to get his permission.

Or more specifically, a seal of approval from the ministry of commerce headed currently by Heliptos.

He did this because it was he who had gotten them this deal, so why should everyone piggyback on him for free?

Alexander felt it was only right that they paid a fee, albeit a small one, to get this seal.

Besides, in this way, Alexander could control a part of the economy, thus giving him more influence.

Beyond the meat of the contract, Alexander also found some of the 'flavor' texts which were quite interesting to say the least.

Particularly some of the paragraphs made him feel more like he was reading a book of curses than a legal document, as it stated the various things that would happen to the party that broke the agreement,

But that language there actually the standard template typically used, so everything was authentic.

"Thank you, my lady. I'm sure this will strengthen the ties between our lands even further."

Satisfied with the contents and conditions written there, Alexander quickly filled ratified the documents, names with just a single name -Zanzan and then stamped and signed the agreement.

And voila!

There was now a free trade agreement between the two for 20 years!

In modern times, this kind of deal would have normally taken years of discussion, months of revision, and many more months of ratification to come into effect.

But given the primitive times as well as Alexander's absolute power over his lands, just a few strokes of his pen was enough.

He did not even need to ask his nobles or council members for their input as they already had free agreements with him anyway.

So work that might have taken others years, Alexander got it done in less than half an hour.

Sometimes absolute authority was better than a democracy.

All that now remained to be done was to instruct Heliptos to make sure the goods carrying those specific seals were not subjected to sort of taxes at the port.

With this huge agreement reached, Alexander then got down to selling his products.

"So what are the things I can help you get?" He posed to the eager customers.

And the other party quickly got down to listing many of his unique products- iron, sugar, paper, salt, glass, and soap.

They bought these in quite large quantities, as explained by an eager Lord Janus

"Your products were very popular my lord. Especially the sugar. We want to buy as much as we can,"

Those things sold like hot cake and they seemed to never have enough.

But Lord Janus could easily understand the temptation.

Just remembering the taste of that pristine white powder made his mouth even subconsciously salivate.

"Yes, yes, the sugar is very popular. But the price...." While his counterpart, Lady Miranda was a bit more restrained in showing her desire and implicitly asked for some price concessions from Alexander.

"Haha, I have already given a discount, my lady," But Alexander would not lower his profit margins anymore.

Instead, he provided them an alternative.

"If you have a problem with paying in gold, I also accept payments in food, livestock, gems, fabric, and slaves."

"I understand that you might need funds to recover from the disaster and the war, so perhaps you can consider those."

Alexander seemed to be very understanding.

"Umm...yes that is possible...but still...the quantities are a problem." But here Lady Miranda pointed out the sheer volume of the goods that would be needed to trade to balance the sheets. I think you should take a look at

They had bought almost half a billion ropals worth of products from Alexander to be delivered over the next year while they themselves only had the cash reserve to pay for only 20% of that without starting to run into shortages.

So the rest of it had to be paid with goods.

But some of the goods Alexander was asking to be exchanged were not so readily transportable.

For instance, a mule weighing more than half a ton was only 500 to 600 ropals, or about the same value as 10 kg of iron, something that could be carried by hand.

That was why trade through gold was so preferable, it was convenient.

At Lady Miranda's mention of the volume problem, Lord Janus also pointed this out, "Yes, my lady is correct."

"We can transport the 50,000 tons of food you wanted no problem."

"As well as the potteries, wood and linen."

"But the problem is the slave and draft animals."

"Moving living things over water is always difficult."

"We need to carry extra food, water, and even extra people to take care of them."

"So ships cannot carry many of them at once."

"Meaning transporting that many will need many trips."

"And as I have previously said, we lack a strong navy... so we might not be able to protect all of them."

It was unknown how much of the problem was real, and how much Lord Janus was exaggerating to get concessions from Alexander.

But whichever it was, Alexander had no real good solution to the problem.

He could choose not to sell, but then they were one of his biggest customers.

Alexander had very few others who were able to buy his stuff in this volume.

So if he did that, his wares would simply sit in his warehouses gathering dust.

But if he were to make concessions, well then he would be losing out, and might even encourage them to make similar excuses in the future.

"Hmmm...*tap*, *tap*," So Alexander got to thinking.

The thing that put his mind at ease was that the food he wanted would still be delivered

And with 50,000 tons of it, mostly being grains, along with various vegetables, and some meat and wine, he could easily feed his population for half a year with no problem.

Then when combined with Lady Inayah and Pasha Farzah's contribution as well as his own production, Alexander kept he could even keep some in reserve in case of emergencies.

So now he had to decide what he should get instead of the vast number of slaves and draft animals.

And after a while, he came up with a solution.

"I can lower the prices. But I need some other way to be compensated." He offered.

"Oh anything! Please state it. And we will try our best to accommodate you, my lord," And immediately Lady Miranda jumped at the offer.

The profits from these products she was buying from Alexander would be critical in helping her territory recover and she wanted to only buy more, not less

So as long as Alexander's demands were not too unreasonable she was willing to go as far as she possibly could to fulfill them.

"Understanding the problems your family faces, I will waive the draft animals. Those things require the most space after." Alexander first said generously, getting a grateful smile from both,

"And instead of the 50,000 slaves, I will buy only 20,000 from you over the next year."

Alexander's most pressing concern right now was to repopulate his lands and though he could reduce the number, he could never abandon it.

"That..." But the quoted number still seemed to be so huge that it immediately got a knee-jerk response from Lady Miranda.

She was hoping Alexander would completely forego the slaves.

After all, 20,000 big, strong men as slaves was not a small number given they only controlled a territory the size of 300,000 sq km with a population of a few million.

It would not be impossible but very, very hard, especially given their recent troubles.

Hence, even though Lady Miranda said she would try to be as accommodating as possible, Alexander's ask still caused the involuntary yelp.

She would not reject him but hinted at wanting to haggle.

And Alexander, hearing this gasp, and feeling an objection be on its way, quickly decided to give an alternative offer.

One that would get him his 50,000 'men', while Lady Miranda could also keep her strong, working men.

A win, win for both sides.