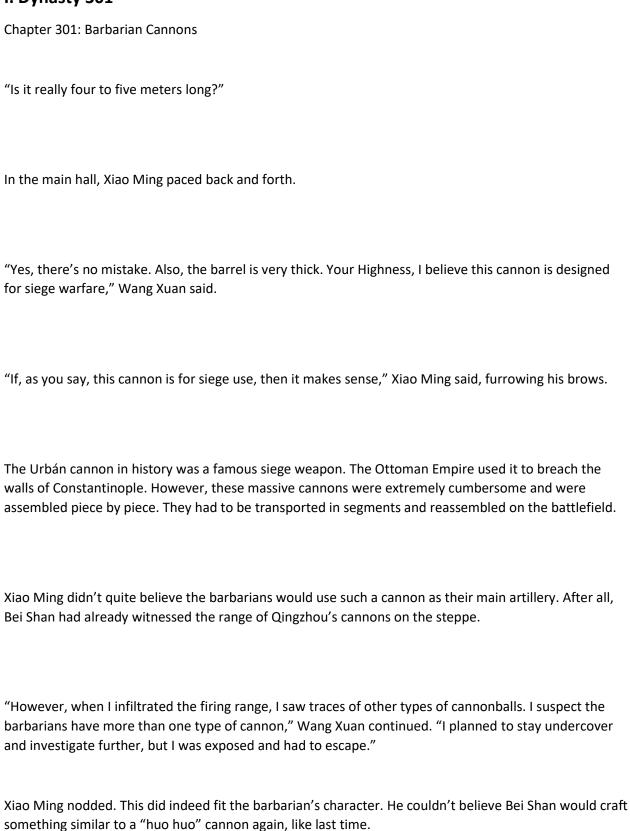
## I. Dynasty 301



Meanwhile, his own cannons, made from steel and cast in iron molds, could be mass-produced at a low cost. Steel was much cheaper than copper—after all, copper was used as currency in ancient times because it was rare.
Wang Xuan nodded. "But Your Highness, being betrayed by the Zhao King—this is not something I can stomach."
"Humph. Since Zhao King has no respect for me, I will return the favor. Li San has gathered information on several spies from Zhao Province. You can deal with them—eliminate them all," Xiao Ming said, his voice chilling.
Wang Xuan sneered. "It seems like Zhao King is desperate over the cannons. He's sending spies everywhere to steal cannon technology."
"Naturally. Zhao King has great ambitions. He's always wanted to replace the Xiao family. Now, with Qingzhou's cannons and the imperial army equipped with cannons, Zhao King will have to think twice before attacking Chang'an with his Xuanjia Iron Cavalry," Xiao Ming said.
"After the barbarians' defeat in Cangzhou, Zhao King must be feeling uneasy," Wang Xuan laughed.
"But Your Highness, though we were exposed by the barbarians, I didn't let them off lightly. I exposed their identities too. While the barbarians were tracking us, I made sure they were tracked as well. Now, Zhao King not only has cut off Qingzhou's spies, but he's also lost his spies with the barbarians. Eventually, he'll have no choice but to buy cannons from Qingzhou. When that time comes, don't hold back," Wang Xuan said with a wicked grin.

Xiao Ming could imagine how dangerous Wang Xuan's mission had been. Fortunately, the barbarians were different from the Great Yu—they didn't like staying in walled cities. Otherwise, Wang Xuan might not have escaped.
Xiao Ming squinted. Since Zhao Yuanli left, the cannon trade had stalled.
Apart from the imperial court, only the Wei King, the Chu King, the Liang King, and the Yong King had contacted him and placed orders. The armaments workshop was busy producing cannons for export.
These orders had brought him substantial profits, which was why he could afford to make such a big move in Qingzhou.
"Humph. If he's not kind, I won't be merciful," Xiao Ming said bitterly.
Later, in Shengdu
Inside a silver tent on the steppes, Bei Shan sat with his eyes slightly closed.
In front of him stood an Ottoman man, with curly hair, brown eyes, and a prominent nose.
"Are you sure the Urbán cannon will be able to shatter Cangzhou's walls?" Bei Shan asked coldly.

"Lord Bei Shan, please believe me. The Urbán cannon has breached the strongest walls before. The walls of the Great Yu Empire will be nothing," the Ottoman craftsman replied, bowing respectfully.
He had been captured during the barbarian siege of a city, and it was there that he had witnessed cannon production.
Bei Shan nodded. Recently, spies from the Great Yu Empire had appeared in Shengdu, which showed that they were also fearful of the cannon.
"Let's hope your words are true. If not, I will have your head," Bei Shan said harshly.
The craftsman trembled at his words. Just then, a guard entered the tent and announced, "Lord, the envoy from Goryeo has arrived."