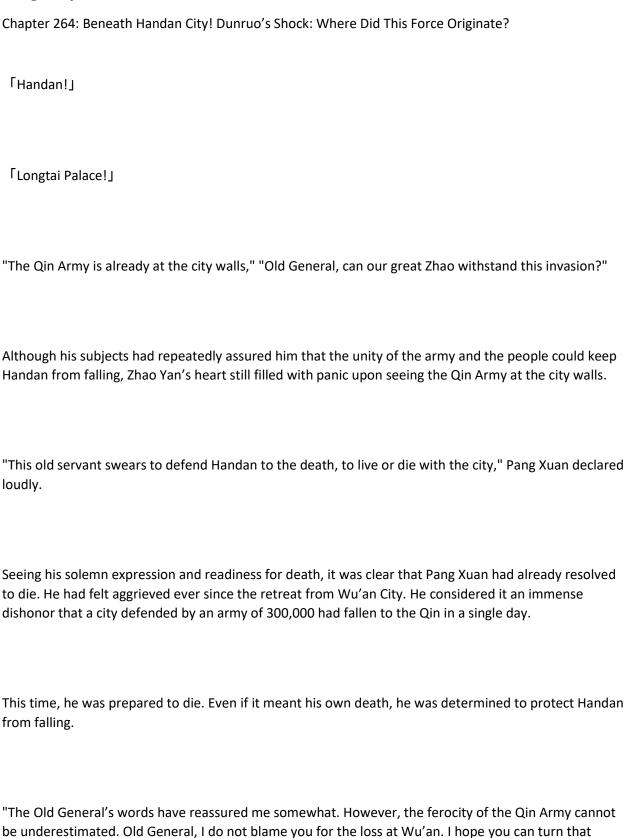
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| defeat into experience and devise a better strategy to repel the enemy," Zhao Yan said, a trace of anxiety in his voice. |
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| Now that Lian Po was dead, Pang Xuan was the only one Zhao Yan could rely on. Although the defeat at Wu'an City worried him, Zhao Yan knew that victory and defeat were common for military strategists. Naturally, he was not overly harsh with this loyal old general. |
| "Please rest assured, Great King." |
| "The defeat at Wu'an was because one gate was lost. The routing soldiers fell into disarray, which in turn caused chaos at the defenses of the other two gates." |
| "For this battle, I have prepared a foolproof strategy." |
| "Regarding routed soldiers, I have decided to establish a one-hundred-man Supervisory Team for each Army Marquis Camp and a one-thousand-man Supervisory Team for each Wanjiang camp. If any disorder arises, the Supervisory Team will execute the routed soldiers on the spot. Furthermore, a complete roster of the Supervisory Army will be created, recording the family and place of origin of every member. If any member of the Supervisory Army dares to desert in the face of battle, their entire clan will be exterminated!" Pang Xuan announced loudly. |
| Upon hearing this, a gleam of delight flashed in Zhao Yan's eyes. "Old General, you truly excel at commanding troops! With this measure, the soldiers of the Supervisory Army will not dare to flee. With the Supervisory Army spread throughout our forces, we will certainly never again suffer a rout caused by our own men." |

| "This is a method I devised after much deliberation," Pang Xuan said gravely. "Only by doing this can the soldiers of Zhao unite as one to resist the formidable enemy." |
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| "Old General, proceed with your plans," Zhao Yan said with the utmost seriousness. "Within Handan, we have nearly 300,000 troops. Besides the more than 200,000 you brought back from Wu'an City, there are also my 50,000 Imperial Guard Army. Now that the nation is in peril, I entrust all military authority within the city to you." |
| Then, he slowly stood up, picked up a box from the table, and walked toward Pang Xuan in the main hall. Pang Xuan, in turn, bowed deeply. |
| "I hereby bestow the Tiger Talisman upon you, Old General," Zhao Yan said, placing the box containing the talisman into Pang Xuan's hands. "With this Tiger Talisman, you command all the troops and answer directly to me. If anyone in the city dares to disobey your orders, collude with the enemy, or disrupt the army's morale, you are authorized to deal with them directly according to military law." |
| Hearing this, Pang Xuan bowed again. "This old servant swears to serve the Great King loyally unto death." |
| "In addition to the nearly 300,000 troops within Handan," Zhao Yan added, "I have already issued a decree to transfer 100,000 Frontier Army cavalry from the Dai Territory. They are all elite soldiers of our great Zhao. I expect them to arrive in the next two days. Their deployment is also entirely up to you, Old General." |
| Hearing of the 100,000 Frontier Army cavalry, a sharp glint flashed in Pang Xuan's eyes. |



| "Counting the 100,000 Frontier Army cavalry and their horses, Handan must have sufficient provisions |
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| and supplies," Pang Xuan respectfully petitioned. "An army of over 300,000 consumes a vast amount of |
| food daily. If the Qin Army lays siege to the city, I fear Handan will be like a caged beast. Therefore, the |
| matter of provisions must be handled with extreme care. This servant requests that the city's provisions |
| not be managed through the Chancellor Mansion, but be placed under my direct jurisdiction." |

Hearing this, Guo Kai grew anxious. He had always been in charge of provisions, and only he knew how much profit there was to be made. How could he simply hand it over? Besides, this might be another opportunity to serve Qin!

"Does the Shangjiangjun not trust my ability to manage the logistics?" Guo Kai asked, unwilling to concede.

"The Prime Minister exaggerates. It is not a matter of trust, but of prioritizing the overall situation," Pang Xuan said, his tone implying his sole concern was for the state of Zhao. "The provisions in the city can only sustain our army for three or four months. There are undoubtedly Qin spies in the city, and I do not wish to give them any opportunity to exploit a weakness. If our provisions are compromised, Zhao will be in grave danger."

"Shangjiangjun..." Guo Kai began, still wanting to argue.