

Perish 191

Chapter 191: Buying Land - Choosing Validosi

Maximus heard this, looked at Cleobrotas, and saw that the old man was still observing him with a probing gaze.

So, he smiled slightly: "Elder Cleobrotas, I will answer your question in a while. You've come from afar, how can we let you stand here and talk? Come, come, follow me over there, have some wine to quench your thirst, eat a bit to fill your stomachs, and then we can talk in detail."

"That's wonderful!" Karsipengpas, pulling at his sweat-soaked clothes, complained: "This damned weather, it's unbearably hot!"

"I wonder if it's as hot in your tribe as it is here?" Maximus asked casually as he led them back.

"It's much cooler there, though winters are colder, especially in the mountains. However, these past few winters have been particularly cold, sigh... it's difficult," Karsipengpas shook his head and sighed.

Maximus was slightly moved.

The attendants had already laid out tent cloths on the grass and set out wine and various foods.

Maximus arranged for everyone to sit on the ground and had the attendants pour wine for everyone, then the two sides continued to introduce themselves.

Previously, Maximus had been speaking Illyrian with Karsipengpas and his group, but Volenus, Pigeris, Quintus, and Flanitnus couldn't understand it at all. When they switched to Latin, only Karsipengpas and Cleobrotas could understand.

When living in Illyria in the future, the language communication will be a problem... Maximus realized this.

Naturally, Fesaros, Pequot, and Alakosia, the three Illyrians, caught the attention of the Aldean envoy; they actively inquired about which tribe the three came from and why they became slaves, and so on.

After some pleasantries, Maximus lifted a wine jug with a solemn expression and said: "Elders of the Alde Tribe, I represent all of us in welcoming your arrival, and I toast to you first!" After saying this, he tilted his head back and took a large gulp.

The others present also took a sip of their wine.

"Delicious!" Ciciliotes' eyes lit up, and he took another large sip.

Some envoys, though silent, continued to drink as well.

"This is wine we confiscated in Rome's Northern Italy Province; it's said to be the best wine from that province. It seems to suit your tastes well. We have many barrels in our carriages. When you leave, each of you can take two barrels with you." Maximus said heartily.

Cleobrotas thought it inappropriate and was about to refuse when Ciciliotes loudly said: "That's great, the wine is really good, but two barrels aren't enough!"

"Then add two more barrels for each person!" Maximus waved his hand and turned to the administrative officer: "Volenus, make sure that when the elders leave, some carriages help them carry the wine away."

"Understood, leader, I'll speak with Capito shortly," Volenus replied.

Karsipengpas was not wrong; this army listens to this young man's orders... Cleobrotas thought to himself as he watched this scene.

"Thank you, Leader Maximus, for your generosity!" Ciciliotes said happily.

"You've traveled over mountains and ridges; it's been very tough. It's only right for me to offer some gifts in return. Come, let me toast to you again!" Maximus lifted the wine jug once more.

"No, no, since you gave us such fine wine, we should be the ones to toast to you!" Ciciliotes responded graciously.

The two sides went back and forth, drinking for several rounds, and everyone gradually became more acquainted.

Maximus, seeing the atmosphere was just right, let out a wine-stifled hiccup and said loudly: "About Elder Cleobrotas' question earlier, I can now answer. Yes, even if we settle down, as long as there's a chance, I will still attack the Panloni people. Why, you ask?"

Maximus, with bleary eyes, scanned the crowd and said solemnly: "Gentlemen, do you know that we Illyrians are already on the edge of life and death!"

Maximus was satisfied to see everyone showing surprised expressions, then he picked up a ceramic pot that was on the tent cloth with food, and began to arrange it: "I'm not trying to scare you. Look here... Let's assume this is us Illyrians, this is Italy, already completely belonging to Rome, and in between is the narrow Adriatic Sea. On the upper left of the Illyria region is Rome's Northern Italy Province; the coastal areas of Illyria have already been taken over by Rome, becoming their Illyria Province. To the south of the Illyria region is Rome's Macedonia Province...

Aside from the Pannonians to the north and the Thracians to the east, Illyria is almost surrounded by Roman forces, but unlike the Thracians and Pannonians, we Illyrians are too close to Rome. Our pirate ships even threaten their navigation in the Adriatic Sea...

So, in the eyes of the Romans, we Illyrians are a big problem! To solve this problem, making the world Rome rules over more orderly, means turning the entire Illyria region into a Roman province!"

"This..." Even though Cleobrotas is called the "think tank of the Alde Tribe" by Great Chief Acoupaigos, he is actually quite ignorant about the world, being trapped in the mountains.

Maximus described the global landscape and Illyria's predicament in such vivid terms that it was like a heavy blow to his head, cracking open his hardened skull. He wanted to argue, but no words came out, as his subconscious told him: This young man speaks reasonably!

Others, including Karsipengpas, stood there utterly dumbfounded.

Maximus continued to bombard their minds: "The reason why the Romans haven't taken action against Illyria is that they have internal issues to resolve, such as the ongoing war with the Bendu people in Little Asia and the unresolved rebellion on the Iberian Peninsula... But Rome is too strong, and eventually, it will overcome these hurdles, freeing up its hands to deal with the little annoyance that is Illyria.

I heard Karsipengpas say that the Alde Tribe is quite impoverished now, with some tribesmen facing long-term hunger. I reckon that even if other tribes are slightly better off, they are not much improved. Once the mighty Roman legions invade, how long can the tribes of Illyria resist?!"

The envoys' faces changed.

"The barren mountains cannot accumulate wealth nor support a larger population. Only the plains centered around great rivers can accomplish this, and the Pannonians occupy fertile lands formed by two rivers, which I intend to seize!"

Maximus clenched his fist with a fierce swing: "If I succeed, I will use these lands to support more tribesmen and arm them with the wealth the land produces, so when the Romans arrive, we have the confidence to fight them with all our might! If I fail in the battle against the Pannonians, so be it; at least I tried..."

Maximus's words filled all present with a solemn and valorous feeling.

Cleobrotas looked at the rebel leader before him, this seasoned man could see the sincerity in his words. In his eyes, Maximus began to overlap with another person he had long admired, leading him to a myriad of emotions: they were both young, both having grand ambitions at this age!...

Originally, Cleobrotas wanted to question, "why are there many foreigners in Maximus's army," and assess from his answer whether he bore malice toward the Alde tribe. But now, he felt ashamed of his

trivial calculations. Under Maximus's guidance, his perspective expanded beyond the small Alde Tribe to the entire Illyria, even the entire Mediterranean...

This made him realize: settling this young man in the Alde Tribe might be the opportunity for the revitalization of the Alde Tribe or even the whole of Illyria! Even if he misjudged, it didn't matter; as the Great Chief said, "it's only a matter of dying a day earlier." If this young man has such courage, then why doesn't he!

Cleobrotas pondered over and over and finally made up his mind. He gave a deep cough and said solemnly: "Leader Maximus, after our tribe's discussion, we've decided to sell a piece of land to you. Here are three plots, you may choose one."

Saying this, he produced a small wooden board from his person and handed it over.

Karsipengpas looked at him in surprise. He thought the old man would dawdle there for a long time, but unexpectedly he made a decision so swiftly. He didn't think much of it, squeezed beside Maximus, and pointed at the roughly sketched map on the board, introducing in detail the situation of the three pieces of land.

Maximus did not expect his persuasion to take effect so quickly, but he suppressed the joy bubbling inside and listened carefully to Karsipengpas's introduction, while quietly discussing with Quintus and Flanitnus Ru.

It didn't take long for Maximus to make a decision.

"We choose to purchase the land of Validosi!" Maximus said loudly.

"Wonderful!" A man called Budocaribas shouted excitedly: "Leader Maximus, you have a good eye, Validosi is a good place!"

"Elder Budocaribas, could you tell me why it's so good?" Maximus asked with feigned interest.

"The place at Validosi is nestled against the mountains, with a large, fertile plain in front, and importantly, two rivers converge there... It has mountains, water, and land, meeting your needs!" Budocaribas said excitedly, as if boasting about his own treasure.

Maximus knew why he was acting so; Karsipengpas had discreetly told him that this abandoned land originally belonged to his village, so Maximus asked directly: "If this land is so good, why did Elder Budocaribas abandon it?"

Budocaribas blushed slightly and sighed: "I didn't want to abandon it, but there are several Pannonian villages to the northeast of that plain, and they occasionally invade Validosi. For the safety of the tribesmen, I had no choice but to give it up. However, since you, Leader Maximus, are willing to wage war with the Pannonians, I assume you won't fear them."

"Since you've all given up on Validosi, then I reckon it's now become Pannonian territory, isn't it?" Maximus asked further.

"The Pannonians haven't occupied Validosi, I can assure you of that!" Cleobrotas interjected: "The situation at Validosi is quite unique. Due to the two converging rivers, some years during the rainy season the rivers would flood, creating large marshlands, but during the hot summers, the tribesmen would revert the marshlands back into farmlands, and even the wheat yield would increase the following year... However, in recent years the floodwaters have persisted, turning all of Validosi into a swamp, rendering it impossible for the Pannonians to occupy it—"

"The Pannonians can't occupy it, but neither can we live in the swamp!" Fesaros exclaimed.

"Leader Maximus need not worry." Budocaribas explained earnestly: "At Validosi, apart from the marshlands, there are also sizable low hills on both sides, and their soil is just as fertile. The Pannonians prefer living on flatlands and don't like staying in elevated places, so they haven't occupied them. I think those hills can well accommodate you, Leader Maximus, and your army."

Cleobrotas concealed part of the truth: while it's true the Pannonians don't like living on mountains and are not adept at fighting in the hills, so when Illyrians retreated to the mountains, they ceased their attacks. However, the Pannonian tribes to the northeast of Validosi are different. Although they haven't occupied the hills of Validosi, they occasionally cross over and continue westward to harass the Alde tribe, which is why Budocaribas was so delighted when Maximus chose to purchase Validosi. If Maximus's army could block the Pannonians at Validosi, then his village could continue to exist without having to migrate south.

Karsipengpas hesitated for a moment; he didn't remind Maximus, as he was an elder of the Alde Tribe, and both publicly and privately, he hoped Maximus would choose Validosi to halt the Pannonian harassment of the Alde Tribe.

Maximus glanced at Karsipengpas and then at the other members of the envoy, smiled, and said: "Validosi looks good; we'll choose it! Once we finish this drink, our Pigeris and Alakosia will negotiate with you regarding the purchase of Validosi. I trust we can quickly reach an agreement that satisfies both parties."

Chapter 193: Covenant

Maximus was right, both parties had friendly intentions, so the agreement was quickly reached.

The drafted agreement is as follows: Article 1, Leader Maximus of Free Italy will purchase the land of Validosi from the Alde Tribe of Illyria for a price of eighty-three silver talents. Once the payment is made in full, Validosi and the surrounding land will permanently belong to Leader Maximus and his subordinates.

During the negotiations, the purchase price was the focus of the dispute. Pigeris reduced the price to below fifty silver talents on the grounds that "the core region of Validosi is a swamp and uninhabitable," while Cleobrotas and others argued that "although Validosi is now a swamp, once the climate improves, it is still suitable for living and farming," thus raising the price as much as possible. In the end, Maximus personally determined the price to avoid unnecessary disputes.

Over the past year, the Maximus Army first occupied Pompey, then seized Sarabia, and during this time looted countless farms, accumulating a great deal of wealth. Although a significant amount was spent on port trade, he later replenished his coffers by plundering the wealthy town of Padua, so dozens of talents were nothing to him. Winning the friendship of the Alde Tribe was more important.

Next is Article 2: The Alde Tribe and Leader Maximus with his army will form a defensive military alliance. If one party is attacked by an external enemy, the other party must send reinforcements to help repel the enemy.

Initially, Maximus hoped to form a comprehensive military alliance with the Alde Tribe, but Cleobrotas, considering Maximus's strong intention to attack the Pannonians, feared the Alde Tribe might get drawn

into a long-term war with the Pannonians—a loss it could hardly bear due to its weakened state. Thus, he insisted on altering the alliance to a defensive one.

Next is Article 3: Establish a market between the Alde Tribe and Maximus Army to allow both sides to freely trade again (this was Maximus's strong request);

Following is Article 4: Aside from the jointly established market, neither party may enter the other's territory without invitation (this was Cleobrotas's request, considering Maximus's army consisted of many outsiders, including foreigners, who might disrupt the various villages of the Alde);

Following is Article 5: If a dispute arises between the parties, it must be jointly handled by representatives designated by Leader Maximus and the Great Chief of the Alde Tribe; neither party may impose penalties on its own;

Following is Article 6: Allow free marriage between the parties, with no dowry required from the bride's side. (This was Maximus's request because his army had more men than women, and he had heard from Budocaribas that due to the long-running war with the Pannonians and frequent cases of people becoming pirates, the Alde Tribe had more women than men. Cleobrotas readily agreed, believing marriage would foster closer relations between the parties.)

Following is Article 7: If the Maximus Army defeats the Pannonians and occupies their land, the land, regardless of its previous ownership, will belong to Maximus and his subordinates. (This was naturally Maximus's strong request, which Cleobrotas did not oppose, as an active attack on the Pannonians by Maximus's army was what the Alde Tribe earnestly hoped for.)

The initial discussion was merely about land purchase, but it eventually turned into an alliance, an outcome that was only natural given both sides' intentions.

The agreement contained only seven articles, simply because Maximus did not wish to waste time discussing tedious details; he urgently needed to settle his army, which had been on the move and fighting for more than four months.

After the alliance and land purchase agreement was confirmed, the text was engraved on a sturdy wooden board (using both Latin and Greek languages, as the Illyrians did not have their own script but

were heavily influenced by the Macedonia Kingdom, and the nobles usually learned Greek). The agreement ended with the names of Acoupaigos and Maximus, followed by the names of all attendees.

According to Illyrian tradition, forming an alliance is one of the most important events for a tribe, and both parties need to conduct a sacred ritual to solemnly pledge to strictly abide by the agreement.

Maximus currently presented himself as an Illyrian, and his army was going to live on Illyrian territory, so he did not hesitate to express his willingness to make a sacred oath.

Thus, the Aldean Envoy Group set up a simple altar near a small stream to worship the Greek sea god Poseidon. For hundreds of years, the Illyrians, with piracy as their main occupation, had revered this sea god, hoping to receive his protection at sea.

At Cleobrotas's request, Maximus reluctantly sacrificed a white horse to Poseidon, and the group solemnly swore in front of the altar: to abide by the agreement and never violate it!

Chapter 194: Covenant_2

After the conclusion of the alliance agreement ceremony, Cleobrotas said: Once they return to the Alde Tribe, the terms of the alliance agreement will be inscribed on a large stone, buried at the border between the Validosi and Alde Tribal territories, as a permanent testament.

Maximus naturally agreed to this.

Then Cleobrotas asked him: The envoy will return to the Alde Tribe tomorrow, and if Leader Maximus is willing, he can lead the army to Validosi guided by them tomorrow. If Leader Maximus feels it is too rushed, they can rest a few more days here, and wait until arrangements are made at the Alde Tribe, then someone will be sent to guide them to Validosi.

Maximus's answer was naturally: Depart with them tomorrow morning.

For this reason, Cleobrotas sent a few young attendants in the envoy to rush back to the Alde Tribe at once to inform Great Chief Acoupaigos and the various villages about the alliance with the Maximus Army and their upcoming relocation to Validosi, to avoid misunderstandings when the Maximus Army enters the mountains.

After everything was arranged, Maximus instructed the attendants to notify every person in the army: After dinner, gather at the clearing north of the camp, he had something important to announce.

At dusk, as the setting sun descended in the west, its afterglow lingered on the horizon. The birds seeking food had returned to the forest, and the insects in the grass began to sing. People sat on the grassy ground that had been scorched by the sun all day, still holding its warmth, black clouds of mosquitoes swirled overhead, but also attracted countless dragonflies and bats to hunt. The sounds of people's discussions and the buzzing of mosquitoes intertwined into a unique symphony of a summer night.

The members of the Aldean Envoy stood on a protruding large stone not far away, overlooking the densely packed crowd.

"I counted several times, it seems there are only about 14,000 people here, even counting the soldiers left to guard the camp, it still falls far short of 20,000," Cleobrotas said.

"It seems despite their victory over the Romans, the losses were significant!" Karsipengpas sighed.

"But it also greatly trained them," Budocaribas interjected, his village having long fought against the Pannonians, he had plenty of experience: "Look at them, though there are so many people, they don't seem chaotic at all, sitting quite orderly, large patches with gaps in between as if forming a formation, even the elderly and women can do this, that is something an ordinary army absolutely cannot achieve!"

"That's not all," Ciciliotes continued: "Look at the camp they've built, just a day and they've made it like this, it's something an ordinary army cannot achieve! And their soldiers guarding the camp, as well as those stationed on the periphery, are armored from head to toe!"

At the banquet, I secretly asked that fellow named Fesaros, and he told me, every soldier in their army is equipped the same, which is quite extraordinary! Think about us, more than half of our clan members don't even have armor, and the shields in their hands are just simple wooden boards—"

"No wonder they can defeat the Romans." Cleobrotas interrupted Ciciliotes, having grown weary of the elders' laments: "It seems Leader Maximus dares to wage war against the Pannonians because he has the confidence!"

"That's right." Budocaribas smiled: "Actually, the Pannonians are only slightly stronger than us, but they certainly cannot achieve what they have."

"Hey, Leader Maximus has come out!" Karsipengpas remarked.

Maximus was seen entering the small clearing in the center of the seated crowd, and to everyone's surprise, the lively venue quickly quieted down.

The Aldean Envoy was surprised because they knew very well that only a leader of high prestige could achieve this, obviously, they had underestimated Maximus's influence over this army.

"Brothers and sisters!" Maximus's eyes were sharp, his voice loud: "We set off from Sarabia, marched northward, participated in three major battles, experienced multiple disturbances, traversed thousands of miles with hardship and toil, for over four months our army has finally left the region controlled by the Romans and arrived here..."

Maximus paused, with all his might shouted: "This is a great victory! Your heroic deeds will certainly be sung among all the people oppressed by the Romans, inspiring them to bravely rise and resist!"

"Roar!!! Roar!!! Roar!!!..." The excited shouts of the soldiers resounded throughout the venue, startling the resting birds in the forest.

Maximus gestured down with both hands, signaling everyone to calm down, and waited a while before continuing: "You've come so far, fought for so long, are you tired now?!"

"Tired!!!" After the soldiers shouted out their feelings in unison, a Centurion suddenly stood up and shouted loudly: "Honorable Leader Maximus, we're a little tired, but more so we are confused, because we don't know where we are going?! Are we going to continue marching like this?!"

"That's right!!! That's right!!! We don't know where we're going?!!..." His words resonated with everyone.

Maximus looked at the Centurion, and loudly said: "You're Tini Bazus from Pontus, right?"

"Yes, le... leader your memory is remarkable!" Tini Bazus, rather than being delighted that Maximus actually recognized him, appeared nervous, inwardly grumbling: Tini Bazus, when will you ever change your big mouth, now that Leader Maximus remembers you, expect to be punished!

While Tini Bazus was lamenting to himself, Maximus said with a smile: "What a good question you raised! I think everyone present has the same confusion, right?!"

"Right!!!..." Everyone responded in unison.

"Tonight, I'm here to tell you where our ultimate destination is?!" Maximus pointed emphatically to the mountain range to his right, saying passionately: "Beyond these high mountains, on the other side, lies the territory of the Illyrian people, and our new homeland is right there!

Today, I have already signed an alliance agreement with the envoy from the Alde Tribe of Illyria, and purchased a piece of land in their tribe called Validosi, which will be our new home! Look, the Aldean Envoy is standing right there, tomorrow they will lead us to Aridosi!"

Everyone simultaneously turned their heads to look at the Aldean Envoy standing on the large rock.

Under the gaze of thousands of curious eyes, Cleobrotas and the others barely kept their composure and waved their hands in greeting.

"Leader, quickly tell us, what kind of place is Validosi?!" Someone impatiently asked aloud.

"It's a flat and fertile land, where two rivers converge, and due to flooding over the past two years, it has become a shallow swamp, but I believe that as long as we put effort into managing it, Validosi will quickly restore its original state! On either side of the swamp are low hills with equally fertile land, and to the west of the swamp are dense forests and mountain ranges, all this will belong to us!..."

Maximus seriously recounted the previously described condition of Validosi by Cleobrotas, and the audience occasionally emitted exclamations of admiration.

"Leader, why are we moving into the mountains?!" Someone in the crowd loudly asked, probably a soldier from the coastal areas.

"That's because the Romans have already controlled the entire Mediterranean, only on the other side of the mountain have the Romans never entered! Once we get there, with the support of the Alde allies, we don't have to wander around or fight continually, and can settle down securely to build our own home.

Of course, we won't be without enemies there either the Pannonians north of Validosi have always coveted this land, but since we can defeat the Romans, I believe we can also defeat the Pannonians, don't you agree?!"

Chapter 195: Heading to the Destination

"Yes!!!..." Everyone shouted confidently.

"When we reach Validosi, at first, we might still live in tents in the camp for a while. Once we start cultivating the land and measuring it, each of you will be given a plot. Then you can build your own houses, farm your own land, and herd your cattle and sheep..."

Maximus's words once again triggered a wave of enthusiastic cheers.

"Leader, will us women get land too?!" Acronis, sitting in the front, stood up and voiced the heartfelt question of all the women present.

"Of course, women will also be given land!" Maximus answered loudly without hesitation: "Our soldiers fight the Romans at the front, while our women tirelessly cook food, sew clothes, and tend to the wounded at the back... Our success in arriving here is not only due to the soldiers but also thanks to the hard work of the women and the elderly! So, I said earlier that everyone will get an equal share of land!"

"Long live Leader Maximus!!!..." Amid the women's cheers, someone suddenly shouted: "Leader Maximus, I love you!"

The hall was immediately filled with laughter.

Maximus rubbed his nose a bit awkwardly.

"Leader, how much land will each of us get?!" someone asked eagerly.

"The specific amount of land each person will receive will only be determined after we reach Validosi and finish measuring the land. But here, I can clearly tell you it will be no less than what a regular Roman citizen owns!" Maximus declared emphatically.

"Moreover, if we defeat the Pannonians and seize their more fertile and vast lands, then the amount of land each of you owns will multiply several times!

Brothers and sisters, you were once deprived of land, lost your homes, burdened with huge debts, reduced to slaves or refugees, oppressed by nobles and rich men, with relatives dying tragically, and yourselves driven like cattle and sheep... Your first half of life was full of suffering!..."

Tears glistened in Maximus's eyes as his voice dropped, then suddenly rose again: "But starting today, I hope each of you will live in a luxurious house, with vast lands, granaries piled high with wheat, pens full of cattle and sheep, fine horses to ride when going out, respected in the countryside, and welcomed home by family... You will have many children, who are smart and filial, taught by teachers... This is not only my hope, but I will do my utmost to make these hopes a reality!

Brothers and sisters, I once led you to raid the fortified Pompey, capture the populous Sarabia, our troops have eaten, dressed, and been armed better than any other, we've performed better in battle, suffered fewer deaths... I have led you to create so many miracles, so are you willing to continue following me, and with me, together achieve the beautiful future I just described?!"

"Leader Maximus, we are willing to follow you till death!!!!..." The whole venue erupted with loud cheers, everyone with teary eyes, excited beyond belief, crying and shouting, seemingly mad.

Even the people in the town of Tarsatica to the south heard the thunderous shouting and thought the rebel army was about to attack, scaring them into hiding indoors and locking windows and doors tightly.

Maximus had no idea how much his final speech affected everyone present. By deep night, when everyone was supposed to be asleep, many were too excited to sleep.

"Samoras, are bugs biting your ass? You're tossing and turning, keeping me awake!" Tini Bazus watched the dark silhouette beside him and cursed in a low voice.

But Samoras didn't quiet down and instead moved closer, whispering: "Tini Bazus, I was just thinking, like Leader Maximus said, when I have plenty of money, should I buy sheep or cows?"

Tini Bazus was speechless and said irritably: "Isn't that a minor thing to think about? Just buy some of each!"

"But I know how to raise cows, not sheep."

"Then just buy cows, don't buy sheep."

"But I want to buy them, just afraid I might not raise them well."

"If you don't know how to raise sheep, you can learn. Aren't there people in our team who used to be shepherds?"

"Yeah, you reminded me, I've decided, I'll buy some of both cows and sheep."

"If you've figured it out, then quickly sleep and stop talking!"

"But how many cows and sheep should I buy?"

Tini Bazus rolled his eyes in annoyance, just about to scold when another soldier sat up excitedly and said: "Captain, once Leader Maximus gives me land and I have money, I'm not buying cows or sheep, I'll first find a wife and have children. I think the nurse Arela from the Medical Camp is really nice—"

"Arela is certainly nice, but she's not interested in you. However, last time when I was injured, she was particularly good to me!" another soldier suddenly interrupted: "I think I might actually marry her—"

"Stop dreaming! She's a nurse and treats all injured soldiers like that—"

"Enough, both of you shut up!" Tini Bazus exclaimed, annoyed: "If you two keep fooling around and let others laugh at our team, I'll make you two carry everyone's gear tomorrow!"

Tini Bazus's anger didn't quiet the tent down, as another soldier came over and asked: "Captain, once you have land and money, what do you want to do?"