

Quick Transmigration: Underdog Turns out to be Untouchable

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After this incident, Fang Zhongyi also became alert, and he explained to Qin Shuangshuang the handling of Xiao Xia's family and the background and consequences. Before leaving, he repeatedly warned Fang Yaoyao not to run around recklessly no matter what happened, and not to be willful anymore.

Even without Fang Zhongyi's warning, Fang Yaoyao was already terrified from this experience, and it seemed that she had matured a lot in an instant.

In the past, although Fang Zhongyi and Qin Shuangshuang knew that people outside were starving and resorting to cannibalism, for them, it was as easy as going to Da Shan to find food, so they had never been truly hungry, and Fang Yaoyao could never understand what it felt like to be so hungry that one would resort to cannibalism!

Fang Yaoyao didn't know the feeling of hunger and couldn't feel the fear brought by the rumors of cannibalism. But this time, being deceived by her former good friends and almost being eaten made her truly feel how terrifying the world could be and how hunger could turn people into such demons!

Not long after Fang Zhongyi left, the village chief also came by, mainly to talk to Qin Shuangshuang about the results of handling the previous disturbances in the village. The refugees were sent to the government, and Mr. Qin's family was driven out of the village under everyone's watch.

The Qin Family indeed had a lot of grain, and if it was used to make porridge, it would be enough for the entire village to eat for more than a month. The villagers did not touch this grain, and let the Qin Family take it away with them by cart.

However, although the Qin Family left the village, they didn't dare to go far and settled in a dilapidated temple not far from the Qin Family Village, seemingly hoping to continue to seek shelter under the name of the Qin Family Village.

Even after committing such vicious acts, the Qin Family still had the audacity to cling to the Qin Family Village's shelter, which was quite irritating to the villagers. However,

since they had left the village and were no longer part of the Qin Clan, everyone just considered them out of sight, out of mind, pretending the family did not exist.

After these two incidents, Qin Shuangshuang felt that the matter of going to the border city couldn't be delayed any longer. As she understood, it wouldn't be long before the court gave the order forcing the common people to go to the border city. Since they had to go anyway, taking the initiative to set out would definitely yield more benefits.

Now, Qin Shuangshuang had gained a certain level of prestige in the village. Therefore, when she said she wanted to gather everyone in the village to discuss an important matter, everyone quickly gathered in front of the ancestral hall, showing their respect.

The village chief and several elders of the clan, including Qin Shuangshuang, sat on chairs, while the villagers casually found places to sit or lean against.

Qin Shuangshuang felt somewhat heavy-hearted because she knew that what she was going to say today wouldn't be easily accepted by everyone.

"Most of you here are my elders and older siblings. Many families have helped me and my mother. I have always remembered this in my heart and dared not forget it for a moment, so what I am going to say is definitely not to harm everyone."

"Shuangshuang girl, just say what you have to say. You have saved all of us before, and no one would think you would harm everyone!"

The one speaking was an elder of the clan, the second oldest student in the clan besides the village chief. His two young grandsons were very promising and were now scholars. This elder had already somewhat understood what Qin Shuangshuang wanted to say as soon as she began speaking.

Previously he didn't agree with Qin Shuangshuang's idea due to one reason: there likely wouldn't be good teachers at the border city to teach his grandsons, which made him reluctant to go.

But now, seeing that the issue of cannibalism had emerged for so long and the government was still refusing to release grain, he, being a scholar and more knowledgeable than ordinary villagers, understood that the Emperor was serious this time.

The elder understood that if the Emperor had made up his mind, not even the starvation driving the people to cannibalism or the death of all the severely affected villagers would matter to him.

The situation was forcing people to move, and by this time, the elder was ready to go to the border. It was better to go early than to provoke the Emperor and be forced to go.

His two young grandsons, having been influenced and educated by him, were also scholars, knowledgeable, and didn't oppose going to the border city. They were even mature enough to comfort their grandfather, saying that they could take the scholar examination at the Prefecture City at the border. Given the lack of literary culture at the border, they might even find it easier to pass the exam there.

Although this elder's family was willing to go to the border, they couldn't persuade the whole village, and could only be anxious in their hearts. Now seeing Qin Shuangshuang, who had mentioned twice about going to the border, gathering everyone with such solemnity, they knew she wanted to bring up the old topic again.

The elder quickly interjected to pave the way for Qin Shuangshuang, hoping that the villagers would be less resistant to what she would say next.

Everyone already remembered the kindness of Qin Shuangshuang, and when the elder mentioned it, they enthusiastically invited her to speak, assuring her they were not ungrateful people who would misunderstand her.

Qin Shuangshuang gratefully glanced at the elder, cleared her throat, and began, "What I want to talk about today is us heading to the border city."

As soon as Qin Shuangshuang said this, many people frowned. Even at this point, many preferred to cling to a vague hope rather than go to the border city.

Qin Shuangshuang didn't want to go back and forth in reasoning with everyone, so without waiting for anyone to speak or refuse, she directly poured out everything she wanted to say.

"I know many people think that with so many peasants, the Emperor would definitely not let us starve. But at this stage, apart from our village, people outside are starving to the point of cannibalism. Have you seen the Emperor opening the granaries to distribute grain?"

Qin Shuangshuang's words made the villagers' faces look grim. Apparently, even though the common people were starving to eat humans, there were no signs of the Emperor retracting the order.

Qin Shuangshuang continued before anyone could speak, "Even assuming that the Emperor couldn't bear to let us commoners starve, the order to resettle people to the border is an imperial edict. The way we're acting now, taken to the extreme, is tantamount to defying the decree! This is provoking the Emperor's authority. The Emperor is the supreme being, and his dignity cannot be violated. Moreover, his words must be honored without deviation. Do our lives really outweigh the Emperor's dignity?"

The villagers' faces grew even grimmer, especially some of the elderly, whose expressions were not only grim but also solemnly heavy.

The current dynasty is a new one, and being a newly founded dynasty, its politics are naturally not corrupt, and most officials are filled with zeal. Therefore, both the Emperor and officials have treated the common people well, to the point that many elders had forgotten the horrific days of the previous dynasty when countless corpses lay across the land due to a single word from the Emperor!

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Thinking of the days they lived during the previous dynasty, the old men couldn't help but shiver, suddenly filled with fear. How did they become so possessed, believing they could threaten the Emperor!

The current Emperor is the second Emperor of the founding dynasty. Shortly after ascending the throne, he implemented several beneficial policies for the people and cherished them greatly.

No matter how much the Emperor cherishes the people, he is still the Emperor. If the common people disobey, he may not care about their lives!

Considering the commoners who died on a whim of the Emperor during the previous dynasty, the elders' firm hearts began to waver.

Although the border city is frightening, it may not lead to death upon going, but staying and waiting for the Emperor's grace may lead to true starvation!

Or worse, they might be driven by hunger to forsake human decency, turning on each other until everyone perishes!

In truth, these old men overthought themselves into fear. The Emperor's aim is to encourage people to go to the border city voluntarily, not to let them die. However, being high above, the Emperor had no idea that in just two months of food shortages, people had resorted to cannibalism.

The county official didn't think to report initially; when he did, the Emperor was shocked and angrily ordered General Wuwei to forcibly escort all disaster victims to the border city.

Qin Shuangshuang also noticed the elders in the village were wavering and felt secretly delighted. Most young people had some adventurous spirit; although they resisted going to the border city, they weren't the hardest to persuade.

All along, these elders were the most resistant to going to the border city. One reason was their attachment to the place they had lived for most of their lives; another was the chaotic life they had lived when young. They yearned for stability in their old age and didn't want to live unpredictable days.

Seeing that the scare tactics had almost worked, Qin Shuangshuang started talking about the positives. She couldn't always frighten them, or they'd be lifeless, as if going to die if they went.

She wanted to lead everyone to the border city to improve their lives, not to endure hardships. But the border city currently had nothing, so starting a good life initially wouldn't be without hardships.

In such a situation, if everyone had a positive mindset and felt hopeful about the future, then enduring hardships wouldn't be bitter. But if they were pessimistic, no matter how much better than here, they wouldn't feel that life was good.

"Actually, we are all afraid of going to the border city, thinking it extremely frightening. But look at our current life. Is there any difference from being at the border city? Even our current life is scarier; at least the border city never forced people to cannibalism."

The crowd froze for a moment and, upon reflection, suddenly realized it was true. They were living as if in Hell, unsure which was more frightening compared to the border city.

"Moreover, our Emperor isn't unloving. Over the years, how many good policies were brought out? The Emperor isn't a tyrant from the previous dynasty, indifferent to life and death. Although I can't see through the Emperor's mind, when he moves us to the border, is it truly to send us to die?"

Upon hearing Qin Shuangshuang, everyone pondered again. Indeed, although the current Emperor is young, he wholeheartedly cares for his people. Just a couple of years ago, when the Ling River's heavy rain flooded the banks, the Emperor personally inspected the situation.

If this were the previous dynasty, the Emperor's inspection surely would have worsened the people's suffering. But the current Emperor directly decreed that local governments shouldn't disturb the citizens when welcoming him and simply brought a team of soldiers lightly to Ling River to inspect the disaster himself.

Until the Emperor returned to the palace, the commoners knew he had visited, without disturbance or excessive expenditure from the National Treasury. He truly cared for the people, and his travels weren't for pleasure but to personally survey the damage.

In recent years since his ascent, such occurrences are frequent. Thus, while he is the Emperor who leaves the palace most often, never has an official blocked or protested with their life like the previous dynasty.

Initially, when thinking about the border city, everyone's first thought was about the Emperor sending them to die. But after Qin Shuangshuang's words and further pondering the current Emperor's wisdom, everyone felt enlightened. Indeed, how could

such an Emperor, who cherishes his people and resources, possibly relocate decent commoners to the border city to die?

Compared to these ordinary villagers, several educated Scholars actually felt more enlightened, often discussing national affairs while studying with peers.

The current Emperor is ambitious. Shortly after taking the throne, he abolished the custom of marital alliances with the barbarians and sent heavy troops to the borders, fiercely battling the barbarians. The one he dispatched was Qi Weibin, a Great General of humble origins, whom he personally promoted.

This Qi Weibin was a master at warfare. He fought several battles with the barbarians and won repeatedly. He truly frightened the barbarians, who for a long time didn't dare send large forces to harass the borders.

Originally, the Emperor intended to crush the barbarians in one fell swoop. But suddenly, the long-dormant Supreme Emperor inexplicably stirred up trouble, insisting the Emperor couldn't continue against the barbarians, arguing that military actions brought the people to ruin and prevented their rest, which was against the will of Heaven.

Word has it that the Emperor, troubled beyond words, had no choice but to adopt a soft approach to appease the barbarians, opening a Mutual Market at the border to exchange the salt and tea, which the barbarians were most lacking, for their cattle and sheep.

At this point, these Scholars realized that relocating to the border was undoubtedly to strengthen it in preparation for the future Mutual Market. If that were the case, then going to the border city was actually a good thing!

Firstly, the preferential policies given by the Emperor were truly appealing. If they didn't go to the border, they would never encounter such favorable policies in their lives!

Secondly, if truly a Mutual Market opened, the barbarians, even if harassing the border, wouldn't disrupt the market, as they also needed the resources exchanged there. It's said that the barbarians harassed the border yearly, partly due to their inherent aggression and partly due to severe material shortages.

Thus, going to the border actually wasn't about being sent to die but was a great opportunity. Upon realizing this, these Scholars were thrilled, knowing they couldn't stay and wait to starve after food ran out! They must head to the border immediately, even crawling if required!

From then on, Qin Shuangshuang didn't need to step up herself, simply watching as a few Scholars and the village chief, along with the two old students as family elders, joined forces, laying out facts and reasoning, persuading and encouraging, quickly

igniting Qin Family Village's residents with fervor and determination, eager to build their new home at the border and live a wealthier life!

Since going to the border city was decided, it had to be as soon as possible. Everyone dispersed and went home to pack their most valuable things, ready to take them along.

At Qin Shuangshuang's house, Mrs. Bai and Qin Miao busied themselves, while Qin Shuangshuang went with Fang Yaoyao to find her master, Fang Zhongyi!

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Qin Shuangshuang and Fang Yaoyao had a more important task, which was to persuade Fang Zhongyi to go with them to the border city no matter what!

On the road, Qin Shuangshuang and Fang Yaoyao discussed that if Fang Zhongyi stubbornly refused to go to the border city, they would throw a tantrum and roll on the ground. No matter what, even if they had to drag him, they would drag Fang Zhongyi to the border city!

To their surprise, Qin Shuangshuang and Fang Yaoyao thought it would be difficult to persuade Fang Zhongyi. However, as soon as they started talking, before they could use any of their pre-planned tactics, Fang Zhongyi sighed and readily agreed.

Fang Zhongyi agreed so readily that Qin Shuangshuang and Fang Yaoyao felt like they had punched into empty air, leaving them inexplicably disappointed. They had been prepared to throw their dignity aside and roll around on the ground, but they succeeded so easily!

Looking at his daughter and the apprentice he had raised as a daughter, who wore a confused yet inexplicably disappointed expression, Fang Zhongyi's long-standing depression suddenly lifted.

It's undeniable that Fang Zhongyi, due to his abilities, always felt a sense of responsibility towards the Fang Family Village, like leading everyone out of difficulties in times of crisis and upholding moral standards.

However, today, when dealing with Xiao Xia's family, although everyone appeared very angry, Fang Zhongyi still felt that many people had a restless look in their eyes and dissatisfaction with him for not allowing them to eat human flesh, which was chilling to him!

Fang Zhongyi was also disheartened. Unlike others who feared going to the border city, Fang Zhongyi had skills and wasn't afraid of not surviving wherever he went. Naturally, he didn't fear the border city.

After settling things with the Qin Family Village and Fang Zhongyi, the next issue was the journey. Although everyone wanted to set off as soon as possible, migrating the whole village wasn't something that could be done overnight.

While packing, people were reluctant to leave anything behind, even a broken bowl. If possible, they wished they could carry their houses with them. But realistically, not everything could be taken, and they had to travel light and simple.

As a result, just the matter of deciding what to take and what to leave took several days! For a long journey, carrying everything would be exhausting. Luckily, there were four or five families in the village that raised cattle. During the famine, while people had no food, they could still find some dry grass to feed the cattle.

Although people had planned to slaughter the cattle for food except for Uncle He, who treated his cattle like family, before they could do so, Qin Shuangshuang brought out some dried meat, saving the village's cattle, proving useful now.

The families with cattle had carts, and they loaded the things they needed to bring onto the carts, with the majority being dried meat and wild vegetables, which were placed at the bottom of the carts, with each family's items covering them on top.

The Qin Family Village's decision to move the entire village naturally caused a big stir, and nearby villages soon became aware and mocked them as fools and idiots. They couldn't believe anyone would voluntarily seek death by going to the border city, convinced that the Emperor would eventually compromise if they just held out a bit longer.

The people of the Qin Family Village, although angry at being mocked, chose to ignore it to avoid unnecessary troubles.

The commotion in the village not only alerted the surrounding villages but also caught the attention of the County Magistrate, who had been monitoring the refugees' movements.

Initially, the County Magistrate was worried, fearing the Qin Family Village might attempt to go to the Capital City by force!

After disasters, refugees often chose to head towards the Capital City. In the past, many villagers had planned to go there but were stopped by the County Magistrate because the Emperor had ordered that refugees were not allowed to go anywhere other than the border city.

The County Magistrate rushed over anxiously, only to find it was good news. It turned out that the Qin Family Village was responding to the court's order to migrate and voluntarily heading to the border city. The County Magistrate was especially pleased to

see that everyone in the village seemed willing, without a hint of reluctance, which delighted him.

If the Emperor's orders were not executed promptly on his watch, it could affect the County Magistrate's future career. Seeing the Qin Family Village being so sensible, the County Magistrate not only immediately issued thirty taels of household silver per person, a special grant from the court for those willing to go to the border city, but, in his excitement, he couldn't help but generously provide five ox-carts and a whole cartload of food for the villagers to eat on their journey.

Receiving so much at once made everyone overjoyed. Thirty taels of silver! Excluding daily expenses, it would take a family two good years of farming to save that much, and now they were getting thirty taels per person, which was something they couldn't even dream of!

Qin Shuangshuang, over the years, had saved up over a thousand taels of silver from selling herbs she gathered, which were now converted into national silver notes issued by a court-established silver bank and hidden on her person, so she wasn't impressed by the few dozen taels. Fang Zhongyi, who was even wealthier than Qin Shuangshuang, naturally wasn't swayed by the few dozen taels either.

What this master-apprentice pair valued more was the cartload of grain that couldn't be bought even with money now. They calculated that with this much grain, along with the dried meat and wild vegetables Qin Shuangshuang had previously saved, it would be enough to feed the whole village for four to five months if they had two meals a day.

After bustling around for six or seven days, everyone finally set off on their journey. Before leaving, Fang Zhongyi went to the Fang Family Village to gather all the villagers and informed them of his plan to go to the border city, asking if anyone wished to go with him.

Although Fang Zhongyi's words usually held more sway in the village than those of the village chief, this time, few responded to his call. In the end, only seven families, who were closest to Fang Zhongyi, decided to pack up and go with him to the border city.

As for the Qin Family Village, about ten women who had married into the village managed to persuade their natal families to move entirely with the Qin Family Village to the border city.

After finally getting everything ready, they set off in a grand procession with ten or so carts given by the County Magistrate and those already existing in their village, along with a crowd of people leaving the Qin Family Village in a spectacular formation.

The entire Qin Family, who had been living in the dilapidated temple, came to witness the scene. Watching the departing crowd with their usual disdainful gaze, they seemed to view them all as fools!

From afar, Qin Shuangshuang watched her family, who seemed to believe they were the only sober ones among a crowd of drunkards, and she sneered coldly!

The Qin Family Village people were still there, and the Qin Family, living off them, with so many people eyeing them would not dare to really make a move. But now that everyone was leaving, only a few of them were left, with so much grain hidden in their home. The surrounding villagers and common people were so starved that they couldn't be distinguished from demons in Hell. Qin Shuangshuang didn't need to imagine the fate that awaited the family after they had all departed!

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Before setting out, Qin Shuangshuang and Fang Zhongyi carefully planned the journey. It would not be a short trip from Qin Family Village to the border city, with three major State Mansions to pass along the way.

These people were so starved that they resembled living skeletons, a gust of wind could carry them away. Even though all their belongings were loaded on the ox carts, and they traveled light, they could still only cover a few miles a day. It was estimated that reaching the border city would take no less than three months.

Only after setting out did they realize their food supply was insufficient. Qin Shuangshuang initially thought that with everyone eating two meals a day, the food would last until they reached the border city. However, she discovered that even without burdens, after a day of travel, two meals were inadequate.

Barely two days into the journey, with not much ground covered, two villagers fell ill directly because the minimal food intake was too little. Their already emaciated bodies couldn't handle the exertion.

Regrettably, the ration of two meals a day had to be increased to three, with portions increased to almost full servings. Fortunately, after laying on the ox cart for three or four days, the two sick individuals gradually recovered without major issues.

Not knowing beforehand, only after starting the journey did they realize the disastrous impact was extensive. Despite the group's slow pace, covering barely ten miles a day due to weakness, after ten days on the road, the desolation persisted. Often, disaster victims would approach the Qin Family Village's group with pitiful faces to beg for food!

The food on the cart seemed plentiful, but they didn't know how long it would take to leave the disaster area. Adding to that, their own group had many mouths to feed, leaving them no choice but to advise these victims to head for the border city, where government aid awaited to stop them from starving to death!

Of course, these disaster victims didn't heed the advice. Despite their attempts to persuade them with broken mouths, these victims weren't like the learned people from

Qin Family Village, guided by Qin Shuangshuang to understand the situation. Naturally, they wouldn't listen!

Some disaster victims started cursing maliciously when refused food, their words so venomous that it made one want to slap them dead out of rage! Such repeated incidents wore out the group's sympathy completely!

Now, whenever they saw people begging for food, everyone would simply ignore them. If anyone dared to approach and pester them, they would deliberately scare them off, as they saw no pity for those who had a way out yet preferred to starve to the point of cannibalism without taking it!

In the blink of an eye, the group had been traveling towards the border city for a month and a half, but had only covered just over a thousand miles from Qin Family Village. The main reason for the slow pace was that everyone was physically weak at first, managing to cover only a few dozen miles a day at best.

Later, as food and drink became more plentiful and their health improved, their pace gradually increased. Recently, they had managed to cover more than forty miles a day.

What delighted everyone further was the sight improving as they left Qin Family Village; about two hundred miles down the road, the severity of the disaster decreased. Now, their eyes greeted the vibrant lushness of summer greenery.

They vividly remembered the first time they reached a town where food could be bought; everyone cheered and wept with joy! Then, they raided all the food shops in that small town and collectively spent several silver taels to buy enough food to fill two large ox carts!

Then they celebrated all night! Everyone gorged themselves until their bellies were round! With the thirty taels of silver relocation allowance from the court, plus their previous household savings, they didn't hesitate to indulge extravagantly. Even the oxen pulling the carts were treated to a feast!

The journey subsequently became smoother. With full bellies, everyone's recovery sped up, which naturally increased their travel speed.

That day, they passed by a verdant, densely vegetated mountain area. Incidentally, the cured meat they had with them had run out for several days, and Qin Shuangshuang was growing tired of the repetitive diet. Seeing the lush and bountiful mountain stirred her desire to hunt for some fresh game to change their flavor.

Once this thought struck, Qin Shuangshuang couldn't resist. During the midday rest, she went into the mountains alone, not venturing far, intending to hunt some game on the outskirts!

Qin Shuangshuang primarily targeted three types of game: wild chickens, wild rabbits, and wild boars. Wild chickens and rabbits reproduced easily, especially rabbits, which could have a few to more than ten kits a month in a litter.

As for wild boars, apart from also reproducing prolifically, Qin Shuangshuang liked pork, and wild boars were highly destructive to crops.

Many farmers living at the foot of the mountains equated their loathing for wild boars with locusts. Despite wild boars being less numerous than locusts, their destructiveness wasn't far off! So, Qin Shuangshuang often hunted these specific animals.

Qin Shuangshuang did encounter tigers, black bears, and deer before, but she had a soft spot for fluffy creatures. She couldn't bring herself to harm any cute, furry animal.

This was evident when she decisively killed a wild boar but merely knocked a cute deer unconscious, clearly showing her preference. Thus, her focus on hunting wild boars was partly because they weren't cute. Moreover, wild boars often ventured down the mountain, making it easy to encounter them on the outskirts!

Similarly this time, Qin Shuangshuang had barely entered the mountain when she was lucky enough to hunt a large wild boar. This boar, ordinary as it was, seemed to weigh over six hundred pounds, robust and hefty. When Qin Shuangshuang carried the wild boar out, everyone cheered; there would be meat to eat again!

Qin Sheng coincidentally had his sharp pig-slaughtering knife with him, promptly stepping forward to bleed and butcher it. Naturally, as the blood was being drained, some villagers brought wooden basins to catch the blood, which was a prized commodity that no one was willing to waste.

As they collected the blood, they sprinkled in a handful of salt, stirring as it bled. They placed the stirred blood basin on sun-heated stones. Mixed with pre-seasoned water or hot broth from cooking meat, they filled the intestines with it, making blood sausages.

However, as they prepared to boil water to singe the hair and make the blood sausages, they realized their water supply was running low, and there was no water source nearby. They eventually decided, based on previous inquiries from locals, that the nearest county was just over ten miles ahead.

Being voluntary migrants, every city they reached provided a ration of food. Though not much, it was enough for a few days. Thus, they decided to pause at the county for rest and to find water.

Boosted spirits naturally quickened their pace; in just over half an hour, they reached the county.

Sentry soldiers were stationed at the city gates, primarily for tax collection. Ordinary common people didn't have to pay entry tax, but those leading carts or carrying trade goods had to pay taxes, with amounts varying according to their cargo.

Although Qin Shuangshuang's group was cart-driven, they weren't traders, but migrants, and thus exempt from taxes. Nevertheless, a gatekeeper eyed the conspicuously massive wild boar on the ox cart with greed before stepping forward to block their entry!

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The small leader led two soldiers guarding the city gate, circling around a few ox carts in the caravan, especially around Uncle He's cart, because there was a big wild boar on it!

The more the small leader looked at the wild boar, the more he coveted it. He couldn't help but glance sideways at everyone before coughing.

In a long, drawn-out tone, he said, "You have so much stuff on your carts, you'll need to pay an entry tax. Seeing as you're outsiders and don't know our local customs, I'll kindly inform you: everyone has to pay a tax to enter the city. For such large carts like yours, each should pay at least a hundred coins to get in."

One hundred coins per cart, with fourteen ox carts in total, meant one thousand four hundred coins, a small tael and a half of silver! How could the entry tax be so expensive? It was practically daylight robbery!

For a moment, everyone was indignant, but the mighty dragon cannot suppress the local snake. They couldn't do anything against the small leader trying to extort them, and they certainly couldn't skip entering the city. They still needed to pass through the county to reach the border city.

However, if they actually gave them money, while not impossible to afford, the thought of it was infuriating. They've passed through major state mansions and county cities before, never having to pay a tax, and even receiving the court's grain allocated to them as common people willingly going to the border city!

They weren't willing to give money, yet couldn't proceed without paying, leaving everyone at a loss for a solution, stuck facing the city gate. The small leader, having done such things many times, wasn't in a hurry, swaggering while waiting for them to compromise.

Initially not planning to get involved, Qin Shuangshuang, seeing the situation, could only step forward. They couldn't actually spend a tael and a half of silver just to enter a city! In her past life, Qin Shuangshuang had traveled around with various masters and had seen such things before.

She stepped forward, first gently picking up the wild boar and tossing it aside onto an empty space. With a thud, it seemed the ground trembled, then she drew a sickle, easily slicing off the boar's massive head as if reaping wheat!

Qin Shuangshuang, holding the boar's head in one hand and the sickle that gleamed with a sharp light for slicing the boar's head in the other, approached the small leader, smiled slightly, and said, "Brother, we are disaster-stricken people relocated to the border. We spent all our silver during the calamities back at home, and we truly have no money to pay the entry tax. To be frank, these ox carts were gifted by our County Magistrate when we left, and the grain on the road was provided by passing state mansions and county cities. Fortunately, my master and I have some strength to hunt game for supplementing, or we wouldn't have made it this far."

As she spoke, she moved the boar's head forward, continuing to smile, "This boar head is a gift for you to enjoy with your wine. Please, brother, do us a favor, let us enter the city to retrieve the grain, so we can continue to the border city. If there is truly no room for leeway, we'll have to take a detour, but that's a long way and too hard on some of the elderly with us who can't withstand such hardship!"

Qin Shuangshuang's demeanor balanced firmness with gentleness, first using Martial Power to intimidate, followed by pleasantries to avoid deeply offending the other party, and then proceeded with a threat!

The Emperor is keeping a close eye on border resettlements right now. If Qin Shuangshuang and her group had to detour because they couldn't enter the city, the County Magistrate in the city would undoubtedly bear the consequences! The first one he wouldn't forgive is that small leader!

The moment Qin Shuangshuang casually lifted the wild boar and threw it to the ground, then nonchalantly chopped off the boar's head, that small leader was already shocked witless!

Now, seeing Qin Shuangshuang speaking with both soft and hard elements, giving him a way out while subtly threatening, the small leader could only awkwardly smile as he took the boar's head and waved them through! He didn't mention the entry tax again!

After Qin Shuangshuang and the others entered the city, the small leader sighed to his two subordinates, "This little girl looks about ten years old, yet she's frighteningly shrewd. I wonder what kind of family raised such a formidable girl!"

After sighing, he looked at the boar's head in his hands, feeling joyful again. Although he didn't get any silver, obtaining a hefty wild boar head weighing more than ten pounds was a substantial gain. He said to his few subordinates, "Brothers, come to my place tonight. Let your sister-in-law cook this boar head, and we can have a feast!"

Hearing this, a cheer went up at the city gate. Although these guards earn salaries, getting to eat meat isn't easy!

Once Qin Shuangshuang entered the city, they went to collect the grain. This time, no one gave them a hard time; the grain was handed out smoothly! They entered the city, got the grain, and next up was to quickly cook, eat, and then leave the city before dark, covering a few more miles and finding a place to set up camp!

There were too many of them; passing through the city was permissible, but staying wasn't possible, as there weren't any places large enough for them to reside in.

Moreover, in the eyes of city folks, these settlers were akin to vagrants. If they truly stayed overnight in the city, likely no one in the city would get any sleep! The County Magistrate wouldn't permit them to linger within the walls either!

The group found a patch of empty land. A few men carried buckets slung from poles to fetch several loads of water from a well. The rest prepared dry wood and branches to light a bonfire, set up a pot, and the women and children took out the wild vegetables they had previously gathered. Soon, the water was fetched, and the pot was set.

They boiled water, removed the pig's bristles, and cleaned it before cooking the meat. They filled the clean pig intestines with pig's blood to make blood sausages, but not long after the blood sausages were in the pot, Qin Sheng was seen poking holes in each one with a needle.

The children surrounded the pot, drooling at the sight of the meat. Curiously, they asked Uncle Qin Sheng why he was poking holes with a needle. Qin Sheng explained that it was to prevent the casing from bursting, to let out steam. The children seemed to understand and waited patiently.

The fresh wild boar meat, when cooked, smelled so good that children from the county couldn't help peeking from afar.

Everyone had a delicious meal and fed the hardworking oxen something good. Afterward, they leisurely drove the carts out the city gate, continuing their journey.

They took the official road after leaving the city. It was smooth and easy to walk on. As they traveled, they chatted, mostly fantasizing about building a new home and living a good life at the border city!

Qin Shuangshuang felt quite cheerful. In her previous life, she'd traveled from south to north, and journeying was ordinary, yet it was her first time on such a laid-back journey, prompting her to observe the travelers along the way.

There were people walking, riding donkeys, and sitting on ox carts, those riding big mules. She even saw a wealthy family traveling on the main road in a fast-moving cart

pulled by two big mules, sparking her interest. Qin Shuangshuang thought about buying two mules and a nice cart when they reached the border city, to take her mother and Qin Miao Fang Yao out for fun. It seemed so delightful just thinking about it!

While Qin Shuangshuang was pondering where to take her mother, she heard a commotion ahead. Frowning, she looked over, seeing a large crowd gathered together for some unknown reason.

Taking a few steps forward, Qin Shuangshuang saw a Middle-aged man lying unconscious in front of Uncle He's leading ox cart!