

System 101

Chapter 101: Cotton Ripening

It was obvious that Ehrelo saw Lynn's recruitment on the open ground.

Ehrelo bent his body, speaking with utmost respect, "Master Lynn, what do you need me to do?"

Lynn glanced at the crowd in the blacksmith shop.

The blacksmith shop, now led by Ehrelo, had as many as forty-five apprentices.

Although they were all apprentices, if they all graduated to become true blacksmiths, then led their own apprentices.

He would no longer have to worry about metal forging and iron product production.

Lynn responded, retorting, "How is the progress on the production of one hundred round shields?"

Ehrelo replied without any hesitation, "They'll be completed by tonight."

Lynn continued, "The blacksmith shop's next task is to produce three hundred combat iron spears and round shields; I'll give you five days. Five days later, I want to see these weapons."

Ehrelo's face instantly tightened.

With previous experience in producing combat iron spears and round shields, five days isn't too tight for them.

Ehrelo was nervous because Master Lynn had plans to continue expanding the army.

He hurriedly bowed his waist again, responding, "Yes, Master Lynn."

Task completed.

Lynn left the blacksmith shop, mounted his horse, and began patrolling the village.

Seeing the faint green appearing on the ridges of the three thousand acres of farmland, his eyebrows raised instantly.

Without any hesitation, Lynn dismounted, and walked into the farmland.

Rows of pea stems growing a few tender leaves had already broken through the soil, with the slightly swaying seedlings enjoying the sunlight.

Normally, peas enter the germination stage about seven days after being planted.

And in another seven days or so, they enter the seedling stage.

Previously, he had been busy building the city wall and missed the germination stage of the peas.

Fortunately, he had Gavin and Wilbur manage the farmland.

There weren't any obvious weeds in the farmland.

With a movement of his hand, Lynn picked up a piece of soil, gently compressed it with a few fingers, turning it into a pancake.

With another gentle grind, it turned into some fine soil.

The soil humidity is moderate.

Being close to the Acadia River, the humidity in both the soil and air is relatively higher than other places.

Plus, it had rained earlier, so there's no need to worry about a shortage of water for now.

However, Lynn pondered.

As the weather gets hotter, the land is bound to experience a shortage of water, irrigation needs to be considered.

Lynn stood up and looked around; the position he was standing at was already nearly a thousand meters away from the Acadia River.

If it's solely relying on buckets to carry water, it's doable.

But it's too time-consuming and labor-intensive.

The only way is to use a waterwheel for irrigation.

Transport the water from the Acadia River at a lower altitude with the waterwheel, then let it flow through channels to everywhere needing water.

Lynn had Red summon Gavin and Wilbur.

Watching the two men far away, wearing vests, rolling up their pants, and donning straw hats, running towards him.

Lynn felt a bit of inexplicable emotion in his heart.

Soon.

Gavin and Wilbur arrived.

Breathing heavily, they respectfully called out, "Master Lynn, you summoned us?"

Lynn asked, "Who's responsible for managing this farmland now?"

Gavin and Wilbur exchanged a glance, both responded simultaneously, "We are managing it together."

If it were their own planted farmland, just one of them could manage it.

Why do they need so many people?

Isn't it just scattering the peas down and waiting for harvest?

But Master Lynn here has more stringent requirements.

The farmland can't have any weeds whatsoever; they need to constantly watch the crop's state to evaluate the soil's fertility.

And observe the changes in soil humidity...

However.

Gavin and Wilbur found joy in farming amid this complexity.

Planting crops into the soil with their own hands, then nurturing the crops' growth...

It feels like nurturing their own children's growth.

They feel this is true farming!

Lynn nodded, "Besides you two, how many farmers are assisting you?"

Gavin replied without hesitation, directly stating, "Ten others, like us, are also skilled farmers."

Once spoken, a trace of embarrassment appeared on Gavin's face.

With their old planting ways, can they even be called skilled hands?

Despite having farmed for nearly twenty years, before Master Lynn, they're no different from rookies.

Lynn continued, "Gather them together, and I'll dispatch thirty more people here from elsewhere."

"I need you to dig channels around the lime road's edge, two meters wide and one meter deep! Once complete, decorate the channels using lime sand for finishing."

A channel depth of one meter feels a bit inadequate to Lynn.

Knowing these channels will serve the entire territory's farmland.

Now, although only three thousand acres of farmland have been reclaimed.

In the future, the farmland will surely become wider, and the range will continue to grow.

But for safety reasons, a one-meter channel is still enough.

Upon hearing Master Lynn's words, Gavin and Wilbur's eyes lit up instantly.

Channel irrigation!

If it turns out as Master Lynn said, the river water of the Acadia River will continuously reach into the farmland.

They wouldn't have to worry about soil drying out and water shortages anymore.

Both hurriedly responded, "Yes, Master Lynn."

Lynn nodded.

Task completed, and as Lynn was about to leave, Gavin suddenly spoke up.

"Master Lynn, the cotton you planted earlier has already grown cotton balls; do you want to take a look?"

If it weren't for Kuisi's explanation, he might never have known what cotton truly meant in this lifetime.

However, from Kuisi's words, he learned that Master Lynn highly values cotton.

So he had always been carefully watching over it.

Lynn raised an eyebrow, "Let's go take a look."

Arriving at the cotton field, looking at the dozens of cotton plants with cotton clusters bursting out, Lynn felt a surge of satisfaction.

The cotton plant leaves were yellow and weak, marking the maturity phase.

The cotton planted for nearly half a year was finally close to the harvest phase.

Now, more importantly, is the collection of cotton seeds!

During the boll-opening phase, the maturity of the cotton seeds is also uniform and plump.

It's the ideal time to collect seeds!

Lynn turned to Gavin and Wilbur, "Go back to get scissors and containers."

Wilbur responded, without hesitation, swiftly running towards the village.

Soon.

Willby, carrying several pairs of scissors and some clean baskets, returned to stand beside Lynn.

Lynn took the scissors and began harvesting.

He roughly observed, each cotton plant had six cotton bolls.

Each cotton boll can yield about five grams of lint, and sixty cotton plants would yield barely two pounds of cotton.

Relative to these cotton fibers, Lynn cares more about the cotton seeds inside the bolls!

Due to limited soil fertility in wasteland, although the cotton plants mature, each boll's seeds were only about thirty grains.

Lynn roughly calculated.

From this cotton harvest, he could obtain about eighteen hundred cotton seeds!

Meaning next year, he could plant two acres of cotton.

According to the current cotton harvest weight, eighteen hundred cotton plants could yield nearly two hundred pounds of cotton.

Chapter 102: The Evil Spark

Farming and development are not possible overnight.

It often requires a long time.

Whether it's cotton, peas, or wheat, they all have growth cycles.

One by one, the cotton bolls were cut down by Lynn and others and put into the baskets beside them.

Sixty cotton plants were harvested completely in just half an hour.

Now it's nearing the end of August, and the weather is very good every day.

It takes at most three to five days for drying, to remove the moisture in the cotton bolls.

After that, manually stripping them apart, separating cotton fibers from cotton seeds.

This way, cotton fibers and cotton seeds for planting next year can be obtained.

Instructing Gavin to keep these cotton seeds safe, Lynn mounted his horse and continued to patrol the village.

The hooves stepping on the lime road made the "clatter" sound of hooves.

Some villagers who were working saw Master Lynn and bowed slightly, revealing a sincere smile.

Passing through a farmland, Lynn headed towards the northern part of the village, the salt factory.

Before getting close, a stern reprimanding voice entered his ears.

"Master Lynn provides food and drink for your family, every meal includes meat, and even your children receive education that's only available to the nobility's wealthy children."

"You're able to become the squad leader of the salt factory because Master Lynn trusts you!"

"And you still engage in such sneaky activities?"

"Is this how you repay Master Lynn?"

"Steward Kuisi, I was wrong, I truly was wrong! I was blinded by greed, I'm a disgrace..."

Pa~Pa~Pa~

A series of slapping sounds were heard.

"Steward Kuisi, please forgive me this once? I'll never dare again..."

When Lynn approached the salt factory, a scene unfolded before his eyes.

A middle-aged man was kneeling on the ground, his face flushed red, with visible slap marks.

His eyes full of plea and even... fear.

In front of him, Kuisi's face was serious, with a cold gaze directed at the middle-aged man.

Kuisi's words were still icy, "I will report this matter to Master Lynn, and let him decide!"

Kuisi was preparing to leave when her eyes caught sight of Lynn not far away.

She exclaimed in surprise, "Master Lynn, you're here..."

The fear on the middle-aged man's face became more evident.

Lynn dismounted, and spoke in a deep tone, "What happened?"

The middle-aged man knelt, crawling towards Lynn, pleading, "Master Lynn, please forgive me..."

Before he could approach, Red stepped out and blocked him, guarding Lynn from behind.

Kuisi explained, "Master Lynn, his name is Eck, he's the squad leader responsible for grinding fine salt at the salt factory, but... he abused his position to steal your property..."

"Eck secretly took your fine salt home!"

Upon hearing Kuisi's account, the middle-aged man Eck fell flat on the ground, trembling nonstop.

Lynn looked at Eck and asked, "Do you find any issue with Kuisi's account, my squad leader Eck?"

Eck's face was full of regret, his words halting, "Master Lynn, everything Steward Kuisi said is true..."

"I stole your property!"

Lynn nodded, "Since that's the case, you will be punished - beheading publicly!"

"Do you have any objections?"

Upon hearing those words, Eck's eyes contracted instantly.

But in front of Lynn, he dared not plead for anything.

It was Master Lynn who sheltered their family.

It was Master Lynn who provided their meals.

It was Master Lynn who offered them a sheltering wooden house.

Even, it was Master Lynn who appointed him squad leader at the salt factory!

However... he has betrayed Master Lynn.

Eck's face was ashen, responding monotonously, "No objections..."

Lynn replied, "Very well, but you can rest assured that your family will not be implicated by your crime."

Eck managed to force a smile on his face.

"Thank you, Master Lynn."

Eck was taken away by guards under Red.

Faces of villagers excavating at the open-pit salt mine were full of shock.

Including Kuisi beside Lynn!

They had considered that Eck would face severe punishment for stealing Master Lynn's property.

A whipping or chopping off a hand...

But they never imagined Master Lynn would directly order Eck beheaded publicly!

The previous happy life was very real.

Master Lynn was willing to share his own food with them, allowing the villagers to fill their bellies.

But only with Master Lynn's permission.

What Master Lynn gives, they can take.

What Lynn doesn't give, they absolutely cannot take!

Not even the thought of taking should exist!

However, they also understood.

As long as under Master Lynn's rules, they could live on.

Even enjoy a comfortable life!

With this thought, they returned to their respective work.

Seeing Kuisi's somewhat regretful expression, Lynn asked, "Why? Regretting bringing him out?"

Kuisi didn't speak.

Lynn spoke calmly, "For the crime of theft, if it were in other territories, perhaps it wouldn't be a death sentence, but... this is my territory."

"If theft occurs and is merely dealt with lightly, then next time it won't only be theft, but even robbery, fighting, murder..."

"By then, the whole territory will become chaotic!"

"If I know thus, why not extinguish this evil spark ahead of time?"

Kuisi widened her eyes at Master Lynn.

Until Lynn finished speaking, Kuisi seemed to have realized something, her eyes clear of guilt and remorse.

Kuisi spoke calmly, "Master Lynn, I understand!"

Lynn nodded.

After allowing Kuisi to continue work, he once again mounted his horse and headed towards the open-pit salt mine.

In Lynn's mind, thoughts began to stir.

The population of the territory will grow larger in the future.

Even Lynn cannot ensure everyone's character.

Under temptation of money, food, or beauty—even the seemingly simple farmer can harbor evil thoughts.

Naturally, various incidents will emerge.

Quarrels, harassment, robbery, theft, even clashes...

Such trivial matters can't all be handled personally by Lynn.

The territory needs a court to handle disputes among villagers, accountable only to him!

And if there's a court, naturally related regulations need to be established!

However.

This is just a thought for now.

The territory is just at its beginning, he does not have the bandwidth to do these things.

Arriving at the open-pit salt mine, Lynn surveyed ahead from horseback.

Silhouettes were busy on the open-pit salt mine.

From excavating rock salt, initial crushing, to transportation, all procedures were clearly divided.

The longer you work on something, the more experience you gain.

Thus, they could improve work efficiency.

What pleased Lynn was, after such prolonged mining of the open-pit salt mine, the surface rock salt only concaved slightly.

No bedrock was visible!

Lynn felt this large open-pit salt mine could be exploited for decades at least!

Chapter 103: Cavalry Attack

As many villagers watched, Lynn rode away from the Salt Factory on horseback.

Red, along with several guards, was always following behind.

Passing through the lime road on the wasteland and entering the forest, Lynn arrived at the city wall.

The chaotic ground was cleaned up meticulously, with a lime surface laid down.

The logs used to build the pulley assembly were disassembled and piled up in the corner.

Clean and tidy, that was Lynn's first impression.

Along with the ten-meter-high city wall, it gave a mysterious sense of solemnity.

The city gate below the wall was already being completed!

Lynn jumped down from the horse and walked toward the city gate.

The main framework of the gate was predominantly wooden, and he could tell at a glance that Colin used sturdy oak.

On the surface of the city wall, a riveting method was used to completely cover the iron plates on the gate.

The thickness of the iron plate should be around five millimeters, which can entirely resist some battering rams or siege engines.

Lynn nodded in satisfaction.

With this city gate that was like 'Iron Armor', his last worry was entirely solved.

With such sturdy city walls and such a gate.

Unless there was a completely overwhelming number of soldiers or the arrival of extraordinary power.

No one will be able to enter his territory!

At this moment.

A steady sound of footsteps came from afar, drawing closer.

Lynn turned his head and looked, seeing Rose walking over with strides.

Rose came to Lynn, bent his body, and spoke respectfully, "Master."

Lynn nodded, "Have the patrolling soldiers on the city wall been arranged?"

Rose did not hesitate, "According to your requirements, Master, the soldiers are divided into three batches, twenty people per batch, conducting round-the-clock patrols."

He continued, "Master, I want to station two hundred soldiers behind the mountain forest of the city wall. Do you think it's feasible?"

The gaps between the forest are about a hundred meters wide, with some places or widths of over ten meters, some places less than ten meters.

It is entirely possible to build tents or construct red brick houses on it!

Lynn did not answer, and said, "Tell me your thoughts."

Rose said, "Firstly, within the territory, there is a guard team led by Red, which can entirely protect your safety and oversee the villagers' work."

"Secondly, the mountain forest pass is the only way to enter the territory. Despite having city walls, there is still a need for soldiers to guard."

"If an enemy attack happens, soldiers can organize at the first instance and conduct defense guard."

"Lastly... soldiers' life itself should be harsh; eating and living in the military camp, returning home every day after training, what kind of soldiery life is that?"

Seeing Rose with a serious face, Lynn nodded, "Okay."

"I will arrange specialized chefs to cook for you all, and daily necessities will also be sent over."

Hearing Lynn's positive words, Rose felt a surge of shock.

Lynn... his master actually agreed to his request?

He took the soldiers here, trained them individually, ate and lived together with them, can almost be said to disconnect from the village!

Again guarding the city and controlling the pass, is like gripping the throat of the entire territory!

If he had thoughts of rebellion, leading these soldiers to revolt, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Nevertheless, despite that.

Lynn agreed to him almost without any second thought!

Is Master Lynn simple-minded?

Clearly impossible!

Learning from Red, this territory was entirely developed bit by bit thanks to Lynn.

Trust!

Rose understood that the reason was due to his master's trust in him.

If not, he couldn't think of any other reason.

Rose took a deep breath, then directly knelt on one knee in front of Lynn.

He spoke sincerely, "Master, if the enemy wants to enter your territory, they can only step over my corpse!"

"Furthermore, my brother Charles will always remain in the village."

Lynn responded, "Alright, stand up."

But Lynn told Rose that when the red bricks in the village are finished being fired, they would assist in constructing red brick houses for them.

Rose's eyes widened instantly.

Returning to the village, Lynn called Kuisi.

He asked her to arrange a specialized chef and transport daily supplies to the city wall.

After instructing,

Lynn toured once around the progress of firing the red bricks again.

On an open space.

The dug-out clay was already being sieved and dried.

Once the clay is dried to a certain level of moisture, mixing in some sandy soil, then using the prepared molds, they could start producing red bricks.

On the other side, the kiln construction was fully under Colin's control, so Lynn did not need to worry.

Rolling up his sleeves, Lynn returned to the Blacksmith Shop again.

Ping!

Ping Ping!

Ping Ping Ping!

The clear and melodious yet rhythmic sounds rang one after another in the Blacksmith Shop.

Together with other apprentices forging iron spears and round shields, as if forming a beautiful melody.

Until nightfall.

Lynn, satisfied, came out from the blacksmith iron.

With a single thought, he opened the system panel.

[Heavenly Artifacts]

[Name]: Lynn

[Age]: 15 years old

[Attributes]: Attack F+ (+), Defense F+ (+), Speed F- (+), Constitution E (+), Energy E- (+)

[Talent]: Heavenly Artifacts

[Skills]: None

[Ability]:

[Construction: Level 1 (22/200)] (+)

[Planting: Level 1 (24/200)] (+)

[Collection: Level 1 (34/200)] (+)

[Production: Level 1 (21/200)] (+)

[Hunting: Level 1 (25/200)] (+)

[Cooking: Level 1 (24/200)] (+)

[Forging: Level 1 (139/200)] (+)

[Medicine: Level 1 (13/200)] (+)

[Breeding: Level 1 (31/200)] (+)

...

After spending this period of time in the Blacksmith Shop, his [Forging] skill experience had reached one hundred thirty-nine.

At most, it would only be another two to three days to level up to Level 2.

Opening [Milestone], Lynn claimed all the rewards of the completed achievements.

The Energy Stone he possessed had already reached 3230!

Looking at his attribute panel, Lynn moved his mind.

"Would you like to consume 1000 Energy Stones to enhance Attack F+ to E-?"

Energy Stones can enhance an attribute by a small level.

Not too many.

Without any hesitation, Lynn used up all the Energy Stones.

His attribute panel changed.

Attack F+ turned to E+!

Lynn felt a slight sensation in his body, can clearly sense the increase in power!

Compared to raising those Life Skills Levels, enhancing his attributes was genuinely valuable.

Lynn felt that with enough Energy Stones, relying on his own attribute abilities, he could exist beyond the ordinary!

Putting away the panel, Lynn walked to the village's open space.

The kitchen's chef was already distributing the prepared food.

After finishing dinner.

Lynn sat on the bench in front of the wooden house door.

Under his gaze, Mara led Sienna over.

Red's watchful eyes fell on the two of them.

Finally, Mara and Sienna stood a few meters in front of Lynn.

Lynn asked, "What's the matter?"

Mara spoke respectfully, "Honorable Master Lynn, Sienna has something she wants to tell you immediately."

"I kept asking her but she said she could only tell you in person..."

Lynn turned his gaze to Sienna.

Sienna, full of innocence, softly said, "Master Lynn... I heard from the cuckoos that a team of cavalry is nearing to attack your territory!"

"At most by dawn, they will arrive..."

Hearing Sienna's words, both Mara and Red were taken aback.

"Cavalry coming to attack?"

Chapter 104: They're Here (4K)

If it were someone else, Lynn might question it slightly.

But the person saying this is—Sienna!

She possesses the extraordinary ability of hearing all things.

Lynn stared at Sienna and asked, "Did you hear the cuckoo say, how many cavalry?"

Sienna shook her head, "They raised torches, forming a long line."

"My cuckoo friend is afraid of the firelight..."

Lynn nodded, "Your report is timely, go back and rest now."

Under Lynn's gaze, Mara wanted to lead Sienna back.

While walking, Sienna turned her head to look at Lynn and softly said, "Master Lynn, be careful."

Lynn smiled slightly.

Until Mara and Sienna disappeared around the corner of the wooden cabin.

Lynn turned to look at Red.

Almost without any instruction, Red turned and left.

Until a few minutes later.

Fifty guard team members, holding torches in their left hands and riding draft horses, gathered.

In Red's hand, he also led two horses.

Lynn mounted the horse, grabbed the reins with both hands, and with a squeeze of his legs against the horse's belly, the horse galloped towards the darkness outside the village.

The group, led by Red, quickly followed.

The burning torches and the sound of galloping hooves naturally drew the attention of the villagers.

Soft murmurs arose one after another.

"What's going on? Master Lynn left with the guards?"

"At this late hour? They still want to go out?"

"Could it be... something's happened?"

"Even the tall city walls were constructed by Master Lynn, what could happen?"

"Surely no monster could fly in, right?"

"Makes sense..."

"..."

Initially intending to maintain order with Gavin Wilbur and a few sturdy men, Kuisi.

Listening to the villagers' talks, her expression froze slightly.

Only now did she realize that Master Lynn had already provided these villagers with a sense of security.

However.

Even so.

Kuisi still stepped to the forefront of the villagers.

Looking at those unfamiliar yet familiar faces, Kuisi became inexplicably nervous.

She was appointed by Master Lynn.

Responsible for managing the entire village when Master Lynn was not present.

But that was only dealing with a small portion of the villagers.

Now standing in front of her, there were nearly a thousand villagers!

She had never experienced this.

Kuisi's mind flashed back to Lynn's image...

Calm demeanor, clear and precise speech...

She took a deep breath and shouted to everyone in a solemn voice.

"Everyone! I am Kuisi, appointed by Master Lynn as the territory steward."

"What I'm about to say concerns the safety of the entire territory, concerns your lives!"

"External invasion!"

Upon hearing this, the villagers were about to become tumultuous.

Kuisi's voice grew louder, overpowering the unrest, drawing their attention back.

"For the safety of the territory, for our safety, Master Lynn has already led the guard team to the city walls."

"But... we cannot just sit and wait for death."

"Though we can't fight for Master Lynn like soldiers, we can become Master Lynn's strong support!!"

"Now please return to your homes and take out your tools!"

Listening to Kuisi's words, the crowd's expressions shook, responding one by one.

"Become Lynn's strong support!"

"Become Lynn's strong support..."

"..."

Watching them spread from the village, returning to their homes.

Kuisi's eyes uncontrollably trembled.

Just now, for a moment, she was overwhelmed by the momentum of these villagers!

Fortunately, she continued to reverse the pressure back.

Only then did Kuisi realize the difficulties faced by Master Lynn.

To rein in and buy thousands of villagers, let them comply with management, and move in the desired direction was so challenging!

Yet, Master Lynn resolutely shouldered it.

...

Lynn led Red and fifty guards, riding horses, running swiftly.

However.

These horses were just ordinary horses, not fast.

Even twenty guards were riding draft horses!

Nonetheless, the speed of the draft horses far exceeded human running speed.

This ride galloped over the lime ground, through the black night, across wasteland, through woodland, headed for the city walls.

As they approached several dozen meters from the city wall, Lynn saw a few torch lights flickering ahead.

It was Rose, with a team of soldiers patrolling.

Seeing so many guards and torches, Rose's face showed some confusion.

He bent down and addressed Lynn, "Master, what are you..."

Lynn dismounted and strode towards the city wall, "Enemy attack!"

Rose's confusion instantly turned into seriousness.

Without any hesitation, he called to one of the soldiers beside him, "Kasen, wake everyone up, quickly!"

The young soldier called Kasen scattered with the soldiers behind him.

Rose followed silently.

Entering the tower, climbing the steps, Lynn reached the ten-meter-high city wall.

Soldiers stationed on the wall saw Lynn, immediately bowed, and returned to their watchful state.

After walking dozens of meters, Lynn stood still, gazing into the distant darkness.

The area he looked over revealed no light.

The cool night breeze blew, tugging at Lynn's hair and the others'.

Below the city wall.

More than a hundred soldiers were already fully assembled.

They held round shields in their left hands, combat iron spears in their right, neatly ordered in phalanx formation.

Chapter 105: They're Here (4K)

Awaiting Master Lynn's orders.

Time slowly passed by.

Night grew deeper.

Although it's late August in the Karedi Empire, there's still some dew and chill in these mountains.

Rose was just about to advise Lynn when a low voice reached his ears.

"They're here!"

Rose followed Red's gaze.

Indeed.

At the end of the black night, there was a faint glimmer of light.

If not for the reminder, Rose would never have noticed!

Moreover, the faint glimmers of light were increasing, becoming more pronounced.

Rose's expression immediately turned serious.

A visit in the dead of night, naturally not by merchants!

However.

What intrigued Rose was how Master Lynn, far away in the territorial village, knew there would be an enemy attack tonight?

Watching the torches draw closer, the soldiers on the walls responsible for guarding and patrolling began to breathe quickly.

If a battle ensues, this would be their first fight since joining Master Lynn's territory as soldiers!

Looking at the lights, there was a hint of sternness on Lynn's face.

Just then.

A text panel suddenly appeared before him.

[Task: Eliminate the Iron Blood Brotherhood]

[Reward: Based on completion]

Lynn raised an eyebrow.

No specific requirements, no time limit.

With a glance, Lynn closed it.

If completing this so-called task meant reducing the number of soldiers he had painstakingly gathered.

Lynn would rather not.

Earlier, to establish his authority, he executed several villagers as an example.

But, that was to ensure the other villagers better followed orders.

In this world, populace equals labor, and a large labor force is essential for rapid development.

Watching the torches about two or three miles from the walls.

Rose calmly asked, "Master, how should we respond?"

Based on his observations of the lights.

Assuming one torch per person, the approaching enemies might number around two hundred.

Not a large force.

If it were in a previous role, he would have led the 6th Cavalry Brigade to meet them before they got close.

But not now.

No qualified cavalry, no suitable warhorses.

Lynn calmly said, "Watch and wait."

Why did he choose to invest so much time, manpower, and resources to build this wall?

For this very moment!

In the absence of absolute strength, the height and fortitude of the walls would keep the enemy at bay.

Even with a wall, charging with soldiers would render it meaningless.

Hearing Lynn's words, Rose bowed slightly, "Yes, Master."

This was the best decision!

For, the newly recruited soldiers under him weren't ready yet.

Rushing into battle recklessly would only lead to death.

...

Beneath the night sky.

Torch after torch, coated with animal grease, burned slowly, illuminating the surrounding darkness.

At the front of the group.

A tall, burly figure, clad in plate armor, rode atop a black warhorse.

The torchlight reflected off his armor.

Behind this knight, Hall turned to Ford beside him and asked, "Your master didn't come?"

Ford smiled, nodding, "Of course, our master, as the Manor Lord, appointed by Marquis Ducas, naturally cannot easily wage war against a fellow vassal of the Marquis."

"Though far from the Emperor's gaze, our Master Aiden wishes to avoid suspicion, but he sent a hundred followers to assist you..."

Hall nodded without speaking.

The rules among lords, Hall neither wished to know nor cared.

A hundred followers, plus over a hundred cavalry from the Iron Blood Brotherhood...

All armed.

This force was enough to cause chaos in many small manor's armed forces.

Under cavalry charge, there'd be no resistance.

Showcasing the high advantage of cavalry.

This explained their successful raids on many villages.

However.

What piqued Hall's curiosity was why leader Anthony agreed to Aiden Manor Lord's terms!

Aiden would offer fifty Gold Pounds to hire the Iron Blood Brotherhood to eradicate all armed forces in the territory.

Additionally, allowing them to plunder the land.

The sole condition being... capture all slaves and the Lord of the territory alive!

Catching a manor lord alive entails an immense cost.

While Hall was lost in thought.

Ahead, a sound of galloping hooves approached.

It was the scout he'd dispatched earlier.

As the scout neared, halting his horse, Hall asked, "What did you discover?"

The scout, breathing heavily, took a deep breath and said, "Leader Anthony, I saw a patch of darkness at the forest pass!"

Hall frowned, "Darkness? That's the intel a scout gathers?"

In the deep of night, with no moonlight.

Everyone knew all around was darkness!

Anthony also glanced at the scout.

Immediately.

A deep fear surfaced in the scout's heart.

He quickly explained, "Leader, Master, it truly was dark!"

"But above the darkness were torches."

"The feeling was like... a wall, a city wall! Yes!"

Though the scout hadn't seen a wall elsewhere.

In his childhood, he'd heard merchants say city walls were like great mountains.

Hall furrowed his brow deeper, irritably saying, "Are you joking?"

In this wild frontier, how could there be a wall?

Ford beside him also said, "There can't be a wall. Not long ago, Master Aiden led us into the woods!"

The scout quickly lowered his head, afraid to say more.

Even he doubted if he'd seen wrong.

Hall looked to Anthony, awaiting the leader's decision.

Anthony rasped, "Go take a look."

Hall promptly answered, "Yes."

Over two hundred men and horses marched valiantly toward the forest ahead.

Until they were a few hundred meters from the forest pass.

They saw a stretch of darkness, like a sky-breaker isolating the forest and wasteland.

Everyone widened their eyes.

Even leader Anthony wore a shocked expression.

Stones piled into a wall, towers, gates, and torches burning atop it...

Ford was most shocked!

His face filled with disbelief, he muttered, "How... how is this possible?"

"When we came, there was no wall!"

"How did they build such a wall so fast?"

"Am I still dreaming?"

Speaking, Ford slapped himself, pain swelling instantly.

Ford realized it was all real.

After a moment.

Anthony withdrew his gaze, looking at Ford, voice cold, "Is this the gift your master mentioned?"

Hall also looked at Ford, awaiting his response.

Without siege equipment or a large army...

How could they attack such walls?

They're dubbed the Iron Blood Brotherhood, but they're just a band of brigands!

Their only equipment were horses and mismatched swords and long spears.

If the walls were defended with arrows.

Perhaps they'd be overwhelmed before even approaching!

Feeling the cold gaze upon him, Ford felt extremely tense.

He quickly explained, "Gentlemen, I am but a follower... a dog of Master Aiden..."

"I merely do as Master Aiden commands..."

Watching Ford trembling.

Hall turned to Anthony, "Leader?"

Chapter 106: Go and Break Down the City Gate

Anthony stared at Hall, his words calm, "Go and smash the city gate!"

Hall's eyebrows raised sharply in surprise, "Ah, leader... I can't do it..."

Anthony tugged at the reins of his warhorse.

The warhorse beneath him instantly understood the command, muscles flexing as its neck turned, heading back in the direction it came from.

Anthony's cold voice echoed, "Do you think I can do it?"

Hall was immediately at a loss for words, not knowing what to say.

Seconds later, he tugged the reins and rode after Anthony.

The members of the Iron Blood Brotherhood also turned their direction one after another.

Hall's face remained full of disbelief.

In such a short period, they had built such a city wall; what kind of strong labor force was hidden in the territory behind the mountain forest?

Ford felt he couldn't quite imagine it!

Moments later.

Ford came to his senses, looked at the Iron Blood Brotherhood turning around, furrowing his brow, and hurriedly asked.

"Everyone, everyone... where are you going?"

Understanding Anthony's intentions, Hall responded, "Of course, we're going back to find your Master Aiden."

"Your Master Aiden invited us to Morgan Town, and this long journey has consumed quite a bit of resources..."

"Can't let us run this trip for nothing, right?"

Ford's face stiffened.

A bad thought emerged in his mind.

Could these self-proclaimed 'Iron Blood Brotherhood' bandits be targeting Master Aiden's manor?

No!

He must rush back to the manor immediately to inform Master Aiden!

...

On the city wall.

Lynn rested his hands on a shooting aperture, gazing into the distance.

There, the light of torches was gradually fading away.

Lynn understood that the cavalry attacking at night had already chosen to retreat.

The importance of the city wall was instantly evident.

If without the city wall, these cavalrymen would have poured in, passing through the forest, crossing the wasteland, and reaching the villages in the territory.

Even if he now had over fifteen hundred villagers, holding iron farm tools in their hands.

Without strict training, they wouldn't even be able to engage in combat; how many could muster the courage to pick up their tools and step forth?

Villagers are villagers; without long-term intense training, they can never become qualified soldiers.

Beside Lynn, Rose's face showed a hint of joy.

Unable to contain himself, he spoke, "Master Lynn, the enemy has retreated."

Not just Rose.

Even Red and the guard soldiers on the wall had their faces slightly relaxed.

Lynn responded, "I saw."

However.

After this perilous night raid, Lynn also realized the imperfections of the city wall.

Lacking defensive weapons!

No crossbows, no rolling wood and stones, no long-handled axes, hooks, or sickle spears, no fierce fire oil...

Not even the nauseating golden juice.

Lynn looked at Rose and said, "Instructor Rose, I need you to lead your soldiers to produce rolling wood and stones as city defense weapons."

Rolling wood is simply large solid timber, pushed down from the wall, using the impact of its rolling motion to damage enemies and cloud ladders.

Stones, naturally, are stones mined from the mountain.

Rose instantly thought of something, quickly answered, "Yes, my master."

Previously, many stones were mined for building the city wall.

Some granite was either too large or of uneven shape, and was piled up under the wall.

He can certainly lead the soldiers to move these logs and stones onto the wall.

They can serve as city defense weapons and be used for soldiers' physical training.

A win-win.

Rose's gaze towards Lynn became increasingly filled with admiration.

He's indeed the deputy captain of the 6th Cavalry Brigade.

But he is a cavalryman, with more combat experience on open plain grasslands.

After giving instructions, Lynn walked down from the city wall.

With this ten-meter-high city wall, ordinary bandit cavalry simply couldn't cross it.

However.

Lynn understood.

This was only temporary.

If there were enough bandits, even with this city wall, it couldn't stop them.

Expansion of the army is necessary, and the production of long-range shooting weapons must continue!

Mounted on horseback, Lynn returned to the village.

Along with him were Red and fifty guards.

In front of the village, he saw groups of villagers standing solemnly with farm tools in hand.

Lynn was slightly surprised.

At the forefront, Kuisi looked relieved as she saw Master Lynn and her brother Red return safely.

Kuisi asked, "Master Lynn, are you alright?"

Lynn responded, "I'm fine. What are you prepared for?"

Kuisi awkwardly explained, "Because you mentioned there was an enemy attack, I organized the villagers to wait in the village."

"If you returned after a defeat, we could still defend..."

Listening to Kuisi's words, looking at those faces ready to die.

Lynn felt inexplicably moved.

Among them were Lex from the Brewing Workshop, Gavin and Wilbur managing the farmland, Ehrelo from the Blacksmith Shop, Colin and the apprentices building wooden houses...

Even, Lynn saw the children aged eight or nine taught by Old John!

Lynn looked at Kuisi with approval, "Well done."

Kuisi widened her eyes, looking at Master Lynn.

Lynn continued, "The enemy has retreated, let them disperse."

Kuisi nodded, "Yes, Master Lynn."

Under Kuisi's explanation and persuasion, nearly a thousand villagers dispersed, each heading to their wooden cabins.

Back in the wooden cabin, sitting by the anthracite-burning fire pit.

Lynn's mind was planning the zoning of the village.

Generally, divided into the castle area, market area, residential area, handicraft workshop district, and so on.

A territory has a lord, naturally needing a castle.

First, it can defend against external enemies, preventing assassinations, etc.

Currently, Lynn was just an ordinary person; his flesh and blood couldn't withstand any blades or arrows.

Secondly, as a symbol of power!

It's also the center of administration!

Finally, the storage function.

Important resources on the territory are all stored in the castle's warehouse cellar, providing protection.

The market area is also where he wants to divide the space.

Villagers can go to the market in their leisure time to sell or exchange idle items.

This can improve the villagers' living index.

Residential area, now the population on the territory is close to one thousand seven hundred.

According to two people or a family per house, roughly we'll need to build six hundred red brick houses!

Lynn roughly estimated if constructed just as basic two-bedroom, one lounge, it would be at least thirty square meters.

Then consider the corridors between red brick houses, lighting, and fire prevention...

Six hundred red brick houses would occupy nearly seventy acres.

Compared to the wasteland on his territory, seventy acres is nearly negligible.

However, this is only the area needed for the housing of one thousand seven hundred people.

In the future, there will definitely be more villagers on the territory...

Space for the residential area to extend is needed.

Finally, what Lynn valued most—the Handicraft Workshop District.

Handicraft workshops are the lifeblood related to the development speed of the territory!

Chapter 107: Skill Duplication Book

Now, even though the Blacksmith Shop has the expertise of Ehrelo, a Level 3 blacksmith.

He is the only one.

Lynn must expand the Blacksmith Shop and create a strict and orderly assembly line.

In the future, the Blacksmith Shop needs not only to forge various farm tools required for agriculture.

But more importantly, it must forge weapons and armor of different standards!

In terms of weapons: one-handed swords, two-handed swords, long spears, short spears, iron axes, and warhammers.

Longbows, crossbows, and even catapults!

For armor: standardized helmets, armor, shields, and even vests.

Different categories require specialized divisions of labor to enhance forging efficiency!

To mass-produce these weapons and equipment, the current blacksmith apprentices under Ehrelo are far from sufficient.

After planning the functional zones and rebuilding, more blacksmith apprentices must be recruited.

The textile industry is also of critical importance!

Although it is only the end of August now, winter is not far off.

Most of Lynn's villagers are slaves brought from various places.

They, unlike the Free People, do not have winter clothing.

If Lynn doesn't prepare some winter clothes for them now, they will freeze to death.

Moreover, textile materials are needed for making armor linings.

In addition, there's the leather industry, food processing, ceramics, paper making, and others.

These are all essential industries for territorial development, none of which can be lacking.

With a thought, Lynn opened the Holographic Map.

After observing continuously for nearly two hours, Lynn finally determined the area divisions.

...

Three days later.

On the open ground outside the village.

Three hundred villagers are tirelessly using wooden molds to produce red brick blanks.

After days of airing, the moisture in the excavated clay has reached an appropriate level.

Now, the clay mixed with soil and sand only needs to be placed into molds, pressed, smoothed, and then extracted.

A qualified brick blank is thus produced.

Simple, yet cumbersome; it requires a lot of manpower.

Apart from these villagers, Lynn also called over the children led by Old John to participate in making brick blanks.

Even Lynn himself was making brick blanks.

[Production Experience +1]

[Production Experience +1]

[Production Experience +1]

...

The production experience increased gradually, bit by bit.

Lynn's Production skills gained experience.

A villager pushing a flatbed cart collected all the finished brick blanks and transported them to the rear.

Another few dozen villagers stacked the brick blanks crisscross on the open ground.

To dry these bricks by the evaporation of moisture.

On the distant slope.

In the fire mouths of dozens of kilns, anthracite is burning fiercely.

After days of preparation and airing, the first batch of brick blanks is loaded into kilns for firing.

The stages in the firing process for red bricks include warming, holding temperature, and cooling, and different technical requirements lead to some variation in burn times.

Lynn did not have high demands for these red bricks.

As long as they could be used to build red brick houses, that was sufficient.

Moreover, with anthracite's high-energy production, firing can be completed in one day.

After a day of natural cooling, the first batch of red bricks can be taken out of the kiln!

While Lynn sat on a long bench making red brick blanks.

Kuisi approached in strides, coming to his side.

Seeing Master Lynn's face smudged with mud stains, Kuisi considerably brought out a handkerchief to wipe him clean.

Kuisi explained, "Master Lynn, Grayson has arrived."

Lynn's brow drew up.

He recalled the last time Grayson came to the territory, it was with his sister Audrey.

Putting down the brick mold in hand, Lynn went to a nearby water jug to wash his hands clean.

Soon after, Lynn stepped back towards the village.

Upon returning to the village, he saw the familiar figure, Grayson Brown.

Grayson also saw Lynn.

His words were full of wonder, "Oh, dear Master Lynn, are you the savior sent by the gods? This is too miraculous!"

He crossed the sea in a longboat and docked at the Fisherman's Wharf in Kakasong City.

To sell his goods to Master Lynn as quickly as possible, he did not stop, heading straight for Lynn's territory.

Grayson didn't even visit the brothel he often frequented.

He came along the usual route.

When he saw the familiar mountain forest pass from afar, Grayson was thrilled.

Once through that piece of forest, the slaves and food he bought could be exchanged for fine salt!

He just needed to sell the fine salt in other regions...

Those would all be gold pounds!

But.

When he approached the forest, he found the original mountain forest pass had disappeared.

In its place was a towering city wall.

Built of stone, the city wall rose so high it demanded one look up to it!

Grayson even thought the walls of Kakasong City weren't as high as this.

The key was, when was the last time he visited Master Lynn's territory?

Two months?

One month?

It wasn't even a full month, was it?

In under a month, Master Lynn had built a city wall.

How could he not be astounded?

Lynn smiled calmly, "Grayson, like you, I am just an ordinary person, perhaps... a bit luckier?"

Grayson's heart was filled with admiration.

Is this just a bit of good luck?

Lynn shifted his tone and asked, "What did you bring me this time?"

Hearing Master Lynn's inquiry, Grayson finally snapped out of his confrontation.

He quickly replied, "Master Lynn, I have brought you the slaves and grain you most need..."

"Originally, there were eight hundred pounds of premium iron, but the carriage's capacity is limited, so I could only transport these goods first."

Lynn looked into the distance, where slaves bound with ropes stood in place.

Beside these slaves, Rose led dozens of soldiers guarding them.

Their expressions were dull, filled with confusion about the future.

Lynn nodded, "Tell me in detail."

Grayson explained, "A total of five hundred slaves, all from the southern campaign of the Portlands Empire..."

"As for grain, there are twenty thousand pounds of barley and five thousand pounds of wheat."

"Regarding the price, I've already calculated it before; slaves are priced at five shillings each, five pounds of barley for one penny, and one pound of wheat for one penny, totaling one hundred sixty-two gold pounds!"

Lynn did a quick mental calculation.

To be precise, it should be one hundred sixty-two gold pounds and ten shillings.

Obviously, Grayson rounded off for him.

Lynn said, "Six thousand five hundred pounds of fine salt, or gold pounds?"

Upon hearing the words from Master Lynn's mouth, Grayson's eyebrows instantly raised.

"Fine salt, of course, fine salt, Master Lynn."

Lynn agreed, "No problem."

Behind him, Kuisi heard that the transaction was completed and immediately walked away, calling a group of villagers to start unloading the goods.

Lynn looked directly at Grayson and said, "The power of goods transportation by you alone can no longer satisfy my needs..."

"I need to cooperate with more merchants."

After so many transactions, Lynn understood that Grayson was a trustworthy partner.

Of course.

As long as it didn't touch his interests.

Why before did Grayson risk having all his assets confiscated by the Brown Clan and start from scratch just to keep this Lord who could produce fine salt?

For a few emotionally charged trades?

Of course not.

Grayson's intention was to continuously purchase and exchange fine salt from him in the future, earning the price difference!

The principle of stability, as a merchant, Grayson naturally understood.

Merchants are always after profit.

There are no absolute friends, only absolute interests.

However.

Lynn didn't care.

He possessed salt mines and coal mines, two sources of endlessly producing minerals.

He lacked nothing, except for money!

But, whether it was George or Grayson, their carriages had capacity limitations.

With more caravans arriving, things would be different.

Grayson's eyes widened slightly as he inquired, "So Master Lynn, what you mean is..."

Grayson naturally understood the implication of Lynn's words.

But he had not expected this day to come so quickly.

From Grayson's standpoint.

Naturally, the fewer merchants that knew about this place, the more beneficial it was for him.

If he could exchange more fine salt from Lynn, at critical market moments, the fine salt in his hand could be sold at a high price.

However, Grayson also understood.

Relying on his own power, he could not swallow this salt and coal mine.

Lynn calmly said, "You can introduce your siblings here."

"If collaboration is achieved and the transaction is successful, I can give you a one percent commission of the transaction amount."

Upon hearing this, Grayson's eyes instantly lit up.

His words became a bit excited.

"Master Lynn, you truly are a divine figure! If you become a merchant, we might not even get the scraps..."

Despite the simplicity of what Master Lynn said.

But he had never thought of it.

Simply put.

As long as he introduced the merchants of the Brown Clan to Master Lynn.

No matter how many times they transact or for how large an amount, he would receive a commission!

One percent...

If a single transaction amounted to one hundred gold pounds, he could receive one gold pound!

One gold pound doesn't seem like much.

But, the younger generation of the Brown Clan alone has some three or four dozen members, and the previous generation also has over a dozen!

They are merchants just like him.

Grayson knew better than anyone about the nature of the people in the Brown Clan.

They are all about profit and can be unscrupulous.

As long as their interests aren't violated, they can be trustworthy gentlemen or honest citizens.

Not mentioning bringing all members of the Brown Clan over.

As long as thirty clan members came.

The commission he could earn would be a terrifying figure.

The key is, he doesn't need to do anything!

In an instant.

A curious idea surfaced in Grayson's mind.

The position of Patriarch of the Brown Clan was his for the taking!

But soon, Grayson suppressed this wild thought.

He knew that currently, his worth was only a few dozen gold pounds.

The position of Patriarch was too far away...

However.

Grayson understood in his heart.

If a few years later, he truly became the Patriarch of the Brown Clan.

The Master Lynn in front of him would be his benefactor!

Grayson took a deep breath and said calmly, "Master Lynn, I am very willing to serve you!"

For him, this was an opportunity for change and a chance to soar to new heights.

Chapter 108: Mutated Wild Boar Farm (3K)

Lynn nodded, "Go ahead."

After all six thousand five hundred pounds of fine salt were loaded onto Grayson's wagon.

He wasted no time, climbed onto the wagon, and left Lynn's territory.

This deal with Master Lynn filled him with hope for the future!

If... he truly became the Patriarch of the Brown Clan, he would absolutely reckon with everyone in the Brown Clan!

Those ridiculous family rules!

As Grayson gradually disappeared from sight, Lynn withdrew his gaze.

Lynn naturally knew that the more merchants knew about this territory, the more dangerous it would become for him.

But Lynn had no choice.

He had to start making efforts.

He needed to develop quickly.

The distant enemy was his older brother, soon to inherit Marquis Ducas's position.

The near enemy, the Iron Blood Brotherhood bandits who left in disgrace a few days ago.

And the manor lord Aiden who came earlier...

Of course.

This was on the premise that the city wall was completed.

He could completely rely on the city wall to keep much of the danger outside!

Before, he wouldn't have dared to act so rashly.

Look at the five hundred slaves still standing in place in front of him, Lynn felt satisfaction.

Despite there being men and women among them, and even children.

During transportation, they were so hungry they appeared malnourished.

But Lynn didn't mind.

What were these if not labor!?

As for their weak bodies and if they might feel like escaping...

With the living standards of his territory, within one or two months at most, they could be nourished into healthy plump individuals!

As long as they kept their heads down working, they would get food and shelter, and occasionally rewards in Gold Pounds...

If they still harbored thoughts of escape, he would have no choice but to eliminate them.

He called Kuisi to arrange for cooks to prepare food for the slaves, allowing them to have a hearty meal.

Lynn drove them all to the vacant area outside the village.

What Lynn needed most now was labor to produce the brick billets.

The arrival of these slaves conveniently solved his urgent need.

Not only that, but the efficiency of building Red Brick Houses would also increase afterwards!

After arranging the slaves, Lynn walked towards the Blacksmith Shop.

Listening to the crisp sound of forging, he felt inexplicably comforted.

The hundred newly recruited soldiers were still without weaponry, requiring increased speed.

Moreover, his [Forging] skill was also about to advance to Level 2.

Lynn wanted to see what functionalities Level 2 skills could unlock!

Clang, clang, clang...

[Forging Experience +1]

[Forging Experience +1]

...

In the early morning of the next day.

In front of the kiln for firing red bricks, Lynn stood.

As Colin dug open the top of the kiln, the situation in the kiln came into everyone's view.

Inside the kiln, bricks were stacked in an interlocking manner.

Colin took out a finished brick and handed it to Lynn.

He respectfully said, "Master Lynn."

Lynn reached out to receive it, quickly examining it.

This brick was not red, but beige with a hint of white.

With a thought, a string of text appeared.

[Brick]: Made by mixing clay sand containing high aluminum oxide elements and loess, and firing it. Suitable for construction, etc.

Red bricks fired with high aluminum oxide content offer better fire resistance, effectively preventing houses from burning down.

Compared to ordinary red bricks, they are more practical in performance.

This was exactly what Lynn needed.

The brick dimensions were twenty-four centimeters long, eleven centimeters wide, and five centimeters high, considered typical for red bricks.

This size was convenient for transport and use.

Bricks are red due to the presence of high aluminum oxide compounds in the clay billets, which undergo an oxidation process during firing.

A kiln can fire about five hundred red bricks.

There were fifty kilns on this vacant land...

If all kilns fired at the right temperature, they could produce nearly twenty-five thousand red bricks.

Building a thirty-square meter Red Brick House required about four thousand red bricks!

Speaking of which, including the newly arrived five hundred slaves.

Just in the residential area, at least a thousand Red Brick Houses would need to be built!

At this firing efficiency, how long would it take to rebuild the entire territory?

He had to find a way to improve efficiency!

The first thought that came to Lynn's mind was to build a large-scale brick-burning factory!

However.

Constructing a large brick-burning factory also required a lot of red bricks, so the firing of red bricks had to continue for now.

Lynn entrusted Colin with supervising the red brick firing and went to the Blacksmith Shop.

Time slipped by like a white colt passing by a gap.

Soon, night descended.

A string of words appeared before Lynn's eyes.

[Your forging has advanced to Level 2, unlocking: Special Building Library]

[Received reward: Skill Duplication Book×1]

Looking at the text notification in front of him, Lynn's eyebrows raised involuntarily.

Special Building Library?

Skill Duplication Book?

Although Lynn hadn't checked yet, just from the names of these two rewards, they seemed quite extraordinary!

With a thought, explanatory text emerged.

[Skill Duplication Book]: Can replicate the skills of others.

The simple description made Lynn's mood ripple with strong waves.

Directly replicating others' skills for his own use!

How domineering.

However, for Lynn, this is exactly what's most needed.

As for what skill to replicate, Lynn felt he could wait a bit.

It has become somewhat difficult to upgrade skills.

The [Skill Duplication Book] is not easy to come by.

Suppressing the waves in his heart, Lynn looked at the [Heavenly Artifacts] panel.

In the bottom right corner of the interface, a yellow-brown book icon appeared.

Opening the [Special Building Library], a panel filled with various blueprints appeared before Lynn's eyes.

[Mutated Wild Boar Farm]: The domesticated wild boars will mutate, becoming large and strong, and can understand most human commands.

Looking at one of the architectural blueprints, Lynn's eyes widened instantly!

The domesticated wild boars will mutate?

In his mind, a strange image instantly appeared.

Knights in armor riding on wild boars with huge tusks, charging...

Wild Boar Knight!

Upon seeing the conditions required to exchange for the building blueprint, Lynn temporarily chose to give up.

Energy Stones to exchange!

Moreover, building special structures requires Magic Ore for enhancements.

Lynn's eyes then moved to other architectural blueprints.

[Snowball Launcher]: Produces snowballs to prevent land combustion, ensuring the safety of farms and planting areas.

[Pharmacy Workshop]: Medicines can be produced within the Pharmacy Workshop.

[Magic Workshop]...

...

Lynn briefly glanced over them.

Different special buildings require different numbers of Energy Stones for exchange.

Moreover, the materials needed to construct them do not concern him.

Even if they're not needed now, it's better than nothing.

Lynn is looking forward to it.

If these special buildings can be exchanged and constructed.

After these few days of rush forging by the Blacksmith Shop, the Combat Long Spear and Round Shield that Lynn needed...

After dinner.

The villagers were enjoying the evening tranquility.

But Lynn couldn't do that.

He needed to continue working for the development of the entire territory.

Lynn asked Kuisi to call Guy over.

A few minutes later.

Guy appeared in front of Lynn.

Howl~ Howl~

Lynn was about to speak when a dog's barking sound reached his ears.

Looking down, he saw two half-grown wolf pups standing beside Guy.

One was snow white, and the other was completely black.

As they were in their growth phase, their fur was in a bristling stage.

It was precisely the ones he had previously named 'Bai Ling Hei Ye'!

Lynn was a bit surprised, "Didn't expect they actually survived."

As he spoke.

The two wolf pups, Bai Ling and Hei Ye, passed by Guy and approached his feet.

After sniffing around Lynn's feet, they started nudging Lynn's ankle with their heads.

Kuisi, who was waiting beside him, couldn't help but reveal a smile.

Because they were domesticated, the two wolf pups were more like dogs.

Guy echoed with a smile, "Yes, Master Lynn, their Life Energy is truly resilient."

"However, it took a lot of effort, feeding them plenty of fine meat..."

Lynn nodded, and instantly thought of a blueprint in the [Special Building Library] in his mind.

[Wolf's Den]: The domesticated wild wolves will mutate, becoming robust with incredible perception, lightning speed, suitable for reconnaissance and more.

If these two wild wolves can grow up and form a scale, he can later exchange for the [Wolf's Den] blueprint.

Lynn said, "Then continue raising them, increase the number of wild wolves... whatever you need, just ask Kuisi directly."

Guy replied, "Okay, Master Lynn."

Lynn shifted the conversation, "The reason I called you over is to inform you that the territory is preparing to develop the livestock industry and build a ranch!"

Although in the current territory, there are only a few dozen draft horses and oxen.

Beyond that, there are no other livestock or poultry.

But the construction of the ranch must be put on the agenda by Lynn.

Because the breeding of livestock and poultry requires time!

Without livestock and poultry, he can have George or other merchants transport them over.

But this would only provide a small portion!

Lynn needs to construct a ranch, enclose the purchased livestock and poultry for expansion.

Only this way will the territory have a steady source of meat, eggs, and milk.

Furthermore, the leather needed for future armor production will also come from pigs, horses, sheep, and cattle in the ranch.

Guy was puzzled, "A ranch?"

Lynn nodded, "Yes, a ranch, with a breeding scale that might reach a thousand heads!"

Upon hearing this, Guy's eyes instantly widened.

A ranch for a thousand heads of livestock?

Isn't that too much?

He does have breeding experience, but previously he only bred a few dozen draft oxen and a dozen draft horses.

Lynn looked at Guy, "Any issues?"

Guy was a bit hesitant.

But soon enough.

The hesitation on his face disappeared.

"No problem, Master Lynn! However, I need you to assign me more people."

"Breeding a thousand heads of livestock requires many experienced helpers to accomplish!"

Lynn nodded, "I'll equip you with fifty people, and as the breeding increases, I'll assign you even more helpers."

Guy's eyes lit up, "Then I have no issues, Master Lynn."

The construction of a ranch is not as complicated as the Red Brick Factory.

Only a small amount of red bricks and lots of logs are needed to complete it.

The most crucial part is where to purchase a large amount of livestock and poultry.

Chapter 109: Exploring the Forest (3K)

The next day.

Six or seven miles outside the village, on a piece of uncultivated land.

Lynn stood with Guy, Red, and a few guards.

Their eyes were constantly sweeping over the surroundings.

After a short while.

Guy was the first to speak, "Master Lynn, if you want to build a pasture, this is a pretty good choice."

Lynn said nothing.

Guy began to explain, "In my experience, the most important factors in building a pasture are the choice of location and the water source!"

"The terrain of the pasture needs to be relatively flat and open with good drainage. This is more conducive to the livestock's movement and growth."

"Water source is a key element for the pasture. Although there's the Acadia River, we still need to dig wells to access groundwater to avoid rain or flooding, which would cause the water to become extremely turbid..."

Lynn nodded.

Guy continued, "After confirming the location, the next step is construction..."

"Master Lynn, to build a large pasture, we need to clear out the uncultivated land first, then construct fences to divide the areas,"

"And then build various barns and shelters for the animals to rest, as well as warehouses or silos for feed storage."

"Finally, there's the residential area for the pasture personnel..."

Lynn gave Guy an approving glance.

Guy had essentially outlined everything needed to build a pasture and all the key points to note.

Lynn said, "I will assign you twenty carpenters, twenty stonemasons, and twenty villagers to clear the land and transport materials. I need you to build the barns with red bricks."

"I want to see this pasture completed in a month's time!"

There are quite a few villagers with Level 1 or Level 2 [Construction] skills.

Plus, many of the raw materials are already available.

Like some of the red bricks that have been fired, timber from previous logging, lime that's been prepared, sand that's been dug up...

As long as the manpower is well organized, construction of the pasture can begin.

With sixty labors, if the pasture isn't built within a month, it can only mean that Guy's ability is limited!

Guy's eyes flickered a few times, and he replied, "No problem, Master Lynn."

Lynn nodded, mounted the horse that Red was holding, and headed back to the village.

Red, Guy, and the others followed closely behind.

Back at the village.

Lynn had Kuisi assign sixty villagers.

After a series of instructions from Guy, armed with their tools, he led these people to the selected site for the pasture.

With the pasture matters arranged, all that was left was to wait quietly.

Lynn's gaze drifted towards the distant farmland.

There, Gavin and Wilbur were organizing the farmers, digging canals.

Retracting his gaze, Lynn looked at Kuisi, "What is Colin doing now?"

Kuisi pondered for a few seconds and responded, "He should still be over there making red bricks, I think?"

"I'll go get him right now!"

With these words, Kuisi strode towards the distance.

After a short while.

Kuisi brought Colin before Lynn.

Colin hastily bowed, forcibly steadying his somewhat chaotic breath, "Master Lynn, you were looking for me?"

Lynn directly stated, "I need you to lead people in building a few large water wheels!"

Making red bricks requires a water source, the pasture needs a water source, and irrigation canals for the farmland also require a water source.

The Acadia River has an endless supply of river water, but because the land is higher, only buckets or water jars can be used, which is too inefficient.

Colin didn't think much and answered, "Of course, Master Lynn."

After telling Colin where the water wheels needed to be installed, Colin turned and left.

Colin had previously participated and witnessed the construction of water wheels, so there was nothing to worry about.

With the most urgent tasks handed over, Lynn gave Kuisi a few instructions.

Lynn, accompanied by Red and a dozen guards, left the village.

Mounting their horses, they headed towards the primordial forest in the northern part of the territory.

Lynn needed to continue exploring his territory.

He needed iron, a lot of iron ore.

If he could find a mine that was easy to extract, then Lynn would soar!

He already had a salt mine, a coal mine, and one more iron mine would round it off.

With his ability, building high furnaces for smelting copper and iron is not difficult!

Even if he couldn't find an iron mine, finding a copper or gold mine wouldn't be bad either.

...

Morrison Manor.

Around the three-story mansion built from piled stones.

Tents made of linen cloth were set up on the open space.

In the center of the tents was a pile of charcoal burnt to ashes.

With a gentle breeze, trails of white ash were lifted, floating in the air...

Occasional leisurely chuckles could be heard from various tents.

Inside the mansion, in a luxuriously furnished room on the third floor.

Aiden Manor Lord was sitting on a genuine leather seat.

His face was full of gloom, and his eyes kept darting around.

Opposite Aiden, Ford stood cautiously.

He hung his head low, not daring to utter a word.

The Iron Blood Brotherhood's presence here was due to his suggestion to Aiden.

Letting the tiger devour the wolf.

Using bandits to deplete the lord's armed forces.

When both sides were worn out, Aiden would swoop in, cleaning up the battlefield.

He could avenge Old Bower's murder, seize the territory, and eliminate the Iron Blood Brotherhood.

Finally, he could claim credit from Marquis Duca...

It was truly killing many birds with one stone!

At that time, Master Aiden couldn't help but applaud the idea.

But they never anticipated.

A single wall would brutally shatter their fantasies.

Now, not only was the territory not seized, the members of the Iron Blood Brotherhood were sticking to his manor like a leech.

The entire manor, including the families and the Free People slaves, was in a state of panic.

Aiden looked at Ford and questioned, "Tell me, how are we going to deal with these thieves now?"

Ford's face stiffened.

Whether it was the number of thieves or their equipment, they were far superior.

Unless Master Aiden could organize all the slaves and launch an attack.

But... those slaves only know how to farm!

Indeed, this dilemma eventually fell upon him.

Ford hesitated a bit, "Master Aiden, I... I don't know..."

Aiden's tone turned cold, "Don't know?"

Ford was terrified, he quickly changed his words, "No, no, Master Aiden, they... they are thieves!"

Aiden's tone became somewhat amiable, "Continue."

Suddenly, an idea popped into Ford's mind, "Yes, they are thieves, since Master Aiden, you can't deal with them, why not request reinforcements from Marquis Ducas?"

"You are his vassal, after all, you pay him taxes every year..."

"The Ducas Clan can't possibly turn a blind eye, can they?"

"Moreover, if Marquis Ducas's reinforcement troops arrive, with a mighty army, you can not only solve these thieves but also inquire about the missing Wood!"

"Even, you might get the long-awaited territory..."

Wood, who went to Marquis Ducas, had disappeared for a long time now.

Something unexpected must have happened.

But they didn't know, why did the accident happen?

Wood was a very cautious person.

Aiden's eyes lit up instantly, "Very good idea."

"In that case, you shall go to Marquis Ducas's castle and request reinforcements!"

Ford's eyes widened immediately in disbelief, "Huh? Me?"

...

Lynn and more than twenty others rode on horseback, advancing through the forest.

As they ventured deeper, the twenty to thirty-centimeter tree trunks had turned into ones that several people could hug around.

The tall canopies, striving to gain more sunlight, filled the spaces above tightly.

Even though it was noon now, only fragments of sunlight pierced through the gaps in the canopy.

If Lynn intends to construct ships for the sea in the future, these logs will be the best raw materials!

Lynn held the Horn Bow in his left hand and set the string with his right, fixating his gaze ahead.

There, a lone adult roe deer was leisurely foraging.

Buzz!

Swish!

The roe deer seemed to hear this slight sound, its head rose.

Its dark eyes scanning the surroundings.

However, it was too late.

Lynn's right fingers released instantly, an Arrow shot through the air towards the deer.

The sharp Arrow penetrated the roe deer's lung, piercing its heart.

Without even letting out a cry, it fell directly to the ground.

The Arrow pierced through and embedded into the ground.

[Hunting Experience +1]

Retracting the Horn Bow, Lynn nodded with satisfaction.

While exploring the ore veins, he can also grind Hunting Experience.

Two Guards sensibly went up, carrying the deer on their backs.

The group continued onward, heading deeper into the forest.

Until dusk fell.

Lynn and others found a leeward spot close to the Acadia River, to camp.

On the cleared ground, they started a campfire, placed an Iron Pot above it, to cook the cleaned venison and wheat.

Around the campfire, they skewered pieces of venison for roasting.

Soon after.

The aroma of meat began to spread across the camp.

Exploring the forest consumed as much energy as reclaiming wasteland!

Even more strenuous.

Not only dealing with the constant ups and downs of terrain but also being ever-cautious of poisonous insects and snakes...

Upon reaching the deep forest, the horses could no longer be ridden; they could only rely on their legs.

The Guards smelled the aroma and couldn't resist swallowing hard.

Until an hour later.

The forest was completely dark.

Except for the brightness of the campfire, there was no other light.

Silence engulfed everything, suffocatingly eerie.

The cooked food was thoroughly done, with its rich aroma spreading through the camp.

With permission from Master Lynn, the Guards gathered around to enjoy the outdoor dinner.

After eating and drinking, Lynn sat by the campfire to dispel the dense dew in the forest.

Lynn glanced at the Ore Vein Detector, though they had walked and searched the forest for a day, it still showed no information.

Looks like they'll have to go deeper into the forest.

Initially, she considered bringing Sienna along, but upon consulting, learned that she could only listen now and couldn't communicate.

Lynn abandoned the idea.

She turned her gaze to Red, "Did you and Kuisi see any special ore veins while passing through the forest to my territory?"

Red, who was guarding beside Lynn, wore a look of recollection.

But quickly, Red shook his head.

"Sorry, Master Lynn, we were too busy running for our lives, we didn't see any ore veins..."

Not only didn't they see, but even if they had seen, they likely wouldn't recognize them.

Lynn responded; she didn't mind.

She instructed Red to arrange the Guards for night watch.

Lynn lay down in the temporary shelter and drifted off to sleep.

As for the other Guards, naturally, they had to camp wherever they could.

After all, Lynn is the Lord!

Chapter 110: Large Open-pit Iron Mine

Last night was Christmas Eve.

After breakfast, when the guards and chefs had packed up, Lynn and his group set off once more.

Although walking through the forest, Lynn always led them along the banks of the Acadia River.

Lynn not only needed to explore the forest and search for ore veins but also to investigate the water system layout of the Acadia River.

This was related to the future development of maritime industry in the territory!

In the blink of an eye.

Three days passed.

During this time, the Ore Vein Detector did prompt twice.

One time, it was a medium-sized copper mine.

Another time, it was a small iron mine.

However, both of these ore veins were buried deep underground.

Under current conditions, mining them was simply impossible.

In the blink of an eye.

Another two days passed.

Lynn stood atop a peak filled with sharp rocks.

Beneath the peak, there was an endless stretch of primordial forest.

The wide and turbulent Acadia River, like a meandering giant dragon, divided this primordial forest.

The end was nowhere in sight.

To the left was the Elfini Empire, and to the right was his domain's forest...

Lynn realized that exploring the water system layout of the Acadia River like this was unrealistic.

He needed a map of the Acadia River.

However, there also needed to be covert sentries stationed along the Acadia River.

If any ships navigated through this forest towards Crescent Bay, they could issue a warning in advance.

Lynn did not want to experience another incident where bandits drove straight into the village.

After briefly experiencing the vastness of the terrain and the grandeur of the scenery atop the peak.

Lynn led Red and the others down from the peak.

He still had so many things to do.

The main purpose of this outing was to find an iron mine.

This was related to the military strength of the territory!

After searching the forest for another two days, Lynn still had no results.

They had been away from the village for eight days.

Even though Lynn had great confidence in Kuishi's abilities and Ross's military recruitment.

Leaving the territory without his presence for such a long time could easily lead to upheaval.

Lynn certainly did not want to come back and find his home robbed just because he was looking for an iron mine!

After heading back for two days.

A string of text suddenly appeared in Lynn's view.

"Ore Vein Detector: 200 meters southeast, large open-pit iron mine."

Seeing the prompt before him, Lynn's eyes widened.

Iron mine!

And it's a large iron mine!

Lynn's mind raced as he opened the [Ore Vein Detector].

Sure enough.

A symbol of an iron mine appeared on it.

Lynn didn't hesitate at all, leading Red and the others towards the iron mine.

They trekked past colossal tree trunks that would require several people to embrace and crossed moss-covered high rocky slopes.

Lynn stood at the location marked by the [Ore Vein Detector].

As he gazed at the scene ahead, his pupils gradually enlarged, his face filled with shock.

Even someone usually as calm and stable as Lynn could not help but feel his emotions rapidly fluctuate.

Before him was a tiered, exposed black mountain.

Even though there was much moss covering the mountain, the distinct black color was still evident at a glance.

The area was extensive, and the mining area could span several square kilometers or even more!

Lynn understood that this was indeed an iron mine!

An open-pit iron mine!

[Large Open-pit Iron Mine]: Formed through a combination of multiple geological processes over a long time.

The reserves of a large iron mine are at least several tens of millions of tons!

Or even up to billions of tons!

The accidental discovery of a salt mine had already initiated a qualitative leap in the economic development of the territory.

The discovery of the coal mine had brought about a massive transformation in the facilities of the territory too.

Now, with the discovery of this large open-pit iron mine!

Lynn realized that this time, he was really going to take off!

Subduing the shock in his heart, Lynn walked into the mountain body and casually picked up a piece of black ore.

[Iron Ore]: High-grade, low in alumina content, few harmful impurities, good sintering performance, suitable for smelting and forging, etc.

Reading the text description, Lynn felt increasingly satisfied in his heart.

And it was high-grade iron ore!

High grade means a high mass fraction of iron elements in the ore.

This allows for the extraction of more effective iron content!

Behind Lynn, the guards were filled with curiosity.

Their Master Lynn rushed here without any orders for them.

Red approached and asked in confusion, "Master Lynn, what's the problem with these stones?"

Lynn's lips curled slightly, "Of course there is a problem!"

With this open-pit iron mine, he will have countless armor and weapons!

With this open-pit iron mine, he can arm his soldiers to the teeth!

With this open-pit iron mine, he will have an infinite number of heavily armored elite cavalry!

With this open-pit iron mine, he will have the confidence to knock out all enemies with a single punch!

Red's puzzlement was still apparent.

Lynn calmly stated, "This is an iron mine!"

"Simply put, every soldier in the territory will be clad in fine plate armor in the future!"

Hearing Master Lynn's words, Red was stunned.

Not only him, but all the guards behind were also stunned.

Iron mine?

Plate armor?

Before they could indulge in imagination, Lynn abruptly announced, "This exploration is over; now we can return!"

Everyone instantly snapped back to reality, respectfully responding, "Yes, Master Lynn."

Watching Master Lynn stride forward, they hurriedly stepped to catch up.

They could clearly feel that after finding this iron mine, Master Lynn's mood instantly improved!

Under the guidance of the Guard, Lynn walked through the forest.

In his mind, he was already planning how to extract this open-pit iron mine.

According to the Holographic Map, the open-pit iron mine is quite far from the village.

Forty miles!

After eight days of continuous exploration, Lynn and his party had already traveled forty miles.

This was even under the complex road conditions in the forest.

Otherwise, they could have gone further.

The challenge of how to excavate appeared in Lynn's mind.

Excavate iron ore like excavating salt mines?

As soon as this idea came out, Lynn instantly dismissed it.

Even if starting from the open-pit salt mine, cutting down logs all the way and laying roads, achieving this nearly forty-mile journey would take too long!

Not only that, it would also require a lot of labor and resources.

The next second.

Lynn's eyes suddenly brightened.

The open-pit iron mine is only two or three miles away from the Acadia River.

It is completely feasible to transport the extracted iron ore by small boats to the back of the village!

This means that it is only necessary to temporarily cut down logs and build a road for this short stretch.

The road entering the open-pit iron mine can be paved when there is more labor available.

With the transportation issue of iron ore resolved, the next task is to produce more iron excavation tools and to arrange for excavation personnel.

As Lynn pondered,

his party had already exited the forest, mounted their horses, and galloped towards the village.

Not even close to the village yet,

Lynn saw from a distance that Colin was leading a dozen apprentices by the Acadia River, installing the water wheel.

With the stone mill and forging water wheels, six water wheels were already standing on the Acadia River!

In the wasteland farther from the village, a group of people were busily working together.

It was Guy and his team of stonemasons and carpenters building a ranch.

In the fields, Gavin and Wilbur were tending to the peas...

Seeing this scene, Lynn nodded with satisfaction.

Even after being away for nearly nine days, the village was still operating normally.

Just as he returned to the front of the village, Lynn noticed that Kuisi was waiting in the open space in front of the village.

As he approached, Kuisi greeted him with delight.

"Master Lynn, you're finally back!" she said anxiously.

Lynn dismounted and asked curiously, "What's wrong?"

Kuisi quickly explained, "Barely two days after you left, Grayson returned, bringing eight hundred pounds of high-quality iron, thirty thousand pounds of barley, and ten thousand pounds of wheat."

"Since you were not here, I did not trade the equivalent amount of fine salt with him, but... Grayson is willing to leave these goods with you first."

Although Kuisi had witnessed and participated in the step-by-step development of the village,

she was also one of the people Master Lynn trusted most.

Kuisi deeply understood that Master Lynn was the real owner of this land!

She could collaborate on anything with Master Lynn's permission,

but she would not overstep when it comes to Master Lynn's property!

Moreover, the value of these goods was nearly ninety Gold Pounds.

Lynn nodded and asked, "Has Grayson already left?"

Kuisi replied, "Yes, Master Lynn, Grayson has already left."

"However, there is a merchant named Alan Brown who has been waiting outside the city wall for a day. He claims to be Grayson's brother..."

"Even though his surname is the same as Grayson's, Instructor Ross didn't allow his caravan into the city wall without your permission!"

Lynn raised an eyebrow.

Alan Brown?

Lynn said, "Tell Ross to let them in."

The importance of the city wall once again became evident.

Without a clear introduction from an intermediary, no one can enter his territory!

If they want to enter, they must get his approval!

Kuisi acknowledged and immediately called a nearby guard to relay Master Lynn's order.

Lynn strode toward the wooden house.

"Kuisi, please prepare a tub of hot water. I need a good soak!"

Being out for nearly nine days, his body was sore and smelled!

Kuisi acknowledged, "Yes, Master Lynn, I'll go right away."

Half an hour later.

A bathtub filled with hot water was placed in Lynn's wooden house.

Wisps of white steam continuously floated and spread throughout the room.

Lynn soaked comfortably, relieving muscle soreness and dispelling the fatigue from his body...

The guard rode to the city wall at the mountain pass to deliver the message.

The Alan Brown caravan would need at least two to three hours to reach the village from the city wall, even at a fast speed.

Lynn had plenty of time!

It wasn't until a little over two hours later that Lynn, having finished his bath, changed into comfortable silk clothes and walked out of the wooden house.

In the distance,

a caravan of horse-drawn carriages was traveling along the lime road towards the village.

Lynn observed the caravan.

On ten carriages, each pulled by four strong draft horses, goods were piled high.

Because of the rain tarpaulin covers, Lynn couldn't see what was inside.

The carriages were evidently specially reinforced, utilizing a composite structure with ironwood, thick-spoked wheels, and sturdy bodies...

Around the carriages were thirty mounted guards.

They had stern expressions, their eyes vigilantly scanning the surroundings.

Their left hands tightly held the reins while their right hands touched the handles of the one-handed swords at their waists, with a metal round shield strapped to their backs.

Their bodies were also clad in partial chain armor.

Compared to Grayson's attendants, Alan Brown's guards were much stronger.

This full suit of armor was enough to dissuade many small gangs of bandits!

To ensure the safety of the territory, Ross led nearly a hundred soldiers following them.

At the front, a similarly armored, fat man was the first to dismount from his horse.

His fat and pale face, with a squeezed body barely fitted inside the armor,

especially those eyes that were nothing more than slits, left a deep impression on Lynn!

With a thought, a stream of text appeared in Lynn's eyes.