

System 511

Chapter 511: Massacre [Part 6]

The townsmen's expressions were terrified, their eyes full of fear.

But facing soldiers armed with sharp weapons and long spears, they couldn't muster any will to resist.

For before these soldiers invaded the town, all resisting soldiers or townsmen were slaughtered completely!

Even though the open field gathered over a thousand people.

They still dared not speak a word, just widened their eyes, watching the platform at the front of the clearing.

There.

A young man dressed in leather armor with long hair stood firmly.

His expression was indifferent, his gaze akin to looking down on livestock.

Behind the young man, Godfrey stepped forward twice, approaching Lawrence.

Godfrey inquired, "Master, excluding the over three hundred townsmen who resisted and died, how should we deal with the remaining two thousand eight hundred townsmen?"

Even if a town's armed soldiers were as numerous, it only reached one or two hundred at most.

Even adding some fervent townspeople would still only be a force of three to four hundred.

However.

Such a force, how could it compare to systematically trained soldiers?

Under a round of archers' arrow rain and cavalry's charging assault, the infantry quickly broke through the town's wooden gate.

Once the soldiers entered the town, what lay before them was a group of powerless townspeople.

Lawrence did not answer Godfrey's question, instead, his gaze swept over those terror-stricken faces.

Until a moment later.

He asked, "Godfrey, how do you think we can provoke the anger of one of the Empire's Three Great Dukes, the Duke of Red Dragon?"

"Is it insults?"

"With the Duke of Red Dragon's calmness, even if insults reached his ears, he'd consider it mere child's play."

"Is it plundering?"

"Besides plundering some money and food, we cannot take away much more."

"Escorting thousands of townsmen would only hinder our marching speed."

Speaking to this, Lawrence looked at Godfrey, questioning, "Knight Commander Godfrey, what do you think it would be?"

A low murmur came from Godfrey's mouth: "Slaughter."

"A large-scale slaughter!"

A smile appeared on Lawrence's face.

He spoke approvingly to Godfrey, "As expected of my Knight Commander and strategist!"

"You hit the nail on the head and quickly thought of a solution!"

"As you said, only through slaughter, using Duke Cangyu's position to kill masses of the Red Dragon Duke's vassals."

"Reduced tax revenue, reduced labor force, territorial infringement, trampled dignity as one of the Three Great Dukes... "

"He will become enraged!"

"He will organize resistance!"

"He will counterattack!"

Godfrey fell silent.

Lawrence's words continued.

"If the three thousand people in this town can't attract the Duke of Red Dragon's attention."

"Then we'll slaughter another town."

"If the town still makes no impact, then we'll massacre a city!"

Having said this.

Lawrence turned his gaze to Godfrey.

He calmly commanded, "Godfrey, give the order."

"Issue the command: Kill everyone in the town! The elderly, the women, the children, the livestock!"

"Leave no one behind!"

As Lawrence spoke, Godfrey's whole body couldn't help but tremble.

Devil!

Lawrence is an unequivocal devil!

He actually wants to slaughter every living thing in the town!

If it were still on the battlefield, clashing armies and executing prisoners, it could be counted fair.

But these... are merely defenseless townspeople!

Godfrey glanced at Lawrence, preparing to speak.

Yet Lawrence's words cut him off, curiosity lining his voice: "What?"

"Knight Commander Godfrey, can't help this commander issue the order?"

"Or do you wish to defy military command?"

Godfrey hurriedly bowed, speaking, "Master, you've misunderstood."

After speaking.

Godfrey stepped forward a few paces, standing at the platform's edge.

His gaze swept over those faces full of fear.

He opened his mouth, inhaled a cold breath, and shouted, "All soldiers, heed the command, indiscriminately kill all townsmen!"

"Indiscriminately kill all townsmen!"

"Indiscriminately kill all townsmen!"

Godfrey's shout echoed around the clearing, reaching the ears of all soldiers and townsmen present.

Not just the townsmen.

Even the soldiers surrounding the area were stunned.

Seeing the soldiers' lack of response, Godfrey shouted once more.

"This is the command!"

With Godfrey's final words resounding.

A soldier, whose right hand trembled slightly, suddenly clenched the sword tightly, without any hesitation, slashing down towards a middle-aged man in front of him.

The man wearing only a linen robe instantly lost all signs of life, collapsing to the ground.

Vivid crimson quickly surged from his chest, staining it thoroughly, blood flowing onto the ground...

A nearby woman saw her eyes contract, mouth unable to stop screaming.

"Ah!"

"Killed, they murdered!"

After this scream, all soldiers seemed to be emboldened.

They lifted their longswords and long spears, stabbing at the bodies of townsmen in front of them!

"Ah~"

"Ah~ ah~"

"What are you... What are you doing... ah~"

"..."

One after another, bodies fell and rolled on the ground after soldiers withdrew their spears and swords.

Screams followed by screams, screams, and cries of agony echoed across the clearing.

Soldiers, pulling out weapons embedded in townsmen's hands, hesitated not once, advancing again.

Despite being soldiers, trained systemically for a long time.

But at this moment, their movements stiffened, hearts numbed.

Never dreaming.

That one day they'd hold weapons to slaughter these defenseless townsmen!

As the outermost ring of townsmen fell, soldiers marched, stepping over each body, approaching townsmen curled at the clearing's center.

The townsmen wished to escape, but faced with over three thousand fully armed soldiers, they couldn't break through the line!

Heart-wrenching, desperate cries rose from within the townsmen crowd.

"Hell-born, you beasts!"

"We are merely ordinary people striving for survival, why annihilate us."

"Please, spare me; my child is only three years old!"

"Hahaha, dead, we're all going to die! We'll all die here!"

"..."

>On the platform at the front.

Godfrey stood at the edge still.

His gaze fixed straight on one circle after another of townsmen, continuing to fall.

Behind.

The sound of footsteps reached Godfrey's ears.

It was accompanied by Lawrence's voice full of endless sighs.

"Such splendid blood!"

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Godfrey's body trembled slightly.

Lawrence's words continued to echo.

"Every lost life is like a blooming flower of vitality!"

"Only death can truly elevate their existence..."

"In reality, I'm not indulging in slaughter, but rescuing and fulfilling them!"

At this point.

Lawrence shifted his gaze to Godfrey beside him.

"Godfrey, don't you agree?"

Godfrey snapped back to reality, withdrawing his gaze from the pile of corpses.

He bent down and lowered his head, "Master, you are... right."

A smile played at the corners of Lawrence's mouth, "Naturally."

"After finishing the slaughter, begin cleaning the manor lord of the town!"

Godfrey bowed again, "Yes, Master."

Listening to the sound of Lawrence's footsteps gradually receding.

Godfrey finally lifted his head, gazing forward.

The originally dense crowd on the empty square was now buried under a multitude of corpses.

One pressing upon another, layer covering layer.

Scarlet blood flowed from their bodies, dripping onto the ground.

Coalescing with other streams of blood, forming small creeks.

Eventually pooling in the sunken area of the square, creating a pool of blood.

As the blood continued to gather, the pool expanded, soaking body after body...

A gentle breeze swept through, carrying the scent of blood in the air.

All the townsmen had been massacred.

Godfrey looked at the faces of the corpses, their eyes wide open even in death.

He called out directly, "Danke!"

Danke, who had been standing behind him, quickly ran over to his side.

Danke bowed, "Sir."

Godfrey, "Prepare dry wood and burn all the corpses!"

Not even mentioning, if these corpses are left to decay in the town, it will cause plague.

The Karedi Empire covers a vast territory.

Even the Duchy of the Red Dragon, one of the Three Great Dukes, is equally expansive.

This town, located far from Ashen Flame City where the Red Dragon Duke's Castle is situated, lies at the edge of the Duchy of the Red Dragon.

If these corpses are not burned, attracting the attention of surrounding forces, the Duke of Red Dragon will never know what happened here!

They intend to incite the Duke of Red Dragon's wrath!

Danke quickly responded, "Yes, Sir."

With his voice trailing off, seeing Godfrey had no further orders.

Danke then withdrew, beginning to dispatch soldiers to burn the corpses.

Bundles of dry wood were transported from the town by soldiers, piled atop the corpses.

Not only dry wood, but doors, wooden beams, carts, and all combustible items were brought over.

The corpses were simply too many!

Until several hours later.

As night descended, enveloping the entire world.

Soldiers holding flaming torches lit up the whole square.

Danke, holding a torch, came before Godfrey.

Handing the torch to Godfrey, Danke reminded, "Sir."

Godfrey glanced at Danke, reaching to accept it.

Under the gaze of all soldiers, Godfrey exerted his arm, flinging the torch forward.

Boom~

The torch ignited like kindling, flames rising instantly, setting the combustibles ablaze.

The soldiers surrounding them likewise threw their torches.

Pile after pile of dry wood was lit.

Initially, the flames were not particularly bright.

But minutes later, all combustible material was set ablaze, burning fiercely.

Flames as if to devour everything flickered in the night breeze, reaching skyward from the town square.

The crimson glow illuminated the darkened town brightly!

Godfrey glanced around silently, striding towards the buildings at the rear.

He arrived at a somewhat ornate two-story building.

Under the watchful eyes of ten soldiers, Godfrey stepped inside.

After only a few steps, rhythmic, rapid body impacts reached Godfrey's ears.

Accompanied by restrained cries of women, beyond decency.

Godfrey's steps halted abruptly.

An inexplicable anger rose within his heart.

Having slaughtered over three thousand unarmed townsmen by day, with their bodies just now burned by soldiers' efforts.

Yet Commander Lawrence was indulging in fleshly pleasures with women again?

Godfrey's breathing became involuntarily rapid, fists clenched tightly, he strode towards the stairway leading to the second floor.

Step by step, his feet landing on the wooden stairs produced a steady 'thump-thump' sound.

With each step upwards, the strange sounds grew more distinct.

"Heh heh, how is it? Didn't I say you couldn't handle this!"

"You want a taste too? Sure, but you can't flee, alright?"

"..."

A few seconds later.

Godfrey stood before a pair of double wooden doors, his hands resting upon them.

With slight exertion, he could force the doors open!

Yet, in that moment.

Godfrey abandoned the idea.

His rapid breathing gradually returned to normal, his fast-beating heart easing.

Godfrey's hands slid down from the doors slowly.

He pulled a self-deprecating smile, shaking his head, raised his right hand and knocked on the door.

Thump thump~

Godfrey called out to remind, "Master, the corpses have been burned."

Chapter 513: Audrey (Part 2)

"It won't be long before other forces find out."

"I think we should prepare the next step of our plan..."

As Godfrey's words fell, the sound of impact behind the wooden door continued without any pause.

Has it seemed to become more intense?

The voice of Lawrence's response rang out.

"I know! Go wait downstairs!"

Godfrey answered, stepping toward the downstairs.

He arrived at the front door.

Godfrey leaned directly against the wooden wall.

He slightly sniffed, catching the scent of roasted meat and flames wafting in the air.

His gaze shifted, and Godfrey looked into the distance.

The flickering flames seemed to stain the sky red.

Until more than half an hour later.

Lawrence, while fastening his clothes, walked out of the house.

Lawrence casually glanced at the distant flames and spoke to Godfrey, "Gather up, prepare to set off!"

Godfrey bowed and answered, "Yes, Master!"

...

For several consecutive days.

Lynn, after arranging work on the territory, immediately headed to the dock to engage in [Fishing].

He now had six thousand energy stones in his possession.

In just another three to four days, he could gather nine thousand energy stones to exchange for nine hundred pounds of [Emperor Potato].

After some work, Lynn pulled a three-pound carp from the river.

As Red unhooked the fish, preparing to cast the line again, Kuisi came running from the distance.

Running up to Lynn, Kuisi gasped, "Master... Grayson's sister, Audrey... has arrived at your territory..."

Lynn replied, "I know."

"Next time, no need to rush in such a panic."

"Whoever enters this land, if they wish to see me, they must be patient!"

"Otherwise, they are free to leave."

Kuisi's face straightened, and she quickly responded, "Yes, Master."

It was only then.

Kuisi realized.

The Master Lynn before her was the Lord of this territory!

His words were the highest command in the land.

His orders were everything!

No matter the identity of someone visiting the territory, unless they breached the walls and besieged with armies.

Their status would always be beneath Master Lynn!

Handing his fishing rod to the guard, Lynn began walking back to the town.

Red Kuisi and the guards followed closely.

Moments later.

Lynn rounded several red brick houses, his gaze fixed ahead,

and saw a figure clad in off-white leather armor, with flowing white hair, entering his sight.

It was none other than the aloof and queenly Audrey Brown, whom he had encountered before.

As he stepped toward Audrey, she was also scanning the scene and noticed Lynn.

Her still-cold voice sounded from Audrey's mouth.

"The development speed of your territory is indeed beyond my expectations!"

Standing in front of Audrey, Lynn glanced at her and spoke calmly, "Lady Audrey, you overstate it."

"No matter how fast the development speed, compared to the Portlands Empire, it's merely a frontier."

Audrey was noncommittal. Her words shifted, "Grayson sent me some glazed glass items."

"Though the quality isn't as fine as some precious glass, the design is innovative."

"He said they were produced in your territory?"

Lynn nodded and said, "Yes, my territory does indeed have a Glass Workshop."

Audrey didn't speak, waiting for an invitation from Lynn.

But she found that Lynn only explained about the Glass Workshop, with no intention of inviting her for a tour.

Audrey's interest piqued.

Compared to those so-called royal descendants, the impression Lynn left on her was much better.

Words neither humble nor arrogant, a poised demeanor.

Audrey had to ask, "If Lord Lynn is willing to show me the Glass Workshop, I have some intelligence to share with you."

"I wonder if Lord Lynn would be willing?"

Lynn raised an eyebrow and extended his left hand, "Lady Audrey, this way please."

Though he didn't know what intelligence Audrey had to offer.

But showing the Glass Workshop was too simple for him.

Watching Lynn's actions, Audrey couldn't help but snort inwardly.

So he's a shrewd fellow!

Won't make a concession without gaining anything!

But then again, isn't she the same?

With Lynn leading, Audrey walked by Lynn's right side towards the town.

Behind them were Red and Audrey's bodyguards.

As they walked, Audrey's gaze scanned everything around her.

The Blacksmith Workshop, Textile Workshop, Bow and Arrow Workshop, Woodworker Workshop...

All the workshops needed for a territory's development of tools, weapons, and armor were in place!

Even on Audrey's cold, stern face, a trace of slight surprise appeared.

Walking past the Blacksmith Workshop, it seemed Audrey thought of something.

She glanced at the composite armor Red was wearing and asked, "Did you forge the armor he's wearing?"

Lynn followed her gaze to Red and responded, "Yes, a combination of traditional chest armor and padded armor, known as composite armor."

Audrey's interest grew, and she continued to ask, "What's the advantage over plate armor and chain armor?"

Lynn calmly explained, "Its defense is far superior to chain armor, and it's much lighter than plate armor."

Hearing this, Audrey couldn't help but take another look at the composite armor on Red, her eyes full of admiration.

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Even though she was a merchant, with just a simple sentence from Lynn, the advantages of the Composite Armor were immediately highlighted.

While ensuring defensive performance, the weight of the armor was reduced, which is exactly what soldiers need in armor.

They walked past the textile workshop, watching the workers inside weaving like an assembly line.

Audrey's heart was no longer just surprised.

Until now.

Audrey finally understood and comprehended Grayson's praises when he saw Lord Lynn in front of him.

From the very beginning, he was just a lord with a patch of wooden houses, to now, he already possessed a red brick house town.

She also saw the excitement during labor from the townspeople who were opening up and planting that large field.

Moreover, there are various workshops that have already formed in scale!

And the three mines that Grayson mentioned...

If Lynn before merely relied on the terrain behind the mountain to have the conditions to rise.

Then the current Lynn is rapidly rising!

Slaves converted to townsmen, diligently farming to ensure all sources of grain.

Once the townsmen are well-fed and strong, they are then transformed into soldiers.

The mined ore, after smelting and forging, is turned into armor and weapons to arm the soldiers.

As long as he is given enough time, his territory will plant more grain, recruit and train more soldiers, and forge more armor and weapons.

Then the Lynn in front of us will become a new emerging force not to be underestimated in Kaldi!

Why not to be underestimated?

Because Lynn can achieve self-sufficiency with the advantage of his territory!

Moreover, the imperial power struggle in the Karedi Empire happens to provide Lynn with a great environment to rise!

Audrey understood.

A rising new star of power will ascend in the Karedi Empire!

Under Lynn's leadership.

Audrey arrived at the entrance of the Glass Workshop.

Without needing Lynn to remind her, the sharp-eyed Audrey quickly spotted the rows of wooden shelves neatly arranged with glazed glass products.

She walked straight in without hesitation.

Lynn clearly saw a bright surprise appear in her once cold eyes.

Lynn raised an eyebrow, just as Grayson said—Audrey really liked glazed glass products.

Lynn did not speak, following Audrey from behind.

Beo and Layla came to Lynn's side, just as they were about to speak, Lynn stopped them.

The two glanced at the tall woman ahead, seeming to understand something, followed quietly behind, waiting in anticipation.

Audrey's gaze swept over each glazed glass product.

Until more than half an hour later.

She stopped in front of a wooden shelf, her eyes fixed on Lynn.

"Lord Lynn, I want all the glazed glass products I just saw!"

"Name your price?"

Lynn glanced back.

In half an hour, Audrey had walked around the entire Glass Workshop meticulously.

With twenty five-tier wooden shelves in total, there must be over a thousand glazed glass products!

Excluding those with slight defects given to the townsmen for daily use in the town.

All the qualified standard glazed glass products were displayed on the shelves.

Lynn looked at Audrey, explaining, "There are at least a thousand products on these shelves from the Glass Workshop."

Audrey raised her eyebrows, asking, "Lord Lynn thinks I can't afford it?"

Lynn directly ignored Audrey's words, saying, "Each glazed glass product is five gold pounds!"

"No bargaining!"

Audrey's eyes widened slightly, just about to negotiate.

She immediately recalled the first time she met Lynn, when she added five shillings just to sell slaves to him.

Surprisingly, after more than half a year, this situation came back around.

She naturally heard from Grayson that the slaves transported were still five shillings, and Lynn never changed the price.

It was just that the price of the glazed glass had risen from two gold pounds to five gold pounds!

Audrey snorted, seemingly a bit reluctant as she arrogantly said, "Five gold pounds, then five gold pounds! I, Audrey, have enough money!"

Lynn's gaze turned to Beo and Layla, saying, "Hurry and thank Lady Audrey for her generosity?"

"After all, she bought all the glazed glass products at a high price!"

Indeed.

Even a woman like Audrey has the same preferences as ordinary people.

On second thought.

This is normal.

If one doesn't have preferences, what's the point of becoming an emperor of an empire?

Beo and Layla, though following behind, had heard the entire conversation between Lynn and Audrey.

Upon receiving Lynn's command, Beo and Layla quickly bowed, their words full of gratitude.

"Thank you, Lady Audrey, for your generosity..."

Hearing their words, Audrey gave Lynn a look before withdrawing her gaze.

Lynn continued speaking, "Is the carriage of Lady Audrey specifically for transporting glazed glass products?"

Earlier, he had seen a convoy with a carriage drawn by four horses parked at Lord's Square.

Audrey acknowledged, "There are ten carriages transporting a hide, about twenty thousand pounds, originally planned to be taken back to the Portlands Empire."

"Now to transport the glazed glass, I'll resell them to you."

"At market price, help offset part of the glazed glass products' price."

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Lynn was somewhat surprised.

But not because of the quantity of leather Audrey had transported.

It was because.

Clearly Audrey was lying to him.

He distinctly remembered that Audrey was sailing on a longship, heading to Triumph City.

Even if she had acquired this batch of leather on the way there or back,

Audrey could have easily stacked the leather on the longship.

There was no need to load the leather onto a carriage and transport it from Kakasong City to his territory.

The only possible reason is.

Audrey understood that his territory lacked a large amount of leather for the production of armor lining, quivers, harnesses, and other items.

Having acquired the leather, she transported it to him specifically!

Why would she do this?

Because of his care for Grayson?

High-priced slave purchases followed by exchanging them for fine salt at extremely low prices?

Or was it at the beginning, when Grayson was selling fine salt in Kakasong City, and was detained by the Church personnel?

At the point of having nothing, he provided Grayson with goods to start over?

He would not simply believe that Audrey, who had only met him once, would take a fancy to him.

Aside from these.

Lynn could not fathom other possibilities!

The depth of Audrey's scheming was somewhat beyond his judgment.

Scratching his ideas, Lynn quickly proceeded with the exchange.

"The current market price for leather is... four pence per pound, twenty thousand pounds is eighty thousand pence, which equals three hundred and thirty-four Gold Pounds!"

"Glazed glass products are Five Gold Pounds each, a thousand of them equal Five Thousand Gold Pounds."

"Lady Audrey, you still need to give me Four Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Six Gold Pounds."

Four Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Six Gold Pounds could almost match the tax revenue of a small city for several months!

Audrey said nothing and looked at the burly and robust personal female guard behind her.

Her height and body profile were not at all inferior to Red standing beside us!

"Hilda!"

Addressed as Hilda, she bent slightly, moved her body, and took off a leather backpack slung on her back.

With a movement of her hand, she handed it to Red beside her.

No need for Lynn's instruction, Red reached out to take it.

Audrey spoke, "There are Two Thousand Gold Pounds in the bag!"

"The insufficient part, I will have Grayson compensate with the slaves brought over."

Lynn nodded calmly.

Audrey continued, "I also need a set of armor displayed in your Blacksmith Workshop."

Lynn naturally understood.

What Audrey spoke of was the armor Flint crafted himself for teaching the apprentices.

Compared to a set of Fine Lightweight Scale Armor with Chain Liner, the leather Audrey sent was indeed a great help.

Leather is the goods he temporarily cannot produce himself.

But armor can be reforged as long as Flint, iron ore, and coal mines are present!

Lynn nodded and said, "No problem."

With the transaction confirmed, he called the guard to notify Kuisi and George to arrange for townsmen to unload the leather from the carriage.

Lynn and Audrey walked out of the Glass Workshop, proceeding through the town.

Although she had roughly observed the town earlier, as Audrey walked on the red brick road, looking around.

Her eyes still showed a hint of curiosity.

Lynn did not disturb Audrey and simply led the way ahead.

Half an hour later.

Audrey stood in front of a wide building.

Her gaze passed through the glazed windows of the building, watching the tender faces and innocent gazes of the children inside.

Walking a few steps ahead, Lynn noticed this scene.

He stopped and stood waiting ahead.

Looking into the classroom, Sienna was holding a quill pen, seeming to write something on pristine paper.

Audrey's usually cold face unexpectedly softened.

But soon.

Audrey noticed Lynn was observing her.

She turned her face, looking into the distance, and when she looked back, her face had already returned to its high and cold demeanor.

Retracting her gaze, Audrey caught up with Lynn's pace, walking alongside.

Audrey spoke doubtfully, "Lord Lynn, those children..."

Lynn took over the conversation and explained, "They are the children of the townsmen. I arranged for scholars to teach them literacy."

Audrey raised her eyebrows: "Don't they need to labor?"

Lynn nodded indifferently, "Children at such a young age, what can they do even if they labor?"

"Instead of that, during the growth phase of their memory, it would be better to let them learn more writing and knowledge in school."

"Once they reach adulthood, their usefulness and abilities will far outweigh manual labor."

Audrey nodded in agreement.

Even though she did not voice anything.

Deep down, her perspective on Lynn altered quite a bit.

If she had not visited this school.

Audrey might have thought Lynn was just a lucky Lord with some ability.

Only relying on three mineral resources, developing slowly to have everything he has now.

Others could do the same.

But now, she finally realized.

Lynn's ability and thinking far exceeded what she had seen from any other lord.

The thought process of those noble lords always revolves around the supremacy of interests and social status.

They would send their descendants to monastery schools or palace schools for cultural education.

All for the sake of enabling their descendants, through learning, to possess the talent for governance!

When you think about it,

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If such learning can be popularized, even if it's just teaching ordinary people to read and write,

and spreading advanced productivity technologies broadly, the level of productivity will see a significant improvement!

But other lords will never have such an idea.

In their view,

apart from their bloodline descendants, who else can be of the status to receive the same cultural education as them?

Passing by the school, Audrey quickly saw another building.

She personally saw a townsman dressed in a linen robe occasionally walk into the hospital.

Moments later,

the townsman came out carrying a small bundle tied with paper.

Audrey couldn't help but ask, "Lord Lynn, that is..."

Lynn glanced in the direction and explained, "The hospital, the territory hospital I built."

Audrey continued to ask, "Can it treat everyone in the territory?"

Lynn nodded, "Of course, Lady Audrey."

"Otherwise, what is the purpose of the territory hospital's existence?"

His purpose in building the hospital was to heal townsmen and soldiers.

He didn't want simple fevers to directly lead to death among the townsmen and soldiers.

Whether townsmen or soldiers, he'd spent a great deal of food and time cultivating them!

Audrey naturally didn't understand Lynn's thoughts.

But she fell silent once more.

Audrey found that although Lynn was also a lord, the model of his territory was quite different from others!

Other lords didn't have the term townsmen!

They only had hired free people or enslaved peasants!

Nor would they likely let hospitals, usually serving the wealthy, accept free people and peasants for treatment.

Perhaps.

It is precisely because Lynn's thinking mode and management style are different,

that this territory can develop so quickly from a collection of wooden cottages to a territory where most industries are self-sufficient?

If Lynn in front of her can continue to grow and spread this model beyond his territory...

Audrey's heart couldn't help but fill with anticipation.

Perhaps Lynn could bring some shock to this continent!

There's no telling.

Thinking here.

Audrey, with her arms folded in front, made the curve before her even more pronounced.

She took steps and spoke to Lynn, "Lord Lynn."

"I think I can share the intelligence I mentioned earlier with you now!"

Lynn said nothing, but listened to Audrey's words as he walked.

Audrey continued, "Perhaps you've heard before, the battle for imperial authority is about to come!"

Lynn nodded.

"However, this time, it will not be far away!"

"Mitchell Carolin directed Mark Ducas to dispatch a troop, passing through the borderlands, crossing the boundaries of the Marquisate and the Duchy."

"Rapidly captured three towns with the speed of lightning!"

"Slaughtering completely wherever they pass, from townsmen to poultry and livestock..."

"No life remains!"

Upon hearing this, Lynn's brow furrowed sharply.

He immediately thought of Lawrence, leading over three thousand Sword and Shield Army soldiers, departing Morgan Town!

Marching towards the direction of Wind Hill...

Crossing Wind Hill, then an entire range of deserted mountains.

On the other side is the Duchy of the Red Dragon!

Only now did he finally understand.

That Lawrence, who arrived with the Sword and Shield Army soldiers, had a main goal far from assisting Morgan Town in their bandit suppression!

It was under the guise of bandit suppression, utilizing Morgan Town at the southern borderland as a detour.

The primary purpose was to sneak into the Duchy of the Red Dragon through an unguarded border!

It's confirmed!

Everything is confirmed!

The next second.

Lynn thought of something, just as he was about to speak.

Audrey continued, "You want to ask, wouldn't the invasion of the Duchy of the Red Dragon by Ducas Clan's Sword and Shield Army soldiers trigger a conflict between them?"

Lynn nodded again; Audrey's ability to read expressions and infer intentions was truly terrifying.

Audrey snorted, "Mark Ducas thinks he is very clever..."

"No, to be accurate, Mitchell Carolin thinks he is very clever!"

"By having Ducas Clan's Sword and Shield Army soldiers don the leather armor of Duke Cangyu's Cangyu Army and massacre villages and clear manor lord forces, they hoped to provoke a conflict between the two Grand Dukes, leading to war."

"To thereby prevent Duke Cangyu from leaving Mitchell's influence and joining Caesar's camp!"

Lynn furrowed his brow, "The intelligence I received was that, besides Duke of Red Dragon supporting Prince Caesar, Duke Heiyao and Duke Cangyu were aligned with Mitchell!"

Audrey nodded and explained, "This was indeed the case before I went to Triumph City."

"But afterward, Duke Cangyu sensed something was amiss."

"Whether Duke or Marquis, or any other forces involved in the imperial authority struggle, it is all for profit!"

"Even if the profit cannot be achieved in the short term, they have to fight for it."

"For example, Mitchell's eldest daughter, Yuna, who just came of age last year!"

"As long as their family's descendant can have a marriage alliance with the Imperial Royal Family, even if it means marrying in,"

"a descendant born of this union will have Royal Family blood!"

"When the Royal Family declines, they can use this descendant's royal blood to enter the Royal City and replace them!"

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"Bloodline inheritance, even if it involves regicide or patricide, still has its justification!"

Lynn agreed with a nod.

"According to the intelligence I have, Mitchell is seeking the support of both dukes and marquises."

"He has secretly arranged marriages with at least four families!"

Audrey continued to explain: "Duke Heiyao, Duke Cangyu, Marquis Gab Anderson, and Marquis Mark Duca!"

Lynn's brow furrowed even more deeply.

As the Eldest Prince, Mitchell Carolin has played the Ducas Clan as his first card!

And Mark, the current marquis, not only agreed with but also supported Mitchell's decision.

However, this also shows that Mark Duca has great ambition.

He wants to use the foundation of the Ducas Clan to secure a position as the son-in-law of the future Emperor Mitchell!

Audrey said, "And then Duke Cangyu, who first noticed this, started to waver..."

"If Mitchell cannot come up with a better way to mend relations with Duke Cangyu."

"I think there's a significant chance that Duke Cangyu will join Prince Caesar's faction."

"By that time..."

Lynn picked up the thread, "By then, the already powerful Duke of Red Dragon, combined with Duke Cangyu, would have strength directly surpassing Mitchell."

"The balance of power would be destroyed, leading to the unfolding of the imperial authority war!"

Audrey gave Lynn an approving look and responded, "Exactly."

"At that time, the entire Karedi Empire will plunge into the quagmire of war!"

Lynn nodded slightly, suddenly realizing something.

He asked Audrey, "Lady Audrey, since you have anticipated these."

"Why did you come from the Portlands Empire to the Karedi Empire?"

Audrey paused her steps on hearing this.

She turned her body, directly facing Lynn, "You are more perceptive than I imagined!"

She had thought.

That Lynn wouldn't be interested in why she came to the Karedi Empire with Grayson.

Wouldn't be concerned about why she went alone to the Royal City, Triumph City, of the Karedi Empire.

But Lynn was obviously more sensitive and particular about certain deliberately hidden points in the conversation.

Lynn said nothing, merely continued to meet Audrey's gaze.

Audrey sighed softly, not intending to hide anything from Lynn.

"The current Emperor of the Karedi Empire, Charlemagne VI... has requested my help!"

"He asked me to send troops to assist him, to aid this Empire that will soon be engulfed in flames of war!"

Hearing Audrey's words, Lynn couldn't help but frown.

He did not immediately understand the meaning behind these words.

As the current Emperor, Charlemagne VI.

Requesting aid from Audrey, who is manipulating the imperial authority war in the Portlands Empire?

The Emperor of the Empire, Charlemagne VI, elderly and frail, had his power hollowed out.

That much he could understand.

But why would Charlemagne seek assistance from Audrey?

This was something he could not fathom.

However.

Audrey did not intend to explain, and naturally, Lynn would not pursue the question.

Everyone has their secrets.

Audrey as such, and so does he!

Walking on the red brick road leading to the Lord's Square.

Lynn spoke, "I heard from Grayson that you encountered a giant squid in the seas of the Karedi Empire?"

Audrey affirmed, "Yes, a giant squid!"

"Perhaps, it was just bad luck that we happened to encounter it..."

...

Until all the leather was unloaded from the carriage.

Over a thousand glazed glass items, after being packed, were loaded onto Audrey's carriage.

Additionally, the [Fine] grade lightweight scale armor with a chain liner was taken from the Blacksmith Workshop amidst Flint's discontented shouting.

After bidding farewell to Lynn, Audrey left the town with her wagon team, gradually moving towards the direction of the mountain forest walls.

Until the wagon team disappeared under the veil of night.

Only then did Lynn stride towards the castle.

His mind was also quickly reflecting.

The arrival of Audrey brought him a wealth of information from the outside world.

Although this information, apart from the infiltration of Lawrence's army into the Duchy of the Red Dragon, can be verified,

The rest was merely from the words of Audrey alone.

But, given Lynn's current situation and identity,

Audrey has no reason to convey false external information to him.

If what Audrey said is true,

Then Duke Cangyu's wavering,

could very likely lead to an already looming imperial authority war erupting even more quickly!

Even to the extent that Prince Caesar's chances of victory in the Karedi Empire's imperial authority war would increase significantly!

Yet, that's just an increased probability.

Winning the war hinges on numerous factors!

Things like the number of soldiers, the quality of soldiers, the commanding capabilities of leaders, weaponry and equipment, defensive structures, logistics support, terrain, and more are all crucial factors.

Even with a numerical advantage in soldiers,

This world has no shortage of battles recorded in books where the few triumphed over the many.

Relative to the imperial authority war campaign, Lynn was more concerned with...

Mark Duca dispatching Lawrence to lead that Sword and Shield Corps to infiltrate the Duchy of the Red Dragon!

Perhaps Audrey has planted a large number of informants and spies throughout the Karedi Empire to gather intelligence.

But since even she, just having arrived in the Karedi Empire, could know this information.

Other noble lords might also possibly learn all this.

The Ducas Clan's sword and shield soldiers, disguised as Duke Cangyu's forces, attacked and massacred the Duke of the Red Dragon's towns and townsmen!

If such acts were truly known by the two dukes.

Could Mark Duca, a mere marquis, withstand the fury of the two powerful dukes?

Or could it be.

Mark Duca is so certain that as the Eldest Prince, Mitchell Carolin, would protect him for this?

If not, dispatching the Sword and Shield Corps soldiers to create conflict would be foolish.

Even those over three thousand Sword and Shield Corps soldiers might be doomed in the Duchy of the Red Dragon!

Waiting for the two dukes to react, the Marquisate of Dukas would suffer sanctions and be devoured by them!

The vassals under the Marquisate of Dukas,

would either join the resistance army,

or choose to submit to the dukes attacking the marquisate...

It seems distant to him.

But.

Lynn understands that war is on the verge of breaking out, and the crisis is drawing ever closer.

He must continue to expand the army!

After the spring planting and sowing are complete, he needs to further optimize the industries of the entire territory.

Ensuring the high efficiency of various industries, he must optimize to free up more townsmen to be recruited into the ranks of soldiers.

Otherwise.

Given the current armed forces in the territory, totaling only one thousand seven hundred soldiers and guards,

without the protection of city walls, they wouldn't even withstand the charge of a regular army of three thousand.

There must be more soldiers, stronger armed forces, to face the imminent crisis!

Chapter 518: Redeeming the Emperor Potato

If the four thousand pounds of leather delivered by Grayson was like sending charcoal in the snow.

Then, the twenty thousand pounds of leather now sent by Audrey is the icing on the cake.

The four thousand pounds of leather resolved the urgent need for leather in the Textile Workshop for the production of Composite Armor.

The twenty thousand pounds of leather is enough to keep the workers in the Textile Workshop busy for a long time.

Based on the leather weight needed for one set of Composite Armor, roughly ten pounds.

Excluding some cutting wastage, at least two thousand sets of Composite Armor can be made!

Thinking up to here.

Lynn's heart relaxed slightly.

At least, it alleviated the situation where livestock on the ranch could not yet be slaughtered to produce leather.

Lynn shifted his gaze to the five thousand townsmen still cultivating the wasteland.

Without guards supervising them, they still looked passionate, as if they couldn't feel fatigue.

With a thought, he opened the [Holographic Projection] to check.

The five thousand townsmen, continuously cultivating, have been at it for over a month.

As of now, they have cultivated and planted thirty thousand acres of farmland!

There are thirty days left until the end of spring planting at the end of April.

If continuing with this pace and efficiency, not to mention fifty thousand acres.

Cultivating and planting sixty thousand acres would be no difficult task.

He nodded with satisfaction, looking at the gradually darkening sky, Lynn instructed the guards to inform the townsmen in the wasteland that they could finish work.

Upon hearing the cheer of joy from the townsmen.

Only then did he stride towards the direction of the castle to return.

...

Returning to the castle.

After dining on the dinner prepared by Kuisi, Lynn stood on the balcony on the second floor of the reception hall.

A night breeze with a hint of chill blew, tousling Lynn's black hair and the silk robe on him.

His gaze looked into the distance, at the large area of red brick houses in the small town, about to be engulfed by darkness.

In his mind, he was pondering how to optimize the workforce and industry in the small town!

Compared to the initial development of the territory, with merely a few townsmen, now there are over nine thousand people on the territory.

Even exceeding the population of some ordinary small towns by three times.

Yet Lynn still feels, the workforce is insufficient.

It's not because the population is too small, but because all industries in the territory rely on a large labor force to increase production efficiency.

At the root of it.

It's still due to outdated technology and obsolete tools.

Let's not talk about anything else.

Just focusing on the ongoing cultivation labor.

Due to limited tools, despite inventing and producing the Wheel Plow.

Still can only rely on adult oxen and farmers to lead the cultivation.

Although compared to manual cultivation and Light Plow cultivation, there's a much greater progress, it's still too slow.

If only there were modern cultivation tools, such as chisel-type looseners, or deep loosening combined tillage machines...

Everything would be entirely different!

Lynn also understands, with the current technological level of the territory, not to mention inventing and producing mechanized tools.

Just a Steam Engine would become something for him to aspire to but remain unreachable.

In a world similar to medieval times with no industrial foundation, he can only rely on [Heavenly Artifacts], bit by bit to develop, bit by bit to accumulate.

Nevertheless.

With [Heavenly Artifacts], he is confident in creating everything he envisions in his mind.

Steam Engine, steam transport vehicle.

Gunpowder, firearms, cannons.

Ship, steam paddle ship.

Even... creating a generator!

Of course, this is a long process.

Forcefully pulling back the thoughts that drifted a bit far in his mind.

Lynn continues pondering how to optimize the industries.

At this moment.

A sound of footsteps arose behind Lynn.

Before Lynn could turn around, two neat and respectful voices appeared.

"Sir."

Turning around, Lynn sees Colin and Avery slightly bent at a four or five meters distance behind him.

"What's the matter?"

Colin slightly straightened his body, looked at Lynn, and took the lead in reporting.

"Sir, as per your request, the wooden and fully iron-clad doors of Weng City have been made and installed."

"The thirty Wolf Fang Clubs and winches crafted by the Woodworker Workshop have been entirely transported to Weng City and atop the city walls."

Lynn nodded, "Very well, next task for the Woodworker Workshop is to produce, first according to the size of the city gate, a Semen Knife Car."

"Afterward, proceed to make the Catapults and Crossbow Cannons!"

"Regarding Crossbow Cannons, if unclear, you may seek guidance from the Bow and Arrow Workshop foreman Jose."

"He is quite knowledgeable in bow and arrow making."

Colin hurriedly lowered his head as a response.

Lynn shifted his gaze to Avery.

No need for Lynn to inquire, Avery thoughtfully began to explain.

"Sir, Weng City has been completed."

"If there are no other instructions, the next work for the Stonemason Workshop is preparing to build lookout towers and outpost fortresses outside the city wall."

Lynn replied with an "Mm", "Have the locations for the lookout towers and outpost fortresses been determined?"

Avery moved his arm, fetched a folded piece of paper from his bosom.

However, without approaching Lynn, he raised his hands.

"Sir, the lookout tower is situated five miles outside the city walls on the open wilderness."

"Not far from the city walls, but offers a better vantage point than the city walls, allowing clear sight to notice movements from four sides."

"And for the outpost fortress, I have only confirmed two locations for the time being."

Chapter 519: Redeeming the Emperor Potato (Part 2)

"The first location is on the right side of the city wall, about fifty miles away there's a forest."

"There's only a gravel path through the forest that can lead to the wasteland in front of your Lordship's territory."

"If we can build an outpost fortress near the forest's exit, we can also set up cheval de frise and roadblocks near the fortress."

"Within the forest, we can arrange some secret sentries and scouts."

"If enemies attack from the direction of Morgan Town, they must pass through this outpost fortress!"

As Avery spoke, Red, who was guarding beside Lynn, took the folded paper handed over by Avery.

He unfolded it and presented it to Lynn.

Lynn took it, his gaze sweeping over the simple map drawn with a quill on the paper.

The map was simple, with triangles representing the steep mountains beside the city walls.

Outside the right front of the city walls, a vast forest was sketched, with a simple house drawn at the forest's exit.

Lynn nodded, "This will do."

Receiving Lynn's affirmative response, a slight relief washed over Avery's heart, and he continued speaking.

"The other outpost fortress is outside a pile of rocks twenty miles on the left side of the city wall."

"The rocks can be both a source of material for constructing the outpost fortress and a hindrance to enemy cavalry's advance."

Lynn's gaze shifted to the left side of the city wall.

Just as Avery described.

He also sketched a simple house on the top, with various sized stones in front of the house.

Lynn responded, "Let's follow your plan."

Avery bowed slightly, a trace of joy in his words.

He continued explaining, "My Lord, the most crucial point is that by constructing a thirty-meter watchtower on the wasteland five miles outside the city walls, we can oversee the two sides' outpost fortresses."

"Even if the enemies are too powerful and the guards in the two outpost fortresses cannot light the signal smoke immediately, the watchtower will notice it first!"

Lynn gave Avery a look of approval.

Within his territory, when it comes to construction, Avery indeed counts as a talent.

If Beo crafts the telescope in the future.

With the height of the watchtower, the wide field of view, and the convenience of the telescope.

He can completely control the wasteland outside the city wall!

As the wasteland in the territory is completely reclaimed.

The land outside the city walls can be reclaimed for planting.

Or reward the farmland to the townsmen!

As time progresses and the population in the territory increases, just relying on his land will not be sufficient.

Until that time comes.

Expansion beyond the city walls will be the only option!

Although that wasteland is not within the territorial grant.

Whoever cultivates and plants on the wasteland owns it.

As long as it doesn't infringe on other lords' interests and is permitted by the Marquis, it belongs to whoever there is!

It's known.

As long as cultivation and planting are done within the Marquisate of Dukas, tax must be paid.

As for Lynn's territory, that is an exception!

Avery hesitated before continuing, "But..."

"But my Lord, I need your help!"

Returning the drawing to Red, Lynn spoke, "Let's hear it."

Avery no longer hesitated, "My Lord, I need you to dispatch some soldiers as guards!"

"Otherwise, given my authority... I fear the construction workers, without the wall as an obstacle, will choose to flee!"

Lynn nodded, "Very well, I will ask Instructor Ross to assign a hundred soldiers for supervision."

"While preventing their escape, they can also ensure your personal safety!"

Even though he deemed Avery's worries as redundant.

The townsmen who came to his territory, except for those who committed crimes and wanted to escape.

The rest had never thought of fleeing.

After all.

The logic of being full once and full every time is easy to understand unless one has a problem in the mind.

Hearing this.

Avery promptly said, "Thank you, my Lord."

After ensuring the two had nothing else, Lynn dismissed Avery and Colin.

Under the cover of night, they returned to the castle, evidently having just completed their tasks and returned from Weng City.

...

Under the cover of darkness.

A two-horse carriage sped along with six guards.

Within the carriage.

A tall and strong middle-aged man sat on a leather cushion.

His right hand rested on a pair of fair thighs, moving slowly.

Beside him, a young woman clasped his arm with both hands.

Her pale softness in front closely adhered.

Looking at the young woman's appearance, Krueger couldn't help but laugh.

"Miss Yasmin, were the days at Frank Castle enjoyable?"

Yasmin, daughter of a merchant in Kakasong City, lifted her head, her eyes full of flickering light as she looked at Krueger.

"With Mr. Krueger around, of course, I was satisfied!"

"However, once I return to Kakasong City, I shall once again be alone in the mansion within the city."

"Lonely, desolate, with no one for company."

"It's truly a painful feeling!"

Krueger, unbothered, put on a polite and gentlemanly smile again.

The skillful moves he performed as if unrelated to him.

"Miss Yasmin, if you feel bored at home, you can come to Frank Manor Castle at any time."

Chapter 520: Redeeming the Emperor Potato

"Don't worry, the single room you're staying in can always be reserved for you!"

Upon hearing this, Yasmin frowned slightly, hesitating a bit, she said, "Mr. Krueger, even though my father and your father are close friends."

"Staying at Frank Manor Castle temporarily is not a big deal."

"But staying long-term... I'm unmarried, you're unmarried, it isn't quite proper."

Krueger nodded in agreement, "Miss Yasmin is right, I was thinking too simply."

Yasmin's tone suddenly changed, "However, I do have a way to make my stay at Frank Manor Castle reasonable!"

Krueger looked at Yasmin in puzzlement, and asked, "What way?"

Yasmin showed a hopeful smile, "That is... you marry me!"

"In this way, it wouldn't matter how long I want to stay in your room or about anything else."

Krueger remained silent, falling into contemplation.

Seeing Krueger's expression, the hopeful smile from Yasmin vanished instantly, replaced by coldness.

She snorted coldly, "I knew you just wanted to play with me, never thought about marriage!"

"I get it! You despise me for once being a married woman?"

As she spoke.

Yasmin's arms, previously entwined around Krueger's, quickly withdrew, and she sat upright beside him.

Feeling the softness fade from his arm, Krueger sighed helplessly.

"Miss Yasmin, you've misunderstood me."

"How could I, Krueger, be a heartless person?"

With her arms crossed in front, Yasmin turned her head, her wide-open eyes gazing through the car window at the night outside.

Seeing this, Krueger extended his right hand and placed it on Yasmin's fair, voluptuous thigh.

He spoke with full of melancholy, "Miss Yasmin, please listen to my explanation, Eduardo is dead, you know!"

"However, it was far more than just being intercepted and assassinated by the Iron Blood Brotherhood Bandit Corps, it's not that simple..."

Upon hearing this.

Feigning indifference, Yasmin slightly turned her head away.

Seeing the words having an effect, Krueger continued, "Miss Yasmin, the Frank Clan is caught in a power struggle!"

"Our father, Jonas Frank, is old and frail, this is an undeniable fact!"

"In more than five years or as soon as three years, the position of Frank Manor Lord will see a change."

"Before it's determined who will inherit as the new Frank Manor Lord, any adult male of the Frank Clan could become the new Manor Lord!"

Yasmin's gaze turned towards Krueger.

She didn't speak, awaiting Krueger's continued explanation.

Krueger continued, "But at this crucial moment, Eduardo, as Jonas' fourth son, died!"

"Miss Yasmin, what do you think it's for?"

Yasmin, grasping the meaning in Krueger's words, hesitated hardly at all.

"Someone wants to become the Frank Manor Lord, eliminating rivals!"

Krueger gave Yasmin an approving glance, "You're right, Miss Yasmin."

"The Iron Blood Brotherhood members vanished before the Ducas Clan's Sword and Shield Corps soldiers arrived!"

"And after the Sword and Shield Corps soldiers left, they remained unheard from for a long time."

"The Iron Blood Brotherhood Bandit Corps, absent for such a long time, suddenly appeared in Morgan Town and bizarrely intercepted Eduardo heading for Kakasong City."

"Even a fool could understand such an affair—it's absolutely not that simple!"

Yasmin nodded in agreement, not interrupting Krueger.

"Up to now, neither I nor the entire Frank Clan have figured out the exact cause."

Krueger's words shifted, "If we were to get engaged now and bring you into the Frank Clan, it wouldn't be fair to you."

"Because, I dare not assure you absolute safety..."

Seeing Krueger's sorrowful face, the coldness on Yasmin's face softened, feeling a pang of compassion.

She moved slightly, once again opening her arms to embrace Krueger's right arm, filled with gentle inquiry.

"Mr. Krueger, how... how can I help you?"

Krueger smiled faintly, and said, "As long as Miss Yasmin can understand and accept me, it'll be good enough!"

Listening to Krueger's words, Yasmin seemed deep in thought.

Soon, something came to her mind.

Her head, still resting against Krueger's arm, began to slowly move down, ending up against Krueger's abdomen...

After a rustling movement, Krueger's brows raised instantly.

Krueger's right hand rested on the back of Yasmin's head, speaking slowly.

"Miss Yasmin, besides this, I need your father's help!"

"If he's willing to support me to become the new Frank Manor Lord, I, Krueger, will definitely support your father to become the Chamber of Commerce President of Kakasong City!"

Yasmin remained silent.

Krueger, without minding in the slightest, leaned tightly against the leather seat at the back, enjoying the comfortable sway brought by the moving carriage.

Breath, breath, breath~

Krueger naturally knew that his good brother, Eduardo's death, was far from simple.

But just like he said.

Whether it's him or other members of the Franger Clan, no matter how they investigate, they can't uncover the cause of Eduardo's death.