

System 531

Chapter 531: Plaything Beneath Me_2

He walked out of the classroom to greet them.

Approaching Lynn, Tate bowed slightly and respectfully said, "Master Lynn."

Lynn acknowledged with a sound and inquired of Tate, "Where have the other scholars gone?"

Tate explained, "Master, they are very interested in various buildings and applied technologies in your territory. These past few days, they have been fully engaged in learning."

"Please wait a moment, I will go and bring them back right now."

Lynn nodded in agreement.

With Lynn's permission, Tate left quickly without any hesitation.

Lynn's gaze moved, looking into the classroom.

Despite the absence of a teacher, they are still dutifully hunched over their desks.

Holding feather pens in their hands, they clumsily write on paper.

Clearly.

Through the teachings of Tate and Old John, they have learned some characters and have begun writing.

Lynn's gaze shifted.

A simple gaze stared straight at him.

It was Sienna.

Every time he came to the school and checked the classroom, Sienna's gaze was the first to meet his.

Is it the intuition of a witch?

As Lynn pondered this, a rather hurried sound of footsteps came from afar.

Lynn turned his head and saw Tate leading six scholars.

The six scholars bowed slightly before Lynn as a sign of respect.

Lynn glanced at them and said, "How do you all feel about the territory these past few days?"

Tate remained silent, slightly shifting his body to let them speak.

Previously unruly, the physicist Adrian spoke with full admiration and disbelief.

"Lord, you are the embodiment of a god!"

"In your territory, not only is there a pulley system that alters force, but there is also a minecart that converts power into mechanical energy."

"Master Lynn, did you know?"

"Just these two inventions alone are enough to greatly advance the development of physics!"

Lynn nodded slightly, "Scholar Adrian, these are just basic physics."

"However, they are also widely applied physics."

Adrian's eyes were full of admiration.

These physical knowledge that amazed him, in the mouth of Master Lynn, are merely basic physics!

What would higher-level physics be?

Lynn looked at the group and continued, "I brought you here because there is a task that requires your execution."

Tate and Adrian, among others, listened intently to Lynn's words.

"Previously, the territory only had one scholar, Tate, whose ability and energy were limited."

"But now, all of you have come to this territory."

"I plan to start a large-scale education campaign for the townsmen in the territory!"

Listening to Lynn's words, Adrian raised his eyebrows.

Adrian couldn't help but ask, "Lord, are you saying you want to educate all the townsmen in the territory?"

Lynn nodded, "Scholar Adrian, is there a problem?"

Adrian quickly shook his head, "Sorry, Lord, I was just curious, no problem at all."

Not only was he full of questions.

Erin and Petra behind him also felt perplexed.

This was the first time they'd heard of a lord willing to educate ordinary townsmen.

Lynn continued, "What you need to do is basically divided into two steps."

"In the first step, I will arrange for townsmen to come to school in batches, and you will teach them to read and write!"

Tita and others nodded.

Master Lynn had already hinted at this idea to him before.

Teaching the townsmen is not that difficult.

"The second step is to conduct in-depth skills training for the townsmen!"

"For townsmen to take up jobs and join labor, they must pass skills training and complete exams."

"Therefore, before training, you need to master the key points of different skills, as only after learning a skill yourself can you teach others effectively!"

This skills training is targeted specifically for the townsmen within the small town.

As the territory continues to develop, he can establish standardized courses on the "Seven Skills of the Knight" later.

Training a large number of knights with extraordinary power!

Building an army of soldiers with extraordinary abilities.

Sweeping through everything wherever they go!

Several scholars exchanged glances upon hearing this.

Their eyes turned slightly as if contemplating something.

Lynn naturally understood their inner thoughts, "I know you came here for academic research."

"After completing the daytime teaching and training, you can continue your desired research activities."

"I won't interfere whatsoever, and even in certain aspects, I can provide guidance and funding!"

Hearing this.

The scholars' eyes began to shine; this is exactly what they hoped for.

Later, Lynn started assigning tasks to Tate and the seven others.

Tate and Petra, who is interested in literary creation, continue teaching reading, writing, and grammar to nearly two hundred children.

Dorothy Perez, who has "Potion Mastery" skills, is directly dispatched by Lynn to Old John's hospital.

Scheduling sufficient time and courses for subsequent herbal treatment lessons should be enough.

The most crucial aspect is that her herbal development work should mainly be conducted within the hospital.

Lynn kept Adrian and the other three in school.

Chapter 532: Plaything Between the Legs (3)

He will arrange for batches of two hundred townsmen to come to the school and teach them literacy.

Lynn even directly told these scholars openly.

Townsmen only need literacy and writing skills, not any profound theoretical knowledge.

At most, after learning to read and write, some townsmen will receive skills training if needed.

Achieving this is completely sufficient.

Instructions completed.

Lynn's gaze turned to Erin Mills, and he spoke.

"Lady Aileen, would you accompany me for a walk?"

A few people turned their gaze at Lynn's words, focusing on the young Erin.

Facing their gaze, Erin did not shy away.

Her face bore confidence and a composed expression.

Erin responded, "Of course, Lord."

Under the gazes of Tate and several others bidding farewell, and with Red following along with four guards.

Lynn and Erin walked through the town.

As he walked, Lynn's gaze was scrutinizing the town.

After walking a few dozen meters, he spoke, "Lady Aileen, from what I heard from Tate, you are researching Church Law?"

Erin, quietly following by, was a bit surprised and looked up at Lynn.

She made no concealment and said, "Yes, Lord."

"Besides researching Church Law, I've also touched upon Commercial Law, Urban Law, Public and Private Law, and Feudal Law, among others..."

"Lord, let me briefly introduce them to you."

Lynn nodded slightly.

With Lynn's nod of approval, Erin's interest was immediately piqued.

As a law scholar, she naturally hoped to gain recognition from others.

Especially after hearing from Tate about Lynn's sole effort in developing this land from a few people to nearly ten thousand now.

This is not something that can be achieved simply by relying on a lord's ability and authority.

It involves various management and leadership skills!

Erin continued talking: "Like Church Law, it plays a role in maintaining social order, protecting vulnerable groups, and even has moral education functions."

"But more importantly, it is a tool for theocratic governance of the world!"

"Its existence, in implementation, involves various conflicts with the laws and power of secular authorities!"

"For example, the Church attempts to expand its sphere of influence and jurisdiction through Church Law; for example, competing with secular authorities for control of land, property, and labor."

"Moreover, Church Law lacks rationality and scientific spirit."

"More crucially, it restricts individual freedom."

"Whether it's attire, food, living quarters, or recreational activities, all are strictly regulated by Church Law!"

"It fundamentally hinders personal and national development!"

After finishing her speech, Erin looked at Lynn.

She found Lynn still walking without interrupting her at all.

Erin raised her eyebrows slightly.

She already understood that Master Lynn was testing her abilities!

Erin continued without hesitation: "Then there is Urban Law, its advantages are clear too."

"It can promote urban development and provide strong legal protection for economic and cultural progress in cities,"

"While also safeguarding the rights of citizens, such as personal freedom rights, property rights, etc."

"Similarly, the drawbacks are equally obvious."

"The geographical limitation is too significant, Urban Law is restricted to specific urban areas."

"For example, within the same lord's or the Emperor's Empire."

"The existence of different Urban Laws in different territories or empires can impede regional economic development and social interaction!"

"It simply cannot realize a unified market and legal order!"

Erin tentatively spoke: "More importantly, the conflict between Urban Law and Feudal Law!"

"Urban Law, advocating for freedom, equality, and autonomy principles, conflicts with the hierarchy and power upheld by Feudal Law!"

Afterward, Erin roughly narrated other aspects like Commercial Law, Public and Private Law, etc.

Lynn responded and interrupted Erin's speech.

"Lady Aileen's research on law indeed displays profound insight."

Erin revealed a smile.

Although she had just briefly discussed it, it also included aspects of the Feudal Law used by Lynn in governing the current territory!

But Lynn never interrupted her and quietly listened, awaiting her lecture to end.

She had never met a lord with such calm and composed demeanor before.

Lynn continued: "Lady Aileen, I won't waste words."

"In this territory, there has never been any existence of law."

"I need you to combine your research from various laws and regulations with the lifestyle and work habits of this land and create a suitable Territorial Law for this area!"

"It should both guarantee their rights and, when they breach obligations, have corresponding laws and regulations to punish their actions!"

"Simply put, as long as they perform their daily work, they will always have their rights."

Erin froze for an instant.

This territory never had law?

Moreover, townsmen just need to labor to have rights?

Then how did Master Lynn govern nearly ten thousand townsmen?

Dictatorship by sword?

In the next moment, Erin dismissed this idea from her mind.

If it were mere dictatorship, the townsmen could not possibly have such a relaxed and pleasant life.

Chapter 533: Plaything Between the Legs (4)

Lynn's gaze fell on Erin's slightly freckled face, "Lady Erin, is it difficult?"

Hearing Lynn's inquiry, Erin snapped back to reality.

She quickly said, "I apologize, Lord."

"If it's just a simple reward and punishment system, we only need to base it on the core of the system you require and the way of life and labor in the territory, and it can be developed."

"But the reward and punishment system is only a fundamental system, Master Lynn..."

Lynn nodded, "For now, it's sufficient."

The garrison system with military merit promotion is entirely capable of mobilizing the townsmen's enthusiasm for labor.

For the moment, he only needed to further refine the foundation of this system.

He was not naive enough to believe.

That with the current strength and qualifications of the territory, they could venture into city development or advocate for personal freedom.

Outside the territory, the war was escalating, and the storm was brewing.

The war that was breaking out could engulf the entire Karedi Empire and sweep over this land at any time.

He must rely on the garrison system with military merit promotion to continuously consolidate central authority.

And continuously develop the territory, expanding its armed forces!

That is the core of what needs to be developed in this territory now!

As for the laws in the territory and the education there, those are secondary!

Only by surviving, one can enjoy the rights and education they deserve!

Receiving an affirmative response from Lynn, Erin did not hesitate any further.

She confidently replied, "There's no problem, Master Lynn."

"I will draft as quickly as possible a territorial law suitable for your territory and submit it to you for review!"

Lynn nodded, "Then I shall trouble you, Lady Erin."

Erin's eyes blinked slightly upon hearing this.

The young Master Lynn before her had such formidable ability yet remained so calm and collected.

Perhaps.

This is one of the reasons Master Lynn could develop this territory to its current scale?

After instructing Erin for a moment, he dismissed her.

Lynn stepped towards the direction of the Lord's Square.

The six scholars brought by Tate appeared to have different fields of study.

Seemingly unrelated to the current development of the territory.

But they shared a common aspect.

They had once received relatively systematic educational training.

This means they are entirely capable of becoming the elementary instructors for the townsmen in the territory!

That is enough.

As for whether their areas of study would result in any breakthroughs.

That demands a substantial amount of time for observation and validation.

However, Lynn understood too.

Both education and law in the territory take time for implementation!

They require time to mature.

Standing before the Lord's Square, Lynn halted his steps.

His gaze pierced through a plot of land that had already been cultivated and planted.

Looking into the distance, where cultivation and planting were still underway.

There was a slight relaxation in Lynn's heart.

As long as cultivation and planting continued, and the planted fields could yield enough crops to be harvested in the summer.

Then.

This territory of his could continuously grow and expand.

Observing for a while.

Lynn withdrew his gaze and walked toward the handicraft workshops.

Passing a red brick house, he arrived at the woodworker workshop.

With the detailed division of labor, almost everyone in the current woodworker workshop had their tasks assigned.

Colin, working with apprentices on crafting machinery, was reminded by a carpenter apprentice to look at Lynn.

Colin quickly gave a few instructions and walked over to Lynn.

Standing before Lynn, Colin bowed slightly, speaking respectfully.

"Master."

Lynn glanced at the large machinery being constructed in the workshop and asked, "How is the production progressing?"

Colin followed Lynn's gaze.

There, the apprentices were assembling and crafting the catapult according to the design sketches Lynn had drawn.

Colin promptly explained, "Master, the parts for the first catapult have been completed."

"Today, we only just started assembling it."

"However, with the detailed design sketches you provided, Master, assembling it and conducting a test within three days shouldn't be a problem!"

"Once there is experience in crafting an entire catapult, the speed and efficiency of subsequent catapult production will also increase!"

Lynn nodded, "Very good."

"Not only the catapult, but crossbow cannons and ballistae also need to be put into production as soon as possible."

Colin bowed and replied, "Yes, Master."

Lynn continued, "They should not only be put into production soon but also completed quickly, as there are tasks awaiting your woodworker workshop."

Colin raised an eyebrow, somewhat puzzled, "Master, many tasks?"

Lynn affirmed with an explanatory note, "Indeed!"

"Besides these siege machines, I want you to start crafting small ships!"

"Although the waterway transportation of the Aladia River can't facilitate connectivity with the outside world, it's entirely feasible to produce some small boats to better utilize the water power, improving the transportation efficiency of iron ore or other goods!"

"The transportation capacity of skiffs is still too weak; I need small boats capable of transporting at least tens of thousands of pounds of iron ore at once."

"Moreover."

"The digging efficiency of the three mines is somewhat slow; we must produce some large digging tools to enhance the extraction efficiency."

Hearing Lynn's words, Colin nodded appreciatively.

"Master, I understand."

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"From now on, I will lead them with all my might to rush the production of these machines!"

Lynn replied, "Very well."

Letting Colin continue his work, Lynn walked through the woodworker workshop, inspecting on his own.

Although producing large siege defense machines is time-consuming and laborious, it's essential to alleviate the pressure of the siege defense and increase the safety of this territory.

It is naturally an indispensable existence.

Not to mention that the armed soldiers on his territory only number one thousand five hundred.

Even if there were fifteen thousand, he would still have the woodworker workshop produce enough siege defense machines!

Only by using large siege defense machines can they effectively weaken the enemy's living forces through long-range attacks before they reach the city wall!

Thus reducing the siege pressure on the city's defending soldiers.

Increasing the survival rate of the soldiers stationed in the city.

And all he needs to invest is just the physical labor of the carpenters in the town and some quality iron and raw wood.

Comparing the two, the importance is clear at a glance.

How can the value of ordinary materials compare with that of well-trained qualified soldiers?

Even if no enemy attacks followed.

He can still convert these siege defense machines into siege attack machines!

This is the real maximization of benefits.

After inspecting for a moment.

Lynn also joined the team producing catapults.

[Production Experience +1]

[Production Experience +1]

[Production Experience +1]

...

While improving the efficiency of catapult production, he can also grind his [Production] skill experience!

A double benefit!

Until nightfall.

Lynn finally stepped out of the workshop and returned to the castle.

After eating the dinner Kuisi had cooked, Lynn came to the second-floor balcony.

His gaze passed through the dim sky, looking into the distance.

In the Lord's Square.

Townsmen who had eaten dinner sat around a large bonfire.

The bonfire wantonly burned in the night wind.

Gusts of fiery whirlwind rose from the bonfire, floating towards the sky.

The orange-red flames illuminated a range of several dozen meters, bright and clear.

Even from several dozen meters away, Lynn could still see the relaxed faces of the townsmen enjoying their post-dinner leisure.

They sat in groups of four or five on the ground, occasionally letting out light laughter and discussions.

As if discussing how to live in the future.

Lynn's gaze shifted, looking at the winding limestone roads outside the Lord's Square.

Clearly, pairs of figures were walking slowly under the night sky.

Perhaps because spring has arrived and the temperature has risen.

Groups of three or two young men and women once again strolled on the limestone roads...

Regarding this.

Lynn did not mind.

If these young town men and women can be together, build families, and give birth to new life.

That would be the best help for this territory.

Simply purchasing large numbers of slaves from the Slave Merchant for territorial development is far from enough.

He needs these townsmen to build families, give birth to new life, and bring new blood into this territory.

Only in this way can this territory have a virtuous cycle and sustainable development.

And only in this way can the townsmen on this territory genuinely feel from the depths of their hearts that this territory is their inherited homeland!

Withdrawing his gaze, Lynn stepped back into the study.

Sitting at the walnut desk, he contemplated the direction and goals for the territory's next stage of development.

Standardized education and the drafting of territorial laws, brought by Tate and scholars.

Are already ready for preliminary implementation.

What he needs to do now.

Is to arrange for the townsmen of the territory to go to the schools in batches for learning!

Currently, the total population on his territory is just over nine thousand.

Lynn naturally hopes that all the townsmen on the territory can be literate and write.

If this can be achieved, it would not just be about writing and recognizing characters.

It would be an overall cultural elevation and leap for the territory.

In the future, if any instructions or tasks need to be issued.

He would no longer need to shout to thousands of townsmen face-to-face.

He would only need to write a notice and post it on various bulletin boards.

All townsmen could look it up and execute it on their own!

Most importantly.

If all townsmen learn to read and write, their next generation's knowledge will be even higher!

Because from birth, they will receive prenatal education from their parents!

However.

Lynn also understands that reaching this step in a short time is not easy.

It often requires decades or even several generations...

Then, there is the creation of advanced tools in the territory.

Some advanced auxiliary tools need to be produced, enhancing manual efficiency and gradually replacing manual work with mechanized tools!

However, the Woodworker Workshop's ability is limited and this can only be approached step by step.

Next is the basic construction of roads and bridges.

From beginning to end, Lynn has always believed that to become wealthy, one must first build roads!

From the initial gravel roads to today's limestone roads.

There must be well-organized and even roads to guarantee the development of the territory.

Otherwise, with muddy roads filled with puddles every few steps, let alone development.

Movement would be a struggle!

Finally, there is military expansion!

Lynn's plan is to expand the armed forces in the territory to two thousand people once the spring planting is over!

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Despite many people living in the territory now.

Adult men with suitable physical conditions number at least around five thousand.

Wanting to enlist two thousand adult men to become full-time armed soldiers still feels very difficult for Lynn.

Converting this calculation.

It's nearly losing one-fifth of the total population's healthy labor force of adult men!

This is why his current territory has several industries that can generate economic income.

The fine salt from the Salt Factory, the liquor from the Brewing workshop, and the glazed glassware from the Glaze Production.

Otherwise.

Just supporting these soldiers who are undergoing full-time training would bring enormous pressure!

He temporarily suppressed the thoughts in his mind.

Lynn leaned over the table, holding a quill and sketching the excavation device on paper.

With the current technological level in the territory, the only tool to improve excavation efficiency is the combination device utilizing pulleys and winch.

Through multiple people turning the winch and using the principle of pulleys, it saves effort while changing the direction of force application.

Thus improving the excavation speed and efficiency.

To achieve even faster and more efficient excavation, the industrial level of the entire territory needs further development to produce a Steam Engine, and then make crude steam shovels or steam rock drills.

Or produce some excavating tools using Magic Ore.

Otherwise, manual excavation and coordination with auxiliary devices would be the main reliance!

Although merely auxiliary devices, compared to other mineral excavations, they are still extremely advanced technology!

While Lynn sketched and annotated the blueprints for auxiliary devices.

Night gradually deepened.

A knocking sound echoed outside the study.

Accompanied by Kuisi's gentle reminder.

"Sir, the hot water is ready, you can soak now."

Lynn responded, put down the quill, and walked out of the study.

Entering the private chamber, he took off his clothes.

Lynn stepped into the bathtub, letting the hot water cover his body.

Beside Lynn, Kuisi's hands placed on his shoulders, skillfully massaging with just the right amount of pressure.

...

On the other side.

Under the night sky.

In a forest.

Around burning campfires, soldiers in Leather Armor sat scattered around.

The originally exquisite Leather Armor had evident sword and knife cuts.

Some soldiers wrapped their bodies with layers of Linen Cloth serving as bandages to stop their bleeding.

Although none of them voiced any complaints.

Their faces clearly showed signs of fatigue and embarrassment.

Godfrey walked past a squad of soldiers with a furrowed brow.

After inspecting them, Godfrey arrived at the only tent in the woods.

Without stepping inside, he stood by the tent's curtain entrance.

"Master, the soldiers have been tallied."

As he finished speaking, Lawrence's voice came from inside the tent.

"Enter!"

Godfrey extended his right hand to lift the curtain and stepped inside.

Entering the tent, Godfrey stood rigidly before a desk.

He bowed slightly and continued, "Master, only one thousand remain against the Red Dragon Riders' impact from Duke of Red Dragon..."

Lying on soft animal skins, Lawrence casually responded, "There are still a thousand, not bad, enough for another fight!"

"I understand, you may leave."

Godfrey remained standing at a distance.

Since he heard no footsteps of departure, Lawrence slightly opened his eyes, looking at Godfrey.

"Is there anything else?"

Godfrey took a deep breath and spoke directly, "Master, as your Knight Commander and advisor, I must offer my advice!"

"If we continue to stay in Duke of Red Dragon's territory, the remaining thousand Sword and Shield Corps soldiers will be buried here!"

Lawrence slowly sat up, his eyes narrowed, staring directly at Godfrey.

"What do you intend to say?"

Facing Lawrence's piercing gaze, Godfrey showed no hint of fear and stated firmly,.

"Master! We posed as Duke Cangyu's soldiers, slaughtered the townsmen, and attracted the Red Dragon Riders."

"Obviously, our presence and actions have been noticed by the Duke of Red Dragon!"

"He has dispatched his elite Cavalry Corps to annihilate us, indicating his anger!"

"It doesn't matter if we can penetrate this time or not, nor does it matter if we can stir Duke Cangyu and Duke of Red Dragon's conflict."

"Our task and purpose have already been achieved!"

"Continuing to drag on here is no different than courting death."

"Master, I know you have determination, but there's no need to die to prove yourself."

"There are more things awaiting you within the Ducas Clan."

After the advice.

Godfrey lowered his head, waiting for Lawrence's reply.

Lawrence remained silent, still staring at Godfrey, seemingly pondering something.

After half a minute passed.

Lawrence calmly spoke, "As Knight Commander and advisor, what is your suggestion?"

Hearing this, Godfrey felt slightly relieved.

It seemed Lawrence was not displeased or furious about his proposed retreat?

He straightened his posture a bit and continued, "Master!"

"Retreat!"

"My idea is to leave Duke of Red Dragon's territory at the fastest speed, returning to the Marquisate."

"Now, we only need to wait for the maneuverings of big figures in Triumph City and the fermentation of this event."

"Even if we slaughtered many townsmen in the duchy, as long as we perished here, it's tantamount to Duke of Red Dragon avenging those dead townsmen."

"Only by massacring the townsmen and escaping unscathed can we make Duke of Red Dragon feel pain with no outlet for relief!"

Lawrence's eyes sparkled, just about to speak.

Suddenly, rushing footsteps approached quickly from afar.

Accompanied.

Was a soldier frantically entering the tent, quickly reporting.

"Report, Commander!"

"A large cavalry contingent with abundant torches are heading toward the camp!"

Seated on the animal skins, Lawrence's eyes widened, standing up immediately.

He shouted, "Godfrey, rally the soldiers, swiftly prepare to retreat!"

Having received Lawrence's order, Godfrey responded promptly.

"Yes, Master!"

Chapter 536: Catapult

In the next few days.

Lynn arranged the classrooms that several scholars needed to use properly.

And informed Kuisi to arrange the townsmen in batches to go to the school to learn literacy with the scholars.

Everything in the territory was accounted for.

Lynn, riding Mo Ying, led Red and other guards, a group of dozens of people left the town.

Amidst the gazes of the townsmen seeing them off, they headed towards the Primordial Forest on the left side of the town.

Whether it was the forging of armor plates in the blacksmith workshop, the weaving in the textile workshop, or the development of the three major mineral veins, all were proceeding in an orderly manner.

Even if there was a need to expand the scale and improve efficiency.

It would have to wait for the townsmen in the fields to complete this year's spring plowing and planting, and a massive release of labor before it could be done.

Rather than waiting in the town, he might as well take the guards into the depths of the forest for another exploration.

Lynn's goal is simple.

While improving the [Hunting] skills through hunting, find some special minerals.

For example, borax mines used to reduce the thermal expansion coefficient of glass.

For example, saltpeter and sulfur used to make gunpowder.

If gold and silver mines can be found, then smelt them to make gold and silver.

Make the already gradually enriching territory even more prosperous.

It would be even better if magic ore could be found.

With magic ore, he could completely exchange various special blueprints from the [Special Building Library] using Energy Stones.

Then add magic ore to build various special buildings!

He could then use the special buildings to breed mutant wild boars and wild wolves, creating his long-desired troops similar to [Wild Boar Knights]!

Of course.

They have just set off from the town, and these are merely Lynn's expectations.

The warhorses galloped through large open fields of sprouting wheat seedlings on the lime road, heading towards the forest edge ahead.

They raced to the open-pit iron mine, where Lynn asked everyone to stop.

The lime road was only repaired up to here, and beyond that, it was a forest full of ancient trees.

Even though the performance of the warhorses was very good, running in the Primordial Forest was still inconvenient.

Instead of damaging the already few warhorses, it was better to leave them at the open-pit iron mine.

After the warhorses were arranged.

Lynn and his group headed on foot into the forest.

Even though it was already April, the chill in the depths of the forest was still present.

Lynn felt that the temperature should be around ten degrees Celsius.

This was the daytime temperature, it should be even lower at night.

However.

Lynn didn't care much.

Before coming, he had already made plans.

He had the guards prepare thick clothing to resist the night's cold, and brought linen tents that could be set up as camps.

They also brought a special chef to cook food for them.

They even brought hundreds of pounds of high-purity alcohol!

A sip of the hot gin, perfect for warming up.

Whistle~ Whistle~

As time went by.

Lynn and the group continued to delve deeper into the forest.

Sounds of sharp, mournful cries of birds and beasts echoed in their ears.

Lynn, holding a longbow, followed behind several pathfinding guards.

His gaze constantly scanning the surroundings, no movement escaped his keen eyes.

After walking in the forest for over an hour.

Apart from some squirrels and small birds, Lynn and the group did not see any prey!

Lynn could only assume that it was shortly after the beginning of spring, and the hibernating beasts hadn't started foraging yet...

Until dusk.

Just when Lynn was about to arrange for the guards to find a spot and set up camp.

A pathfinding guard quietly came up to Lynn.

The guard whispered, "Master, there's an adult brown bear ahead!"

Lynn's eyebrows raised slightly.

Without a word, he gripped the longbow tightly in his hand and stepped forward.

Red and a dozen other guards also gripped their iron spear longswords tightly, following Lynn.

Led by the pathfinding guard, Lynn stood behind a fallen dead tree.

In his line of sight.

A stout brown bear, its body covered in brown-gray fur, was crawling on a ground covered in fallen leaves.

Its head was large and round, with its snout protruding, stained with scarlet blood!

Evidently.

In recent days, this brown bear had been feeding!

Lynn did not hesitate, his arm moved to slowly raise the longbow in his left hand.

He took a triangular armor-piercing arrow from Red with his right hand and set it on the bowstring.

With precision, he drew the bow, the linen bowstring instantly reaching a full bow.

A slight humming sound was produced!

The brown bear, which was walking, seemed to hear the sound of the bowstring.

It suddenly turned around and looked towards where Lynn and the group were.

Roar~

Upon discovering Lynn and the group, the brown bear let out a roar.

Without any hesitation, it charged towards Lynn.

In the moment the brown bear turned.

Lynn released his right hand fingers, and under the draw weight of the bowstring, the triangular armor-piercing arrow shot out instantly.

Whizz!

A mere thirty meters away.

Under the full force of the longbow, the triangular armor-piercing arrow penetrated into the brown bear's body instantly.

Roar!

A roar of pain erupted from the brown bear's mouth once again.

It bared its teeth, face twisted with fury, running even faster towards Lynn and the group!

Chapter 537: Catapult _2

The triangular armor-piercing arrows that could penetrate enemy armor couldn't kill the bear with one shot!

Watching this scene, Red gripped the iron spear tightly, stepping to stand diagonally in front of Lynn's right side.

He had already prepared for defense.

His deep voice sounded from his mouth.

"Defense!"

The guards also stepped forward, standing in front of Lynn.

With every leap of the bear, its sharp claws would throw up the decomposing earth from the ground!

Wherever it stepped, it left a claw mark!

Only Lynn remained unfazed, once more drawing a triangular armor-piercing arrow from the quiver behind Red.

Notching the arrow, drawing the bow, releasing the arrow.

All in one go.

The arrow, with a whooshing sound, shot furiously towards the bear once more.

Under the influence of air, the triangular armor-piercing arrow began to spin in mid-air, like a fast-flying metal drill.

The next second.

Thunk~

The triangular armor-piercing arrow hit directly the bear's pupil!

Enhanced by power, the entire triangular armor-piercing arrow embedded itself almost halfway!

The bear, which was initially full of furious momentum, instantly lost its supportive power, limbs halted, collapsing to the ground.

But due to inertia, the bear's body still slid towards Lynn and his group.

In the wide-eyed gaze of the guards, the dead bear stopped just two or three meters in front of their iron spear defense line.

Until this moment.

Lynn put away the longbow in his hand, handed it to Red, and addressed the crowd of guards.

"Find a suitable location, set up camp."

"Tell the cooks, tonight we're having bear paw!"

The guards, hearing this, were full of excitement, unable to hold back cheering responses.

"Yes, Master!"

They found a slope not far from the Aladia River but sheltered from the wind.

The guards began to get busy.

Until night fell, covering the entire forest.

The guards finished setting up the camp, the cooks lit a fire, starting to prepare today's dinner in the open air.

Sitting by the burning campfire, Lynn roasted the fire while taking the golden gin bottle handed by Red.

Opening it, Lynn boldly took a big gulp.

As he swallowed it, instantly, a fiery and comfortable feeling spread from his throat throughout his body.

The chill and dampness originally present in the forest instantly dissipated.

Looking at the cooks processing and cooking bear meat not far away, Lynn thought for a moment and opened the Ore Vein Detector to check.

This forest exploration direction was visited for the first time.

Now, a day has passed, and there are no alerts from the Ore Vein Detector.

However.

Lynn wasn't anxious.

The exploration period this time could be longer compared to before.

While gaining experience, discovering any kind of mineral is worthwhile.

Closing the Ore Vein Detector, Lynn thought again, opening the Holographic Projection to check.

Although he had left the town, with Kuisi and the guards present, the town wasn't showing any anomalies.

The townsmen, after dinner, enjoyed the town's life as usual.

During the day, Lynn also took a look.

Hunter, the tavern owner of Kakasong City, brought a caravan to the territory and traded with George.

Lynn felt.

Now, this territory of his, even if he were absent for a long time.

The territory would not undergo any changes!

The most likely issue would be the work arrangements on the territory coming to a halt.

Without him leading as the head, giving tasks and orders to the townsmen, they would merely stay in place.

However.

Without the Lord's guidance, no matter how fast and prosperous the development of this territory is.

When war arrives, despite having more than a thousand armed forces and the existence of city walls.

Ultimately, they couldn't resist the enemy's siege, all would turn to ruins.

With him, this territory could continue to develop and expand.

With him, this territory could survive the coming chaotic world.

Confirming there were no anomalies on the territory.

Closing the panel, Lynn began to enjoy today's dinner with the guards and cooks.

Looking at the plate in front of him, prepared especially by the cooks with bear paw, Lynn's brow slightly raised.

Lynn never imagined he would one day taste such precious ingredients!

Picking up a fork, he speared a piece of cut bear meat, placing it in his mouth.

Slightly chewing, instantly, a soft and tender texture from the stew emerged.

Not quite the softness of ordinary meat, nor the smoothness of gelatinous food.

Giving him a substantial and full flavor.

Accompanied by the rich meat aroma unique to bear paw.

Swallowing it, Lynn slightly savored its taste.

Perhaps due to cooking skills and ingredients, the taste of the bear paw didn't amaze him.

Lynn didn't think much about it.

In this outdoor camp, being able to eat and drink was already quite good.

Half an hour later.

All guards finished their dinner, sitting by the campfire, enjoying its comfort.

Perhaps due to their familiarity with Master Lynn.

Even with Master Lynn also sitting nearby, they continued chatting leisurely and contentedly.

Regarding this, Lynn didn't mind at all.

Snap.

A sound of a foot stepping and breaking the dry branch reached Lynn's ears.

Chapter 538: Catapult

His gaze shifted, looking toward a patch of darkness on the right.

Sitting next to Lynn, Red naturally noticed Lynn's action.

Without any unnecessary words, he moved his right hand and grasped the longsword at his waist.

Under the watchful eyes of Lynn and Red, a pair of yellow and green beastly eyes appeared in the darkness.

It seemed because they were moving, the two pairs of beastly eyes were constantly swaying.

The guards who had been chatting noticed the beastly eyes too.

They all stood up, voices of warning rising from their mouths.

"There are beasts!"

"Protect Master Lynn!"

"..."

Under the vigilant eyes of everyone, two robust wild wolves emerged from the darkness.

One wolf was entirely black, the other entirely white.

Lynn raised his eyebrows; it was the White Spirit Night he had adopted earlier.

Despite the guards holding weapons, White Spirit Night showed no fear.

Upon seeing and recognizing Lynn, they opened their mouths, tongues hanging out, running toward him.

Ears perked, tails wagging, where was the demeanor of wild wolves?

They were more like two tamed huskies...

Watching the two wild wolves circling around Master Lynn, running loops around him.

Occasionally, nudging him with their heads.

The guards immediately understood.

Lynn extended his right hand, petted the heads of Black Night and White Spirit, and asked Red, "Weren't these two being taken care of by Guy?"

"How did they end up here?"

Having been occupied with other matters in the territory, he indeed had somewhat neglected the affairs of breeding at the ranch.

Red spoke up, "Maybe because they were worried about impacting the poultry and livestock at the ranch?"

"So they let Black Night and White Spirit roam free?"

Lynn nodded.

It was indeed a very reasonable explanation.

After all, Black Night and White Spirit were wild wolves, they were more accustomed to living in the wild.

In his mind, Lynn recalled the scene he had caught sight of earlier.

Black Night and White Spirit leading a pack of wild wolves at the edge of the forest...

If Black Night and White Spirit could become the Wolf King of this forest, commanding all the wild wolves, it wouldn't be bad.

At least there would be no worry of wolf packs attacking townsmen.

And if they could bring back some wild wolves or pups upon exchanging for the special building blueprint "Wolf's Den" later,

Using the "Wolf's Den" to raise wolf pups, thus training a batch of wolf cavalry,

That would be the best scenario!

Whether for scouting or sentry duty, it would be an excellent choice.

After asking the cook to bring some meat to feed Black Night and White Spirit, Lynn let them leave the camp.

However,

Lynn noticed, White Spirit Night did not go far.

Instead, they continued patrolling around the camp, keeping guard for them.

...

As Lynn led Red and the others further into the forest,

his hunting skills continued to improve.

[Hunting Experience +1]

[Hunting Experience +1]

[Hunting Experience +1]

He moved his hand, releasing the triangular armor-piercing arrow from the bowstring.

With a sharp whistling sound, the arrow shot towards a squirrel on the tree trunk.

The speed and accuracy of the arrow were astonishing.

The squirrel, mid-jump on the trunk, was instantly hit.

It didn't even have time to utter a cry of pain.

The entire squirrel, carrying the arrow, fell to the ground.

Finally, it fell among the dry leaves and grass.

The ever-watchful White Spirit Night immediately stepped forward toward the prey.

After a bit of searching among the dry leaves, White Spirit picked up the squirrel and brought it to Lynn, gently placing it at his feet.

Even Black Night was no longer like before.

Chasing after the prey Lynn hunted, wanting to eat it.

It just stood beside White Spirit, quietly waiting.

Lynn nodded in satisfaction.

Winter had passed, spring had come.

White Spirit Night had not only grown significantly but seemed to have become smarter?

He petted White Spirit's head and had the guards put the squirrel away.

Lynn looked around.

Since eating bear paws last time, they had been exploring the primordial forest for nearly five days.

In those five days,

The Ore Vein Detector had alerted them twice.

The first time was for a small gold mine.

When Lynn led Red and the others to the marked location, they couldn't find any gold mine.

It turned out to be tens of meters underground.

Lynn simply gave up.

Aside from open-pit mines, or those just beneath soft soil,

Otherwise,

With the current excavation conditions, they simply couldn't dig it!

The second alert was for a small open-pit iron mine.

When Lynn arrived, he roughly estimated the range of the open-pit iron mine.

Only a few dozen square meters of iron ore were exposed on the ground, most of it embedded in rock.

It could be mined, though.

However,

They already had a large iron mine waiting for further excavation.

This small open-pit iron mine could be kept as a backup for the future!

Anyway, with the Holographic Map to mark it, he could access it anytime.

No worry about forgetting it.

Apart from these two mine veins found,

In these five days, they also hunted a group of twelve wild boars, large and small!

Acquiring meat exceeding a thousand pounds!

What Lynn found a bit disappointing was not finding several minerals he needed.

No gold or silver mines, no saltpeter or borax mines, let alone magic ore!

As the sky gradually darkened, Lynn again ordered the guards to prepare to set up camp.

Chapter 539: Catapult

He decided to explore the forest for a few more days. If he couldn't find the minerals he needed, it would be time to return to town.

Early the next morning.

After breakfast, Lynn, still accompanied by Red and a dozen guards, continued hunting.

Just as he shot and killed a red deer with his bow and arrow.

A text reminder appeared in front of Lynn.

[Ore Vein Detector: 200 meters southwest, a small open-pit alkali mine.]

Seeing the words in front of him, Lynn's eyebrows raised slightly.

Have they finally discovered the minerals they need?

After the guards finished dealing with the red deer, Lynn led Red and the others toward the location marked by the detector.

A distance of 200 meters, even in the forest, is only a few minutes' journey.

Arriving at a terraced and sunken clearing.

A large block after another of rock entered Lynn's view.

The surface of the rock was relatively smooth, but inside, it showed a clear crystalline structure!

Looking at these stones, Lynn's mind stirred.

A text panel appeared.

[Alkali ore] consists of sodium carbonate, bicarbonate, and hydrated carbonate minerals, processed for use in chemical, metallurgy, textile, and other industries.

Alkali ore, whether used for the production of glazed glass at the territory's glass workshop.

Or used as a flame retardant in metallurgy, for textile desizing, boiling, and even tanning leather.

And even to produce soda ash, make detergents, soap, etc., using natural alkali ore.

Requires a large amount of alkali ore!

When medical technology in the territory becomes more advanced, natural alkali ore can also be used as an auxiliary medicinal component!

Looking at the vast open-pit alkali deposit in front of him, Lynn felt a sense of satisfaction.

Though it took several days to discover such an alkali deposit.

The utility of alkali ore is tremendous.

Everything is worth it!

Lynn turned his gaze to the guards.

"Use the cross pickaxe to break these rocks, each person needs to carry 20 pounds of rock fragments on them!"

Receiving Lynn's order, the guards responded in unison without hesitation: "Yes."

As the words fell, the guards began to busy themselves.

Even though they wore composite armor now.

Adding just 20 pounds, it's no issue for them.

Watching the busy guards, Lynn was about to grab a cross pickaxe to join in the breaking of the alkali ore.

Another text panel appeared before him.

[Ore Vein Detector: 200 meters northwest, a small saltpeter cave.]

Upon clearly seeing the text prompt, a wave of joy swept over Lynn.

A small saltpeter cave?

For the past five or six days, he hadn't discovered practical or easily extractable minerals.

He was prepared to give up, but then one prompt after another appeared?

It meant that if he'd held out one less day.

These minerals would have temporarily slipped through his fingers?

Fortunately, he persevered!

Leaving the guards to continue breaking the alkali ore, Lynn took Red and five guards toward the marked saltpeter cave.

Moving past a dozen towering ancient trees, Lynn and his team arrived near a hillside.

Lynn's gaze quickly found the crevice in the hillside beneath a layer of moss and vines.

Without any hesitation, Lynn strode forward.

Red instantly understood Lynn's plan. He took torches from the guards and lit them with tinder.

Following closely behind Lynn, they walked into the cave.

Upon entering the cave, a damp, cold sensation instantly enveloped Lynn and his team.

The cave's temperature was at least a few degrees lower than the forest, with thin layers of vapor clinging to the rocky walls.

Under the light of the torches held by Red and the guards, Lynn took in the entirety of the crevice cave.

The cave wasn't deep, only about a few dozen meters, narrow and moist.

Deep within the cave, there was nothing eerie or chilling.

Merely a simple cave.

On the cave walls and ceiling lay a layer of colorless crystals.

Mental command, the descriptive text panel appeared.

[Saltpeter]: Mainly composed of potassium nitrate, an excellent source of potash and nitrogen fertilizer, used in agriculture, industrial gunpowder and explosives production, and as preservatives in medicine and food.

Seeing the description, Lynn felt a wave of satisfaction.

The uses of saltpeter are abundant!

Most importantly.

Now having found saltpeter, they only need to find sulfur and mix it with charcoal in the right proportions.

They can then produce explosives!

The waterfall suppressing the territory's hydraulic development and water transport can be resolved!

This was one of the key minerals Lynn wanted to find on this expedition.

Lynn looked at Red and said, "Collect the crystals on the walls, dig and gather them to take back to town."

Upon receiving Lynn's instructions, Red quickly responded, arranging for the five guards behind him to begin collecting and digging.

Lynn also held an iron chisel in his hand, steadily collecting.

[Collection Experience +1]

[Collection Experience +1]

[Collection Experience +1]

...

Until several hours later, as the sky outside the cave gradually darkened.

Having collected several pounds, Lynn stopped his actions.

He paused the relentless gathering of the guards, guiding them back to the open-pit alkali deposit.

As the sky fully darkened.

Lynn and dozens of people returned to the previously built camp.

Chapter 540: Catapult

Looking at the sack in the corner away from the campfire, Lynn felt a little emotional.

The number of guards he brought was indeed too few.

However, on second thought.

He went out with the guards precisely to use the [Ore Vein Detector] for exploration.

The main task was to search!

As long as he notes down the location of these minerals, he can organize a large group of townsmen to come and collect and mine them after returning to the town.

After dinner and a night's rest.

Early the next morning, Lynn prepared to return with the group of guards.

The task of this exploration was already completed.

With the existence of the [Holographic Map].

As long as it was within his territory, Lynn had no need to worry about getting lost!

They passed through forests until the afternoon.

Lynn and the others returned to the open-pit iron mine.

Under the respectful gazes of the workers at the open-pit iron mine, Lynn mounted his horse and galloped down the limestone road with Red and others.

Heading back towards the town.

Shortly after nightfall.

Lynn and his party returned to the town, passing through the red brick roads between the town, and entered the castle.

Handing the warhorse to the guards, Lynn walked up the stairs to the second floor.

As he entered the hall, Kuisi greeted him head-on.

"Master, you're back. I'll arrange for a maid to prepare food and hot water for you now."

Lynn responded, walked through the hall, ascended the small staircase, and sat on the lord's throne.

Feeling the soft and comfortable leather under him, Lynn's body relaxed a little.

After instructing the maid, Kuisi came to the step outside the lord's throne.

She said, "Master, would you like me to report on the events that occurred in the territory during your absence?"

Lynn answered, "Go ahead."

Granted permission from Lynn, Kuisi bowed slightly.

"On the day you left, Boss Hunter from Kakasong City Tavern arrived in the town with a carriage."

"However, this time he did not bring oxen and draft horses, only thirty thousand pounds of barley."

"In a transaction arranged by Mr. George, five hundred pounds of gin were exchanged with Boss Hunter."

"Then, Boss Hunter used eight gold pounds to purchase ten thousand pounds of beer at a price of one penny for two pounds!"

Lynn nodded slightly.

He had seen Hunter's arrival through [Holographic Projection].

Seeing that Master Lynn did not ask any questions, Kuisi continued to narrate understandingly.

"According to your request, Kuisi has already arranged for the townsmen to go to school in batches to receive scholars' teachings."

"To not affect daytime work, without your permission, I specifically arranged for them to study for two hours in the evening."

Lynn commended, "That's good."

"As the steward of the town, such small matters can be decided by you."

Upon hearing this, Kuisi's originally tense heart relaxed a little.

She continued, "Scholar Clive Rich sought you out two days ago."

"He said that if needed, he could design armor for the soldiers in the territory."

"He can create the design blueprint for the armor style you want, and later, just some modification during the forging of armor plates can achieve the desired effect."

Listening to Kuisi, Lynn became interested.

He had previously considered leaving unique symbols or marks on the forged armor.

As he had asked Rose before, they were excited by the Wolf God totem.

However, due to the initial limitations in casting and forging technology.

It was impossible to create exquisite armor symbols and patterns.

Clive Rich, who researches in the direction of painting and such, could be asked to try it.

The patterns or symbols on the armor could give soldiers a sense of belonging!

And, taking pride in the army name assigned to them, enhancing their combat power!

Just like the Ducas Clan's greatsword and shield emblem.

The soldiers of the Ducas Clan were known to the world as the Sword and Shield Corps.

As for what to name the army in his own territory, Lynn hadn't decided yet.

Lynn nodded, "I understand this matter, I will look for Clive later."

Kuisi bowed slightly again and continued, "As for other workshops, everything is proceeding normally."

"Oh right, Master, Foreman Colin of the Woodworker Workshop informed me that the first catapult has been manufactured and tested."

"You can go to the Woodworker Workshop at any time to inspect the catapult."

Lynn responded.

With such detailed blueprints and so many carpenter apprentices, and seven days had passed.

If Colin still couldn't produce the first catapult, he could really consider sending Colin to dig mines as a black slave!

Kuisi continued, "Master, finally, it's about the reclamation and planting in the wasteland."

"According to the current progress, at most three more days, and the townsmen will complete this spring's sowing—planting fifty thousand acres of farmland!"

Lynn said, "Continue planting until the end of April, don't waste this spring plowing season."

As the townsmen continue to reclaim and plant, their proficiency naturally increases.

Plus, with the adult oxen and draft horses transported by Hunter, the speed of reclamation and planting naturally improved.

It's only a week until the end of April.

Might as well let them continue planting; it won't affect anything.

Hearing Lynn's words, Kuisi understood and bowed in agreement.

"Yes, Master."

After waiting for the chef to finish cooking, Lynn entered the private chamber and enjoyed a comfortable soak.