

Chapter 1261

Response of the Three Universal Civilizations

Benefitting from the emergency report the direct Beyond Grade As had written after the meeting, the three Universal Civilizations had learned about the resurrection of the Primordial Ones even before public opinion broke out.

The moment this report was delivered to their tables, the leaders of the three civilizations were shocked, hurriedly convening a joint meeting.

In the conference room of the highest level, the projections of Marbruce, Louis, and the Pope sat on one end. Sitting around them were the upper echelons of each respective civilization that was eligible to participate in the conference. The core powers of the three Universal Civilizations had gathered together, and the atmosphere was solemn.

“Resurrecting the Beyond Grade As... Black Star unexpectedly had such an incredible method. He hid himself deeply and only came out in high profile at this point. He did this deliberately!”

Marbruce’s expression was solemn, and he was frightened in his heart.

He had already tried to evaluate Black Star as highly as possible, but he did not expect to underestimate the other party so much. As part of the hawk faction with a strong desire to control, seeing Black Star pull out such a trump card that could stir the universe, his inner anger could not be quenched. He felt that this ally had already left the control of the dynasty.

Louis spoke in a deep voice. “Yes, Black Star has been planning this for a long time. He probably had an idea and was just waiting for an opportunity. Once he sensed the risk, he resolutely released this ace in the hole in order to disrupt our deployments!”

The Pope frowned. “This situation is unfavorable for us. With the return of the Primordial Ones, the top strength of the Beyond Grade A Association has expanded by at least a third. If we use the original plan to cleanse the Beyond Grade As, we will have to pay a higher price. This will shake the order of the entire interstellar society, not to mention that Black Star could possibly resurrect more of them...”

The mood of the trio was the same. Their plans had already entered the ready state, but this abrupt situation brought about by Black Star frightened them into stopping all their current actions and reconsidering countermeasures.

As Black Star was the source of the trouble, the goodwill of the trio toward him had disappeared, only leaving boundless hostility. Even if Black Star was nominally an ally of the dynasty, the Ruler Marbruce was also hostile toward him.

When the other party was beneficial to their own rule, they would cooperate with a smile even if they had a personal suspicion. However, Black Star’s actions had broken the balance of the universe and

were leveraging on the foundations of the three Universal Civilizations. His reputation and status could no longer prevent both sides from turning against each other.

From the perspective of the three, they had given Black Star so many benefits, only to see Black Star backstab them!

If it were not for the fear of Black Star's strength, influence, and connections, the trio might have convened their troops to smash the Black Star Army.

Marbruce suppressed his impulses, speaking in a low tone.

"It will be tricky in the short term but even more dangerous in the long run. Don't forget, many of the Beyond Grade As have some hatred with us, such as the civilization guardians that were destroyed by us during the exploration era, or even those who perished in the Tragedy of the Pinnacles... If they make a comeback, they're likely to retaliate against us!"

The upper echelons in the audience knew the seriousness of not removing the weeds from their roots, and they shuddered.

The three Universal Civilizations had many direct Beyond Grade As, but this number could not be compared with the number of enemies they had throughout history. Once their enemies were resurrected on a large scale, their direct Beyond Grade As were likely to be completely wiped out, resulting in the loss of their deterrence in the form of individual combat strength.

The best advantage of a Beyond Grade A was their ability as a strategic level weapon. They had unparalleled flexibility and were able to destroy the entire board with just a few people. If there were no direct Beyond Grade As on their side to restrain the other party, then even if the three Universal Civilizations could still wipe out the Beyond Grade As with their fleets, technology, and various Universal Treasures, they would have to pay a huge price to do so.

The pope thought further and solemnly said, "From the perspective of the overall situation, even if the factors of the enemy were not counted in, the dominance of the three Universal Civilizations is in danger of being flipped. The Sanctum Revival has increased the life expectancy of the Beyond Grade As, which will lead to a qualitative increase in accumulation for the Beyond Grade As in the universe.

"With this trend, the Beyond Grade A numbers will break through the balance between civilization and individual might in the near future, enough to threaten our rule. At that time, it will be hard for us to make a comeback. It will no longer be the Beyond Grade As worrying about us but rather us worrying when the ambitions of the Beyond Grade A Association will expand!"

The Pope sighed at this. He appeared resigned.

"But what's the use of knowing this? Black Star's trump card has completely destroyed all our checks and balances. He holds the remote control that could change this era. We can no longer act rashly!"

Hearing this, the trio fell silent.

This current situation was akin to nuclear deterrence, where the three Universal Civilizations did not dare shed all pretenses.

Even if a civilization was strong, facing such a situation, the trio felt helpless in face of this sudden situation. This naturally fueled their hate toward Han Xiao.

There seemed to only be one way to solve this... to obtain the authority to control the Sanctum Revivals!

“For the current strategy, we’ll negotiate as much as possible with Black Star until we figure out his plan!”

The trio nodded, reaching a consensus while secretly regretting their past decisions.

When the stubborn Mechanic Emperor was leading the association, they did not act rashly but rather waited for Black Star to take that position. However, it seemed now that Black Star was even more dangerous than the Mechanic Emperor, being able to hide so deeply.

The route the Mechanic Emperor took was a polar opposite of Black Star. Black Star only wished to deter and co-exist, having little negative impacts and benefiting the Beyond Grade A Association. Compared to Manison’s method of mutual destruction, the former’s method was more inconsistent with the three Universal Civilizations.

If they had known this would happen, when the Beyond Grade A Association was first established, they would have...

Well, what’s the use in regrets when it was not us at that time! What a mess our predecessors left us!

Marbruce could not help but think of the warning he had from Urranrell decades ago.

Beware of Black Star, he’s a hundred times more dangerous than the Mechanic Emperor!

At this point, he could only utter a single word. “Indeed.”

Without delay, the trio dispersed the meeting, sending an invitation and preparing for a secret conversation with Han Xiao.

The trio did not wait long, as Han Xiao descended quickly as a virtual projection.

“Your Excellencies, what a coincidence. We meet again.”

Han Xiao still held the same attitude, bowing slightly with a smile on his face.

While his tone was the same, the three of them felt a faint hint of mockery within.

Marbruce suppressed his urge to strangle Han Xiao, solemnly saying, “Black Star, you must know why we have called you over. Long story short, what’s happening with the Sanctum Revivals?”

Han Xiao blinked. “I’m not too sure myself either. I also only discovered this peculiar phenomenon by accident. This might be a Space Wonder.”

The corners of the trio’s mouths twitched.

Stop mentioning the phrase ‘Space Wonder’, my head hurts!

“Then what’s the process of the Sanctum Revivals, and are there any rules of restrictions...” Louis continued.

“Ah, I’m not too sure of that either. I haven’t started my research yet.” Han Xiao waved his hands.

The Pope cleared his throat before speaking solemnly. “I don’t know if you’re intending to share the formula for Sanctum Revival, but you can name your price.”

Han Xiao smiled.

Bruh, what are you smoking?

Seeing this, the trio knew that this request was outrageous and were secretly unhappy.

Marbruce gritted his teeth before bellowing, “Black Star! You should know what sort of chaos your Sanctum Revivals have brought to the Galactic Society. What’s your intention by resurrecting this group of historical Beyond Grade As? What is your goal?”

Hearing this, Han Xiao only smiled. “Just like you said, I was only testing out if Sanctum Revival was even possible. I didn’t expect to actually be able to resurrect this group of people. Should I stuff them back into their graves instead?”

Marbruce almost exploded in anger.

Accidental experiment? Only a fool would believe that!

The Pope took over the conversation. “Whether it was an accident or not, the Beyond Grade A Association now has to deal with a huge number of newcomers. We would like to know how you are going to deal with this problem.”

What the trio worried about was that with this new force, Black Star would take initiative to attack.

“There’s no need to deal with them. The moment they join the association, they are part of it, and they will not be given special treatment. I will only give them some resources in accordance with their established rules of the association. As for other matters... as long as they do not violate the regulations of the association, I will not care.”

Han Xiao’s attitude was to draw the line.

“This is not enough. You know our intentions. We hope that you will ensure that the Beyond Grade A Association will always exist in peace.”

Han Xiao chuckled. “Even if I guarantee it, will you believe it?”

The trio helplessly shook their heads. In reality, the foundation of trust between both parties had already collapsed. Even if they believed in Black Star, their own duties required them to plan ahead and expect the worst. Any sort of guarantee was useless to them.

The trio did not dare take a sharp attitude when facing Black Star. While Black Star had a huge business, his main clients were the three Universal Civilizations. But things were now different. With the existence of the Sanctum Revival, Black Star had become a ‘detonator’, sitting on the same level as the heads of the three Universal Civilizations.

Marbruce squinted and suddenly asked, "Black Star, is the dynasty still your ally?"

Han Xiao gazed at him, thinking for a bit before asking, "The covenant has not been torn down. The dynasty had provided me with a lot of help, so of course we're still allies."

It was not in his interests to completely tear off all pretenses, nor did Han Xiao wish to do so.

Marbruce's eyes shone. "Then I wish to cooperate. Since you have the means of Sanctum Revival, I hope you can resurrect Gaud or the other dynasty descendants."

"... I'll think about it." Han Xiao raised his brows. He naturally would not resurrect the direct Beyond Grade As of the three Universal Civilizations.

Seeing this, the trio knew that they would not be able to get anything else from Han Xiao, so they could only hold back their dissatisfaction and end the call.

In the huge room, the trio gazed at each other, staring in silence for a while.

Marbruce was silent for a while before he spoke.

"The original cleansing plan can be abandoned. We need a new response plan, and I have three ideas. One is to start with Black Star, using spies to infiltrate and find a method to get into the Sanctum. Second would be to divide the association, winning over some of the Revivors to inquire about the Sanctum Revival. As for the third..."

As he spoke, he glanced at them, hesitating a little before he continued.

"We should establish our own Ru0026D team to independently study the secrets of the Sanctum Revival. I believe that the federation and church are not completely ignorant of this, with some information on hand."

The other two were taken aback before slowly nodding as well.

The three Universal Civilizations came from the exploration era, naturally having some knowledge of the Sanctums. The direct descendants of the three Universal Civilizations would occasionally also obtain relevant inspiration and leave some vague information. Because of the rumors among the Primordial Ones as well, this was not the first time the three Universal Civilizations had heard of the term 'Sanctums'. However, they had treated this as unverifiable confidential information in the past.

Such information was a high-level secret of the three Universal Civilizations. They cherished such things deeply and just wished to research it on their own. However, due to the incomplete intelligence provided, their research had been progressing slowly without any clues. Most of the projects had long been suspended, and even the authenticity of the intelligence was questioned.

But with this situation now, where the ruling foundations of the three Universal Civilizations were threatened, Marbruce felt that this was not the time to hide and monopolize.

"I suggest that we pool and share our relevant secrets, put together our clues to study this so-called Sanctum Revival together. Only in this manner can we have a small chance of making quick progress!"

After a moment of hesitation, Louis nodded. "Seems like this is the best idea. Let's do it."

The Pope also nodded in agreement. "In the short term, the possibility of us solving this problem is very small, but in the long run, while we cannot prevent the resurrection of Beyond Grade As, it's not impossible to suppress the number.

"We cannot prevent the revivals, but we can also reduce the new Beyond Grade As and prevent them from growing endlessly!"

"You mean..."

The two of them started.

The Pope's eyes flickered with an inexplicable light as he whispered, "The birth of Beyond Grade As comes from the huge base of Supers in the universe. If we obliterate the potential Beyond Grade As, then the Super class will be cut off. If we even cut off the inheritance of Super knowledge at the bottom, nationalizing all of it, this will make the Beyond Grade As lose their fresh blood..."

Hearing this, both Marbruce and Louis felt their hearts jolt. They were unable to help feeling shocked at the Pope's bold declaration.

The Supers had always been an important part of the Galactic Society, but now he wanted to uproot them?

With their insight, they felt that this idea was too insane.

But... if there were only advanced civilizations left in the universe that could train Supers, how stable would their public order be, and how strong would their ruling foundation also be?

They could not help but fantasize.

...

At the same time, in Black Star Palace, Han Xiao put away his communicator. Recalling the exchange between him and the three Universal Civilizations' leaders, he sighed lightly.

"The checks and balances have been formed. The three Universal Civilizations will give up on their cleansing plans for now, fearing repercussions of their actions. In this manner, the intensity of the Calamity of the Supers will be controlled, but I don't know... How long can this last?"

Han Xiao nodded.

The Revivors were born ahead of time, and the fact of Sanctum Revival was revealed. The butterfly effect he had brought would inevitably change the course of the Calamity of the Supers, not developing like his previous life.

But he could not say for sure to what extent the Calamity of the Supers would change, so he could only adapt to the circumstances.

Chapter 1262 Mechanical Divinity

“Even if we have not torn off all pretenses now, our relationship is basically frozen stiff.”

Han Xiao stroked his chin as he pondered.

While the storyline had changed, he had predicted the actions of the three Universal Civilizations. The leaders had approached him for a secret talk, naturally with the intention of negotiating with him.

But Han Xiao did not plan to talk about it at all. The fundamental contradictions were already placed up front, so negotiations would be useless if that was not resolved.

The three Universal Civilizations wished to achieve the result of preventing him from resurrecting the Beyond Grade As in history at will. The Revivors had to first be screened by them, and the number could not exceed a certain value. In short, the Sanctum Revivals would be limited, in a way that best fit with the needs of the three Universal Civilizations.

Even if he were to compromise, as long as the three Universal Civilizations did not control the Sanctum Revival function, their behavior would not change. The foundation of trust had already been broken; nothing said now would be able to dispel their fear. This fundamental conflict of interest had already prevented both parties from reaching a consensus.

Han Xiao naturally did not want to tie up his hands and feet. Now that the checks and balance were established, there was nothing they could do even if Han Xiao did not wish to negotiate. That being said, he did not wish to further provoke the three Universal Civilizations.

Unless the three Universal Civilizations made a move, he did not intend to expose any new Beyond Grade As revived by the Holy Accord.

“The three Universal Civilizations could be said to have turned into our enemies. While they are not yet openly hostile, the business cooperation between us will be gradually lifted. Naturally, their resource support will also not be handed to me.

“Tsk, Marbruce has never been happy with me. It’s only because of the deal signed between Urranrell and I that he has no choice but to continue to give me strong support. Now, he can finally terminate the cooperation in a fair way.

“However, I’m not the only one who is receiving this treatment. Except for the direct descendants and the allies who have not made a clear statement, it’s difficult for anyone else to be able to continue cooperating with the three Universal Civilizations. It is necessary to enhance the independence of the association.”

The nature of this wave caused by the Beyond Grade A Association had changed. The three Universal Civilizations would no longer continue their original intentions of killing their ‘enemies’ but would carry out non-armed conflict countermeasures such as economic sanctions.

With them taking the lead, a large number of affiliated civilizations would also terminate their cooperation with the Beyond Grade A organizations. If targeted policies were introduced, many of the interstellar consortiums would also choose to terminate their contracts with the Beyond Grade As. No matter how powerful the Beyond Grade As were, there was no way for them to develop their organizations without support, and Han Xiao did not doubt the influence of the three Universal Civilizations in this area. Free trade would turn into a political issue.

Because the three Universal Civilizations were hegemons, they did not care about losing this portion of cooperation, but for the Beyond Grade A organizations, it would be a significant dip in income. Many of their channels would be cut off, which would have a great impact.

This situation would cause the Super Star Cluster Alliance to take advantage of this vacancy and attempt to lure in the Beyond Grade As to replace the position of the three Universal Civilizations. However, the three Universal Civilizations were even more likely to turn toward the Super Star Cluster Alliance than to continue to cooperate with the Beyond Grade A Association.

Of course, even if the three Universal Civilizations were to take this route, they would not do it in a high-profile manner. This struggle would be out of sight of most galactic residents.

Such problems would not happen in the short term, but it was necessary for Han Xiao to establish an interest system for the Beyond Grade A Association that was independent from the three Universal Civilizations. The current interest system could only be regarded as a semi-complete product, needing further tuning.

“There are countless organizations contacting me these days to ask about the Sanctum Revivals. These are all resources that can be used.”

Han Xiao scratched his chin thoughtfully.

For the ordinary citizens, while the Sanctum Revival was magical, it had little to do with them. Instead, it was the consortiums with more sensitivity in business that were requesting further cooperation, believing that this would be a huge business opportunity.

In Han Xiao’s opinion, these were all ‘building blocks’ that were delivered to his doorstep.

The various consortiums had always been important partners for the Beyond Grade A organizations, but if the three Universal Civilizations adopted such economic sanctions in the future, these various consortiums would be caught in a dilemma between the two factions, not knowing which to choose.

During these unordinary periods, Han Xiao did not wish to clarify any risks with his investors. He planned to immediately accept any investors that wished to invest, tying the association and the consortiums further together to prevent them from running away.

If there came a day when economic sanctions really took place, the consortiums could either be as stubborn as mules and stay all the way or slice off a big piece of their flesh to withdraw. In short, they would not be allowed to pull out with all their investments.

For some organizations with Beyond Grade As, the significance of the Sanctum Revival was even more important. Among them, Han Xiao's attention was focused on the surviving descendants of those historical Beyond Grade As. A few of them had already reached out to him, expressing their desire to resurrect their 'ancestor'.

"The surviving descendants of the historical Beyond Grade As... they're both a source of propaganda and a pool of high-value talents. With the Sanctum Revival in my hands, we can gain something of value from these groups," Han Xiao muttered.

Resurrecting a Beyond Grade A would only allow him to receive gratitude from said person, but acting on someone's request to resurrect would mean he could obtain many more benefits.

This was basic demand and supply. Since he had a monopoly, he could decide the price, and in Han Xiao's view, this might be the correct method to operate the Sanctum Revival.

Right now, however, in order to maintain a sense of secrecy, it would be better not to turn it into a business.

Han Xiao populated his memo, recording thought after thought. It was the president's duty to guide the development direction of the association, so it was necessary for him to consider all aspects and begin preparing early.

Very quickly, the memo was densely filled up. Han Xiao listed the current affairs that had to be completed, turning it into a complicated mess. Scanning it, he nodded to himself.

"Regarding the work of the association, this is about it. On the side of the organization, I'll withstand the pressure, using my own strength as the foundation to maintain all of these things..."

While he thought to himself, Han Xiao opened up the interface with a smile.

With the Revivors joining the association, his bonus given by [Proof of Leadership] had seen a small rise. In the past few decades, he had digested most of Jayz's technical treasures, building a variety of Gold Grade equipment. He had already come a long way on the road of God's Trait Transformation.

His Machinery God's Trait Transformation had reached the apex at level fifteen with the help of his Mission Completion Cards. As for his Void God's Trait Transformation, it had reached level nine, which was also quite a high level.

The bonuses brought about by both of them had once again increased his Energy by thousands of Ona. At the same time, when his Machinery God's Trait Transformation reached the final level, it brought about additional enhancements to himself, such as obtaining another fragment of the First Sanctum, as well as a fifteen percent increase in his chance to form an exclusive talent.

But unlike the first two times, his unknown talent was finally activated, turning into a new talent— [Mechanical Divinity]!

This was a special reward given when one reached the top of the Mechanic Class. The effect was comprehensive, covering strength of abilities, Machinery Affinity, manufacturing efficiency, and basic attributes, giving bonuses to Endurance and more. This allowed Han Xiao's Energy to rise by more than 900 in one go, making progress in every single possible manner.

In addition, [Mechanical Divinity] provided him with two additional abilities. The first allowed him to obtain a stacking bonus when he activated his machinery with Mechanical Force, allowing him to get stronger as he fought.

The second gave him an ascension for his life level in his next advancement. From Han Xiao's viewpoint, this might be the most critical effect, which would live up to its name of 'transformation'.

As for the Void path, it mainly strengthened his Race Specialties and basic attributes, improving his Racial Talent. At the fifth level, the Black Star race's talent [Mechanical Genius] experienced a forward leap in evolution, giving him a fragment from the First Sanctum.

As for his Unique Talent, Han Xiao was finally not totally clueless about it. During these decades of research, he had finally triggered a notification from his interface.

The Unique Talent was not one that could be obtained from a sudden epiphany. The mechanism worked when relevant activities were carried out, randomly giving him a certain amount of progress each time. Only when the progress bar was filled up could a true Unique Talent be formed. The triggering frequency and amount of progress depended on the probability of the activity being able to form his Unique Talent.

Because of the bonus awarded by his God's Trait Transformation, Han Xiao had finally activated a prototype. It had only triggered about three times in the decades, with an extremely low probability. His progress bar was only at 44.7%. At this rate, it would take more than a hundred years for a normal Beyond Grade A to be able to develop their own Unique Talents.

The Awakening Points were able to speed up this progress, but he had no leeks to harvest for a few decades, so Han Xiao decided to be economical, not upgrading his skills, which led to fewer Awakening Points.

Our Great Mechanic Han gazed at his interface as he silently calculated his strength.

The Energy Rank increase brought to me by the various specialties is really high, opening up a gap between myself and the topmost echelons of the universe. I belong to a position on my own now, and when I reach my advancement for level 360, I might really step into a totally new realm...

The best thing to do now would be to push my Void God's Trait Transformation to the maximum before my advancement, in order to maximize the benefits. The Gold Grade blueprints that Jayz left for me might be insufficient, but as long as I enter The First Sanctum, I should be able to collect a wave of these blueprints, and there will not be a need to worry about not having enough God's Trait Transformation points...

Han Xiao's eyes sparkled in expectation.

Nobody seemed to have been able to set foot in this higher territory, even in the previous iterations. When the time came, what sort of feeling would it be?

...

"Unexpectedly, the Beyond Grade A Association gave us such a huge surprise!"

In the Super Star Cluster Alliance remote conference room, the leaders of the various Super Star Clusters were gathered together, their expressions unable to withhold their grins.

Ever since they lost in the Flickering War, the Super Star Cluster Alliance had been driven out of the Flickering World by the three Universal Civilizations. They could only endure this humiliation and go home to lick their wounds and recuperate, lying dormant whilst waiting for other opportunities.

They did not expect that merely a few decades later, the patterns in the universe would change once again.

“The conflict between the three Universal Civilizations and the Beyond Grade A Association has begun. Black Star is always surprising us, even managing to dig up all those dead people. The three Universal Civilizations will definitely not sit still. This is our opportunity.”

The eyes of the Star Arc Civilization’s leader flickered as the corners of his mouth rose.

Someone laughed. “That’s right. This is a good time to intervene and also a direction to shake the rule of the three Universal Civilizations. We can make some improvements to the basis of our original plan.”

Even whilst recuperating, the Super Star Cluster Alliance was not idle. They were already planning to create some trouble for the three Universal Civilizations.

They originally wanted to jointly support a special task force, instigating the anger of the common people that suffered from inequality, reducing the goodwill of these people toward the three Universal Civilizations so as to shake their rule.

But plans could never keep up with the changes. There were now obviously better options.

Everyone had their own ideas, and they discussed vigorously.

“From what angle should we intervene in this storm?”

“It’s impossible to appear in person. We have to hide behind the scenes... Since the three Universal Civilizations and the Beyond Grade A Association are restraining themselves, we should intensify their conflict and make them turn openly hostile.”

“The best result would be having both sides lose out, but the Beyond Grade A Association only possesses top-level strength. The power difference between the two is too wide. They are not an opponent of the three Universal Civilizations, so we should find a way to help them increase their power.”

“Are you talking about cooperating with them? That works, but it will attract the attention of the three Universal Civilizations.”

“No, no, not cooperation. We can secretly kill a few of their members, then pin the blame to the three Universal Civilizations, just like what they did to us in the Tragedy of the Pinnacles...”

The people threw out idea after idea, discussing them endlessly.

At this moment, the Star Arc Civilization’s leader interjected.

“Maybe... we could play it big this time!”

Hearing this, everyone turned, curious.

“What are your thoughts?”

The leader narrowed his eyes as he solemnly spoke. “Currently, the contradiction is only between the Beyond Grade As and the three Universal Civilizations. This scope is still too narrow. We can attempt to provoke a greater opposition... For example, we can expand the conflict to the entire Super class against the three Universal Civilizations!

“We can spread rumors that the three Universal Civilizations wish to slaughter the Supers in order to prevent new Beyond Grade As from being born, then we find some people to pretend to be part of the three Universal Civilizations. The hunting team will expose themselves, and by then, even if the rumors are too exaggerated, fear will be the best persuasive power, leading to panic.

“The Beyond Grade A is the natural leader of the Supers, which will cause them to step up, confronting the three Universal Civilizations and deepening their conflicts. The Beyond Grade A Association might seize this chance to increase its power since it will not miss out on such an advantage. The three Universal Civilizations will thus lose a lot of Supers, people, and prestige... Isn't this very profitable?”

Hearing this, everyone jumped in shock, staring at each other.

After being silent for a while, someone asked, “Isn't this a bit too exaggerated? If you instigate the rebellion of the entire Super-class, Galactic Society will experience a huge disturbance. Besides, the three Universal Civilizations will not sit still and wait. They will come out with countermeasures, and if they expose us, what should we do?”

“The risk is indeed high, but the benefits are proportional. This is already the best bet. I just put forward a new path we can follow. As for the specific details, we'll still have to consider it further.”

The leader of the Star Arc Civilization then added after a pause, “Besides, the three Universal Civilizations are unlikely to be completely clean as well. Judging by their current situation, they might really have the idea of creating a fault in the Supers. Since they cannot prevent the resurrection, they can only prevent the birth of the new people. But even if they have such ideas, they will only act secretly to target potential Calamity Grade seeds. What we're doing is just helping them 'advertise' it.”

The Star Arc Civilization's leader sneered.

I dare not say anything else, but I'm the best at sh*t stirring!

...

Somewhere within the Ancient Star Desert, in a bustling galactic transit station, a few people clad in black robes walked among the ceaseless streams of people, their appearances hidden.

Suddenly, a few of them stopped, looking at a tall building not far away. At this moment, the virtual screen on the wall of the building was broadcasting news about the Sanctum Revival and the association.

The lead man slightly lifted his hood, revealing a stern face. It was Pangon, and those with him were the avengers that had left the Holy Accord about two months ago.

“Humph, Beiger and the rest are already ‘born’...” Pangon whispered to himself.

By the side, a companion glanced at him. “We’ve been out for several months. What are you planning to do?”

Pangon’s eyes flashed coldly.

“With just our strength, it’s too early to take revenge against the advanced civilizations. Now that Beiger’s group has attracted the attention of the universe, we should secretly develop our forces. Once we have accumulated enough power, we’ll head to the three Universal Civilizations for revenge... Before that, we have to hide our hostility and even pretend to cooperate with the three Universal Civilizations to stab them at the right time.”

As he spoke, Pangon took out a communicator and showcased the life history of someone. It was actually the EsGod!

He pointed toward EsGod’s data and spoke.

“Just like this junior of ours, there’s a lot of learning value. We can consider his methods...”

Chapter 1263 Undercurrents move once again

In one of the deep secondary dimensions, there was a piece of verdant land, full of greenery, mountains, and rivers. At its center was a beautiful and prosperous tower. The surrounding buildings were laid around it in a circular layout, their heights gradually decreasing the further outward they were situated. From one’s line of sight, it looked like a city built to guard this tall tower.

The streets were bustling, and life forms of various appearances lived in harmony there. Most of them were species that existed in the main universe, but there were also a small number of native races that belonged to the Secondary dimension.

If there were any Beyond Grade A Supers present, upon gazing at the sun, moon, and thousands of stars in the sky, they would discover magic lines flickering in subtle places. These scenes were all illusions that were carved out through magic circuits, with none of them being real.

There was a beautiful brown wooden table placed on the top of the tower, of which was made from the core of the Devil Pith, an extremely precious material in magical alchemy. There were four ivory-colored tea cups on the table, which were filled with tea of an amber color. The steam emitted from tea filled the surroundings with fragrance, allowing people to feel calm. Obviously, the tea leaves were also a precious material.

Seated at the table, four figures looked at the boundless city whilst elegantly drinking the tea leisurely.

At this moment, an almost invisible phantom appeared beside the table, as though this space had suddenly distorted.

“My messenger is back...”

One of the old men in gorgeous mage robes pressed on the center of his brows, his mana absorbing the phantom.

He shut his eyes for a moment, as though savoring the taste, but his brows suddenly jerked.

“It seems like something major has happened in the main universe.”

Hearing this, the rest placed down their teacups, looking over curiously.

“What happened?”

“See for yourself.”

The elderly mage waved his hand, a thread of spiritual force shooting out. It sank into the heads of the other three, allowing them to share his memories. The news was about the changes in the Beyond Grade A Association, shown in the galactic news.

“Primordial Ones were revived? Sanctum Revival?”

“There’s actually such an event?”

The few of them revealed expressions of surprise.

“The changes in the main universe are really progressing rapidly with each passing day. Things that I never dared to imagine are all coming true. Such are the tides of time...” The elderly mage sighed.

“It doesn’t matter how they change. This doesn’t matter to us anyway. We’ve isolated ourselves from the world. Wasn’t it just to avoid such storms?” The other person shook his head.

Even for an advanced civilization, they could not supervise the birth of every Beyond Grade A. Everyone pursued different things. Sometimes, there were Beyond Grade As who were unwilling to fight for power, unwilling to show their skills and change with the times, so they chose to seclude themselves after reaching the Beyond Grade A realm, hiding their hard-earned strength.

Because those who could be promoted to the Beyond Grade A realm were generally people with strong ambitions and desires, there were relatively few of them who had no ambitions and yet could still advance. These were usually attributed to luck and were not recorded by the advanced civilizations.

These four were Beyond Grade As who had retired from the universe a long time ago. They were like-minded individuals, staying away from the main universe and settling deep within the secondary dimensions, forming a cooperative front to take care of each other.

This secondary dimension named ‘Land of Four Gods’ was not naturally formed. The four of them had selected a suitable dimension before putting in the elements stolen from the main universe such as materials and people, transforming it into a prosperous world much like a utopia. At the same time,

everybody's mind was wiped, so they would think that this dimension was an entire world. The population thus proliferated down from generation to generation.

The residents could stay free from war and enjoy the tranquility of the world. The majority of people there could all live to the end of their lifespan and worshipped the four as their 'Gods of Creation'.

The elderly mage shook his head. "That being said, the Sanctum Revival is worthy of our attention. Sooner or later, we'll also experience a time when we decay. If we can obtain a second life, we can continue to exist."

"That time when we left the place, we never had any intentions to return. Are we going to break this intention now?" one of them said in a hesitant voice. They had gotten used to staying in this place and had some fear of going back out.

The mage stroked his long beard, only replying after a while. "Let's wait and see again. Now's not a good time to go back. We can wait till the dust settles before we have a chat with the younger lad known as Black Star."

Even for those Beyond Grade As that avoided public scrutiny, they could not help being drawn in by the Sanctum Revival offered. Not only were the four of them affected, but similar issues were also happening in the many corners of the secondary dimensions.

The Sanctum Revival was akin to a deep water mine, stirring up the mud and sand in the depths of the seabed, causing the hidden existences to reenter the range of sunlight, surging as undercurrents in corners that no one knew about.

...

Within the Arcane Church's Temple of Ten Thousand Gods, numerous statues of gods in all shapes and sizes stood. Some were majestic and heroic, some detached from the mortal dust, and some indescribable. The only thing in common was that each statue appeared lifelike. They were gods of various religions circulating in the universe.

The [God's Chosen] Wuornos stood in the center of the main hall, his head bowed as he prayed. The silvery-gray sacrificial priest's robes fluttered even without a wind, as colorful and peculiar auras flew around his body vigorously. If one were to observe the interior of these auras, they would see that it seemingly contained lines of divine words.

At this moment, a priest led an upper echelon of the Arcane Church to enter the temple.

"Your Excellency, God's Chosen, the Pope requires your assistance."

The upper echelon of the Arcane Church saluted as he spoke with a respectful attitude.

Wuornos stopped his prayers, indifferently speaking without even turning his head. "Speak."

"Because of the Sanctum Revival, we have reached a new cooperation agreement with both the Crimson Dynasty and the Federation of Light, planning to form a joint scientific research team to conduct research of our own to obtain the Sanctum Revival. We're preparing to establish a secret research institute in the desolate universe belt in the middle of the three territories, and the Pope would like you to hold the fort there, God's Chosen."

“Sure.”

Wuornos turned his head, pointing to an angel wielding a sword next to him. This was one of the deities worshipped by a large religious school named ‘Barbaroy’. Based on the school’s system, this deity governed over ‘combat’ itself.

At this moment, an invisible energy spread, and the statue suddenly shook. A golden-white aura shot out from within, separating itself from the statue. At the moment the light left the shell, the lifelike feeling of the statue dissipated.

This golden-white aura suffused into Wuornos’ body. The next moment, a crash was heard as an illusory figure suddenly grew out from his back.

This phantom had a pair of glowing wings and held a gorgeous long sword. It was surprisingly in the same outfit as the deity, except that its size and appearance were similar to Wuornos instead, as though they had combined.

At this moment, the phantom was holding Wuornos’ shoulders with its hands, attempting to pull itself out of Wuornos’ body inch by inch.

In just a few seconds, the sword-wielding angel had succeeded in separating itself, flapping its wings and floating into the air, splashing a pale, golden energy all over as it quickly transformed from a phantom into a physical entity with a strong aura. It stopped when the energy fluctuations reached the level of an upper-tier Beyond Grade A.

The two figures stood side by side, looking like different versions of the same person.

At this moment, Wuornos slowly spoke.

“One deity is enough. Barbaroy is good enough for this task. Take him there.”

“Alright, I’ll escort him over. Thank you for your gift.”

The upper echelon of the Arcane Church nodded and saluted.

No matter how many times he witnessed this, he could not help but secretly marvel and admire this scene.

This was the guardian of the Arcane Church, the person recognized in the universe as the strongest for many years now, the legendary God’s Chosen who could ‘summon’ the gods...

This one person could take on the persona of all the gods!

This was not just his personal ability but one of the core Universal Treasures of the Arcane Church, which was integrated into Wuornos’ body, creating the title of God’s Chosen.

At this moment, Wuornos saw that the other party had yet to leave and lightly asked, “Is there anything else?”

The person in question recovered his senses and hurriedly said, "There's another matter. The Pope asked me to ask this question..."

"Ask."

The upper echelon paused before carefully continuing. "The Pope wishes to know, do you have a guarantee of being able to get rid of Black Star?"

Hearing this, Wuornos finally turned to look at him. He frowned.

"I cannot guarantee that."

"... Alright. I apologize for intruding; I'll be off now."

The person could only bid farewell.

Sending him off with his eyes, Wuornos lowered his head to continue praying. From the start to the end, he did not leave his spot at all, as though he was also a statue of a deity that was fixed in place.

...

The news of the Sanctum Revival quickly rose to a fever pitch in a few days, with no sign of fading even after half a month. The major news channels found a new entry point, beginning to count the Revivors and their identities, which attracted the curiosity of the people, allowing their ratings to remain high.

At the same time, the Wayne Card company announced that they would work overtime in order to produce all related card decks of the Revivors, formulating several new genres of gameplay based on the Sanctum Revival, further inflaming the level of popularity.

And among the various classes of society, the Calamity Grades reacted the most fiercely.

The Calamity Grades already had the strength to occupy a territory, so many of them would rather be a big fish in a small pond than join in under the lead of a Beyond Grade A organization. However, the existence of the Sanctum Revival changed their plans.

Generally speaking, those who were Calamity Grades would join Beyond Grade A organizations either to obtain shelter or to seek guidance. But some people were aware of their own potential, understanding that they were unqualified to enter the Beyond Grade A realm. Thus, they did not have much motivation to cultivate. Many of them chose to come to a standstill, indulging in the luxury brought about by their power.

But now, almost no one could refuse the attraction that was a second life. Even those who had accepted their mediocrity early could not help but feel their passion rekindled.

This was especially so for the Beyond Grade A seeds!

Initially, most of the Beyond Grade A seeds had a sense of arrogance, and not everyone would seek guidance from a Beyond Grade A. Even if they knew that this would be beneficial to them, they did not wish to work for others.

Some of the Beyond Grade A seeds practiced the lone wolf method, aiming to complete the sublimation of life level on their own.

However, the situation had changed. They would not be able to enjoy the Sanctum Revival if they did not step into the Beyond Grade A realm. Thus, these potential stocks that were one step away from the Beyond Grade A realm would gradually have their mentality fluctuate, beginning to think of plans to join under the Beyond Grade A organizations, obtaining guidance to achieve the qualifications for Sanctum Revival as soon as possible.

Those who could even become Beyond Grade A seeds were decisive people. Once they had come to a decision, they immediately put it into action. For a period of time, many of the seeds stopped roaming around, adjusting their schedules to turn toward the Flickering World.

Those who had abilities could afford to be arrogant, but for the majority of the time, the reason they behaved so was only because the benefits offered to them were not enticing enough. This was the law of the universe.

Chapter 1264 Feidin's Card, Adventure Trigger

In a place near Blackhole Edge, a small fleet was moving toward the border of the Star Field, in the direction of the Flickering World.

Within the command room of the foremost spaceship, many of the operators bustled at their posts, reporting parameters from time to time.

"Reporting to the Captain, we've left the Haite Civilization's territory. Entering the low security area infested with galactic pirates. The alert level has been raised to Level 7. In about fifty-four hours, the fleet will arrive at the joint neutral area and enter the range of the inter-star field stargate."

"Ok. Expand the range of the unmanned reconnaissance fleet. We have to be cautious. The next section of the journey is not safe," Kevin replied as he sat in the captain's seat.

He was slender and had a fair complexion with a handsome appearance. He was dressed in a set of elegant casual clothes, coupled with a black wide-brimmed hat adorned with a feather. His shirt was unbuttoned, revealing a smooth, white chest. A slender saber hung sheathed on his waist, engraved with magic patterns that gave away its identity as a magic weapon.

'White Wave' Kevin was one of the recorded Beyond Grade A seeds in the universe. He did not belong to any organization but rather travelled freely within the universe.

This sort of neutral Beyond Grade A seed had always been an important target for the advanced civilizations, and Kevin was no exception. The three Universal Civilizations, the Super Star Cluster Alliance, and advanced civilizations in Blackhole Edge had handed him olive branches.

However, Kevin had never expressed his stance, not only because he did not wish to work under others, but also because he wished to leave himself some room to maneuver.

Originally, the price set by the three Universal Civilizations had moved him, and he was thinking about joining them, but the recent news about the Sanctum Revival made him dismiss such thoughts.

Even though the three Universal Civilizations had greatly increased their offers after this incident, it was no longer the same; Kevin remained unmoved. Suddenly, he no longer felt that the promised resources by the three Universal Civilizations were attractive, and he did not even wish to bargain. He directly decided to turn around and join the Beyond Grade A organizations, leading his fleet to the Flickering World.

He had even chosen his target. Black Star controlled the Sanctum Revival, so he had to join the Black Star Army. As long as he got to the Beyond Grade A realm in the future, he would be able to enjoy the benefits of a favorable position.

Kevin casually swiped through his communicator, browsing the latest news events on the local network channels. He soon noticed an article with an interesting title.

‘The three Universal Civilizations claim to know of the phenomenon behind the Sanctum Revival. They have always been researching it, and now they have also produced results.’

Seeing this in the headlines, Kevin could not help but sneer with a disapproving expression.

“Tsk, in order to soothe the hearts of the public, the three Universal Civilizations have started to produce fake news...”

In the near future, similar news would appear from time to time due to the impact of Sanctum Revival to the galactic community. This had triggered a chain reaction, even shaking the direct descendants of the advanced civilizations. In Kevin’s view, the three Universal Civilizations were doing this to placate the public and make the ordinary people believe that the three Universal Civilizations could also use such technology.

While such rumors were groundless, they could not be said to be completely ineffective. There would always be certain citizens in the Galactic Society who followed simple and crude logic, which made them believe that the three Universal Civilizations were involved in every field. Even if the Sanctum Revival was an unheard of technology, they would believe that the three Universal Civilizations had long known about it but kept it a secret.

However, these people were mainly only those in the lowest social strata. People like Kevin would naturally not believe it.

“The three Universal Civilizations are greatly pressured now. This is not a bad thing. Only when there’s competition between the major factions will people like us get noticed. In order to win us over, they will have to come out with better welfare. If not for the three Universal Civilizations feeling the pressure, they would not have suddenly increased the chips to win me over.”

Kevin scratched his jaw as he muttered to himself.

Reading on, he realized that the comment section was a little strange. There were many negative comments and curses directed at the Supers, with people feeling irritated about the privileges enjoyed by the Supers. Some were even furious about the unequal treatment. These comments all received a lot of likes and praise from the lurkers on the web.

Kevin carefully looked through the comments before helplessly shaking his head.

Toward the strength, status, and privileges that Supers enjoyed, the majority of the ordinary people both admired and feared them, but they also envied and hated them. Supers were one of the most active social classes in the universe, but they only accounted for a very small part of the total population of the universe. Compared to the ordinary people who were the mainstream, both sides had been plagued with conflicts for a long time.

Most people in the universe were destined not to have the potential to become Supers since they were born, doomed to be mediocre their whole lives. The more they admired these Supers, the more they would hate themselves for not having such a life and their unfair destiny. Thus, this hate would also pass to the surrounding matters related to Supers. Using reasoning could not tame the hearts of these people, thus forming a stubborn social contradiction between both classes.

On the universal scale, Supers and ordinary people were not just a matter of social class, not even of the same 'biology' make up. Supers represented the direction of evolution, whilst the ordinary people represented the low-level life forms. Even if the galactic society did not promote such a perception, many people thought of it as the truth.

The ordinary people who occupied the mainstream of the population were unwilling to accept their innate position as the 'eliminated of the evolutionary process', so conflict was doomed to happen.

In reality, most galactic residents did not dare make trouble in front of the Supers, but they would not hesitate to go on the quantum network to attack and vent their emotions. The Sanctum Revival seemed to have become a detonator for the grievances of the galactic residents, leading to many more of these ordinary residents becoming angry and shouting about injustice.

In such herd venting places, emotions would naturally outweigh one's rationality. Even if many of the people knew that the strength a Super had was a result of hard training, it was meaningless. They would only stop the scolding when all Supers in the universe were dead or when they became Supers themselves.

While Kevin was not surprised at this, he felt that the eruption behind the class conflicts had been too violent. He would not believe there was nobody manipulating the thoughts of people behind the scenes.

"Dark clouds keep accumulating, and heavy rain will arrive sooner than scheduled. I always feel that if this continues, it will be bad for the future of our Galactic Society..."

Kevin shook his head.

Boom!

At this moment, the spaceship suddenly shook, and its radar buzzed in alarm.

“Warning! Warning! Detected a space jamming device nearby, exiting hyperdrive. An unknown spaceship is fast approaching!”

Kevin looked up in surprise, hurriedly switching to the outside field. He soon saw a small fleet surrounding him. They were a galactic pirate group active in this area, with the leader seeming to be a Calamity Grade.

The next moment, the shouts of the galactic pirate group sounded in the wide area communication channel.

“Quickly stop your spaceship and open the hatch. Allow my people to board the ship. Otherwise, we will open fire!”

“It turns out they’re here to loot...”

Kevin breathed a sigh of relief, and his expression turned cold.

“Captain, what do we do?” the pilot next to him asked. He believed in Kevin’s strength, so he was not nervous at all.

“Humph, let them board. Since they’re looking for death, then we’ll give it to them. I’ll finish them off quickly.”

Kevin’s eyes flashed.

Very quickly, the fleet stopped in place according to his instructions. Seeing this, the galactic pirates quickly approached, connecting their spaceships.

The hatch opened in a flash, and a galactic pirate stepped into the spaceship with a gun. Everyone onboard was waiting in front of the passage.

“Where’s the captain? Tell him to come out and see me!” The galactic pirate looked around.

At this moment, there was a loud shout from the crowd.

“You messed with the wrong person!”

Kevin, who was hidden in the crowd, suddenly attacked. He drew out his long, slender saber, cutting out a splendid sheen as a sharp cold light shot out.

The galactic pirate leader was shocked, hurriedly raising his arm wrapped in Pugilist aura to block the surprise attack.

Swoosh!

The next second, blood spewed, and the galactic pirate leader screamed in pain as the blade cut through his aura and into his arm, deeply embedding within.

Kevin gripped the blade in both hands as his feet spun. A wave of white blade light suddenly lit up, leaving a remnant flash on everyone’s retinas.

Shua!

The arm of the pirate leader fell on the ground. The incision was smooth, and the blood seemed to not have kept up with the speed of the blade as there was a split second of pause before it sprayed out, staining the spaceship corridor.

Both of them were in the Calamity Grade, but Kevin's Energy rank was much higher, so he maimed his opponent in a single blow. As a Pugilist of the War Soldier Branch, Kevin was extremely lethal, having long reached the master level in swordsmanship.

Right at this moment, a sudden change occurred!

In the team of galactic pirates, seven to eight of them released the aura of a Calamity Grade and attacked Kevin at the same time, like hunters who had been stalking their prey for a long time!

"What!" Kevin's pupils shrank, his eyes changing drastically.

These people definitely did not belong to the galactic pirates. If there were so many Calamity Grades, they would have been famous, and he would not be surprised like this.

To be so close and yet unable to sense their auras, these assailants were not simple!

Kevin did not have time to think about the origins of this group. He hurriedly dodged and blocked, but the attack was too sudden, leaving him to withstand most of the heavy blows. Blood spurted out as he suffered a heavy injury. The Pugilists of the War Soldier Branch were not famed for their defense.

"They're not ordinary Calamity Grades. They're all masters!"

Kevin was horrified, and while coughing blood, he slashed out wide, smashing through the bulkhead of the spaceship to flee into the universe, attempting to approach another spaceship.

At this moment, the seven to eight Calamity Grades chased after him, intercepting and cooperating to destroy all the spaceships while entangling Kevin, leaving no path of retreat.

Seeing that his path of retreat was cut off, Kevin could only resist desperately. With every exchange between him and the group, he was put in more and more danger.

Even with his status as a Beyond Grade A seed, he could not withstand the siege of seven to eight Calamity Grades. After all, not everyone had the frightening ability of Black Star.

"You guys are not galactic pirates. Who are you people?" Kevin yelled in the wide area communication channel. Through his senses, he could vaguely feel the resolute killing intent of these Calamity Grades, as though they were there purposely for him.

Could it be that this group allied with the galactic pirates to plot against me?

But his question was destined to never be answered. These Calamity Grades were silent, only answering with their attacks, unscrupulously releasing their cold killing intent.

Seeing this, Kevin gritted his teeth, unwilling to sit still as he called out for help on the wide area communication channel while still trying his best to break out from the siege. Even knowing that his chance of escape was slim, he would not give up.

As his injuries grew more severe, he gradually burned out and started to lose his consciousness.

“It took me such a long time to gain my strength and to set foot in the Beyond Grade A field. Could it be that I’ll have to die like this here?”

Kevin tried his best to persevere as a strong unwillingness surged in his mind.

At this point, everyone’s attack suddenly halted. They looked up, seeing a shuttle-shaped spaceship appearing in their sight not far away, approaching as it seemed to have discovered the abnormal energy response there.

“There are eyewitnesses. What should we do?”

“Ignore them. Kill the target first.”

The few people exchanged words before increasing the intensity of the offensive, abandoning all defenses, fighting tooth for tooth.

This became the last straw. Kevin’s wounded body could no longer bear the offensive surge and shattered into pieces. His life quickly fled from his body.

One of the Calamity Grades was about to deliver the final fatal blow, but at this moment, something strange happened!

Buzz!

A holy golden light shot out from the spaceship, approaching quickly and shining on Kevin’s tattered body.

The next moment, as though a miracle happened, Kevin’s body returned to its intact state in the blink of an eye. All his injuries disappeared without a trace. He opened his eyes in confusion.

“This is...”

The pupils of those Calamity Grades shrank, and they all turned to the spaceship where the beam of light came from.

At the same time, Aurora retracted her hand from within the spaceship, her eyes flashing with excitement and curiosity.

“It’s really fun to go out with you. I always encounter strange things.”

By the side, Feidin helplessly shook his head.

If it was not for him being volunteered, he would not have wanted to accompany Aurora to travel everywhere. To put it nicely, he was a ‘bodyguard’, but in fact, he was just being used as an event trigger to make her journey more interesting and fun.

Chapter 1265 Snatched

Ever since she stepped into the Beyond Grade A realm half a year ago, Aurora had won the approval of Han Xiao and Hila, allowing her to leave the camp and wander around the universe. According to her words, it was no easy feat to have reached this level, so why would she not enjoy her time outside?

During her first few months, Aurora travelled around alone to view the scenery and experience different cultures, but she soon discovered that such a journey was too dull, not as exciting as she had imagined it to be.

Thus, after Han Xiao returned from the Sanctum, Aurora borrowed the handyman Feidin from him, asking Han Xiao to use the King to teleport him to her.

The effect of this move was significant, suddenly turning her journey into an exciting one. According to definitely inaccurate and incomplete statistics, the duo had been involved in more than a dozen incidents, be it large or small in just the past two months.

Aurora was now satisfied, but Feidin felt completely helpless as he was dragged around by Aurora to continue his career as a handyman.

He could not help regretting the fact that he had managed to separate Chen Xing's soul, otherwise he could pass time by talking to her, not being just a mascot like he was now.

The spaceship they operated was specially crafted by Black Star. The hyperdrive engine, energy shield, detection radar, Cloaking Devices, and other miscellaneous devices were all top tier. Not too long ago, the spaceship had detected the abnormal energy fluctuations there and concluded that a battle was taking place. The special interference device of Black Star's broke through the channel interference and saw Kevin's call for help.

At the same time, Aurora's ability also sensed multiple Calamity Grade life signals and immediately knew that there was excitement to be discovered there. Thus, she turned to take a look, chancing across this scene.

While she was not aware of the events that had transpired, throughout her months of wandering, she had long developed her own style of doing things... Regardless of why they were trying to kill each other, until she got the bottom of it, none of them were allowed to die!

With the limitless power provided through her 'milk', she could be that arrogant!

Seeing that Kevin was on the verge of death, Aurora did not waste her time, immediately drawing out a portion of healing energy. With her current Beyond Grade A strength, healing a Calamity Grade completely was as easy as taking a breath. In a moment, Kevin was reconstructed perfectly, and he even felt as though he was stronger.

"... I'm not dead?"

Kevin lowered his head, staring at his undamaged body. For an instant, he had faced death straight ahead, thinking that he was about to die, but the sudden infusion of 'milk' caught him off guard. He could no longer tell if he was in reality or an illusion.

At the same time, the faces of the besieging Calamity Grades twisted, and they suddenly dispersed.

"These are Beyond Grade A fluctuations. Run!"

The group split up and fled without hesitation. Enchantment tattoos lit up on their bodies, showing magic circuits of short-range teleportation being inscribed on them. With only slight fluctuations in space, all of their teleportation skills were activated.

"Thinking of running after beating me up?"

Kevin recovered to his senses, rushing toward the nearest enemies. A strong aura condensed on his blade, slashing out as a sharp blade light.

The teleportation procedures of three of the enemies were interrupted as they avoided the attack.

However, a small vortex had already been created in front of the others, which was still rapidly expanding. It would only take them a few seconds to complete their preparations, allowing them to teleport and escape from there.

Seeing that the teleportation technique had been successfully engaged, the few of them were about to sigh in relief. However, a unique spatial fluctuation suddenly spread out from Aurora's spaceship.

Buzz!

This fluctuation acted like an iron, directly smoothing all the space folds within the battlefield. The portals that were on the verge of forming shattered and disappeared.

On the spaceship, Aurora pouted.

"Humph, do you take my spaceship as a decoration?"

Her spaceship contained a lot of black technology, which included what Han Xiao had obtained from Jayz's technological treasure. The powerful spacetime anchoring was just one of the minor abilities her spaceship possessed.

Seeing this situation, the faces of the Calamity Grades turned pale. They glanced at each other, resoluteness flashing in their eyes.

The next moment, the group of people gave up on running away, turning their heads and rushing toward the shuttle-shaped spaceship, as though they wished to end up in mutual annihilation.

Feidin narrowed his eyes, about to take action. However, Aurora tapped on his shoulder.

"It's okay. Let me do it."

Her eyes flashed, and the energy levels in her body surged, instantly transforming her into her 'mature' version. The Mark of the Underworld on the back of her hand also lit up.

With a wave of her hand, Life and Death Energy combined to form the Resurrection Energy. The energies entangled with each other, weaving out bones, muscles, and blood vessels, transforming into the temporary mortal shells of ten different species.

Under the power of the Resurrection Energy, the temporary shells were quickly materialized, their outlines almost the same as the owners' previous physical bodies. The only difference was that these temporary bodies all emitted a faint fluorescence light and retained certain characteristics of an Energy Life form.

With a flick of her finger, ten Calamity Grade Hero Spirits flew out from the Mark of The Underworld, merging into the shells. The next moment, their bodies all burst forth with Calamity Grade energy fluctuations.

The Hero Spirits descend, reincarnating from the Earth!

These series of actions were fluidly performed, which hinted at the ceaseless practice. At this moment, the Hero Spirits had become complete life forms, possessing the actual combat power of their previous lives.

"Go, take them down." Aurora laughed.

The ten Calamity Grades nodded and immediately rushed out of the spaceship, intercepting their opponents and fighting them. Kevin saw this but was not surprised, quickly joining the battle.

The Hero Spirits did not care about death at all, so they did not even bother to defend. For them, an aggressive style of play was nothing more than a tactic. It might be unscrupulous, but it allowed them to operate above their combat levels, showing more power than before their original deaths.

Even though she completely controlled the Holy Light Particle, Aurora's frontal lethality was still weak. She had thus become completely accustomed to the Summoning style but still stuck to only summoning up to Calamity Grade Hero Spirits. The physical consumption of summoning the Beyond Grade A Hero Spirits was too large. Plus, she had promised Han Xiao that she would not easily allow the Beyond Grade As to come out for a walk.

A Beyond Grade A would naturally bully the Calamity Grades, and without any suspense, these Calamity Grades of unknown origin soon retreated hastily.

Seeing that they were about to be captured alive, the group of people clenched their teeth, crazily compressing the energies in their bodies. Their bodies were soon covered with glowing cracks.

"They're planning to implode!"

Kevin was shocked, subconsciously drawing back.

He did not expect this group of people to be so decisive, opting to blow themselves up than be caught alive.

Boom!

The next instant, the bodies of the several people burst into flames. A huge shock wave blasted outward.

However, this self-detonation had only just started when a holy light shot out from the spaceship again. Sweeping past, the fragmenting bodies of this group of people re-bonded and were restored to their original state.

The pupils of these people shrank, and they once again imploded without hesitation, only to have the same scene occur again. The moment they felt the pain of their bodies tearing apart, another light would shoot out and heal their injuries.

After trying a few times, the results remained unchanged. The faces of these people were now filled with despair as they understood that their lives were no longer theirs to control.

They could not live how they wanted, but they could not die when they wanted to either!

“That’s enough. Don’t fool around with them anymore. I’ll do it.”

Feidin shook his head in resignation.

He took out the Soul Swapper, replacing the souls of a few of them into prepared containers of animals.

In this period, Feidin had also reached the rank of a Beyond Grade A seeds. With this weird Soul Swapper, it could be said that it was rare for him to meet an enemy that could threaten him in the Calamity Grade.

The bodies of those whose souls were transferred turned into empty husks, collapsing where they stood and were easily captured. The Hero Spirits set about cleaning up the battlefield.

Seeing this scene, Kevin finally relaxed. He was full of joy at being able to escape from the dead and quickly broadcast through the wide area communications channel.

“My name is Kevin. Esteemed ones, you have saved my life. May I know if I may have the honor of thanking you face to face?”

After a few seconds, a voice sounded from the channel.

“Let’s talk on the spaceship.”

Kevin was energized. As he approached the spaceship, the door opened, letting him fly in.

After following the guiding robot to the command room, he saw the eye-catching Aurora at a glance. He did not hesitate to salute in excitement and surprise.

“Turns out that it’s the new Deputy Army Commander of the Black Star Army, the Goddess of Life, Aurora. It’s my blessing to be able to meet you!”

When Aurora had made a move, Kevin had vaguely guessed her identity, but only now did he dare confirm it when he saw the person in flesh.

Kevin’s happiness only grew.

Fortunately, he had met Aurora, who was a master of life. If it were someone else, they would probably not have been able to pull him back from death.

In the vast universe, I actually managed to encounter a Beyond Grade A that could save me. What sort of probability was this?

My luck is too good!

“Eh, when did I get this moniker?” Aurora actually intended to act high and mighty like Hila, but hearing this, she stopped in shock.

“Don’t you know?” Kevin said. “This is because you’re the sister of the ‘Goddess of Death’ and hold the exact opposite powers, so the world has started calling you this.”

“Not bad, I’m also someone with a moniker now.” Aurora giggled.

While it was only one compared to the multitude Hila had, it was a good start. Sooner or later, she would be able to defeat her sister and crush her under her own feet proudly!

Fantasizing about this scene, Aurora’s emotions were surging with joy.

Glancing over, Feidin immediately guessed that Aurora was distracted again, so he could only take the reins. “Anyway, we received your call for help, so we came over just in time. Could you please explain what exactly happened?”

“It’s like this. I was actually journeying but suddenly came across a bunch of galactic pirates...”

Kevin explained the whole process truthfully without hiding anything.

After hearing this, Feidin squeezed his perfectly shaped chin as he guessed, “It seems more than meets the eye. These people are by no means just galactic pirates. I think they specifically aimed at you. Could it be a vendetta?”

“It doesn’t make sense. I’m typically a do-gooder and have avoided any struggles of the factions. Even if I have to kill, I make sure I get rid of the roots as well. I have also never provoked an organization that could release seven or eight Calamity Grades at once.”

Kevin drew a blank.

Hearing this, Feidin was lost in thought for a while before he muttered, “If it’s not a vendetta, then it’s likely related to the current storm.”

“What is it about?” Kevin was curious.

“Oh, I’m still not sure, but we managed to capture a few live ones, so some interrogation will reveal everything...”

Feidin shook his head, but he suddenly paused, and his words grew sharp.

“You just mentioned that you were journeying over to the Flickering World to join the Black Star Army?”

“That’s right...”

“Great!” Feidin’s eyes lit up. “You don’t need to travel so far to the Flickering World. The Deputy Army Commander is right in front of you and is definitely qualified to accept newcomers. You could just stay and become part of her Guard Corps.”

“Huh?”

“This...”

Kevin paused for a while.

His original objective was to become a Black Star Guard, to enjoy the benefits of a favorable position, but Aurora had practically saved his life. While she was a new Beyond Grade A, her Esper Ability was unique, which would guarantee the safety of his life under most circumstances.

Even if he went over to the Flickering World, he might still encounter more dangers. Temporarily staying by Aurora’s side was not too bad.

“Yes, yes, yes, come under my command. As long as you come, I can give you the position of Guard Captain!” Aurora’s eyes lit up.

While she was the Deputy Army Commander, fully qualified to employ her own Guards regiment, she had been busy travelling ever since she was promoted. She had not recruited anyone, and thus, she had no Guards under her.

The talents in the army had mostly been divided by Black Star and Hila, so even if she tried recruiting from the inside, it would be difficult to find any masters. She had always envied the Guards that Hila had.

Now that she had encountered a Beyond Grade A seed in trouble, Aurora immediately had this thought.

Kevin struggled for a while before being tempted.

“... Alright, I’m willing to be the Captain of your Guard Corps.”

He had also done some research on the organizational structure of the Black Star Army. From his point of view, there were three factions, each with the respective Beyond Grade A as the leader.

Black Star was undoubtedly the ruling faction, but there were too many talents within, and there was no opportunity to show off, which made his chances of standing out remote. Hila’s faction was mainly comprised of women and had already been formed with no intention of expanding. Furthermore, Hila was also not known to be a good leader. In contrast, Aurora’s faction had just been established, so if he became one of her early followers when she had a shortage of people, his status would naturally be extraordinary.

While Kevin’s original intention was to obtain the Sanctum Revival, since he had decided to join an organization, he would not be satisfied with being a marginal person without any sense of existence.

“That’s great. I’ll help you register for your army authority! Phillip, come out!”

Aurora was overjoyed, immediately summoning Phillip. She could not wait to register Kevin as her Guards Captain.

Why is she even more excited than me?

Kevin felt a sinking feeling, but he had no choice but to cooperate.

However, this feeling of being appreciated by his boss made him feel more moved.

Seeing this, Feidin did not bother them, simply walking to the side and entering the spiritual realm to interrogate the prisoners.

After a while, Aurora had completed the procedures for Kevin, and the Hero Spirits had also cleaned up the battlefield.

At this moment, the two saw Feidin walk back with a solemn expression.

“You’re done interrogating? How’s the situation?” Aurora was curious.

“... The situation has exceeded our expectations. The matter is more serious than we thought.”

Feidin shook his head, speaking in a steely tone.

“Immediately report to the Army Commander. This matter is out of our league!”

Chapter 1266 Travelling Feidin

“Oh? You’re saying that someone is hunting down the Beyond Grade A seeds?”

In his personal machinery factory in Black Star Palace, Han Xiao looked with surprise at the communication screen where Feidin was speaking to him.

He had been too busy digesting his technology recently. Only when Feidin called him and told him that they had captured a hunting team that specifically targeted the Beyond Grade A seeds did he then notice.

“Speak in detail, I want to know everything.” Han Xiao put down the parts in his hand, his expression turning solemn.

“It’s like this...” Feidin explained the entire process.

After capturing these assailants, he had dug up the amazing intelligence through interrogation and reading of memories. All the Calamity Grades that attacked Kevin were acting on orders and had quietly controlled the galactic pirates that had been wandering nearby, waiting to intercept Kevin.

“Do you know which organizations they belong to?” Han Xiao was curious.

Feidin nodded. “I’ve already checked. These Calamity Grades did not leave any information within the universe. At the same time, they have no relevant memories, and they do not know which organization they work for, only unilaterally accepting direct orders from an account. The account for tasks for each person is also different. When I reviewed their memories, I discovered that they had been receiving some sort of thought-shaping training since young, specially to create warriors with weak self-awareness.

“Death warriors without any history? To be able to train up eight Calamity Grades as Death warriors from an early age, this is no small organization. The thought training should be a form of brainwashing that can maintain a long-term effect on the Calamity Grades. This should be technology at or above the Star Cluster level.”

Han Xiao furrowed his brows, pondering silently for a while before he asked, “Any other clues?”

“I’ve found some safe houses and codewords, as well as their activities. When I finish sorting them out, I’ll send you the report containing the top-secret accounts of these people for receiving tasks. It may be useful to you.”

Han Xiao’s brows rose. “To think you’re placing so much importance in this matter. It seems like you also know the problem in this.”

Feidin sighed. “If I could not guess the potential ramifications, then I would not have called you at first notice... People who can cultivate so many Calamity Grade Death Warriors will not be a small organization, and this team might not have been sent to only kill one person. Add that to the Sanctum Revival issue, this situation is obviously not simple.”

Han Xiao nodded. “That’s right. Organizations who have the motivation and the abilities to do such a thing are few and far between. The Super Star Cluster Alliance is also suspicious.”

While he did not manage to get their origins, through the analysis of different factors, Han Xiao first thought of the three Universal Civilizations as well as the Super Star Cluster Alliance, both of whom intended to do such a thing.

The former wished to reduce the impact of Sanctum Revival, secretly reducing the source of new Beyond Grade As joining the association in the future. The latter had more hidden motives, mainly to aggravate the situation and pin the blame on others, creating opposition and forcing the three Universal Civilizations and the association to turn hostile.

Of course, he could not ignore the possibility that there was someone fishing in the muddied waters, so Han Xiao did not immediately jump to a conclusion. Rather, he only assumed it to be the secret operation of the three Universal Civilizations or the Super Star Cluster Alliance.

As inferred, there was a high probability that there existed more than one hunter team. At present, there were many Beyond Grade A seeds rushing to the Flickering World from each Star Field, so the orchestrators behind the scenes were likely to deploy interception troops. These Beyond Grade A seeds would be at risk, as not all of them would be so lucky to run into the top milkmaid of the universe.

Feidin scratched his head in puzzlement. “Forget about the Super Star Cluster Alliance, but the three Universal Civilizations... would they really do such a thing? Conducting such a crazy plan, are they not afraid of facing the backlash of all Supers? It’s too radical.”

Han Xiao shook his head, not looking surprised at all.

“This sort of behavior is crazy but effective. The Beyond Grade A seeds in the entire universe are not many to begin with, and the cost of them going hands-on is not high. Even if all these people disappear, the backlash can be easily suppressed.

“Moreover, the three Universal Civilizations were clear that they had lost the monopoly advantage of having Ultimate Knowledge. The association can give whatever they can give, and with the addition of the Sanctum Revival, it will be difficult for them to attract new talents. On the other hand, the association did not even require any to attract new talents. If they do nothing, the situation will only get worse, so instead of sitting and watching, it’s better to send these Death Warriors to kill people and ruin what they can’t get.

“As for the methods... as with the Tragedy of the Pinnacles, the three Universal Civilizations have never been good people. Don’t be mistaken. As winners of the exploration era, none of them would have survived if they were not cruel. Once they panic, they can do anything.”

Feidin pursed his lips. “Aren’t they afraid of being revealed?”

Han Xiao stroked his chin. “I feel that they would be afraid, but I can’t be sure since I have to look at their overall picture.”

There was no Beyond Grade A Association in his previous life, and Sanctum Revival was kept under wraps, so the Beyond Grade A seeds were not intercepted. This was the first time Han Xiao had encountered such a situation, without knowing what the three Universal Civilizations would even do.

Han Xiao was also helpless to the fact that the Beyond Grade A seeds were targeted. He could only treat it as collateral damage.

“This storm is getting bigger and bigger.” Feidin’s expression was worried. “What do you intend to do?”

“The purpose of the association is mainly to solve the conflicts between the Beyond Grade As, so the Calamity Grade is not within our scope. Nominally, it is not suitable for us to cross the boundary and provide assistance...”

Han Xiao stroked his chin as he thought aloud.

“However, if we don’t stop this, the seeds will suffer great casualties, which is not conducive to our recruitment of new Beyond Grade As. How about this? Don’t they wish to join the various Beyond Grade A organizations? We’ll ask those organizations to secretly send people to protect and escort them. This can be justified in name.”

“Alright.” Feidin paused for a moment. “However, this response force will encounter battles with the hunting squad. Do we wish to spread the news and make the seeds vigilant, at the same time giving a warning to the person behind the scenes?”

Han Xiao thought for a while but finally shook his head.

“Secretly spreading it to the seeds is enough. This news should not be spread out on a large scale... If we expose it now, the happiest would be the Super Star Cluster Alliance. I don’t wish to tear off all

pretenses with the three Universal Civilizations, nor do I want to be used as a weapon by the Super Star Cluster Alliance. Let's focus on protection first. For the time being, we will avoid conflict if possible."

While the Sanctum Revival was in name his, the Holy Accord had yet to be able to collect the second set of keys, so Han Xiao did not have much to rely on for now. Causing trouble was not his favorite action; it was better to be low-key.

"I understand. What else do you need me to do?" Feidin asked.

"For you guys... how about you search for more Beyond Grade A seeds in the vicinity. They will be safer with Aurora around them. Then, we can just bring all of them back."

As he spoke, Han Xiao smiled in a praising manner.

"You've earned yourself a great merit this time. Without your warning, we might have had to wait till many seeds went missing before we realized something was wrong. My decision to have you go along with Aurora was a good move!"

He felt that Feidin was the perfect intelligence officer. Most people had to search for things, but it was the exact opposite for Feidin. Even if he were only to lie down every day, he would still be able to run into key intelligence, as though it was an automated process for him.

This Feidin is really useful!

Feidin showed a helpless expression. He had already resigned to the fact that he was a tool to be used.

"By the way, what should I do with the captives after the interrogation? They could serve as evidence."

"What else can we do? Send them to the Underworld."

Han Xiao waved his hands casually.

The two further discussed the details before hanging up. At this moment, Han Xiao suddenly noticed that his interface was blinking.

You have triggered the mission [Stop the Hunting]!

Mission Introduction: For some reason, some unknown organizations are trying to hunt down talents who wish to join you. As a well-known organization, protecting the personal safety of your candidates is a basic requirement.

Mission Objective: Try to prevent the hunting of the Beyond Grade A seeds.

Remarks: The reward depends on the Mission Rating, which is correlated to the number of people successfully rescued.

Basic Reward: 8 billion Experience, +20 Favorability of rescued targets, 2 Random Rewards, 1 Blank Character Summon Card.

“The experience is a little stingy, but the blank Character Summon Card is pretty good stuff.”

Han Xiao closed the interface. The level of this mission was not enough to excite him any longer. At present, he paid more attention to the matter itself.

“The three Universal Civilizations have quite the strong reaction to this. Being able to coexist in harmony is a pipe dream... Anyway, the version update has gone on for almost fifty years, so the players should be back soon. I’m afraid that will cause another explosion.”

Han Xiao rubbed his brows, his thoughts wandering before he suddenly thought of something.

“By the way, since someone is hunting Beyond Grade A seeds, this will also be my chance to poach people. I don’t know how Karlot is doing now. He should at most be a normal Calamity Grade, not taken seriously yet. I can just knock him out and bring him over.”

Han Xiao had a sudden urge to do so.

In the past, because he was worried about the possibility of a premature death of Karlot due to dramatic changes in the plot, he did not insist on poaching him. However, now that someone was targeting the Beyond Grade A seeds, they could not blame him for doing tit for tat.

Originally, Karlot was supposed to become the pillar of the dynasty, but now that they had started this fiasco, they should not blame him for it!

Unlike the orchestrator behind the scenes, Han Xiao knew exactly who would become future Beyond Grade As. While it might have been difficult to poach them in the past, this was now a different matter.

“If they were to learn the truth, they would have to thank me. For the safety of the universe, I’ll go all out to protect them. Maybe this is the so-called love has no boundaries. I admire myself so much. How could there be such a majestic person in this world?”

Han Xiao was so moved by himself that his shamelessness levelled up.

Chapter 1267 Pre-Judgment

Somewhere in the Endless Nebulae Star Field, a small fleet hovered in a transportation hub. Around it were continuous streams of light, but the fleet remained in place, as though it was waiting for someone.

In the command room of the main ship, Morgan paced back and forth in front of the porthole, his expression both solemn and anxious. The crew in the room merely watched him in silence.

After a short while, he paused and gravely said, “Urge them again and ask when the people from the Black Star Army will arrive.”

By his side, his aide-de-camp could not help but speak up. “... Boss, you just asked them two minutes ago. The other party said that they were already rushing over. It’s not too good to keep pressing them.”

“Bullsh*t, I asked you to urge them, so do it! Else I’ll dock your pay!” Morgan’s eyes flashed, “Who knows when the enemies will appear? Would you know? You don’t, so why are you spouting so much nonsense! You don’t need to be responsible for my life, so of course, you don’t care! But I can’t possibly fight off seven or eight Calamity Grades at once, so if my little life is gone, I’ll make sure you accompany me in my burial!”

The aide-de-camp was speechless. However, he did not take it seriously, having followed Morgan for a long time. He knew this guy’s character too well. He was scared of dying, indecisive, calculative, petty, and stingy... Sometimes, the aide-de-camp wondered to himself, how could such a person become a Beyond Grade A seed?

Morgan Panselm, a senior Beyond Grade A seed, ran a small organization in the Endless Nebulae Star Field. He only cared about the convenience of his daily life, not seeking to expand, keeping a thin sense of existence.

The moment the Sanctum Revival matter was revealed, he did not speak another word, merely packing up and preparing to throw himself toward the Beyond Grade A Association. His top choice was the Black Star Army. Other than benefitting from close relations to an influential person, he also had some connections with Hadavy since both of them were hardcore gamblers.

It was just that, when he was about to take his team to leave the territory, he received a private notice from the Black Star Army, stating that some mysterious organizations were currently sending Death Warriors to kill off Beyond Grade A seeds. There could be up to seven or eight of them within a troop, so the army had sent out a few protective fleets to escort them and also reminded each person to be cautious.

This almost scared Morgan to death, and he immediately halted his departure, prepared to wait until the army’s escort fleet arrived before leaving. Not only that, but he also parked his fleet in the most bustling area, staying within the crowd for fear of being murdered.

Of all the Beyond Grade A seeds who had received this notice, he was the one who behaved the most cowardly.

At this moment, his spaceship communicator rang, and a tender young face appeared on the screen.

“Hello, hello, this is Nero from the Black Star Army. I’ve arrived and spotted your ship. Please come over to make contact.”

Hearing this, Morgan was overjoyed. He rushed to the porthole, seeing another fleet with the Black Star Army insignia stop not far away from him.

“The reinforcements are here! Listen to my order. Full speed ahead. Immediately rendezvous with them!” Morgan revealed an excited look.

“We’re in such close range. Just dozens of seconds is enough to reach them through normal cruising. What full speed...” The aide-de-camp secretly cursed.

The two fleets quickly merged, and Nero took his men into Morgan's spaceship.

Just as he walked into the cabin, Nero saw Morgan waiting at the door of the passageway. Without a word, he rushed up and grabbed onto his hands with an emotional expression.

"My family, you're finally here. Do you know how I spent the last few days? I was in fear every single day, and now I can finally feel relieved!"

"There's no need to be so excited. It's all part and parcel." Nero's mouth twitched, and he applied some strength to forcibly extricate himself.

If not for the fact that Morgan had kept repeatedly pinging him, he would have arrived another two days later.

Morgan, however, did not seem to mind. He excitedly glanced behind Nero, "May I know how many experts the army has sent to meet me this time?"

"Experts? If we had to force it, I guess it's only me." Nero scratched his head a little in embarrassment.

Morgan's eyes widened, and he stammered, "Only one... er, it's not that I don't believe in your strength, but I heard that there'll be seven or eight Calamity Grades moving together. It's just two of us. I think there will be some danger..."

"There's no choice. At the moment, there are too many Beyond Grade A seeds who wish to join the Black Star Army. Our manpower is not enough any longer. We can only send out Grade Bs to escort. This sort of job would be best for the Immortals, but they have all disappeared fifty years ago, so the army has no experts left," Nero explained.

"Then... the safety issue..."

"Relax, all of the escort teams have a machinery squad from Black Star's Mechanical Army, as well as Her Excellency Aurora's special life potions, to ensure our safety."

Morgan finally relaxed. He asked, "Then, can we leave now for the Flickering World?"

Nero shook his head. "That's not necessary. We just need to go to the main army subdivision of each Star Field. Every location has a Throne that Godfather has placed. We can use that to teleport you straight to the main base.

Han Xiao initially did not wish to use this method, but after discovering the hunters, he could only lift the restrictions, allowing the Beyond Grade A seeds to utilize the King suits to warp, saving them from the dangers in their journey.

As for those Beyond Grade A seeds that wished to join other organizations, Han Xiao did not reject them either. He rendered the same help, albeit with a token sum. This was also one of the uses of the association, allowing the Beyond Grade As to integrate their resources. As the President, he naturally had to lead by example at this critical juncture.

Both of them walked to the command room while talking, and the fleet finally set off and began its journey.

At this moment, Morgan seemed to have thought of something. He curiously commented, "That's right, you mentioned that there were a lot of Beyond Grade A seeds at the moment. Have they met with the hunters? Was anyone hit?"

Hearing this, Nero's expression sank, and he lightly nodded.

"It was a smart choice for you to remain waiting here. Some Beyond Grade A seeds were nonchalant despite receiving the notice, thinking that they could continue their journey as long as they remained vigilant. In the end, even before the reinforcements could arrive, they encountered an assault and were killed.

"Because of distance issues, some people had long assembled with their escort teams. We're one of the later ones. Before us, some of our colleagues crossed hands with the hunters and turned out fine. However, other organizations have done the same but have been annihilated by the hunters themselves."

Morgan shuddered. "Who dares lay their hands on so many of the Beyond Grade A seeds? This is too frightening."

Nero sighed. "While the Army Commander has not specified who is responsible, it's not hard to guess... Since the enemy can discover the whereabouts of so many Beyond Grade A seeds, their intelligence network is no trivial matter. To also be able to send so many Death Warriors, the likelihood is that they are from an advanced civilization.

"While this was supposed to be a secret operation, the outside world would soon notice that all of these Beyond Grade A seeds had disappeared. This would inevitably scare some of people from joining the Beyond Grade A Association. Like this, the orchestrator's goal would be achieved."

"Oh, this is hard." Morgan sighed as well, pulling a long face.

Nero patted him on the shoulder. "Don't worry, with me here, you won't get into trouble."

Morgan nodded before suddenly asking, "That's right, with so many Beyond Grade A seeds also joining the army, how are our positions going to be arranged?"

"I'm not too sure. I think only a small portion will become part of the Guards Corps. The rest will hold various positions within the army, replenishing the gap in our high-ranked combatants. The main thing is to see what you want. The army will not force anyone to take up a position."

Morgan's eyes lit up. "Then, does that mean I can choose which Beyond Grade A to follow?"

"That's right, everyone can send in their application, but it will depend on the Excellencies to choose you." Nero nodded. "Who do you wish to choose? Is it His Excellency Black Star? The competition for my Godfather is quite fierce, and there's a possibility of losing."

Morgan immediately denied it and embarrassedly said, "No, no, I don't want to follow Black Star. I wish to follow Her Excellency Aurora."

Nero sized him up before coming to an understanding.

Ah, I understand now, this man must be afraid of death to the extreme, so if he is able to enjoy the healing from Aurora, it would be difficult for him to die in the future!

The phrase 'good for nothing' really describes you to a tee!

...

"Reporting, six of our Death Warriors have lost contact and might have been captured by the enemy. We have severed all related links."

"Reporting, the attack on Target #45 has failed. Three Death Warriors were sacrificed. The rest escaped with difficulty."

In a certain secret intelligence processing center, a large number of intelligence personnel were sitting in front of a set of instruments, constantly reporting on the situation. The room was full of noise.

On the wall of the room was an ultra large screen, made up of many smaller surveillance screens. A single chair was placed underneath it, with a tall, thin figure seated on the chair looking up at the screens, his back facing the crowd.

This place was a secret area jointly created by the Super Star Cluster Alliance many years ago. They had no specific name, shrouded in mystery yet having great authority. They only answered to the leaders of the various civilizations.

This secret department was responsible for managing black ops and cultivating Death Warriors. Various Super Star Cluster civilizations secretly selected talented children and sent them to such training bases to conduct cruel training from an early age before allowing them to specialize in performing tasks that could not be revealed.

Their training method was designed to squeeze out all potential, and coupled with their technological and magical advancements, it allowed them to effectively increase the rate of Calamity Grades being produced at the cost of a high mortality rate.

These Death Warriors would never know who they worked for, from the training period up till they performed their missions in the future. To this end, this department had even specially trained a group of Death Warriors who believed that they worked for the three Universal Civilizations. Many methods had been used to ensure that outsiders would not be able to trace the Death Warriors back to the Super Star Cluster Alliance.

Everyone within this department was a special member who was not recorded in any internal files. They were all referred to by codes. The tall and thin figure in the room was the person in charge of the department, with only his title known to people—'Skeletal'.

After listening to the reports of his subordinates, Skeletal leaned forward as he slowly spoke.

“It seems like the Beyond Grade As are aware of our hunting actions and have equipped all our targets with guards... The chain of suspicion has been formed; our goal is achieved. It will be a waste of manpower if we continue. Stop the operation. Have everyone withdraw.”

“Understood!”

Everyone immediately followed orders without asking.

Skeletal bit on his nails as he narrowed his eyes.

“Hehe, the reaction of the Beyond Grade A Association is indeed not far from our hypothesis...”

...

In the conference room of the three Universal Civilizations, the virtual projections of Marbruce, Louis, and the Pope appeared.

“Tsk, the situation has changed. The cleanup plan cannot continue.”

Marbruce frowned, and the other two had unsightly expressions as well.

While they had begun researching the Sanctum Revivals, the three Universal Civilizations also had plans to hunt down the Beyond Grade A seeds. Even if they managed to master the Sanctum Revival method in the future, since this large number of Beyond Grade A seeds would have gone to the association, they would not be able to transfer them over in the future. Both parties were destined to enter a long period of fighting for talents, so they would rather return to the problem of the excessive number of non-Beyond Grade As, making it such that it would be easier to contain the Beyond Grade A level in advance.

But before they could move, the three Universal Civilizations discovered that all of their targets were heavily protected.

At the beginning, the trio were a little dazed, thinking that Black Star had predicted their actions, flipping over the boat of trust they were on.

However, after careful investigation, they discovered that another unknown organization had first acted and alerted everyone.

This totally messed up their plans, causing them to feel a disgusting aftertaste.

Such a dumb way of doing things was not their style at all. If they wished to do it, they had to catch everyone in one fell swoop.

While they had not found out who had acted, the three Universal Civilizations did not even need to think to know that it was likely the Super Star Cluster Alliance.

“The Super Star Clusters purposely decided to create a commotion, leaving the association time to react, spoiling our operations.” Louis was fuming.

“Unexpectedly, this makes sense.” The Pope was expressionless.

From the perspective of the trio, the intentions of the Super Star Cluster Alliance were obvious. This served to intensify the suspicion between the association and the three Universal Civilizations.

The Beyond Grade A Association was only protecting them in the dark and had not publicly come out to accuse anyone. If the three Universal Civilizations took the initiative to state their innocence, it might backfire on them. Even if they tried to pin the blame on the Super Star Cluster Alliance, it would just look like their customary attitude of throwing shade at the other party.

With the current relationship of the three Universal Civilizations and the association, this was akin to having mud on the back of one's pants. Even if it was not sh*t, people would naturally assume it to be. No matter what, it would be difficult to gain their trust unless they could provide hard evidence.

The Super Star Clusters had been pitted against so many times; they already had experience in this matter. Since their reputation was in the gutters, they could just go for broke.

I'll pull you along with me as I fall from the cliff. If I'm going to die, then you have to come along!

In their current situation, the Super Star Cluster Alliance had nothing to be afraid of from the three Universal Civilizations any longer.

Since they no longer had any chances with the Flickering World, they would just stay cooped up at home.

If you have the ability, come and have an all-out war with us. Did you think you could really destroy us?

The trio present did indeed feel that the Super Star Cluster Alliance was a thorny problem.

If they had managed to kill off all the Beyond Grade A seeds that were trying to join the association, it might still have been a fair trade to get suspected, but now, they had become the scapegoats when only a few had been killed off. This was placing them in a disadvantage!

"Cancel the cleansing operation for the Beyond Grade A seeds. They're all protected now. There's no chance now."

The trio were not in a very good mood.

Chapter 1268 All Heroes in the World Enter My Squad

With the withdrawal of the Super Star Cluster Alliance and the abandonment of the plan by the three Universal Civilizations, the heavily protected Beyond Grade A seeds did not encounter any more hunting teams in the following journeys. All of them successfully arrived at a subdivision of the Black Star Army before teleporting to the base camp of the Black Star Army in the Flickering World by using the King suits.

The large-scale movement of the Beyond Grade A seeds also aroused the attention of the universe. Everyone soon learned about the fact that a large number of Beyond Grade A seeds had congregated in the association during the recent period. There was also news that specially drew out the areas at which they travelled, converging from various Star Fields into the Flickering World, which seemed as though they were migrating.

The number of Beyond Grade A seeds within a Star Field typically numbered more than one hundred, with the remote Star Fields having fewer while the Central Galaxy and the areas of the Super Star Cluster Alliance would be the most densely distributed. This total number had been trending upward, and with years of accumulation, the total number of seeds measured in the explored universe was about three thousand. This was almost twenty times the number of Beyond Grade As of the same generation.

Excluding the allies and direct descents of each civilization, as well as the people in existing factions, the current number of neutral Beyond Grade A seeds would be about two fifths the total, around 1,200. For this collective defection, roughly five hundred people, or almost half of the total number of neutral seeds, went over to join a Beyond Grade A faction, of which the number of people joining the Black Star Army was the highest!

This was equivalent to the association harvesting most of the top talent pool accumulated over the years of the explored universe. It was unknown how long it would take for the next batch of talents to grow!

Be it a Beyond Grade A or a Beyond Grade A seed, they were both top figures of the power pyramid and naturally possessed the attributes of a leader. Since both sides had merged on a large scale, the quantitative change has turned into a qualitative change. It was not just a simple matter such as the attitude of the Beyond Grade A seeds letting them choose where to rely on, but more of a signal and influence for many of the Supers, even the other Beyond Grade A seeds. This made everyone think that joining the Beyond Grade A Association at this time would be a wise choice!

The large-scale migration of the Beyond Grade A seeds caused a huge ripple effect over the next few months. A large number of Supers rushed to follow in their footsteps... As part of the strong at the apex of the power pyramid, their every word and action affected the people below. This was the meaning of a role model.

This matter was regarded as a 'movement' with special significance, nicknamed the 'Scattered Stars Return' by the galactic citizens. They likened the Beyond Grade A seeds to new stars that were scattered everywhere finally returning to their homes. A large group began to worship the members of the association, completing the cycle of Pioneers and Legacy holders.

Regarding the 'Scattered Stars Return', the entire Galactic Society was also analyzing the impact of this event from every angle. Gradually, a rumor spread that the function of the Beyond Grade A Association would change, their influence radiating to all Supers. A day would come when the association would no longer be a solely Beyond Grade A group; it would become the new organization that would lead all the Supers, becoming another pole independent of the three Universal Civilizations and turn into another ruler of the universe!

This statement was accepted and endorsed by a large number of Supers. Many Supers cheered, excited as they faintly waited in anticipation. In the eyes of most people, the Beyond Grade A Association was naturally qualified to lead them.

While there were so-called regional associations for Supers in the universe, the masters behind the scenes were the three Universal Civilizations, which used these associations as nothing more than tools for managing the Supers. The nature of those regional associations was inherently problematic.

In the eyes of the people, if the Beyond Grade A Association would one day evolve to become the guild for all Supers, it would truly be the organization that served the Supers. Their goals would naturally not be the same as the three Universal Civilizations.

The mentality of the Supers came from the fact that there had not been a unified voice to speak for them for too long, and they desperately wished to have a 'home'. To put it simply, it was the sense of them finally finding an organization to which they belonged.

However, this sort of argument was not born naturally. Someone was behind it fueling the flames, pushing the Beyond Grade A Association to the forefront and igniting public opinion.

Just as the universe raged with rumors and speculation, Han Xiao was busy welcoming the Beyond Grade A seeds in Black Star Palace.

...

Black Star Palace's Great Hall was huge but practically empty, with only the 300 seeds huddled in the middle. They either stood or hovered in the air, chatting as they eyed the doors leading into the hall, keeping a watch for Han Xiao.

"Everyone should be here now. Is Black Star still not coming? We've been waiting for almost half an hour."

"Tsk, you want to see a pinnacle Beyond Grade A, but you don't even have that much patience. You think people will come over to see you just because you want to see them?"

"Just be patient. Maybe His Excellency Black Star is actually watching us in the dark, observing our patience."

Everyone chatted casually, turning around to glance at others occasionally. There was a slight wariness in many of their eyes.

Many of them were familiar with each other, having fought together or against each other before, and they regarded each other as whetstones. Everyone knew that the number of slots around Black Star and the other Beyond Grade As were limited. With so many people in the army now, there was a high probability that they would have to compete for places, so everyone here was technically a competitor.

At this moment, the door suddenly opened. Han Xiao stepped in with his officers following behind.

Upon seeing this, the hundreds of Beyond Grade A seeds subconsciously stopped talking, straightening their postures as they exercised the etiquette of their respective cultures, expressing basic respect to one of the top powerhouses of the universe.

"We pay respects to Your Excellency Black Star!"

“Welcome to the army. We’ll be family from now on, so there’s no need to be this courteous.”

Han Xiao waved his hand, putting on a warm smile.

Seeing the hundreds of seeds hailing from different areas, Han Xiao could not help but feel a little excited. This large number of experts meant a great replenishment for the army’s advanced combatants.

This number was too exaggerated. It seemed as though he had underestimated the impact the Sanctum Revival would cause on the lower levelled Supers. If there was no such thing, the general resources being offered would not even shake a single one of them.

At this moment, Han Xiao felt a kind of pride. Of course, he felt more of the joy of being able to harvest such a bountiful crop of leeks.

Scanning the group, Han Xiao noted the burning gazes of everyone present and smiled. “I know why you’re here. The threshold for the Sanctum Revival is a Beyond Grade A realm. I’ll definitely try my best to help you get promoted, but as for whether or not you can succeed in the end, it will all depend on your own destinies...”

Everyone nodded, their eyes gleaming.

Han Xiao said a few more ceremonial words before arranging for everyone to come forward and accept his inspection according to the practices of the army. He then browsed through the attributes of each person.

The Beyond Grade A seeds were not mediocre people; all of them were masters in their fields. However, from Han Xiao’s point of view, most of them had almost exhausted their potential, with only a handful having the chance to be promoted. He had a set of criteria for judging one’s potential, mainly their expertise and skills. Their differences were graded by him, and those with potential were silently selected and kept in his mind.

After completing this step, Han Xiao had a rough gauge in his heart, so he took two steps back and loudly spoke. “Everyone, I now have a basic understanding of your level. I’ll arrange positions according to your own personal abilities. Of course, you can send me your applications regarding your desired posts, and I’ll consider your thoughts and wishes.

“But I must state in advance that some slots are extremely limited. If there are too many applicants, you may have to compete for the same position. For example, the Guard Corps of the two Deputy Army Commanders and I can be challenged each time, with the winners rotating in the position. Everyone should be mentally prepared for this.”

When faced with an influx of people, a normal person’s treatment of them would be to fairly distribute them out. However, with these masters, Han Xiao deliberately adopted a competitive format to avoid dissatisfaction. At the same time, he would be giving those unsuccessful people the opportunity to challenge successful applicants again to stimulate everyone’s motivation to cultivate...

While this method was not useful to most of the people present, those in the Pugilist class felt their fighting spirit being strengthened.

Everyone glanced around subconsciously, their fighting intent sharpening.

At this moment, someone suddenly said, "Many thanks, Army Commander, for your protection. If not for your help, we would all have died mid-journey. I would like to ask, do you know the origins of the hunter squad?"

The moment his voice sounded, the entire room suddenly turned quiet.

Everyone's expression showed at least some suspicion. They did not mention this just now, but no one would be so carefree as to not get to the bottom of this matter when it involved their lives.

Han Xiao stopped smiling. He paused before saying a meaningful tone, "You already have the answer in your heart, don't you?"

Hearing this, the expressions of the crowd grew more complicated, and a slight commotion sounded.

"It's time to throw aside your fantasies and illusions. It seems like this was done by the advanced civilizations, and they wish to claim our lives."

"Has the relationship between the association and the advanced civilizations reached this point already? It's only been such a short time. What will happen in the future?"

"Sigh, the targets during the Tragedy of the Pinnacles have been passed down to us now. The Sanctum Revival is also a double-edged sword."

"If I'd known about this situation earlier, I might have already been frightened into retreating."

Those present sighed in low voices. Facing the hostile attitude of the three Universal Civilizations, they were all a little frightened.

Before they chose a side, they did not expect the advanced civilizations to retaliate so strongly. There was no way for them to show regret anymore.

"Alright, don't ponder about it any longer. You have already chosen your path, so all you have to do is to continue walking forward."

Han Xiao clapped his hands as he comforted everyone. His officers then took the crowd to their rooms to rest and wait for his orders.

As he sent everyone off with his gaze, a flash shone in Han Xiao's eyes. He then turned his head and left the great hall, walking for a while before arriving at the secret room.

Pushing the door open, this room was filled with bunks, but most of them were empty, with only one occupied.

Han Xiao walked forward, pressing the button to stop the hibernation program. With a hiss, the hatch slid open to reveal the figure inside. It was Karlot, who was lying down with a peaceful expression.

Karlot's brows trembled as he slowly opened his eyes. At first glance, he immediately saw Han Xiao standing in front of him, causing him to be taken aback.

"Your Excellency Black Star?"

Karlot was stunned.

In the past, he was young and immature, and he did not know of the identity of Black Star. As he grew up, he understood what kind of opportunity Black Star had offered him back then, and he became a fan of Black Star. However, he knew that their statuses in the universe were vastly different, so it would be difficult for them to have a chance to meet in the future. He felt that Black Star might have forgotten about him a long time ago, so he merely followed Han Xiao's deeds in silence.

But he did not expect his idol would actually appear all of a sudden in front of him.

The next moment, Karlot remembered what happened to him before he went into hibernation, and his expression changed.

"Was it you who knocked me out and brought me here? Where am I?"

"This is my base camp." Han Xiao smiled.

Right now, his relationship with Karlot was stiff, so it took him some energy to track down Karlot's whereabouts. However, Karlot had never realized his talent, so he was never taken seriously, and his capture had been smooth.

"You..." Karlot hesitated. "Why did you bring me here? Do you still remember me?"

If it was someone else, he would have long struggled to break free, but this was Han Xiao, who held a special position in his heart. Thus, he found it hard to be angry.

"Of course I do, and my impression was deep." Han Xiao sized up Karlot with an approving gaze. "We parted many years ago. You've already become an adult now, not bad."

Hearing this, Karlot could not help but feel moved. He did not expect Han Xiao to remember him so firmly.

Thinking about how Han Xiao had been optimistic about him, Karlot suddenly felt a little ashamed and embarrassedly said, "I'm sorry that I let you down. My potential doesn't seem to be as good as you thought."

He had managed to successfully enter the Calamity Grade in forty years, but after that, he seemed to stagnate. It seemed as though his potential had been exhausted, stopping at the ordinary Calamity Grade level.

Karlot did not care about the thoughts of outsiders, but in front of Black Star, he could not help but feel frustrated, thinking that he had failed the expectations the latter had of him.

"Are you saying that I was wrong?" Han Xiao spoke out with a smile that was not like a smile on his face.

Karlot did not speak, merely acquiescing to it.

Han Xiao laughed, raising his hand to pat Karlot's chest. "Don't look down on yourself. The dynasty does not value you because they have no foresight. I've always believed in your potential."

Hearing this, Karlot again felt moved and ashamed.

“Aren’t you curious why I brought you over? This is the reason.” Han Xiao narrowed his eyes, “Actually, I’ve always been paying attention to you. The dynasty has never seen your talents, so they never assigned resources to you, which has affected your growth. I cannot bear to see a talent being buried, so I brought you here to help you stimulate your potential!”

“... so, you’ve always been observing me?”

Karlot had an expression of wonderment. He was deeply touched on how he could be so favored by Black Star.

Han Xiao smiled as he poked Karlot.

“Don’t underestimate the huge potential in your body. You might think that the Calamity Grade is your limit, but let me tell you, Calamity Grade is far from your end!”

“You think that I can become a Beyond Grade A?” Karlot’s eyes widened.

“Not only that... I think that you might even reach the pinnacle Beyond Grade A realm, becoming one of the foremost experts in the universe!”

Han Xiao’s tone was full of passion and also provocative.

“Do you really see me this way?” Karlot mumbled.

Seeing that he was close to tipping, Han Xiao turned solemn as he said in a deep voice, “Then tell me now. Are you willing to remain here and accept my help?”

Karlot hesitated a little. He had also followed the news and knew of the current storm that was brewing. He whispered, “You wish for me to stay here, meaning I have to leave the dynasty and enter the army?”

“The situation has changed now. The dynasty and I are going against each other. Only by remaining by my side can I give you the most detailed guidance. However, this will make it such that you can no longer stay in the dynasty.” Han Xiao did not deny anything.

Karlot fell silent, seemingly conflicted. After a while, he slowly raised his head as his expression grew determined.

“I understand. I’m willing to stay by your side and receive your guidance!”

Karlot might have worked in the dynasty for decades, but in his eyes, it was just a job. It did not determine that he had to be shackled to the dynasty forever. With his family having passed on years ago, he was a lone wolf floating in the cold universe without any concerns.

The dynasty had never placed any importance in him. Although they allowed him to enter the secret training base, that was because Black Star had shown interest in him, or else they would not have given him this special treatment. They eventually still kicked him out of the camp... All his fortune had been given to him by Black Star—this much, he understood.

Furthermore, Karlot felt that Black Star did not need to scheme against him. He just wished to repay Black Star for whatever grace the latter had shown, so even if Black Star was wrong about him, he would still reach the Beyond Grade A realm!

Hearing this, Han Xiao breathed a sigh of relief.

“I knew you wouldn’t let me down.”

Thanks to the good relationship formed decades ago, setting the impression to become the role model of Karlot, the difficulty in recruiting him had been reduced by dozens of times.

This is the importance of information...

Han Xiao secretly smirked. He finally got his hands on a coveted golden leek.

Chapter 1269 Activation

After successfully persuading Karlot, Han Xiao got his subordinates to take him down to rest. He then left the room with satisfaction in his heart.

When he poked the other party, he had seen Karlot’s attributes. Karlot had now obtained his core talent, [Everlasting Martial Path]. It was an overpowered growth-type talent.

To put it simply, [Everlasting Martial Path] could evolve once every grade with the requirement being a new realization of the martial path. Before the evolution of the talent, the user’s leveling speed would be lowered by ninety percent. After the evolution, the user’s leveling speed would follow an inverted parabolic arc with the peak being at a thousand percent. It also provided an all-rounded boost to the user’s combat capability.

Ordinarily speaking, the stronger an individual, the greater the number of bottlenecks. However, Karlot was different. All of his bottlenecks would be during his pre-growth phase, and he would face fewer and fewer bottlenecks the stronger he grew. Past a certain point, his combat strength would snowball until he reached the peak of the grade. If he entered a new grade, he would have to restart the entire process again.

Karlot’s growth after every evolution in grade would be excruciatingly slow, and this also resulted in a firm foundation. In Han Xiao’s previous life, Karlot was an extremely famous Pugilist. His status within the Pugilist world was like the Mechanic Emperor’s status within the Mechanic world.

This little brat’s nickname in his previous life was the one and only ‘Martial Deity’!

Furthermore, [Everlasting Martial Path] could also strengthen all of Karlot’s Pugilist skills. It did not only increase the level of his skills but also adjusted his skills in a subtle manner as though the skills were tailor made for him. [Everlasting Martial Path] was a one-of-a-kind talent that could meld all kinds of Pugilist theories and school of thoughts together into one.

Han Xiao had never seen this talent in any other Pugilist before. If not for the lack of a suffix, Han Xiao would have thought that it was a talent unique to Karlot.

However, although the talent was extremely overpowered, it was useless to Han Xiao since he was not a proper Pugilist.

"I still need to find a teacher for him. Although there are plenty of Pugilists in the army, they are all of the Calamity Grade and a little too weak..." A few figures flashed through his head. "It'd be best if I find a Beyond Grade A to teach Karlot. Of all the people I know, the most suitable one should be Silver Shadow. These two individuals were good friends in my previous life and should have pretty good chemistry with each other. Silver Shadow should be a good teacher for him."

Han Xiao stroked his chin.

After thinking for a while, he realized that he still had a few other backup choices. For example, he could hire some Pugilist teachers from the Underworld or let Gorutan out temporarily to teach Karlot.

With his current strength, Gorutan would not be too much of a threat to him. Furthermore, he should also let Gorutan out for fresh air once in a while, lest Gorutan ended up dying in the Spacetime Amber.

Karlot was the first individual who he poached from the three Universal Civilizations, and he would not be the last. Although the others did not have as much potential as Karlot, Han Xiao would not let go of them either.

He pondered while walking back to the office. After reaching the office, Han Xiao temporarily placed the matter aside and summoned Phillip to settle the affairs of the army.

He needed to arrange the posts of these Beyond Grade A seeds. There was another large group of Supers joining the army, and the HR department was currently filtering through the applicants.

After settling all these matters, Han Xiao took out his communicator to surf the net and let out a soft snort.

"There are definitely some high-grade Civilizations fanning the flames, hoping that the entire world will fall into chaos."

There were rumors on the net that the Beyond Grade A Association would eventually unite the Super community and become the fourth ruler of the universe apart from the three Universal Civilizations. These rumors were intentionally created to push the association to the peak before finding an opportunity to kick them down back into the ravine.

Although the method was old fashioned, the effect was pretty good. As long as they could mislead the general public, this simple method would be extremely effective.

The current rumors surrounding the association were not a good sign for them. Being in the spotlight would put them on the opposite side of the three Universal Civilizations. Together with words like 'the fourth ruler of the universe', it was akin to grilling them over fire.

With the heated discussion on the net, it was not an appropriate time for Han Xiao to make a stand. Furthermore, even if the mastermind continued to fan the flames, the galactic residents would have a limited attention span toward a single event and be attracted by something else eventually.

Han Xiao knocked on the desk and pondered.

“The Beyond Grade A seeds have already entered the association and the high-grade civilizations gave up on the plan to cleanse the universe. The status quo should be maintained for the time being... I need some time to reorganize the association and collect keys. The three Universal Civilizations also need time to study the Sanctum Revival method and probably won’t do anything in the short run. Furthermore, they also have to prevent the Super Star Cluster Civilizations from creating trouble. Everyone needs time and will thus choose to maintain the current peace...”

Before having sufficient confidence, the three Universal Civilizations would not adopt extreme measures against the association and would only deal with Beyond Grade A seeds. The way Han Xiao saw it, the universe would still be peaceful for a while.

This peace would probably be maintained until the players returned.

“It has already been fifty years, and Version 5.0 is about to be activated. Because of my influence, the current situation is different from the Calamity of the Supers in my previous life. I wonder what the players will do.”

Han Xiao stroked his chin and fell into thought.

...

In the Central Galaxy, within the Crimson Dynasty Science Institute’s Wormhole Position Project Office, the research team leader walked into the conference room, where the researchers were waiting for him.

Compared to a couple of decades ago, most of the researchers had either retired or been transferred out. Thus, it was a set of new faces.

The team leader then looked around slowly and said, “The dynasty has issued an internal document to push forward technological research and provide information to the Sanctum Revival team. Every department will be receiving a large increase in funds.”

Upon hearing that, all the researchers were excited.

Research was extremely capital intensive, and the wormhole project was not as important as the other research projects. Ever since the start of the Flickering War, this project had been trying to sustain itself on a low budget.

When the cooperation between Han Xiao and the dynasty was in the honeymoon phase, the dynasty listened to Han Xiao’s suggestion and stopped the research on the wormhole coordinates to focus on dealing with the Super Star Cluster Alliance.

After the war, the wormhole project should have been back on track, but something went wrong along the way.

After the war, the dynasty was busy tying up loose ends, and the upper echelons did not continue the project. Perhaps because they forgot or wanted to be on the safe side, the project was never continued after that. After all, the location of the wormhole was only a small matter to the dynasty. Apart from the officials and researchers in charge of the project, there was almost no one who paid any attention to the project.

It was extremely normal for subordinates to follow the attitude of their superiors. With the attitude of the upper echelons being unclear, the researchers had plenty of apprehensions and did not dare take a risk. As such, they would rather play it safe. They did not ease up on the wormhole project, which resulted in a large amount of data that was still at the approval phase.

Such a situation had continued for a few years because of the ambiguous attitude from the upper echelons.

After a few decades, most of the original research staff had been transferred to other departments with the new research staff being inexperienced newcomers.

Throughout the Science Institute, the wormhole project was not the only team facing such a situation. There were projects being cancelled every year and also new projects being set up.

It was not uncommon for there to be factions within the Science Institute, relying on connections to obtain funding. As an organization grew larger, such occurrences were common, and the three Universal Civilizations were no exception.

The research team leader then gave out some instructions before leaving, leaving behind a room of excited researchers.

“We finally don’t have to be a team on the periphery.”

“Hurry up and report all the backlog data. We can finally make some proper progress in our research.”

“We have not submitted our equipment procurement list for this year yet. Quickly change it and purchase more long-distance space detection needles.”

...

Just as what Han Xiao had predicted, after failing to ambush the Beyond Grade A seeds, the three Universal Civilizations and Super Star Cluster Alliance showed some restraint. At Han Xiao’s orders, the association also did not openly announce the truth behind the Beyond Grade A seeds affair. It was as though they intentionally forgot about it.

Apart from fanning the flames on the web, the three parties maintained their current equilibrium and did not engage in open conflict. They were currently accumulating their strength and preparing various different means to deal with their enemies.

Perhaps the Super Star Cluster Alliance had thought about creating trouble but was not able to find the appropriate opportunity.

Although both parties had not erupted in open hostility, in the eyes of the public, the three Universal Civilizations and the association were on opposite sides with the thick smell of gunpowder ready to be ignited at any time.

Although the Super Star Cluster Alliance was frequently on the losing end, they were pretty professional at fanning flames. This was just like the saying of a prolonged illness making the patient a good doctor.

Under the calm silence of the universe was the raging undercurrent. The three Universal Civilizations gradually stopped their cooperation with the various Beyond Grade A organizations and also came up with some business strategies to suppress the association. Under Han Xiao's reorganization, the association also gradually became more independent.

With the Super Star Cluster Civilizations fanning the flames from the background, practically the entire universe knew that the conflict between the three Universal Civilizations and association would not be settled peacefully.

A year slowly passed.

On Galaxy Calendar Year 782, Version 5.0 was activated again, and the players were back online!

Chapter 1270 Black Star's Era !

In an office of Black Star Palace, Han Xiao leaned back in his chair, staring at the clock as he silently awaited the prompt that signaled the new version beginning. Time slowly ticked by second after second.

In this past year, the three Universal Civilizations and the association's relationship had dropped to a freezing point. The dynasty had not contacted him for a whole year now.

The three Universal Civilizations had issued an announcement a year ago that they had started studying the Sanctum Revival method. There was no follow-up news, and no one knew what stage they had reached. It seemed like their results were not too impressive.

On the side of the Holy Accord, they were still collecting the keys in secret. While they did not possess the intelligence channels of the three Universal Civilizations, causing the materials to be harder to collect, the problem was not big. It would just cost them more money and time. Now that the Holy Accord had more of the recipes of how to create keys, there were more opportunities for them, but a mere year was not enough to collect another key.

On the other hand, the military of the three Universal Civilizations had mobilized recently, seemingly getting ready to set off. This caught the attention of Han Xiao and the other members of the association, causing the atmosphere in the universe to become more tense.

The players' return at this time could thus be considered timely.

Han Xiao rubbed the back of his palm as his eyes flashed.

“The time when the players come online will be my opportunity to quickly reach level 360. With the current deadlock in the situation, if I manage to break through my personal power level, it might serve as a turning point, becoming the entry ticket to breaking this entire game.”

The stalemate was exactly what he had predicted and what he wanted. Were it not for the Sanctum Revivals and the massive increase in strength of the association, perhaps the Calamity of the Supers would have long broken out like in his previous life. Right now, he was only suppressing it.

While the situation was akin to a gunpowder keg, which would result in a greater explosion the more he suppressed it, nothing was absolute. In his opinion, there were only a few opportunities to break the game. If he succeeded, he would really eliminate the Calamity of the Supers and prevent it from evolving into a large-scale war.

His current methods were all to stall time for the Holy Accord. Han Xiao was equally clear that there would be a battle between both sides, and the association would naturally have more casualties. This was his opportunity. As long as the unlimited counts of the Sanctum Revival were revealed by that time, most of their problems would be solved. The Sanctum Revival key was a necessity to break this game.

On this basis, he could use a higher level of personal power to frighten the three Universal Civilizations and also attract Beyond Grade A members. That would be killing two birds with one stone.

Just as he was analyzing his options, the long silent interface finally had some movement. There was a notification of a new update just like what the players would receive.

Version 5.0 Activated!

Fetching data... Fetching data complete!

Player Forum Opened.

Welcome to ‘Galaxy’ Version 5.0—Black Star’s Era!

“Hmm?” Han Xiao was stunned.

Why was the version not ‘Calamity of the Supers’?

And it even used his name!

In the previous four versions, while he was a little butterfly flapping its wings and causing an impact, compared to the general trend of the universe, it was miniscule, still moving along with the changes in time.

But this time was different. He had single-handedly created a tornado with a flap of his wings, causing himself to become the pioneer of the changing times. Thus, even the name of this version had changed...

This also showed how important his position was in the universe at the moment, as well as his pivotal role in this storm.

“Even my name has been included into the version update. This is superb.”

Han Xiao’s expression twitched, before he revealed a perverted smile.

What was prestige and face? This was!

If the players saw this... heh, this was equivalent to a super compound fertilizer that would help him farm his leeks!

“It’s been fifty years. I really miss my cute little... moneybags.”

Han Xiao raised his brows, calling out the surveillance of the great hall and observing the situation.

...

At this moment, countless white lights flashed in the lobby of Black Star Palace’s great hall, and the large number of players that had been away for fifty years finally returned online.

The originally cold and empty great hall was suddenly packed to the brim, full of liveliness. Countless players were excitedly whooping and shouting.

“Wahaha, this master is back! Countless stars, prepare to tremble under my feet, for my huge cannon’s hunger and thirst can no longer be suppressed!”

“Dammit, it’s already the fifth version, so why is there still a bug that prevents us from stripping? Lousy!”

“Hehe, I can immediately tell that you’re not a pioneer. To this day, you’re still hung up over the fact that clothes cannot be taken off. You’re behind the times brother! Do you know the meaning of ‘clothes on the body but naked in the mind’? This older brother’s realm is one that you cannot hope to fathom!”

“How long has passed since the last version? I don’t see any changes in the base. It seems like we weren’t gone for too long.”

The crowd chattered and gossiped, opening their interfaces. Immediately came the shocked gasps.

“Hurry and take a look at the version’s name! I’m shooketh!”

“F*ck, the name of Version 5.0 is actually Black Star’s Era?”

“What the hell has he done during the update!”

The countless army players opened their eyes wide.

No one expected that their faction leader would actually turn into the main topic of this version!

Based on the impressions of the players, the version name indicated what the Main Storyline would be. In the previous few versions, it was either a disaster or a changing of the time, but to think that they would actually put a character as the Main Storyline!

What prestige!

Many of the players began to tremble with excitement, their hearts filled with strong curiosity—just what exactly did their Army Commander do during their absence?

The bunch of professional players that just came online were equally shocked.

Frenzied Sword immediately opened up the calendar. What he saw made him suck in a deep breath.

“The version update actually took a whole fifty years this time!”

Everyone immediately turned to look at the date, full of surprise and shock.

“Wow, really fifty years!”

“I remember when we went offline, it was in the Year 734. Right now, it’s 782!”

“The span is too huge, more than double the previous updates.”

“I don’t even know if my wife Sylvia is still alive...”

“Do you want to eat sh*t? She’s obviously my wife!”

“Quickly, go on the internet and check, see what the situation is right now.”

The players immediately took out their communicators to search, wanting to check what exactly happened during the time they were away.

Following their searches, the news that the Flickering War had ended decades ago appeared on their pages, leading to more surprised gasps.

When they went offline, the Flickering War had still been raging, so they naturally thought that they would get to continue fighting the moment they returned online. To think that during the version update, the battle had already ended.

Reading on, the expressions of the players got even more confused. Some of them even catcalled.

The fall of Gaud, Sorokin escaping in fear of being sentenced for his crimes, Aurora entering the Beyond Grade A realm, the Sanctum Revivals leading to the Primordial Ones being resurrected, and the standoff between the Beyond Grade A Association and the three Universal Civilizations... A series of major events was shown before the eyes of the many players. Just looking at the description, many of the players could very well imagine the stormy situation that happened then.

“This... the change is too great!”

“Aurora has really entered the Beyond Grade A realm... Damn, who’s this blonde sister? I’ve fallen in love with her!”

“This is amazing. Germinal is really the strongest representing organization in the whole universe. One sect, three Beyond Grade As—who else is that impressive?”

“The Germinal spirit will never wither! Hooyah!”

“This is indeed worthy of a span of fifty years. The original structure of the universe has been completely subverted.”

“Black Star is too fierce. No wonder this version is named after him.”

Everyone was shocked. They felt as though they had woken up from a long sleep only to find out that everything around them had changed.

Seeing the actions of Black Star during the update, many of the players understood why the name of Version 5.0 was called ‘Black Star’s Era’.

Their Army Commander had become the ‘Leader of the Martial Way’. With his unparalleled courage and charisma, he led the Beyond Grade A class against the explored universe overlords. He was undoubtedly a leader of this era!

The title ‘Black Star’s Era’ was totally worthy of the name!

“So fierce, Old Blackie is indeed an extraordinary existence.”

“Army Commander is awesome! (voice cracks)”

“Next time, we shouldn’t call him Black Star. We’ll just address him as Black Deity.”

“I’m not sure why, but I feel as though I’m watching my own son having grown up...”

The players had lots of mixed feelings.

The figure of Black Star had been with them through several versions, and now, he had even become the Main Storyline of the version, leading to a new era. His identity was unique in this universe. In their eyes, Black Star was already confirmed as the ultimate protagonist!

Many of the old hardcore players had personally watched Black Star rise from an insignificant person, stepping into the glorified altar. Their hearts had a sense of gratification, as though they were witnessing the continuation of a legend.

Bun-Hit-Dog was so excited, his entire body trembled. He immediately pinched his assistant, Little Wheat, who was beside him as he babbled, “Quickly! Material! A lot of material! At least twenty episodes of videos can be released using this. Quickly record them all!”

Little Wheat hurriedly nodded and began to record.

Meanwhile, Frenzied Sword and the professional players controlled their emotions, quickly checking the attributes panel.

“It seems like the upper limit this time has been opened to level 180.”

“Speaking of which, most Calamity Grades usually enter the realm around level 160 and 170. While we’re weaker than them at the same level, level 180 should be enough for us to hit the Calamity Grade, right?”

“It’s possible. Maybe in this version, the strength of the players will be pulled apart. Those who can enter the Calamity Grade will definitely be able to slap and beat up a whole bunch of Grade Bs.”

Everyone discussed their levels fervently before they remembered something.

“That’s right. I remember that our main storyline for the Flickering War was not settled. Now that the war has ended, I wonder what has happened to the situation.”

In the previous version, the Main Storyline in the Flickering War for the Black Star Army was something that Han Xiao had created, and it had long been settled. What the other organizations’ players got was the true Main Storyline, which could only be settled after the war.

Hearing this, many of the players entered the forums, and with a glance, they almost laughed themselves to death.

They saw that the forums for the Flickering World were extremely lively, and many of them were crying blood and tears, especially those from the Limitless Financial Group.

[Fan Shuishui: Where’s my faction? Where’s my huge faction?]

[Atlas: Madafaka, why has the entire Limitless Financial Group disappeared?]

[Adventures of Tintin: Flickering World, ah Flickering World. The largest galactic consortium, the Limitless Financial Group, went bankrupt; the boss Sorokin owed up to 3.5 billion in debt for food, drinks, and gambling, and he took his mistress with him to go on the run! We toiled for half a year and didn’t even get a single paycheck. B*stard Sorokin, you’re not human!]

On the forums, there were a large portion of players who had lost their factions and were wailing. This was as good as them not having any contribution for the entire of Version 4.0.

Players who were in a smaller faction always lived on tenterhooks the moment they logged back in after a version update, fearing that their faction would be gone and all their effort wasted.

Originally, those players who had joined larger factions were not worried about this problem, but the Limitless Financial Group was no small faction, and it had actually disappeared, causing the players to feel immense regret.

If they had known this, they would have followed the other group of defectors to jump ship during the national war!

“Too unlucky.”

“That’s why choosing a faction is of utmost importance, just like picking stocks. One must be cautious!”

“It’s lucky our Black Star Army is resilient enough.”

Watching the scene, the army players could not help but laugh.

Even a behemoth like the Limitless Financial Group could crash. While the Black Star Army was strong, they had provoked the three Universal Civilizations, and thus, their futures were not too bright either.

Their Army Commander might be fierce, the association strong, and the Sanctum Revival miraculous, but their opponents were the three Universal Civilizations. Now that their original cooperative relationship had evolved to become enemies, many people did not have much confidence in battling them. If something went wrong, they might lose their faction like the Limitless Financial Group players.

“The battle between the Beyond Grade A Association and the three Universal Civilizations should be the Main Storyline of this version. We’re inherently on the side of the association, but can we really win?”

“That’s right. If the association loses, won’t the army disband? Won’t it be our loss then?”

Some people chatted in small voices, their stand wavering. These were all new players who had joined only in Version 4.0.

As for the veterans, while they were worried about the safety of the army, their stand was firm.

Most of the old players had long treated the army as their own faction, working hard to make it grow to where it was today. Even if the enemy was strong, they would not wish to switch to another faction. Anyway, they were not afraid of death, so it was still better to work for their own faction!

The army had shaped the sense of belonging for their players for many years, and the results showed. While players valued benefits, they sometimes went the opposite way instead. While benefits were important to them, the real core logic that determined a player’s actions could be summarized in one sentence.

I do what makes me happy!

Ding!

At this moment, the interface of every army player rang at the same time.

You have triggered the S Ranked Main Storyline: Calamity of the Supers—Black Star Army!