

## **Mechanic 1301**

### **Chapter 1301 Negotiation**

At the Mechanical Race territory's defense circle, the three Universal Civilizations' joint fleet and the Beyond Grade A Association had been standing opposite each other for quite some time, and the atmosphere was very intense.

At the edge of their fleets, spaceships with symbols of differing galactic media groups were broadcasting the situation live. None of the sides banished the battlefield reporters.

As this place might become a battlefield, these media groups only sent unmanned spaceships to carry out remote broadcasting. This place had become the eye of the storm, and the entire universe's attention was focused there, so the audience count had already broken records.

"The three Universal Civilizations' fleet has been stopped. The two sides have not fired... though the reason is unknown, a battle did not break out. We sincerely hope things will come to change..."

In the broadcast channel of a galactic media, the host spoke with a serious expression. Countless viewers watched the images nervously and anxiously. With all the comments online, the majority of people already knew that what was about to happen would be the turning point. If the two sides started a battle, it might lead to an all-out war between the three Universal Civilizations and the Beyond Grade A Association, and countless people were terrified of that.

At this time, two streams of light appeared in the broadcast, dashing quickly from inside the defense circle toward the middle area, showing themselves in front of everyone.

"The center of all this, the Mechanic Emperor has finally appeared. The person beside him is the Beyond Grade A Association's president, Black Star. Did he come personally to stop the three Universal Civilizations?"

Hearing the host's introduction, the eyes of the countless galactic residents focused on the two of them. Many felt complicated toward these two people who caused the situation of the entire universe to become like this.

Han Xiao stepped out of the association fleet's formation, came to between the two armies, and hovered in the center, instantly becoming the focus of everyone's attention. The battleships of both sides all focused their cameras on him and displayed his enlarged image on their screens.

He glanced at the enormous fleet of the three Universal Civilizations, opened the public channel, and said to everyone,

"You're neither fighting nor retreating. Bring out someone who's in charge. I believe no one wanted to see things escalate to this point. If we can come up with a plan we can all accept, no one will want to solve problems with violence."

As he said that, the battlefield became silent for some time. Then, three beams shot out from the main ship, forming the remote projections of the three Universal Civilizations in front of Han Xiao, entering the public channel at the same time.

As soon as the communication was picked up, Louis cut to the chase and said with a deep voice, "Black Star, are you going to hold on to the Virtual Mutiny Virus that might endanger the entire explored universe and protect the malicious Mechanic Emperor?"

Han Xiao shook his head. "The Virtual Mutiny Virus was destroyed long ago. The Mechanic Emperor only studied it and achieved some results. It's his innovation to begin with. Although this technology is dangerous, we have no obligation to submit it to the three Universal Civilizations, nor did it ever endanger the galactic society. How is it malicious? On the other hand, attempting to threaten the Mechanic Emperor to give up his technology by sending an army to surround the Mechanical Race territory isn't all that honorable."

"Judging from past experiences, the Mechanic Emperor's motive to study this technology is suspicious. Out of safety reasons, we need to obtain this technology, as well as control the Mechanic Emperor himself. This is all to protect the galactic society. That's where the duty of the three Universal Civilizations lies," Marbruce said with a serious expression.

With the same calm expression, Han Xiao said, "Back during the Intelligent Plague, multiple Beyond Grade A Mechanics worked together to defuse the disaster, which proved that the association is also protecting the safety of the universe. We will ensure that this technology won't endanger the galactic society all the same. This is the internal matter for the association to handle; we won't accept the three Universal Civilizations' interference."

The church's pope said seriously, "The Beyond Grade A Development Union is only a civilian organization. Its promise doesn't mean anything. The three Universal Civilizations have the authority to carry out needed measures and monitor anything that might endanger the galactic society. This is within the boundaries of the law. The Mechanic Emperor must submit the Virtual Mutiny Virus!"

"Impossible." Han Xiao rejected it instantly. "The association has already stated its stance in the announcement. Its members have the freedom to research what they want, and we won't accept forceful measures. The association will restrain the application range of the technology. We hope the three Universal Civilizations will retreat immediately!"

Louis paused and said with a louder and more serious voice, "We will pull our army back as soon as the Mechanic Emperor submits the technology. Before that, we won't terminate this operation for any reason. You have ten days. We hope the association will think carefully in this time and not make the wrong decision."

"There's no need to talk further then?"

"You have ten days."

Han Xiao nodded and said with a serious voice, "Since that's the case, I'll stay here from now on, and if you want to force the association to submit the technology, you'll have to get past me!"

Then, he crossed his legs and hovered in the center between the two armies. Although he was alone, it was like he had drawn an invisible line that extended out infinitely.

The three Universal Civilizations leaders gave him a deep look before their remote projections disappeared.

The two sides had spoken in the public channel, so everyone present had heard it, including the media.

The expressions of countless galactic residents changed.

“Does this mean the negotiation failed?”

“Neither side is willing to take a step back. Looks like they’re really going to fight!” “There’s still ten days. I wonder if I have enough time to take refuge.”

The galactic society was in fear.

Han Xiao looked around at the three Universal Civilizations’ fleet. Seeing that they were still on standby, he shook his head.

As the president, he represented the association. There was no way he was going to step back and submit the technology. It was the same for the three Universal Civilizations; they were not going to retreat before achieving their goal.

“Ten days...” Han Xiao mumbled. This was the time the three Universal Civilizations had given him. In ten days, if they still could not come to an agreement, a fight might really break out. The three Universal Civilizations probably made up their minds this time and were willing to accept the consequences of starting a war.

He glanced at the interface. In his mission list, a new mission was pinned to the top. It was the mission he had triggered from Manison. The requirement was to defuse the danger the Mechanical Race was in by any means necessary. As long as he could make the three Universal Civilizations retreat, the mission would be considered complete.

Maybe because Manison personally ‘asked him to help’, other than the high experience, the reward also included one chance to draw an ability from Manison.

Of course, Han Xiao was not going to let this opportunity slip.

He casually opened the forums. The stand he made earlier was also recorded by the players in the fleet.

Unlike the galactic residents who were panicking, the players were all looking forward to it. They were all excited about the current situation.

Beep beep...

This time, his communicator suddenly rang. It was surprisingly a call from Marbruce.

Han Xiao was not surprised at all. The open negotiation was more to express their stand to the outside world. The real negotiation still had to be carried out privately.

Picking up the communication, the three Universal Civilizations’ leaders appeared on the screen inside the mechanical suit.

“Black Star, do you really want to start a war?” Marbruce questioned.

“I should be asking you guys that.”

“Don’t be overconfident just because you have the Sanctum Revival. You’re leading the Beyond Grade As to their deaths,” Louis said coldly.

“Isn’t that exactly what you guys want to see? If not because you’re worried about the damages a war might cause, why would you contact me privately now?”

“Hehe, we have already come to some results in our research. We know that using the Sanctum Revival will consume some special resources, and it’s not free; you can’t bluff us. Plus, these revivors have already used their one chance of revival. If a fight really breaks out, you guys will incur damages too. No one wants that,” the pope said.

“What great ideas do you have then?” Han Xiao curled his lips. “We want the Virtual Mutiny Virus and the related information of the Sanctum Revival. In exchange, not only will we pull away our army, but we’ll also void the new law against the association and support your developments. We can even provide you with more than enough Universal Treasures and blueprints, and we can promise that no one in the Black Star Army will be on the cleanse list in the future. These deals will be done privately and not shared with the public. We can say we pulled out our army because we were intimidated by your strength, so your reputation will become even higher...”

“You’re daydreaming, good-freaking-bye.”

Before they could respond, Han Xiao hung up the communication right away.

This was the first time he had hung up on the call from the three Universal Civilizations’ leaders. He would have never done it if it were in the past before the association and the three Universal Civilizations became complete oppositions. He felt great doing it.

“... Hmm, okay, understood.”

After hearing the orders from above, Fleet Commander Simon put down the communicator, returned to the command table, and calmly ordered, “Pass down my orders. Engineering team, start to assemble the Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device. Start preheating in twelve hours and connect with the other side.”

“We’re getting reinforcements?” the chief staff sergeant on the side asked.

“Hmm.”

Simon turned around and looked outside the porthole at Han Xiao, who was sitting alone in the cosmic space. He said with a meaningful one, “Orders from above, we’re going to receive the direct Beyond Grade As who will be sent here.”

“How many?”

Hearing this, Simon looked at him.

“All of them.”

In Black Star Palace’s guest hall, a group of Beyond Grade As gathered and watched the news broadcast of what was happening at the Mechanical Race territory with varied expressions, discussing the matter

softly. “Black Star’s stand is too strong. There won’t be room for negotiation like this.” Milizaus was worried.

While adjusting his gun, Sun Hunter said, “Bullsh\*t negotiation, this fight is unavoidable. Black Star isn’t just putting on a show by standing there. I’m guessing he’s waiting for the three Universal Civilizations to send their direct members to fight him. Be it duels or fighting them all at once, he’ll accept it. He’s doing this on purpose to intimidate them.”

“Can he do it alone?” Kant frowned. “If the three Universal Civilizations go all-out, Dark Lord and Golden Ring will definitely be there. Those who are stationed in the secondary dimension bases will most likely be called back too. No matter how strong Black Star is, he has limits. Plus, even God Chooser might go.”

“Black Star should be able to deal with the others, but God Chooser...” Kasuyi hesitated. “If he uses the Arcane Church’s National Treasure, Black Star might have problems.”

Hila crossed her arms, put one leg on top the other, and said coldly, “You don’t have to be concerned about Black Star. His skin is thick enough. Better think of the threat we’re facing right now. The three Universal Civilizations’ army have already locked down the Flickering World’s entrance, the Dawn Star Cluster, so they could attack us any time There are probably already at least ten thousand Super Long Range Planet Annihilation Weapons aimed at this place now.”

“Ten thousand? You’re underestimating the three Universal Civilizations way too much.” Sun Hunter snorted.

Kasuyi shook his head. “We’ve done what we needed. We can only wait for the results at the Primeval Star River. The three Universal Civilizations won’t fire at the other areas before they do anything to the Mechanical Race’s territory at least.”

The others sighed. Although they knew this would happen sooner or later, when it really did, they still were not confident about it.

No matter what, their opponents were the rulers of this universe. The fear in their hearts that had lasted for so long in the past could not be cleared this easily.

The situation turned way too quickly. Even many Beyond Grade As could not get used to it. However, the changes of time were always sudden. Rarely did it give people the time to adapt. They could only accept the reality.

### **Chapter 1302 Challenge**

Many military base planets were stationed in the Dawn Star Cluster, filled with countless deep holes that had enormous caliber Super-Long-Range Psionic Planetary Obliteration Cannons that were aimed at the nearby Star Clusters—the Garu Star Cluster, Crown Star Cluster, and the Renault Star Cluster. These were all areas of the second exploration phase and were now prosperous areas with many Beyond Grade A Organizations stationed in them. Of the Planetary Obliteration Cannons, Black Star’s territories had the highest number of them aimed at them.

The Dawn Star Cluster was the area the Crimson Dynasty had taken over the earliest. Many of the planets there were military restricted areas. In the past few decades, these planets had all been modified into weapons.

After the first Meeting of the Gods a few decades ago, the Crimson Dynasty had secretly started carrying out this project, planning for the future. What was happening today was exactly what they had been preparing for. If a fight broke out, this Star Cluster could immediately become the bridgehead of the war. At the same time, the regular route between the Flickering World and the explored universe would be sealed up.

Fleets belonging to the three Universal Civilizations stationed in the various places of the Dawn Star Cluster, while the three Universal Civilizations' temporary combat command center also moved from Planet Lighthouse to a military planet at the heart of the Dawn Star Cluster.

"Maintain the highest alert level in the next ten days. Once the joint fleet starts to fight on the Mechanical Race's territory, that'll be our signal to fire at all Beyond Grade A organizations, including the Black Star Army's territories."

Inside the temporary combat command center, Euwan Fabick looked around at the many military officers in the room with eyes as sharp as an eagle.

He was a high-level military officer of the Crimson Dynasty who had taken over the position as the Marshal of the dynasty's exploration army after Tarrokov retired. Due to all the things happening lately, the three Universal Civilizations classified the Flickering World as an independent key war zone, and he had become the commander of this war zone directly, in charge of the military operations of the three Universal Civilizations in the Flickering World.

"Understood," the others replied simultaneously.

Euwan turned to one of the military officers and said, "Due to shortage of manpower, the people above can't send direct Beyond Grade As here to help. How's the setup of the defense measures doing? After the battle starts, the Beyond Grade As will definitely try to assassinate the people in the command center. If we can't stop them from invading the Dawn Star Cluster's core, the situation is going to be very tough."

"The engineering team is setting up the defense measures as quickly as possible. They've also left traps and quick support routes. If the Beyond Grade As go too deep, there's a chance we can surround and eliminate them..."

"Give me a report later." Euwan raised his hand and stopped him. He then asked about the progress of other things.

Whether the three Universal Civilizations would end up fighting the association or not, this was not something he cared about. He only cared about his own duty, making sure the strategy could be carried out if a battle did start.

In some desolate universe belt in the Dawn Star Cluster, many hovering shrouding devices circled around a small planet and orbited in the exterior atmosphere, putting out illusions to shroud what was happening on the surface so that it would not be detected by others.

From the outside, this was just a desolate planet. However, the real look of the planet would only show when entering the atmosphere. This was a mechanical fortress that was armed to the teeth, filled with countless battleships and mechanical armies.

In the past few decades, the Black Star Army was not only operating its territory but also setting up many secret bases in other areas, and this was one of them.

At the top of a building, Aurora stood at the edge of the balcony looking at the enormous white mechanical ring far away. This was a new fixed directional teleportation technology Han Xiao had obtained from Jayz's treasure that could transport troops on a large scale. It was not yet activated.

Behind her was a huge crowd. Everyone's body was giving off a faint light. They were all Hero Spirits who had acquired a physical body. The eight Hero Spirit Kings stood in one row in front of thousands of Calamity Grade Hero Spirits, followed by countless Grade B Hero Spirits.

As early as when Manison's database was attacked, Han Xiao had urgently recalled Aurora, who was traveling at the time, and given her a secret mission. She was to hide in one secret base and keep using her ability. Other than eating and sleeping, she spent all her time summoning Hero Spirits of the Underworld.

Aurora's life in this period of time was summoning Hero Spirit, resting, and recovering. Then she would continue summoning more Hero Spirits and repeat. By doing that every day to the limits of her stamina, she finally summoned so many Hero Spirits.

The amount of time these Hero Spirits with a physical body could exist relied on the speed their body was losing vitality. Basically, as long as they were not killed or Aurora did not take away their body, they could last for a very long time. That was especially so when they were in the standby mode as they were now. The speed they were losing vitality was negligible. This was how Aurora had accumulated such a huge army.

Aurora turned to look at the Hero Spirits and softly said, "Black Star said that you guys will have to make a big mess in the Dawn Star Cluster before the ten days are up. Destroy as many of the three Universal Civilizations' Planetary Obliteration weapons as possible."

Sorokin snorted. "He really likes to order people around."

After spending more than four decades as a Hero Spirit, he had accepted his fate and gotten used to his identity. However, he had never given up his hobby of making money. In order to satisfy that, he had found a way to change the societal environment of the Underworld.

As Hero Spirits basically had zero physical needs when they were in the spirit form, through observing over a very long time, Sorokin discovered what they all needed. Hence, he created a concept currency system based on 'Promises'. One promise meant one owed another person a favor, while the promises from Hero Spirits of different levels and identity represented different values.

When a Hero Spirit gave promises to one or more other Hero Spirits, it was the equivalent of printing money. Sorokin designed a special credibility system to prevent the Hero Spirits from giving out promises without restraint, which would have led to inflation, at the same time solving a series of problems associated with 'damaged promises'. Plus, the number of promises every Hero Spirit could create in a certain period was limited. Also, this kind of 'promises' currency was allowed to be sold to others, similar to giving others one's 'debts'.

Sorokin worked quite hard to promote this system. He even convinced Aurora and Onicelu to semi-relate the monetization of this currency with the chances of reviving and the duration of being revived. This way, the Underworld Hero Spirits who usually had nothing to do gradually accepted this system.

Having created a market, using the capitalist methods he was most proficient in, Sorokin harvested a ton of promises. Currently, the Hero Spirits of the Underworld owed him 0.37 Promises on average. He became the 'wealthiest' person in the Underworld... Although this did not mean much, seeing his 'wealth' increase was satisfying to him on its own.

This war made Sorokin see an opportunity to largely monopolize the promise currency. After all, if a war broke out, the Underworld Hero Spirits would definitely be revived frequently. Although they were summoned for a war, it was much better than staying in the Underworld and doing nothing.

As for the conflict between the association and the three Universal Civilizations, Sorokin was not interested. His position was no longer the same; it was not his problem to worry about anymore.

Aurora turned back and continued to look in front. Facing away from the many Hero Spirits, her expression became worried.

Both the three Universal Civilizations and the association had set up secret bases like this in the various key Star Fields. Once an all-out war erupted, tons of places would be drawing in blood, and she did not really want to see that.

"If a war really breaks out, I hope I can save more people with the Underworld..."

Back in the Mechanical Race's territory, the media and news groups were still broadcasting the situation. A lot of time had already passed after the failed negotiation. Han Xiao sat in the middle as if he was dividing the fleets of the two sides. None of them moved.

Looking at the broadcast that was like a still image, the countless galactic residents kept feeling more anxious.

More than half a day had already passed, yet neither side had made a move. Were they going to just keep looking at each other for ten days? If that was the case, their stand would not change even after ten days.

While many were feeling pessimistic, a change happened in the three Universal Civilizations' joint fleet. The Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device was suddenly activated. After rapidly spinning for a while, it released a bright light, and a small fleet arrived through teleportation.

"Reinforcements?"

Countless galactic residents were excited. Although they did not know what the three Universal Civilizations were doing, change was good.

Through the broadcast, countless people's eyes followed this small fleet as it passed through the fleet's formation and arrived at the main ship of the joint fleet.

At the same time, inside the command room in the main fleet, all crew members including Simon stood up to welcome the people who were arriving.

As footsteps approached, a group of people with varied appearances walked into the command room.

Seeing this, thrilled chatter sounded among the crews, naming these people like reading off a list.

“The Crimson Dynasty’s ‘Dark Lord’ Clotti, ‘Thunder’ Guzar, ‘Army Leader’ Padro, ‘Army Flag’ Enid...

“The Federation of Light’s ‘Golden Ring’ Oulou, ‘Super Mentor’ Verena, ‘Defender’ Romo... “The Arcane Church’s ‘God Chooser’ Wuornos, ‘Mechanical Catastrophe’ Francisco, ‘Holy Disciple’ Mornan... It’s them!”

The people who had just arrived were indeed all the direct Beyond Grade As of the three Universal Civilizations. There were as many as dozens of them. They had all been urgently summoned.

Simon took a few steps forward, nodded at them, and said, “I won’t say much. I believe you’ve already been given orders and know what to do.”

Hearing this, they all turned to look outside the porthole and focused on Han Xiao.

Oulou grinned with a tint of cruelty.

“Don’t worry. We’re here now. He won’t be arrogant for long.”

“I’ll leave Black Star to you guys.” Simon nodded.

The fleet firing was the signal to start an all-out war. Before the ten days period ended, the three Universal Civilizations were not going to do that. However, since Black Star had come out on his own, they could test him. Therefore, the three Universal Civilizations had summoned their direct members and planned to pressure the association.

This time, Verena looked around at everyone and said slowly, “Black Star is very strong and difficult to deal with, but if we fight him together from the start, it won’t look good. Only Clotti, Oulou, and Wuornos here are capable of fighting Black Star alone. Which of you will go first?”

Hearing this, everyone focused on the three of them. Most people were looking at Wuornos, who was known as the strongest.

Wuornos’ eyes were closed, and he remained silent, not looking interested in this mission. It was true. If not because the church pope had called him here, he would not have left the Temple of Ten Thousand Gods at all.

Seeing that he did not speak, the others turned to look at Clotti.

“You used to work with Black Star. You should know about his abilities more than us,” Verena said.

Clotti frowned. “I don’t know more than you do. He...”

This time, Oulou interrupted him.

“I’ll deal with him. I’ve been wanting to fight Black Star for a long time. Maybe I can take him on the spot.”

Seeing this, the others nodded and did not fight with him for the spot.

This time, Verena tapped her forehead with her finger. A pure white glow flew out and landed on Oulou. Suddenly, Oulou felt the energy in his body start to boil. His ability strength kept increasing

“Hehe, I can deal with Black Star without this enhancement.”

Oulou was not very thankful.

“It’s for just in case,” Verena replied calmly.

She was the principal of the Federation of Light’s Super Research Institution. She had a utility Esper Ability that leaned toward supporting others, enhancing the abilities of other Supers. She could also analyze the target’s ability’s growth path and design comprehensive training plans for them. This was why she was given the nickname of ‘Super Mentor’.

A few minutes later, Han Xiao, who was resting in the battlefield, slowly opened his eyes.

In his sights, a familiar person stepped out of the three Universal Civilizations’ fleet and hovered not far from him, giving off a powerful presence that was exclusive to peak Beyond Grade As.

“Oulou?” Han Xiao said softly in the public channel.

Oulou narrowed his eyes. “I heard that in order to make the association submit the technology, we’ll have to get past you?” “As long as you can defeat me, I can consider it,” Han Xiao answered casually.

Hearing this, Oulou’s eyes flickered, and he said with a deep voice, “Then you can start considering that option now!”

After that, his presence rapidly grew. Tons of golden rings appeared behind him, linking to a bright golden world, giving him seemingly infinite energy. It was indeed the ‘Golden Treasure Ship’ dimension he was known to have.

Seeing this, Han Xiao shook his head and slowly said, “Do you want to consider joining the association to enjoy the Sanctum Revival chance? You won’t get killed for nothing that way.”

### **Chapter 1303 Thrashing**

While Han Xiao and Oulou were looking at each other, the galactic residents who were watching the broadcast all heard their short conversation in the public channel and were excited.

“Heard that? As long as they can defeat Black Star, he’ll consider compromising.”

“This is an opportunity! If Black Star keeps his promise, defeating him will avoid the all-out war.”

“Come on, the three Universal Civilizations, the peace of the universe relies on you guys!”

“I’m not sure about this. Can the three Universal Civilizations really deal with him? Plus, his attributes on his Wayne Card are way too high now. I don’t think Oulou is his match.”

“Is this really the time to talk about cards? We can’t know who will win till they fight!”

“Speaking of which, if they could decide this with a game of cards, it would be much easier...”

Countless galactic residents were looking forward to it.

It did not matter if Black Star was telling the truth or not, they could only put their hopes on this statement. No one wanted a war; any change was welcome.

At this time, in the eyes of the many galactic residents, Black Star seemed to have become the big villain, and defeating him would protect the peace of the world. Countless people cheered for the three Universal Civilizations in their hearts and hoped to see Black Star defeated the next second.

Inside the three Universal Civilizations' joint fleet's main ship, the other direct Beyond Grade As were all in the command room watching the two of them.

"Do you guys think Oulou can beat Black Star?" someone asked.

"He has less than a fifty-percent chance. If Black Star was that easy to deal with, the people above wouldn't have sent us all." Verena shook her head.

"Then why did we let him go alone? Although ganging up on him isn't good, losing a duel will be embarrassing too, won't it?" Guzar wondered.

"We never expected Oulou to win," Francisco said. "Given Oulou's strength and Verena's enhancement, he's more than capable of matching up to Black Star. This was mainly a test."

Verena nodded and explained, "That's right. It's already been decades since Black Star last fought. With his growth speed, the data from the past is outdated. Oulou will be able to force out Black Star's full strength to collect information for us, which will help in making plans. We have ten days anyway, so there's no need to hurry. Intelligence is crucial in combat."

The others nodded with agreement.

Having made his name in the universe decades prior, Black Star was already recognized as extremely strong among the Beyond Grade As. Not many people dared underestimate him.

Oulou was a peak Beyond Grade A among the top tier in the universe, one of their strongest. Letting him be the first to test Black Star was already an act of taking Black Star seriously enough.

While the many direct Beyond Grade As had their own thoughts, Han Xiao and Oulou who were in the middle of the battlefield suddenly moved like lightning!

Oulou's eyes turned bright as he activated the Golden Treasure Ship dimension. The next moment, countless golden beams of light shot out from the rings behind him like a fountain.

Unaffected, Han Xiao's body shook. Mechanical Force lightning bolts spread instantly, and the mechanical army he hid in his body using (Compressed Orb Innovation -Armed Body) shot out, instantly turning into an enormous mechanical army. The mechanical army set up thick psionic shields in front of Han Xiao, forming a barrier.

Thunderous golden light beams bombarded the psionic barrier. Golden light dust splashed everywhere, and blue-purple electronic bolts danced.

Seeing this, Oulou immediately summoned more golden rings and shot out burning golden light beams nonstop at Han Xiao's mechanical army, as if he had infinite energy.

His Esper Ability allows him to link with the Golden Treasure Ship dimension and use its energy. He's another one with infinite mana who excels in large scale attacks, using his infinite energy to exhaust the enemy time after time. The Golden Treasure Ship is a special secondary dimension. The nature of its energy is very destructive, and it also has other utility functions.

Oulou's information flashed past Han Xiao's mind as he opened up the secondary dimensional army box, and more mechanical troops swarmed out.

The psionic barrier became many times thicker instantly. No matter how powerful Oulou's attacks were, the guarding troops in front of Han Xiao stood firmly. Without the need to dodge any attacks, Han Xiao summoned his Divine Mechanical Throne and sat on it to command his troops.

At the same time, the long-range troops in the mechanical army retaliated. Under the lead of the Apostle Weapons, the melee combat troops also charged toward Oulou from various directions.

The two sides entered an intense battle, dishing out countless attacks at each other without restraint. The battlefield was filled with all kinds of explosions and beams.

The three Universal Civilizations' joint fleet had to move back a certain distance and activate their shields to avoid being accidentally damaged.

Sitting on the Divine Mechanical Throne, Han Xiao looked at Oulou.

Although having infinite mana was one of the special traits of Beyond Grade As, from the way he looked at it, this ability had a weakness that was not really a weakness-no matter how much energy these people had, their power output was still limited. Oulou's Energy Rank determined his damage output.

Oulou's Energy Rank was undoubtedly at the top tier, comparable with Kasuyi. After receiving Verena's enhancements, his Energy Rank even increased by a portion once again. However, compared to Han Xiao's Energy Rank now, it still came up short.

After spending decades keeping a low profile and growing stronger, the bonuses he received from his talents were massive. His combat capability was astonishing and had the upper hand without even having to use any Character Summon Cards. This was the difference in raw strength.

Han Xiao only took out ten or so Apostle Weapons that chased after Oulou, and Oulou was already having quite a difficult time. With Han Xiao's Mechanical Force bonuses, the combat capability of his Apostle Weapons was already steadily at the Beyond Grade A level. They could even go a few rounds with high level Beyond Grade As.

There was no need for flashy plays with such a huge advantage! One word could describe the situation of this battle.

One-sided!

"This guy is no match for me. His defeat is only a matter of time... Hehe, all these talents I've put in so much effort to obtain would be for nothing if I couldn't easily beat guys like you." Watching the battle for a while, Han Xiao grinned, shook his head, and looked at the interface casually.

Not long after Oulou challenged him, the Beyond Grade A Challenge Mission appeared once again. Clearly, this challenge received enough attention to trigger a mission.

The mission requirements and the rewards were still the same, requiring him to last for a certain amount of time, and the best reward was still a Character Summon Card and one of Oulou's abilities or talents.

"How I love duels. They're really doing me a big favor."

Han Xiao laughed in his mind.

While he relaxed on his throne and patiently commanded the army, his talents were activated one after another, continuously increasing his status, and the battle became easier and easier.

Meanwhile, Oulou had a more and more difficult time.

In the eyes of others, the mechanical army was like a swarm of bees surrounding Oulou and attacking him. While the golden light beams that Oulou used with no restraint could wipe out piles of the mechanical army from time to time, the empty areas were filled up very quickly by other mechanical soldiers. Plus, the broken machines also very quickly reassembled and returned to the battlefield right after.

Oulou looked like an insect trapped by a spider's web who could only struggle meaninglessly, breaking through the siege time after time, then getting surrounded again every time.

Oulou's expression had already changed. It was grave.

It was not that he had never fought with a peak Beyond Grade A Mechanic, but his attacks would have usually already overwhelmed the opponent's mechanical army. However, Black Star's mechanical army never showed any signs of defeat or flaws, wrapping around him like he could not tear it open no matter what.

These ten or so Apostle Weapons were especially strong, making him not only feel quite tired but also unable to let his guard down at all. Any flaw at this point might be fatal for him.

Protracted battles were originally his expertise, but he was losing this one.

Seeing that the situation was not going well, Oulou could not help but to look at Black Star, who was behind the mechanical army, seemingly having some ideas. Coincidentally, his eyes met with Han Xiao's eyes that had a tint of anticipation.

In just one look, Oulou's heart shivered, and he immediately gave up the thought of charging toward Han Xiao's original body.

... I almost forgot, this guy isn't an ordinary Mechanic. If I really go so close to him, who knows who'll be beating up whom?

Not being able to find a solution, Oulou became more and more irritated. He had no choice but to continue the bombardment. More and more wounds appeared on his body as time passed.

The battle lasted for quite some time, and it remained simple all the time.

Then, suddenly, Oulou's energy exploded. Golden energy formed a tsunami and blew away the mechanical soldiers around, helping him to get out of the encirclement once again. However, instead of

charging toward Han Xiao, he fled in the opposite direction instead and rushed into the formation of the three Universal Civilizations' joint fleet. Using the battleships as cover, he quickly left the battlefield.

Seeing this, Han Xiao made the mechanical troops stop and did not chase into the joint fleet.

Watching Oulou flee into the main ship, only then did Han Xiao speak in the public channel with a slight mocking tone.

"Is that it?"

Right after he said that, Han Xiao waved and retrieved the mechanical soldiers from the field, as if what he had done was nothing worth mentioning.

Then, he sat back on his Divine Mechanical Throne, held his chin with his hand, and looked at the three Universal Civilizations' fleet.

"Next, and please let someone who can warm me up come."

Seeing this, the many galactic residents who originally had high hopes for Oulou felt like their tinder of hope was instantly extinguished.

"H-he lost just like that?"

"Black Star didn't move from the start to the end, right?"

"Was it too easy for him..."

Countless galactic residents felt a sense of suffocation in their chests.

They thought they would see a close battle; never did they expect to see Oulou lose so easily. Oulou was incompetent, and their passion was wasted.

Most people could not understand the details of the battle. They only knew that Black Star sat on his seat without moving an inch, and Oulou was beaten so badly he had to flee. The two of them had no physical contact at all. It was embarrassing beyond words.

They did not know how strong Beyond Grade As were and could only judge from what they saw. Hence, a question popped up in the minds of many galactic residents...

Is Oulou too weak, or is Black Star too strong?

In the main ship of the three Universal Civilizations joint fleet, the direct Beyond Grade As who saw this were all silent. Doubt and shock flickered in their eyes.

As Beyond Grade As, they were the only ones who could see the details of this battle that looked like it was completely one-sided, and they were terrified.

The strength of Black Star's Mechanical Force had increased the performance of his mechanical army to a higher level. His Energy Rank crushed Oulou's!

"How can the difference be this huge!"

Verena widened her eyes with disbelief.

She knew that Oulou's chance of winning was not high, but never did she expect Black Star to win this easily. Originally, they all hoped Oulou could force Black Star to use all his strength so that they could collect some intelligence. To their absolute surprise, Oulou could not even complete the mission of testing Black Star and was thrashed by Black Star head-on, unable to make Black Star use even one of his trump cards.

Oulou was someone who had top tier strength, not just some nobody. Yet, he lost so pathetically and did not gain an upper hand at any point of the battle at all.

How strong is Black Star now?

"... He wasn't this strong before," Clotti said with a grave expression. "The only explanation for this is that he became stronger in the past few decades again and kept it a secret."

"This won't be easy," Guzar said with a serious expression. "Even you probably won't be a match for Black Star."

Clotti remained silent and did not refute it. He had no confidence either.

If not because he knew Oulou's personality well, he would have suspected that Oulou was acting.

"We still underestimated this guy. His feathers have matured..."

Clotti exhaled slowly with a heavy heart.

At this time, the hatch opened, and Oulou walked in.

As he was really afraid that Black Star might kill him, he had fled when things were not going well. He was not heavily injured, but he looked confused and could not accept how easily he had lost.

Who am I? Where am I? What am I doing?

The others glanced at him with complicated looks and did not know what to say. Brother, you asked for this. Thanks for being so brave...

### **Chapter 1304 Something New**

Beep beep...

At this time, Verena's coded communicator rang. The face of the federation's president, Louis, appeared on the screen with an unsatisfied expression.

The leaders of the three Universal Civilizations were watching the broadcast too and were just about as unsatisfied as they could be about the battle earlier.

"What are you doing? I told you guys to go there to help, not to get beat up!"

"Sorry, we wanted to test Black Star's strength, but he's much stronger than the intelligence says..." Verena explained. "... Don't be so careless again. Oulou losing this easily isn't good for the federation's reputation. I don't want to see it happen again," Louis suppressed the shock and rage in his heart.

"Okay."

Verena hung up the communication and sighed.

They had only lost one battle, and their bosses were already scolding them. Usually, these upper echelons would not be as impatient as this, but they were probably shocked by that battle too and could not keep it in any longer, so they quickly hinted for these direct members to not hold back.

She knew very well why the upper echelons summoned all the direct members here. They thought that with so many of them working together, they could at least suppress Black Star by outnumbering him. At the start, Verena was filled with confidence, but not anymore.

The upper echelons had this idea based on the records of Black Star's strength. However, the last public battle Black Star was in was decades ago when he fought Manison. Back then, the two of them had fought intensely, and Black Star had quite a hard time defeating Mechanic Emperor's Lord's Avatar.

Hence, in the eyes of the three Universal Civilizations, Black Star was a bit stronger than Manison at his peak, but not a lot stronger. Therefore, the three Universal Civilizations felt that as long as they sent all their direct members, it would be more than enough to teach Black Star a lesson. After all, they had three peak Beyond Grade As, and God's Chosen was acknowledged by all as the strongest who could defeat even Mechanic Emperor. There was no reason they would fail.

However, the strength Black Star had just displayed refreshed the three Universal Civilizations' knowledge. Oulou, whose strength was also in the top tier, lost so embarrassingly, and Black Star did not even use his full strength.

Although they knew that Black Star had remained low profile for decades and that their intelligence was already outdated, the difference was way too huge! "... What now?"

The people suppressed their emotions and exchanged looks.

Being shocked was one thing, but they still had to execute the mission given to them.

Verena pondered for a while and said, "The target's strength is beyond expectations. Dueling will do nothing. Looks like we have no choice but to fight him in groups. Let's all discuss how we should deal with him."

They started discussing it as if they were facing a terrifying enemy.

They were all intimidated by Han Xiao's strength. Even though they were going to fight him together, they did not dare strike carelessly before coming up with a reliable plan.

Wuornos stood at the edge of the crowd and did not participate in the discussion. He looked through the porthole at Han Xiao, who was hovering in the cosmic space. His eyes kept flickering, and he mumbled in his mind, 11,000 Energy Rank minimum, at least one God's Trait Transformation route fully completed... Worthy target to turn.

Inside the Mechanical Race's main ship, the many crew members were thrilled by the results of this one-sided battle and started cheering.

In front of the porthole, Manison looked at Han Xiao's back in silence. Although his avatar was expressionless, a tsunami was roaring in his mind.

How is this guy so strong? Manison was naturally shocked. His impression of Han Xiao also remained in the last time they fought. It had been a very long time since he saw Black Star fight anyone.

Although he knew he was probably no match for Black Star, he never thought the difference would be so huge. Even if he had to fight Oulou, he could not have done it so easily and casually. It would be an extremely intense and suspenseful battle.

Black Star is becoming more and more unfathomable. How the hell does he become stronger so quickly?

Having realized that Black Star was already so much ahead of him and that he could no longer figure out Han Xiao's limits, Manison could not help but feel complicated and a little sour.

However, after being down for a few seconds, Manison let it go and sighed.

Maybe only someone like this was capable enough of leading the Beyond Grade As into a higher level... Having a leader like this was a blessing for the Beyond Grade As of this era.

The only thing Black Star lacked was probably accumulation...

Manison's eyes spun, and he made up his mind.

He was not a petty man. If Black Star had needs, he did not mind lending his machines to Black Star.

With Black Star's strength and my inventory, he'll probably have no match in the universe.

"I knew it. The three Universal Civilizations are overconfident. How can they possibly bring out someone who can fight Black Star?"

The four old hermits including Joey were watching the broadcast and looked relieved.

They had fought Black Star only about a year ago and were the ones who knew Black Star's strength the best in the universe. Back then, their confidence was absolutely crushed and still had yet to recover; they felt shivers every time they saw Black Star.

Earlier, when they saw the three Universal Civilizations only send Oulou to fight Black Star, they were surprised. They thought the three Universal Civilizations had hidden some direct members who were as strong as Black Star, and that made them uneasy.

However, when they saw the one-sided battle, Joey and the others knew that they were overthinking it and worrying for nothing

"The three Universal Civilizations' intelligence is way too outdated. One peak Beyond Grade A is probably nothing to Black Star." Joey shook his head.

"They'll have to fight as more than one if they want to win, just like what we did..." Joey felt a little awkward. "Black Star seemed relaxed when fighting the four of us too. God knows what his limit is."

"... Do you guys think he expected this long ago, which is why he kept a low profile for decades?"

"Who knows?"

The few of them softly gossiped.

After defeating Oulou, the three Universal Civilizations seemed to be shocked and did not immediately send someone new in right after. Han Xiao sat on his throne and waited patiently.

“Looks like the three Universal Civilizations’ expectation of my strength was not high enough.”

Seeing the three Universal Civilizations fleet that was not making a move, Han Xiao curled his lips.

In the past few decades, he had kept a low profile and quietly accumulated his strength. Only the Holy Accord, Joey’s group, and Kasuyi had seen his strength; the outside world almost knew nothing about it.

The main reason was that there was not really a chance for him to fight publicly. The Beyond Grade A circle was quite small, and there were only a few he could fight.

More than a year ago when he beat up Joey and the others, Han Xiao had gained a rough estimate about his own strength. It would take at least a dozen high-level Beyond Grade As to cause any threat to him.

For now, not only were his growth talents growing steadily, but he had also even obtained (The Ancient Ones) and his first Unique Talent, and he had acquired some new technology from SWY-001. His strength had grown even higher, and the number of Beyond Grade As it would take to cause any threat to him increased once again.

Fighting Oulou was nothing but an appetizer to him. He had gone there with the mindset of starting a ‘slaughter’, showing the outside world the strength that fitted the identity of the leader of the Beyond Grade As while getting some talents. Stepping up on his personal behalf at such an important occasion, he was certain there would be opportunities for him to fight.

Seeing that the three Universal Civilizations were not making a move, Han Xiao opened the interface. The Challenge Mission triggered by Oulou was already shown as completed. Since he could not leave at this point and could not acquire some luck, Han Xiao chose to conclude it on the spot.

(Beyond Grade A Challenge Mission-‘Golden Ring’ Oulou) completed!

You have completed all the mission requirements. You have received 86 Billion EXP!

You have received (Character Summon Card – ‘Golden Ring’ Oulou)!

Character Summon Card – ‘Golden Ring’ Oulou: (Golden Treasure Ship-Ram)— Condense the energy of the Golden Treasure Ship dimension in your body and carry out a long-distance charging attack. You’re immune to any Crowd Control abilities during the charge. Deals a high amount of melee combat damage. Usages: 0/3

“Aiyo, a distance closing ability, nice.”

Han Xiao’s eyes sparkled.

Sadly, Oulou did not use this ability earlier, or he would have had the chance to do some stretching

“If there’s a chance in the future, I shall try to see if I can get some taunt-type ability. I feel like this is what my combat style needs...”

If he could just yell, “Come here, ya coward!” and the enemy actively went to him, it would be amazing

Shaking his head, he put these thoughts behind and looked at the rest of the notification.

You have received a reward: Draw one of Oulou's Abilities/Talents.

Note: Oulou is an Esper, so part of the abilities/talents are adjusted according to your class.

Randomizing... complete!

Please select one from the five options below as the reward.

(Energy Control Precision) – Talent: Tremendously increase your ability to control energy, +10% Energy Resistance. 2. (Secondary Dimension Affinity) – Talent: Increases the chance of you building a connection with some secondary dimensions, grants you comprehensive bonuses when using the power of a secondary dimension. (Liveliness Increase) – Ability: By stimulating your cells, temporarily increase the activity of your cells. +10% – 20% Health, Energy, and Stamina; +50% – 100% basic recovery speed of Health, Energy, Stamina. Duration: 15 minutes. [Exquisite Taste] – Talent: +15%. You gain the Favorability of some people more easily. (Phase Blink) – Ability: Using the secondary dimension, move by phasing and temporarily dodge most attacks. Cooldown: 6 minutes.

Han Xiao tutted. "My luck is ordinary as always without touching Feidin."

After all, due to the difference in class, most of the core abilities of Espers were unobtainable. A surprise like with Gaud would not happen every time.

Looking through, Han Xiao made a decision very quickly.

You have received the talent (Secondary Dimension Affinity)!

He had a link with the Void Dimension and the Underworld, and his Racial Talent was also related to the Void Dimension, so choosing this talent would indirectly enhance his Racial Talent. As for the other options, they were either too ordinary, or he already had something similar.

Comparatively, the ability of this Character Summon Card was quite good. After all, it gave immunity to Crowd Control abilities, which might be amazing in some scenarios.

After concluding the reward, seeing that the three Universal Civilizations still did not make any move, Han Xiao started looking at the forums.

More than half a day passed like this. When only eight and a half days were left till the end of the three Universal Civilizations' ultimatum deadline, they finally struck the second time.

A total of thirteen direct Beyond Grade As stepped up and walked out. Only then did Han Xiao close the forums and size them up. He saw that Clotti and Oulou among them, clearly the leaders.

This was a horrifying enough team. In a direct head-on battle, other than God's Chosen who no one knew what his limits were, no one else in the universe could match up to it. Plus, there were no actors among these people; they had the same goal and would not hold back at all.

"Yo, no more duels?" Han Xiao said with a mocking tone.

Oulou looked ashamed. He had already adjusted back to normal after the humiliating loss, and he could not have been more embarrassed.

This time, Clotti slowly said, "Black Star, you are indeed strong. However, since you stepped up to take challenges, you won't mind us fighting you in a group, will you?"

"Whatever. No matter how many Beyond Grade As you send, as long as you can defeat me." Han Xiao did not mind.

Clotti nodded. He suddenly changed the topic and said, "His Excellency told me to ask you a question... Gaud, you killed him, didn't you?"

As he said that, the other direct members were surprised. Even the many onlookers were stunned.

The Gaud incident was huge back then, and many people still had an impression of it. Now that it was brought up, many people were reminded of it once more.

"Oh? I'm warning you. We might be enemies, but I won't just let you frame me like this," Han Xiao said with a poker face.

Clotti added with a deep voice, "Originally, we didn't suspect you because you were the dynasty's ally. However, there were way too many suspicious parts about that incident back then. In recent years, you've become more and more lawless, so our suspicion of you has grown as well. You had plenty of reasons to attack Gaud... Sorokin might not be the culprit, just someone you framed!"

Han Xiao waved, interrupted him, and said casually, "What you say means nothing without evidence. I've never even thought of killing Gaud." "You think you can clear your suspicion?" "Hehe, I'm not guilty." Han Xiao did not mind it.

Of course, I never thought of killing Gaud. I only sealed him up. He's still alive, so this isn't a lie.

Plus, other than him, probably no one else knew about the fact that Gaud was EsGod. He never regretted capturing that guy; it was only a pity no one knew his contribution.

While speaking, Han Xiao stood up from his throne. The gates of the secondary dimensional army boxes opened behind him.

Even Han Xiao did not dare act overconfident facing this situation. None of these thirteen direct members were ordinary. The three Universal Civilizations had probably given each of them Universal Treasures, so they might have some trump cards. Plus, when fighting together, their strength would not just add up but multiply. However, taking the opponents seriously was one thing, but he was not going to say it out loud.

"Thirteen Beyond Grade As... it's at least enough for me to warm up a little."

As he said that, the swarm of mechanical army appeared once again. This time, they gathered around Han Xiao and quickly assembled into a Mechanical Deity.

Seeing this, Clotti and the others spread out and formed an encirclement. Their energy presence became unrestrained and clashed with Han Xiao's energy presence. The energy readings in the area rocketed, and the spacetime stability started to fluctuate.

In this extremely tense moment, another Mechanical Deity suddenly appeared in the Mechanical Race's fleet. It was Manison, and he instantly attracted everyone's attention.

The next moment, Manison suddenly threw out the Emperor Mechanic's Sacred Trident at Han Xiao, the rest of the Universal Treasures on the body of his Mechanical Deity also detached and flew toward Han Xiao.

Han Xiao caught the Emperor Mechanic's Sacred Trident that was covered in electronic sparks. The various Mechanical Deity exclusive weapons of Manison also attached to his Mechanical Deity's body, assembling perfectly. The controls of these equipment were transferred to Han Xiao, and his Mechanical Deity looked more magnificent right away.

He turned around and looked at Manison. He then heard Manison speaking in their channel.

"Since they're fighting you as more than one, I'll lend you my weapons."

"... I don't need it, but thanks."

Han Xiao weighed the Emperor Mechanic's Sacred Trident and felt complicated.

Old Manison had always taken the secrecy of his technology extremely importantly and treated these Universal Treasures almost like his wives.

I could only secretly steal them, but now he's willing to lend them to me... Damn, I'm touched.

Han Xiao turned and looked at Clotti and the others. Psionic energy spun around the blade of the trident, leaving ripple-like afterimages as Han Xiao swung it.

"Old Manison, since you're so generous this time, let me show you something new."

As he said that, blood-colored energy erupted and entangled around the Mechanical Deity's body. Its appearance changed subtly. It was as if these streams of blood energy were forming flesh on the Mechanical Deity's body!

A strange energy ripple spread, giving the Beyond Grade As even greater pressure.

Clotti, the others, and Manison all looked with surprise at Han Xiao, whose appearance was changing rapidly.

"This guy's Mechanical Deity... why does it look different from the others'?"

### **Chapter 1305 Intense Battle**

In the blink of an eye, the black Mechanical Deity's appearance changed. Flesh grew out from the gaps of the mechanical parts like roots of a plant rapidly digging into the ground. The Mechanical Deity's body seemed to have become the bones, wrapped in firm and strong flesh tissues. It turned from a mechanical giant to a biochemical prosthetic giant.

During the shapeshift, the energy presence Han Xiao was releasing was also enhanced. The radars of all the battleships around were shocking record-breaking individual energy readings.

At the same time, the blood-red energy and the golden Mechanical Force electronic arcs entangled each other, releasing from the Mechanical Deity's body like water vapor. It was very flashy. The mechanical army around reflected the light from it and painted the battlefield gold and red.

Clotti and the others looked at this in dismay. They felt a sense of pressure, and fear surfaced in their hearts uncontrollably, awakening memories that had been buried for a very long time... This feeling was like the life hierarchy pressure they had experienced before when they were young, and it had been a very long time since they felt it after becoming Beyond Grade As!

“What the hell is that? I’ve never seen a Mechanical Deity like this!” Oulou’s expression changed drastically.

Clotti’s expression was grave. “I’ve never seen other Mechanics use this. This is probably Black Star’s own innovation. It has some similarities with the Polar Channel Flow, so it should be some kind of burst ability... It doesn’t look simple. Stay alert!”

Manison’s eyes were opening wide, and his heart was filled with shock.

“What ability is this?”

As a senior Mechanic, he was shocked to realize he could not figure it out right away, and he was filled with questions.

This doesn’t look like a Mechanic’s ability!

What has Black Star been studying?

However, as he looked closer, Manison discovered something.

There are signs of the Felon technology... Did Black Star reverse engineer the Felons?

Manison was astounded.

While everyone was shocked, the spacetime suddenly shook, and a ring of energy suddenly exploded at where the Mechanical Deity was standing. The next moment, the Mechanical Deity’s enormous body disappeared. Dragging a chain of electronic tracks behind, it came right before Clotti and the others. Its dash was almost as quick as teleportation, and its size did not make it slower at all.

Wrapped with blue psionic energy, the tip of a trident instantly appeared in front of Clotti’s eyes!

Getta Hadoken-Vortex Blade!

In the blink of the eye, Clotti took a deep breath, absorbed the dark energy that was everywhere in the universe, and released it at the blade of the trident like a tsunami.

Boom!

The next moment, a ring-shaped shockwave exploded from the point of impact!

Clotti’s body shot out like a cannonball, turning into a stream of light, and penetrated battleships one after another.

In just one move, the Crimson Dynasty’s National Pillar, Dark Lord, was blown away!

The many direct Beyond Grade As reacted instantly. Not having the leisure to be shocked, they immediately worked together and attacked Han Xiao. The battle broke out in a flash!

At the same time, Clotti's serious toned voice sounded in their team channel. "Don't fight him head-on!"

Clotti finally stopped himself from flying backward and charged back toward the battlefield, covered in a crystal yellow prism-shaped shield that was now filled with cracks.

This shield was not his ability but a protective Universal Treasure with an extremely high defense that was triggered. Since the three Universal Civilizations had sent them to fight Black Star, they were not going to be petty with their Universal Treasures. They had given several Universal Treasures to each direct member.

Although he was not injured, this attack from Han Xiao still shocked Clotti.

While the defense capability of this protection type Universal Treasure was not invincible like the Spacetime Amber, it was still exceptional. If the attack damage did not reach a certain standard, it could almost block all damage. Even he had to charge his attack for some time to penetrate it. It was a complete surprise to Clotti how Han Xiao casually broke it with one attack.

Hearing Clotti's words, the direct member Beyond Grade As spread out and moved swiftly in the battlefield. The Mechanics brought out their armies, and the Mages pulled out their summoned creature armies too, covering the skies and restraining Han Xiao. At the same time, Han Xiao's mechanical army arrived and joined the battle.

Both sides used the Human Wave Tactic, and the battle instantly became a huge brawl.

Turning into a Mechanical Deity, Han Xiao swung the Mechanic Emperor's Sacred Trident speedily and slashed his way in the crowd. Everything his attacks landed on was either heavily damaged or broken instantly. The blade of the trident shattered piles and piles of enemies. He looked invincible.

His ranged weapons were also firing nonstop, chasing the direct member Beyond Grade As everywhere. His body was also covered in electromagnetic and space fields, so anything that got close was either immobilized or shattered.

This form of Mechanical Deity was what Han Xiao had invented from imitating SWY-001. Its name was (Mechanical DeitySemi-living Body). It was a special shapeshifting technology he innovated by using SWY-001 as the foundation and adding in more technology. It was an upgraded version of the Mechanical Deity, and all of its performance parameters were superior compared to the normal version.

The prerequisite was not only (Polar Channel Flow-Blood Rage] but also Hila's death energy and Aurora's life energy. In the past few years, through using the Gaud Character Summon Card's (Energy Analysis), he had studied the principles and nature of these two special types of energy. He had achieved some results and fused them into this technology. Only then was he able to turn blood energy back to flesh and tissue. At the same time, he did indeed use some of the Felon technology's concepts, successfully fusing the Super cells and the machines together, which made the flesh tissues increase the energy output tremendously.

It was only 'semi' because the functions of the flesh tissues were not complete. His ideal goal was to achieve the level of SWY-001, meaning the flesh tissues could both increase energy output and provide energy, balanced and whole like an independent living body.

Unfortunately, Han Xiao could not completely duplicate this mechanism. The flesh cells that covered the Mechanical Deity could only increase the Mechanical Deity's energy output but not provide energy, which meant that the Mechanical Deity's energy consumption increased but its maximum energy remained the same, so the balance was broken. He did not know if the reason was because the flesh tissues came from only one person or not, he just could not reach a balance like SWY-001 could. This led to the energy consumption of [Mechanical DeitySemi-living Body] being extremely outrageous; even peak Beyond Grade As could barely afford it.

However, Han Xiao was already at the top of the Void Race system and had linked with the Void Dimension. He could use the Void energy like Kasuyi could. Even without getting beat up, he had almost an infinite amount of mana, so this was not a problem for him at

all.

Han Xiao's burst strength was too incredible, chasing the direct Beyond Grade As all around the battlefield. However, after their initial shock, Clotti and the others gradually adapted to this amount of pressure. The two sides fought intensely.

Clotti and Oulou were both top tier peak Beyond Grade As whose Energy Rank was above 90,000, and they had received a lot of enhancements. Although they were no match for Han Xiao alone, as they fought together, their combined strength multiplied.

Both their Esper Abilities were AOE types that were amazing at this type of large scale battle. Plus, mana was also no issue for them. With all kinds of Universal Treasures, they took care of more than half of Han Xiao's attacks.

Furthermore, Clotti and Oulou had a group of teammates who were quite strong too. They were not the only two who had above a 70,000 Energy Rank; those stationed in the secondary dimension bases were mostly elites, only they did not appear in public often.

Buzz!

Enormous electromagnetic bolts formed dancing lightning chains crisscrossing between the mechanical army, causing tremendous damage. Covered in bright blue lightning arcs, Guzar stirred up a lightning storm like the god of thunder. Every time he raised his hand, electromagnetic cannons were released and landed on Han Xiao's protective shield, causing countless explosions.

He was someone from the same generation as Clotti. Although his potential was not as high as Clotti's, he was still a very powerful Beyond Grade A. If not, he would not have been sent by the dynasty to defend a secondary dimension outpost.

'Holy Disciple' Mornan, who was wearing a monk outfit, teleported continuously within the mechanical army with the help of some kind of teleportation type Universal Treasure. His fists and legs struck at an ordinary speed, as if they were hitting a transparent barrier. The particles in large portions of the cosmic space resonated, dealing continuous large area vibration damage to Han Xiao's mechanical army. Although he was a Pugilist, the many Universal Treasures he had made up for what he lacked.

'Army Leader' Padro summoned countless creatures and magic colossuses nonstop, fighting with Han Xiao's mechanical army. There were also many boss level units that attempted to retrain Han Xiao by

any means necessary without having a care about their casualties. At the same time, 'Army Flag' Enid activated her abilities all the time, providing all kinds of enhancements to her allies present.

The thirteen direct Beyond Grade As were not only powerful but their coordination was amazing too. Along with the Universal Treasures they had, they could match up to Han Xiao, even enduring the pressure of dozens of Apostle Weapons.

With the Universal Treasures he had built in the past years, Han Xiao did not show signs of defeat even when facing such a luxurious team.

Once again blowing Clotti away, Han Xiao looked around the battlefield and pondered.

The situation was in a stalemate, but he did not feel pressure at all, which was mainly because the enemies posed a limited threat to him. Although he could not break away from these people for the time being, he was not in a dangerous situation. He had the absolute upper hand in terms of individual strength. Any time he had the opportunity to get into a one versus one battle, he would crush the opponent. Be it Clotti or Oulou, no one could stop his powerful attacks. However, when that happened, the others always came to restrain him and defuse their teammate's danger.

"I need to aim for the weak spot and find a breakthrough."

The essence of fighting a group was to target and chase after one person. Without hesitation, Han Xiao changed his attack target and charged toward a comparatively weaker direct Beyond Grade A.

The others saw and hastily came to focus fire on Han Xiao. Han Xiao bathed in attacks and ignored them. His Sacred Trident swung heavily up and down. Every attack seemed like it could shatter space itself.

Boom!

The enormous trident blade slashed down once again, painting a blood rose in midair. This direct member Beyond Grade A was sent out flying, heavily injured.

As Han Xiao wanted to end him, the other dozen Beyond Grade As ignored the damage they took and held him back with their lives while a traction beam shot out from the three Universal Civilizations joint fleet's main ship and took the wounded away.

The next moment, three more direct Beyond Grade As flew out of the main ship and joined the battle. Han Xiao's opponents increased to fifteen. The situation went back to a stalemate, and the pressure he faced increased again.

Han Xiao's eyes gleamed.

He understood what the three Universal Civilizations were planning. They brought a group of direct members here. Anyone who was heavily injured by him would be pulled back and healed up, and more would be sent into the battlefield. Using the advantage of their fleet not being attacked, they could give their direct Beyond Grade A members time to recover.

After all, Han Xiao was alone and could not take a break, while the three Universal Civilizations had dozens of direct members. They made up their mind to exhaust Han Xiao by any means.

They wanted both to win and not suffer any casualties.

“Tsk, dirty enough.”

Han Xiao curled his lips and did not say anything. After all, nowhere was there a rule that said the three Universal Civilizations could not do this.

“Since you all want to do it like this, let’s see who can last longer.”

He shook his head, got rid of these thoughts, and focused on the battle.

The two sides fought intensely for six days and six nights.

The battlefield had shifted multiple times. Everywhere was filled with machinery fragments and carcasses of summoned creatures. The size of the armies on both sides had shrunk tremendously. Be it Han Xiao’s mechanical army or the direct Beyond Grade As’ all kinds of armies, they all suffered severe damage.

The Mechanical Deity that Han Xiao turned into was still fighting intensely with Clotti and the others. However, comparatively, Han Xiao was still very energetic, while many of his opponents were already showing signs of being exhausted.

The number of direct Beyond Grade As in the battlefield had increased to twenty-one. Having fought with everything they had for six days consecutively, most people were exhausted, and their status dropped unavoidably. Even though some of them exchanged shifts more than a dozen times, they could not take it much longer.

The entire process was broadcast live by the media.

Not many galactic residents could keep watching in front of the screen all the time. However, whenever they turned to this channel, the intense fight was still going on.

God knew how many people were praying night day for Black Star to be defeated. However, despite facing such a grand team, Black Star was still as strong as he was at the start, not showing any signs of defeat at all. The feelings of many galactic residents changed from shock to despair, then numbness, watching the intense battle on the screen with an empty mind.

What monster is Black Star? Doesn’t he get tired!

Seeing that there was no hope the war could be avoided, many galactic residents became irritated and started to condemn Han Xiao. It was as if strength became a sin. They found a way to vent all their rage, panic, and dissatisfaction at Han Xiao, like the roars of the powerless.

While the three Universal Civilizations’ soldiers present at the scene’s morale kept dropping in the past few days. They were dumbfounded by Black Star’s strength.

Their high-level combatants put down their pride and used such an unethical strategy just to outnumber Black Star. Changing shifts to fight him was already embarrassing enough, yet not only could they not take Black Star down, but some of them even got killed.

They were still getting thrashed!

The Beyond Grade As who were watching from various channels were even more shocked. They knew how difficult this was more than the others, and as if this was the first time they met Han Xiao, they were all astonished.

Although we knew our president was strong all along, isn't this too strong?

In the entire history of Supers, there did not seem to be anyone who ever achieved something like this. The many Beyond Grade As were astounded.

It seemed to them that the strength Black Star was displaying probably exceeded any Beyond Grade A ever recorded in the history of the explored universe. He was on an entirely new level.

"What the f\*ck? Is old Black still a human?"

"I finally understand the meaning of the version name... Is this the definition of the Age of Black Star?"

"Who's next!"

Compared to others, the players were the most excited. Having watched a six-day-long action movie, their passion was boiling.

No matter how the others responded, the battle still carried on.

Clank!

The blade of the trident slashed down time after time chasing after a direct Beyond Grade A, shattering his shield and spilling blood.

Just as Han Xiao was about to give him the last hit as usual, Clotti and Oulou stood before him. Dark energy and golden energy gushed out and clashed with the trident!

Boom!

A blinding explosion erupted. Clotti and Oulou were pushed back afar as blood poured out from their mouths. Their injuries got heavier once again.

At the same time, the already heavily damaged Sacred Trident finally reached its limits and shattered into fragments.

Han Xiao looked at his empty hands and then looked around. All the direct Beyond Grade As who were surrounding him were wounded and looked visibly exhausted.

"Looks like you guys can't last much longer."

Han Xiao clenched his fist and pulled out a melee mechanical weapon that looked like a spear. It was black and gold, and its tip was pyramid shaped, like the spear of a cavalry. This was also a Universal Treasure. It came from Jayz' technology treasure.

Clotti coughed a few times, spitting out a cloud of blood. He forced himself to stay alert and said with a deep voice, "You don't have many troops left either."

"I have enough. On the other hand, Oulou and you seem to have reached your limits. The others can swap with the rest, but not the two of you. Can you still fight?"

Han Xiao did not mind it.

Clotti remained silent. He could not disagree.

The other direct members could swap with the others and rest. However, without Clotti or Oulou, their team had no chance of fighting Black Star; the others would only be crushed.

Therefore, for the past six days, the two of them did not rest either and were covered in wounds. Although they were not short on energy, their wounds were getting more severe. They were close to their limits.

It would be great if God's Chosen was willing to step in. Sadly, he had been watching on the side for the past six days and never did anything, as if he was really there just to watch.

There were only two days left till the end of the ten-day warning period the three Universal Civilizations gave. They probably could not complete the mission given to them anymore...

When Clotti was about to give everything he had left, a sigh suddenly sounded in their team channel.

A person flew out from the main ship of the three Universal Civilizations joint fleet and entered the battlefield.

The others turned to look at him and were shocked. It was Wuornos, who had remained silent till then.

Ignoring his teammates, Wuornos looked at Han Xiao, sighed with resignation, and said, "Black Star, although we've only met once, I actually have quite the respect for you and don't want to fight you. Unfortunately... I'm a direct member of the Arcane Church, and I can't disobey orders."

After that, ignoring everyone else's reactions, Wuornos raised his hand, aimed his finger in Han Xiao's direction, and tapped softly.

As an invisible energy was released from his fingers, a pale-golden light suddenly flew out from inside the Mechanical Deity's body and entered Wuornos's body.

At this instant, an enormous shadow of the Mechanical Deity came out of his body from his back.

The next moment, this Mechanical Deity detached from his body and quickly materialized. It had Wuornos's face, but its appearance was extremely similar to Han Xiao's Mechanical Deity, as if they were twins!

### **Chapter 1306 God's Chosen and the Incredible Church National Treasure**

In the torn-up battlefield, the second living Mechanical Deity appeared. The weapons and equipment it had were almost exactly the same as Han Xiao's Mechanical Deity, like a carbon copy of him.

This replica Mechanical Deity had a poker face and stood opposite Han Xiao. Powerful energy was released from its body continuously.

This startled countless galactic residents, and their shocked eyes all focused on Wuornos.

"Another new Beyond Grade A? I don't seem to recall seeing this person before."

"What ability is this? Seems strong..." "I know this guy! He's the Arcane Church's Grand Priest!"

Countless galactic residents opened their eyes wide. The extinguished hope in their hearts was rekindled.

Among the Beyond Grade As, Wuornos was an oddity. He rarely fought others or appeared in public, nor did the Arcane Church promote him. His presence in the outside world was not high at all. Without deliberately searching for his information, ordinary people would not even know he existed in the universe. However, in the Beyond Grade A circle, he was recognized by all as the strongest.

Seeing Wuornos arrive, Oulou heaved a sigh of relief but was also a little unhappy.

“You’ve finally decided to come. I thought you’d just watch till the end.”

Tsk, we’ve been exhausting ourselves and fighting Han Xiao for six days and six nights. Did you deliberately only now join us to ‘turn the tide’ alone?

Wuornos looked around at the many direct members, sighed, and said, “You guys have fought hard. I’ll take it from here. Go and rest.”

“You still want to fight him alone?” Clotti frowned.

“I don’t like to bully the few.” Wuornos shook his head. “You think we like it?” Clotti frowned. “This is an order from above. If you join the fight, we’ll have the highest chances of taking down Black Star. Aren’t you too cocky to want to fight him alone now?”

Wuornos glanced at him and calmly said, “Earlier, I was given an absolute order to help, but I told them I won’t join the fight unless I’m fighting alone. They agreed. If you have objections, you can convey them to the Crimson Dynasty’s Ruler. If you guys don’t need help, I’ll be going back to the ship.”

Clotti frowned, opened the channel, and shared a few words with the dynasty’s upper echelons. He then gave Wuornos a deep look, turned around, and flew back to the main ship without saying a word.

The others also received orders from above, glanced at Wuornos with complicated looks, and left the battlefield.

Suddenly, other than the wreckages everywhere, Han Xiao and Wuornos were the only two people left on the battlefield.

Han Xiao had been watching on the side. Seeing that the other direct members had left, his eyes gleamed, and he said, “Your ability is interesting.”

Wuornos did not respond to this. He changed the topic and said slowly, “I’ve been observing you for the past seven days. You’re probably already half a step into the higher territory. I’m not someone who likes to fight. If possible, I really wouldn’t want to fight you, but...”

This time, Han Xiao waved his hand and interrupted him.

“We don’t know each other. You don’t have to explain anything to me. Many people have been saying you’re recognized as the strongest Beyond Grade A. I’ve always wanted to see how strong you are personally.”

He turned to look at the other living body Mechanical Deity, narrowed his eyes, and said, "I have to say, with this ability, you can indeed be considered the 'strongest'. However, a fake will always be just that, a fake."

When Wuornos used his ability earlier, a notification had popped up on Han Xiao's interface too. It showed that he was affected by an ability called [God Embodiment Granted]. Although the ability worked, it did not deal any damage to him or any debuffs.

Planning ahead, before the Mechanical Race territory was surrounded, he had already expected that he might have to fight Wuornos. Hence, he had asked about the detailed intelligence of this person from Kasuyi and the others, finding out that 'granting Gods' was one of Wuornos' abilities. He could materialize the concept of some 'Gods' into powerful physical forms, which were called 'God Embodiments'.

The God Embodiments were independent from their original body, usually called by the name of the original God. They had the various abilities the original 'God' conceptually had but not all of them. The number of abilities and their power were not only related to Wuornos' strength but also the number of believers that worshipped this 'God' and the depth of their faith.

However, the targets Wuornos could grant also included anything that was deified. Therefore, peak Beyond Grade As who were going through the God's Trait Transformation were also included. When the target of the granting was not a 'concept' but something with physical form, the God Embodiment would then be able to inherit the target's most strength and abilities, even without believers of faith.

According to the upper echelons of the association, if they were to fight Wuornos, they would have to first face a mirrored version of 'themselves' while at the same time fight with Wuornos' other God Embodiments. This was one of the reasons he was recognized by all as the strongest; he would become stronger against stronger opponents.

Furthermore, what was more disgustingly strong was that, if a God Embodiment that had a physical original body was destroyed, the damage would be reflected back to its original body. This meant that when peak Beyond Grade As killed their mirrored 'self', they would suffer damage too.

A few Ancient Ones shared a secret. Very long ago, Wuornos' success rate of granting Gods was limited, and it did not work every time. However, Wuornos' ability was nothing short of a perfect fit with the Arcane Church. After being given many Universal Treasures related to his ability by the Arcane Church and forming strong Soul Links with them, the success rate of his granting ability was fixed at a hundred percent. In the players' terms, this basically meant that the judgement process was skipped.

The Universal Treasures given to him also included a core treasure seen by the Arcane Church as their 'National Treasure'. It could be said to be the foundation of how the Arcane Church united all the religions in galactic society. Wuornos matched with it perfectly, as if he was born for it.

The only good news was that when the interface showed he was 'Granted' one time, it also showed that he received a prolonged immunity to it. This meant that Wuornos could not continuously 'Grant' the same target in a short time. Plus, the time the God Embodiments could exist also had limits.

Even with Han Xiao's knowledge, he had to say that Wuornos' ability was extremely powerful, almost like a cheat, like himself! Scary, this ability is somewhat like a weird version of the Character Summon Cards...

Han Xiao was surprised.

Seems like we're both professional cheaters... Our battle will be legendary!

As all kinds of information flashed past his mind, Han Xiao's movements were no slower. He gathered the remainder of the mechanical army and launched attacks at Wuornos.

At the same time, controlling the Mechanical Deity, he charged forward and struck with his spear.

At this time, another mechanical spear stopped in the path of Han Xiao's spear, the tips of the spears clashed.

Bang! A powerful psionic shockwave erupted, the two spears stacked together and stopped each other.

"Your opponent is me."

The fake Mechanical Deity with Wuornos' face spoke coldly.

"Yo, you can even speak."

Han Xiao's eyes gleamed. He suddenly twisted the handle of the spear. The spear started spinning rapidly. Tremendous energy erupted and instantly pushed the other spear away. Then, like a drill, it penetrated into the fake Mechanical Deity's chest. Compressed psionic energy gushed out from the tip of the spear, launching flesh and metal everywhere.

However, like it had no sense of pain, the fake Mechanical Deity instantly retaliated, swinging its heavy spear forward. Seeing this, Han Xiao pulled back his spear and blocked it. Blinding electronic arcs exploded from the point of contact, and the powerful force pushed Han Xiao back.

Han Xiao looked up and saw that the fake Mechanical Deity had a gory wound on its chest that almost went all the way through his body. However, the next moment, the flesh and machines near the wound started to move and slowly grew back.

Han Xiao tutted. "Tsk, as expected, it's as difficult to kill as me."

His own extraordinary regenerative ability was also duplicated by this God Embodiment. The fake Mechanical Deity had an Indestructible Body. Only a few abilities were not duplicated. Although its strength was a lot weaker than him, from the way it looked, it definitely had an Energy Rank above ten thousand. It was stronger than top-tier Beyond Grade As like Clotti and Oulou, definitely capable of fighting him.

At the same time, the Apostle Weapons who were all wounded started to focus fire at Wuornos' original body, and attacks rained like a storm.

Wuornos calmly put his hands together like he was praying. Colorful spiritual lights appeared on his body and rapidly expanded, turning into bright symbols, forming an enormous protective shield, and protecting him from the rain of attacks.

He separated his hands. Eight faint-gold spiritual lights appeared and jumped into his mouth.

The next moment, eight God Embodiments with varied appearances detached from Wuornos' body, all giving off the presence of powerful Beyond Grade As. They charged toward the mechanical troops around and displayed their strength.

"I'll have to worship these again when I get back."

Wuornos shook his head. Having summoned eight God Embodiments at once, he felt a little heartache.

A few days ago, when he got urgently summoned, he had harvested the 'deifications' of about ten God sculptures from the Temple of Ten Thousand Gods and stored them in the church's 'National Treasure' in his body. When he had to fight, he could summon the God Embodiments any time. If there was no need to fight, he could put the 'deifications' back.

He was the only one who knew that every time he summoned the God Embodiments from the God sculptures in the Temple of Ten Thousand Gods, it would consume the 'deifications' in these God sculptures that took a long time to accumulate, and he would not be able to summon another God Embodiment from the same sculpture again in a short time. The Gold sculptures' 'deifications' would only recover through praying and worshipping for a very long time. Only then would he be able to summon God Embodiments from them again.

The strength of these God Embodiments also relied on how many 'deifications' their sculptures had, and accumulating 'deifications' was extremely troublesome and time consuming. To him, the Temple of Ten Thousand Gods he was stationed at was his weapon inventory, and the God sculptures were his ammo... However, he liked to think of the Temple of Ten Thousand Gods more as a farm, every God sculpture as a crop that needed to be taken care of every day. Unless absolutely necessary, he did not want to harvest any crops.

Knowing himself well, he knew he could not easily grant eight God Embodiments at once easily. However, the Church National Treasure already fused with him perfectly. Even if he did not use it actively, the passive bonuses it gave him still increased the strength of his ability to an unbelievable height.

Han Xiao narrowed his eyes, suddenly charged forward with his body, and knocked the fake Mechanical Deity away. Drill-shaped machinery shot out from his waist and bit onto the fake Mechanical Deity's waist like charge cabins. The Psionic Deterioration modules were activated immediately, absorbing the fake Mechanical Deity's energy.

As the fake Mechanical Deity was restrained, Han Xiao suddenly turned and swung his spear toward Wuornos. He planned to target him first.

Seeing this, Wuornos released two more God Embodiments. This time, these two God Embodiments did not materialize but melted and fused with Wuornos as if he was possessed.

His energy presence suddenly rocketed. He raised his energy-covered arms in front of him, not dodging the attack at all.

The next moment, the heavy spear swept onto him like a truck ramming toward an ant.

Clank!

An enormous shockwave exploded. However, the result was completely different from when Clotti got sent flying.

Wuornos' hands remained in the same position; his body did not even move back a single inch. Instead, the enormous mechanical spear was stopped. It was as if the ant had stopped an entire truck.

Wuornos glanced at Han Xiao and did not say anything. He only put down his hands and slowly backed off, as if he did not take the attack earlier seriously at all and was not worried about Han Xiao continuing to attack him.

"It's tough to beat, as expected of the National Treasure of the church..."

Han Xiao frowned.

According to the description of someone who knew about the church's National Treasure, it had the trait of 'Unbreakable' and extremely high resistance, which were given to Wuornos too.

God only knew what percentage of Wuornos' strength came from the church's National Treasure. Fighting with him was not just that but also fighting with the pinnacle technology of a Universal Civilization!

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Therefore, when Beyond Grade As were compared with each other, they rarely ever considered Wuornos because it would simply be unfair!

At this time, the fake Mechanical Deity got rid of his restraints and pounced at Han Xiao again, dragging his Mechanical Deity back.

Having fought for six days and six nights, Han Xiao was not at his peak. His mechanical army had suffered heavy casualties; most of it had been sent into the Dimension Factory for repairs. At this point, only about twenty percent of his army still had combat capabilities. Plus, all of them had gone through a few times of Waste Modifications. In the face of Wuornos' many God Embodiments, the battle was getting tough. Dealing with the fake Mechanical Deity's attacks, Han Xiao glanced at the worsening situation on the battlefield and narrowed his eyes.

"Wuornos indeed deserves the praise. Looks like it's going to be a tough fight... Luckily, I have more things up my sleeve!"

In the three Universal Civilizations' main ship, Clotti and the other direct Beyond Grade As had already finished attending to their wounds. They were all gathered at the bridge watching the intense fight between Black Star and Wuornos.

Seeing how Wuornos could match up with Black Star who fought all of them alone, they all felt bitter.

"How many years has it been since we saw God's Chosen fight? He's still extraordinarily strong." Guzar sighed.

“Humph, if I had a Universal Treasure as strong as the church’s National Treasure, I could be that strong.” Oulou’s tone was sour.

“That’s given that the Federation of Light can build one like it.” Francisco shrugged.

“Who you looking down at?” Verena snorted.

They chatted casually, slightly flushing away the heavy atmosphere.

Oulou turned around, realized that Clotti was not speaking, and said, “We fought Black Star for six days and nights, exhausting him. Now that Wuornos has come out to fight him alone, maybe he just wants to have the fruit of victory for himself. If he defeats Black Star, not only will he gain all the reputation, we’ll even be his steppingstone. Aren’t you angry about that?”

Clotti glanced at him and said with a poker face, “I don’t care about these trivialities, as long as the mission given to us is completed. As for who defeats Black Star in the end, it doesn’t matter.”

“Tsk. If words get out that Wuornos defeated someone we couldn’t even defeat together, we’ll be humiliated. You might not care about face, but I do!” Oulou clenched his teeth.

Clotti gave him a weird look and said, “You fled with your tail tucked between your legs after fighting Black Star alone. Your face is already non-existent. What are you talking about?”

“... F\*ck!”

Oulou wanted to argue, but a change suddenly occurred!

Suddenly, an even stronger energy presence suddenly exploded from Black Star. His energy readings rocketed visibly, breaking the record every second!

Black Star’s Mechanical Deity’s strength soared. The next second, the enormous fake Mechanical Deity was thrown out into the formation of the three Universal Civilizations’ fleet, toppling rows of battleships!

As if they were on steroids, the Apostle Weapons and the mechanical troops’ power suddenly shot up. The God Embodiments that were originally overwhelming them suddenly could barely fight back, and their wounds grew rapidly.

Then, Han Xiao turned around and slashed down with his spear. The one God Embodiment he attacked instantly shattered and turned into light particles, as if it suddenly evaporated!

“Hmm?” Wuornos’ calm expression disappeared immediately.

The sudden change startled Clotti, Oulou, and the other direct Beyond Grade As. Their sights were instantly attracted by Han Xiao. Everyone opened their eyes the widest, their faces filled with shock.

He became stronger? He clearly held back earlier! At this point, they shockingly realized one thing, and shivers shot up their spines. “We fought with all we had for six days and six nights, yet we couldn’t even make him go all out!”

**Chapter 1307 Defeat**

Boom!

Wild thunder raged like dragons, dancing around Han Xiao.

The mechanical spear turned into an enormous bolt of lightning and struck again, targeting another red God Embodiment.

Restrained by the Apostle Weapons, this red God Embodiment could not dodge the attack in time. It hastily went into a defensive stance and knocked the side of the shield with its hammer. The shield instantly lit up and released an energy shield that enlarged thousands of times, blocking in front of the spear.

Bang!

The spear crashed onto the shield. The shield that looked indestructible shattered instantly like a fragile piece of paper. A shockwave expanded in a flash and triggered a loud explosion in everyone's mind like the sound of glass shattering.

With an enormous bolt of lightning, a light beam-like shockwave released from the tip of the spear. With this one attack, half of this God Embodiment's body was instantly shattered!

At this time, Wuornos teleported from afar, focused his strength at his elbow and deviated the direction of the spear, dodging the second round of damage. He then dragged the heavily damaged God Embodiment aside, saving it at the last point.

Wuornos sized Han Xiao up once again. Feeling the even stronger energy presence of the Mechanical Deity, complicated feelings flashed past his eyes.

"Is this your full strength? Looks like I still underestimated you... No, I should say you hid your strength too well, just like the rumors. No one really knows just how many trump cards you have and where your limit is."

"Why have I never heard of this rumor?" Han Xiao replied casually. While he had been fighting with the three Universal Civilizations, he had been suppressing the impulse to use his Character Summon Cards, all to make sure he could use them if Wuornos showed up.

Wuornos could summon Gods, but he had Character Summon Cards too.

He had activated double Mechanical Sense and double the Ancient Ones, instantly entering into his explosive state. If he had activated the Character Summon Cards earlier, the three Universal Civilizations' direct members probably would not have lasted as long as six days. Even if they could, there would have been many more of them dead in his hands.

"A hundred years is just a blink of an eye to Beyond Grade As; it's no more than a child's age. Yet, at such a young age, you've obtained such extraordinary strength... There has never been anyone in recorded history who was as talented as you are. I can hardly imagine just how bright your future is."

Wuornos sighed, took out his last few God Embodiments, and sent them into the battlefield to fight the mechanical army.

He had brought more than a dozen God Embodiments this time. Initially, he did not want to use the rest of them, but the situation now did not allow him to do that.

“Just a few? They’re probably far from enough to defeat me.” Han Xiao raised his brows.

These God Embodiments had varied abilities. Although they all had high level Beyond Grade A’s strength, they had a common weakness too—they were comparatively more fragile. His strength in the explosive state exceeded the knowledge of ordinary people. He could easily crush high-level Beyond Grade As. As long as these God Embodiments did not have any special defense, dodge, or regenerative abilities, he could shatter them in seconds. It was much easier than dealing with those direct Beyond Grade As with multiple Universal Treasures.

“Try me.”

Wuornos held his hands together. His body suddenly expanded and enlarged, turning into a giant. Earlier, his size compared to Han Xiao’s Mechanical Deity was like an ant and a mountain. Now, he was the same size as Han Xiao’s Mechanical Deity.

Despite how large he became, the Grand Priest robe on his body was not torn but expanded with his body. Magic circuits that filled all of its surface started lighting up. Clearly, it was Universal Treasure-level enchanted equipment; only then did he not have to go nude in front of the entire universe.

This guy can grow bigger?

Han Xiao’s eyes gleamed. This was not mentioned in the intelligence he had.

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As if he saw Han Xiao’s doubts, Wuornos slowly explained, “My God’s Trait Transformation has already reached the maximum. My Giant blood is at its peak. This is my first time using this ability.”

Having trained in the Arcane Church for many years, as the church’s National Treasure and his own ability were related to divinity, his God’s Trait Transformation progressed countless times faster than the other peak Beyond Grade As. He had completed both God’s Trait Transformation routes long ago, but he had never told anyone.

Wuornos had the Giant bloodline, so the God’s Trait Transformation on his race’s side tremendously enhanced his Giant blood, turning it into the most optimized form. It was as if all the pros of the Race Evolution were gathered into one.

“Your luck is really incredible. Not only is your ability a perfect fit, but you even received the support of the church.” Han Xiao frowned.

This b\*stard was probably a protagonist-type character who most likely had Advanced Luck Glow, only he kept a low profile for countless years and hid his true strength. It was like he was the monk who swept the floors of a temple.

He looked at Wuornos’s empty hands and said, “Are you planning to keep fighting me with your fists?”

Hearing this, Wuornos remained silent for a while, sighed, and said, “... You have already sealed up my weapon.”

Han Xiao was stunned for a second, then it occurred to him.

Damn, the Ten Thousand Deity Scepter is this b\*stard's equipment!

Specifically, Wuornos only shared the right to use it; the Ten Thousand Deity Scepter still belonged to the Arcane Church. Sadly, it was sealed up by the Spacetime Amber. It made sense. This Universal Treasure also matched Wuornos' ability perfectly. It would not be weird for the church to let him use it... only he did not have the chance to use it now.

At this time, the fake Mechanical Deity finally returned to the battlefield after being blasted away in the fleet's formation. It pounced at Han Xiao fearlessly, clearly very headstrong.

Han Xiao turned around. The mechanical spear shapeshifted rapidly as if it had turned into a whip. He swung it backward, stirring up bright lightning bolts everywhere.

In the explosive state, the speed of strength of the Mechanical Deity increased tremendously. This attack was as fast as lightning; it instantly swept onto the fake Mechanical Deity's waist, almost cutting it half, sending it away flying and rolling once again.

A scorching wave of energy came from behind. Han Xiao turned around and placed his spear horizontally, stopping Wuornos' fist.

Boom!

A shockwave erupted!

The strength of both sides clashed. Han Xiao's thrusters operated at the maximum power output, gaining the upper hand and slowly pushing into Wuornos. "The giant blood is quite strong indeed. Your strength is comparable to a Pugilist." Han Xiao snorted.

"And you."

Wuornos suddenly retracted his fist. The next second, afterimages of his fists filled Han Xiao's sights.

Not willing to take a step back, Han Xiao spun his spear and blocked each attack accurately. Shockwaves exploded in the cosmic space continuously.

This time, the fake Mechanical Deity returned and joined the battle again, then got blown away once more before charging back to the battle time and again. Wuornos had the church's National Treasure to protect his body, while the fake Mechanical Deity inherited his own super strong regenerative abilities. Currently, the only breakthrough point in the battlefield was the other God Embodiments, which was what Han Xiao was planning to target exactly. Only, he was stopped by the two giants and had no choice but to endure their attacks to eliminate the God Embodiments.

As the battle reached this stage, there were no more shortcuts to be found, only head-on combat. The battle had already reached the climax.

Watching the live footage, the hearts of countless galactic residents rose to their throats as they watched the screen with all their attention.

"What a powerful Beyond Grade A, he must be the ace of the three Universal Civilizations!"

“God bless, please let Black Star be defeated... This is probably our last hope.”

The galactic residents secretly prayed. Meanwhile, the players were thrilled, completely the opposite of the galactic residents.

“Aiyo, I know this. The boss has entered stage two!”

“Clear the minions before fighting the boss, Old Black knows his dungeons.”

“Anyone betting? I’m betting 30,000 Enas on Old Black, anyone?”

The many army players discussed the fight with excitement. The forums were already filled with the videos of those who were at the scene. The edited footage and recordings of Han Xiao’s battle in the past few days had filled up more than ten pages, like it was an incredible VFX movie.

In the main ship of the three Universal Civilizations’ fleet, the many direct Beyond Grade As looked outside the porthole with bitter expressions.

“I never thought Black Star held back against us... If he’d used this power earlier, many people in this room would probably not be breathing now.” Verena smiled bitterly. Hearing this, many Beyond Grade As glanced at her and felt complicated. Originally, they thought they could at the very least match up to Black Star together. However, the truth was, that was only what they thought. Not only were they exhausted from fighting Black Star, they even had to appreciate Black Star for not going all out...

Having realized that, their mood became even heavier, and their confidence was severely damaged.

Having held back for a very long time, Oulou finally squeezed two words out between his teeth.

“Two monsters!”

Even as a peak Beyond Grade A, Oulou had to admit that these two people were terrifyingly strong. Not only was Black Star crazily powerful, but Wuornos was much stronger than many years ago. The two of them had surpassed the others and were on a completely different level from them.

This time, Guzar frowned and said, “There’s only two days left till the warning period ends. Are we really going to let them fight one on one and watch?”

Hearing this, Clotti said seriously, “Of course not! When the warning period is about to end, we’ll all strike together.

Just ignore Wuornos, we must defeat Black Star no matter what, so get to recovering as fast as possible. If Wuornos still can’t settle the battle by tomorrow, we’ll have to fight again.”

The others nodded solemnly.

Time passed quickly. Under countless pairs of eyes, Han Xiao already fought intensely with Wuornos for more than a day, the situation was already becoming clear.

Han Xiao finally eliminated all the God Embodiments except for the fake Mechanical Deity, and he paid a ton of mechanical troops as the price for that.

Although he was restrained by Wuornos and the fake Mechanical Deity, in his explosive state, his attributes were clearly superior. He continuously broke through the two of them, ignoring his injuries and eliminating the God Embodiments one after another, causing the strength difference between two sides to increase as time went on, making the situation easier and easier for him.

The last few God Embodiments were not even killed by him personally but by the mechanical troops and the Apostle Weapons. The remaining mechanical troops were already free to surround Wuornos and the fake Mechanical Deity, the only ones left.

Clank!

The two of them clashed once again. Wuornos moved back a certain distance, casually blasting away an Apostle Weapon, and suddenly sighed. "You have killed all the God Embodiments I've brought here today, looks like I can't do much more."

"What, is that it?"

Han Xiao slapped the fake Mechanical Deity away once again and snorted.

"... We're the only two left. We won't be able to decide a winner if we continue." Wuornos shook his head.

"There's only one day left anyway, doesn't matter to me."

Han Xiao did not mind it.

Although he had killed all the God Embodiments, he could neither penetrate the church's National Treasure nor eliminate the fake Mechanical Deity, and Wuornos could not threaten his life either.

Conservatively, he could still fight Wuornos for half a month or so without resting.

"If that's the case, we'll call it here," Wuornos said softly.

"You think you can make the call?" Han Xiao curled his lips.

Wuornos glanced at him and softly giggled. His enormous body shrank back to his original size, and he opened the public channel.

"I'm no match for you. I admit my loss."

Han Xiao was stunned. He did not expect Wuornos to do this.

Admitting loss in front of the public went against the direct Beyond Grade As' goal of fighting for the three Universal Civilizations. Plus, no one showed any signs of defeat at this point; it was a tie at most. Why did he admit defeat?

Wuornos snapped his finger. The fake Mechanical Deity suddenly stopped and then exploded from the inside. He got rid of this God Embodiment on the spot.

Han Xiao frowned, raised his hand, and made the mechanical army stop attacking.

"...What are you doing?"

Wuornos disconnected from the public channel, looked at Han Xiao with a meaningful expression, and said, "Black Star, you're the most talented Super to have ever existed. You have the highest possibility of opening the gate to that next territory. Like I said in the beginning, I don't want to be your enemy."

"What is the meaning of this? Aren't you afraid of the Arcane Church having problems with you because you admitted your loss in front of the public?" Han Xiao frowned even harder.

"I've already done what I can. As for my goal... maybe you'll find out one day."

Wuornos gave him a strange smile, turned around, and flew toward the three Universal Civilizations' fleet.

Han Xiao made the mechanical army open a path and did not stop him. He silently stared at Wuornos' shrinking back view and realized that he had no understanding of Wuornos' personality and mindset.

In Han Xiao's previous life, both Dark Lord and Oulou died in the World Tree War; only Wuornos never even participated in it. Han Xiao would never believe for a second that the Arcane Church did not give him any orders. He had no way of knowing what this guy was really thinking

... Never mind, I can't guess what he's thinking. I got the mission reward, anyway.

Han Xiao exhaled, opened the interface, and looked at it with a satisfied smile.

The Beyond Grade A Challenge Mission for Wuornos was shown as 'completed'.

He retrieved the mechanical army, deactivated the Mechanical Deity, sat on a new Divine Mechanical Throne, looked at the three Universal Civilizations' fleet, and said in the public channel, "Who's next?"

As he said that, the entire channel went dead silent.

As soon as Wuornos returned to the main ship, the many direct Beyond Grade A surrounded him with rather hostile looks.

"How could you admit loss publicly!" Clotti questioned loudly.

"I couldn't win, so of course, I admitted my loss," Wuornos replied casually.

"You think we're all blind?" Verena said with an angry tone. "You showed no signs of defeat at all. You could've totally fought Black Star for much longer!"

Wuornos glanced at her and coldly said, "Then what? Keep fighting like this till the end of the warning period? I seem to recall I said I was going to fight Black Star alone, but you guys were going to ignore my request and were planning to fight him together, weren't you?"

Hearing this, they immediately did not know what to say.

"I can guess what you guys are planning to do with my eyes closed."

Seeing this, Wuornos shook his head, pushed his way through the crowd, and left.

He did not want to participate in the battle to begin with. Originally, he wanted to watch till the end. However, the church had given him an absolute order, and he had no choice but to fight.

However, Wuornos did not plan to defeat Black Star. What he really wanted was to see and experience Black Star's true strength, do his best to fight him to the extent that it was enough to give the church some results.

He was not lying about respecting Black Star, but he did not admit loss because of that. It was because of another reason.

Wuornos did not want to stop the three Universal Civilizations and the Beyond Grade A Association from starting a war; he wished to see it happen instead!

This was his core motive!

For many years, Wuornos had been stuck at an invisible ceiling. He realized that no matter what, his strength could barely grow anymore. It was as if there was some kind of higher power that prevented him from stepping into that higher territory of power

He believed that only competition and pressure could breed the strong. Back during the exploration era, Supers slaughtered each other every second. Only then were the Beyond Grade As born. When the first Primordial One appeared, like a signal, more and more Beyond Grade As appeared one after another.

From the way he looked at it, the evolution of individual greatness might require an extremely talented pioneer to break that ceiling. Only then would the others be able to follow and enjoy the benefits.

This was how Black Star, whose growth rate broke every record, had entered his sights. Black Star was the person who had the highest possibility of becoming that pioneer in his eyes.

Wuornos did not like the peaceful atmosphere of the Beyond Grade A Association; he liked to see Beyond Grade As fight everyday more, breeding stronger individuals. Hence, the three Universal Civilizations targeting the association matched with his goal. In this respect, Wuornos had the same fanaticism as EsGod, only he took a different path. Compared to EsGod's selfish style, Wuornos hoped to see the entire universe's strong individuals working hard.

After all, given the mechanics of his ability, the stronger individuals there were in the universe, the stronger his peak strength would be.

All kinds of thoughts flashed past his thoughts, Wuornos closed his eyes and thought, I'll give you this reputation today. Let me see how far you can go.

At the same time, the image of Wuornos admitting loss was broadcast to countless people.

At this moment, the hope that had just been rekindled was completely extinguished.

All the galactic residents who were hoping to see Black Star defeated collapsed onto their seats and looked hopeless.

Not a single person in the entire three Universal Civilizations could defeat Black Star. Even by shamelessly fighting him in groups, they still lost. Embarrassing!

Before long, the countless galactic residents turned from pessimistic to nervous. They knew that today was the last day of the warning period given by the three Universal Civilizations. If neither side decided to take a step back, a war was most likely going to break out!

Seeing that there was no hope, many galactic residents suddenly stopped worrying. They started to vent their rage born from powerlessness and fear online, as well as the hatred toward Black Star for not 'losing like they wanted'.

Suddenly, support for the three Universal Civilizations grew tremendously once again. No longer were they hoping to stop the war; they went in the complete opposite direction, almost supportive of starting a war. They only had one core reason... for the three Universal Civilizations to crush the Beyond Grade A Association and clear the unstable factor of the galactic society!

### **Chapter 1308 Change**

The loss of hope, increase of fear and panic were always accompanied by rage. Wuornos' act of admitting defeat caused public opinion to explode. They had been looking forward to the three Universal Civilizations sending someone to break Black Star's arrogance. However, reality shattered their illusion. No one could defeat Black Star. The many galactic residents were both afraid and angry, then their humiliation turned into rage.

Okay, you're strong as a person, no one in the three Universal Civilizations can match up to you. But we still have fleets; we still have armies! I don't believe we can't deal with you! Since the three Universal Civilizations had lost in terms of individual power, tons of galactic residents turned to believe in the three Universal Civilizations' collective strength. They found a new excuse to convince themselves and took it as a new source of confidence.

It was already the last day of the warning period. The public opinion had become extreme in supporting the three Universal Civilizations to wipe out the association.

"The Beyond Grade A Association is nothing but a civilian organization. How dare they fight with the three Universal Civilizations? It's clearly a criminal act. Think about it, the government wants to control you, and if you don't obey, isn't that violating the law? What, just because you founded a civilian organization, you can ignore the law? What makes you think you can do that? Just because you are strong?" "All things aside, the Beyond Grade As have always been unstable factors. They enjoy the privileges but don't take the laws of the galaxy seriously. They should either all be monitored by civilizations or killed! That way, they won't endanger society; today will be a lesson!"

"Hehe, Beyond Grade As are just representatives of the Supers. All Supers should be monitored and controlled; only then can order be maintained. Just think about how many crimes are related to the Supers. Without them, society would be a much better place!"

Ever since the appearance of the Sanctum Revival, the three Universal Civilizations had been guiding the public opinion and deliberately inciting the conflicting emotions between the ordinary people and the Supers. This had lasted for more than a year. These suppressed emotions kept getting tighter. At this turning point, the dissatisfaction the tons of civilians had toward the Supers finally erupted.

Countless galactic residents vented their rage without restraint, hoping all the Beyond Grade As and Super would just die.

Although this was very extreme, it was the true feelings of some galactic residents. Their genes dictated the fact that they would be ordinary their entire life, which was more depressing and impossible to cross than the difference between the rich and the poor. Almost all of them had a certain amount of hatred

and frustration toward their destiny. When given the chance, most people would not mind expressing their hatred toward Supers.

However, the raging comments online meant absolutely nothing to Han Xiao; it had zero impact on what he was going to do.

Han Xiao sat in the middle of the battlefield and looked at the three Universal Civilizations' joint fleet. After Wuornos admitted his defeat, the other direct members seemed to have gone silent. Shockingly, they did not meaninglessly fight him again on this last day of the warning period.

"Looks like they've finally got a grip of the situation."

Han Xiao let out a deep breath.

All things considered, this was quite a successful decision. After keeping a low profile for many years, he had shocked the world once again and showed the universe his overwhelming strength, not only giving the association members confidence but also affecting the enemies' morale.

At this time, the mechanical suit's communicator rang. It was a call from Manison.

"... Your growth always exceeds my expectations."

Manison felt complicated. He was shocked by Han Xiao's strength and could not help but feel sour.

"It's alright, nothing extraordinary." Han Xiao took a humble approach.

Uh huh, still as shameless as always.

Manison was speechless for a moment. He then adjusted his emotions and said curiously, "Your Mechanical Deity is a little different. Is it new technology? There seem to be signs of the Felon technology in it."

"Uh huh, I did use some of the Felon technology." Han Xiao nodded and admitted

Manison fell silent.

Ah, another trump card got stolen by Black Star...

My heart hurts!

He wanted to get angry, but to his complete despair, he realized he was used to his abilities being stolen... Taking a deep breath, Manison stabilized his mood and said with a low voice, "What's the principle of this technology? Can you share it with me?"

"Sure, I can, but you won't be able to learn it..." Han Xiao shrugged. "This technology was tailor made for me. You need to have an extremely strong physique to learn it, but you're too fragile."

Isn't it normal for Mechanics to have a fragile body? You're the only exception.

Manison pressed on his heart, calmed himself down, and did not want to continue discussing this subject.

He then changed the topic and said with a serious tone, "Today is the last day of the warning period. I'm ready for a war. How are things on your side?"

Han Xiao nodded. "The association's members are already stationed at the key strategic areas of the various Star Fields. Some people might have already started making moves."

"War is a shortcut toward peace. After today, let's hope the generations will extend in our hands." Manison sighed.

Han Xiao curled his lips.

After a few words, Manison was about to hang up the communication when he suddenly thought of something.

"Erm... my spear broke, but the other Universal Treasures I lent to you didn't. You put them all away. When will you be returning them to me?"

"Hey, come on, what's our relationship? Would I just take your Universal Treasure like that? What kind of person do you think I am?" Han Xiao complained.

Manison snorted instantly.

You don't do anything that's related to being a person, yet you ask me what kind of person you are?

You're not a person at all!

"Just tell me when you'll return them."

"When I'm done... ahem, after the three Universal Civilizations' fleet retreats, I'll give them back to you when I have the time."

Excuse me, you were going to say you'll return them after you're done studying them, weren't you!

Manison snorted and turned off the communication.

His temper was already depleted by Han Xiao, and after knowing him for so many years, he was mentally prepared for this long ago.

Just what I expected from you, Black Star!

Han Xiao turned off the communication. Seeing that the three Universal Civilizations were not making any moves, he opened the interface and looked at the mission reward.

Fighting the direct members of the three Universal Civilizations did not trigger individual Challenge Missions but instead triggered the sparring kind of mission like when he sparred with Joey and his friends. The mission reward relied on how long he lasted. The highest Mission Rating gave seven Character Summon Cards and five chances to draw abilities or talents from a target of his choice.

As for the duel with Wuornos, it triggered the regular Beyond Grade A Challenge Mission. The rewards were one Character Summon Card and one chance to draw his ability or talent.

"Looks like I won in the end."

Han Xiao felt much better.

With a war around the corner, he was quite tempted. However, after thinking about it, he still suppressed his impulses.

His goal of intimidating the enemies was already achieved. If a war were to break out the next day and the three Universal Civilizations' joint fleet attacked, all the direct members would most likely strike too. Of course, Han Xiao would not be facing them alone. Therefore, he was not in a hurry to accept the mission rewards.

"If only I could make the three Universal Civilizations take a step back..."

Han Xiao shook his head and thought of an idea he had some time ago. He caressed the communicator, hesitating on whether or not to call the leaders of the three Universal Civilizations and tell them about the World Tree Civilization, shifting the conflict away.

The most ideal situation would, of course, be the three Universal Civilizations believing what he said, temporarily lowering their hostility and working together with him against the external enemy. Although this would cause the World Tree war to arrive in advance, it would save a huge portion of the explored universe's strength... However, given the current uptight situation and the relationship between the two sides, he felt there was an extremely low chance the three Universal Civilizations' leaders would believe him. They would most likely think it was an excuse to avoid admitting defeat or a made-up reason for both sides to take a step back.

If he could not convince the three Universal Civilizations' leaders, a war would still break out, and the three Universal Civilizations would very likely secretly investigate the authenticity of the information about the World Tree Civilization. Not only would the explored universe lose a ton of military power, but the World Tree war would still arrive in advance, meaning the three Universal Civilizations would have close to no time to recover before facing such a powerful enemy. Therefore, Han Xiao was hesitating. It was almost impossible for him to predict the butterfly effects this move might cause.

"Sigh, tough."

In the online chat room of the Beyond Grade A Association, the remote projections of a group of Beyond Grade As gathered. Shock still remained on some of their faces.

"Even Wuornos can't defeat Black Star... It's hard to believe how strong he's become after not showing his strength for just a few decades."

"Black Star is really an unbelievable guy. I thought he would lose this time. Who could've predicted he would actually hold on?"

"Fighting the three Universal Civilizations alone, suppressing all direct members. I would never have believed this is true if I didn't see it with my own eyes!"

The many Beyond Grade As discussed excitedly.

They had watched the broadcast of Black Star fighting the three Universal Civilizations' direct members alone from the start to the end, feeling more astonished each day. After Wuornos admitted his defeat, all of them were dumbfounded.

Even Wuornos, who was recognized by all as the strongest cheater, could not defeat Han Xiao, astounded the entire Beyond Grade A circle. In their eyes, this crown no longer belonged to Wuornos and was shifted to Black Star's head...

Not only was he the president of the Beyond Grade A Association, but he was also undoubtedly the strongest Beyond Grade A, which made his position as the president even more deserved.

"Seeing how strong Black Star is, I'm less concerned." Kasuyi relaxed.

Many people nodded and smiled.

The three Universal Civilizations had tons of trump cards. Many association members had been worried that something might happen to Black Star, which would lead to no one being able to use the Sanctum Revival, and that would be very unfortunate for them. Seeing that Black Star was unbelievably strong, many people were relieved.

Kasuyi looked around, wiped the smile off his face, and said with a serious tone, "Alright, don't get too relaxed. Today is the last day of the warning period. Everyone, be ready and standby. Wait for Black Star to teleport us over for war!"

Hearing this, the expressions of the others also became serious. Sun Hunter pulled the bolt of his gun, snorted, and said, "Finally, my big cannon is thirsting for blood!"

In the three Universal Civilizations' joint conference room, Marbruce, Louis, and the church pope looked at the screen. Their expressions were furious.

Marbruce hit the table heavily and said with a tone filled with dissatisfaction, "Ridiculous! All of our direct members can't even take down one Black Star. How are we going to deal with the other Beyond Grade As?"

"Their loss has embarrassed the entire civilization! We've become stepping stones for Black Star's reputation!" Louis was furious.

"We can't really blame them. Black Star is illogically strong."

The pope frowned tightly. He was very unhappy with Wuornos' act of admitting defeat, but what was done was done. There was no use in blaming Wuornos now. He was a little bit regretful of forcing Wuornos to leave the Temple of Ten Thousand Gods to participate in this.

Looking at Black Star, who sat in the middle of two sides, the three of them suddenly felt powerless, angry, and frustrated.

In terms of individual strength, they really had no ways of dealing with Black Star. Even the three of them were out of ideas.

"The only way to deal with him now is through armies and war weapons..." Louis looked at the other two with a serious expression. "Once the warning period ends, we'll start a war instantly. Are you two absolutely sure about this?"

“This day would’ve come sooner or later. I only regret how late we made up our minds to do this. We’ve let the Beyond Grade As roam and grow freely for too long. That’s how they’ve turned into such huge threats,” the pope said slowly.

“We’re already here. There’s no way we’re going to go back on our word.” Marbruce nodded.

“Okay. Pass the order down to your armies at the various locations to execute as planned...”

Before he finished, the sound of an urgent alert from a communicator suddenly rang in the room.

Louis stopped and looked at Marbruce. It came from his communicator.

Marbruce took out the communicator and looked at it. It was an urgent report from the dynasty’s main artificial intelligence, Heroic Soul.

The reports of the various departments were all analyzed by the main artificial intelligence, then given to different departments to take care of depending on their priority level. Given how the main artificial intelligence sent this to him even during his meeting with the other two leaders, it meant that from the main artificial intelligence’s judgement, this message was extremely urgent.

“What report is th... hmm?”

Marbruce’s expression changed drastically the moment he saw the title of the report. He then finished reading it in silence.

He pondered for about half a minute before turning to look at the other two.

“You guys might need to take a look at this...”

On this last day of the warning period, the timer passed in an extremely uneasy atmosphere. Seconds felt like years to all the soldiers present and countless galactic residents watching the broadcast.

As the last moment of the warning period got closer, the fleets of the three Universal Civilizations and the Beyond Grade A Association started to fidget. The atmosphere kept getting more and more intense.

In the Black Star Army’s fleet, the tons of army players were filled with anticipation.

“It’s here! It’s here! War!”

“I’ve seen more than enough cutscenes. The main storyline is finally about to begin.”

“For the army!”

The army players could not wait for the two sides to start fighting.

One reason was that they loved to see a chaotic world and hoped to participate in the main storyline. Another reason was that many people saw the comments online too and realized that there were so many people insulting, condemning, and scolding them, the ‘Immortals’.

Of course, many players were quite enraged by that.

However, at the same time, they also had a deeper understanding of the ‘Calamity of the Supers’ mission name, as well as the conflict between the ordinary and the Supers.

As Supers, the players who had a lot of interest in the storyline were exhilarated. They felt like the curtains of the new era were unfolding right in front of their eyes.

“All crews, prepare for combat!” The voice of the commander spread in the battleships. Countless warriors tightened their body and looked at the clock.

In this apprehensive wait, time passed seconds by seconds as it got closer to the end of the warning period. The hearts of the soldiers of both sides and countless galactic residents were all at their throat.

In this extremely intense atmosphere, the three Universal Civilizations’ joint fleet suddenly moved.

Without any warning, the entire joint fleet suddenly moved back, leaving the conflict area batch by batch.

This stunned the Beyond Grade A Association’s armies and all the galactic residents. They were lost.

The warning period is almost here. Why did the three Universal Civilizations suddenly retreat? Plus, without saying anything?

Didn’t they firmly say they’ll never give in? Why did they go back on their word all of a sudden?

On the quantum network, the comments calling for the three Universal Civilizations to wipe out the association suddenly went silent. As they realized that things did not go as they imagined, they suddenly did not know what to do.

Is it because Black Star defeated all direct Beyond Grade As single-handedly and the three Universal Civilizations are afraid?

It was difficult for them not to think this.

At the same time, a similar speculation also appeared in many people’s minds.

“Could it be that the three Universal Civilizations only wanted to intimidate the association, scare them, and pressure them into compromising to begin with? And once they realized this method is useless against the association, they could not continue the show and retreated like a coward on the last day of the warning period that was claimed by themselves!”

Many galactic residents did not know what to say and felt very complicated.

We all supported you guys in wiping out the Beyond Grade A Association and defusing the source of the instability of the galactic society, yet you guys are afraid?

Although not starting a war was fortunate, many people felt embarrassed. Their all-out support for the three Universal Civilizations now felt like a slap to the face, by the three Universal Civilizations themselves.

Han Xiao was also confused by the three Universal Civilizations’ neat retreat too.

After a bit of hesitation, Han Xiao actively called the dynasty ruler. However, it was not picked up, which made him wonder even more.

“They’re retreating just like that? Doesn’t fit them at all. The three Universal Civilizations shouldn’t be this cowardly... or did something happen?”

A few days ago, at the dynasty’s Science Institute, the team members of the wormhole analysis team all gathered in the activity room, watching the fight between Black Star and Clotti’s group on the screen with worried expressions. In the past few days, they had stopped all projects on hand and focused on the developments of this event. This was closely related to their everyday life.

In the crowd, someone softly whispered, “Looks like a war is going to break out...”

Sighs sounded in the room one after another, filled with worries.

All the researchers present opposed starting a war. One reason was that they were worried that their project would be stopped once again when the war started, meaning they would have nothing to do. Another was because as people with virtue, they intuitively opposed wars. “Only if someone could stop this war...” someone softly mumbled.

Hearing this, the project director’s eyes suddenly gleamed. He clenched his teeth, turned around, walked out of the activity room, and returned to his office.

He searched through the database and brought up a special wormhole detection report that he did not have time to submit lately due to how much attention he paid to the recent events.

“I hope this works...”

The project director swallowed his saliva and modified this report, changing the ‘suspected existence of an unknown advanced civilization’ included in the report conclusion into ‘confirmed existence of an unknown Universal Civilization’.

After doing all this, the project director did not send it to the audit department but directly skipped this procedure and submitted it to the dynasty’s main artificial intelligence’s database. He knew that skipping the fixed procedures would definitely get him into trouble.

“No idea if this will work...” the project director mumbled with a worried expression.

In order to stop the possible universal war that might break out, he was willing to do whatever he could in his power.

He was not sure if this trick would work, but he felt that if everyone only watched and did nothing, no change would come.

### **Chapter 1309 A Gamble**

The three Universal Civilizations’ sudden retreat right before the warning period ended completely shocked the entire galactic civilization. Everyone was lost.

The comments supporting the war on the quantum network disappeared, and all kinds of sarcastic comments started to appear instead.

“Yo, weren’t the three Universal Civilizations unshakably firm? What happened?”

“Tsk, looks like that’s what the three Universal Civilizations are. Their dominance is only an act.”

“Y’all still supporting the war? Why don’t you take a look at how much the three Universal Civilizations care about you people?”

Public opinion shifted once again. Looking at these sarcastic comments, the tons of galactic residents were frustrated but had nothing to say.

These sarcastic comments came not just from some Supers who could finally vent their emotions but also from some organizations that were secretly inciting the public opinion. The Super Star Cluster Alliance had always been keeping a low profile, and once they saw the chance, they immediately jumped out to display their traditional skill, sh\*t-stirring.

Compared to the galactic residents, the players were even more dumbfounded.

“Is that it?”

“I watched ten days of cutscenes, and now you’re saying there won’t be a war?”

“What happened to full-out war? Coward!”

Under the fearful sights of the other crews, the many army players yelled, shouted, stomped the floor, and bashed their chests, hating the fact that a war did not break out.

The three Universal Civilizations’ joint fleet turned into closely packed streams of hyperdrive lights and retreated hastily. Seeing this, Manison flew out from the fleet, stood beside Han Xiao, and watched the three Universal Civilizations leave.

“That’s weird. They just left without saying anything?” Manison was confused.

Han Xiao caressed his chin and mumbled, “There’s definitely something wrong with this. The three Universal Civilizations did not bring this many forces here just to put up a show to intimidate us. It’s absolutely certain they were really prepared to start a war. However, they are now retreating even when it means they’re going back on their word, knowing this will cause their reputation to plummet. Something huge must have happened.”

“Hmm... or maybe they really got scared?” Manison said, he shook his head, knowing clearly that the possibility of that was extremely low. “Maybe the three Universal Civilizations thought it through and believe that having an all-out war with the association has more cons than pros? So, they changed their mind... Does that mean the strategic goal of leaking the virus technology worked out?”

“No idea. The three Universal Civilizations should give a response to the galactic society, so let’s just see what they have to say. I’ll try to find out some inside information too... or maybe the three Universal Civilizations will actively contact me after some time.”

Han Xiao’s eyes flashed.

Hearing this, Manison turned to look at him.

“Do you know something?”

“Just some guesses that can’t be confirmed without enough information.”

Han Xiao shook his head.

At this time, the communicator rang. It was from the communication channel of the Beyond Grade A Association. "Black Star, what's going on over there? Do the three Universal Civilizations not want to fight anymore?" "What do they mean by this?"

"Are we going to continue our plan?"

As soon as the call was picked up, the many Beyond Grade As started questioning continuously.

The many association members were confused too. They were all mentally prepared for a bloody war, yet their opponents fled at the last second. It felt like they had bought a sports car and were just about to test it when they saw a cop car beside them, leaving them no choice but to suppress their urges.

"Standby for now. We'll have to see what the three Universal Civilizations are going to do next. But don't let your guard down. It might be a trick. If they really are going to attack, they might use the Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device to launch surprise attacks on key strategic locations directly..."

Han Xiao said a few words, telling the association members to stay on alert, and then hung up the call.

The three Universal Civilizations surrounding the Mechanical Race territory was only a signal; attacking this place was actually not useful at all except for declaring war. He still could not find out what the three Universal Civilizations were planning at this point... Retreating on the surface but charging back later using the Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device was possible, so he had to consider it.

Seeing that Han Xiao had finished the call, Manison said, "What now? The three Universal Civilizations retreated, so should we dismiss the troops here?"

Han Xiao thought about it but shook his head. "Don't dismiss them. Shrink the defense circle, and continue to guard the Mechanical Race territory. Only dismiss the troops when the three Universal Civilizations' joint fleet is confirmed to have left this Star Cluster. I need to make a trip back."

Manison nodded, flew back to the main ship, and sent down the orders.

Han Xiao changed into the King and disappeared.

Swoosh!

The next second, he returned to a secret army base. This was a hideout for some officers who were not participating in battles.

Some army officers and the many members of the Floating Dragon sat in the room, including Ames who was there in case of anything. They were all watching the news broadcast.

Seeing Han Xiao suddenly appearing, the sights of the various officers all focused on him. The admiration and respect in their eyes were not just a little bit stronger than before; it was as if they were looking at a god.

Ames crossed her legs, leaned slightly forward, and pressed her elbows on her knees and her hands under her chin. She tilted her head slightly, letting her soft hair down, and said with a faint smile and a

joking tone, "You've been very manly the past few days." "Don't you know best how manly I am?" Han Xiao raised his brow.

Ames smiled and said, "You should have a lot of things to deal with. What are you doing here?"

"Just came to take a look and make sure everything's okay here."

Han Xiao casually made up an excuse, looked around at the officers, and accurately stopped at Feidin. He immediately smiled, took a few big steps forward, and rubbed him.

With a speechless face, Feidin did not resist at all.

Seeing this, Aesop coughed and said, "You defeated all the three Universal Civilizations' direct members, and even Wuornos could not defeat you. So, they definitely gave up fighting you with individual strength. I don't know if this is part of the reason the three Universal Civilizations retreated, but they don't seem to want to start a war anymore. What are you going to do next?"

Hearing this, Han Xiao said with a serious tone, "I'll first have to figure out what happened. Anyway, don't celebrate yet. If I guessed correctly, things might get even worse from now on."

The ten-day confrontation between the three Universal Civilizations and the association attracted the attention of the entire universe, but not many expected it to end as it did. After the joint fleet retreated, the three Universal Civilizations went completely silent. Not only did they pull back some of the armies they had sent earlier, but they did not even publicly explain the reason for their retreat yet. The public opinions got more and more intense; all kinds of speculations surfaced one after another.

Originally, they all thought this would be the fuse of an all-out war. However, the three Universal Civilizations extinguished this war at the last second, so this confrontation elevated Black Star's reputation. He was now firmly recognized as the strongest Beyond Grade A. If one had to define who the winner was, only Black Star could be considered.

Some were glad that a war did not break out; some furiously condemned the three Universal Civilizations for being cowards; some laughed at the galactic residents for thinking their opinions actually mattered. There were all kinds of opinions, but they all shared one thing in common. They were all curious as to what made the three Universal Civilizations choose to take a step back.

Due to the three Universal Civilizations' silence, no one knew the answer to this question. Even the Beyond Grade A Association did not make an announcement; they were watching silently too. Countless people were intrigued.

The three Universal Civilizations' Joint Conference Room...

"... We've already checked the authenticity of this report multiple times. Through the wormhole detection needles, we did indeed discover signs of activity of an unknown civilization. The data itself is completely legit. Only the conclusion is not fully definitive."

The remote projection of the dynasty's upper echelon in charge of the scientific research stood in front of the three leaders and reported with a serious tone.

"So, we can't confirm that this unknown civilization is a Universal Civilization for the time being?" Marbruce confirmed.

“That... is right. However, they definitely are an advanced civilization. The extensive data collected by the multifunctional spacetime detection needles we have been frequently sending over proves their advanced technology level.”

“... Got it. Continue to collect data while keeping yourselves hidden. I need to know the details of this civilization.”

After a few more words, Marbruce ended the communication. The other two civilizations’ leaders and him were the only ones left in the room.

“Looks like our decision to retreat back then was correct,” the pope said with a deep voice.

“Hmm, or we’d be beleaguered by now. This report came way too timely,” Louis added, a little relieved.

On the last day of the confrontation, they were originally going to strike as planned, but this wormhole report from the dynasty’s Science Institute had shaken their decision.

The three Universal Civilizations had always been exploring the unknown areas of the universe; this wormhole report claimed to have discovered an unknown Universal Civilization, which would be an enormous threat if true.

In this respect, the three Universal Civilizations were very experienced. Once an outside enemy appeared, they had to carefully deal with internal conflicts. This was clearly not a good time to deal with the unbalance of individual strength.

Back then, there was not a lot of time for the three of them to discuss matters. In the end, they decided not to take the risk. They stopped their plan and chose to step back from the association. In turn, they spent tons of resources authenticating this wormhole report. They knew their priorities.

This set of wormhole data was one of the things EsGod had left behind. As EsGod had been sealed for many years, it had become an unimportant project long ago. However, with this astonishing discovery, it became a top-priority project. Its progress was directly monitored by the three Universal Civilizations’ leaders.

The final results were, although the conclusion of this wormhole report was slightly exaggerated, the data was completely legit. An unknown advanced civilization was indeed discovered, only it was not confirmed to be a Universal Civilization.

If it was true... this would be a priceless ‘exaggerated’ conclusion. Marbruce knocked the table and slowly said, “The priority now is to collect information about this unknown civilization and confirm their strength, societal structure, attitude toward outsiders, and so on. Everything else can be put aside for now.”

Louis and the pope nodded.

The three Universal Civilizations had a strategic plan for this kind of situation. No way were they going to directly make contact or start a war. Once they discovered an advanced civilization in the unexplored universe, their top priority was to carefully collect intelligence without exposing their presence. Afterward, only then would they choose different approaches depending on the strength, culture, and many other factors of this civilization.

Although the explored universe had entered the galactic society era, from the entire unexplored universe's perspective, it was still in the 'exploration era'. Discovering the enemy before being discovered was an enormous advantage, so of course, they were going to use it to its fullest potential. "Don't forget to carry out measures against all possible scenarios before exploring further," the pope said.

"I know." Marbruce nodded.

The measures the three of them were speaking of were mainly preparing for war, as well as preparing to send strategic annihilation weapons toward this unknown civilization's territory through the wormhole. In extreme situations, they would not mind directly destroying its territory, turning it into a desolate universe belt, wiping out all lives of this unknown civilization, not showing any mercy at all.

"This matter is extremely important. If a war really breaks out, the Beyond Grade A Association will be a powerful force too. Should we tell them about it now?"

Louis brought up this sensitive question and asked the two of them for their opinions.

Though the existence of Beyond Grade As threatened their rule, they were also a powerful force against outside enemies. Since the situation had changed, their mindset changed too. There was no such thing as an eternal enemy in their eyes.

The pope pondered for a moment, waved, and expressed his opinion.

"Let's just be cautious. We haven't figured out the state of this unknown civilization; there's no need to tell it to the association now. Think about it. If we can coexist with this unknown civilization that happens to be a Universal Civilization, once they take in the galactic society system, the association will have another choice of becoming allies with them, which will impact the structure of the galaxy... We can't guarantee the association's loyalty, so we should keep it a secret for the time being."

"Make sense." Marbruce nodded. "Let's not announce this publicly for now. We'll secretly investigate the situation, then consider whether or not to publicize it depending on the situation. It won't be too late to tell the association about it when we need their help."

From the way the three of them looked at it, there was clearly no need to immediately tell the other organizations about this for now. They were all unstable factors, and who knew what trouble they would cause?

"Since that's the case, let's put aside our conflict with the association first," Louis suggested. "Calm these Beyond Grade As down, don't let them cause any trouble, and make peace with them temporarily... This is their goal too. Find a reason to agree with their goal, relay our intention of stopping the conflict, and make the association think we decided to compromise."

The other two nodded in agreement. Although they could not deal with the association, as long as the Beyond Grade As did not cause troubles, it was enough for them.

At this time, Marbruce suddenly thought of something

If I remember correctly, Black Star has this set of wormhole data left behind by EsGod too. I seem to recall he even specifically asked the dynasty about our progress of studying this set of data...

Now that I think about it, does Black Star know something?

As this thought flashed past his mind, Marbruce shook his head.

He felt the possibility of this was very limited. Compared to asking Black Star, it was better to obtain intelligence through investigating themselves.

Furthermore, they had just agreed not to leak this secret to the outside world. Therefore, even if Black Star might know something about it, he did not plan to ask him. After all, Black Star was the leader of the organization opposing the three Universal Civilizations for now, so they were no longer allies.

In a certain Black Star Army base, an enormous star map hovered in the room. On it were marks of the movements of the three Universal Civilizations' various armies, drawing out many arrows.

Han Xiao stood before the star map and carefully looked at it.

Quite some days had already passed since the three Universal Civilizations retreated from the Mechanical Race territory. In the past few days, the three Universal Civilizations' armies' movements had been very abnormal. Originally, they were stationed at the various Star Fields, prepared to deal with the Beyond Grade A Association at any time. However, now, they were all recalled back to the Central Galaxy, as if they had no intention of starting a war at all.

If that was all, he would not be so troubled. The weirdest part was that the three Universal Civilizations had remained silent all this time, neither making any announcement nor contacting him to relay their intentions. It was extremely odd, as if they had no time to deal with him.

He had been trying to find out what was going on behind the curtains. However, the three Universal Civilizations kept their secret extremely well hidden this time, and he did not discover anything at all. "Did I really guess right?" Han Xiao murmured.

What could make the three Universal Civilizations change their decision last minute?

At this point in time, there were not many possible scenarios. However, the butterfly effects he caused had changed countless things. One of them was that EsGod had given the dynasty the key toward the World Tree Civilization's territory long ago, which was an unstable factor.

From his perspective, the most likely situation was that the three Universal Civilizations had discovered the World Tree Civilization. Due to the existence of an external enemy, the three Universal Civilizations retreated so quickly without any warning.

"If that's really the case, the three Universal Civilizations will definitely investigate the wormhole thoroughly. They might tell me about it, but they might also keep it a secret... Given the three Universal Civilizations' way of doing things and my current position, the latter is more likely."

Han Xiao frowned, bit his nails, and did not feel good about this.

If the three Universal Civilizations chose to keep it a secret and secretly explored further, given how ignorant they were about the World Tree Civilization, the risk of them being exposed was extremely high. If making contact was already unavoidably brought forward, him continuing to hide the information about the World Tree would increase the risks. Now might be the best time to share what he knew.

However, he might have guessed wrong. If the three Universal Civilizations retreated not because they discovered the World Tree Civilization, it would be horrible.

“So, this is a gamble. It all depends on whether I’m willing to take the risk...”

Han Xiao’s expression changed rapidly.

Di di di...

At this time, his communicator rang.

He took it out. It was surprisingly a call from a dynasty emissary.

“Greetings, Your Excellency Black Star.”

As soon as the communication was picked up, the dynasty emissary nodded in a friendly way, looking quite respectful.

Han Xiao sized him up and cut to the chase. “Finally decided to explain what you guys did?”

“That’s humorous of you. I’m here to negotiate with you on behalf of the three Universal Civilizations this time. We are willing to accept the association’s proposal. We will allow you to restrain the Virtual Mutiny Virus technology on your own...”

The dynasty emissary said a ton of things. At its core, what he meant was that the three Universal Civilizations were willing to take a step back. They no longer required Manison to submit the virus technology and trusted the association’s integrity, allowing it to control this kind of high-risk technology. In short, they would no longer interfere.

“Oh?” Han Xiao raised his brows. “Since you guys have accepted that the association’s promise is effective, you’re recognizing the association’s correctness. What about the trade laws against the association?”

“They won’t be removed for the time being, but it can be discussed.” The dynasty emissary smiled.

Looking at his emotionless smile, Han Xiao acutely sensed the strange attitude of the three Universal Civilizations. He was filled with conflict.

His intuition felt stronger. He felt he might really have guessed the truth.

After a few seconds of silence, Han Xiao took a deep breath.

I’ll take the bet!

As he made up his mind, Han Xiao narrowed his eyes and slowly said, “I’ve received your message. Please relay this message to Marbruce.”

“What is it?”

“... From how strangely you guys are acting, it looks like you guys have finally deciphered the wormhole data left by EsGod, right?”

**Chapter 1310 Truth**

One hour later, Han Xiao's remote projection entered the three Universal Civilizations' leaders' joint conference room, and he immediately saw three old men staring dead at him with grave faces.

"Yo, you're all here."

Han Xiao was not in a hurry at all and greeted them casually. This was the first time he had been called into a meeting like this since the two sides' relationship reached the freezing point.

"Black Star! What the hell do you know!"

Marbruce was in no mood to chitchat at all and cut to the chase.

An hour ago, when the three of them were waiting for the dynasty emissary to report Black Star's stand toward the three Universal Civilizations' proposal of peace to see if they could calm the association down, to their absolute dismay, what they received was the news that Black Star shockingly immediately called out the secret of the wormhole.

The three of them were all completely dumbfounded.

Where did Black Star find out about the fact that they had decrypted the secret of the wormhole? Who leaked the information? Was there a mole?

If not, how did Black Star find out? Did he know about the wormhole data's secret all along?

There were so many unanswered questions!

Marbruce, Louis, and the pope were anxious.

Since Black Star had specifically told the emissary to relay this message to them, it did not matter how he got such surprising information. The matter was of the utmost importance and had to be taken extremely seriously. The three of them held an emergency meeting where they decided to speak to Black Star, hence this meeting.

"I know lots of things."

Han Xiao looked around and deliberately gave them a meaningful expression while feeling relaxed inside.

He was also unsure what was going on, so he did not directly reveal the World Tree Civilization's name but instead pointed it out ambiguously.

Nonetheless, since he had been called to this meeting, Han Xiao knew he had won the bet and indeed guessed the truth. He was glad he did not make things worse.

"You mentioned the wormhole data left by EsGod. How much do you know about it?" Louis asked with a deep voice.

Han Xiao arranged his emotions, glanced at him, and said casually, "You guys discovered a civilization on the other side of the wormhole, right?"

The three of them exchanged looks with extremely serious expressions.

Marbruce frowned and asked, "Where did you get that information from?"

"I know what you guys want to ask me..." Han Xiao raised his brows. "No, I didn't steal your internal information."

Hearing this, their expressions became even more grave.

By saying that his source of information did not come from the three Universal Civilizations, Black Star was basically saying that he had uncovered the wormhole's secret long ago and had information about it the three of them did not possess.

Marbruce took a deep breath, put down his pride, and said solemnly with even a slightly respectful tone, "I'm sure you know the nature of this matter. We hope you can tell us the truth. This is absolutely crucial to the entire universe."

"Sure." Han Xiao nodded. Since this had happened, there was no point hiding what he knew. It was time to tell them the truth. He had to make sure that the three Universal Civilizations were aware of how dangerous the World Tree was.

"... This wormhole leads to the territory of a civilization called the World Tree Civilization. That's an extremely powerful civilization that loves war and expanding their territory. Decades ago, due to some reasons, EsGod sent a doppelganger to attack me, which led to his doppelganger falling into a wormhole and coincidentally discovering the World Tree Civilization. After that, EsGod sent his men to steal this wormhole data to figure out a way to pinpoint the World Tree Civilization's coordinates. Some things happened, and I became the only person who knows about this..."

Of course, Han Xiao hid the fact that some of this information came from his previous life and described the matter in another way, emphasizing how powerful the World Tree Civilization was. He basically shared almost everything he knew about the World Tree Civilization.

The three of them listened till the end with frowns on their faces, full of doubts.

Marbruce asked, "Did EsGod tell you all this? Putting aside why EsGod told only you about this, why do you know this much about the World Tree Civilization? This is far from what EsGod could've found out in one trip."

"I understand your doubts." Han Xiao nodded. This was not a matter to be taken lightly. If he made EsGod the reason for everything, all they had to do was question EsGod, and his lies would be discovered.

Without an incomparably solid source of information, there was no way the three Universal Civilizations were going to believe all this.

However, he had come up with a reason long ago that just so happened to explain why he knew so much about the World Tree Civilization.

"Actually... I have something left behind by a certain civilization that was wiped out by the World Tree Civilization. It contains a ton of information. What I know about the World Tree Civilization mostly comes from that."

As he said that, Han Xiao summoned the remote projection of SWY-001 and displayed the information he had prepared beforehand on the screen.

The expressions on their faces changed as they hastily browsed the information. The more they looked at it, the more shocked they became.

SWY-001's memory module recorded the tragic state of the Karma Republic when it was being invaded as well as the World Tree Civilization's unique and extremely strong way of war. Furthermore, it also showed that the World Tree Civilization was a Universal Civilization that was almost impossible to coexist with. Everything proved that what Han Xiao said was true.

Without this big treasure, even if Han Xiao could explain the source of this information, it would not be convincing enough.

Man did this thing come at a good time... Han Xiao thought in his mind.

There was nothing he could say but... Damn, Feidin!

The three of them spent some time reading all the information, and shock still lingered in their eyes.

"Devouring everything in their way, the World Tree Civilization is really the enemy of all intelligent civilizations. To think there's such a hunter like this in the universe..." Louis mumbled. "Luckily, we sealed EsGod long ago. If he'd led the World Tree Civilization here..."

Suddenly, before he finished his sentence, his expression froze.

At this moment, Marbruce recalled that sealing EsGod up was something Black Star strongly proposed and made happen. The fact that they were still not discovered by the World Tree now was all thanks to Black Star.

Back then, Black Star insisted on sealing EsGod up no matter what. Was he already secretly trying to protect the explored universe from being invaded?

Marbruce's heart skipped a beat. He looked up at Han Xiao and could not help but ask, "Was this the reason you insisted on asking us to capture EsGod back then?"

Han Xiao tutted and asked back, "Why else would I? You really think I had so much hatred against him that I had to kill him?"

Marbruce's expression changed slightly. He looked at Han Xiao and could not help but feel a bit of admiration and appreciation toward him. The doubt in his heart instantly lessened.

If not for Black Star, this galactic society would have already been invaded. Technically speaking, the entire universe owed him a favor.

However, Black Star did not share this at all and silently hid this honorable achievement, letting it collect dust in history. No one knew about this colossal contribution he made.

How noble!

Han Xiao's image immediately got taller in Marbruce's heart.

Suddenly, the pope said, "Black Star, since you knew about the threat of the World Tree Civilization and had all this information long ago, why didn't you share it till now?"

Han Xiao shook his head.

“I know you guys all too well. If you guys had found out there is a powerful unknown civilization in the unexplored universe, would you guys ignore its existence? Sharing it with you would only lead to making contact even earlier. It was best to keep this a secret. In fact, if not because you guys had made results studying the wormhole data, I wouldn't have said all this even now.”

The three of them had nothing to say.

Indeed, even if they did not know about it, if they found out the threat of the World Tree, the three of them were fully certain there was absolutely no way they were going to simply ignore it. They would definitely want to strike first and attempt to take the World Tree Civilization by surprise; never would they have acted the same way they were now.

Attempting to find out more about the World Tree would mean they would be at risk of being exposed too. Despite that, based on their positions, striking first was a certainty. Otherwise, they would simply be relying on fate and waiting to be attacked.

Being aware of such a powerful enemy existing in the unknown universe would make the three of them sleepless, worrying about one day being discovered and invaded every second. That would be no way of living, so of course, actively erasing this threat was more in line with the three Universal Civilizations' needs.

If both sides were unaware of each other's existence, they could still coexist like two parallel lines. However, once one discovered the other, the two sides would rapidly collide

“I have to admit that makes sense...” Louis sighed. “But isn't that betting on the enemies not discovering us first too?”

Han Xiao shook his head and did not reply.

He was confident in this because he knew exactly when the World Tree would be invading, only there was no need to explain that. Plus, it would neither be easy to explain nor be convincing enough.

At this time, the pope frowned and said, “But how can we be certain that the information from this object is true and not made up?”

“Are you doubting me?” Han Xiao glanced at him.

“I'm just being careful. It's not personal.” The pope waved his hand.

Louis thought about it and added, “Indeed, the source of your information is very convincing, but its authenticity is still unclear... We're not doubting you, but we can't fully trust this information. Although it looks very real, who knows if this information was made up in the first place? We can't just assume...”

“Black Star, we'll carefully refer to this information you have provided, but we'll still have to see the results of our reconnaissance,” Marbruce said.

Damn, you three are troublesome!

Han Xiao curled his lips but was not surprised.

It was normal for the three Universal Civilizations to be careful from their perspective. After all, there was indeed the possibility of this information being made up, just like what happened to the Kunde Race. Who knew if this information might be 'bait' too?

Han Xiao caressed his chin and slowly said, "This civilization relic still has vital signs. It's only asleep. If we wake it up, we should be able to get more information."

He had a mission on him to awaken SWY-001, but he did not complete it all this time because he did not want to deal with the possible trouble. However, now that he was sure that the three Universal Civilizations had made contact with the World Tree in advance, he no longer minded waking up SWY-001. Instead, it might even be helpful to do it.

"Alright, I'll leave it to you then. This is very important... By the way, you'll help us, right?"

Marbruce nodded. He suddenly paused and realized that the association and them were still on opposite sides.

The other two realized this too and looked a little uncomfortable.

The situation had changed, and they needed the association now. However, not long ago, they were attempting to wipe the association out, yet now they were asking for their help. The three of them felt awkward and even slightly embarrassed.

However, the three of them only felt awkward for a few seconds before quickly adjusting their mood, looking at Han Xiao with passionate eyes.

Han Xiao glanced at the three of them and smiled.

"The World Tree Civilization can't coexist with us. We're all on the same boat here, so working together is the only choice."

"... It's great you can understand that."

The three of them felt relieved. They needed to unite all forces at this point, and they were really afraid the association might do something irrational.

Seeing that Black Star easily looked past their conflict, the three of them could not help but think back to their conflict with the association in the past years. They felt complicated.

Black Star had always been trying to reach a balance and peaceful coexistence; never did he trigger any conflict.

In the past, the three of them thought the association was delaying the time to accumulate more strength. However, in hindsight, the three of them shockingly realized there seemed to be another explanation to Black Star's actions... Was he trying to save the explored universe's forces?

Due to many reasons, the three of them kept oppressing and targeting the association, and Black Star had been trying to maintain a fragile balance. While the three of them were busy dealing with internal problems, Black Star was very likely making preparations against the external enemy, the World Tree Civilization.

Unfortunately, the leakage of the Virtual Mutiny Virus had led them to make up their minds on starting a full-blown war...

“We almost walked down a path with no return!”

Appalled, their backs were covered in cold sweat. They were glad.

Luckily, they stepped back at the last minute. If they had started a war, Black Star’s efforts to maintain the explored universe’s forces would have been wasted.

Having thought of this, the three of them looked at Han Xiao again with very complicated emotions in their eyes. There was shame and regret, as well as appreciation and admiration.

We misunderstood him...

Knowing Black Star’s real motive, it was as if this was the first time they had met him.

Black Star’s image became alive in their minds. It was as if the three of them saw the back of a man walking alone in the world, carrying heavy responsibilities no one knew about, attempting to defuse conflicts, yet no one understood his true motives...

Black Star... your contributions to this universe have been more than noble.

This thought flashed past Marbruce’s mind, along with the same thought Urranrell once had.

If only Black Star was a direct member of the dynasty...

The problems they had with Black Star evaporated. At this point, the three of them knew that continuing their internal conflict was idiotic. They knew that Black Star had already displayed his compassion; it was time they showed theirs.

The three of them looked at each other and understood what one another meant. They slowly nodded.

Marbruce coughed, looked at Han Xiao seriously, and said with a solemn tone, “Black Star, on behalf of the three Universal Civilizations, I officially invite you to be the Special Safety Consultant again. What do you say?”