

Mystical 831

Chapter 831 - Empire Novel

At the outskirts of Blackboard Region.

In the wilderness, a crippled, half transparent red-white mech materialized and landed gently on the ground as it flew out from a black electric ball that had momentarily appeared in the sky.

“Hahaha!! I managed to escape! That fucking bitch! Sooner or later I will strip her bare and enjoy myself on a bed!!” the Red-White Mech tumbled a few steps forward before laying on the ground. White smoke was coming out from its body and weird noises were coming out from it as well.

“Where is this?”

The Mech shrunk with the cockpit as the epicenter to the point it became a small white ring. A man in a tight white suit, whose body was smoking, appeared underneath as the ring fell onto his palm.

“The Body is ninety percent damaged... sh*t!!... What a terrifying woman. Even the Absolute Light Curtain wasn’t able to completely block her attack,” the man had white hair and looked rather pale as he gritted his teeth and cursed under his breath.

He raised his head and looked towards the horizon, in the direction of the Blackboard Region.

“I’m close to the target. Unfortunately, my communication device is broken, I wouldn’t be able to know how the others are doing.”

He took out a white small item that resembled a compass and gently pressed on it. Immediately, red blinking dots started appearing on the screen.

“I’m the first one to get close to the target?” Hehehe... There’s still hope!” the man’s eyes glowed.

Howl...

Suddenly a deep roar could be heard from behind.

Behind him, at least ten grey giant wolves that stood at the height of half a man appeared. These wolves growled at him as their eyes glowed green in color. Each and every one of them looked extremely hungry.

“Evolved Creatures?” the man turned around. “Normal class Evolved Creatures dare to approach an elite like me? You’re courting death!”

The Evolved Creatures came about when the humans entered the interplanetary era, and interplanetary interactions caused the virus to spread and mutate from one planet to another. After a long period of time, the powerful Evolved Creatures were born. Most of these creatures maintained their physical features and had their physical attributes boosted tremendously to adapt to the ever harsh environment.

Simply put, they were the latest generation of wild creatures. Although they were stronger than their ancestors, they were still ranked lower on the food chain when faced with humans.

The man gently touched his forehead with his finger and an invisible ripple spread out. As these ripples came in contact with the wolves, tens of these wolves immediately exploded and died.

The impact of a level five Willpower was so powerful that it could easily kill these lower Willpower beasts with a small ripple. This was because their Willpower was much lower, even when compared to a commoner.

“It’s time to infiltrate the region, heh. The Forbidden Core... it’s something that is hindering all the good stuff,” the man stood up and his shirt automatically transformed into an outdoor photographer’s get up. He even had an anesthesia gun on his back for self-defense.

The man adjusted his looks and smiled satisfactorily as he walked directly towards the Blackboard Region. There was a perfect boundary line over there. There were quite wide boundary zones separating the regions. These zones were uninhabitable by humans as most of these places contained high radiation and their environments were very harsh. After all, most of the planets that were populated by humans weren’t a hundred percent livable for humans, and most of these places had their

environments altered artificially by atmospheric alteration technology to suit human needs. Even so, there were many places that were dangerous and uninhabitable for humans upon the surface of the planet.

“Life No. 1! Attack!!”

Ugh!!...

Red Moon almost vomited a mouthful of blood as he stared at Clint, who was surrounded by a bunch of stupidly huge Mechs with an awkwardness that couldn't be described by words. He couldn't believe that the Mech that he'd assembled with his blood, sweat, and tears had been called Life No. 1!?

He then shifted his attention to the table beside Baylon. The appearance was according to the regulation as it once again turned into a small red pin.

“Why are you naming them so casually..!!?” Red Moon stared at the Black Mech in the garden helplessly. “My order to you is to assemble these mechs as fast as you can. Why are you not increasing your pace!”

Clint changed into a black attire as he walked around the Mech with a stupid smile on his face. “This is a Mech!! Hahahaha! I too have a Mech now!! Hahaha...”

“This... I've finished applying the machine oil for you... Lord Red Moon,” Baylon mustered up her courage to speak up softly as she put away the handkerchief that had been used to apply oil onto the pin.

“Okay. It feels good after taking a bath. Put me back into where I fit, quickly,” Red Moon was rather satisfied with her.

“Alright...” after Baylon knew about her transformation and Red Moon's identity, she was quick to accept reality. Although this person looked weak and fragile, she too had harbored a dream of becoming

a pilot for a long time and the people who gave her the opportunity were Red Moon and Clint. She was very grateful to them, so she would do everything to the best of her abilities for them.

"Is there anything else you want me to do, Lord Red Moon?" Baylon asked softly.

"Hmmm, there's nothing for you to do now. You haven't slept since you came back yesterday so you should go and have a good rest. Compared to that idiot over there, you sure are quick to accept the truth, and you have a strong mental fortitude as well," Red Moon admired Baylon.

"Understood. Thank you for your praise, Lord Red Moon..." Baylon felt shy as she lowered her head. "Although I'm useless... I can still do some simple house chores."

"Alright. Go get some rest and leave the rest to me!" Red Moon urged.

"Okay."

Baylon stood up with her face red and walked into the house.

The incidents were still replaying endlessly in her mind.

With all of these sudden changes, her tone had started to turn neutral. She had always thought that she wasn't manly enough and this transformation seemed to have ripened this temperament. Her chest started bulging and underneath her...

Although her brain was filled with a lot of explanations, the training method consisted of its relevant explanation, which was obviously added in by Lord Red Moon. However, Baylon still felt like hiding her figure from the public. After cleaning herself up yesterday, she'd immediately covered herself up from the top down to her leg with a black attire, which was made out of a combination of two black shirts. In addition to that, she'd even used a mask to cover half of her face, revealing only her eyes. To make herself even more hidden, Baylon even wore a pair of huge spectacles to hide her face.

"Pilot..." she sat at the edge of her bed as she clenched her fist silently. "It feels just like a dream... Do I really have the potential to become a pilot?"

She still couldn't believe it herself.

"Don't worry. Soon the opportunity will present itself," Red Moon's voice had directly pierced through her soul.

"Lord Red Moon..."

Ahhh...!!

Outside, Clint started shouting loudly as if something bad had happened to him.

After the explosion incident, they had crafted a lie that they were caught in the battle between Mechs and fed it to his sister. They had then temporarily settled down in this secluded garden.

The bakery shop owner whom Clint's sister worked for soon returned back into the city to handle the inquiries, and this morning Red Moon had just realized that the secluded areas were now locked down and no one could go in and out freely. The strange behavior was obvious and it might be because Blackboard Region may have discovered the importance of the ripples that he had spread out. In order to protect himself, Red Moon was on the move once more...

"Quickly set up my Mech! Stop slacking!" Red Moon shouted loudly.

"I understand!!! Ah!" Clint, who was a very careless person, needed to be scolded and supervised daily by Red Moon. If not, he wouldn't be able to finish his tasks in assembling the Mech in time.

"I've exhausted what little amount of energy I have left to disguise the environment for a maximum of twelve hours. If you're not done within twelve hours, we're all going to die!" Red Moon scolded angrily.

Inside the house, Baylon lay down and looked at her broken Watch Terminal.

"I wonder if mum and dad are worried... There's even brother and sister... Perhaps as someone who isn't that significant, no one would be sad over my disappearance..."

Her family had sacrificed her sister and her future to place all their hopes on her brother Nonosiva as he was admitted into the Blackboard Academy. Everyone hoped that he could turn the family's condition around for the better. No matter if it was her parents or grandparents, they didn't really care for her and her sister at all; all they cared about was her elder brother Nono for he had been the favorite son since young.

Baylon was still fine as many of her friends were friendly and comforted her. However, it was a different story for her sister as she had been mixing with others on the streets since young. She had given up on herself and decided to not care for anything as she didn't have the money to attend school. Technically speaking, she and her sister were on totally different paths.

Inside the garden.

Clint exhaled as he placed the big mechanical piece in his hand into a sunken part.

Suddenly a red line appeared in between them and two parts were immediately pulled together and fit in.

With a mechanical noise, the final part of the Mech had been successfully assembled.

"I've already set up the connection installation procedure beforehand so that the assembly wouldn't be too difficult. The only problem with this is that it would require a considerable amount of strength. You don't lack the strength but if you were smarter, the assembly would've finished a long time ago."

Red Moon started to complain about him with an unhappy tone.

"Isn't this finished..." Clint felt helpless.

"Finished my *ss! If it was another person, he would've finished two Mechs with the time you've taken! You piece of shit. How dare you talk back with such low efficiency!"

“Yes yes, I am a piece of shit...” Clint was already immune to his insults as he talked back while he climbed up the Mech through its knee with some difficulty. With Red Moon’s instructions, he soon finished assembling the cockpit’s entry as well.

Sizzle...

White gas started to spew out slowly from the cockpit as it opened up slowly. Inside, it was completely filled with the smell of chemical and mechanical oil.

“Well, hurry up! Go in there and try it out!”

“Okay...”

As Clint sat inside the cockpit, he felt that he had sat on something sticky and wet. After all, the environment inside was still rather humid.

“Currently, the habitation system isn’t installed in the cockpit. There is no hydraulic suspension, radiation reduction, nothing. This is because I made this Mech from scratch, so other than the control system, every other system is currently down. Those that can still be used have already been taken off since most of their parts were abandoned due to the high repair fee. They’re not functional even though I’ve fixed them.” Red Moon’s voice could be heard from the outside. “Next, you need to try and pour in your Willpower and learn to walk.”

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“Understood!” Clint sat in the cockpit as he recalled the few times he saw a Pilot’s behavior inside. He then felt inspired and tried to mimic what he recalled from the movie.

“Life No. 1! Engage!!”

“Engage my ass!! Stop it!!”

Boom!!

The Black Mech immediately fell down in the center of the garden, and dust flew up into the air. The Black Mech looked like an old farmer carrying a huge wok on its back as its arms were dismally crossed over its chest while it toppled facedown onto the ground.

The whole garden shook along with a few of the toys hanging on the wall. Alarms blared and red lights swung about, but fortunately, there were no more movements and the red light started to dim down over time.

“You idiot!! Get your ass up!!” Red Moon’s shouting had Clint trembling from head to toe as he quickly ordered the Mech to stand up.

As long as he had enough Willpower, it would be very easy to make the Mech walk. It was just that he had been too caught up in the moment and the problem had arisen.

“It’s my fault boss! Boss!!” the first thing Clint did was to beg for forgiveness. However, it was too late...

“Ahhh!!!!”

With the terrified cry, even Baylon, who was inside the room, was scared to the point she curled up.

Inside the cockpit, Clint twitched his body to fit in as he sat in a very awkward position.

“Alright, let that be a lesson for you. You know what’ll happen if you fool around with the Mech next time,” Red Moon was angry, but at the same time, he’d calmed down. “Alright, now listen to me.”

“Yes...” Clint was running out of strength.

“This Mech will listen to your orders and it’s named the Life No.1. However, these are not important. What’s important is what I’m going to tell you right now!” it was one of those rare moments where Red Moon spoke seriously.

Clint immediately sat properly and focused. Although he was tortured by Red Moon on a daily basis, he knew that Red Moon really wanted the best for him deep in his heart. Hence he was actually very grateful to Red Moon.

“Firstly, the current Mech you’re driving has no Habitable System, Hydraulic Suspension, nothing. This means that the moment you enter into those harsh environments, you can only rely on your body to stay alive. These include high-pressure environments, vacuum space, and even high inertial momentum. You have to be careful as the moment the Mech enters these harsh environments, your life will be in grave danger.”

Clint listened half-heartedly as he already knew of these troublesome conditions from all the Mech movies he’d watched. However, he didn’t have a general idea how dangerous it really was as his brain was all muddled. However, Red Moon didn’t care what his current state of mind was and continued.

“However, you have your advantages as well, especially the advantage that I’ve given you!”

He paused for a moment, “To others, this Mech is technically garbage, as they may complain that it uses up too much energy for even attempting to pick up a heavy object. However, this Mech is something very useful to you because you’re different from the other Pilots.”

Red Moon’s tone turned more serious over time.

“The Forbidden Mech’s strength comes from its forbidden power source!”

“Its forbidden power source?”

Noting that Clint asking a question, Red Moon held a satisfied expression on his face and continued.

“The Forbidden Mech has all sorts of unique abilities, and my strongest ability is the Memory of War!!”

“Memory of War? What’s that?” Clint’s instincts told him that it was something incredible.

“Memory of War means that you’re able to obtain the other Pilot’s technique and experience if you’ve sat in their Mech before. You would keep absorbing their experiences and attain powerful strength through this. This skill or ability belongs uniquely to me. A powerful ability that only Lord Red Moon possesses!” Red Moon explained proudly.

“Oh~~~!”

“In other words, as long as you have a Mech and enough combat experience with a Mech, you’re able to activate the previous techniques that you used. This is the true strength of the Forbidden Mech and the reason why it’s forbidden!” Red Moon said. “This is also the reason why I wanted you to collect those broken parts.”

“It’s a pleasure meeting you, we’re the Charm mercenary group that you’ve hired.”

Inside a hotel outside the Academy, the moment Garen entered the room, he saw a few beautiful women waving and smiling at him.

Under the soft yellow light, he was in a white suit that he had just changed into. He closed the door and looked at these five young women who were either standing up or sitting down.

Among these girls, the oldest one was not more than thirty and the youngest one was only about fifteen to sixteen years old. Just as what he’d understood from earlier, they were all beautiful and elegant and all of them were in tight black miniskirt uniforms. The moment he opened the door and glanced at them, Garen knew that the golden curly hair girl in the center was the leader.

“Who’s Captain Inari? I came here the moment I finished my class. My schedule is very tight so we need to schedule our time as soon as possible.” Garen didn’t plan to beat around the bush with these girls and went straight to the main point.

“That’s cool. I’m Inari,” as expected, the golden curly hair girl walked forward and replied firmly, giving off a very noble, lady-like vibe.

“Have you received the employment contract?” Garen asked immediately.

“Yes. We do not have any additional requests here,” Inari replied instantly.

“Same goes to me. Let’s sign the agreement then. I’ll give you the money based on the schedule we’ve set earlier, where I will give you the first half and the remaining half after everything is over,” Garen said calmly.

“No problem.”

Inari nodded and both parties pointed their Watch Terminals at each other’s. After a while, a soft ring of confirmation came from their Terminals.

Garen was currently in a very panicked state.

The White Light Terrorist Group was running rampant, causing the Blackboard Region’s security to tighten up considerably. If he were to slack further, he might not be able to reach the edge in such a short time. Hence he had to make a quick decision.

After discussing with Celine, he decided to hire the Charm mercenary group to protect himself as he traveled to the Polar Region to meet the honorable noble.

At the same time, if he were able to sell himself with his profit and obtain a small piece of land, that would be the best course for him.

"I need to head towards the Polar Region and meet a very important person right now. Hence I need you guys to follow me to that region," Garen went straight to the point.

"What!" "I just arrived and we're going out again..." "It can't be~~~"

All of the beautiful women started complaining.

Inari was slightly surprised as well and reassessed Garen once more. Their motive in approaching Nonosiva was just a peak in interest as they wanted to steal his training method back home. However, their actual motive lay elsewhere, and if possible, they wanted to get in contact with the Blackboard Academy's Blue Narcissus with Nonosiva as the bridge. They wanted to obtain the seed of those talented men and return back to their country.

"It's fine if you don't wish to go. I can always hire someone else," Garen couldn't care less of what they thought as he had already applied a vacation leave to the academy and Instructor Hamm had already sent it to the academy on his behalf. The notice would be processed in a very short while.

"As the region doesn't allow non-military civilians to operate a Mech, we are unable to use them and we have sent all the Mechs for maintenance. I'm afraid we may not be able to take them out..." it was obvious that Inari wasn't willing to leave the place.

"Then I'll assign you another mission. You guys can protect my family in the dark. My house address is located here up north in the region," Garen sent his house address to them via his Watch Terminal. Although he knew that they already knew of this due to their prior research, he still had to act it through.

"I'm fine with that," Charm was hoping that their mission would have some free time in between as well. These women weren't just a breeding team from Maria, they were also highly ranked intelligence spies in disguise. They would occasionally assassinate a person or two, so it's normal for them to change up their identities and relax for a bit.

Although Garen didn't consider up to such an extent, based on his probing, he knew that the opponent had an even more important objective than to steal his technique. Hence he didn't bother with them. With his vast experience in martial arts, he knew that four out of five of these women were no longer virgins based on their physical structure. Furthermore, they're all veterans acting pure and innocent.

He wasn't interested in them at all, as the most important objective to him was to meet the honorable noble. He didn't want to miss this opportunity Celine had presented to him. If he managed to establish a connection with him, his future development would be much easier.

"Then it shall be arranged so. I hope you guys can do your best," Garen glanced at them emotionlessly as he felt that they were a bunch of mysterious people.

"Don't worry about it. Being a bodyguard is a very simple and easy task," Inari nodded as she smiled.

"I'm glad to hear that. I shall take my leave now," Garen didn't hesitate for a moment as he turned around and walked towards the door.

As Garen walked out of the room, a waiter was pushing a dining car across the corridor. As Garen stood by the door as he waited for the dining car to pass through, he was thinking how to shake off the attention from the people paying attention to him so that he could successfully meet the honorable noble. If Blue Narcissus were to find out that he had given the profit to the honorable noble, it might create some bad reputation. Hence he had to be extremely careful before finishing his objective.

He walked on the thick red carpet towards the elevator. As he pressed the button and waiting for the arrival of the elevator, a fat merchant holding onto two beautiful women walked out of the elevator. The tipsy merchant glanced at Garen and gave him a few more looks the moment he saw the Blackboard Academy's emblem on his uniform.

Garen walked into the elevator to see two female hotel workers who seemed to have just finished their work whispering to each other at the corner of the elevator. As they saw Garen entering, they stopped talking as they noticed the Blackboard Academy's emblem.

As the elevator slowly closed its door, out of nowhere.

"Hmm...!?" Garen immediately opened his eyes and saw a white-haired man walking past him on the red carpet through the gap of the door. He had come out from another elevator from the right.

“That man...” he shivered. That man seemed to be as strong as him. His presence was similar to of a monster and extremely powerful. He gave off a vibe that he was like a nuclear bomb that could explode at any given moment.

In that instant, that white-haired man seemed to have felt his gaze as well. He turned around but unfortunately, he was unable to see Garen inside the elevator as the door had completely shut.

“What was that thing? It didn’t feel like a human...” the sensation was indeed very strange. He narrowed his eyes but he didn’t think of it further as his body was very tired. “I should rest first since the target has already reached the city. Hehe... looks like it’s my time to shine.”

Chapter 833

In the dark green night.

The ground was full of black spikes protruding from the floor. Some of them were humongous metal plates, some were the battleship’s bow, but most of them were strips of broken alloy steel bars. The entire ground was densely covered with a large jungle, erected with steel trees.

Between various metal trees rising from the ground, there was a small path that was the width of an earthworm, stretching and leading towards the distance.

On a small black road, the white motorcade was moving as slow as a snail, driving along the small and winding path.

Hoot...

The engine sounds of the motorcade were extremely low. The yellow lamp post constantly swept across its surroundings, then penetrated its light through the green mist and into the distance.

The motorcade was formed with four white armored cars. At the back of each car, it was equipped with a thick and solid turret. Furthermore, each car was twenty meters long, six meters tall. When you look up at it, it was like a moving beast. But among these giant steel trees, it suddenly seemed extremely small.

In forth car, the space inside was split into blocks of private rooms. Each private room was in a round ball-like shape occupied with two bunk beds that could accommodate four people.

Garen was placed on the third bed, on one of the top bunk; beside him was the car's window. His head was inclined slightly to the side while it was covered with the blankets. Looking out of the window, he caught the night scenes that were constantly changing, feeling a sense of novelty.

The large land of metal trees outside looked like real giant trees that had its fangs out, claws spread, and limbs extending, giving people a spooky feeling. Staring out at the window, he could make out the nearby remaining signs of the production trademark on the top that was illuminated by a light beam. Yet, when he looked further beyond the distance, he could see darkness.

Three planets in blue, white, and white were suspended in the sky, taking over half of the sky. However, as they intertwined with the moonlight that was shining down, it formed a mysterious green color through the night sky and fog.

Garen looked at the scenery outside his window and felt slightly depressed.

"Is this your first time away?"

The uncle, who was his roommate on the lower bunk, asked while he had his hand behind his head.

"The scenery out there is the radiation belt between cities. The belt of our Mother Planet Federation is considered minimal. At least it doesn't affect laypeople's body functions as long as they don't stay there for long."

Garen did not make a sound. He only moved his body.

Though the uncle did not mind, so he continued.

"Out there, it's like living in the deep ends of an ocean — the cold, deep radiation of the poisonous fog is everywhere. Even plants are killed by the distortion of the radiation. Only a few types of microbe spores are still surviving," he took out a lighter to light his cigarette up and then took a nice puff.

"I have missed this..."

Garen frowned slightly.

"Is it possible for you not to smoke? I hate the smell of smoke."

"Really? I apologize. I forgot that young look of yours. Hahaha..." The uncle chuckled as he pressed the cigarette bud into the ashtray that was on his bedside table.

"Can you talk about the radiation belt that is in between the cities?" Garen continued to observe the green environment outside and asked in a low voice. "It is indeed my first time out of the city. Before that, I thought that it would be a very nice natural environment. I did not cross my mind that it would be like this..."

"Is it too miserable?" The uncle laughed again, "Young one, you really are very lucky, to have such a hardworking father who fought hard to build you a solid foundation or maybe it was the luck from your ancestors, that allowed you to successfully become a citizen in the Inter-Region. But a lot of other people do not have that fate." He paused for a bit, as if he was recalling his memories.

"The rest of the Mother Planet Federation places have not been in contact with each other for over tens of years. I'm not quite sure about their situation but I understand our Mother Planet better. Furthermore, I've been traveling around this planet for quite a long time now."

"Oh? Uncle, why don't you tell me something?" Garen suddenly showed interest. "How can the Inter-Region be such a desolate scene with no signs of life at all?"

"Not all Inter-Regions are like that. Some places are still normal, filled with nature and even though this is the outer part of the Blackboard Region, it is still pretty normal during the day. It only happens to this part of the Region when night falls — the radiation belt would appear. In this Interstellar Era, it has given humans tremendous scientific and technological advancement. We can now move mountains and sea, there's nothing we can't do! Even the sun has succumbed to the feet of humanity. However, with such strong scientific technology, it has brought us the same awful destruction. And that is the side effect of technology that is caused by the radiation belt. Our excessive exploitation of the planet's resources, over-extraction of heat from the planet's crust, and excessively drawing and consuming stellar heat

energy that can benefit the radiation belt have ruined the planet's ecological cycle. Without enough radiation from the sun and without enough heat energy from the planet, without taking into account the areas that are within scientific technology, other places have slowly become desolated or strange," the uncle explained fluently and poured out his emotions.

"So that's the drawbacks of this Interstellar Era?" Garen could understand it very well.

"Yes. Substance Annihilation Energy is one of the last century's greatest human invention. But who would've thought that was the real root cause to the destruction of the environment? At the cost of destroying substances, a tremendous amount of energy was released. This energy is the most basic force that could construct planetary substances. By constantly stimulating the consumption, in the end, the planet substances' most basic source is consumed just like the ancient nuclear power research. Everybody was ecstatic when they discovered nuclear power — the same as when they discovered fossil fuel and coal! Since the planet is so big, people think that there must be tons of fossil fuel and coal and they will never be able to use it all. The same logic applies here where people think that there are tons of radioactive substances and since the universe is so big anyway, they definitely would not be able to finish it..."

The uncle nagged incessantly in a low voice.

As he went on, Garen could not hear him clearly anymore. Instead, the two sleeping women opposite from them were snoring louder and louder.

They were two fat women. By the looks of it, it seemed like they were in their thirties or forties. They both wore a gold necklace and they snored repeatedly as they slept on their bed.

Outside the window, the faint engine sound of the motorcade could be heard.

"Kid, after leaving Blackboard Region, where do you plan to go? You look like you're either from Blackboard Region or a citizen from the Inner Region," the uncle at the bottom bunk asked softly.

"Anyway, since the both of them opposite from us are still here and I can't sleep, why don't let's chat for a bit?"

"I'm going to the Polar Region." Garen changed into a set of normal clothes when he got onto the car — a black t-shirt and grey long pants. He did not look like he would attract attention. More so, he looked like a young worker from a poor family.

"The standard of living in Polar Region is a little higher than Blackboard Region's pricing. Even the salary is a little higher. It'll be much harder working there but at least you'll get to save some money, so it's not bad." The uncle seemed like an expert in this area.

"Is that so? How's the situation there?" Garen casually asked. He had planned to go there quietly first. Whether it's after solving the territorial issues or carrying out his own plan within legal parameters, it all had to be extremely concealed. So, in order to get rid of those who were keeping track of his actions behind his back, he took a long time to succeed. However, even then, he did not know whether that would work at all.

"Polar Region is built from an Empire. Different nobility's territorial has different rules. Since Blackboard Region is an Alliance, the citizens are treated very well and you can definitely find a good living there. Though the quality of education there isn't the best. So such as you, a citizen from a strong region would be a better talent compared to their own people. There are more positions that you can hold..."

The uncle was talking incessantly again.

Garen answered him from time to time. From Blackboard Region, he took a train to the border of Masiro City, then he took another train to Ice City. Finally, he found the transit motorcade that crosses the border without being noticed and it did not travel on the same tracks as the official motorcade. Garen chose this kind of transit motorcade that seemed like the smuggle people across borders to travel towards the Polar Region.

Only then could he stop and limit his course of action from being known to others.

Yet along this journey, he fully acknowledged the number of people, among the citizens, who practiced Willpower.

Basically, there was one out of ten of them in Blackboard Region. By the borders of Ice City, he could identify one out of twenty or thirty people. The majority of the remaining ones were normal people who

did not have Willpower. After all, not everyone liked the fighting lifestyle of a Mech Pilot. A lot of people wanted a balanced and simple life.

However, after they were out of the city, he could barely see people who were Willpower practitioners. One day when he was on the train, he could sense a group of Mercenaries who had a certain level of fighting and shooting skills, but he could not see Willpower among any of them. On this aspect, it was obvious that the Academy's management of their Training Method was very strict.

When the internet mentioned that there were thousands of Willpower practitioners on this planet, he sometimes doubted how they could calculate that. But when he thought expensive the Training Method was, it suddenly all made sense.

It must be that the Willpower practitioners were all gathered in very few places.

As Garen listened to the uncle's dull rambling, he slowly slipped into a dream state.

Without knowing how long it had been.

Bang!

A loud, deafening sound suddenly rang out and woke Garen up from his sleep.

He forced his eyes open and his muscles were unusually tensed, prepared to be alert of his surroundings.

"What's wrong? What happened?"

Travelers from the other rooms were asking as well.

"The sky is not bright yet! What is the problem? Why did the car stop?" Somebody scolded.

The uncle on the lower bunk scratched his head when he woke up. The two fat ladies on the opposite side seemed to have hit their bodies as they sat up crying in pain.

“It’s the Solemn Fire! Tsk tsk, it is beautiful! Quickly, take a picture!” As if the uncle suddenly realized something.

Garen quickly followed his vision and realized it was happening outside the window. Then, he looked out the window.

In the green night scene outside and between countless steel trees, he could see a strip of pale yellow flame burning vertically out of thin air in the distance and floated into mid-air like a pupil dilating vertically in the night. Looking at it carefully, those with good vision could see the flames jumping up and down.

“What is that?” It was the first time Garen saw this scenery.

“That’s called the Solemn Fire, but nobody knows why! Anyway, it is said that some scholars have studied it before. Other than a pile of technical terms, the main effect is to induce the natural phenomena of the poisonous fog from the radiation, similar to the wildfire produced by the phosphorus combustion. Traveling tourists would see it as a sign of safety for the journey. It represents good luck and safe journey.”

Very quickly, or maybe the drivers stopped to take pictures of the Solemn Fire, the motorcade slowly moved forwards once again.

“There were many Solemn Fires here a few years ago. It’s lesser now; it’s quite rare to see it and it feels great,” the uncle crossed his legs.

“Solemn Fire, huh?”

In his knowledge, there was also a record of this sort in the Totem World. The features that were recorded were the same, but it wasn't called Solemn Fire, it was called the Green Crystal Fire. It was an effect of self-ignition caused by a low-ignition mineral deposit of the Green Crystal. These mineral deposits were unusual. Its flames did not ignite on his body. Instead, it ignited by itself when it was ten meters above him.

"If it's Green Crystal, maybe I can try to make a nutrient solution to improve the cellular quality. If Willpower really comes from the Willpower cells in the whole body, then by directly tackling to strengthen the Region's cells, it might be able to create a good effect," Garen's head scanned through huge amounts of drugs that were in the Totem World. He had learned all of this from the pharmacist that was his subordinate. If there's a chance, maybe he might give it a try.

After he broke through his Level 1 of Willpower, he started to switch up the new Training Methods he just bought.

'Galactic Halo — A complex manipulation explosive Training Method. Your Willpower would be able to split into numbers. At the same time, it could subtly manipulate multiple units to attack. The split quantity is determined and divided by level — Level 1, one split; Level 2, two splits; Level 3, three splits. It is suitable for Mech Pilots who are obstructive. Price per level is 260 thousand points.'

Three levels in total would cost more than 800 thousand points. The transaction tax and platform fees would be shockingly high.

Now, he had just started practicing Level 1. The depth of the Galactic Halo had to be much stronger than Blackboard Training Method. Not only on its efficiency, but also a variety of basic knowledge. Regarding the improvement in his future progress, all aspects would go beyond what he has right now.

"The excavation of the nature of Willpower cells — by looking at it this way, there seems to be some research on Totem World's drugs. Although it is not very developed, when looking at it from another angle of research, it seems very innovative," Garen pondered carefully. Unknowingly, the sky had brightened up slowly.

Whereas on how to excavate the Willpower of these cells, he felt that these Training Methods of Willpower seemed similar to the birth of the secret weapon. Who knew, maybe he could even use other universes' space and time, interchangeably.

He got out of bed in the morning and hurriedly ate the breakfast of dry food in which he brought. Holding onto the carton of milk, he went back to his bed to continue with his rest and pondered.

Without noticing, it had started pouring with rain outside and it had soaked through the land of metal trees. As they entered into a huge patch of field, leopards could be seen crossing the field in the far distance, from time to time. Each giant leopard was fifty to sixty meters long, excluding the tail. When they ran, they were heavy and fast. The leopard's dazzling gold stripes reflected under the sun and gave out a stunning shine.

The passengers in the car each took out their cameras to capture the sight. However, only passengers in the black motorcade had a chance to catch that view. If they were on the standard tracks, only the express train could be taken to travel between countries. It would then take a fixed track and the speed would be extremely fast, so all the scenery would have been hard to catch.

As noon approached, the rain got heavier and heavier. The fields started to become slightly troublesome swamps. The speed of the motorcade started to slow down as well.

During noon, one of the cars fell into a small swamp and could not get out. The motorcade crews had to get down to sort it out. Even a few gunmen walked around the area to chase away the monsters that might appear.

It took them quite a while to pull out the car — it was very tough. By that time, it was already night time and it was obvious that they could not arrive by the estimated timing.

At night, there were people playing with cards in the compartments. They even had a few guards who came in to drink and sing along. The sound was so loud, nobody could sleep.

This lifestyle lasted for the next few days. Finally, by noon of the third day, the motorcade entered the border of Polar Region.

Just as they were about to arrive at the scheduled destination, Cairo Morgan City, he took the chance to escape the Motorcade quietly when he went to pee. Following the route that he had investigated before, he went out alone, towards the destination he had planned.

Roar!

Thunder and lightning flashed across the sky. For a moment, it illuminated the huge silver city down below.

Beyond the sky, a black single aircraft was spinning a huge propellor and was headed towards this direction at a high speed. An aircraft and a helicopter had similar features, but the difference was in the seat-like thing that was hanging under the propeller, just nice to fit one person.

When Garen sat on the chair, he looked down.

“This is...?” He pulled out the map on his watch and looked. The side of the Terminal was blinking red, the screen was showing a row of words, ‘Warning! The huge source of radiation would affect the terminal signal transmission. Please leave the radiation area immediately.’

Ignoring the warnings, Garen immediately started to download the map

Along the borders and into the Inter-Region, in between Blackboard Region and Polar Region, there were three deserted areas that did not matter. It had no resources, only extremely harmful radiation. When people show up here, even if they were driving a Mech, they would need to increase their energy consumption to resist the power of the radiation source. This would be a dangerous area that is harmful towards the human.

“Mechanical ruins — over here should be the ancient city of mechanical ruins. The place in which I want to go to is the Colorful Lake. So, I will still need to keep walking forward.”

Garen gave a tap on his watch. The top part suddenly revealed his current location. If he walked forward towards the winding road that stretches far, he would only be able to arrive at this destination in other few more hours.

"In total, there are a total of six Colorful Lakes that are nearby. Here, it is one of the safest out of two. The huge radiation area..." Garen extended his hand and pulled out the protective suit on the other hand. Underneath him, he felt a huge radiation energy. It felt just like static energy, where goosebumps rise as if the hairs on his body were all standing.

He checked his Attribute Pane.

"There is no effect. Comparing the radiation to Hellfrost Peacock, this is nasty radiation of the ancestor of all living monsters," he pulled his zipper with satisfaction.

Overlooking down from the sky, it was a panoramic view of everything underneath.

The silver building, that was like the building block factory, was built one after the other. The neatly slanted metal pillars were lined on both sides of the buildings like spider legs. Though, it looked more like the ends of an electronic component that had been inlaid on the silver ground.

The wind whistled as it passed, suddenly the sound of fine metal clashing sounds was heard.

Garen just flew into the city of ruins. Looking over from his position, he could not see the border completely. The buildings shone brightly as if it was not abandoned at all. No one would be able to make out that this place was the ancient City of Ruins that had been abandoned for more than three thousand years.

As he flew inward, the radiation inside felt stronger. Although Garen was wearing a protective suit, he could feel his hair standing on his whole body.

He let out a slight cold energy radiation that the Hellfrost Peacock had been suppressing. The moment the cold energy radiation was let out, it instantly pushed downwards in a shapeless form to neutralize the radiation.

The air was getting colder. From a temperature of over ten degrees, it quickly dropped down to below zero degrees. However, the strange thing was that not the slightest snow could be seen from the huge city below.

“There isn’t a single breath of life here...” Garen kept looking outwards but his line of vision still could not catch any signs of the city border.

He held on tight to the handle on his right and lifted it up.

Hoot...

The single aircraft suddenly rose up and flew towards a higher altitude.

Beep beep beep...

The square display in front of him showed the altitude of the aircraft: 1124 meters.

“Almost there.”

Garen stopped pulling the handle that raised the aircraft’s altitude. Instead, he looked down again.

On the right side, in front of the Machinery City, a metal cliff extended above a bunch of buildings like the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. A long stretch that led to a sudden huge thing.

An old and shabby black airshift was floating on the deck. The airship had no light, no flame of power. It only floated up and down a little.

“This city is a little strange. With so much metal resources and equipment, someone should come back for some recycling. Why hasn’t anyone come over to use this block of ruins in over three thousand years?

Garen was a little suspicious. For it to have existed for such a long time, it must have had its reasons.

“Enough. The less trouble, the better. My current strength is not strong enough for me to deal with a lot of possible dangers. Let me look for Colorful Lake, and then I can continue this debate.” He suppressed

his curiosity. Then, he started maneuvering the aircraft around the center of the city and flew towards the established route.

After more than ten hours of passing through the city of mechanical ruins, Garen finally saw the rolling red mountains in front.

In between the gigantic red mountains, he could make out a giant arc that stood there, from afar.

The height of the stone arc was towering over hundreds of meters. Just like the arch of a tree root, a hollow space was formed from the ground and a piece of dark red disc that was hundreds of meters in diameter floated in the middle of the hollow space.

The dark red disc was densely packed with numerous patterns and symbols. All of them shone with a breathing-like rhythmic light, and they were still turning a little.

“I’m here, the gate of the inter-domain border.”

Garen knew he was almost there when he saw the stone cave.

From afar, the border gate looked like a round-arched door, except that there was no knocker at the center. Instead, a round disc, formed with rays of dark red light was floating in the middle. The round disc wasn’t an entity, but it was a huge pattern intertwined with numerous rays of light.

“From the records, the establishment of the inter-domain border gate on the Mother Planet has at least been five thousand years. It has a long history and the craftsmanship is ancient. Until now, none of the scholars know the purpose and significance of this disc pattern that is formed with rays of light. No matter how they map or experiment, it only shows that this is a simple map that does not involve lights.”

Garen stopped for a while to observe the huge Light-Patterned Disc carefully. Then, he continued to fly towards his destination.

However, he was still within the huge radiation range of the city of machinery ruins. After Garen flew passed the border gate, it had been another ten hours or more. From the night before up to the morning of the second day, he could finally see the edge of the Colorful Lake.

The edge was dark green as if the algae had covered the ground, like a blanket. He was flying above this ground for about a few minutes until a full picture of the lake appeared in front of him.

“This is the legendary Colorful Lake?”

Borrowing the morning sun, Garen looked forwards and he was stunned.

The huge dark green lake sat quietly in the middle of the land, like a big and round green basin that is filled with thick, green lake water.

There were things floating on the surface of the lake. It was either rubbish or it was some floating pale-yellow paste that revealed some soft, pale green plants that were growing out of the water. Looking for afar, these pale green plants were like a pattern that was formed with the natural condensation of the paste in the lake.

Some of it were only half a meter tall, and some others were much taller than that. Some of it looked like some water plant, and some of them looked like a dry small tree, but there were also some that had grown into a plant with big leaves, just like a lotus leaf. All of them floated motionless on the water. The more he looked, the more like looked disgusting and lifeless.

From far away, Garen could already smell the disgusting, and unpleasant smell.

“This is not the fluid of the Peacock’s mucus...” He looked at the lake. He could not even sense a single hint of Peacock mucus from the inside. “This is purely the substances that have been contaminated by the radiation. In this case, if the substances I’ve absorbed from the White Rainbow Stone are from this environment, then my Peacock Technique...”

He suddenly felt a little faint. The closer he got to the lake, the more he felt the suffocating, poisonous gas and the horrible stench of odor.

Chapter 835: Truth 1

As the sky darkened and the clouds grew thicker, the previous sunny weather was nowhere to be seen.

Garen floated over the Colorful Lake, slightly nauseated at the disgusting smell and radiation.

As the sound of the wind grew louder, he lowered the aircraft and headed downwards slowly. As he approached the Colorful Lake, the horrible stench bombarded his sense of smell, making his eyes water.

The dark green lake was like a huge pot of gooey paste with some places bubbling non-stop. The bubbles swelled up and became like balloons; they floated up and left the surface of the lake, but they did not fly high before popping, leaving rancid green droplets behind.

Garen gently landed on a blanket of green algae by the lake and raised his hand to look at his protective clothing. The original black protective clothing had become slightly yellow. The huge amount of radiation had suppressed Garen's cold energy radiation until it had retreated into the protective clothing before it barely managed to go against it.

"The pollution here is too serious..." he looked around and saw no living things or any plants in the surrounding.

"Firstly, I should look for the site where the White Rainbow Stones are," he slowly walked along the edge of the lake.

Before long, at a place between the lake and the blanket of algae, he could vaguely see colorful stones of different sizes. There were white, red, green, yellow and even more colors.

Garen went forward, picked up a white stone and shook off the lake water on it.

“It does contain the kind of material that the Peacock’s mucus has and it can provide help to my Peacock’s technique to evolve and train... This place is an uncomfortable and disgusting place for others but for me, it’s a blessed land...”

Garen gently pressed on the white stone. Immediately, the white stone looked as though it was weathered away and turned into powder, which was sprinkled down by Garen into the lake. It melted into the lake and there were no signs of it again.

The sky got darker, and there were only a few lights peeking through the thick dark clouds. Without the light, Colorful Lake appeared an even darker shade of green and the bubbles from the lake had lessened, making the lake appear calmer.

“I need to find a good place, a place with more white stones to concentrate on absorbing...”

He squatted down, enduring the stench, and dipped his hand slightly into the green lake.

Hiss...

A trace of white smoke came out from the fingertip of the protective glove and the smell of something burnt wafted in the air.

The stench was just like a toilet after taking a dump, mixed with the smell of burnt plastics; pungent and disgusting.

Garen held his breath. There was a small hole on the fingertip of his protective glove, which had been corroded by the lake water. At the moment the lake water touched the skin on his finger, it was surrounded by a large number of blue threads.

“Devour!” he retracted his finger and the little bit of lake water surrounded by the blue threads immediately drilled back into his skin.

Putong!

Suddenly, Garen heard a loud heartbeat of his own heart.

The lake water that was wrapped up was decomposed into tiny bits of unknown black materials. These black materials were unable to be used by Peacock technique, as the nutrients and energy contained inside were too little and most of it was poisonous toxins. After being swallowed by the blue threads, it was categorized as impurities and was directly transferred to the 'tumor' in his chest.

"Lake water that has no worth... It can only be used for Distorted Seed..." Garen frowned and stood up.

Resuming his walk along the edge of the lake, Garen carefully observed the distribution of the white stones.

After more than two hours when the sky was totally dark, he switched on the radioactive light. The green light illuminated the surroundings not far from him.

"Fortunately, the cold energy radiation surrounds my body, or else the radioactive light might get damaged," Garen held the lantern-like radioactive light and continued his observation on the distribution.

Before he knew it, time flew by quickly.

"Hai!"

Suddenly, a voice came from the sky. It was a voice that belonged to a man.

"This is our turf, stranger!"

Garen looked up and saw that in the distance, a small group of miniature black Mechs was flying towards him. This kind of Mech was only half the size of a normal Mech. Around two meters tall, it looked like a layer of dark metal armor that was wrapped around a person. Rather than a Mech, calling it a metal coat was more fitting.

The number of members of this small group of Mechs totaled to six units. The sound of the engines billowing flames came from their back. The yellow flames that were spat out were very small and inconspicuous in the night sky.

The other party was wearing night goggles which obviously meant that they could still see without light.

“This Colorful Lake belonged to us, Hornet, get out, get the hell out of here!”

“Super-miniature Mechs?” Garen recognized the other party’s equipment. This kind of super-miniature Mech was one of the most popular armed devices for people without Willpower.

A flexible operation, strong defensive ability, adaptability to many kinds of harsh environment and it could also fly freely. With the addition of various weapon systems, it could even threaten ordinary Mech pilots. Generally, three or four units of super-miniature Mechs could threaten regular Mech pilots if they had plenty of weapons. Their defensive abilities were equivalent to one-fifth up to one-third of the normal Mech’s, but they were much more dexterous. It was just that their cost was very high; the price of two units of normal Mech was equivalent to that of one unit of super-miniature Mech...

“Did you hear me?” the Mech at the front shouted loudly after seeing that Garen gave no response.

“Forget it, kill him and throw into the lake and nobody will ever find out. This is the secret location that we found, no outsiders must know about it.”

A Mech behind said in a low voice.

Below, Garen scowled.

In this kind of situation, the other party easily said things that meant to silence him by killing. It was clear that the chaos in this region had slightly exceeded what he imagined.

Before he’d finished gathering his thoughts, Garen saw flames being shot at him from the hand of the Mech in front.

Almost at the same time, he moved to the left. The ground he'd stood on originally was now full of small holes the size of bullets.

"Ordinary guns? They're still using this outdated primitive weapon," Garen dodged and looked at his original position.

At the fourth level of the Peacock technique, the overall quality of his body had greatly improved. Although there was still quite some distance to the peak of his strength from before, he had some confidence in dealing with any danger. Coincidentally, he also wanted to try out the power when he combined the Peacock technique with martial arts.

"This brat is so slippery!" he heard a shout from a Mech above.

Regardless, Garen lightly jumped and incredibly crossed over four or five meters and landed on a stone beside the lake and stomped.

Peng!!

He jumped to a height of seven or eight meters and in the blink of an eye, he abruptly appeared in front of the Mech which had opened fire.

"Single Whip's Mark!"

His right hand suddenly swelled up to almost twice its original size in mid-air, and like a black metallic fan, it swung down upon the Mech.

Weng!!

The Mech did not even make a sound nor reaction before it crashed downwards into the lake, creating large waves.

“I never thought that the oriental martial arts absorbed from the previous world to be so useful,” Garen slowly landed, stood at his original position and moved his body.

His actual strength was not as terrifying as what it appeared to be. It was because, as a Mech pilot, he was very clear on the weaknesses that Mechs had. Against the super-miniature Mech coat, he could naturally find the flaws they had and proceed to deal a fatal blow to the thruster. It was not so much that the other party was blown downwards by him, it was more of the other party getting crushed by the immense weight of their Mech coat.

However, the people in the sky above did not know this. All they saw was a guy wearing a common protective clothing jumping and slamming down a Mech.

They did not respond for a long time to what had happened. They just remained afloat in mid-air.

“Henry... Henry was knocked down by that guy with a single blow!” a Mech started to turn around, intending to escape.

“What are you afraid of?! It’s just an accident! Henry’s thruster was suddenly out of flames, I saw it clearly!” the first voice that had suggested killing him suddenly sounded and quickly calmed down his companions.

For a time, the remaining five Mechs began to hover in the air, staring at Garen. Soon, they switched to covert communications and began to fly upwards.

“Kill him!!”

Garen was able to sneak attack a Mech just now, in fact, it was just that the angle had coincidentally been in his favor. Now that the other party had become vigilant, it would be more difficult for him.

He only had a body that was twice as good as the general human body. Against the strength of alloy in this era, he was still powerless and unable to penetrate through it.

Looking at the Mechs that got higher and higher above, Garen did not feel anything. He had fought countless battles in his life. Even now that he had to fight Mechs with his physical body in such a harsh environment, he did not waver.

He had seen too many environments that were much worse than this, this little handicap was nothing.

“Except, how do I get rid of the rest of them...?” just as this thought flashed through his mind, he saw bursts of fire and the sky was filled with bullets raining down on him. A large barrage of bullets flew downwards, forcing him to move around quickly to avoid them.

Some of the large stones on the ground were riddled with bullets until countless holes were seen, and the blanket of algae on the ground had been shot into pulp. Clouds of dust-like green gas billowed up.

In the midst of his rapid movements, Garen picked up a few blocks of stones and used them as hidden weapons to fling mercilessly at the Mechs in the sky.

The man who had been hit only shook a few times before continuing to attack without any effect whatsoever.

“Such a tough alloy!” Garen realized, it was unlike the era of Secret Techniques, where a wall that was more than ten centimeters would be directly smashed. Even if it was that tough metallic armor, the shock produced by the high speed would make the pilot inside feel terrible.

But now, it seemed that the Mechs had pretty good shock absorber devices.

“Using the physical body to go against the Mechs, even the most fragile super-miniature Mechs, is so difficult...what a hassle,” Garen moved quickly, picking up a dark green branch by the lake and dipping into the lake.

“Let’s see what this can do.”

He jumped to the left side and borrowed the force from a green tree by the lake to fling the branch in his hand after a backward flip.

The branch flew directly towards the Mech giving out the commands in the sky. The end that was dipped into the lake hit the right side of the head of the Mech.

Pa!

With a crisp sound, the lake water from the branch splashed on the head of the machine.

“Ah!!!” he screamed and fell straight down, and no more sound was heard from him.

The remaining four Mechs were dumbfounded. For a moment, the sound of gunfire stopped.

Pa Pa Pa!

Three more branches covered with lake water was shot up and hit the same places on the Mechs.

The three Mechs also let out screams before falling downwards.

The last Mech was trembling and the gun in its hand was almost dropped. It remained suspended in mid-air, afraid of making any movements.

Chapter 836: Truth 2

Beneath, Garen was gasping for breath. It was easy for him to throw out so many branches, but for all of them to accurately hit the tiny opening in the air filtration system, it was a demanding yet delicate task which exhausted most of his concentration. It was partly because he also had to pay attention to avoid the rain of bullets while being careful of where he stepped on in his high-speed movements all around the place.

“Luckily, I’m familiar with the super-miniature Mech since the content of my classes included information about it, or else I really wouldn’t know how to deal with such a troublesome turtle shell. I can’t penetrate it and the impact would be dealt with by the shock absorber device...”

He walked to the side of the only Mech that had not fallen into the lake and gave it a kick. There was no response.

“You, come down.”

He looked up at the last Mech and said.

That guy gave a shudder and obediently flew down in front of Garen. He quickly threw away the gun in his hand and raise his hands in submission.

“Take off the Mech coat on this guy,” Garen ordered.

“Ye... Yes!”

The last person managed to give a reply while being scared stiff and immediately started to skillfully strip the Mech coat off the person on the ground.

Garen stood watching at the side and casually asked a few questions.

“Just now, I heard that you guys called yourselves Hornets and that this is your turf?”

After sensing that Garen did not have the intention to kill him, this person began to relax for a bit.

“Yes Boss, we, the Hornets are the owners of this site. We owned all the resources like the Rainbow stones and Black sands.”

"How many people are there in the Hornets? With Mechs like you guys," Garen asked while observing his actions.

"Around twenty. We are the fifth team and the larger team among the two small teams, and there is only one boss," that person put the Mech coat beside Garen.

The one who had been wearing the Mech coat was a dark-skinned middle-aged woman who lay senseless. When she came into contact with the air, with a slight twitch, her body began to rot and melt like a burning candle. Starting from her skin, she began to melt into a puddle of dark green liquid that flowed towards the Colorful Lake.

Garen already knew that this person had died a while ago. From the moment the lake water entered the air filtration system, both layers of air filtration devices were corroded and the air within had instantly turned poisonous and disgusting. With these people's physiques, they naturally could not stand it for even half a second and were immediately poisoned to death.

"This is your Mech coat..." this person stood at a side with a somewhat subservient attitude and placed the Mech coat in front of Garen.

"Are there any other forces around here? You guys have been living in this place?" Garen asked in a low voice.

"Yes, we are radioactive people whose bodies were contaminated in some parts and have a certain degree of toxicity. We were not allowed to live in any regions except for certain areas that were designated," that person answered hastily. "You are not a radioactive person, so why would you come here? Generally, the regular people are not willing to contact us, even for a little bit."

"Why?" Garen picked up the Mech coat and examined it.

"Because the radiation in radioactive people is contagious. This is a disease that has no cure. A slight inattention and the natural people would get infected as well. All the natural people that are infected will be expelled from the region and then they can join the radioactive people," this person explained in a small voice. "We have no way to live, so we can only hoard the small bit of resources left in between the regions, collect them and exchange them with the natural people's government and merchants for

necessities. Food and drinks, things needed in our homes and also water that has no contamination, everything we need.”

“Doesn’t it rain often?” Garen furrowed his brows. From this person’s words, he seemed to have touched on a side that was not exposed in this world.

“That’s right, but the pollution on the planet is so serious that even the rain is polluted and poisonous. Without a good filtration system, the water cannot be drunk in any way. Those who drink them will get sick and die off quickly. The natural people’s government does not care about us. No medicine, no medical facilities, and even clean water requires for us to trade our lives for it!” when talking about the tragedy of the radiation, this person seemed to have forgotten his fear earlier and spoke with resentment. His tone was full of envy of the natural people and hatred for the government.

“Natural people...radioactive people...” Garen had never noticed any information about this on the Web. It had obviously been censored by the government so that the natural people would not know anything about this dark side of them.

“Are there a lot of radioactive people?” he continued asking.

“A lot,” this person answered in a low voice.

“What’s your name?” Garen looked at the man carefully.

“I am called Mondeo, sir,” this guy took out a small thing from his waist and handed it over. “Sir, this is a map of the Hornets’ turf.”

Garen took Mondeo’s map and lightly pressed the button on this little device.

With a beep, a red light shot out from a small hole in front of this little thing and projected directly a crude map on the ground. The names on top of it were written badly.

The Blackboard region and Polar Region were among them.

The thing that surprised Garen the most was that as compared to other territories, the two regions were like two sesame seeds on top of layered flatbread [1] and completely inconspicuous.

He took a deep breath before he moved his finger to other vast territories outside the regions.

“These territories are all under the influence of radiation?!”

That’s right, sir!” Mondeo nodded. “The natural people’s regions are only small areas that radioactive people yearn for. There is no need to worry about the food we eat and the clothes we wear. There’s no need to worry about fighting with dangerous mutated life forms and no need to rob territory and food by killing people. A place where every radioactive people aspires to live in. Some people have calculated that even if there were radioactive people dying every day, our number will still be more than ten times that of the natural people. And with the pollution getting worse, every day, there will be natural people being driven out for various reasons to become radioactive people.”

At this moment, Garen truly understood the extent to which the Mother Planet Federation had decayed.

Radioactive people... this huge group of people was completely covered up by the government. The region had even established a perfect blockade system so that the people could continue to live on in ignorance.

“Has there been any radioactive people that have entered the region?” Garen asked.

“Not that I have heard of,” Mondeo shook his head. “But sir, you must be a natural person, right? If you have a Watch Terminal, then after coming to the radiation belt, you will need to go through radiation checkup. There may also be a memory sweep.”

“Radiation checkup? Memory sweep...?” Garen knew what these two meant, especially the checkup for radiation. The Cold radiation in his body must not be detected. And the memory sweep... This technology was used to enter the memory and let other people take a look layer by layer and make changes to them!

The natural people did not know the details, thinking that only the recent part of the memory would be eliminated, but as a student in Blackboard Academy, Garen knew better. This technology was a method that completely discarded human rights laws!

For a time, his face under the protective clothing turned gloomy.

“Once the fact that you have been to the radiation belt is identified, you will be ordered to go through a memory sweep, which is the rule,” Mondeo continued. “Rumor has it that there was once a region’s big shot’s nephew who came out to the radiation belt, and when he went back, he was still ordered to go through the memory sweep. Although the big shot was furious, he could not do anything about it and a lot of his family’s secrets were leaked out.”

“Is there a lot of this radiation belt between the domains? Does it only exist in between the Polar Region and Blackboard Region?”

Garen pondered for a bit and asked again.

“No, it’s like this everywhere. Our team has one that came from another radiation belt. Every region separates the area where they conduct their activities, and outside their activity area is entirely radiation belt. No natural person is willing to approach the radiation belt because they may never be able to go back,” Mondeo sighed.

Garen carefully sorted out all the relevant information he had received in the past.

Mother Planet’s huge environment and their borders rearranged themselves in his mind.

On the huge blue planet, on the pieces of continents, the regions were like gems dotted in the earth, small and precious, while outside, the periphery was all the radiation belt that was caused by pollution from the technology era.

The Academies Union was the most powerful force; they controlled everything, maintained order and blocked everything from the outside, but there was also a civil war raging inside. They should be the mastermind that sustained the current relationship between the natural people and the radioactive people.

“Alright let’s stop talking about all these,” Garen diverted the conversation. “How many Colorful Lakes are here?”

“Colorful Lake... there’s only one that has reached this Flaming light level. We have to send people to patrol every day and it’s our team’s turn today,” Mondeo quickly answered. He guessed that Garen should be a natural person that had been expelled today and did not know the importance of resources.

“Sir, if it’s necessary, you’d better collect some Rainbow stones as resources to exchange for food and water. Food and water are very precious in the radiation belt.”

“Thanks for the reminder,” Garen nodded. The Rainbow stones were common items inside the region, and he would have never thought that in the radiation belt, it had become one of the precious and important resources needed for survival. If he had not come out, he would have never have known that the Mother Planet was in such a bad state.

“Aside from the billions of people on Mother Planet, how many people are living in the radiation belt? This number is a big unknown...” he pondered with a heavy heart.

“Alright, you can go now,” Garen waved his hand, indicating that Mondeo could leave now. This guy was quite smart. In the beginning, he was still so scared that he wanted to escape but now he was very cooperative with no indication of doing anything else.

Mondeo looked as though he was granted amnesty and quickly ran far away. After some distance, he turned to look back and saw that Garen did not have any intention to kill him. Only then did he fly up and rush away.

Garen watched until he was completely out of sight before picking up a piece of the Mech parts on the ground.

“An outdated technology... It’s an equipment with materials from at least fifty or sixty years ago.” he touched the production label on one of the parts: Polar —13329760.

Looking back at the Colorful Lake, so far, he had only found small white stones which could not even compare to the batches that other people had brought over for him to absorb.

He had understood completely now. The white stones he had absorbed previously must have been accumulated by a lot of radioactive people.

“This is far less efficient than getting accumulated and absorbed all at once. Forget it, it’s better to go back. Luckily, the Watch Terminal was frozen by my Cold Energy radiation and its functions were suspended.”

He looked around and his gaze settled on the large Colorful Lake.

“But, since I have come, I can’t just go back empty-handed. This Colorful Lake...”

Chapter 837

Pu!

The sound of bubbling water filled his surroundings.

His vision was a field of dark green and nothing else. His whole body exuded a strong Cold Energy radiation which resisted the highly poisonous water that was constantly trying to attack the surface of his skin. He held his breath and continued swimming down.

The lake water was very viscous. Without using any special skills, he could not even begin diving. Garen had even hung a big stone from his body to help get himself downwards.

Not long after he’d dived in, his arms seemed to have touched something hard. It seemed to be moveable.

“What’s that?”

Garen pulled it over and suddenly a pale face appeared in front of him. The face belonged to a female corpse and one of her arms had been grabbed by Garen.

The female corpse's eyes were wide open, though her eyeballs were waterlogged to the extent they were green and black. Her clothes had been corroded and destroyed and most of her body was covered in rotting holes.

Throwing it aside, Garen continued to dive quietly while remaining vigilant at all times.

Gu lu...

A few bubbles floated upwards. The deeper he went, the clearer the water got; from dark green, it gradually turned to a shade of pale green similar to fresh water.

Garen could hold his breath for half an hour without any problems. The constitution of his body had become something that far exceeded normal humans after the transformation by the Hellfrost Peacock Technique. It was becoming the basic larva of the gigantic universe creature, the Hellfrost Peacock. After the foundations, he would completely become the basic larva. In his current state, the radiation which was deadly to normal people would not affect him as long as the Cold Energy around him did not disappear.

Hua...

Suddenly, Garen seemed to have heard a sound from his right. He looked over through his protective goggles but he could not see anything at all aside from the water's green tint.

Then, finger-long black worms appeared around him in the lake water. They were just like caterpillars with their whole body ensconced in a black and shiny black shell. They moved their body segment by segment and crept towards Garen from all over the place.

Garen was surprised and hurriedly increased the Cold Energy, enlarging the perimeter until it reached a meter away from him.

Soon, the first caterpillar entered the range of the Cold Energy. It quickly turned into an ice stick and sank downwards. The second one also entered into the range and frozen into ice. The same went for the third and the fourth... until the twenty-fifth one.

Only then did Garen sigh in relief. In order to kill these worms, he had consumed at least half of his Cold Energy.

He swam for a bit while looking around, but he did not see any more of these caterpillars.

He began to consider if he should continue diving down...

“With my capabilities, if I continue diving down, the pressure may shorten my diving time, it’d be better if I have diving equipment on.”

He stretched out his hand and stirred the lake water. After brushing away some muddy sediments, he could faintly see some things a few meters away.

He seemed to have seen a dark shadow swimming towards him.

“What is that?”

The dark shadow swam nearer and nearer...

Soon, it entered the Garen’s visual range.

It was a black water snake. The length of its body was around ten meters, but only had the thickness of an arm. It had teeth that were similar to those of cutlassfish and its eyes glow green in the lake.

Garen was not surprised but he was a little happy; this guy was obviously a beast that lived in this water.

He reached out his hand towards the head of the snake and a faint fluctuation spread out.

A look of awe and delight flashed in the eyes of the snake, showing its extraordinary intelligence. It let Garen stroke its head and gently wrapped its body around Garen, forming a circle.

“Bring me to a place that has a lot of this thing...” Garen took out a fist-sized white stone from the pocket of his protective clothing, shaking it at the snake.

His eyes flashed with a faint trace of gold color from the Ancient Nine-Headed Dragon, it was purely a wave that was used for communication. After passing the message to the snake using the way of the Totem World, he was still not sure whether it could understand him and could only keep a close eye on this guy.

The water snake’s eyes revealed doubts at this but it bit the white stone and turned around, swimming downwards towards the left.

Garen hurriedly grabbed onto its tail and his body was brought downwards at a high speed.

The flow of water on both his sides rushed around in a fast manner. The snake’s body simply flowed freely and it was ten times faster than him. After half a minute, there was a dark cliff wall that was full of caves of different sizes like a honeycomb.

The water snake led Garen into a large cave and drilled inside for several minutes. In the middle of it, he encountered a lot of those black worms again. They had grouped together and seemed to be eating something.

The water snake seemed to be wary of the worms and the worms also took the initiative to avoid the water snake. Both groups did not encroach upon each other and only passed by.

Garen, who was still holding onto the tail of the water snake, also felt his scalp tingling. He had killed off more than twenty of them just now using half of his Cold Energy. Now there were even more of them here, at least thousands of them. If they fought under such circumstances, then the chances of him dying would be very high.

Fortunately, the Will of the spirit of the Ancient Nine-Headed Dragon allowed him to be closer to the water snakes and avoid being entangled by these worms.

Glancing back at the thing that was being eaten by the swarm of worms, it was a piece of broken metal alloy. The worms' sharp teeth constantly tore away at the piece of metal, making cracking sounds.

Passing by the swarm of worms, the water snake began to go up along the tunnel of the cave swiftly.

After some time, around ten minutes to twenty minutes, there was a sloshing sound of water above him.

Garen suddenly felt that he had broken through the surface of the water. He had been brought by the water snake into a somewhat warm cave.

He took a deep breath. The air outside was quickly filtered through the air filtration system in his protective clothing and was replaced by air that was safe to breathe. After that, he began to take a look around his surroundings.

The cave was not big; it was only about the size of a small living room.

However, Garen's eyes suddenly opened wide with traces of joy.

All around the walls of the cave, including the ground, was paved in white. Surprisingly, it was all large chunks of White Peacock Stone!!

The whole cave was made up of the White Peacock Stone!

"This is the mine for the White Peacock Stone!"

Garen patted the water snake's head to express his satisfaction.

The snake gave a hissing sound that displayed its happiness. It then turned around in circles before spitting out the White Peacock Stone in its mouth.

“Go ahead, go and take a good rest.”

Garen let go of the water snake and began to explore the structure of the cave carefully. Walking up to the wall, he pressed a button on the collar of the protective clothing.

‘Recording the route taken...’ a line of words appeared on Garen’s goggles.

The route that was taken to come here was quickly recorded down by the chip in the protective clothing.

Sorting out the route, Garen pondered for a bit before going to the wall on the right side, where he removed his protective clothing and exposed his hand directly to the air.

He no longer suppressed the natural release of the Cold Energy radiation and pressed his palm to the wall.

Hiss... Peng!

After the hissing sound, white smoke came out from between his palm and the wall.

A large number of blue threads came out from Garen’s palm and drilled into the stone wall as though they were greedy parasites, absorbing the matter in the White Peacock Stone.

The stone wall soon broke down into powder. As though it was contagious, the area that broke down from the contact with Garen’s palm soon spread out. Less than half a minute later, the stone wall around the cave began to shake slightly. All the White Peacock stone began to break down into a large amount of powder and fell down.

Garen stood in front of the wall with his eyes closed, his body produced some creaking sounds and blue scales started appearing on the surface of his body. His face, body, arms, ears, the skin all over him was covered with scales similar to those of snakes. The protective clothing was gradually filled with a disgusting smell, which was becoming more and more unpleasant.

Opening his eyes, Garen saw the changes on his body.

“The closer you get to the Fifth level, the more the body becomes inhuman...”

Looking at the progress on his Attribute Panel, the completion of the Fifth level had already reached 42% and it was still rapidly increasing.

“As long as I reach the Basic level, there should be a very high qualitative change which should not disappoint me,” Garen recalled the record of the Living Secret Technique and closed his eyes again to absorb the essence of the White Peacock Stone.

His body began to change more and more. his arms began to grow out some sharp points, and on his back, dark blue filaments that were as dense as grass was beginning to grow out; it was similar to hair, but it could easily move around.

The biggest change was his body size and his height began to grow from the original 1.78 meter until it was almost 2 meters. His body’s muscles became more distinct and the scales on his skin became more obvious. He looked like a warrior that was wearing an armor made of snake scales.

Time passed by, as Garen gradually became immersed in the thrill of getting stronger.

Beside the Colorful Lake

The sky gradually turned bright and in the distance, there were more than ten black Mech coats. This group of people was all in the same super-miniature Mechs just like the previous group of Hornets.

This group of Mechs landed and started searching around the lake.

“Boss! I found one aircraft for single use, the model is very new! It should be something that those natural people brought out!”

One of the Mech coats found the single aircraft that was left behind by Garen.

Hearing of the clues, the tallest among the group flew over and landed in front of the aircraft and knocked on the aircraft’s propeller.

“It must be that natural person. Since it was casually put here, then it’s either that he threw it aside or he couldn’t take it away,” his voice was rough but his words revealed his attentiveness.

There was a slight commotion. There seemed to be some people who did not understand the meaning of these words.

“Boss means that this person either left this thing alone or there was an accident and he couldn’t come back temporarily,” a female voice explained on one side.

“Mondeo, are you sure that that natural person killed off your team without wearing any Mech!?” Boss turned around and asked the Mech coat at the very back.

“Yes, absolutely. If it was not for my wits or the fact that he wanted to leave someone alive to ask for information, I’m afraid I won’t be alive and standing here!” Mondeo quickly answered.

The Boss went silent for a while and saw that the group of Mech users was waiting for him to make a decision.

A natural person, a powerful one that appeared abruptly in this place with the ability to quickly kill off five Mech coats was likely to be able to kill off this group of ten Mech coats.

“Do not provoke him, this person is very strong. Maybe it’s an expert that was sent out by those big shots in the region to carry out a task. Even if he’s not, he alone is not someone we can deal with.”

“Those five Mech coats were found, Boss. Why not just retreat first?” someone suggested.

“Retreat, leave this area alone for a while. Do not come here until after that man leaves,” the Boss took the suggestion without being embarrassed about it. In the radiation belt, the strong ruled. Avoidance and escape were not shameful.

The group of people brought the Mech coats and quickly left. Mondeo finally fell in at the end of the line and looked back at the Colorful Lake.

“Natural person...” a trace of longing flashed through his eyes.

Chapter 838

Hua...

The cave that Garen was in had its size increased from the original 10 meters’ width to 20 meters.

The White Peacock Stone that formed the wall had also begun to turn yellowish; apparently, its purity was decreasing. The ground had now accumulated a thick layer of fine white powder.

The water snake had been hiding in the lake, circling around while waiting for Garen. Its pair of green eyes stared at Garen’s location with curiosity and awe.

Cough cough...

After a few coughs, a figure walked out from amidst the white powder. It was Garen who was wearing his black protective clothing.

The surface of his protective clothing was covered in white powder and his body had returned to its original state without any abnormalities.

“There’s nothing left to absorb... The quantity this time is very good. But compared to the accumulation that was transported for me to absorb previously, the efficiency is not much higher. The stones that were collected by them were all high purity stones and their quantity was also significant. The absorption from that time was equivalent to a third of what I absorbed here.”

Garen brushed away the powder on his body and compared the harvest this time.

“Even so, the advantage of coming out is that I can freely do the absorption. As long as I find the place, I can absorb straight away without any repercussions.”

Looking at his Attribute Panel, the progress of the Fifth level had increased again.

‘Secret Technique — Hellfrost Peacock Technique: Living Secret Technique, Fourth Level, Fifth Level completion rate: 72%.’

“If I could find such a place again, I should be able to completely break through to the Fifth level,” Garen was in a great mood.

Looking around at the powder on the ground, it was all high-energy fuel powder. Although it was not purified and there were a lot of impurities, it could still be used.

Garen stretched out his hand and blue threads came out.

“Devour!”

The skill was activated fully and the places where the threads made contact, all of the white powder there disappeared soundlessly.

At the same time, Garen felt that the Distorted Seed in his chest was growing heavier and larger.

A few minutes later, the entire layer of white powder, which had been more than a meter thick, was completely absorbed into Garen's body.

He already had a bulge on his chest.

Rip!!

After a ripping sound, a hole appeared at the bulge on his chest. Garen quickly pulled down the zipper on the protective clothing. With a sticky sound from the hole, a ball of flesh was squeezed out.

The hole in the chest quickly closed up and recovered.

Garen pressed on the wound. There was not a single hint of pain.

"It was as I thought, this Living Secret Technique is a path of evolution, and the more I move forward, the less human I become," he murmured while looking at the lump of flesh in his hand.

"This is the Distorted Seed?"

The meat ball was the size of a rugby ball. Its surface was smooth but covered with the white and red muscles that branched all over like a web.

"What's the use of this thing?" Garen did not find a way to use it with the Living Secret Technique. He gently threw it away and took a few steps back.

The Distorted Seed fell on the floor and squirmed for a bit.

Peng!!

A violent explosion occurred and a large amount of blood and transparent liquid burst out, affecting a wide area which was more than half of the cave. All the places that were affected were all covered in a thick layer of blue frost.

“What is this? A portable bomb?” Garen shook his head. “Completely useless. If it was in the ancient times, the power is certainly strong, but in this age of technology, the power is too small, the area it covers is also small and the way to manufacture it is also inconvenient. As expected, the Distorted Seed was a liability.”

Garen looked at the water snake in the lake, where it was trying to shrink itself. It seemed to fear the ice that had been produced from the explosion.

“Come here,” Garen beckoned it over.

The water snake sprang out of the lake’s surface and slithered to the Garen’s side while hissing.

“Bring me to another place that’s like this.”

Without any hesitation, the water snake motioned for Garen to grab on to its tail, turned around and slid back towards the lake.

This time, the water snake took only a few minutes before finding a similar cave.

Garen spent another half an hour absorbing the essence of the cave. The completion of the Fifth Level reached 92%. Then, the third time...

Repeating this over and over, Garen did not know how many times he had let the water snake take him to find the White Peacock Stones. Sometimes it was in caves and sometimes it was at the bottom of the lake, but there was never a time that he returned empty-handed. A large amount of powder was swallowed up by him to form Distorted Seeds that were left at each location.

In this manner, he stayed at the Colorful Lake for two days until the agreed time to leave the border. Garen was reluctant to leave the Colorful Lake. After checking the aircraft, he flew towards the direction

where he came from. At the same time, all the Distorted Seeds that he had deposited were all detonated at the same time, forming an ice cold zone at the bottom of the lake. This was to eliminate any potential danger that could come out of others discovering a large amount of highly explosive powder.

That water snake was given a name, Black Line. At the time when Garen was leaving, it circled around Garen many times to display its reluctance. This snake was considered to have quite a high intelligence similar to trained dogs. Now it had some kind of attachment to Garen. After swimming for a long time on the surface of the lake, it slowly dove down. Before Garen left, he had fed it a little bit of his blood as repayment for its help during these last few days. That drop of blood contained the transformation power of the Hellfrost Peacock, but he did not know whether the water snake could absorb it.

The border of the Polar Region

In the red glow of the evening sky, there were milky, translucent circles fluttering about. They looked like smoke rings in the yellowish red sky tinted with light green, similar to someone using a paintbrush to leave traces in the sky.

The land was formed of smooth plains and rolling hills. There was a meandering green river flowing between the hills, like a light green silk belt that grew out of the earth, flat yet reflective of the luster of the sky.

At a place at the riverbank, a single black aircraft landed unsteadily. A man covered in black protective clothing was pouring water over his body in the river, washing away the large amounts of radiation residue and dirt off the protective clothing. It was Garen, who had just come from the direction of the Colorful Lake.

Beep beep beep...

The beeping sound came from the aircraft.

Garen turned around to look at it and then as though he had heard something, he looked up at the sky.

A huge black and gray disk slowly came out from the sky above him. Its body was flashing with black lightning, which was the residual energy from space jumping.

The flying disk was hundreds of meters in diameter and covered in serrated folds. A few white electric lights were flashing and a ring that looked like a suction cup hung below it.

The flying saucer flew to the top of Garen before the ring underneath it turned and slowly opened in the middle, revealing another circular plate within.

Garen pressed on the Watch Terminal within his protective clothing, sending out a message that could be received in an open channel.

Shua...

The second layer of the flying saucer slowly opened and an invisible gravitational attraction was cast over Garen.

Zap!

The black lightning flashed and then Garen turned into a ball of black lightning that shot towards the bottom of the flying saucer.

The two layers quickly closed up and the flying saucer slowly continued to fly into the distance.

Only the aircraft was left behind on the ground beside the river.

“Welcome, guest from Blackboard Region.”

In the dark, Garen heard a pleasant voice ringing in his ears.

He opened his eyes and before him was a big dark blue hall.

The smooth ground looked as though it was made from a translucent material similar to a sapphire crystal, and it clearly reflected his own image.

His surroundings were empty and on top was an image of the huge ring pattern of the flying saucer, though the ceiling was a silvery white color. The entire hall was circular in shape and surrounded by circular windows, through which the sights of the beautiful Polar Region could be seen.

The evening hue of the sky dyed the earth red and the aurora circles in the sky continued moving about as though they were alive.

With a glance, he could see the landscape far away.

However, all of these did not appeal to Garen. What attracted his attention the most was the three one-meter wide silver metal balls that were floating not far away from him.

The three metal balls were arranged in an equilateral triangle and they were constantly floating up and down while slightly rotating.

“Are you Your Highness Mingway?”

Garen looked around but no one was visible around him.

“Yes, I am Mingway. Since you’re Celine’s friend, then you wouldn’t find me for no reason. Say it, what is it that requires me to use a flying saucer to get you?”

The voice said calmly.

“I have a business here, but unfortunately, I cannot support it alone. I need to find a powerful collaborator, so Celine recommended you,” Garen carefully picked his words. “High-energy fuel powder, have you ever heard of this thing?”

“Fuel powder? There are more than ten kinds of High-energy fuel powder businesses in my hands, which one are you talking about?” that voice seemed to be a little interested and asked carefully.

“It’s the powder that is extracted from Rainbow stones,” Garen reminded. Looking at this flying saucer, he knew that this Honorable Noble called Mingway had a high status and was rich to a certain extent.

“Oh, it’s that one... what about the profit margin?”

The middle silver metal ball among the three slowly stopped rotating and the features of a male face slowly appeared on its surface.

The face slowly opened its eyes. They were pitch black and the face silently stared at Garen below.

“I’m different from that Celine; although I also like martial arts, since someone had sent money to me, I will naturally accept.”

Garen’s expression remained unchanged.

“There may be earnings of up to ten millions of Units per month.”

The face then pondered.

“Okay, I accept this splitting. Say it, what kind of help do you need? This is not a small amount, what is it do you want to exchange?”

Before Garen came here, he had already thought it over. Wanting a territory was not realistic, especially after he had gone to the radiation belt’s Colorful Lake, found the White Peacock stones mine and gauged the absorption’s efficiency. He might have a significant increase in a short period of time, but

this progress could not be relied upon for long-term improvements. It was better to let others help him collect them. The efficiency of the absorption was still not very good.

Therefore, this territory plan was not that useful. In that case, the deal this time should include diverting attention and greedy people away from himself and also exchanging for some things that were hard to get...like training methods.

“I want Level Four and Level Five of the training method Galaxy Glow.”

Garen thought for a bit before conveying his first intention.

Chapter 839: Mingway 1

“Galaxy Glow?” Mingway pondered. A moment later, he slowly answered, “I’m sorry, I can’t promise you this. I do have the follow-up of the Galaxy Glow training methods but I don’t have the qualification to sell it. The right belongs to the Academies Union.”

“Not qualified?” Garen’s heart sank. If even the Honorable Noble was not qualified, then perhaps the only chance he had was with the Academies Union.

“The follow-up training methods of Galaxy Glow are very precious. It is not something that you can buy with money alone. If you need other training methods, then I can give you a full set. With the profit that you provided this time, I can offer you a full set of Level Five training methods. How about it?” Mingway tempted him.

“Level Five...quite low...” Garen shook his head although he did need a training method to outline the path that he could take.

If the Living Secret Technique could forcefully increase Willpower as a power source that could be manipulated, then training methods could draw out his direction and the way forward. Without it, he could not forcefully continue to upgrade the Level of his Willpower.

Originally, when he had come to this world, he had intended to mainly absorb and use the world's local power system while using his own martial arts as a supplement.

"Quite low? Hehe..." Mingway could not help but laugh. The little guy in front of him only had Level One Willpower, yet he still thought that a Level Five training method was quite low? A lot of people could spend a lifetime training and yet be unable to reach Level Four Willpower. For a normal qualified pilot, a Level Five training method was already a godly training manual. If he was lucky enough to reach Level Five, then he could enter the ranks of top experts. As long as he did not meet those abnormal inheriting pilots, for everything else, it could be counted as a lifetime of abundant wealth.

"Let me tell you the truth. Count it as me giving Celine face, I'll give you an in-depth explanation," he stopped laughing.

Garen was not angry. He only looked at the face in the ball calmly.

"Level Five, in the Blackboard Region alone, which has hundreds of millions of people, there are fewer than two hundred people who have their hands on it. This ratio is one in a million. If you can reach Level Five in this lifetime, you would already be thanking gods, as this is the peak for normal people. Perhaps you're comparing yourself to people like Celine, but the power they have behind them is beyond your imagination. It would be better for you to be humble and take a step at a time. Slow and steady wins the race, don't bite off more than you can chew," Mingway kindly explained and reminded him.

Garen's expression remained the same and nodded lightly.

"It seems that I was too naive. Then let's exchange for the full set of Level Five training methods but just that one is not enough."

"Of course, I'll let you pick two more things from my stash, how about it?" Mingway answered generously. "The treasures in the stash are at least worth tens of millions per piece. If you're lucky and have good eyesight, you may even get treasures that are worth hundreds of millions and maybe even billions~" he gave a triumphant laughter.

"As expected of an Honorable Noble, you even dare to bring treasures that are worth billions around with you..." Garen said with a sigh.

“Honorable Nobles like us may still lack things, but money and antiques are just too much to count. To be honest, if what you offered was not a business of high-energy fuel powder, I wouldn’t even have bothered with you,” after this deal had been settled, Mingway’s voice became languid. “Alright, I have two of these full sets of training methods. There’re not many of these, and those that can be spread around without consequences are even fewer. So, I can only give you two choices.”

With a swish sound, a board of crystal rose out from the ground before Garen. There were several lines of words in there mixed with three-dimensional diagrams.

The first one was a diagram of a soaring black eagle followed by a text explanation.

‘Crouched Eagle Talon: Level Five training method, a training method that trains Willpower based around attacks using claws with high-speed charges. Every Level will increase the speed of the Mech by a level. A field of Willpower will appear to strengthen the hands of the Mech and greatly increase the hardness of defense.’

The second one was a pair of triangular silver pieces that were stacked together in a fragmented way.

‘Block Lock: Level Five Training Method, greatly increases compatibility with the Mech, a great number of parts can be applied to the Mech during maintenance. Every Level can increase the defensive performance level. Level Five can unlock the ability to analyze the weakness of enemy’s Mech.’

“There’re only these two?” Garen wrinkled his brows. At the top of each Level increase, there was a label. These were strictly classified in accordance with the standard set by the Mother Planet Federation.

The performance of Mechs from Level One until Level Five, each model of a new series of Mech that appeared would give out five levels of data of their theoretical best values.

Speed, Strength, Armor defense, Compatibility, Detection range and so on would all have their corresponding levels. To increase the value on top of the Mech’s original values by a level, this was a basic trait of the general training methods.

Both the training methods that Mingway gave out were very mediocre. Their saving grace was the high levels that prevented them from appearing on the market.

“If it’s only these two kinds, with a little bit of luck I would be able to get them from the Blackboard Academy. Don’t forget, I’m also a member of the Blue Narcissus,” Garen added.

“True, you can get Level Five training methods as long as you can meet the requirements of the Blackboard Academy and you’re also the academy’s prospective elite student. There is a great possibility. If it’s like that, this will really be a loss for you,” Mingway also felt a bit embarrassed, “Let’s do it this way, if you’re not afraid of trouble, I can give you other sets of the more troublesome training methods. These training methods were acquired through some not so legal means. Once someone finds out that you’re training these, you may get into trouble. Are you afraid?”

“The power?”

“Of course I won’t let you down.”

“Fine then, let me see first!” Garen answered decisively without any hesitation.

Mingway’s could not help but take a few more looks at him.

“What a personality, no wonder Celine praised and recommended you.”

With a swish sound, the crystal board in front of Garen change immediately. Three new training methods surfaced. There were no diagrams this time, only lines of words.

‘Yuri’s Kiss: Level Five training method. The basic version of the inherited training methods Yuri’s Kiss. Each Level will increase the practitioner’s speed and strength by 1.5 times. Side effects: The process can cause extreme pain, one practitioner fell into insanity while training it.’

‘Moonlight: Level Five training method, incomplete version, originally one of the nine training methods of the Moonlight Saintly Sect. Each level can theoretically increase speed by two levels. Side effects: twice the pressure on the body. A speed that is too fast can create a strong burden on the pilot;

more than two times the pressure is put on normal pilots. Some practitioners had trained to a certain level but died abruptly due to their own physical deficiencies.'

'Glowing Radiance: Level Five training method, one of the self-created training methods by a master from the west, a special training method that was designed to create Modulated Biochemical Pool for personal use. Each level of Modulated Biochemical Pool can enhance 0.5 level of armor enhancement. Side effect: The progress is very difficult.'

"What is this thing from the last one?" Garen asked. When he saw this Modulated Biochemical Pool, his mind clicked.

"The Modulated Biochemical Pool is a miniature factory used to create biochemical machine soldiers. This kind of technology has almost ceased to exist now because the training method is very difficult and the soldiers that are created from the biochemical pool are far less powerful than pilots. It belongs to the category of technology that has been eliminated but since it's quite good to be used purely for research," Mingway casually explained, "I collected it out of curiosity. I bet no one is training this sort of ancient and outdated training method now. You're better off not using it."

"So what's the problem with this training method?" Garen was very interested in this. The use of the Biochemical Pool might be able to complement his current condition.

"The problem is that increasing the Level is hard," Mingway answered. "I'd advise you not to think about it. There were once inheriting pilots that tried to train in it but that pilot did not even achieve Level Four."

"I choose the previous Crouched Eagle Talon plus this Glowing Radiance, how about it?" Garen thought for a bit and simply said.

"No problem, the robot will take you to the stash. I have to deal with something now, so I'll come back later," Mingway readily agreed; these two were useless to him anyway. His own training method was the cutting-edge enhancement training method. In the beginning, there was not much difference between the training methods but later, the difference would become more obvious.

The voice went away and the ball also returned to its original state.

Garen waited for a while in the hall. Soon, a silvery white robot with wheels on its bottom half rolled over and led him to the right where an elevator slowly descended.

After getting into the elevator which went upwards for more than ten seconds, turned into another passage and moved forward for another ten seconds, it soon came to a halt.

“Destination arrived, please enter, this is the third stash of His Highness Mingway. You can choose any two things inside and no more,” the robot’s mechanical voice sounded. “Please transmit the cooperation agreement to me, I will check it and pass it on to His Highness.”

Garen lifted his Watch Terminal and transmitted the agreement that had been prepared earlier to the robot. At the same time, he transferred the first earnings over to it.

The robot’s red electronic eyes flashed a few times as it completed the transmission. It moved aside and it seemed as though it was checking the agreement.

Garen walked into the small black hall before him.

Inside, it was pitch black, but the moment he stepped into the small hall, lots of yellowish light brightened up his surroundings.

The small hall was circular in shape and a large stone-gray bird statue stood in the middle. This large bird’s posture was weird. Its wings were unfolded with one foot raised as though it was about to step forward. Its height was more than five meters, which was equivalent to that of a Mech.

He did not know whether it was an illusion, but from the moment Garen walked into the small hall, the large bird statue’s eyes seemed like they were staring at him.

Ignoring the large bird statue, Garen began to walk around the small hall.

The small hall was filled with icy-blue light balls the size of a human head. There were two white rings that were constantly circling around a sphere like satellite rings. Inside the rings were the so-called treasures.

Walking around, Garen took a look at every single one of them. Some were seemingly ordinary hats, some were small bottles holding transparent liquid, there were also some swimwear and underwear that had been worn by women. There were ancient-looking black metallic helmets, ancient knight's armor and so on.

Garen was completely unclear of the value of these things. He only observed them along his way, intending to get a general idea of Honorable Noble Mingway's collection. As for his choice, picking any two things would do.

When he walked until the back of the large bird, a strange cane suddenly caught Garen's eye. The cane was very long and its upper half was capped by a ball of light. It was long, dark and smooth, seemingly made out of wood. The top was set with silver ornaments, and its white silver was carved into the shape of many thin roots that clutched an ovular crimson jewel.

"This cane..." a ripple occurred within Garen's heart. A feeling that seemed familiar yet foreign slowly emerged inside his heart. He gently picked up the cane and savored the mysterious feeling inside his heart.

"That is Staff of Absolute Yin. Since you have picked it up, then it's counted as the first thing you've chosen," Honorable Noble Mingway's voice sounded again. "What do you choose as the second item?"

"Staff of Absolute Yin? Can you explain what it does?"

"It's an antique with a long history, and the material it's made of is somewhat special. It was said that only the elders of the Mother Planet Federation are eligible to use it, but the federation had been divided for such a long time that this thing has already lost its symbolic identity. Now it's just a pretty ornament with some collectible value," Mingway laughed scornfully. "By the way, this thing's value is only twenty million at most."

“It’s fine, as long as I like it,” Garen smiled, watching as the ball of light atop the staff scattered by itself. He spun the staff gracefully in his hand, it felt good.

“Alright, seeing as you chose wrong with the first item, I’ll recommend you something you can use.” Mingway seemed slightly apologetic. “In the corner to your right, there’s a small silver-white box, do you see it? That’s called the Instantaneous Paper Box, it’s a single-use item. When you open it, there will be an explosive field of repulsion, it’s as powerful as an inheriting pilot’s single use of his Willpower force field. It only works once, and it cannot kill or injure your opponent. The most it can do is push away the opponent, for a range of fifteen meters, it’s something that can save your life at a crucial moment.”

“Alright, I’ll take it.” Garen took his advice and chose the Instantaneous Paper Box. Now he had two items, the Staff of Absolute Yin and the Instantaneous Paper Box.

“Right, you can go rest for a bit in the Flying Saucer Room, I’ll send you straight to the edge of the Radiation Area, to the legal entrance into the Blackboard Region, so that it’ll save you some trouble.

“Thank you, Your Highness,” said Garen politely.

“By helping you, aren’t I also helping myself?” Mingway was very open about it.

Garen was in a good mood. Led by the robot, he left the small hall, and began to unlock and demagnetize the items. Everything in the vault was fortified with powerful magnetism, in order to prevent them from emitting any force fields that might be noticed by outsiders.

A white pillar of light was suspended from the ceiling above. Garen put the Staff of Absolute Yin inside first, and let it float in the pillar of light.

Smack!

Garen’s expression changed immediately. Nobody noticed, Mingway had already left, and the robot was also still controlling the light pillar so it could demagnetize the items. No one noticed that Garen’s gaze

had become extremely, extremely strange, his expression changing for a moment before quickly returning to normal. Still, he could not suppress that hint of surprise and joy deep in his eyes.

After a clear sound, wisps of black air flashed around the staff, and then quickly vanished.

Garen reached his hand inside to grab the staff, and pulled it out lightly. Then he put the Instantaneous Paper Box inside, and let it float there.

No one saw that he held the staff tightly, very tightly...

The room where the Flying Saucers rested were many spherical rooms, and each sphere was hanging on so many silver racks, that it looked from afar as though the hall was lined with two rows of World Cup trophies...

The living area was cold and empty. Led by the robot, Garen entered a bedroom, and checked the surveillance situation around it. The room was very safe, the walls were all made of very high-quality alloys, so normal explosives would not even make a mark on them.

As soon as he closed the door, he grasped the Staff of Absolute Yin.

The thing felt strangely smooth and round, like human skin.

Closing his eyes lightly, Garen took a deep breath.

He began to softly rub the red ruby on the tip of the staff, the surface of the ruby had many black cracks, like melted lava. It was strangely beautiful.

Wisps of an indescribable cool air flowed into his body through his fingers, and that long-awaited feeling made Garen sink into it for a moment.

“I found them at last... potential points...”

After observing his surroundings carefully for a moment, Garen got up and turned on the computer in the room. Sitting there, he quickly checked the situation after he had left, acting as though he was surfing the Internet out of boredom.

As he clicked the mouse, large amounts of screens and images flashed through his eyes. He had filtered out a vast amount of information and sites out of the countless information given to him, and collected them in his mind.

“The Blackboard and other regions are all currently embroiled in the whirlpool that is the White Light Organization... This seems to relate to a bigger picture... There’s something impressive in the Blackboard Region, it’s the center of everything.”

Long ago he had already noticed it, but he did not pay too much attention to it. More and more outsiders were appearing in Blackboard City, that could not be a coincidence. Through all this information, he could only grasp some rough ideas. So he could use them to figure out what the bigger picture was like.

“But no matter what problems there are in the region, none of it has anything to do with me. I just need to take it step by step, and proceed according to plan, then nothing will go wrong.” Garen quickly clicked a couple of pages, his fingers brushing past the keyboard with a whoosh.

He gathered all the serious incidents that had happened in the region recently and put them together in a file. By listing them all down from the top, he could see that it was not just the Blackboard Region, but even the Polar Region and the Maria Region, as well as others, were beginning to make their moves.

Garen’s intelligence was twice that of a normal person, his reflex speed and logical thinking skills abnormally fast. Soon enough, he had more or less figured out that something major was happening in the Blackboard Region.

It was highly likely that the strange actions from the White Light Organization and other main regions were also as a result of this.

“The elite students and the higher-ups are mostly in charge of the serious incidents outside, most students remain unaffected, so I can ignore this. The Blackboard Region has caught everyone’s attention, but on the other hand the Polar Region’s battle for territory is not really in the spotlight now... Maybe I could give it a try.” Garen’s thoughts jumped over all this, and landed on the territory he had decided on. He could use this chance to ask Mingway about it, Mingway was also a rich noble from the Polar Region, so he would probably have influence in that sense.

The battle in the Blackboard Region was too far away from him, what he needed to do now was to increase his own powers as soon as possible.

Ever since he reincarnated here, his recovery speed had been too slow.

“Last time I absorbed the White Peacock Stones and increased my limit, but I had always been holding it back, so that I could wait for a good enough training method and increase them together.”

With his bare hands, Garen picked up two stacks of printed information on the table next to the computer in the room. These were the two stacks of training information that Mingway had asked someone to put in the room beforehand.

He flipped through them. Glowing Radiance was his main focus, Crouched Eagle Talon was only a generalized training method, like Galaxy Glow, they could be bought on the market. Or rather, out of any people on the street who were currently practicing training methods, a couple of them would use this Crouched Eagle Talon. But most people could only reach Level Three at the most, while this version was Level Five, so it was much better. Garen had seen them on the market before, but they were too average so he never really considered them.

“Alright, this is the one, this is the highest level training method I’ve come into contact with. If I couldn’t reach Mingway, perhaps I could only buy this at a high price from Blue Narcissus.”

Garen flipped open the Crouched Eagle Talon, and began to read it carefully, page by page. It was relatively easy for him to switch from training with the Galaxy Glow to this one, because he did not go deep with that one, and his Willpower had yet to fully reach that special state.

The training method was very simple, Garen just read it once and he could already completely understand its secret. Unlike the previous training method, the Crouching Eagle Talon first activated the

arms, activating the Willpower in the arms. Since this one was the most-used part, so it was very easy for regular people to do that as long as their Willpower was strong enough.

Following the steps stated there, he just had to move his current Willpower into forming two imprints. After they stayed in each of his arms for a short while, when he could feel that the imprints had fully formed and were sealed into his arms, that would be proof that he succeeded with the first grade.

Garen's Willpower had already reached Level One anyway, so he could just ignore the basics. He flipped to the second grade, second level content.

Feeling the impulse to level up that was being suppressed inside him by the Hellfrost Peacock Technique, Garen let his Willpower relax slightly, releasing the suppression.

Woo... Woo...

Suddenly there was a sound by his ear that sounded like a child's cry, it was the cry of the peacock.

Just like that, sitting in front of the computer, Garen turned his body around, and let his leather chair spin with his momentum. His skin began to turn faintly blue, a mild ice-blue color.

A hint of a warm touch spread from the right side of his face. Without him noticing, an icy-blue peacock, slender and beautiful, had appeared behind him. It stretched out its neck, lightly caressing the side of Garen's face.

The peacock was translucent, softly making its faint cry.

Whoosh...!

All of a sudden, Garen opened his eyes, but he saw nothing beside him. There was no peacock at all. He touched his right cheek lightly, there seemed to be something more there.

Turning off the computer screen, he used the half-transparent screen as a mirror.

Garen abruptly found that there was a new, mysterious icy-blue mark on his right cheek. It was an image like that of a flying bird, covering half of his face. Most strangely, the mark seemed to have been embedded into his skin, it did not look like it was drawn on at all.

“Did I just completely step over the Basic Level, just like that?” He did not feel like he had changed a lot.

He checked the attribute pane in his vision.

‘Nonosiva Lin – Strength 3.1, Agility 3.0, Vitality 4.7, Intelligence 2.1, Potential 0%. Soul limit 40.’

‘Willpower – Lower Second Level, (Obtained a certain degree of strengthening from the Living Secret Technique)

(Training Method: Crouching Eagle Talon Level Two.’

‘Potential Quality — Void Pursuer’

‘Soul Seed – Northern Trident Frost-Fire True Water Evil Technique, Holy Phoenix Demonic Book.’

‘Secret Technique – Hellfrost Peacock Technique: Living Secret Technique, Level Five. Completion rate of Level Five is at 100%.

‘Natural Ability Obtained — Devour (Devours various living things to restore body)’

‘Natural Ability Obtained — Distorted Seed (Creating chaos is the Hellfrost Peacock’s favorite pastime)’

‘Natural Ability Obtained — Cold Chaos (Causes fluctuations in time and space naturally and releases cold air naturally within an area of twenty meters to create a chaotic low-temperature area with the

lowest point at zero degrees. Simultaneously, there is a low probability that it will trigger confusion within the minds of its enemies, causing them to attack randomly)’

“Overall my attributes increased by more than three points, I’ve improved a lot. The average is about twice what it was, I knew that I would get a big upgrade once I got past the Basic Level.

And then there’s Cold Chaos. Its range was increased to twenty meters, and its temperature reached 0 degrees. I guess I could kinda use it.”

Garen looked at his changes, somewhat satisfied.

“The main point is that my Willpower has finally reached Level Two. I knew that increasing Living Secret Techniques would strengthen my whole body, that little bit of additional effect would also allow my Willpower to increase as well. As expected of the powerful secret technique that can be used all over the universes.”

“Now, let’s take a look at the only item with potential power that I’ve found since coming to this world...”

Garen moved his gaze to the Staff of Absolute Yin, his gaze burning hot. If he could obtain potential points, then his speed of improvement would increase tremendously.