

The Truth 551

Chapter 551 When the Emperor shed tears

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knock *knock*

"Hmm, your meeting with Theo had been going on for a long time so I thought I should come in to see if you two needed juice or something like that..." Billy opened the huge hall door and stuck his head in looking around until finally, his eyes fell on Robin's back, "Aha, I knew I would find you alone, That bastard Theo is used to being mute, and one has to force the words out of his mouth with a hook, I knew he won't talk to you for that long."

"..."

When Billy did not find any reaction from Robin, he entered the hall and closed the hall door behind him, quieting the loud noise coming from outside as if it were a beehive. Then he took a few steps towards Robin until finally he was able to see his features... Robin was still placing his elbows on his knees and resting his head on his palms

Billy furrowed his eyebrows at this sight and tilted his head down to see Robin's face. If there was one thing that could describe Robin's features now, it was *Helplessness*

"The hell?! Brother, you just conquered a planet and won your first war, what could put you in this situation? Are you okay?!" Billy quickly reached out and patted Robin's back frantically

Billy has been beside Robin for a long time and over the years he saw a lot of emotions taking over his face. In the end, Robin is just a human being who makes mistakes and learns from his mistakes, but he has never seen features like the one on his face now... What could make him feel so helpless and weak? Even when he learned of his wife's death, he returned with the Demons to take revenge, his face and actions were full of rage that burned the entire planet of Jura!!

"...I'm fine, Billy." Robin merely responded with these words

"No, you're not okay! What did that little bastard Theo say to you?" Billy shouted and then seemed to remember something. "...Did something happen to Richard?!"

"No, he is fine... better than even my best expectations actually. He still maintains his will and personality. It makes me proud that someone like me managed to have a child like that." Robin shook his head, still resting it on his hands

When Billy heard this, his eyebrows furrowed even deeper as he sat in Theo's place, "...Listen, we may have been separated for more than one hundred and seventy years if we count the time you spent on the planet Nihari, perhaps your status precedes mine by miles, perhaps I even have to treat you like an Emperor and fear you now, And I know I disagree with you a lot, but that is because I know who you are and I do not want you to take a path that you will surely regret, I just want to give you more options and you know that I will never against you. Robin, you are still my only true friend, and I know very well that I am your only friend in this world since I know how much of a failure you are in making friends... Robin, tell me, what concerns you? If you don't speak to me, then who?"

"...Billy, Did I ever tell you how Mila died?" Robin finally said something

When he heard this, Billy raised his eyebrows and quickly answered, "This is the state of war, my friend. No matter how much of an overwhelming victory you achieve, you must lose something. Mila was a good woman, she preserved your honor in your absence and stood with your family until the end, And it is clear that she protected your son, losing a woman like her is a shame... But, she is still a woman. Who among us has not lost a family member? Many years have passed since her death, so pull yourself together already."

Robin seemed like he didn't hear anything, "I won't tell you the long story since it burns me. I'll just tell you the end. The Nihari giants cooked and ate her."

Ba-Dum

"...Why are you telling me this?" Billy spoke slowly, it's not easy for a man to say something like this

"Because Richard was there that day, he saw everything."

"Richard saw them while they were--?!" Billy opened his eyes to the end and grabbed the handle of his chair. Technically, he was the one who raised Richard and knows very well how attached he is to his mother.

For a ten-year-old to see something like this...

"...When I met him in Planet Nihari, there was one step between me and him, but I did not dare to tell him that I was his father... Ever since I laid eyes on him I knew that he went through torment that no human being could bear. He used the Fire of Life Law technique to treat his body over and over until I felt that his body was completely changed more than once..." Robin leaned his body forward more and tears began to fall to the ground, "That day, after I had heard enough from him, I stood up and ran away like a coward, leaving him in his hell alone... I thought I would run away temporarily until I found something to say to him, but I now know from Theo that Richard knew who I was *sniff sniff* I can't even imagine how frustrated he was with me."

for my worst enemies, my family that I was trying to strengthen was destroyed because of me... and 17:47

all of this for the sake of a mission... And what a mission, hehehe, hahahaha." Robin looked up and Robin took a few deep breaths and then continued, "..But what should I tell him? I am your father who caused a war that destroyed your home, I am your father who caused your mother to be killed because I was not there to protect her? I am your father who let you be tortured for eleven years and did not I even know that you are alive? I am your father who will leave you to suffer even more because I do not dare to make any move now!? What should I have said to him, Billy? What should I have said... I am afraid to face him..."

Billy straightened up in his seat and his eyes began to fill with tears as well. How could he console Robin? Rather, who will console him, since he was the one who raised Richard since he was a baby!!

Billy ran his hand over his eyes, wiping away the tears and forcing a smile to appear on his face, "Don't do this to yourself. You were on a mission and couldn't come back. No one can blame you for what happened."

"...Not true. After two to three years of my absence, I was able to establish the foundations of the sect. I had Jabba's protection and a vast amount of resources. I had the resources, save place, and enough men to create a space portal, but I chose not to do so." Robin muttered in a low voice

"WHAT?! You... YOU!!" Billy shouted, if Robin had returned for even a few minutes every now and then, everything would have been different!!

"...I have been through some bad situations on Planet Nihari since my arrival that made me hate that planet to the bones. I was afraid that if I returned and saw you all again, my resolve would die and I would break my promise... Hehe... What a weak bastard I am... What I went through there was nothing compared to what happened to my son... What a weak coward I am...

"..." Billy was silent, not knowing what to say.

Billy wanted to scream and say something but he stopped his lips from parting every time, what would he say? Should he blame him? Maybe tell him how bad his decision was? It is not like Robin does not know the consequences of this decision, and worse, it is clear that the decision not to return until the mission is completed still haunts him to this day and burns his heart with remorse, any inappropriate word now Will do much harm...

"WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING? Curse me! Get up and punch me!! What kind of Emperor am I? I am just a cowardly failure. I don't even have the guts to look at my son's face... My wife was killed in a horrific way, My only son is still subjected to psychological and physical torture that I would not want for my worst enemies, my family that I was trying to strengthen was destroyed because of me... and all of this for the sake of a mission... And what a mission, hehehe, hahahaha." Robin looked up and started laughing hysterically, then slowly opened his red eyes and let the tears fall down his cheeks

Then continued weekly, "...All of this was because of a mission on a planet that I hate and a war between two individuals that I don't even know... And you know what's worse? I'm still doing that mission against my will and killing countless creatures for it, hahaha.. hehe.. what kind of Emperor am I? *sniff sniff* I'm just a clown, just a puppet that doesn't have the ability to decide for itself! I wish I had died in that cave, Billy... I wish I had died."

Billy did not speak again. He did not try to console Robin or blame him. Rather, he sat there, looking at his friend and listening to him. Every now and then, he would ask a small question and let Robin speak at length and relieve what was on his chest.

He didn't know what to say to comfort him, and he didn't have to say anything either... His mere presence that day gave Robin a chance to finally reveal what was on his heart.

His mere presence prevented Robin from falling into the abyss that slowly pulled him down every day.

Chapter 552 Next target

552 Next target

Minutes passed... maybe hours?

Neither Robin nor Billy felt the passage of time as if time had completely stopped around them

For Robin, this was his only chance to ease his heart even by a little bit, the first time he had a chance to talk about it since that dark day.

After confronting the All-Seeing God, Robin surrendered and accepted the reality that everything that happened was collateral damage that should be forgotten, but he never got over it. And even if he got over his dead wife, how could he get over Richard who was still alive? Maybe if he had died with his mother, getting over it would have been much easier, but now? To say that the issue is complex would be an understatement.

Richard represents everything Robin hates! and at the same time everything he loves...

As for Billy, he spent most of his time shocked, angry, or sad, he didn't know whether he should have beaten Robin or comforted him, but every time he held his tongue and contented himself with listening, as he knew very well that words now would not change the past, what happened had happened, and Also... If he were in his shoes, would he have made better decisions? It's hard to say...

After an unknown amount of time, Robin leaned his head back in his chair, closed his eyes, and turned his face toward the ceiling, "...Thanks for being here today, Billy. I never thought I needed this." Robin's voice was rough and unsteady, and even his cheeks had white lines from dried tears, his appearance was truly pitiful at this moment.

"...My friend, I seriously think you need to rest a little. The sky won't fall if you empty your mind and take a time-out for a while." Billy hesitated a little and then spoke. He couldn't find anything else to say in a situation like this

"Haha, time-out? Did you think I collapsed or something? Sorry to disappoint you. I think I felt a little suffocated when I thought about meeting Richard, but nothing has changed." Robin finally opened his eyes and laughed loudly, he then raised his hands to wipe the tear lines from his bloodshot eyes, before taking out a bottle of water from his space ring drinking it in one gulp, and throwing it aside, before opening his arms with a smile, "See? I'm fine as ever, haha, but I think I was really emotional in front of you today and I earned myself ridicule, I apologize for that."

"Robin, ignoring your mental state and using sarcasm won't solve anything." Billy furrowed his eyebrows

"Sitting idle and waiting for problems to be solved by themselves will not help either." Robin waved indifferently, "I will strengthen my army and crush my problems, won't that be enough? I will definitely return to Planet Nihari, and this time won't be the same."

"Strengthening the army? This might help if you want to smuggle Richard out, but how exactly will your army help you get rid of that All-Seeing guy?!"

Robin raised his eyebrows a little, "...The All-Seeing God, hah... I don't know how to describe him other than that he is a very mysterious person. When I spoke to him the last time in the bar, his words were logical and balanced, full of gaps, but still, they could be taken into account and he seemed to understand my position, but when I mentioned that I didn't want to complete the task in Planet Nihari he said that I have to try until the end, otherwise, he will not accept this result. Billy, In your opinion, is this considered an encouragement or a threat?"

Robin gave a short chuckle as he answered himself, "I personally couldn't tell, and frankly, I hesitated to ask him "Or what" because I knew that the answer would not please me. Maybe he will accept my withdrawal from Nihari only to dump me on an even more dangerous mission. What if I refuse again? Will he simply take the life he gave me? Or worse, punish me by first destroying Planet Jira in a fit of anger? In the end, I am just a disobedient ant in his eyes, I have to expect anything from him, even if he acts like a gentleman, there are no gentlemen who can reach that level of power, and he definitely didn't regine over multiple planets because of his sheen kindness!" Robin looked sideways and muttered as he tapped his chair, "All I have to do now is complete this mission and hope he fulfills his part of the promise and leave me alone. Let fate take its course, I guess..."

Billy remained silent for a moment and then asked, "...So what are you going to do about Nihari? You speak of that planet and the Nihari giants with absolute hatred and yet you strengthen your army so that you can carry out your mission and save them from the coming invasion, how exactly are you going to do this? Working for something that you hate will make you more depressed, but doing your work lazily may make the situation much worse than just standing aside and watching."

Robin chuckled when he heard this, "Haha, you're right, but who said anything about saving them?"

"What-?! Robin, do you intend to break your promise to the All-Seeing Guy? Don't tell me that you intend to help those invaders and destroy the planet Nihari to calm your anger!!" Billy stood up and shouted angrily. He heard from the Burton family merchants about the planet Nihari. It is a very huge planet containing dozens of intelligent races and its total population reaches more than a hundred billion people. If Robin intended to punish everyone for the sake of personal revenge, then...

"Hey, calm down. I did not say that I would break my promise to the All-Seeing God, nor did I say that I would raise my sword against any of the innocents among the residents of Nihari either. They will do the job themselves." Robin's smile turned strange

"...Robin, what exactly do you plan to do? Tell me, maybe we can find a better way together." Billy waved his left hand frantically, he had seen this smile once before when Robin started leading the demons on Planet Jura...

Robin waved indifferently, "These are details you don't have to know, but if it helps you sleep better, know that I have no intention of desecrating my hands with the blood of those who have no fault in the matter. I already set my course when I refused to annihilate the Flame Continent that day. I will not go back and turn into a monster again in a worthless place like Planet Nihari... not directly, at least."

"Not directly? Robin--"

"What brings you to the headquarters? You're not here because of Theo," Robin cut off Billy's words quickly with a stern voice, "You do like sticking your nose into my affairs a lot, but you're not completely useless to leave the Fifth Legion on the front line and come by yourself for no reason."

"...I'm really here for something else," Knowing that Robin had decided to change the subject, Billy gave in and walked along as well, "Tree Father Descartes recently contacted me through one of his body

avatars. He told me that he had been trying to reach you for the past two years, but his avatars were destroyed as soon as they approached the tent you were staying in, so he asked me for a truce until you came out of your isolation and he could meet you. When I heard that you woke up, I came to see what is your opinion on this."

"You could have communicated with me with a voice ring instead of leaving your army and coming yourself..."

"Come one don't be this heartless. Firstly, you know that the quality of the sound in the voice rings decreases over distance as the sound becomes weaker and distorted. How do I use it in an important situation like this? Secondly, the war has been at a standstill on the Descartes front for almost two months. Whenever we advance, he retreats. Do you know how boring this is? It's more boring than staying in Jura to manage the roads and markets! Thirdly, when I heard about Theo's presence, I thought I was going to shoot two birds with one stone. Do you know how long it's been since I heard the news about Richard?" Billy shrugged

Robin remained silent for a while in front of those words, "...Tree Father Descartes wants to meet me, huh... Interesting. I happen to be intending to meet him as well. Hoffenheim is already down, if he doesn't learn from his rival's death, he will be our next target."

"So? When do you plan to meet him? I can go back and arrange the date and a neutral location."

"...The army will take some time to clean the land of Tree Father Hoffenheim from the buds and search for the treasures he possesses. Even though he is just a tree, he is still a tyrant who has ruled an area nearly a continent, and for a very long time. He must have a few treasures hidden here and there, The boys won't come back without tearing apart every wall and turning over every rock." Robin tapped his thigh a few times and then stood up, "Okay then, sitting and waiting here won't help, let's go to Descartes."

"now?!" Billy was stunned

"Yes now!"

Chapter 553 Greed

The area around Father Tree's body-- Four days after Robin left for the headquarters

One of the soldiers put two fingers in his mouth and whistled loudly, "Hey, I've been waiting for hours, come and count my points for me already I need to take a bath!!"

"Shut up, it's not your turn yet, I have been waiting a full 10 minutes before you!" the soldier with the corpse pile nearest to him shouted back

"Fuck you, you started gathering much earlier than me while I used less time to finish my pile. Isn't it normal for my points to be checked before a stingy scoundrel like you who doesn't want to leave any piece of green meat without collecting it? If it wasn't that I'm afraid to lose points to a bastard like you, I would have shattered your upper teeth row with one punch!"

"Come and try, It seems like I wouldn't be collecting only green meat today!!"

Individual discords like this were happening everywhere, for kilometers in every direction. How could it not be, when this is the day they have been waiting for for years!!

Now each of the soldiers who participated in the siege had collected a small hill of bud corpses and a number of bud captives behind him, all of them waiting to calculate the total points they had gathered in the battle over the last few days.

Of course, this is not all. There is an entire branch in the army whose sole purpose is to calculate points. The points collected by the army from the beginning of the war till now were simply enormous, and today, they will add the cherry on top of the cake, as the bud prisoners have points much higher than their corpses!

Of course, only those younger, energetic soldiers still had the ability to shout at each other and try to take the next turn. As for most of the army, which consisted of around three million soldiers, each one of them gathered as many bud prisoners as he could and sat next to them with his eyes closed until the turn to allocate the points came, and some of them did not even bother to collect more points and went directly to find a tree trunk and sleep on it

But in general, there was something common among all the soldiers, even those who were shouting at each other they all shared: a peaceful smile and rosy dreams.

Part of the soldiers of the Empire's army were random members of the ruling families of the four continents, living in peace and without a state of war, even if they were strong, this would not give them anything except a better prestige in society or perhaps a better table if they entered a restaurant. As for most of the soldiers, their situation was worse, as they were just commoners and sons of servant families on the four continents just a few years ago...

His Excellency's appearance gave them power, and this war gave them experience. Each one of them is well aware deep down that he has become a destructive tool of war and will most likely live like this for the rest of his life, but most importantly...

They know they got rich!!

Yes, they all are now rich. Although the points system is somehow cruel, it is a paradise for those who decide to risk their lives. The 6-year war claimed the lives of more than 500,000 imperial soldiers, but those who survived the siege earned a huge number of points!

Of course, most of the soldiers still have not accumulated enough points to buy large lands on Planet Jura, but they undoubtedly have enough to own a house and a good yard there, while other things such as obtaining priority in receiving the full-body golden armor or buying dozens of acres on the planet Greenland and starting a new life here, will not be a problem at all!

The soldiers were very worried when they felt that the crazy amount of points might cause inflation in prices and that perhaps the armor that they could have obtained with 30 points would now cost 300, but Supreme General Alexander announced that this would affect the honor of the True Beginning Empire and that the soldiers would undoubtedly be compensated for their points. He announced that the treasures that would be found in Tree Father's body or in his lands would be added to the list of what could be purchased with points, which made the soldiers immensely satisfied, even though they didn't know what treasures the Tree Father might have, whatever a 500 thousand years old monster consider a treasure in definitely something worth obtaining.

For the soldiers of the True Beginning Empire, this war from beginning to end was purely for experience and profit, so when it was announced that the points system was still in effect, it was enough to make everyone happy.

But there are types of happiness... like the happiness of the local human forces, for example.

After the last bud was captured, the soldiers of the Empire shouted excitedly and some of them sighed that it was finally time to rest, but unlike them, the army of the three human tribes was overcome by a fit of tears.

This was a day like no other, a day that even if their ancestors had predicted, they still would not have believed them.

When Robin announced that Tree Father Hoffenheim was dead, most of them doubted it exactly as the buds doubted. Who could kill a Tree Father? Especially in this silent way?! But they continued the fight anyway, so what else did they have to do? But seeing the war ending in only 4 days, they finally understood what had happened... the tyrant had truly fallen!

The monster that had terrorized them and their ancestors for two hundred thousand years had been killed, the remaining Tree Fathers had become only six!

The joy of the local soldiers cannot be described in words. Even they themselves could not express it, so they silently fell into tears and hugs.

But the thing is... happiness is always temporary, while greed is a human instinct.

After the approximately 4~5 million soldiers of what is left of the local human army absorbed the shock their hearts calmed down and they became certain that Hoffenheim was indeed dead and that they were on the verge of a new era, they did not hug each other anymore and leave to deliver the good news to their families, or at least get back to their camps as ordered but rather remained in their places and watched the imperial soldiers as they gathered corpses and prisoners and counting points...

They had fought side by side for years, how could they not know the points system? They know very well that the soldiers of the Empire are competing for points with which they can buy the Father Tree's vast lands!

Those lands were no joke, the Tree Father had control over nearly 13% of the entire planet while the 15 local tribes together live in scattered pieces of land that don't even add up to 5% of the whole planet

That means that the three tribes participating in this war don't even live on 1% of what the planet has to offer, yet these foreign soldiers are about to distribute 13% among themselves, that's 13 times the land mass of their three tribes combined!

And it is not just 13 times their land. Rather, these are lands that have not been polluted by humans or beasts for two hundred thousand years, It is a virgin land full of rare minerals and ancient herbs. It is tens of times more precious than their own!

The biggest problem is that they can not participate in the points system.

The condition for participation in the points system is actually very simple. You must be a member of the True Beginning Empire and swear allegiance to the Emperor. As for the three tribes, it can be said that they are united for a common enemy at best. So far, none of them have declared loyalty to the Empire, and therefore they have not participated in the point system.

They all understand that, but... Doesn't this simply mean that all of Hoffenheim's assets are now at the mercy of the alien Empire? Their leader, Robin, said that shares would be distributed to them according to their contribution, but he did not specify what percentage. What if he took all the good things and gave them the bones? What if he doesn't give them anything at all?!

But no one dared to say anything out loud, not for fear of the Empire's army, but of their Emperor.

The fact that the Emperor of the True Beginning Empire destroyed 6 Warlords in the blink of an eye and killed the Tree Father with ease had become an inevitable fact. If the distribution was based on contributions, then Emperor Robin alone would take 90% of it, but then again... What about them?!

And what really put oil on the fire in the hearts was when they saw the terrifying generals of the Empire: Alexander, Jabba, Elizabeth, and the rest of their level climbing the body of the Tree Father and began searching every inch of it, while their tribal leaders continued to look from afar without having the courage to approach a step closer.

The initial joy was gone and was replaced by gossip and roundabout words with two meanings... While the soldiers of the Empire went to sleep or to accumulate points, the soldiers of the local tribes began to gather again.

Chapter 554 Zara

Crack

As the soldiers of the three local tribes were still engaging in their little talks, a thunderclap-like sound suddenly shut all mouths, when everyone looked in the direction that heart-stopping sound came from, they quickly found a female wielding a whip. It was the echo of a strong whip hitting the ground, just from the strength of the sound, those who heard it thought that the ground had been cut into two halves, right after that and after everyone was silent, the female melodious voice was heard:

"What's going on here? What's all this noise about?"

A short-haired girl appeared in front of everyone carrying a long whip in her right hand. Her features are small and delicate while her height is just right. Her body is neither plump nor thin. She was wearing a long dress that ranges in color between white, with pieces of green armor scattered over it, adding to her elegance. This girl may not be the most beautiful in the world, she might not even be the most beautiful in the army, but she was breathtaking enough, and her gentle features made anyone who looked at her face want to protect her... This was Zara.

After Robin woke up from his 2-year-long coma and headed with Jabba to confront Tree Father Hoffenheim, Zara had nothing left to do at that spot anymore, so she gathered the Sixth Legion and led them here, even though they had barely arrived and had no right to capture prisoners nor the intact but corpses, they were happy to collect the scattered body parts, as even these body parts give points if they are numerous enough!

As for Zara and those with her from the Life Forces, they began to move among the Empire's army to treat the injured, until finally, she saw an unpleasant sight...

"Who are you? What do you think you are going to do with this whip? I don't know where you came from, but you have no power over the tribal soldiers!" One of the high-ranking officers from the Plains Clan stepped forward and shouted

"YOU tell me what's happening here. Why are there more than ten thousand soldiers gathered here? There are several other gathering spots for local tribal soldiers as well, Do you intend to start a revolt or something like that?" Zara raised the hand in which she was holding the whip and pointed towards the crowd of soldiers in front of her. Although she was alone and looked like a missing child, the expressions on her face did not indicate that she intended to take a step back.

"This is none of your business, girl. Can't we get together and chat for a bit? Does your Empire want to control where we sit and when we speak as well? This is ridiculous!" That officer waved, and his officers behind him started laughing as well

"This is a military square, not a bar. Go to your barracks as you were ordered until the points allocations end. Then we will meet with your leaders to determine what will happen next. The presence of any of you here is meaningless, and your gathering in particular is contrary to the orders you received."

"Aha, until the points allocations end, you say? Do you mean until you finish taking all the good stuff? No thanks, we're staying here."

"Yeah, you brazenly rob us and we can't even watch? What a stingy girl!"

"We'll stand here. If there's a certain girl who doesn't like it, then she should leave!"

"Hehe, did you not hear, woman? No one is watching us now. Go back to where you came from immediately, otherwise, I will tie you up and give you to the boys to--" That officer was about to continue his threat, but the girl in front of him raised and lowered her right hand. He quickly tried to dodge but to no avail.

Crack

"AAAHHHH, my eyes! MY EYES!!!" The officer screamed for a second and saw blood pouring from his face before he fell unconscious. The whip came down on his face, cutting it in half at the left eye.

"Damn, the Empire has gone too far, do you think that we are your slaves?!"

"Do you think we can't defend ourselves? We are not at anyone's mercy! Let's show them who we are, tribal men!!"

When the rest of the officers and soldiers of the local tribes saw what had happened, they took out their weapons and bounced at Zara.

"Who told you you can move?!" Zara shouted again. This time, she did not restrain herself even a little. Hundreds of spear-like roots emerged from the ground and attacked the front rows of soldiers in front of her. The ship itself seemed as if it had gained life and began to move on its own like a mad dragon to strike anyone it could reach. In the blink of an eye, dozens of tribal soldiers fell to the ground.

More soldiers from the local forces jumped in and attacked Zara from above. This was the best way they could get away from the roots. When Zara was about to do something, a stray fireball came and shot down ten of them.

SHWALAAA

Then blades of wind, then lightning, etc... In the blink of an eye, all the people who jumped to attack from above fell to the ground like flies.

*swoosh *swoosh*

"What's going on here? What's all this fuss about?" Several individuals wearing golden armor slowly landed, and although they didn't know what happened, they saw those locals attacking a girl wearing the distinctive Life Force armor, how could they allow this? So they launched a few light attacks that shot down the local soldiers but did not kill them

"...Princess Zara?!" When the special forces finally saw who the girl was, they quickly bowed, "Princess, what's going on? Should we call in the troops?"

"What did those lowlifes do, Your Highness? Give us orders and we will level them to the ground!!" Another elite soldier was more direct and took out a huge war hammer and unleashed his aura. It was clear that this person was at the Sage Realm, ready to smash some bones!

"P-- Princess? Did he say princess? That person's daughter?!" The local soldiers began to retreat, stuttering

The ten thousand soldiers gathered here had never thought of fighting face-to-face against the Empire's soldiers. They are not fools with short memories to forget what they have seen over the past two years.

The army of the three local tribes at the beginning of the siege was more than 6 million. Those six million included almost all the sages, saints, and special squads of the three tribes, but now it has become approximately 4.5 million, meaning that they lost approximately one and a half million soldiers during the two years, but they know for certain that had it not been for the special golden corps that came to their rescue from time to time, all 6 million would have been exterminated within a month or two at the most!

But this does not mean that they are useless... They are still the tribal soldiers who fought against Tree Father Hoffenheim for two hundred thousand years and know best how to deal with the buds. Without their presence, Alexander would not have succeeded in implementing a comprehensive siege. They were an essential element in the war!

They gathered today to show their dissatisfaction with the points system and force their leaders to do something and bring them some benefits as well. They are still a huge army made up of millions of veteran soldiers and they can use this to pressure General Alexander to change his distribution plan. Everyone here only wants some of the benefits, and not one of them dares to start a war... Let alone anger a princess from the Empire!!

What would they do if the Empire's Golden Forces were ordered to avenge her? Most likely their leaders will abandon them without a second thought!

Zara looked at the faces of the soldiers for a long time. They all looked as if they were begging her not to say anything. Some of them even directly knelt down and continuously hit their heads on the ground.

Finally, after a few seconds, Zara waved lightly and the whip from her hand disappeared, "Nothing happened. I wanted to practice a little on a new technique and they were helping me."

Hooo~

The elite soldiers looked clearly suspicious, but they did not dare to speak again, so they put their weapons back in their place and went to stand behind their princess.

Zara then looked at the local soldiers who were still breathing a sigh of relief, "What are you still doing here? Training is over, go back to your barracks immediately."

"Y-- YES YES!!" About ten thousand soldiers ran back like frightened children, and even those who had just been beaten earlier stood up and ran with difficulty, or their companions pulled them along by force.

"...Your Highness, was this because you wanted to break up their gathering? Sigh~ You are too soft sometimes, these rabble would only understand their limits when they see some of them dead." One of the elite soldiers from the Burton family couldn't stay silent, "There are no generals here currently except Your Highness. Give us the order and we will dismantle the rest of the gatherings within one hour."

"They understood the situation without deaths. There is no need to create a crack between us and the locals now, Uncle Bright." Zara shook her head and replied with a smile, "Just tell Fugon and his peers that I will be waiting for them here and that they must appear before me within ten minutes maximum. It seems that I will have to remind them of their duties a little."

The elite soldier called Uncle Bright merely looked at Zara from the side for a few moments, forgetting to respond... They saw everything, from the moment Zara attacked until they arrived, it was barely two or three seconds. Zara alone faced ten thousand soldiers defeated dozens of them and pushed the rest back, and she also disfigured the face of their leader, a person at the peak of Saint level, with one blow and knocked him unconscious!! ...But at the same time, she did not kill a single person.

She felt compassion for the ordinary soldiers and allowed them to leave so that they would not be harmed, but now she is summoning the leaders of three local tribes to appear before her and hold them accountable for their negligence!

Some of the new elite soldiers did not know what to say, so they just looked at each other out of the corners of their eyes and gave a smile that came from the heart, thinking: 'No wonder everyone who deals with the princess declares that he is ready to die for her, today, I am one of them!'

Chapter 555 Treasury

Somewhere under Hoffenheim's giant body--

"Brother Jabba, thank you for coming so quickly. I think we have found what we are looking for here." Old Gu showed a big smile when he felt Jabba making his way through the roots and approaching him

Although he is thousands of years older than Jabba and calling him brother does not seem appropriate, Jabba is much stronger than him and has a higher standing in the Empire than him, so addressing him in this way is the least he could do.

This spot is located more than 40 meters under the surface of the earth, and it is the area where Old Man Gu was tasked with searching for anything useful, as well as scanning the area for any surviving buds. Although the place was supposed to be completely dark, in reality, it was bright enough because of the roots that had turned into embers along the path Old Gu took until he reached this point!

Step... Step... PAA.

Jabba finally crossed the last barrier of charred roots appeared next to Old Gu and nodded towards him, "Brother Gu Barnett." Then he looked in front of him again

What lies in front of them now is something that looks like a huge wall, but it is entirely composed of roots different from those surrounding the area. Although it is clear from the ruins that Old Guo tried to burn this wall with all the offensive techniques he knows, there is no real damage to it. Withstanding close range attacks to such a degree from someone standing at the top of the Sage Realm is never a simple thing!

"Well, it really looks like a treasury, please step back, I got this." Jabba motioned for the old man to move away, and then he took an offensive stance

BAAM!

One punch from Jabba was enough to create a hole about a meter deep in the wall, but it did not completely bring it down

Baam *Baam* *Baam*

Three punches made three holes in the shape of a rectangle, and then Jabba turned his fist into a palm and sent a blow into the center of the rectangle!

BOOM!!

After the dust settled, a small door appeared in front of Jabba and Old Gu, they both did not hesitate for a moment and quickly entered it, and immediately a smile appeared on the faces of both of them...

What appeared before them was a completely different world where everything glowed with its own brilliance...

Even though they were underground, the area was completely illuminated due to the mountains of energy stones scattered everywhere!

Neither of them could determine the sheer size of this place, but Old Gu estimated it to be hundreds of acres at the very least. In addition to the mountains of energy stones, there were also several hills that gave off a different glow. Each of those hills contained rare minerals and rocks related to one of the heavenly laws. There was even a small hill that only contained the extremely rare Uracilium metal!!

"Oh, my goodness... What does a tree need for all these things?!" Old Gu took two steps forward and spoke in amazement

"To create the buds, of course. Relying on absorption from the atmosphere alone would not have helped him if he had tried to produce an army quickly, especially in times of war. Naturally, he would have stored all the energy stones he could reach. As for those hills of minerals, they are for making buds that specialize in a specific law. After all, the buds are born with an inclination toward a particular element in nature, and it is no wonder that Hoffenheim used metals and stones containing a high concentration of those laws as ingredients in creating the bodies of his special forces." Jabba tapped his chin and gave a quick analysis, "As for the Uracilium and the rest of the non-elemental metals here, perhaps he brought them to study them or simply to collect the wealth of his lands and keep them at his disposal until he finds a use for them."

Then Jabba looked under his feet again. The ground was full of plants, and it was clear that they were not an extension of Hoffenheim's body, but rather full-grown species of plants of their own. Jabba sat cross-legged next to the plant closest to him, holding his breath, "This is the open grounds lily. Its properties are not fully known, but the locals use it to make a paste that helps wounds heal quickly, as the best wound-healing paste currently available to the Northern Fury tribe is made from an open-ground lily that is 10,000 years old. It is not a particularly rare herb, but it withers quickly after any change happens in its surroundings, so finding one that is 10,000 years old is already extremely rare,

according to the number of rings on the stem of this lily, it seems that it is... A million and a half years old?!"

Jabba raised his eyebrows in shock, then looked at the vast field behind the lily... Could it be that all the plants here are at the same level?! His heart nearly bled when he saw the door he had blown down lying on top of a few plants, crushing them...

"Look over there..." Old Gu pointed towards a certain area and Jabba followed his gesture

There was a huge area covered with a huge mound of weapons made of wood, because those weapons did not emit a certain glow that they had not seen a while ago, only now did they realize that they had underestimated the size of this place again!

As for those weapons, they are very familiar. They have seen them since the first day they arrived on Planet Greenland. They are the weapons that the saint-level or higher buds used when they besieged them on the steep hill. These weapons are no less powerful than their golden weapons! And there is a hill of them here!!

Gulp "...If these weapons and armor had been distributed to the buds during the siege, the death toll among our ranks would have risen many times over. I doubt that we would have been able to maintain the siege in the first place. Why did Father Tree decide to keep this stock of weapons here instead of pushing them into the war that was happening under his nose?!"

Old Gu swallowed his saliva when he thought about the possibility of this amount of weapons appearing in the battle... They had lost huge numbers of their soldiers, and the siege was almost broken more than once, even though they had 200,000 elite golden soldiers on their side. The weapons lying in front of them were enough to at least fully arm 200,000 buds as well, if an elite bud battalion like this appeared in some more." Jabba stood up again slowly and announced as he looked around

battle, everything would have changed...

"Since we arrived on this planet, only the buds with a saint level or higher use these weapons. Maybe lower-level buds cannot use them, and since we killed most of the saints and sages among the buds, it is natural for these weapons to lie here until they find a new user. Wait, are these THE same weapons they fought us with? Damn, No wonder most of it disappeared after every battle. Tree Father Hoffenheim

somehow collected them for himself again and stored them here? I don't blame him though, If I were in his place, I wouldn't want my enemies to benefit from them either..." Jabba looked at that hill for a long time and then sighed, "...as I was moving around Father Tree's body, I found one of the branches incomplete, as if its tip had been cut off. If I'm not mistaken, these weapons are made from the bark of that branch. No wonder those weapons are so indestructible and have unreasonable power despite being made from wood!"

"Each one of those weapons is a treasure in itself..." Old Gu murmured, he saw for himself how solid the Tree Father's outer shell was, only Jabba could make any real damage to it!

"...This treasure trove alone is enough to cover our expenses in Greenland so far and some more." Jabba stood up again slowly and announced as he looked around

But suddenly his clarity of mind was interrupted and his eyebrows furrowed for a moment before his features turned surprised and then happy!

"What's wrong?" Old Gu quickly understood that a message had reached Jabba via the voice ring

"Like you, Sister Elizabeth says she found a wall of roots that cannot be destroyed and she needs my help. She says she feels there are treasures behind that wall..." Jabba muttered.

"Impossible! The area Elizabeth is searching in is far from here!"

Jabba almost answered, but the words got stuck in his throat for a few seconds, before he burst out laughing, "Hahaha, Brother Alexander sent me that he found a huge nest on one of the branches and that he needed me to enter!"

"Is it possible..." Old Gu opened his eyes wide open

Jabba nodded happily, "Looks like this isn't Tree Father's only treasure!"

Chapter 556 Peon

Up one of the hills near the Tree Father's body--

Woosh

"Second Brother, you called for me urgently, how can I help you?" A young man wearing perfect golden armor landed smoothly in an empty place with no one else but him, and spoke in a low voice as he struck a perfect military stance. It was Peon.

"Relax, Third Brother, why are you so formal? It seems that the military life got you good " Words that seemed to come out of nowhere, until a person with long hair and wearing a light black robe began to rise from the shadow of a rock. Of course, it was Theo.

"It seems that you have become accustomed to your spying and hiding missions as well." Peon took off his helmet and showed a simple smile on his face

Peon's features had not changed much since he joined Robin's ranks, It's still that of a young man thanks to how quickly he broke through to a mid-level sage, but he doesn't give the aura of a young man at all but a vicious beast instead, mainly thanks to the numerous scars he accumulated on his face.

Zara offered more than once to treat these new scars, but he asked her to leave them be, battle upon battle, and scar upon scar made his original features unrecognizable. He says that the scars remind him of something that he does not want to forget, and even that dull look that was on his face when he was still standing on the slave platforms has not left him until now.

"Haha get ready, then as you will join me in my spying and hiding missions. catch, This is an Imperial Decree from our foster father. You and quite a few of your men will come with me, as for the men you can choose them yourself." Theo showed a rare smile and threw the scroll towards Peon, who in turn caught it and opened it for a moment, then quickly closed it exactly as it was and returned it to Theo.

"I'll go gather the men." Peon turned around and almost left without any change in his facial expressions

"Oh? I thought you'd be worried about leaving your sister Zara here alone or something, I heard you two command an entire legion together?" Theo raised his eyebrows slightly and spoke. Anyone who knows him will know that he talks a lot A rare short chuckle appeared on Peon's face and he shook his head, "Zara will be fine, she was the one who ran everything in the Legion anyway."

more than usual

"Zara?" Peon smiled and looked in a certain direction. In that direction, his little sister was standing with one hand on her waist and her other hand holding a whip, and in front of her stood the leaders of the three local tribes: Fogun, Reis, and Debas. Each one of them had an ugly expression on his face that they were hoping the ground would open up and swallow them up!

A rare short chuckle appeared on Peon's face and he shook his head, "Zara will be fine, she was the one who ran everything in the Legion anyway."

"Oh, I heard that too..." Theo nodded several times, watching Zara as well, then he looked back at Peon, "I heard that she runs the legion and gives orders and strategies, while you lead the main attack force and often give orders against the original strategy that Zara put together, and carry out missions that can be described as suicidal at the very least..."

"You hear a lot." Peon looked beside him emotionlessly

Theo shrugged, "That's my job."

Although Theo has remained in the capital of the Azil tribe for the past few years, mainly trying to infiltrate their ranks and secure a better life for Richard from afar, he has never forgotten his position as the leader of the Shadow Swords, the institution that Emperor Robin himself ordered its creation to be the intelligence arm that controls the underworld of all the lands where the Empire of True Beginning reaches.

Although currently the number of Shadow Swords is not sufficient and most of them were transferred to the planet Nihari while a small part of them remained on the planet Jura to control the situation, of course, they do not have any power left to interfere in the other two planets: Greenland and the Farm, this does not mean that they should neglect them. Any random information from these two planets could be very important, so every piece of information has to be taken into account or it may affect their plans

So Theo was always requesting reports from the rest of the Shadow Swords about everything that was happening around him, and as for the places that their arms could reach, he would simply send one of the Shadow Swords to request information from the headquarters directly or communicate with one of

the Demon Kings, who in turn would cooperate fully with them because they knew who are they and what is their job.

As for the information he received about Peon... it would not be an exaggeration if it was said that it made him worry about Peon as much as he worries about Richard!

"Tsk~ Have you also heard that I never suffer major losses in any attack I launch? Others can make their little strategies all they want, why does that have anything to do with me? When my instinct leads me to a loophole, I will simply exploit it. You can describe my style as suicidal as you wish if it causes major losses, but as long as I achieve achievements, everyone should keep my leadership style out of their mouths."

Theo didn't know how to respond to this... This guy is a general whose role and purpose is to stay safe at the back lines and lead his army to win battles, but in reality, he throws himself into the heart of the enemies' schemes to destroy them from within, he indeed did not inflict any major losses on his men and always succeeded in destroying his target and pushing his legion forward. However, the wounds he received were not limited to the scars on his face!

Everyone knows that his sister Zara had to babysit him all along, she restored his limbs a few times already, saved him from certain death a few times after he got stabbed in a vital point, or that one time when he was literally slaughtered!!

"Just because you haven't faced the consequences of your behavior yet doesn't mean you won't inevitably face them one day." Theo shook his head. The reports he had read about Peon were simply terrifying.

Among Rubin's adopted children, if Zara is famous for her wisdom, and Caesar for strength and prestige, then Peon is undoubtedly famous for being the crazed killer who does not think twice when he finds an opportunity to cut throats.

Peon's standing as the Emperor's adopted son and his great strength and talent earned him respect and acceptance, He also gathered for himself fierce followers like himself who would jump into hell if they saw him jump into it. but his expressions that seemed to burn with silent anger day and night and his crazy fighting style that kept him bedridden every day certainly did not win him any new friends...

Although the golden helmet hid his scars and his facial expression that looked like a volcano about to erupt, simply his fighting and leadership style did little to improve his fierce and unaprosihble reputation!

Finally, Peon looked at Theo's face for a long time, "... Interesting, does this have anything to do with your choosing me? His Excellency's letter says that you can take any individuals and the numbers you want without restrictions, but you came to me, do you want to play the hero that will save his crazy brother from a certain death or something?"

"How can I save someone who was playing at the death every day? Of course not. The thing is that the planet Nihari is really dangerous and the mission needs some trusted and tough people who are experienced in regular warfare. There is no one better than you, brother, for a mission like this, don't you think?"

"If you want a strong and trustworthy person who is an expert in regular warfare, then Caesar is better than me at this. I am just a killer."

"Let Caesar lead his father's army, He is a real general's project. As for you, your talents are not here. I think your leadership of the Eighth Legion made this very clear." Theo waved, he didn't have to choose his words much when he was with Peon

"... Never mind, give me half an hour and I'll assemble the team." Byun looked at the army again

"It's okay, there's no need to rush. Leave them until their points are calculated first, then gather them afterward. We shouldn't rob them of the joy of victory so quickly..." Theo shook his head.

Even if Peon gathered the men in half an hour, it wasn't like they could start the mission right away... While it took Robin almost a day to travel from this location to headquarters, Theo took more than two days. Now that there were several hundred soldiers, it would definitely take longer to get back to the gate, so an hour or two delay now wouldn't hurt anyone.

"Oh, alright then, I'll go and speed up the point calculation for that group, we won't be late." Peon put his helmet back on and almost jumped off the hill

"...Aren't you going to ask what your new mission is?"

"There is no need, as long as it is an order from His Excellency, it will be implemented," Peon responded shortly, then jumped up

Chapter 557 Conversation with a tree father -1

Somewhere within the lands of Tree Father Descartes--

Swoosh *Swoosh* Two people landed at the edge of a dense forest. One of them was a blond man wearing a clean white robe, and the other was wearing a military uniform. They were Robin and Billy.

"Are we there yet?" Robin asked, putting his hands behind his back. It was a long trip from headquarters to here, and they didn't rest for more than half an hour each time.

Billy looked around more than once and then nodded, "As far as I know, this forest is deserted and no one will disturb us. We can hold the meeting here without a doubt."

"Good." Robin took a few steps to enter the forest, then sat on the ground with his back against one of the trees, extending one leg while bending the other and placing his hand on it, then he spoke in a low voice, "Descartes, I know you have been watching us since we reached your domination circle, you can appear now."

Whoosh

The surrounding energy began to gather until it formed a small energy core, Then ancient-looking roots sprouted from the ground and formed what looked like a skeleton. Then some of the surrounding tree leaves fell to cover the skeleton and give it its external humanoid appearance.

"The Emperor from the Other World, Robin Burton, we finally meet." The body made of leaves began to speak in a soft, soothing voice to whoever heard it, "I did not expect you to come alone and unguarded, perhaps I should reevaluate you a little..."

"Let me make something clear for your benefit, it's not like I'm bold and I'm not afraid of death, I'm simply confident in my abilities to leave at any time without as much as a scratch, no matter what you do you can never hurt me, at least you can't prevent me from escaping, I'm quite sure about this and you should also be certain about this..." Robin waved, then raised his finger and pointed towards the leaf avatar in front of him, "I heard that you don't bother making your own buds like Huffinhaim, you use the ordinary plant and give them life to at as your army, Is this body here is the basis your army? Not bad... Now let's get to the point, I heard that you have not been fighting seriously since the Fifth Legion appeared in your lands, You even recently asked for a truce until you meet with me. What do you want?"

"I can ask you the same thing. During your war with Hoffenheim, you sent one legion to fight me even though you knew that their victory was impossible. You even chose this wise gentleman as the legion's general. What do YOU want?" The Personification of the Tree Father Descartes responded quickly

Robin and the Tree Father avatar looked at each other for a few more seconds before a meaningful smile appeared on the faces of both of them. The answers to the two questions were clear to both of them, but some things needed to be verbally said in order for the conversations to move on to the next level.

"Alright then, let me explain first... The Fifth Legion was a way to let you test the strength of my army and implement whatever plans and strategies you wanted against them. I wanted to show you the overwhelming power of my men so that you would lose hope of winning and be certain that if I declared war on you, you would not be able to escape, at the same time, I didn't want to send a larger army or pressure you too much to leave a chance for both of us to retreat a step without losing face. Seeing you here today makes me guess that I succeeded." Robin spoke calmly

The avatar of the tree father, Descartes, remained focused on Robin for a few seconds. This is what actually happened.

During the past years, Descartes could have launched a crushing attack with all his might to destroy the Fifth Legion without a chance for any of them to escape, but he did not do that. He realizes that this mini-war is merely testing the pulse of both sides, and destroying the Fifth Legion means that he will face a larger army after them, and that time there will be no more playing around.

He contented himself with sending plant armies the same size as the Fifth Legion at first, then two times, then three times, even ten times larger than them, each time implementing new plans and experimenting with new weapons to find the Fifth Legion's weak point, but to no avail.

The Fifth Legion was simply a rock and Descartes' soldiers were eggs, no matter how much he threw them at the Fifth Legion and how different the angle of throwing them, they would always crack first.

Even the infantrymen of the Fifth Legion were knights, and the weapons in their hands, those strange talismans, and the great diversity of laws within that single legion made battling them extremely difficult!

Although he managed to kill more than 60,000 soldiers from the Fifth Legion throughout the Six-Year War, the war also killed millions of his veteran soldiers and took out approximately 10% of his territory.

If the battlefield were enlarged by sending more soldiers from both sides, the loser here could be easily determined.

But he still has a chance, he can still choose one of two options...

The first is to show the weapons and plans he was preparing to deal with the other Tree Fathers. In this case, he may have a chance against the invaders, but by then all his cards will be revealed in front of the other Tree Fathers and he will be naked in front of them.

The second is to sacrifice a percentage of his refinement of the planet's spirit to create a warlord. Of course, he does not want to make such a choice, but it remains a deterrent weapon if things develop.

Of course, even these empty hopes collapsed after the army of the invaders defeated the armies of Tree Father Hoffenheim and crushed all of his plans and weapons, and their Emperor Robin even destroyed six warlords himself in the blink of an eye!

This is why, after the destruction of the Six Warlords, the rest of the Tree Fathers held their breath and kept their silence for two years. Even if they noticed Robin collapsing as well, they did not dare to attack. Even if Robin collapsed, his army is still there. One member of that army, Jabba, was able to single-handedly stop a Warlord and was very close to destroying him just before Robin arrived, so it's safe to say that making one Warlord wouldn't affect the invading army either, would they have to make multiple Warlords like Hoffenheim? Impossible. What crazy maniac would waste 200,000 years of his life's work like this?!

Of course, the option of allying together still exists. It is true that the Tree Fathers hate each other and prefer cold peace between them until they wipe out the humans first, but a real alliance is no longer a very distant matter and has actually been proposed more than once...

Flooding the invading army with soldiers from all sides should be enough to eliminate them or at least restrain them in their places, but the question is, can they trust each other?

Hoffenheim's act was the simplest example that this is impossible... While creating the Warlords, he himself said that he would use them to wipe out the rest of humanity on Planet Greenland and the other Tree Fathers after he finished with the invaders. Although the Tree Fathers were angry upon hearing this, they did not blame him. Wouldn't they all have done the same?

Today, if that alliance is established and the Six Tree Fathers choose to fight the invaders to the end together, who can guarantee that one of them will not stab the rest in the back at the decisive moment? Who guarantees that each of the Tree Fathers will move his entire army and will not hide his trump cards? And if each one of them hid his cards and maintained a large army to protect himself from potential betrayal, then what is the benefit of the alliance in the first place?!

This is exactly why Descartes, a tree father, requested an interview with Robin today.

If I war alone I will lose, and a war with the alliance will have unknown results, so why not hear what the leader of the invaders has to say first? Or so he thought...

"Indeed, your message arrived loud and clear. I still have a few cards that I have not tried yet, but there will be no turning back if I do, so I wanted to hear from you first, and here we are, what exactly do you want?"

Robin straightened his posture slightly and looked directly into the eyes of the Tree Father incarnation, "Power, Descartes... I want power."

Chapter 558 Conversation with a tree father -2

"You want... Power? Do you realize that you are threatening an entire world with your army? What power do you want more?! If I had this kind of power do you think I would be here talking to you?" Shocked, Descartes didn't know what to say

"Haha, power comes in many forms. Maybe a certain resource or even a piece of information might be enough sometimes." Robin put his wrist back on his knee and then asked with a smile, "By the way, I know now that the ancient Treants noticed something that made them start a war of extermination immediately, What was that thing?"

"Maybe we should wait until we have an agreement, then ask at your convenience." The avatar of Tree Father Descartes said frowning, 'Is this a joke? Did this invader think he can get this kind of information for free?!"

"Come on, Descartes. My question is about a piece of information that happened a long time ago. What's the problem if you answer? Secondly, who knows whether we will have an agreement or not?" Robin shrugged his shoulders, "Even if we don't agree, it wouldn't hurt to plant some friendship now by answering a few questions. Who knows... I might leave you as the last Tree Father I take down."

"...Unfortunately, I cannot. The answer to your question is not just ancient history, but rather something that, if you knew it, would boost the war, destroy my personal dreams, and destroy everything I worked for." The Tree Father avatar shook his head, "Before I say a word, you must compensate me for all of these. Just leaving me to be the last to be attacked is not enough. I would rather take my chances and join the alliance with the rest of the Tree Father against you."

"Oh? Telling me such ancient history would destroy your dreams and what you worked for? Interesting, I understand from this that what you found back then has something to do with the spirit of the planet, just how I thought..." Robin tapped his knee a few times, "Alright, then what you're saying makes sense. Tell me what you want from me, what do you expect me to offer? You coming here today even though we are at war means you are ready to surrender at some terms, Do you want something specific that will convince you to swear allegiance to me? Or should I take a guess?"

The Tree Father hesitated and did not answer directly, only after a full minute did he speak up, "...I believed Hoffenheim when he said that you are strangers, not from our world. Your weapons and methods are not like anything I have seen before. Of course, all of these things are of no use to me in my case as an ancient Treant who returned to earth, and frankly, I do not think that you have something that might interest me, but I'm here to give you and myself a last chance. Say what you have, who knows, maybe I would find something in your world that's worth it."

Then he added after a short pause, "What you need to offer is something that can compensate me for the dream that I spent 200,000 years trying to achieve them. And if you don't have something like that,

Do you think we should cooperate? I will fight alongside you until we eliminate every other living being in this world. Then you can rule the world and take its resources, but you will completely forget the term world spirit and never ask about it again."

"Hmm, what do I have to give you?" Robin closed his eyes slightly and started tapping his knee, "How about I give you a way to strengthen your soul until you reach a higher realm? My soul has already reached that higher realm and I used it to kill Hoffenheim."

"Tree Father Hoffenheim is dead? ...No wonder." Tree Father Descartes' body avatar looked clearly shocked, although he was observing what was happening around Hoffenheim, he thought that he had just been defeated, as there was no apparent damage to him to suggest that he had died.

After a brief moment of hesitation, he returned to looking at Robin, in a different light this time. The person in front of him was no longer just an intruder causing chaos, but rather a real danger, he already killed one of the seven!

Descartes remained silent for a few minutes before finally opening his mouth made of papers, "...Your offer is indeed tempting but it is not enough to make me give up my dream and follow you. At best, I can exchange a few pieces of information and techniques with you in exchange for this soul-strengthening technique, in exchange for which I will give you a method for making buds and how to clone the primal soul."

"...? Haha, you want to exchange techniques that Hoffenheim created with me? You're really interesting, but not that much." Robin went back to tapping his knee for a few seconds, "Then how about I give you the Major Heavenly Law of Life to the Fourth Stage in exchange for your loyalty? I guess I don't need to explain its usefulness to you."

"The Major Heavenly Law of Life?! You say that you have the Major Heavenly Law of Life up to the fourth stage?!" The Tree Father avatar took a step forward, his features were a mixture of shock and greed.

For the first time since the meeting began, the Tree Father avatar Descartes seemed so emotional, even when he heard of his rival death did not blink an eyelid!

Robin nodded without adding a word, the importance of the Major Heavenly Law of Life for the Treant creatures was simply enormous, especially the Ancient Treants who had left everything behind in order to prolong their lives. They can study whatever they want in order to strengthen themselves and their soldiers, but in the end, their entire focus lies in matters of the soul and life, so Robin's two offers are related to these two aspects.

After another few minutes, Descartes calmed down and replied sternly, "I can exchange with you the method of creating plant soldiers and give you a soul technique with which you can control a huge number of targets depending on the power of your soul, and another technique that makes you divide the power of your soul into small parts and control each one individually, I will also give you information about the rest of the Tree Fathers and their plan against you. I will also give you what I know about the human alliance, and I will also tell you some information about the planet's spirit, but not the essential parts."

Robin raised his eyebrows slightly, "...But you won't swear allegiance to me?"

Descartes shook his head, "You haven't offered enough yet."

"Descartes, you still don't seem to realize what's at stake here." Robin spoke in a stern tone, a threatening tone evident in his words, "I am willing to give you benefits, not because you deserve them, but rather because I want to reward my followers. All those things you promised me, I already obtained from hijacking Tree Father Hoffenheim's memories, even if they are in chaos currently, I will still be able to extract all these techniques and information in months or a few years at most. Even if you do not believe me, can't I simply obtain them myself after killing another one or two of you? Then the rest will be my slaves and not even my followers! Use your brain and be wise. Don't be like the fool Hoffenheim who remained stubborn until HIS very end."

"No, you don't understand... You simply do not realize what you want me to give up, your offers are nothing in comparison! If you do not have an alternative to replace my goal, then there is no point in talking. As for you you could kill a bunch of us or we destroy you is not known yet. We allowed you to single out Hoffenheim because he intended to betray us and he deserves that fate, But be sure that it will not happen again with the rest of us!" Tree Father Descartes did not back down either

"Alright, Alright, calm down, both of you. We came today to pave the way to peace, not to make matters worse." Billy who had been silent the whole time, watching from the side, finally made his move, "Your Excellency, Why don't you consider another offer? Brother Descartes here came with good intentions."

"...Tsk~ Out of consideration to General Billy, I will give you one last offer and one last chance. If you refuse, both of us will go our separate ways." His intervention was at an excellent time, allowing Robin to lean his back against the tree again and stare at the face of the tree father's avatar, thinking of something that could help in this situation.

"Hear me what you got." The tree father shrugged his shoulders without care. It was clear that he was preparing to leave. He had no hope of hearing anything that could dissuade him from his goal, but today's meeting benefited him greatly in any case and gave him an idea about the personality and capabilities of his future opponent.

Robin remained silent for a while, looking at the avatar of the Tree Father from top to bottom, before he finally spoke: "...I can nullify the effect of *returning to earth* for you and return you into a full Treant again!"

Chapter 559 conversation with a tree father -3

"Did you just say you are going to nullify my return to Earth effect and make me a Treant again? Do you even realize what you're saying?!" The Tree Father avatar spoke quickly, it was clear that Robin's offer this time hit a nerve

"I have an idea about the matter from the memories of your friend Hoffenheim, If I remember correctly Returning to Earth can be described as a union with the planet. You used your true nature to unite with the planet to become mere trees once again. You can no longer be considered living beings like the rest of us but you have become an extension of the planet itself. This is why your bodies have been able to reach those heights even touching the high sky, this also gave you a lifespan of no less than half a million years and no more than 700,000 years. This means that there were other ancient Treants other than you who died of old age in the era before energy cultivation," Robin pointed towards the avatar and spoke slowly, "But after you started energy cultivation, your bodies became much stronger, your souls became unfathomable, and the entire energy of the planet is focused almost solely on the seven of you, and the minor heavenly laws that you lot trained on and related to the path of life are countless, so your life span has increased significantly. I believe that your life span has now reached around 2~2.5 million years, right?"

Then Robin added, "This is too much if you want my opinion. Most beings, especially humans, forget what happened a few years ago, and their feelings change a hundred times a day. I honestly cannot imagine living for millions of years, and also on the same planet. No, no, In the same spot actually since you couldn't move even if you had the whole planet to yourself! I asked Hoffenheim the same question before and I'll ask you now... Why do you even live? What would the planet's spirit give you that would be worth doing all this for? A little longer lifespan? More power? or the ability to move again? I can't think of a third option."

Robin shook his head with a half-laugh, "If it is one of the first two choices is correct, don't you think this is a joke? What will you do with a longer life or greater strength while you are nailed to the ground forever? The time will come when you want to commit suicide will not be long. But if your goal is to move and talk again, then this is more understandable. I can help you, and you will not need to wait for hundreds of thousands or millions of additional years until you succeed in your endeavor. What do you think?"

"...Robin Burton, you said yourself that our bodies have become one with the world. We are now like mountains, rivers, and plains. Have you ever seen a mountain move?" Father Tree Descartes was silent for a few minutes before he asked again without conviction

"I'll understand from this that even controlling the planet's spirit won't change your fate as a tree father? Haha, ridiculous, what are you even fighting for then?" Robin laughed sarcastically, slapping his thigh

"..." The tree father avatar did not say anything, he just kept looking at Robin silently. It was clear that he was trying to remain calm, but the avatar's hands were clearly shaking.

Robin gave him a chance to process what he had heard first, then spoke again, "Descartes, you are not an ordinary person, but rather an entity who lived for hundreds of thousands of years. You have experienced an entire life as a treant, then you have experienced union with the planet, and you have entered into wars and massacres that have not subsided to this day. I know that your age and your experience have given you some knowledge, so make good use of it. If this meeting ends before we reach an agreement, you will be the losing party."

"...What makes you so sure that returning to Earth can be nullified?" After a long time, the tree father finally opened his mouth

"I have the Major Heavenly Law of Life and the Major Heavenly Law of Earth and I have the ability to see soul patterns, what more could I possibly need? More Major Heavenly Laws? More advanced stages of those Laws? These are all things I will reach sooner or later, you're not in a hurry, right? You were nailed in your spot for who knows how long, haha, I've been in your shoes, it won't be a problem if you wait a few more years." Robin replied confidently

The Tree Father avatar remained silent for a few minutes, and then another question appeared in his head that he hurriedly mouthed, "What about my lifespan? I already far exceeded the maximum that a normal Treant creature could live. Won't I be exposed to death as soon as the return to Earth is nullified?"

Robin waved his left hand, "I will not allow my subordinate to die so easily. Perhaps your remaining life will not reach the 2.5 million years that you have now, but living for a few tens of thousands of years will not be a problem. After all, you are still a plant, and extending your life is quite an easy matter, The same life energy that gives humans a week of extra life can give you a few years! After you acquire the fourth stage of the Major Life Law, you will have no problem increasing your life until you get tired of it."

Descartes was silent again for a few minutes, then finally he seemed to think of something and shook his head and spoke, "...Alright then, when you invent that technique that nullifies the effect of returning to Earth, I will swear allegiance to you."

Robin shook his head, "This won't work, now or never."

"Robin Burton, don't be unreasonable here! Do you want me to swear allegiance to you without giving me anything in return? To swear allegiance to you means to give you all the information I have without conditions and fight under your orders without complaint. In return, you are selling me fish while it's still swimming in the sea?!"

"Descartes, the Fifth Legion fought in the lands for almost six years. You must know about the Oath Tablets, right? Even Hoffenheim knew about them and did research on them, and I do not think that you are any less intelligent than him. Since you are the ones who came to me on your own, I will not insist on placing the soul enslavement seal on you, all you have to do is swear on one of those tablets, and as soon as you swear allegiance to me on one of the tablets, I will give you techniques to strengthen the soul and give you all my experiences about upgrading your soul from white to silver, and I will also give you the Major Heavenly Law of life up to the third stage, and in top of that I will also swear Also on an oath tablet that I will give you the fourth stage of the Major Heavenly Law of Life and the method of canceling the return to Earth when I finish with them."

Robin straightened up in his posture and spoke seriously, "It does not require a lot of intelligence to know that I will not break my promise. After you swear allegiance to me, it is natural for me to try to strengthen as much as I can so that you serve me better. What benefit will you do to me while you are stuck in your place? Maybe help me fight against the rest of the Tree Fathers and the human tribes? I can take care of them on my own. You have to understand, Descartes, Planet Greenland may be

everything in your view but it is only another way to resources and training forces in my eyes. You may only be of use to me if I take you to other planets!"

"Me? I can go to worlds- no, to other planets?!" The avatar of the tree father opened his eyes made of paper to the end. If the avatar had a heart, Robin would have heard it beating like a drum.

Robin didn't respond with more words, he just nodded and smiled

"..." The tree father avatar closed his eyes and sat there, clearly entering a state of deep thought

Robin didn't bother him either and leaned his back completely against the tree behind him, while Billy took out the tea set and sat on the side heating up some for himself and Robin.

The three suns in the sky are always working hard to make sure that Greenland always has light. There is no night here so it is difficult to follow the flow of time if you are inattentive.

After an unknown time, the Tree Father Avatar opened his eyes, "Give me the Oath Tablet."

Chapter 560 Player to pawn

"Give me the oath tablet."

A big smile appeared on Robin's face, then he hurriedly tossed a metal tablet to the Tree Father, who in turn picked it up, passed his soul sense through it, and began reciting a clear oath.

The oath was not long and full of terms and conditions and needed to be checked for loopholes and all of that. The Tree Father did not place an expiry date for the oath or a condition to end it, It was a very simple declaration of loyalty. This showed the tree father's utmost sincerity and this is exactly what he was trying to show.

After that, he passed the oath tablet again to Robin and bowed slightly, "I greet the Emperor."

"Haha, marvelous! I assure you that you will not regret your choice today, Descartes. You will gain much more than simply nullifying your Return to Earth!" Robin shouted laughing, even Billy beside him let out a long sigh of relief, this was an event worth celebrating!

Then Rubin took out a second oath tablet and used it himself, saying clearly that he would hand Descartes the fourth stage of the major heavenly law of life and give him a way out of *Returning to Earth*, but he did not set a maximum time limit for it.

Descartes did not mind the part as well. If either part of the oath had been easy, Descartes or one of the other Tree Fathers would have been able to implement them during the past two hundred thousand years. Actually, he would be surprised if it took Robin only a few tens of thousands of years to fulfill his promise!

Robin then took out several tablets for storing information and passed on the Major Heavenly Law of Life to the Third Stage, the Soul Strengthening Technique, the Soul Replenishing Technique, and even his experience with the Silver Soul, And most importantly, one of the tablets contained the Foundation Modification Technique!!

The Tree Father Avatar bowed slightly and received the tablets with both hands from Robin, then passed his own soul sense through them and closed his eyes for several minutes...

"Hoo~ Thank you very much for your generosity, Your Excellency." Descartes let out a relieved sigh and waved his hands. A few roots emerged from the soil and quietly pulled the tablets down until they were out of sight. Then he returned to looking at Robin emotionlessly.

The Soul Replenishing Technique and the Soul Strengthening Technique are not something new to him since he has his own versions of techniques that do the same job, but it would be useful for him to take a look at other techniques and perhaps find new ideas in them.

Although Robin does not know how his soul evolved, his experience with the silver soul and its characteristics will be of great help to him in the future, but this is in the future...

The Foundation Modification Technique is an unexpected happy surprise as it solved a lot of questions about how to use the Major Heavenly Law of life to the fullest, and it shortened his research time by many many years, however, it is still lacking. This technique is intended to work on the energy gathering

center of humans and demi-humans. The Tree Father will need to put a lot of effort into it in order to be able to use it on himself and switch to using the Major Heavenly Law of life.

The only tangible benefit he gained today was the Major Heavenly Law of Life up to the Third Stage, and that was more than enough as a down payment!

But does this mean that he forgot his previous life as a player and suddenly loved his new life as a pawn? No, definitely not... Only a few minutes passed after he took the oath, and some regret already began to appear on his face. Did he really make the right decision? If Robin hadn't been holding the knife to his neck, would he really have chosen to follow him for those benefits? It is not as if he had never tasted freedom and movement before. He gave it up for the sake of a long life, and even this would be greatly diminished now, and his forsaken dream... oh, his dream.

As for Robin, he only smiled at the way Descartes called him. Since he had sworn allegiance to him directly, it was natural for him to call him my lord or master, but the *Emperor* made him another subordinate in the imperial system, and had a feeling of distance... But Robin did not mind, after all, he did not need a servant, but a general.

"Descartes, do not think that your rewards will be limited to the fourth degree of the Law of Life and the method of nullifying your Return to Earth. These things are the price of your loyalty. Work well for me and I will not be stingy on you." As if Robin could read the features of the avatar, he spoke immediately

"Oh? Do you have anything else good?" The avatar raised his leafy eyebrows

"What do you think of a technique where you can absorb your opponent's soul power and turn it into your own?" Robin smiled

"..How much force will you benefit from it, most will be wasted right?!" It was clear that the tree father was somewhat excited

Robin laughed. Descartes' question was to the point without twisting and turning, but his answer was destined to shock Descartes again, "There is no wasted energy. You will be able to absorb 100% of your target's soul force, no matter how much is there."

"No, no, this...this is impossible. Do you realize what the consequences of this technique are?!" Descartes' tree-father personification took two steps back, and for the second time since the dialogue began, his facial expression completely changed

"Haha, of course I know. Even though I didn't create it to be used like that, It can be said that it is a demonic technique. In the hands of the wrong person, it can cause disasters and mass slaughters everywhere. As for me, I was content with using it on your friend Hoofy. How do you think I achieved my silver soul? Although I do not know whether it was a coincidence or just a development resulting from being saturated with soul force, It must have something to do with the Soul Filling technique." Robin hit his thigh and laughed out loud

"If you opened your offers with this technique I would have accepted! what do you want in exchange?! I want it!" Although Descartes tried to remain calm, or at least pretend to be so, it was impossible

Robin waved dismissively, "Forget it, do you think I'm an idiot? I'd rather give you the ability to move and the fourth stage of the Law of Life than give you the Soul Filling Technique, even if you become Physically stronger I could still knock you down if you ever tried to play with your tail, how can I give you a technique that can make you stronger than me? Maybe then even the Oath tablet won't be able to restrain you."

"...Why did you tell me about it then?" It was clear how disappointed the Tree Father was

"Wark well for me and I will give it to you. This will happen when I get stronger, of course." Robin chuckled again

Descartes nodded after a long sigh, "...Sigh~ Understood, I will see what I can do for... Your Excellency..."

"Good, now tell me about what you found that made you start the Annihilation War!" Rubin pointed towards Descartes's avatar seriously

"This..." Descartes's tree-father incarnation began squeezing his hands, mostly an involuntary reaction

"Dickie, my dear, please remember that the days of your personal glory have ended the moment you swore allegiance to me. Your life itself has become mine. If I become stronger, your standing will rise

with me. If we are defeated in war, you will die alongside me. We agreed on a price and you accepted, you have no way of taking your words back now. You don't want the oath condition to be activated, right? Come on, my dear, speak." Robin leaned his body forward and spoke as if he were speaking to his disobedient son, even though the being standing in front of him had lived thousands of times his lifespan!

"I know! I know, but..." Descartes' Tree Father avatar raised his hand and looked at her helplessly. Opening his mouth now means abandoning his dream, his endeavor, and his purpose in life. As soon as the invaders know the secret behind everything that is happening, everything will go with the wind...

'But... hasn't everything gone to waste already? Even if the invaders don't know the secret, they will continue to advance and try to take us all down anyway for the sake of resources and territory.' The tree father sighed and convinced himself

Then he raised his face again and looked at Robin, "What we found that day was... the secret to eternal life."