

Full Time 461

Chapter 461 Emergency Conscription_4

So, even though Chen Gu was ranked higher, the evening's match was by no means a guaranteed victory for him. Quite a few people, especially Shangguan Na's fans, were eagerly anticipating their goddess rising to the occasion against a strong opponent, never giving up, and ultimately defeating Chen Gu, this "Big Devil."

Yes, among the fans of the players Chen Gu had defeated, he had already acquired a new nickname: "Big Devil."

Although Chen Gu was out, and he and Liang He were quite frustrated by the military summons, at least their objective was achieved: preventing Chen Gu from participating in tonight's match, Arlington thought.

The military urgently summoned Chen Gu on the basis of "special military intelligence." Surely he couldn't still participate in the Behemoth Alliance's competition, right?

However, regarding the evening's match, even by noon, the official website had not posted any news announcing Chen Gu's inability to compete tonight.

Usually, in such situations, the Alliance would, by convention, announce a contestant's absence "due to injury."

When four o'clock in the afternoon arrived and there was still no news of Chen Gu withdrawing, Arlington sensed something was amiss. He wasn't angry or disappointed; instead, he excitedly rushed to find Liang He, saying, "Your Excellency, something isn't quite right!"

After Arlington's analysis, Liang He also understood. "The military actually used an emergency summons to help Chen Gu participate in a civilian competition?"

Liang He laughed. "Chen Gu, oh Chen Gu, you're really digging your own grave!"

"Let's blow this thing wide open!" he declared decisively. "As long as Chen Gu dares to compete tonight, we'll expose this matter. Let everyone condemn them, and then the military will have no choice but to abandon Chen Gu—that kid is dead meat!"

"HEH HEH HEH!" Arlington also chuckled along.

The frustration they had suffered at the colonel's hands could soon be completely vented!

At eight o'clock in the evening, the match proceeded as scheduled, and still, there was no news of Chen Gu's withdrawal. Liang He and Arlington, this pair of cronies, watched the live broadcast of the competition for the first time ever today, specifically to confirm whether Chen Gu had actually shown up.

In Star Sea, over seventy percent of the population were fans of the Behemoth Alliance. Among the remaining thirty percent, those who had free time would still watch the matches, if only to have something to discuss when chatting with others.

Yet these two hardly ever watched the matches; Liang He, in particular, held a deep-seated disdain for such competitions.

The competition was thrilling. The first six bouts were full of twists and turns that had the spectators roaring with excitement. And the final, main event match did not disappoint either.

Shangguan Na set a new record for the longest match against Chen Gu to date: seventeen minutes and forty-one seconds.

She was indeed a tough cockroach. Several times, Chen Gu thought she was done for, yet she managed to get her battered behemoth back on its feet.

Initially, Chen Gu, considering his opponent was a woman, had been somewhat lenient. But after this happened a few times, he grew annoyed. So, Combat Rooster swiftly and cleanly severed the head of his opponent's behemoth, ending the match.

However, Chen Gu didn't realize that the moment Combat Rooster severed the head of his opponent's behemoth, the hearts of countless fans watching the live stream shattered.

How could you treat a beautiful contestant like this! So brutal! He truly is 'Iron Fist'!

Originally, because Chen Gu always courteously greeted his opponents before matches and never uttered trash talk, his nickname had been gradually shifting from "Iron Fist of Justice" toward "Gentleman Iron Fist."

But after this? Gentleman? Nonsense.

Even if Chen Gu knew, he'd probably feel quite helpless. It's a competition, isn't it? Isn't the goal to defeat your opponent? What did I do wrong? I gave her chances, but she kept refusing to concede...

Back at the base, Liang He and Arlington high-fived in celebration.

Liang He downed a glass of wine in one go, then immediately called Aviloya. "Director-General, Chen Gu appeared in the Behemoth Alliance's arena tonight!"

Chapter 462 Teacher-Student Affection

Aviloya asked indifferently, "Is there a problem?"

Liang He said excitedly, "Of course there's a problem! The military conscripted him under urgent military conditions, yet he went to compete in a contest. This is the military abusing public resources for personal purposes! It's a violation that offends the entire world! This is our chance to strike at the military and punish Chen Gu, that degenerate..."

Aviloya interrupted, "What if the military says Chen Gu had already completed his mission, which is why he then went to the contest?"

"How could that be possible!" Liang He exclaimed, "How could urgent military conditions be resolved so easily?"

"Why couldn't it be possible?" asked Aviloya. "The military took Chen Gu away in the morning. There was an entire day in between."

Liang He knew it was impossible that the military was just exploiting their power to help Chen Gu, but if they really argued like that, logically there wouldn't be any issues.

Liang He was not willing to give up. "Director-General, Chen Gu used an outsider to resist the Bureau's orders—are you really going to let him off just like that?"

Aviloya fell silent for a moment. Just as Liang He thought he had persuaded her, Aviloya spoke again, "Liang He, you'll hand over your duties tonight and return to the special prison first thing in the morning to continue with your previous job. As for the base, someone else will replace you."

Then, before the dumbfounded Liang He could react, Aviloya had already hung up the phone.

Liang He couldn't understand why things had turned out this way. Even if the Director-General felt the military was too powerful and did not want to conflict with them, there was no need to punish him by sending him back to the special prison.

But he knew he was finished. The second chance he'd painstakingly waited years for had been ruined just like that. He was also very aware that he probably wouldn't get a third chance in this lifetime.

At least not during Aviloya's term as Director-General. Aviloya was at the Ninth Energy Level while he was only at the Seventh Energy Level. Since he was also older than her, she would likely still be Director-General long after he was gone.

At the very top floor of the Bureau's main building, after Aviloya hung up the phone, she shook her head disappointedly. "Liang He has messed up."

Liang He's failure was not good news for her. She had promoted Liang He, only to have him fill the base with grievances. Then she personally removed him, which looked a bit like she was contradicting herself.

But that was all there was to it.

From now on, I must never use someone with such low EQ unless absolutely necessary, Aviloya reminded herself.

She suddenly revealed a cold smile. Bai Yunpeng, I'm not stupid. I won't let you succeed.

Though Aviloya was reluctant to admit it, she knew deep down: For the Bureau of Mystic Security, Chen Gu was of utmost importance, far exceeding a Seventh Energy Level individual.

The Bureau had multiple individuals at the Seventh Energy Level, but Chen Gu was the only precedent-setting multi-profession pathfinder.

After the multi-profession path was researched, Chen Gu's importance seemed to have decreased, but that was not the case. These newly minted multi-profession individuals all needed the guidance of Chen Gu, the trailblazer.

The Bureau of Mystic Security wanted to assemble a special operations squad made up of multi-profession individuals, and Chen Gu was indispensable.

Once the Bureau had a sizeable number of multi-profession practitioners, it could completely surpass the professional organizations of the other three Star Nations.

In the face of such a grand goal, Aviloya could completely set aside any personal grudges.

Moreover, she was not oblivious to Liang He's actions at the base. His targeting of Chen Gu certainly annoyed Aviloya. However, what truly made her decide to send him away was that his attempts to target Chen Gu had severely delayed the progress of the entire project.

This project was almost as important as Chen Gu himself.

「...」

After the competition ended, Chen Gu returned to his box and celebrated with everyone, but throughout the process, he couldn't help but feel distracted.

Bai Yunpeng knew what he was worried about and, taking advantage of the alcohol, wrapped an arm around his shoulders and said, "What are you afraid of? I've got your back! If Aviloya wants to turn on you, it's the perfect opportunity for you to leave the Bureau of Mystic Security and rid yourself of these restraints!"

Chen Gu forced a smile. Chen Jixian, Gao Mengjiu, and Man Suling all worked for the Bureau of Mystic Security. He could walk away, but they couldn't. This was especially true for that blockhead, the freelancer who'd been recruited; he now truly belonged to the Bureau, dead or alive. If Aviloya wanted to control him, it would be incredibly easy!

So Chen Gu stuck to his principle, unwilling to leave the Bureau unless absolutely necessary.

He finished the night of revelry with a heavy heart and went home to sleep until the next morning, yet he still hadn't received any message from the Bureau.

They say the calm before the storm is the quietest, and this had Chen Gu feeling even more anxious.

Once Great Actor Chen started feeling guilty, he looked for more protection, so he went back to school very seriously to listen to his mentor's teachings.

However, when he got to the school gate, Chen Gu was puzzled: Is this the Huai Shan Branch School?

Although he knew the school had been rebuilt, this change was too drastic!

If the previous school was "Daming Palace," then the current school was "Efang Palace"—grander, more splendid, and much more expansive.

The headmaster's personal life was very "simple," because at his level, though unwilling, he must appear modest to set an example for others—but in reality, the headmaster was a very "extravagant" man.

After the last accident, the headmaster had said during the reconstruction that he wanted to build it even better, "to show those lurking in the shadows that they could never defeat us. They would only make us better and stronger!"

Listen to that—how inspiring, how chicken soup for the soul.

But in the entire school, only two old-timers, Zhong Yuanbei and Shentu Lu, knew the truth. The headmaster had long felt the school was "old" and not "majestic" enough. He had always wanted to rebuild it but had never found an excuse. This time, he could be said to have turned misfortune into a blessing.

Chen Gu downloaded the new school map and then followed it to find the new "Yuanbei Hall." Man, it's three whole sizes larger than before...

BEEP—

The access control system emitted a long warning tone but didn't open the door!

Chen Gu was puzzled. New place, did the teacher forget to give me access? He rang the doorbell repeatedly, seven or eight times, after which Zhong Yuanbei's impatient voice came out, "Who is it!"

Chen Gu put on a smile and said in a drawn-out, sugary voice, "Master! I've come back to listen to your teachings!"

"Scram!" Zhong Yuanbei cursed. "Go do whatever you want; don't disturb me until we recruit a junior brother next year."

Chen Gu: "..."

Plastic mentor-mentee relationship, confirmed!

Chen Gu left Yuanbei Hall in dismay, planning to return to the dorms—that's when he remembered: After the school was rebuilt, this is my first time back. Where is my dorm?

Chapter 463 Special Operations Squad

Chen Gu dialed the chunky Qiao Shuangyi's number, and it rang for quite a long time with no one picking up. Chen Gu was very puzzled. What's going on? I'm the big leg here, Little Fatty. Have you gotten too arrogant to even answer my calls? Next school internship, you're paying double last time's price, or I definitely won't cover for you again.

He then called Lin Xiaochen, but again, no one answered after a long time.

This is outrageous, absolutely outrageous! Chen Gu, infuriated, had no choice but to follow the map to the logistics office.

The teacher in the logistics office happened to be Wang Chengqian. He looked at Chen Gu and said, "It's been this long, and you still don't know where your dorm is?"

Chen Gu felt a bit embarrassed. How mortifying...

Wang Chengqian marked the location on the map for him and shooed him away with a wave of his hand.

The new dorm wasn't much different from the old one, though all the hardware facilities had been upgraded. Chen Gu entered the forging field, acquired a few skill points, and then heard the door open outside. Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen had returned together.

Chen Gu said angrily, "Why didn't you answer my call?"

Both of them wore long faces. "Big Bro, have you forgotten we're students? Students need to attend classes!"

Lin Xiaochen said dejectedly, "We were in Iron-faced Yama Luo's class just now. Your call came through, and Old Man Luo punished us both by making us write two extra essays..."

"Bah!" Qiao Shuangyi glared at him angrily. "When I got punished because Brother Chen called me, you were standing there reveling in my misfortune. Serves you right for getting punished later!"

Chen Gu felt a bit embarrassed too. I really did forget about that...

Qiao Shuangyi didn't dare to truly blame Chen Gu for this. After all, a big leg was a big leg. He was just explaining why he hadn't answered the phone, hoping the big leg wouldn't hold it against him.

"Brother Chen, you've got it good. You have no idea how boring and dull these classes are," Qiao Shuangyi sighed. "But in two months, there's an internship for a month and a half. Where we're going and what we'll be doing is still confidential. Brother Chen, you have to cover for me then."

"Same here," Lin Xiaochen quickly added.

Just as Chen Gu was about to discuss the price with them, his phone suddenly rang. It was Qing Ruyan. "The Director-General wants you to come back immediately."

Chen Gu sighed inwardly. What's meant to happen will happen. Still, this is also a relief; finally, I don't have to live in constant suspense.

He waved to his two juniors. "I'm heading back to the Bureau of Mystic Security."

Chen Gu drove to the Directorate-General's building and quietly asked Qing Ruyan, "Good news or bad news?" Qing Ruyan didn't dare to answer, only giving him a look. And, as usual, I have absolutely no idea what that look is supposed to mean, Chen Gu thought.

Gathering his courage, he knocked on Aviloya's office door.

"Come in."

Chen Gu opened the door and saw only Aviloya inside, standing with her back to an enormous floor-to-ceiling window. Her massive war sword floated behind her as if sentient, exuding a chilling sword intent.

Chen Gu's heart thumped. This situation couldn't possibly require a Ninth Power Level to draw their sword, could it?

Aviloya said indifferently, "Don't close the door. Come with me."

"Where to?" Chen Gu asked apprehensively. Don't tell me I'm being taken directly to the Bureau of Mystic Security's special prison, he worried.

"Don't ask what you shouldn't," Aviloya said coldly.

Chen Gu had no choice but to follow quietly. Aviloya led him and Qing Ruyan down to the next floor and pushed open the door of a meeting room, where, to Chen Gu's surprise, several people were waiting inside.

And they were all old acquaintances: Gong Shuxu, Chu Zheng... as well as Marcus, Charles, Melincha, Selena, Joseph, Dora, and Poluo!

After Aviloya entered, Qing Ruyan closed the door behind them.

The Director-General stood at the head of the room, her hands resting on the conference table. "Now that everyone has arrived, let's begin."

"I have decided to establish the Bureau of Mystic Security's Multiclass Operatives Special Operations Squad. The current members are primarily those present here."

Marcus and the others were taken aback. Multiclass operatives?

Several of his old comrades actually had some suspicions and looked towards Chen Gu, who managed a strained smile.

Aviloya continued, "Chen Gu is the first multiclass operative in history. As for him deliberately concealing this and deceiving you, his comrades with whom he once fought side by side, you can ask him about that yourselves later."

Chen Gu sighed inwardly. You really shouldn't offend women. They're so petty, always finding ways to set traps for me over the smallest things.

"We have now found a path to becoming multiclass operatives," Aviloya announced. "Chu Zheng is the Bureau's second multiclass operative."

The usually stoic girl looked at her instructor, the joy in her eyes impossible to hide.

"This squad will be commanded by Sixth Energy Level Abyssal Blacksmith Chen Jixian. He is still handing over his duties in Wuzhaoyin City and has not arrived yet."

"Sixth Energy Level Psychological Spy Gong Shuxu will serve as Head Instructor. For now, his primary work will remain the training of volunteers for the multiclass operative research project."

This was essentially reassigning Gong Shuxu back to his old post.

"Chen Gu and Chu Zheng will be special operations team members. Simultaneously, Chen Gu's status as Senior Special Advisor to the Bureau of Mystic Security is hereby revoked."

Chen Gu grimaced. No matter how he looked at it, this sounded like a demotion.

"Marcus will be responsible for operational support and logistics. The rest of you will be standard operations operatives."

After Aviloya finished her announcements, she glanced around at everyone. "Prepare yourselves. You will have your first mission soon!"

The Director-General spoke briefly and then left. Given her status, her presence at the squad's founding to make the announcement already demonstrated its importance. The remaining details would naturally be handled by her subordinates.

Qing Ruyan stayed behind and smiled faintly at everyone. "We meet again!"

Once Aviloya left, the atmosphere immediately livened up. Charles of the Silver Eagle looked at Qing Ruyan with an expression that seemed to say, "how times have changed," leaving her utterly baffled.

In contrast, the sassy vixen marched up to Chen Gu, looking as fierce as a little kitten, and swiftly held up five fingers. "The best nightclub on Capital Star, five times! You cover all the expenses. Only then will I forgive your deceit, you scoundrel!"

Chen Gu flinched. "This is Capital Star. The expenses here aren't comparable to Wuzhaoyin City..."

Selena's gaze visibly turned even more "ferocious." Chen Gu resigned himself to his fate. "No problem. Since you're on Capital Star, I'll definitely call up some friends and treat you properly."

I've already got it figured out, Chen Gu schemed. I'll bring Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen. Surely, two young masters wouldn't let a 'poor man' like me, who 'only' has Chen's Biotech, foot the bill, right?

Charles, thinking he was being suave, flicked the hair on his forehead. He had just stood up, preparing to negotiate terms like the sassy vixen had, when Chen Gu nonchalantly said, "I'm a special operations team member now. Your rank is lower than mine, and you're a man. Sit down!"

Charles gritted his teeth and sat back down.

Chapter 464 - The Little Prince Who Pays the Bill

"Exactly," Marcus stood up, patting his belly as he began to flaunt his seniority. "The old Team Leader hasn't even spoken yet."

After he switched to internal affairs, his body had visibly swelled up at an alarming rate.

"Hahaha!" Marcus happily slapped Chen Gu on the shoulder. "The moment you arrived, I knew you weren't an ordinary guy. Turns out, my judgment was spot on!"

The puppet Melincha, however, teased him with a smile, "Team Leader, that kind of hindsight isn't very impressive."

Everyone burst into laughter. Marcus retorted in annoyance, "Nonsense, I really did see his potential back then!"

"Yeah, yeah, you saw it," Melincha continued with a grin. "Let me finish your story for you—so that's why you took extra care of Chen Gu, giving him a leg up everywhere, right?"

Marcus was somewhat embarrassed. "That's not it; I'm not trying to take credit." He looked at Chen Gu. "What I want is to thank you—I never expected that after switching to internal affairs, I could still be transferred to Capital Star. The benefits at the Director-General's Office are very good, and my wife and child are thrilled."

How could a poor, remote place like Wuzhaoyin City even compare to Capital Star?

No one objected, including Charles.

Everyone understood clearly that it was because of Chen Gu that they had ridden his coattails to success. The sole reason they were transferred to Capital Star was their seamless cooperation with Chen Gu.

Right on cue, Qing Ruyan announced, "There's more good news. The Director-General's Office will fully supply the merit points and various materials you all need for your next Energy Level promotion. Everyone needs to level up as quickly as possible."

"Really?" Everyone was overjoyed. Even Charles, who always prided himself on being from the "wealthy class," hadn't managed to gather enough resources for his next promotion. The materials from those super life forms were so expensive they could bankrupt an ordinary affluent businessman!

Qing Ruyan nodded. "This was specially approved by the Director-General for the Special Operations Squad. Alright, now I'll take you to the twenty-fourth floor, which will be your new workspace. Besides all of you, there will also be an internal affairs team, a cleanup crew, and four action teams. Their team leaders are already there waiting."

The group took the elevator down to familiarize themselves with the new environment and colleagues, which took a considerable amount of time. After everything was settled, Boluo suggested, "Team dinner! We must have a team dinner. Since we're new here, Chen Gu should be considered the host. He's paying tonight, right?"

"Of course, that's fine!" everyone cheered. Chen Gu deliberately put on a pained expression. "I'm a bit short on cash... How about this? I'll treat you all to a meal at our school cafeteria..."

Charles shot him a disdainful look, and Dora pouted, somewhat annoyed. She had been quiet, always feeling she had a special bond with Chen Gu, a sort of 'mutual riding' camaraderie in her mind. When he suddenly left for the Director-General's Office, she had felt a sense of abandonment.

Of course, this so-called 'mutual riding' was purely Big Rabbit's fantasy—there was never anything 'mutual' about it.

But Qing Ruyan's eyes lit up, and she nodded eagerly. "That's fantastic! I've wanted to have a feast at the Huai Shan Branch School cafeteria for ages!"

Chen Gu knew all too well that when this girl said "have a feast," she truly meant it and definitely wouldn't hold back with him.

He immediately put on a mournful face. "Please, have mercy! My bank account is already weeping."

Everyone exchanged glances. Is he really that stingy over a cafeteria meal?

When they arrived at Huai Shan Branch School and saw the prices in the cafeteria, everyone was taken aback. Are the prices on Capital Star really this insane? Living here must be incredibly tough.

Qing Ruyan, however, showed no restraint, urging everyone, "This is a rare opportunity, so don't hold back! The food here is extremely beneficial for professionals. You're all about to be promoted, so seize this chance to solidify your foundations."

This was a matter of life and death, so everyone immediately dropped their reservations and quickly started ordering.

Only then did they understand Chen Gu's good intentions. A meal here was many times more expensive than at any upscale restaurant outside.

Chen Gu's earlier claims of being short on cash and his pained expression had all been a joke. He was genuinely thoughtful, likely having planned to treat everyone to this meal the moment he heard the Director-General's Office would assist with their promotions.

Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen, still reeling from their punishment of writing an essay, suddenly realized it was dinnertime. They staggered into the cafeteria, and suddenly, their eyes lit up!

"Old Qiao, look, look! Brother Chen is here with a group of beauties!"

Qiao Shuangyi spotted Chen Gu first, then saw Qing Ruyan, and instinctively flinched. Lin Xiaochen also noticed Qing Ruyan and hesitated. After all, her father had a truly formidable reputation.

"But those other beauties..." one of them murmured to the other, "they're quite exceptional."

The two straightened their clothes and, with what they believed were suave and handsome smiles, approached Chen Gu. "Brother Chen, you're back! Who are these ladies? Why not introduce us?"

Chen Gu watched them approach, amused. Qiao Shuangyi, the chubby fellow, was trying to look dignified, but his small eyes kept "accidentally" wandering over the little demoness Selena—no, **glancing**.

Chen Gu was overjoyed. Ah, the little prince of footing nightclub bills has appeared!

He smiled and stood up. "Let me introduce you. These two are my classmates..."

After the introductions went around, it was Qing Ruyan's turn. She smiled at the two. "We already know each other; no need for introductions, Qiao Shuangyi, Lin Xiaochen. You've come just in time. We haven't had enough to eat yet, so go get us some more food. You know, I'm very ladylike and don't eat much, so don't get **too much**."

She deliberately emphasized the words "too much." Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen's faces immediately fell, and they grumbled inwardly, Ladylike? You're a glutton and boy-crazy!

However, both of them couldn't understand. Why am I so handsome, yet this woman doesn't swoon over me?

Then, reluctantly, they turned and left. Soon, all sorts of expensive foods were brought over in succession, piling up and filling the entire table.

Qing Ruyan smiled sweetly. "Oh dear, how can I possibly finish all this?"

Not a crumb was left.

Chen Gu also benefited, eating and drinking his fill.

Then, he figured there was no time like the present and suggested, "How about we change venues and have some fun?"

The little demoness Selena's eyes immediately sparkled. "Great! I've been dying to experience the bustling nightlife of Capital Star!"

Chen Gu said to Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen, "Come with us. My car doesn't have enough room, so you two can drive yours."

Qiao Shuangyi actually didn't want to go anymore; his bank account was truly on its last legs. But seeing that Selena wanted to go, he braced himself and said, "Okay."

While going to get the cars, Qiao Shuangyi quickly sent a message to his older brother: "Emergency! Need ten million!"

Just as the clock struck midnight, the "ill-intentioned" Qiao Shuangyi hadn't succeeded in getting Selena drunk but ended up drunk himself...

This little demoness was in a league of her own. She had seen through his little ploys at a glance. The chubby fellow had the gall but lacked the actual ability.

As for Lin Xiaochen... Charles was propping him up as he'd set his sights on Melincha.

But Melincha, the puppet, enjoyed great popularity within their small group. Everyone helped shield her from the drinks. Consequently, Melincha remained fine, while Lin Xiaochen, that loser, also passed out.

Charles helped him out, a look of disgust on his face.

Chen Gu was very happy. His old friends had come, and he felt his hospitality today had been quite up to par, hadn't it?

Chapter 465 - All Old Foxes

As luck would have it, the first class the next morning was taught by Old Man Luo, the 'Iron-faced Yama'. Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen, still hungover and looking listless, were caught red-handed by him and punished with two additional essays.

Old Man Luo was surprised to see a newcomer in the class and gave Chen Gu special attention. He posed several difficult questions, but Chen Gu even managed to answer some that were beyond the scope of the course.

Realizing something, Old Man Luo suddenly asked, "You're Chen Gu?"

"Yes, Teacher, it's me."

The teachers at the Huai Shan Branch School all had significant backgrounds, and word about multi-professionals had already spread among the higher-ups. Old Man Luo immediately understood that this fellow was cheating using his Brain Domain Hacker ability and waved him off, no longer paying him any attention.

"Alright, from now on, if you indeed have matters to attend to, you don't need to come to class anymore."

Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen, still in a bit of a daze, were left with their mouths hanging open. Is this still the Iron-faced Yama?

"Thank you for your understanding, Teacher."

After class, a bunch of classmates crowded around, "Chen Gu, we need tickets!"

"I heard you've got a box. We're classmates, after all. You can't expect us to sit in the regular seats and cheer for you, can you?"

This week was a rare one for Chen Gu with two matches: one tomorrow night and another over the weekend.

Chen Gu waved his hand grandly, "No problem."

Although there were a few classmates he wasn't too fond of, they were his classmates nonetheless, and he agreed cheerfully, "Everyone come tomorrow night!"

Bai Zhijin hesitated for a moment but ultimately did not refuse.

He wanted to appear to have more "principle," but as a fervent fan of the Behemoth Alliance, he'd never attended a match in person in his life and simply couldn't resist the temptation.

Capital Star, you truly do corrupt and degrade my will at every turn! Bai Zhijin wailed inwardly. But then... there was no 'then.' Once he entered the box and experienced the atmosphere, so utterly different from watching a broadcast, all he could think was how delightful it truly was.

For the past few days, Chen Gu hadn't needed to go to the Bureau of Mystic Security. Marcus and his team were mainly familiarizing themselves with the Headquarters' various facilities, while Charles and his crew focused on their promotions.

Qing Ruyan had told him that a task from the Director-General was temporarily on hold until everyone had completed their promotions.

Before the match the next day, Chen Gu met Bai Yunpeng. Marshal Bai was quite frustrated. Pulling Chen Gu aside into a corner, he lowered his voice and complained, "How can Aviloya tolerate such things? Is she really Ninth Power Level? Her temper is so good!"

Last time, Marshal Bai helped Chen Gu by urgently calling up reinforcements, clearly hoping that the Bureau of Mystic Security would punish Chen Gu, forcing the young man to leave and join his ranks.

But to his surprise, Aviloya didn't show any reaction to the matter, and it just passed by like that!

Even when 'punishing' Chen Gu by removing his title of "Senior Special Consultant," it was done under the guise of forming a special operations squad, in a very covert and low-key manner.

It was a "considerate" way of protecting Chen Gu's "face."

Chen Gu was actually quite puzzled too. Why was Aviloya being so magnanimous this time, thinking so much for his sake, and even transferring Marcus and his team to Capital Star?

Behind the two of them, Qing Ruyan's voice rang out, "I didn't mean to eavesdrop, but I just happened to hear."

Turning around, Qing Ruyan raised her hands innocently. With the keen hearing of a Professional, you couldn't blame her, could you?

She glanced at Chen Gu. "You underestimate yourself too much. You are the first multi-professional in history and have already reached the Fourth Energy Level. The Director-General has one great quality: when it comes to official matters, she considers them purely from a professional standpoint. In this regard, she can set aside her personal likes and dislikes to the greatest extent."

"With a top talent like you, she would never let Marshal Bai get his way and poach you for the military. So, Marshal Bai... I think you can give up on that idea."

Bai Yunpeng frowned in dissatisfaction but finally understood the difficulty of this matter. Meanwhile, Chen Gu's own doubts were also cleared up.

The highlight of tonight's matches wasn't Chen Gu. His opponent was a mediocre player whose performance this year had been poor, resulting in a low ranking.

Hence, their match was scheduled as the sixth one.

The main event tonight was a match between Boraruz, the Alliance's current number one player, and the former 'number one,' Zhuge Wojian, also known as the 'Beast God'!

In his prime, Zhuge Wojian was not only the Confederation's number one but also the strongest in the entire Star Sea's Behemoth Alliance.

He participated in ten iterations of the 'Beast Emperor's Decision,' spending the first three years only in team events and earning two overall championships.

In the following seven years, he competed in both team and individual events every year, nabbing four more team championships and three individual overall championships!

His era was the golden age of the Confederation's Behemoth Alliance.

However, he announced his retirement four years ago. Boraruz began to emerge towards the end of Zhuge Wojian's career and only gradually became the Alliance's number one player after the 'Beast God' retired.

But compared to Zhuge Wojian's dominance, Boraruz, despite reigning supreme within the Confederation, delivered performances at the 'Beast Emperor's Decision' that could hardly be called 'remarkable,' let alone 'dominant'.

The reasons for Zhuge Wojian's retirement were numerous and varied. His own explanation was "weariness"; having no more goals to conquer, he wanted to rest and spend time with his family.

But the internet was rife with conspiracy theories.

For instance, one theory was that the Behemoth Alliances of the other three major Star Nations couldn't beat Zhuge Wojian, so they joined forces to pressure the Confederation, forcing his retirement.

Another theory was that Zhuge Wojian had repeatedly refused demands from gambling syndicates to fix matches. This supposedly infuriated them, leading to threats against his family, leaving the 'Beast God' no choice but to retire, unwilling to be complicit in their corruption.

And so on.

Yet, just six days ago, Zhuge Wojian suddenly announced his comeback, causing a great sensation. The Alliance responded at once with a warm welcome!

They immediately made special arrangements for Zhuge Wojian to "jump the queue," allowing him to join the individual competition directly. As for team events, Zhuge Wojian stated that since this was his first year back, he would start with the relatively less demanding individual competitions to regain his form and would not join any clubs for the time being.

Thus, his very first match back was set to be this confrontation between the new and old 'number ones'!

Even Boraruz's most loyal fans thought this match would be a tough one to win.

The current Boraruz still had a noticeable gap compared to Zhuge Wojian at his peak, so the outcome of this match depended not on Boraruz, but on how much of his form Zhuge Wojian had regained.

In this era of advanced technology, athletes generally enjoy long careers. Competitors in the Behemoth Alliance, for instance, often compete for several decades.

Zhuge Wojian's retirement after just over a decade was certainly uncommon.

Because this match was arranged at the last minute, Bai Zhijin and the others hadn't expected to witness such an emotionally charged highlight today.

Chapter 466 - 【Beast God】

Chen Gu was well aware of who was the main attraction and who was merely a supporting act today. After taking the stage, he dispatched his opponent in a few swift moves, maintaining his flawless record before leaving the spotlight to Boraruz and Zhuge Wojian.

When the two of them made their entrance, the crowd went wild! The arena even unleashed its highest level of fireworks and audiovisual effects, creating an explosive atmosphere.

Having not made a public appearance in four years, Zhuge Wojian still stood on the stage with the same composure and regal dominance. Compared to four years ago, the only change in him was a hint of added maturity, a touch more grace within his powerful aura; he was truly the kind of middle-aged man who could make young women's hearts flutter.

He waved continuously to the crowd, and whichever direction he faced, that section erupted in thunderous cheers. The excitement lasted for over ten minutes before the match could officially commence.

This year, Boraruz had focused on the team competitions, so his individual match record wasn't stellar. He had lost one match, placing him in second, tied with two other competitors. But today's match was

different; it was Boraruz's battle to reclaim his honor. This was why he had agreed to the Alliance's arrangement to fight.

This might be Zhuge Wojian's weakest moment, Boraruz thought, the best opportunity to defeat him and prove myself as the undisputed number one.

But to everyone's surprise, Zhuge Wojian's beast, "Oslatan," didn't bother with probing attacks against Boraruz. It launched a fierce offensive right from the start.

Just three rounds in, Chen Gu couldn't help but leap up from his seat and exclaim, "Beast Martial Skills!"

After five rounds, even the commentators could see what was happening. One of them, voice trembling with excitement, announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, I can now confirm that the second beast in the Alliance to master Beast Martial Skills has appeared!"

"It is—'Oslatan'!"

"Our 'Beast God' is still that supreme existence! He's not merely making a comeback; he is returning with the brand-new 'Sword of the King'!"

Bai Yunpeng's eyes shone with youthful exuberance! The time he dreamt of becoming a star Beast Partner coincided with Zhuge Wojian's entry into the Alliance. He had watched the "Beast God" rise. Now, seeing the "Beast God" return with such a dominant presence, he felt as though he himself was about to ignite.

"Chen Gu..." Marshal Bai said, somewhat sheepishly, "I'm afraid I'm going to betray you. I declare I'm switching from being Chen Gu's fan to once again being a loyal fan of the 'Beast God'!"

Chen Gu pursed his lips. "You're clearly a flip-flopping fence-sitter!"

Unfazed, Bai Yunpeng smiled and asked, "Can you tell which martial skill 'Oslatan' is using?"

Chen Gu had seen it long ago. "It's the 'Ancient Monastery Enlightenment Move.' It's even more sophisticated than my 'Ancient Martial Great Ninth Form'."

Bai Yunpeng marveled, "My 'Beast God' is truly amazing!"

Chen Gu was speechless. Your betrayal is just too fast and thorough! Now it's "your" Beast God?

Boraruz had severely miscalculated. He struggled desperately on the stage. He had never imagined that the "Beast God" had been anything but idle during these four years. Though he hadn't competed, he had developed such a secret weapon. His current strength surpassed even his prime!

After another six rounds, Boraruz could no longer hold on and was knocked unconscious by "Oslatan"...

The entire audience rose to their feet, arms raised high, letting out deafening, heartfelt cheers.

Zhuge Wojian emerged from the connector, appearing very calm. He showed little excitement over the victory.

The host on site held a microphone and had to shout at the top of his lungs just to be heard over the din as he declared the "Beast God" the winner.

Then, he began a brief interview with Zhuge Wojian. However, Zhuge Wojian took the microphone from the host's hand and gestured with both hands for everyone to quiet down, indicating he had something to say.

Gradually, the crowd fell silent. The "Beast God" suddenly smiled. "It feels great to be back!"

The audience erupted once again, cheers continuing unabated. This time, however, Zhuge Wojian did not stop them, instead waiting with a smile.

Several more minutes passed before the venue quieted down again. Zhuge Wojian spoke once more. "I know there have been many speculations about my retirement.

"But I can tell you responsibly that none of those are true.

"The reason for my retirement, as I told everyone four years ago, is because I had no more goals. I like victory—not for victory itself, but because I love challenging stronger opponents. I love conquest!

"So, I am back now, because in the first few matches of this season, I saw someone who reignited my desire to fight."

He paused for a moment and suddenly turned toward Chen Gu's private box. "Chen Gu, I eagerly await the day we compete. I hope the Alliance won't make me wait too long!

"Nor should they make the fans wait too long!"

In the box, Bai Yunpeng was stunned. He hadn't expected the "Beast God" to hold Chen Gu in such high regard!

Chen Gu also appeared with a smile. The "Beast God's" challenge was forthright and pure—unlike Sisizaro's, which was despicable, shameless, and filled with ulterior motives.

Therefore, Chen Gu gladly accepted the challenge. He took the microphone from a staff member. "I too look forward to that day, to witness Your Excellency, the "Beast God's," 'Ancient Monastery Enlightenment Move'."

The commentators on site and numerous experts online had an epiphany. "Yes, it's the 'Ancient Monastery Enlightenment Move'!"

They had only identified that "Oslatan" had used martial techniques but had been unable to figure out precisely which one.

Now, Chen Gu had given them the answer.

On the stage below, the "Beast God's" response seemed to carry a deeper meaning. "Merely relying on your current 'Ancient Martial Great Ninth Form' won't be enough."

Chen Gu laughed heartily. "Your Excellency, the 'Beast God,' indeed has a discerning eye. Rest assured, I definitely won't disappoint you when the time comes!"

Bai Yunpeng was somewhat incredulous. What does Chen Gu's response mean? Does he have other great beast martial techniques besides the 'Ancient Martial Great Ninth Form'?

Tonight's competition had concluded perfectly. Everyone in the Alliance, from top to bottom, would likely be too excited to sleep tonight!

When Chen Gu returned to the box, he was met with Marshal Bai's tender gaze. "Chen Gu, I now declare that I am a die-hard fan of both 'The Beast God' and 'The Fist of Justice!'"

Chen Gu retorted, "You're not even trying to sit on the fence anymore? Ready to play both sides? You old scoundrel!"

Marshal Bai gave a sheepish laugh and nodded quite frankly. That was indeed his intention.

Their conversation made Chen Gu's classmates feel particularly constrained. The exception was Bai Zhijin, the simpleton, who had no idea who Bai Yunpeng really was. Seeing his "approachable" and "amiable" demeanor, Bai Zhijin privately thought, This man must be a "neighborhood uncle" like me, here to freeload in Chen Gu's box.

The others all sat at a distance. Bai Yunpeng was already a prominent figure and, to some extent, represented the entire Bai family in public.

Chapter 467 - The Devil's Trace Reappears

These students considered themselves exceptional, but that was merely among ordinary people. A figure like Bai Yunpeng was someone even their fathers would treat with respect.

Many of them had originally known Chen Gu only as someone "with great potential," hence they were willing to engage with him. It was only tonight that they truly understood: if ordinary people were on the first level, they themselves were on the third, and as for Chen Gu... he had strapped a rocket to his backside and WHOOSHED straight into space.

In the competition arena, the atmosphere was still fervent! The fans had their fill of excitement tonight, engaging in spirited discussions and somewhat reluctant to leave. The Alliance was quite generous, deciding on the spot to produce a batch of "commemorative coins" for tonight's event. Every spectator who had attended would receive one.

After they were made, they would be mailed to each audience member.

The audience cheered once again, then reluctantly started to exit the venue.

Chen Gu wanted to see everyone out, but his classmates quickly declined. "No need, you stay with Marshal Bai. We're classmates; no need for such formality with us."

Then, these students lined up one by one before Bai Yunpeng to show their faces. "Uncle Bai, we're heading back first."

"Go ahead, go ahead." Bai Yunpeng was in an excellent mood tonight, his attitude extremely amiable.

Bai Zhijin was very perplexed. After they came out, he quietly found Liao Mingliang and Fan Yutong, with whom he was on good terms, and asked in a low voice, "Who is that man? It looks like you all know him?"

Liao Mingliang whispered in his ear, "Central Operations Room, one of the three giants, Marshal Bai Yunpeng!"

"HISS—" Bai Zhijin took a sharp breath. This was a big shot whose name he often saw in military news! And who among those who applied for the Tiangong Military Division didn't dream of becoming a marshal?

Bai Yunpeng was definitely an idol.

He looked back at Marshal Bai, who was arm in arm with Chen Gu, and had to admit that he felt envious once more.

Fan Yutong patted his shoulder. "Let's go. Chen Gu and us... are no longer on the same level—truly unbelievable!"

Wasn't he jealous? He was even more jealous than Bai Zhijin.

Chen Gu accompanied Bai Yunpeng as they left the competition arena. All along the way, undercover guards continually converged beside Bai Yunpeng. These people were all hidden in key positions around the arena, covertly ensuring Bai Yunpeng's safety.

Chen Gu wasn't surprised at all; the security level for military dignitaries was definitely very high. Otherwise, if anything happened, it would greatly impact the entire military.

Outside the gate, a motorcade was waiting. Chen Gu stopped. "See you next time, Marshal Bai!"

But Bai Yunpeng suddenly grabbed him. "Come with me." Without further ado, he pulled Chen Gu into his car. Chen Gu was baffled, and before he had the chance to ask, Bai Yunpeng's guards got into their respective vehicles, and the motorcade swiftly set off.

"Marshal Bai?"

Bai Yunpeng smiled faintly and said, "There's an operation tonight. I just suddenly thought, if you go back alone, you might become a target for those lunatics, so it's safer to be with me."

Chen Gu immediately understood and exclaimed in shock, "Someone is targeting you? Indeed, they must be lunatics... no, not lunatics, that's completely foolish!"

Bai Yunpeng explained, "It should be people from True Knowledge Sin."

Chen Gu said, "They are indeed lunatics, but this is like an egg striking a stone; they're seeking their own deaths."

One of the three giants of the Central Operations Room, a marshal with real military power—his personal guard force was unquestionably strong.

In the era of the mother planet, it was possible for military leaders of some weaker countries to be assassinated by enemies. But in this era, such occurrences were virtually impossible, especially for the four major Star Nations, whose defenses in this regard were impeccable.

Bai Yunpeng said, "For a long time, those lunatics from True Knowledge Sin seemed to have suddenly disappeared."

"But recently, our intelligence department has picked up some faint clues. Their activities have suddenly become more frequent. After gathering and analyzing intelligence from various sources, we found out that their target is actually me. Haha!"

Marshal Bai also laughed. "I thought about it. Rather than let them lurk in the dark, I'd use myself as bait to draw them out. That's why I've made sure to attend every match recently, allowing them to track my movements."

Chen Gu had a sudden realization. Those who play tactics indeed have dark hearts!

Marshal Bai laughed sheepishly. "Two birds with one stone—I did, in fact, want to watch the matches, so I guess this is using my public role for a bit of personal benefit."

"This probably won't be possible after tonight, as my schedule is indeed very tight, and I hardly have this much free time."

Chen Gu asked, "Does True Knowledge Sin have that much power, enough to defeat these guards around you?"

"That's why tonight is a rare opportunity. Two of my high-Energy Level professional bodyguards have been sent on other missions for some reason, making this the moment when our defenses are at their weakest."

Chen Gu laughed.

"I just thought of it suddenly," Bai Yunpeng continued. "True Knowledge Sin has always been cunning and vicious. In case they get a crazy idea to ambush you halfway and then use you to threaten me... that's also a potential threat, so I decided to pull you in."

Chen Gu said cheerfully, "Then I'll join Marshal Bai in watching a good show."

Marshal Bai said, "We can't let our guard down. According to our intelligence, True Knowledge Sin has recently been in secret contact with certain forces, seeking support."

"Since they're making a move again, it's likely they've found some external assistance. And we have yet to figure out who these forces willing to support them really are."

Chen Gu speculated, "Star State?"

Bai Yunpeng nodded. "Star State and the Empire are both possibilities."

"Star State suffered a great loss at the hands of the Dean and has been looking for ways to retaliate. And the Empire, after their last operation against your Bureau of Mystic Security failed and they lost both resources and personnel, will certainly not let things rest, given their nature."

The two chatted idly as the convoy made its way to a secluded district.

This place was similar to Wuzhaoyin City's "Gods' Poison," but since it was located on Capital Star, it was a bit better off than "Gods' Poison"—at least not completely devoid of law and order.

Suddenly, the warrior driving the car turned back and said, "Marshal Bai, there is strong electromagnetic interference."

With a HUM, the convoy slowly descended, its maglev suspension system having failed.

But Bai Yunpeng's vehicles were military models. Just before landing awkwardly, they extended four wheels from underneath their chassis. As soon as they touched the ground, they powered up and swiftly moved forward, preparing to break out of the area.

Suddenly, bright spots of light flew towards them from the front, back, left, and right.

Commanders' urgent shouts erupted from the convoy: "They're man-portable missiles, military weapons!"

"Activate the 'Bee Swarm' energy generator, initiate defense!"

Several small energy generators were launched, arranging themselves outside the convoy in a fixed pattern. Then, with a BUZZ, they activated simultaneously, the counteracting energy pulses they produced connecting to form an "energy shield."

Chapter 468 - Dust of the World like a Spider's Web

The individual rockets, trailing plumes of flame, exploded one by one against the energy shield, casting bright ripples across its surface.

A veteran soldier scoffed, having recognized them, "Humph, those are Star State's army standard-issue 'Mayflower' split-energy missiles!"

These were the most powerful missiles in Star State's arsenal of personal equipment. The fact that True Knowledge Sin possessed such gear was self-explanatory.

The warriors quickly exited the vehicles, using them to establish a defensive perimeter. Some then approached Bai Yunpeng like ordinary bodyguards, seemingly intending to escort him away first.

In the darkness, another seven or eight missiles flew in, causing severe blasts and tremors, yet they were still unable to destroy the energy shield.

As the second wave of missiles launched, figures emerged from the darkness like specters. Unlike the orderly ranks of regular armies, their heights, builds, and even the speeds at which they moved varied greatly.

One particularly noticeable figure was a mobile mountain of flesh, standing five meters tall. Each of its steps made the ground tremble as if from heavy machinery.

However, the first to reach the energy shield were three ghost-like figures. The energy shield, capable of blocking split-energy missiles, merely flickered as they approached, and they passed right through it.

Upon contact, several seasoned veterans screamed as they were violently flung away.

Assailants surged in from all directions. However, aside from those three, the rest evidently lacked the means to penetrate the energy shield. This continued until the towering mountain of flesh arrived. He lifted his warhammer high, immense energy arcs crackling along its surface. Then, with a thunderous

blow, he struck. The resulting BOOM caused the ordinary soldiers beneath the shield to bleed from their ears, their heads buzzing. They were disoriented and temporarily robbed of their combat abilities.

The energy shield flickered then extinguished. A majority of the "Swarm of Drones" energy generators belched black smoke.

Bai Yunpeng looked around at the assembly of fiends with a chuckle. "True Knowledge Sin really holds me in high regard. Twenty-three high-level Angel Envoys—this must be all the forces they can mobilize for now, right?"

Chen Gu stood by his side, calmly observing the entire scene. These Angel Envoys were all professionals with various physical enhancements. The strongest were at the Sixth Energy Level, and the weakest at the Fourth Energy Level. It was indeed surprising that True Knowledge Sin possessed such resources. However, for them to think of using such forces to assassinate a Marshal... Chen Gu could only deem it wishful thinking.

Four people stood beside Bai Yunpeng. As over twenty Angel Envoys charged in, one of them smiled at Chen Gu and said, "I hear you're also a Quantum Wizard. Watch closely; you might gain some insights."

He took a step forward, arms spread, and floated up, defying the laws of gravity.

His eyes were shrouded in a pale blue energy glow, as if he could see through mysterious connections hidden beneath the veil of normal perception.

Thin, pale blue arcs of energy emerged around his body, continuously extending outward, quickly forming a "connection" with every object in the world.

Even Chen Gu, a Quantum Wizard himself, felt an inescapable sense of confusion when faced with these "connections."

The Angel Envoys rushing in were suddenly caught by these connections and instantly captured by Entanglement Control, left hanging in mid-air!

Including the mountain of flesh – the Sixth Energy Level Hell Titan – they all struggled fiercely. But the "connections" not only failed to loosen but tightened even more as they thrashed.

Entanglement Control only made it even more impossible for them to break free.

Chen Gu's eyes showed admiration as he sincerely exclaimed, "An Eighth Energy Level Quantum Wizard... at that level, the whole world becomes his web. Every existence within it is nothing more than a small insect caught on its strands."

"With just this much strength, True Knowledge Sin thought they could assassinate a Marshal? This is the Capital Star, not Wuzhaoyin City."

If such a group of Angel Envoys were let loose in Wuzhaoyin City, Chen Gu mused, even if Chen Jixian himself intervened, he would likely only be able to hold his ground initially before frantically calling headquarters for backup. A single misstep could truly cause a catastrophe in Wuzhaoyin City, or even on the entire Empire River Star. But on the Capital Star... experts are everywhere. Someone at the Sixth Energy Level might be a notable figure, but they can't just sweep through unchecked.

Bai Yunpeng smiled slightly. "Eighth Brother is one of our Bai family's men, mainly tasked with protecting the old man. I specifically borrowed him for this occasion."

"The old man is very dissatisfied. People fear death more as they get older, so tonight he can only hide at home and not go anywhere. Although we were victorious this time, he'll definitely give me an earful when I get back."

Bai Yunpeng felt helpless. "Actually, he has plenty of experts around him. Missing one Eighth Brother is neither here nor there... SIGH..."

Chen Gu chuckled inwardly. The old man is indeed an interesting character.

Eighth Brother clenched his fist. All the attackers fell, wrapped in dense, silk-like threads of pale blue energy.

The warriors quickly moved forward, took out the highest-level security fetters they had prepared, and CLACK-CLACK-CLACK, locked them all up.

Bai Yunpeng was in high spirits. "This time, True Knowledge Sin has truly taken a significant hit! These rats love hiding in the sewers. We couldn't find them before, and they've roamed free outside the law for many years. We've finally drawn them out!"

"HAHAHA!" He laughed heartily, patting Chen Gu and Eighth Brother on their shoulders. "Come on, let's find a place to drink and celebrate!"

Chen Gu shook his head vigorously in fright. I vividly remember the consequences of the last excessive celebration with Marshal Bai—four grown men sleeping together in one room! Fortunately, I, Great Actor Chen, am a clever fellow. I managed to escape and even got some dirt on those three idiots. Otherwise, my lifelong reputation would have been ruined!

Eighth Brother also smiled bitterly. "Before I came, the old man specifically instructed me to return immediately after finishing the job and not to fool around with you."

Bai Yunpeng grumbled, "Why call it fooling around? This is called balancing work with leisure..."

Eighth Brother said with some difficulty, "You know how the old man is. Lately, he goes to 'Phantom Island' to listen to music every night."

Bai Yunpeng curled his lip. "Listen to music? He's just going to see that 'Crane Songstress.' At his age, he's still so restless."

Eighth Brother gave an embarrassed smile, not knowing what to say. Bai Yunpeng waved his hand impatiently. "You come with us to escort these people back. It'll prevent True Knowledge Sin from launching a surprise counterattack to rescue them. After that, you can leave."

Eighth Brother nodded. "Alright."

Chapter 469 - [Long-headed People]

The prisoners were taken to a military prison, and Bai Yunpeng departed shortly after. He returned to the military district before dispatching several Professionals to escort Chen Gu back.

After they left, the prison immediately buzzed with activity. All twenty-three high-ranking Angel Envoys were locked up separately and subjected to a comprehensive inspection. Once it was confirmed they weren't hiding anything, various interrogations began and continued throughout the night.

Before dawn, these individuals were transferred to different planets and prisons.

The initial interrogations yielded no results. However, upon their arrival at the new detention sites, various other interrogation methods awaited them.

If these methods also failed to yield results, they would resort to the final step: forcibly reading memories.

The Star Nation was reluctant to use this measure on any criminal unless absolutely necessary. Once this procedure was carried out, the criminal would die, their memories being the only remaining asset.

Gradually, these Angel Envoys were transferred to different prisons. Subsequently, under various terrifying interrogation methods, they divulged some secrets of the True Knowledge Sin, which temporarily saved their lives.

One night, the twenty-three Angel Envoys, exhausted, scarred, and having endured numerous forms of punishment, lay in their cells and fell into a deep sleep.

Their cells were of the highest security level, filled with surveillance equipment.

Almost simultaneously, from somewhere within each of their bodies, a bug tinier than an ant slowly wriggled out, emerging through a wound. It crawled down from the bed and carefully navigated the surveillance blind spots to leave the cell. Then, it suddenly unfurled a pair of wings and, with extreme speed, began to inspect the entire prison via the drainage system!

These strange bugs were pitch-black, adorned with dark patterns that conveyed a sense of madness and evil.

If Chen Gu had been there, seeing these bugs would have startled him: Mutants of the Insect Race!

He would also be particularly puzzled. How could the True Knowledge Sin be involved with such evil, bizarre creatures?

Twenty-three Mutants of the Insect Race inspected twenty-three prisons. Finally, one of them located its target.

It flew out of the prison, found a high vantage point, and then rapidly vibrated its wings, emitting a signal.

On a distant planet, Boles, who was sitting cross-legged, suddenly opened his eyes. His pupils shone with a beast-like amber hue as he smiled malevolently. "Found your Prophet!"

...

Among the companions from Wuzhaoyin City, Big Rabbit was the first to meet the criteria for promotion.

The promotion ceremony was arranged at the backup base. Marcus called Chen Gu, and everyone went to offer Big Rabbit moral support.

In reality, they were just going to watch the excitement, at most shouting "Keep it up!" from outside the emitter.

Chen Gu also made time to attend. The base had now returned to its usual state, with Dr. Meng Ji and Gong Shuxu in charge.

Dora, on the other hand, wasn't nervous at all. She had gone from being a mercenary living hand-to-mouth to now having a secure "government post." Although she had lost her freedom, subsequent promotions were guaranteed, a prospect she found quite appealing.

This relaxed state of mind, in fact, allowed her to easily overcome this hurdle and advance to the Second Energy Level of Guardian Spirit.

Over the next ten days, everyone was successively promoted. However, Selena, also known as "Succubus," encountered a problem: her promotion failed, and she nearly mutated!

Selena was deeply affected by this setback and indulged in even greater debauchery, spending several consecutive nights reveling in nightclubs and drowning her sorrows in alcohol.

However, this situation didn't last long, as they were preparing to take action.

Aviloya had been holding back a mission, waiting for the team to complete their promotions and increase their strength before proceeding.

Chen Jixian finally arrived from Wuzhaoyin City, this time having moved his entire family—though, in reality, he only needed to bring his wife, as both their children were studying on the Capital Star.

The team's overall strength varied greatly. Gong Shuxu and Chen Jixian were at the Sixth Energy Level. Chen Gu was at the Fourth Energy Level, though his actual combat power surpassed that of an average Fifth Energy Level practitioner.

However, the other team members were only at the First or Second Energy Levels.

Chen Gu had originally thought Qing Ruyan would announce the mission, but to his surprise, Aviloya came in person.

She tapped the surface of the large conference room table. A holographic projection screen unfolded with a SWISH. "This," she began, "is the native life of planet Sparta No.11. We call them 'Longheads'."

The screen displayed a humanoid species with extremely long skulls, emerald green eyes, and large, four-lobed mouths filled with sharp, hook-like teeth.

They stood around two meters tall and wore coarse hemp clothing adorned with brightly colored feathers.

Their limbs were strong and muscular, with low body fat, and their claws were as sharp as knives. They were naturally excellent warriors.

"We have a peaceful coexistence agreement with the Longheads," Aviloya continued. "We've granted them large territorial reserves and significant autonomy. Their ruling royal family mobilizes the populace to mine ores for us. This planet is rich in mineral resources, primarily silica earth, No. 4 Ore Crystals, and iridium. In exchange, we provide them with food and weapons."

"The Longheads have considerable brain capacity; they are intelligent. Furthermore, some fortunate individuals among them possess extraordinary spiritual power, making them appear godlike to ordinary Longheads—this is the origin of their royalty. When we discovered this civilization, they had already developed to the city-state stage, complete with sophisticated armor and weapons. To this day, their royal family, in cooperation with us, has concealed our existence from their general populace. Consequently, the average Longhead is completely unaware that they have been conquered and are essentially living in a designated reservation, under our control."

After briefly outlining the Longheads' basic situation, Aviloya's expression turned serious. "However, we recently received unsettling news from our spies among them. A mysterious religion is spreading rapidly among the common Longhead populace, with most believers congregating in the mines. The doctrine of this religion reveals our existence, portraying us as 'evil demons from the stars.' They have also established a 'Great True God,' preaching that only faith in this deity can lead to our defeat and their liberation."

"Evidence suggests that some members of the Longhead royalty are also involved. Your mission is to investigate the inner workings of this cult, identify any members of the Longhead royal family connected to it, and, ideally, locate the cult's central command."

"Because we don't know which members of their royalty are involved, you will receive no support from the native population on planet Sparta No.11."

Boluo was the first to raise his hand. "We look too different from these strange creatures. How are we supposed to blend in?"

Aviloya tapped the table again. Another holographic projection unfolded. "This," she said, "is the Bio-Muscle Exosuit, custom-made by the agency for this operation."

Chapter 470: Treasure Planet

Chen Gu took a look. It resembled an even thicker layer of "painted skin." Once put on, it would make the wearer look like one of the Long-headed People, only much stronger and taller.

Among the group, the tallest, Chen Jixian, would probably reach about two meters and thirty centimeters in it.

Next to the "Biomechanical Exo-suits," there were rows of instructions. Hidden underneath each part were powerful weapons, products of advanced modern technology.

"Your mission isn't actually difficult. The only enemies who could pose a significant threat are those royals who might believe in the 'Great True God.'"

"This is the Special Operations Team's first mission. We'll start with easier tasks and gradually get into the swing of things."

"Alright, you have four hours to prepare. Then, you'll take the Bureau's spacecraft to depart."

The first thing Chen Gu had to do, of course, was ask for leave from school. His advisor, Zhong Yuanbei, didn't care whether this student was actually on campus and approved his leave smoothly.

During this period, Chen Gu had participated in three more Giant Beast Tournament matches. His opponents varied in strength, but it didn't matter to Chen Gu; he won all matches steadily. For this mission, Chen Gu didn't know how much time he would need, so he gave the Alliance a heads-up and adjusted his competition schedule.

However, the Alliance could only reserve two weeks for him. If Chen Gu was still absent beyond that, he would be forced to forfeit.

The others also had personal matters to handle. Four hours later, a spaceship lifted off from a military spaceport on Capital Star, slowly disappearing into the vast Star Sea.

Detailed information about the Long-headed People and Sparta No.11 had already been distributed to everyone. Marcus sat on the spacecraft, holding a large mug of beer, drinking and reviewing these files—he had completely given up on managing his physique after switching to a desk job.

For their first mission, the Special Operations Team was deploying in full force. Marcus would establish a support point inside the Confederation military base on Sparta No.11, maintaining real-time contact with everyone to provide logistics and backup.

He looked at the information and remarked, "The Long-headed People are smart; this kind of thing is basically impossible to hide. The royals can exchange various minerals for anything they want, so all the city-state residents are conscripted to mine. The farmlands outside the cities have been deserted for years, with no one cultivating crops, yet the residents don't lack rations—where does the food come from?"

"Over time, suspicions are bound to arise.

"Moreover, the royals are greedy and harsh, ruthlessly exploiting the city-state residents. When someone rebels, they use weapons obtained from us to suppress the uprising. Or, if they're truly unable to suppress it, they simply use minerals as payment to hire our military forces..."

Charles snorted. "Boss, I get the feeling you sympathize with these city-state residents. They're all potential enemies!"

Marcus shook his head. "I think the royals' behavior should be regulated. Only then can we maintain stability here and ensure a long-term supply of precious minerals from them."

Charles's attention was on different details. "The mineral resources here are truly abundant! There are more than fourteen kinds of precious minerals worth mining, ranking it in the top ten of all resource planets in the Confederation!"

The Confederation has thousands, even tens of thousands, of resource planets, so ranking in the top ten is indeed remarkable.

"And among them, the most precious, No. 4 Ore Crystal, is a key material for manufacturing starship power cores. It's frighteningly expensive."

"There's also raw silicate earth, an important raw material for manufacturing quantum supercomputers. The demand is enormous, and the price is equally high."

"This planet is truly a treasure trove."

The team chatted animatedly, deepening their understanding of the mission objectives through casual conversation. Chen Gu scanned the information for a while, got the gist, then put it down. He stood up and called everyone to get used to the 'Biomechanical Exo-suits.'

There was a special "fitting chamber" for the suits—a cylinder three meters high and one and a half meters in diameter. Standing inside and giving the command would activate precise mechanical arms, which attached each component to the body in a fixed procedure. This required one to enter completely bare.

The 'Biomechanical Exo-suits' clung to the skin, interfacing with the body through bioelectric signals. The brain's commands could be directly transmitted to the suit, achieving a level of responsiveness as if it were a natural extension of the body.

After Chen Gu finished equipping his, he stepped out and looked in the mirror, finally uttering only two words: "So ugly!"

However, using it felt second nature. After all, the biomechanical body was humanoid, and Chen Gu adapted more quickly than the others thanks to his experience in the Giant Beast Tournament.

He could even adapt to the bizarre structure of a Combat Rooster, let alone the form of a Long-headed Person.

Poor Boluo was having the hardest time. He constantly felt as if he had suddenly grown several dozen centimeters taller, like he was "walking on stilts," and would THUD to the ground every few steps.

A few hours later, everyone had mostly adapted. Boluo, however, was sitting on the ground with a bruised face, waving his hands and saying, "No, no, I need a break..."

Chen Gu finally found an opportunity to call over his adult son. "I need to talk to you about something."

His adult son's attitude was lukewarm, but it was a small improvement from before, when he would just scowl upon seeing him.

The two entered a private cabin, and Chen Gu took out the 'Riverwash Sword.' "My weapon isn't powerful enough anymore. You're the 'Abyssal Blacksmith,' and I hear one of your abilities is forging weapons for Professionals. How about forging one for me?"

When the Atomic Holy Church traded the 'Riverwash Sword' to Chen Gu, they said it would be more than sufficient until the Fourth Energy Level.

In fact, when Chen Gu was at the Third Energy Level, he could already exert the strength of a Fourth Energy Level Professional, and he had sensed that the 'Riverwash Sword' was becoming inadequate.

He was a Multi-Professional, vastly different from ordinary Professionals.

Great Actor Chen remained expressionless, though inwardly he was extremely nervous.

If this adult son gives me the cold shoulder... as his father, I'll really have no alternative.

As expected, Chen Jixian asked indifferently, "Am I obligated to help you?"

Chen Gu inwardly fumed: It's still those same old issues from years ago. And this burden from my original self is so damn heavy, impossible to shake off!

Chen Gu felt a surge of annoyance and injustice and was about to give up when an idea suddenly struck him. He said nonchalantly, "Indeed, you're not. Never mind, I'll just go call my granddaughter."

Chen Jixian didn't react immediately. But as Chen Gu was about to leave, his eyelids shot up. The old fellow is going to tattle to his granddaughter!

"Wait a second!" he hurriedly called out. This wouldn't do at all. The old man was very important in his granddaughter's eyes. More than once, at home, his daughter had subtly or overtly expressed her desire for the "family" to live harmoniously together, enjoying domestic bliss.

Hmm, Chen Zili seemed to have expressed a similar wish too, but of course, that wasn't important.