

Full Time 651

Chapter 651: Star State Base_3

Chen Gu looked at the red triangle, an "I knew it" expression forming on his face. The location of that red triangle was precisely where he had deduced the severed claw's master was located using Quantum Divination!

So, it was those hypocrites from Star State who are behind this! Chen Gu cursed inwardly before asking, "Have the people inside discovered us already?"

"Of course."

The lieutenant colonel said, "Your Excellency, I can request authorization to use the military satellites in orbit to monitor this mountain region."

"Too slow," Chen Gu stated. He called Bai Yunpeng, and soon the military satellite feed was being streamed to his account.

Everyone crowded in to look, exchanging puzzled glances. The military satellite, using its most powerful reconnaissance capabilities, had indeed discovered a well-camouflaged underground base at the location of the red triangle.

Yet, from start to finish, the base remained remarkably "calm," taking no action against them.

The lieutenant colonel asked in confusion, "Are they just waiting for us to walk into their trap?"

Chen Gu shook his head. "Let's go and see."

Since their presence was exposed, they should have withdrawn immediately. Even if they were confident they could eliminate Chen Gu's squad, could they truly face the looming large-scale retaliation from the Confederation military?

Chen Gu was also somewhat puzzled.

The team set off immediately. The surveillance equipment was just over seventy kilometers from the base, and given their speed, it took them only about thirty minutes to arrive outside. This was only because they had to be cautious of potential ambushes or traps along the way; otherwise, they would have arrived in ten minutes.

Throughout this process, Chen Gu constantly observed the military satellite surveillance feed, but the base remained quiet and motionless, showing no signs of activity.

The base entrance was blocked by a huge boulder. The lieutenant colonel stepped forward. "I'll blast it open!"

Chen Gu nodded. A mechanical arm extended from the back of the lieutenant colonel's Mecha, equipped with a quad-barrel personal missile launcher.

He locked on in just half a second and, with a WHOOSH, a personal missile shot towards the boulder, trailing flames.

BOOM!

A deafening explosion erupted. Shattered stone flew in all directions, and as the smoke cleared, the hidden entrance was revealed.

Strangely, despite such a massive commotion, the interior remained eerily silent.

The situation grew increasingly unsettling. Chen Gu held back the lieutenant colonel, who was eager to charge in. "I'll go."

With a flicker of his form, the Heavy Core Armor enveloped his entire body. He then walked to the entrance and activated the Radiation Field.

Everything within a nearly two-hundred-meter radius became clear to him.

A moment later, he waved to those behind him, and they quickly followed. Chen Gu said in a grave tone, "Something's wrong. There are only bodies inside!"

"Dead?" the lieutenant colonel exclaimed in surprise. "Who did this?"

Chen Gu shook his head and led the way inside. They soon found their answer. Not far into the base, they saw the mutilated bodies of several guards, with claw marks riddling the surrounding walls!

Charles exclaimed in surprise, "Those mysterious attackers?"

A warrior under the lieutenant colonel's command went to inspect the bodies and reported, "The time of death wasn't more than five hours ago."

Charles said, "So, after slaughtering the townsfolk, those attackers immediately came here?"

Chen Gu was also puzzled. What was the connection between the wicked town, the secret Star State infiltration base, and the attackers?

As they ventured deeper into the base, they continually encountered signs of battle: walls riddled with the attackers' claw marks and mutilated bodies strewn everywhere.

All the equipment and weapons within the base were of Star State military origin. However, the personnel wore plain uniforms, and none carried identification proving they were from Star State.

They reached the main control room. This appeared to be where the final battle had occurred, with about twenty or so people torn to pieces.

There were even traces of multiple explosions at the scene. However, no bodies of the attackers were found, making it unclear whether the explosives had been ineffective or if the corpses had been removed.

Chen Gu found a severed head in a corner, instantly connecting this base to the town.

This head belonged to the outsider who had approached Sheriff Howard years ago and "taught" him that lucrative scheme!

Chen Gu immediately deduced that the innocent victims captured in the town had been directly transported here after being taken away.

Howard could never have imagined that instead of being sold to other planets, these people were right here in the mountains, just three hundred kilometers away from him.

But why had the attackers struck these two places?

Chen Gu ordered, "Wu Yihuo, check the supercomputer here. Find out what exactly this base was for."

"Everyone else, split into squads and search the entire base. Be very careful."

"Yes!"

Wu Yihuo quickly found some critical documents and cursed through clenched teeth, "These bastards! Instructor, take a look at these."

These documents clearly indicated that the base was not intended for military use—or at least, not yet.

It was an experimental base.

Here, they extracted genetic fragments from the Insect Race, Mutants, and other dangerous species, then attempted to apply these fragments to human subjects!

During the experiments, they had even recklessly added some kind of supermatter!

Their goal was to create a unique type of organism—an exceptionally strong life form that could be controlled.

Star State was well aware of the dangers of such experiments; if control was lost, it would inevitably lead to an unmanageable catastrophe.

Consequently, within Star State, this research was initially confined to theoretical studies and data extrapolation using a quantum supercomputer.

Subsequently, they began attempting "live experimentation." The test subjects were those innocent victims.

They searched for suitable locations within the territories of the Confederation, the Empire, and the Freedom Alliance to establish these experimental bases.

Their most reckless operations were in the small, warring Star Nations.

While they had to be cautious and cover their tracks within the Confederation, in those other warring regions, they operated almost brazenly!

After reviewing these documents, Chen Gu connected the attackers to both the town and the base. The attackers had to be the experimental subjects who had escaped from here!

Yet, even with this knowledge, Chen Gu knew very little about the attackers he would have to face. This was because the base personnel themselves didn't know what these escaped experimental subjects would evolve into.

Chapter 652: The Attacker (Part 1)

Chen Gu carefully read through the experimental data, trying to estimate the test subject's approximate strength. He wasn't foolhardy; if he felt the test subject's strength might exceed his own, he would not hesitate to call for reinforcements from headquarters.

Even though he was now seen as a formidable figure, beyond the reach of others.

The more Chen Gu read, the more he broke out in a cold sweat. The people of Star State were truly madmen, daring to add anything into the mix. In the latter stages of the experiment, they had even extracted the genes of many Professionals and incorporated them...

What kind of monster did these bastards actually create?! Chen Gu cursed under his breath, then began to look for data on how the test subject had escaped.

The results, however, shocked him even more: from beginning to end, the base had no idea how the test subject had escaped.

It was confined in a "force field" cage, with no material having direct contact with the test subject. Yet, this cage had not been damaged, and the monitoring equipment had not captured any footage. The test subject had simply vanished from the force-field cage.

An ability similar to the Professionals' Quantum Teleportation? Chen Gu couldn't help but suspect. He immediately said to everyone through the public communication channel, "I'll give you three more minutes. Whether you've found something or not, retreat immediately."

"Yes!"

Wu Yihuo was by Chen Gu's side. Having seen these documents, he too was secretly cursing Star State. In this Star Sea, there was no Star Nation more despicable than them.

Chen Gu pondered for a moment. "After we assemble, we'll immediately evacuate this base. The terrain here is narrow. If those attackers rush in, we'll be at a significant disadvantage."

Chen Gu had originally thought that the attackers would mostly be able to fly, which might have limited their mobility in the base and been advantageous for him. However, after reading the data, he felt that a head-on clash in such a narrow space would likely put his side in an even more passive position.

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The sun was about to set amidst desolate mountains and wild ridges. In an ancient forest, on the purple trunk of a massive tree—one so large it would take several people to encircle it—a pair of dark yellow, beastly eyes suddenly snapped open.

Then, its camouflage, like that of a chameleon, dissolved. Its bat wings unfolded, revealing a grotesque and malevolent creature.

Its face and build still retained human features, but its skin was like that of a Mutant—pitch-black and covered in scales that seemed to wriggle, a sight that would make one's skin crawl with discomfort.

Its body was incredibly strong, comparable to a Hell Titan, but its bat wings had structures resembling insect legs.

It also dragged a large tail, similar to that of a dangerous species.

With a mere flutter of its wings, the creature's enormous body—fifteen meters long from head to tail—landed as silently as a falling leaf.

Behind it, on the surrounding trees, more of its kind appeared as their camouflage dissolved.

These were its "offspring," instinctively obeying its commands.

Soon, all the offspring gathered, numbering more than a hundred. These offspring were slightly smaller than their progenitor, each measuring about ten meters from head to tail.

The pack was volatile and ferocious. Although subdued by its dominance, they restlessly clawed at their surroundings, emitting low growls.

One offspring had a clearly broken claw; the new one that had grown in less than a day was still pale, its hardness seemingly insufficient.

Like a wild beast, it leaped onto a boulder, planting its four paws and raising its head. Its bat-like nostrils twitched, sniffing the wind. Once again, it detected the scent that made its blood boil.

The scent of humans!

Its memory was fragmented and confused. It no longer remembered its identity from when it was human. But it vividly recalled the terrible pain it had endured—the pain that had transformed it into its current state.

Much of the process was forgotten, yet its hatred for that town, for everyone in that base, remained crystal clear.

Even now, after it and its offspring had torn all those people to shreds, its hatred seemed not to have abated in the slightest.

Instead, it had transformed into a terrible loathing for the entire world and all of humanity.

When it first escaped the base, it was consumed by fear. It dared not vent its anger alone; it needed a powerful pack. It had an instinct: its canine teeth contained venom glands, and about 50% of those it bit would become its offspring.

Somehow... this feels familiar. Have I seen something like this somewhere before? It strained to remember but could not, which only fueled its irritability.

It needed offspring, but it didn't dare to create them openly, for it possessed the caution and cunning of a wild beast.

It ambushed lone travelers near secluded highways.

One by one, it successfully turned innocent passersby into its offspring—victims as innocent as it once was.

Those who couldn't be converted were torn apart to prevent its secret from being exposed. It could have hidden the bodies deep in the mountains for wild animals to devour.

But the seething rage within it stripped away any patience for such rational measures.

The attacks grew more frequent, and its offspring multiplied. Realizing its own strength, it decided to hide no longer. It led its pack back for revenge and, in a single night, utterly devastated the town and the base.

The ecstasy of destruction intoxicated it and its pack, like a potent wine.

Now, after a day of rest, it and its brood were "famished" once more. The scent of humans on the wind further stirred its primal urges.

Without hesitation, it let out a low roar and took to the sky, its offspring excitedly following. They naturally split into two groups. One group, "preferring" flight, soared with it. The other, "preferring" to run, galloped across the land, flapping their bat wings and occasionally gliding.

Which method they favored likely depended on their individual genetic makeup.

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Chen Gu was leading everyone out of the base. Before he even reached the main gate, he sensed the "monsters" outside.

So fast! he muttered to himself, then quickly made a decision. "Wu Yihuo, you know the base layout! Take everyone to the defensive gun emplacements!"

Wu Yihuo opened his mouth to speak, but Chen Gu cut him off sharply, "That's an order!"

The lieutenant colonel also started to speak, but Chen Gu's words stopped him short.

Chen Gu barked, "Hurry! Collect any armored materials you can find inside the base along the way! Reinforce those defensive gun emplacements as much as possible! And watch out for those monsters trying to sneak up on you from behind from within the base!"

The original test subject is very familiar with this base; we have to be on guard.

"What about you, Instructor?" Chu Zheng immediately asked.

Chen Gu reached out, and the Father-Son Sword materialized in his hand. He offered a slight smile. "Me? I'm going to clean up these damn things, of course!"

But... Chu Zheng wasn't foolish. If it were that simple, why would the Instructor tell everyone else to take cover at the defensive gun emplacements?

Chen Gu waved his hand dismissively. "No 'buts.' If you disobey, I'll send you right back to Dr. Meng Ji!"

Chu Zheng bit her lip. "Then... you... be careful."

The lieutenant colonel watched Chen Gu's carefree smile as he turned, sword in hand, and strode off. For a moment, the officer was dazed; Chen Gu's figure overlapped with the one he'd seen in the mountain cave. In that instant, his blood boiled, and he roared, "Alright, you bastards, snap to it! Follow me to the defensive emplacements to support His Excellency! If anyone dares to drag their feet, I'll personally strip them of their uniform!"

His elite troopers howled in response, "Don't worry, Commander! Anyone who shames this uniform is a goddamn coward!"

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It led its offspring in a ferocious charge towards the base. But then, from a distance, it spotted a lone figure standing outside the main gate.

Perhaps the genes from Professionals within it were stirring. Its dark yellow, beastly pupils suddenly filled with crimson veins, and a bloodthirsty craving surged through its being.

Until this moment, despite creating so many offspring, it had felt no desire to feed. But facing this human, its instincts screamed: Drain his blood. It will make me stronger.

However, the cunning of its beastly nature also made it sense a hint of danger. It didn't act rashly. Instead, with a piercing shriek, it commanded its offspring to attack.

When Chen Gu first laid eyes on these "attackers," he couldn't help but scoff, "What in the world are these things? So damn ugly!"

The attackers shrieked, their cries ear-splitting as they dove from the sky.

Scoffing aside, Chen Gu immediately realized: These attackers all possess the strength of Professionals!

Over a hundred Professionals, and a 'king' leading them! Chen Gu's scalp tingled. He immediately told Wu Yihuo, "Call for reinforcements!"

Unfortunately, this planet was too unremarkable, so the military presence here was also weak.

If only there were orbital cannons, I could ask Bai Yunpeng for help. One shot from orbit could wipe out all the offspring. But now, Chen Gu drew the Father-Son Sword, took a deep breath, and swung!

Then, the power of the Brain Domain Hacker activated, and he unleashed Thoughtstorm!

The offspring swooping down from the sky suddenly felt a sharp pain in their brains. Losing control of their bodies, they tumbled awkwardly to the ground.

Watching from the rear, the progenitor grew vigilant. His sword attack from a distance can bring down my offspring? What kind of attack is that?

A sly smile flitted across Chen Gu's lips. He realized these attackers likely inherited the chaos characteristic of Mutants. So, he had deliberately swung his sword while unleashing Thoughtstorm to create the illusion that his sword swing had caused the mental assault.

He leaped forward, the Father-Son Sword flaring with a crimson light.

He unleashed Fusion Cleave! Rays of sword light erupted, each blast cleaving an offspring in two.

But after felling three or four of them, Chen Gu's heart sank. The power of Fusion Cleave is already exhausted!

He appeared incredibly formidable, felling one with each strike, but the offsprings' bodies were astonishingly resilient. Each sword blow consumed a vast amount of Fusion Cleave's energy.

The progenitor prowled at the rear, its beastly eyes narrowed, carefully observing and searching for its prey's weakness.

Chapter 653: Attacker (Part 2)

Around the base's main gate, three defensive gun emplacements were hidden in the stone walls. They were camouflaged externally with rocks and vegetation and internally employed a degree of electronic masking, making them undetectable by standard scanning equipment.

The Lieutenant Colonel's group split into four squads. Three squads entered the defensive gun emplacements, while the last squad was responsible for guard duty, preventing attackers from exploiting their knowledge of the base to sneak up behind the emplacements.

The four squads drew lots. The unlucky Charles drew the guard team detail—he was so furious he stomped a large crater into the solid concrete ground before grumbling his acceptance of the assignment.

The Lieutenant Colonel, Joseph, and Chu Zheng each led a team. Wu Yihuo was assigned to the Colonel's team.

As soon as they entered the defensive gun emplacement, the Colonel and his warriors grew furious: the weapons here were from the Confederation! The equipment inside the base, as well as the individual soldier weapons, were from the Star State. However, these defensive rapid-fire cannons were large and consumed a lot of ammunition; it clearly wouldn't have been cost-effective to smuggle them from the Star State.

"There are people in our military colluding with them!" the Lieutenant Colonel noted grimly. But now was not the time to deal with such matters. He peered through the observation slit and saw His Excellency of the "Volunteer Spirit" swing his sword. The monsters rained down from the sky with a series of thuds—a mighty, invincible, and inspiring sight!

Then His Excellency slew four monsters with a single strike. Truly worthy of his title! The Colonel's confidence surged. With a sweeping gesture, he commanded, "Alright, everyone, pull yourselves together! We can't embarrass His Excellency!"

Each defensive gun emplacement had four rapid-fire cannons. The Colonel manned one himself and then selected the three warriors with the "best marksmanship." After coordinating over the comms channel, the Colonel ordered, "Fire!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The thunderous roar of the rapid-fire cannons startled the Descendants below.

The barrage rained down. The Descendants, their heads still ringing from Chen Gu's "Mind Storm" and not yet recovered, were instantly thrown into disarray. However, their bodies were exceptionally tough. They managed to withstand the bombardment; some were injured, but not a single one was killed!

No wonder no monster corpses were ever found after so many previous attacks, Chen Gu mused. These creatures have incredibly strong vitality.

The Lieutenant Colonel ordered, "Switch to armor-piercing mode!"

"Yes, sir!"

Another volley was fired as the other two defensive gun emplacements also opened fire.

The chaotic cannonade provoked a furious roar from the massive creature leading the others. It menacingly bared its fangs at the defensive gun emplacements on the cliff face.

The soldiers in the defensive gun emplacements showed no reaction to this display of "impotent fury," the three teams continuing to relentlessly bombard the Descendants.

But suddenly, with a powerful beat of its wings, it accelerated instantly, charging towards one of the defensive gun emplacements!

It was the Lieutenant Colonel's emplacement, which had been the first to open fire. He was also the first to spot the danger. With a cold scoff, he swiveled his cannon and unleashed a fierce barrage at the approaching creature.

Yet, despite its massive size, its aerial movements were incredibly erratic. It consistently dodged the rapidly fired shells with all sorts of unbelievable contortions.

The distance between them closed rapidly. The warriors cried out in alarm, but the Lieutenant Colonel calmly stated, "Don't be afraid. We have 800 mm composite armor plating on the exterior..."

CRASH!

Before the Lieutenant Colonel could finish speaking, the creature slammed heavily into the emplacement. The entire structure shook violently. Then, a horrifying, ear-splitting screech ripped through the air as a massive claw tore through the thick frontal armor and stabbed straight in!

CLANG—

The claw whipped past the Lieutenant Colonel's body, tearing off a piece of his military uniform and seizing a shell lodged behind him.

BOOM! The shell exploded in its claw. The shockwave threw the interior of the emplacement into chaos, scattering the warriors. The Lieutenant Colonel's head was ringing, but the creature merely shook its claw, seemingly unharmed. Then, with immense force, it ripped away the thick armor plating covering the emplacement's exterior and hurled it far into the distance.

The entire emplacement was now exposed to the monster. The Lieutenant Colonel saw the massive creature anchor its huge frame firmly into the surrounding cliff face using the insect-like appendages on its bat-like wings. It was only a dozen meters away, and he could clearly see the beast's enormous, bat-like nostrils, its dark yellow eyes shot with blood-red, and its terrifying, saber-like fangs.

He also saw the individual black scales on the creature's body ripple and writhe, then a giant claw stretched out towards him.

Behind the Lieutenant Colonel, a warrior who had barely recovered fired at the creature with all his might, desperately trying to rescue his commanding officer. But to the monster, the ammunition was merely an irritant, like a tickle.

To the Lieutenant Colonel, the giant claw suddenly seemed to slow. This final moment of life felt extraordinarily long.

Yet the Lieutenant Colonel was very calm. He felt as if he had been preparing for this moment for a very long time.

He muttered a few words towards the creature, "Bastard, come on!"

In his hand, he clutched a bright yellow grenade—a personal nuclear device! He forcefully pulled the safety pin, gripping the lever tightly. He would wait until he was in the creature's claw—or better yet, swallowed whole—then he would release it!

The giant claw was already upon him, nearly enveloping the Lieutenant Colonel entirely. Then, with a forceful grab, CRACK! It snapped shut on empty air!

Chapter 654: Attacker (Part 2)

The lieutenant colonel was stunned. The claw had clearly enveloped him, but when it tried to grab him, it rapidly retracted, missing its target.

"Hmm?" The lieutenant colonel wondered as he saw a hint of terror in the monster's eyes, as it was yanked harshly outwards by some terrifying force.

WHOOSH! The entire body of the monster covering the defensive artillery position was torn from the cliff face. It wasn't until then that the lieutenant colonel saw clearly, shouting in surprise, "Your Excellency!"

Indeed, it was His Excellency who had saved his life yet again.

Chen Gu had appeared behind the monster at some point. His body had enlarged, making him immensely strong. He grabbed the monster's tail with both hands, pulled it outwards, then spun around with all his might, flinging the monster into the air.

Enraged, the monster struggled with all its limbs—claws, insect legs, and bat wings—trying desperately to attack Chen Gu. However, given its awkward position, it failed to reach him. Ultimately, with a SWISH of Chen Gu's hands, it was launched into the air and then crashed heavily into the cliff with a BOOM.

The shock sent dirt, stones, and trees CRASHING down from the mountain peak, nearly burying the creature.

The warriors cheered, "Your Excellency is so powerful!"

Suddenly, one of the warriors shouted in alarm, pointing at something in the lieutenant colonel's hands, then turned and ran without hesitation, seeking refuge in the passage behind.

Only at that moment did the lieutenant colonel suddenly remember. Damn it, I'm still holding a nuclear grenade with the pin pulled!

"Go—" In a bit of a panic, he tossed the yellow grenade away and then turned to follow his warriors into the passage behind.

Just as Chen Gu had thrown the monster away, he saw a small yellow "object" tossed out of the defensive artillery position, now a gaping hole.

He suddenly realized what it was and swore, "That idiot!" then quickly equipped himself with the [Heavy Nuclear Armor] and swiftly looked for a hidden spot...

BOOM!

A mushroom cloud rose, the intense shockwave erupting just outside the base's gate. The explosive force scattered the descendants below, instantly crushing seven or eight of them to pieces. A dozen more were seriously injured, groaning on the ground, unable to move.

Chen Gu hid behind a mountain peak as debris and soil CAME CRASHING down, burying him completely.

After the explosion subsided, he shook himself and stood up, breaking into a smile. What a great opportunity!

He stealthily approached and grabbed two of the gravely injured monsters. Blinding red light burst from their bodies.

The monsters were on the brink of death, and now they felt an indescribable pain within them, their screams even more pitiful.

The other descendants were suddenly infuriated and rushed at Chen Gu, who had already moved away.

It had been affected by the blast too, its head foggy and body racked with intense, tearing pain. It was just regaining some consciousness amidst its rage, eager to join its descendants and rip apart that detestable creature, to suck his blood dry through the wounds.

Then it saw the two heavily injured offspring emitting a dark red light. The light grew stronger and more glaring!

Memories in its brain stirred, awakening certain chaotic fragments, and it instinctively felt a sense of dread. This light is extremely dangerous!

It let out a piercing scream to warn its offspring, then, without waiting for them, it spread its wings and flew as quickly as possible behind a mountain peak.

BOOM!

BOOM!

Following the single-soldier nuclear grenade, two massive red bursts erupted. Chen Gu could now unleash the power of the [Radiation Missionary] at the Sixth Energy Level. The force of each of the two Biological Nuclear Explosions was several times stronger than that of the initial nuclear grenade!

The descendants that had charged at him, despite their incredibly tough bodies, were instantly turned to ashes in the blast...

Within a hundred meters of the explosion's center, everything was obliterated.

The mountain face where the base gate was located had a thirty-centimeter layer peeled right off, and the defensive artillery positions were completely destroyed. Fortunately, Joseph and Chu Zheng, aware of the power of Chen Gu's [Biological Nuclear Explosion], had led people deep into the base to avoid harm the moment they saw him use the ability.

Within three hundred meters, the lethality was still horrifying, leaving behind twisted corpses—the result of the descendants being battered by the shockwave and then melted by the intense heat of the nuclear blast.

All the descendants, without exception, perished in this [Biological Nuclear Explosion]!

Hiding behind the mountain peak, it was assailed by successive waves of vibrations, heat, and radiation. These pushed its already injured body to its limits, eliciting painful roars from the creature.

Finally, when everything had subsided, it sensed all its descendants were dead. Filled with fury and a bloodthirsty impulse to kill, it shook off the dirt, stood up from the rubble, roared towards the sky, and then suddenly disappeared!

Chen Gu's gaze sharpened. So it does possess abilities similar to a professional's, he mused. It must have used such an ability to escape the base's force field prison.

Chen Gu activated the [Radiation Field], while transforming the [Heavy Nuclear Armor] into the [Doomsday Shelter] form. Under such defenses, it was almost impossible for abilities like [Quantum Teleportation] to get close to him.

Chapter 655: Attacker (Part 2)

But suddenly Chen Gu felt some difficulty breathing. He immediately understood what was happening and silently cursed himself for his foolishness. I've tricked others with this exact tactic, and it never occurred to me that I'd fall for my own 'old trick' in an unguarded moment!

With a BANG, Chen Gu suddenly "exploded" into a cloud of multicolored gas, entangling with another mass of faint black gas!

The test subject's ability was not Quantum Teleportation or any other invisibility-related skill, but the Multistate Special Agent's ability to gasify its body!

After tangling with each other for a while—the sight was truly unsightly. In the eyes of the Lieutenant Colonel and other spectators, the two masses of gas entwined together showed none of the stature of a fight between the strong. It resembled two drunks scuffling on the ground...

The test subject was incredibly agitated but still voluntarily withdrew from this state a few minutes later.

After all, it was not a Multistate Special Agent; this style of combat put it at a great disadvantage.

After reverting to its biological form, it launched a fierce attack on the multicolored gas, then turned tail and fled, flying off at a speed faster than most of the era's fighter jets!

Chen Gu swung his sword from afar. The test subject suddenly felt a BUZZ in its head and nearly crashed headfirst. By the time it regained its senses, it was shocked to find Chen Gu already riding on its back!

How did this bastard get up here? There was clearly a distance of hundreds of meters between us!

It curled its tail, stabbing towards Chen Gu from behind, while simultaneously twisting and rolling in flight, attempting to shake Chen Gu off.

But it suddenly discovered that its body seemed to be bound with countless silken threads. Though they couldn't truly stop it, the bindings made its movements extremely awkward. As its speed slowed, Chen Gu vanished.

Under Chen Gu's Entanglement Control, the test subject's struggle became increasingly awkward.

Chen Gu once again employed Quantum Teleportation, appearing behind the test subject and stabbing his sword into its bat-like wing. He then initiated the Biological Nuclear Explosion.

The test subject let out a roar, managing to break free from Chen Gu's sword. A deep gash was left on its wing, blood spraying across the sky.

However, after it escaped, the wound quickly healed. It forcefully interrupted the Biological Nuclear Explosion, merely spitting out three mouthfuls of blood, which ignited as soon as they hit the ground.

With a resentful glare at Chen Gu, it turned and flew higher into the sky, desperately trying to escape.

Chen Gu pursued relentlessly. Thousands of meters up in the sky, Chen Gu finally caught the test subject by the tail, but suddenly a blue bolt of electricity flashed from it!

BOOM—

A thunderbolt from a clear sky! The massive electric current caused Chen Gu to plummet, his body rigid.

The Lieutenant Colonel and others were shocked. "Quick, rescue His Excellency!"

"This damned monster! To think it had another trick up its sleeve!"

Whether it was gasification or electrocution, these were abilities only the original test subject possessed; its offspring did not. So, their sudden display caught even Chen Gu off guard.

Charles pushed both hands forward, and two streams of particles jetted from his palms like rocket thrusters. He raced at full speed towards the test subject.

Chu Zheng, Wu Yi, and Joseph, lacking the ability to fly, could only watch helplessly.

The Lieutenant Colonel led his warriors, activating their Mechas to charge forward.

Aboard the Mechas, a variety of personal weapons opened fire simultaneously, unleashing a violent barrage on the monster.

Powerful individual missiles exploded one after another on the monster's body. However, the resilience of this "hybrid" creature was once again demonstrated. Even missiles powerful enough to scrap an armored vehicle only caused it to stagger, leaving a scar that quickly healed. Its momentum undiminished, it continued its ferocious charge towards Chen Gu, who was still rigid and plummeting.

The test subject paid no attention to the "little things" constantly interfering with it. It was driven by a strong, bloodthirsty compulsion: I must drink Chen Gu's blood dry! Then, I will become even stronger than before!

Those offspring are inconsequential. If I bite a few more people, I can easily restore my clan!

Those little nuisances constantly interfering are even less of a concern. As long as Chen Gu dies, these people will just become incubators for my offspring!

Charles finally arrived in time, but his star wind blast hitting the test subject only caused it to twist in pain—that was all.

Then, it swung its tail at Charles. He was greatly taken aback, as he had thought his attack would burn a large hole in the creature and restrain its movements. Instead, the monster remained unaffected. Its tail strike sent Charles scrambling as the scales on its tail suddenly shot out, turning into a barrage of sharp knives!

Charles was startled. These black scales undoubtedly carried the risk of mutation! He frantically used his powers, executing extreme maneuvers. He even had to use star wind particle streams to deflect several scales that were impossible to dodge otherwise, only then did he narrowly evade them all.

But because of this, he was now too late to stop the test subject. It easily broke through his blockade and rushed to Chen Gu's side. Its eyes glowed with an even deeper shade of blood red. Chen Gu was still in a rigid state, utterly defenseless.

The test subject gently extended its claws, locking Chen Gu tightly in its grasp. Then it roared menacingly and opened its gaping jaws. Dripping from its scythe-like canines was foul-smelling, grey-black saliva.

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It was about to bite down when suddenly, a buzz resonated in its head. This time the sensation was even more intense, leaving it momentarily baffled: No swords were swung...

Chen Gu had transformed into a gaseous state, drifting away from the test subject's claws. The test subject "had held back a trick," but unfortunately, it didn't know that Great Actor Chen had "held back a billion tricks."

From the very beginning, Chen Gu had recognized that the test subject was a "hybrid" monster with many bizarre abilities. It had used its gaseous form to escape the base—but it would be a mistake to assume that was its only "ability."

Indeed, the monster possessed another ability.

Luckily, this Great Actor's abilities were even more numerous!

This "Psychic Storm" was extraordinarily powerful, as Chen Gu unleashed his full strength. Previously, he had only used about fifty percent of his power.

The test subject cradled its head with its claws, writhing in agony. Unable to control its bat-like wings any longer, it plummeted from the sky.

Charles saw an opportunity to take advantage and angrily chased after it, his hands repeatedly firing streams of star wind particles. Unfortunately, to the test subject, these felt like nothing more than an itch.

"Damn it!" Charles cursed in anger and gave up. He had been trying hard for quite some time, but the creature felt nothing.

Chen Gu had somehow already appeared by the test subject's side. He pressed a hand on its wound and initiated a "Biological Nuclear Explosion"!

The wound had been recently inflicted by Charles, and this time, the "Biological Nuclear Explosion" used the fresh blood from the wound as its material.

BOOM—

A loud explosion resounded. The power of this "Biological Nuclear Explosion" was relatively small, but the still-disoriented test subject was blasted fiercely in one direction, as if an engine had suddenly been strapped to it.

The original wound expanded into a deep, bloody crater!

Chen Gu immediately followed. His "Father-Son Sword" SWISHED into the vast wound, and he then used the sword as a medium to trigger a second "Biological Nuclear Explosion"!

This time, the entire test subject served as the fuel!

The test subject was incredibly resilient; it had managed to forcefully break free from the previous "Biological Nuclear Explosion" Chen Gu had unleashed upon it. Therefore, Chen Gu changed his strategy. He first used a small-scale but rapid "Biological Nuclear Explosion" to create a suitable "condition."

Then, he immediately followed up with the second "Biological Nuclear Explosion"!

Through the Father-Son Sword in his hand, Chen Gu could still clearly sense the test subject's body intensely resisting the "Biological Nuclear Explosion." This resistance was purely instinctive, a biological reaction rather than a conscious act of defiance.

Chen Gu estimated that even Radiation Missionaries and Nuclear Explosion Nuns below the Fourth Energy Level would be unable to complete the second "Biological Nuclear Explosion" against such resistance.

"Those bastards from Star State really created a terrifying monster!" Chen Gu cursed inwardly, forcibly channeling the power of the Father-Son Sword to suppress the resistance and incrementally activating the skill.

The test subject's body was incredibly tough. Normally, at this stage, a target's body would emit a dazzling bright light. However, only faint radiative glows, like mist, filtered out from this creature.

And just at that moment, the test subject had finally withstood Chen Gu's "Psychic Storm" and was starting to regain consciousness.

Chen Gu grumbled in annoyance, his body instantly becoming gigantic. He then raised his... ten sandbag-sized fists and THUDDDED one fiercely onto the back of the test subject's head.

He successfully kept the test subject dazed for over ten seconds.

An intense red light finally burst forth from within the test subject. At this point, the process was irreversible. Unless the test subject was a Radiation Missionary an entire Energy Level above Chen Gu, it was beyond saving.

Chen Gu withdrew his sword and shouted to the lieutenant colonel and the others, "Retreat, quick!"

He didn't need to tell them; the others had already started running...

The lieutenant colonel, in particular, was deeply impressed by this "miraculous" ability of the esteemed 'Volunteer Soldier Spirit'; it was the kind of "tough guy" skill that could obliterate both the enemy and the user.

BOOM...

A massive, dark-red mushroom cloud shot into the sky. The earth trembled violently, and a small town hundreds of kilometers away swayed, its buildings, already scarred with claw marks, collapsing in swathes.

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Chen Gu stood in the distance, watching the massive mushroom cloud slowly settle. Only after a long time did he take everyone back to the battlefield. It was a scene of utter devastation, the result of an exceptionally fierce nuclear explosion fueled by the test subjects.

The mission had finally come to an end, but Chen Gu's heart was filled with mixed feelings.

The instigator of this affair, the so-called "foreigner," ultimately met their end in the base. From beginning to end, it seemed all sins had received punishment.

Yet, Chen Gu didn't feel the slightest bit of ease, as if a heavy stone weighed on his heart.

Gazing at the huge pit left by the last nuclear explosion, he also began to understand why Milna Katerina and her followers zealously worshiped nuclear blasts—such a force truly could "Purify" all sins.

He walked into the deep crater and spotted something shimmering with crystal-like radiance. Kicking the dust aside, he found a bone crystal as thick as an arm and half a meter long. It was most likely a product of the test subject's spine, formed during the nuclear explosion.

Chen Gu picked it up. "This is a fine material," he said. "It can be used to craft a prop."

What specific props could be made still needed to be assessed by his older son.

...

Yang Shaojin is the Chief of Defense Staff on the Gugelota Star, holding the rank of Major General.

He was old and frail, seemingly past his prime. Once promoted to Major General, he had been full of vigor, only to be sent to this barren planet to spend his retirement.

As days and years passed, his ambition dwindled, and his personal desires inflated. Thus, when some "businessmen" were introduced to him, he no longer refused them.

Although Gugelota Star was quite ordinary, as the person in charge of the planet's defense, Yang Shaojin still wielded considerable power.

And he had received quite a few benefits from that power.

Such power-and-money deals, if exposed, would mean his only option was retirement. But Yang Shaojin no longer cared; it was enough for him to leave a fortune for his descendants and to live out his years in lavish comfort.

But this time, it was different!

He had thought it was just ordinary smuggling. Little did he realize that those people had duped him—they were from the Star State! By the time he realized it, it was too late. All he could do was try his utmost to help them cover their tracks, hoping it would never come to light.

This was treason!

The military would not tolerate it—the convention of "no punishment for generals" no longer applied.

Yang Shaojin quickly packed up his belongings, doing his best to destroy any evidence, and then grabbed his valuables, ready to make a run for it. He had prepared for this day and had even arranged for a special spaceship for his escape.

Finally, he destroyed the last piece of evidence. Even if someone knew that he had sheltered those from the Star State, there was no definite proof pointing to him. Yang Shaojin heaved a sigh of relief, ready to flee.

But just at the moment he destroyed the evidence, suddenly three knocks sounded—THUD, THUD, THUD!

The room, which was originally very quiet, was startled by the abrupt noise, and Yang Shaojin shuddered. He steadied himself and said with the commanding voice of a general, "Come in."

The door opened, and a handsome young man walked in. With a blank expression, he closed the door behind him and locked it!

Yang Shaojin sensed something ominous and barked with frightened bravado, "Who are you?"

Chen Gu did not answer, simply looking at him calmly. This made Yang Shaojin panic even more. "Get out!" he yelled. "I am a Confederation Major General..."

Chen Gu suddenly spoke. "I waited outside for ten minutes, giving you time to destroy all the evidence—your actions are too slow, taking a full five minutes more than I had expected."

Yang Shaojin was startled, somewhat failing to understand the other's intention. Since he was here, why hadn't he come in immediately to recover the evidence?

Chen Gu sat down in front of him and continued, "Under normal circumstances, I don't like taking on such shadowy tasks. But you, blinded by greed, have forgotten your roots, lost all sense of morality!

"Such a major scandal, the military does not want to make public.

"But they will never spare you either. They want you to die silently—to go to hell with all your sins!

"I'm not morally squeamish and won't naively assume that you need some moral trial. Such a scandal, if it were to break out, would be a spiritual blow to those warriors fighting bloody battles with the Alien Insect Race at the front.

"In a way, I rather agree with the military's approach to handling this.

"But I personally requested to be assigned to this mission.

"I want to end you personally!"

Yang Shaojin stood up in shock and took two steps back. "Impossible! I am a Major General! Who do you think you are? Someone, anyone! Security platoon!"

There was no response from outside. Chen Gu watched his performance mockingly. Yang Shaojin, still not giving up, started to make phone calls, only to find all external communications had already been cut off. After struggling for a long time, he finally sat down helplessly.

Chen Gu went on, "After your death, I will continue to investigate everything about you. Your entire estate will be confiscated, turned into supplies for the troops at the front, or as additional compensation for the families of fallen soldiers.

"Rest assured, I come from a secretive agency. No matter how deeply your possessions, mistresses, and illegitimate children are hidden, I guarantee they will all be exposed!

"All your relatives will not benefit one bit from your crimes!"

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"We won't engage in collective punishment, but I've heard your children are exceedingly arrogant and domineering on this planet. I will ensure a thorough investigation so they face the justice you evaded!"

Yang Shaojin had completely collapsed to the ground, sobbing in despair. "I didn't want to! I didn't know they were from the Star State..."

Chen Gu glanced at him with disgust. Simultaneously, the Brain Domain Hacker ability activated, sending a terrifying nightmare into Yang Shaojin's mind. He would be frightened to death by the relentless, recurring nightmare.

Then, Chen Gu got up, opened the door, and walked out. It was empty and eerily quiet outside. Chen Gu locked the door again, and Yang Shaojin's shrill screams echoed from within.

He waited outside for several hours until, finally, Yang Shaojin's voice ceased. He made a phone call to Bai Yunpeng. "Marshal Bai, the job is done."

Bai Yunpeng sighed. "You've worked hard."

The Bureau of Mystic Security's special spacecraft landed at the spaceport. Chen Gu and his party disembarked. Gong Shuxu came to greet them, smiling as he patted Chen Gu's shoulder. "Well done!"

"Deputy Director Ding Zhou was paying close attention to all of you on this mission."

The rest went without saying. This was a case he had snatched from the Independent Action Task Force. If there were any slip-ups, Ding Zhou would undoubtedly use it against him.

Chen Gu didn't want to discuss the case further and changed the subject. "Has the Digital Group shown any unusual activity recently?"

At this, Gong Shuxu flashed a sly, pleased smile. "Yes, they have. Let's get in the car first; I'll fill you in on the way."

In that same secluded clubhouse, Ding Zhou, Du Lifeng, Xiaoga Hanami, and Bernice gathered once more.

Ding Zhou had already acquired all the resources needed to ascend to the Ninth Power Level. He had also been exercising restraint, refraining from taking action for a long time. Having conserved his strength and recuperated for so long, his current condition was outstanding—like a sharp blade hidden in its sheath. The moment it was drawn would be when enemy chieftains were beheaded.

Everyone, including Bernice, was very satisfied with Ding Zhou's current state.

Before this gathering, Du Lifeng had harbored some secret dissatisfaction with Ding Zhou due to Gao Deng. However, in Ding Zhou's presence at that moment, this dissatisfaction dared not emerge.

"Chen Gu is about to return," Ding Zhou said, looking at the three of them. "He has succeeded again, and correspondingly, my prestige within the Bureau of Mystic Security will fall once more."

He looked at Du Lifeng with an imposing air. "General Du, can you explain to me how a Seventh Energy Level elite under your command could lose to Chen Gu, who is merely at the Fifth Energy Level?"

Du Lifeng was not one to be easily pushed around, yet he found himself speechless when Ding Zhou confronted him about this matter.

"In half a year, Gao Deng will be able to rejoin the team," Du Lifeng said. "Apart from that... among our allies, there are others capable of defeating Chen Gu."

Xiaoga Hanami frowned in displeasure. "General Du, is this what your military calls taking responsibility? Shifting the blame to allies after a mission failure?"

Du Lifeng stated calmly, "I have an Eighth Energy Level expert under my command who could easily defeat Chen Gu. However, that would be meaningless. It wouldn't damage the prestige of Chen Gu and Aviloya. Instead, it would be a glorious defeat for him, leading people to believe he has surpassed his own generation and joined the ranks of older, powerful experts. All cultivators of his generation would then seem unworthy of comparison, which would only benefit him!"

If Chen Gu were here and knew he and Aviloya were being linked like this, he would probably be at a loss whether to laugh or cry as he explained to everyone: Actually, we're not that close.

Bernice stepped in to mediate. "General Du has a point. Regarding this matter, we ask for the full support of the Xiaogasa Family. We are all allies and need to overcome these difficulties together."

Ding Zhou considered for a moment, then promised, "Once I ascend to the Ninth Power Level, I can contend with Aviloya on equal footing. However, at the same time, I need strong subordinates to defeat Chen Gu and solidify my foundation within the Bureau of Mystic Security. If the Xiaogasa Family can help me achieve this goal, then after I've ascended to the Ninth Power Level, I can provide comprehensive guidance to three young talents from the Xiaogasa Family."

Xiaoga Hanami's eyes lit up. Personal guidance from a Ninth Power Level expert could guarantee at least three Eighth Energy Level cultivators!

She bowed and said, "Please rest assured, Xiaoga Yexiong will report to you at the Bureau of Mystic Security first thing tomorrow morning!"

Xiaoga Yexiong was the current Family Head's illegitimate son. At forty-seven years old, he could barely be considered part of Chen Gu's generation.

He was the Family Head's personal bodyguard, a genuine Seventh Energy Level expert!

However, Xiaoga Yexiong had always maintained a low profile. Few people knew of him, and his reputation was not prominent. The Xiaogasa Family, seemingly due to concerns about his 'illegitimate son' status, had not vigorously promoted him or built up his public image. Instead, they appeared to have intentionally 'hidden' him.

It seemed this was to provide the Family Head with a 'shadow' guard.

Moreover, the Xiaogasa Family had such traditions dating back to ancient times, so there was nothing suspicious about it.

However, those in the top aristocratic families actually knew in their hearts that the 'illegitimate son' label was merely a cover-up.

The second year after the Xiaogasa Family 'discovered' this so-called illegitimate son, his birth mother died in a car accident.

No one in the Xiaogasa Family, including Xiaoga Yexiong himself, displayed any 'emotion' regarding this.

When Xiaoga Yexiong, this illegitimate son, first appeared, neither the Family Head's official wife nor his legitimate children showed any strong reactions.

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In fact, Xiaoga Yexiong was a clone cultivated from the genetic blueprint of the Family Head. However, certain aspects of the Family Head's genes detrimental to a Professional's development had been modified.

Xiaoga Yexiong's 'talent' far exceeded that of the Family Head. At that time, the Family Head was already at the Seventh Energy Level, and under his personal guidance, Xiaoga Yexiong progressed rapidly, officially reaching the Seventh Energy Level two years ago.

Human cloning is explicitly forbidden by all major Star Nations, including the Confederation. However, such prohibitions are virtually meaningless to the powerful. Almost every influential family possesses such clones, either keeping them deeply secret or, like the Xiaogasa Family, concealing their existence with a pretext.

Bernice displayed a satisfied smile and then said to Ding Zhou, "Your Excellency, we have another gift for you."

"Let's take a look at this video first."

With a flick of his finger in mid-air, a holographic projection began to play.

It was a dilapidated stadium, small in scale and crudely equipped. At its center stood a huge iron cage, electrified with high-voltage current. Old wooden bleachers, packed with people, surrounded it. Many spectators were even standing on the seats, roaring at the arena.

Inside the cage, two giant beasts were fighting; one of which was an Energy Gathering Mechanical Species, a rarity in these beast battle competitions!

It was a nine-headed giant serpent, over 200 meters long. Each of its massive heads possessed unique features: some bore sharp, knife-like horns; some could fire energy beams from their eyes; and others held magnetically-controlled laser swords in their mouths.

Each head had its own special method of attack.

Its opponent was an absolute behemoth, nearly 300 meters tall. Yet, under the nine-headed serpent's assault, it lasted less than ten minutes before collapsing with a thunderous crash, its blood pooling into a small pond within the iron cage.

The crowd erupted in cheers as the nine-headed serpent's owner emerged, waving to the surrounding audience.

He was a down-and-out middle-aged man. His life of constant hardship had prematurely aged him, etching deep wrinkles onto his face and leaving his eyes dim and gloomy. Victory seemed to bring him little stimulation or encouragement. After thanking the audience, he left the arena with his beast.

The video ended there.

Bernice said, "This genius was discovered in a low-tier league. Due to a lack of funds and missing the registration deadline, this talented contestant couldn't sign up for this season's beast battle league. So for now, he can only struggle in these garbage-tier leagues."

Bernice continued with a smile, "What do you think? Does he have any hope of defeating Chen Gu and his Combat Rooster?"

Ding Zhou nodded in satisfaction. "Excellent. We'll strike at Chen Gu from all sides, leaving him utterly defeated and unable to recover!"

Bernice said, "Our investigation revealed that the Chen family isn't wealthy. They only own a moderately-sized company, 'Chen's Biotech.' An enterprise like that couldn't possibly support the advancement of both Chen Jixian and Chen Gu."

"Chen Gu has been able to keep advancing only because he's a star player in the beast battle leagues."

"But if he falls from grace, he won't be able to make enough money to buy the various resources needed for advancement—he really will be unable to recover from that!"

Inside a Bureau of Mystic Security maglev car, Gong Shuxu opened a series of files, displaying them for Chen Gu.

"Take a look at these first. They were all compiled by the Digital Group."

Chen Gu glanced at them and immediately noticed a problem. "These... are all outside our borders?"

Gong Shuxu smiled. "Yes. The four most recent attacks all occurred within Star State territory."

"These include two moss virus attacks, an armed raid on a military target, and an attack to seize a civilian satellite."

"The Star State suffered tremendous losses, especially from the two moss virus attacks. Officially, the Star State announced them as ordinary incidents with thirty-seven and forty casualties, respectively. However, we know the death toll in each attack exceeded 2,000!"

"Furthermore, according to our intelligence, the moss virus may have spread. This could lead to endless problems within the Star State."

Chen Gu was surprised. "They shifted their targets to the Star State?"

Those bastards from the Star State had just committed such heinous crimes on Gugelota Star, and now the Digital Group was punishing them?

It felt somewhat surreal.

Gong Shuxu continued with a smile, "We've received a confidential letter from the Rights Association of the Star State, hoping we could share intelligence about the Digital Group with them."

Chen Gu snorted coldly. "So they just want to freeload on our experience and intelligence."

Gong Shuxu shrugged. "Exactly. The Star State has always been shamelessly thick-skinned like that."

"What does the Director-General think?" asked Chen Gu.

"The Director-General has shelved the confidential letter and hasn't given them any response," Gong Shuxu replied.

Chen Gu stroked his chin. "Is she planning to wait and drive up the price?"

Gong Shuxu shook his head, not daring to speculate on the Director-General's intentions. Chen Gu then asked, "Apart from the Star State, are there any activities of the Digital Group in other Star Nations?"

"There have been some incidents in smaller Star Nations. It also seems there are signs of activity within the Freedom Alliance. However, they don't appear to be fully prepared yet, as there hasn't been any significant action so far."

By the time they finished their discussion, the car had arrived at the headquarters building.

Qing Ruyan was waiting for him in the parking lot. Upon seeing them exit the car, she said urgently, "The Director-General wants to see you."

Chen Gu thought he was being summoned to give a report about the Gugelota Star case and immediately followed Qing Ruyan upstairs to the Director-General's office on the top floor.

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Rainbow lounged on the sofa, languidly sipping a bottle of strawberry-flavored yogurt through a straw.

Today, Aviloya was dressed in a fitted uniform, which made her look capable and refined. She asked directly, "Has Gong Shuxu told you about what the Digital Group has been doing in the Star State?"

Chen Gu nodded.

"The Star State has sent a second encrypted letter. They hope we can send someone to help them deal with the Digital Group's matters."

Chen Gu was startled. "Has the situation gotten out of control?"

Given the Star State's typical behavior, if they had any other options, they would never have humbled themselves to ask the Confederation for help.

Aviloya nodded. "Although the Star State has kept a tight lid on information, we've received reliable news that the moss virus has completely overrun one of their colonial planets."

Chen Gu asked, "Do you want me to go?"

Aviloya said, "You are one of the candidates."

Of course, Chen Gu was reluctant to go.

Aviloya sighed lightly. "The Star State is shameless. Over the years, they've engaged in quite a few conspiracies against us and other major Star Nations. However, humanity's greatest enemy is still the Alien Insect Race."

Chen Gu rolled his eyes and asked, "What benefits has the Star State offered?"

Rainbow snickered from the side. This kid really understands Aviloya, she thought.

Aviloya paused before replying, "A complete super-life form."

Chen Gu's eyes widened. "The Star State is that affluent?"

"Don't be envious just yet," Aviloya said. "Given the Star State's... character, we'd be lucky to get even half of what they promised."

"We need to perfectly help them resolve this crisis to get the reward. And how much we've helped in this crisis will be entirely up to the Star State to decide."

"In the end, if they feel our contribution was only 20%, then we'll only get 20% of a super-life form."

"Moreover, they always promise all sorts of wonderful things, but when it comes to paying up, they are stingy and drag their feet. Even for that 20%, I estimate it would take three to five years to get it."

Chen Gu stroked his chin, humming thoughtfully for a moment, but didn't speak.

Aviloya knew him well. "How much do you want?"

Chen Gu didn't beat around the bush. "I... harbor resentment against the Star State. I can help, but they have to bleed a lot."

Aviloya's eyes suddenly twinkled. "Let's make it simpler. You go and negotiate with the Star State. Whatever you manage to get from them, I'll give you 20%."

Chen Gu immediately felt he had fallen into a trap. "You planned this from the start, didn't you?"

Aviloya raised her eyebrows and didn't deny it, as Rainbow giggled on the side.

"You harbor hatred for the Star State. Now is the perfect opportunity to fleece them. Whether or not you can truly vent your frustrations and make them pay for it, that's all up to your own abilities."

After thinking it over, Chen Gu clenched his teeth and said, "Fine, I'm in!"

When Chen Gu left Aviloya's office, he was full of aggressive energy. How can I cut a piece of flesh from the Star State?! he schemed.

As soon as he got back to the Special Action Squad's floor, the impish Selena quietly approached him. "Something's not right," she said, glancing towards the Independent Action Squad next door.

"What's wrong?" Chen Gu knew the matter between him and Gao Deng wasn't over. Gao Deng was a clone, and he would surely appear again inside the headquarters building. But it shouldn't be this soon, he mused. After all, even with previous experience, it would take time to advance to the Seventh Energy Level again.

"Those three fierce women, who previously wouldn't have dared to swagger before us, have inexplicably come out flaunting themselves several times today. Each time they look our way, their gaze is very unfriendly."

Chen Gu laughed. "Aren't you being paranoid? I'm also surprised, why are you so afraid of those three women?"

Selena shrank her neck. "Instinct?"

Chen Gu pushed her back into her office, then opened the interstellar network to search for information, contemplating how to negotiate with the Star State.

But the next morning, the situation really did take a turn for the worse.

He drove himself to work. Upon reaching the entrance of the headquarters building, he saw the three female professionals from the Xiaogasa Family. They were dressed in their family's complex traditional attire, looking flamboyant as they stood at the entrance, apparently to graciously welcome someone.

When Chen Gu entered, the three female professionals also saw him, their eyes filled with provocation and disdain.

Chen Gu couldn't be bothered to argue with a group of women. Still... they actually look quite good in those clothes, much more pleasing to the eye than before, he thought.

"Young Master!" Just as he entered, he heard the coquettish cheers of the three female professionals from behind. A luxurious and expensive maglev car had stopped at the building's entrance. Xiaoga Yexiong stepped out with a majestic stride.

The three female professionals immediately clung to him, looking as if they couldn't wait to hang onto his body.