

## Full Time 671

### Chapter 671: The Club\_3

Xiaoga Hanami had no idea that at that moment, within the Xiaogasa family's floating island, Xiaoga Yexiong was hiding in his study alone, listening to the CHING! CHING! of betting funds arriving in his account and gleefully opening a bottle of red wine for himself.

Several hundred meters away, Red Princess was excitedly jumping around in her pajamas in her own room, cheering, "I'm rich, I'm rich! My little treasury is fuller and more substantial than ever before!"

After the match, Chen Gu was dragged by Bai Yunpeng to go out and "celebrate big time" with everyone. Chen Gu made a few token attempts to decline but ended up going along since he had made a hefty profit and was genuinely happy about it.

Of course, he remembered to properly "educate" Combat Rooster later on. Its attempts at showboating were rather low-tier.

On the stellar inter-network, the Alliance's fan forums were about to explode. His supporters, who had seen Combat Rooster being "suppressed" since the start of the match, finally burst with emotion like a volcano erupting when it suddenly won.

While drinking, Bai Yunpeng put his arm around Chen Gu's neck and whispered, "I've found out that the person behind Heibo is Bernice, just so you're aware."

Chen Gu smiled lightly and nodded.

The next day, all reports unanimously featured an image of Combat Rooster standing proudly amidst roaring flames to accompany reports of the match.

Looking at this image, Chen Gu couldn't help but think of the legend of the Phoenix rising from the ashes. It seemed that in some myths, creatures like Phoenixes and divine eagles had to defeat serpentine monsters in order to ascend to godhood.

He opened the Dimensional Prison Ring and interrogated Combat Rooster, but the bird was tight-lipped, not willing to say anything, so Chen Gu let it be.

For Chen Gu, this match was essentially over. What he had to face next was his real opponent: Xiaoga Yexiong.

However, for the other party in the match, Heibo, it was far from over. The various negative consequences of defeat were just beginning to affect his life.

Since most of the sponsors were Chen Gu's, and the broadcasting fees belonged to the Alliance, all he could get were the limited sponsorships he had and the participation fee provided by the Alliance.

And the difference in participation fees between winning and losing was significant.

Initially, Heibo only wanted to become famous and fight Chen Gu. Therefore, he signed the harsh contract without hesitation—at that time, he was very confident he would win.

Overall, he did earn an income comparable to what he'd made defeating Myriad Star Shield. However, the upfront training costs were substantial. After deducting various expenses and paying off years of accumulated debt, he had little left and was almost penniless once again.

However, his greatest gain was having his daughter return to his side when he was at his lowest.

But the biggest problem Heibo now faced was his injured nine-headed serpent.

His mechanical beast had sustained severe injuries, and the cost to save it would be in the tens of millions—a sum he could not afford at all.

Not to mention his deep bond with the mechanical beast; if he wanted to make a comeback, he couldn't afford to lose it.

The day after the match ended, standing outside a beast hospital, he called Bernice's assistant. "I've done as you said..."

Before he could even state his request, the assistant, who had lost a significant sum because of him, coldly interrupted, "You've got plenty from this already, don't be greedy!"

Heibo swallowed his pride and said, "My beast needs treatment. I've done what you asked. I don't want any reward, just please save it!"

"PFFT!" the assistant scoffed, "You did something for us? What exactly? You made Chen Gu a fortune, his reputation skyrocketed, and he's practically the Alliance's number one figure now! Great job indeed!"

"Better off dead, that useless beast of yours!"

"Don't ever call this number again. Our influence is far beyond your imagination!"

The call ended, and Heibo was devastated.

The head of the beast hospital was standing in front of him; from Heibo's expression, he already knew the outcome. He shrugged his shoulders. "I sympathize with you, but as you know, business is business. Your partner will be brought out in ten minutes."

Heibo hung his head silently. When he looked up again, the hospital head was already gone. He scanned the skyline. Capital Star was prosperous and advanced; towering buildings and floating islands dotted the sky, ubiquitous displays of its development, yet it all felt so cold.

He knew that once his beast was brought out, it faced certain death, and he was powerless to prevent it. The beast's demise signified the utter collapse of the dream he had pursued his entire life.

He had never imagined it. He'd believed this match would be the restart of his dream, but it had turned out to be its final end.

As he wallowed in his despondency, a frail figure appeared beside him, gently embracing him.

He took a careful look before recognizing his only family member, his daughter.

Unable to hold back any longer, he cried on his daughter's frail shoulder.

Suddenly a voice arose from behind him, "The feeling of defeat is pretty hopeless, isn't it?"

Heibo whipped around, glaring through gritted teeth at Chen Gu, who stood behind him with his hands casually in his pockets. Chen Gu was wearing a suit that, while understated, Heibo could tell was exceedingly expensive. It seemed those "big villains" all liked this type of getup.

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Chen Gu spoke again, "You must feel that all of this is my doing, but have you ever thought about what would have happened to me if I had lost that match last night?"

Heibo was taken aback, his expression turning somewhat different.

"I know some people approached you to challenge me."

"You saw it as an opportunity—but have you ever considered what I did wrong?"

"Did I do anything to hurt you? Did I wrong your mother in any way? If I did, it seems there would be nothing wrong with you coming after me."

"Of course, even if I hadn't, your desire to climb over me to reach the top could also be seen as an unfortunate choice on the path of a minor figure striving for fame."

Chen Gu moved closer and spoke once more, "However, if that's the case, then you need to be aware that you must bear the consequences of your own choices! You failed, so your current situation... is what you deserve!"

The resentment in Heibo's eyes slowly disappeared, leaving only pain and self-blame.

Yes, he was right. Old Nine's current situation was all my own doing. He actually hadn't done anything wrong; he even helped me find my daughter.

Was he supposed to lose to me just because I challenged him?

If I hadn't been so eager for quick success and instead had a more stable attitude, I could have accumulated experience in the lower-tier leagues for a season. Then, I could have signed up for the giant beast combat leagues next year, making my way up step by step. Even if I had lost to Chen Gu in the league then, I wouldn't be in this desperate, dead-end situation.

It's all my fault!

Chen Gu waited for him to finish his self-reflection before saying, "I can lend you money to treat the Nine-Headed Serpent..."

Heibo looked at him sharply. "Why would you..."

Chen Gu waved his hand. "Just listen! You're very annoying. It was just like when I found your daughter for you; I had no ulterior motives, but instead of being grateful, you kept harassing me. It's detestable, you know? If you dare to interrupt me with even one more word of questioning, I'll turn and leave right now. The only reason I'm here is because your daughter begged me to come. Honestly, I have no fondness for you."

Heibo felt ashamed and quickly shut his mouth.

"I can lend you the money to treat the Nine-Headed Serpent, but you'll have to pay substantial interest, and the collateral will be the Nine-Headed Serpent itself."

Heibo was desperately eager to say he would pay any interest. Just as he was about to speak, his daughter covered his mouth. He then remembered Chen Gu's recent warning not to interrupt and quickly gave his daughter a grateful look.

"When I say 'sufficient interest,' I'm referring to the rates for private lending, which are much higher than bank loan rates. I'm not forcing you; it's up to you whether you agree or not."

"If you can't repay the money, the Nine-Headed Serpent will become mine. Don't try any clever tricks, thinking I can't tame a willful Energy Gathering Mechanical Species. I'm telling you, I can lock the Nine-Headed Serpent up with my Combat Rooster, and in no more than three days, it will obediently heed my commands."

"Once the treatment is complete, you have to train diligently from then until the start of next season. I will cover the training costs, but these will also be considered loans, with the same interest rates, and they must be repaid."

"That's all. Do you have any objections?"

Heibo pointed to his mouth, still not daring to speak freely. Chen Gu raised his hand. "Speak!"

"No objections! I completely agree. Whatever you say goes!"

Chen Gu turned and walked away. "Good. Someone will come to have you sign the agreement."

Heibo waved vigorously at Chen Gu's departing back. "Thank you, truly!"

Chen Gu didn't look back as he waved his hand. His mind became active. Maybe next season I can start my own club for fun?

If I want to join the giant beast combat leagues, I'll need to acquire a qualified club. Otherwise, I'd have to start again from the lower-tier leagues, which would be too slow. I can't wait that long.

Hmm, I should recruit Mao Yisheng. And who else? Right, perhaps my dear grandson has such dreams too. I'll ask him when I get back. Everyone in the family only cares about that girl, Qing Yu. See, only your grandfather cares about your dreams, dear grandson. You must be touched.

As for Heibo, you'll just obediently be a worker bee for this Great Actor, helping me earn money to make up for your wrongdoings.

Great Actor Chen's income has been exceedingly high lately, and he's become somewhat "elated," daring to consider business deals worth tens of billions.

Chapter 673: Virus Conjugate

On the way back to the Bureau, Chen Gu was really calculating his disposable assets, estimating the funds he could mobilize before the next season.

He then checked the transaction amounts for sports club acquisitions over the recent years. The most valuable reference was undoubtedly the club that Mao Yisheng and others belonged to, which had just been acquired before this season.

At that time, the acquisition price was two billion Starshields, but with subsequent investments, the external estimates totaled around three billion.

Chen Gu scratched his head. He could indeed come up with the money, but then he would be left with little on hand.

While he was thinking about the club, his phone suddenly rang. When Chen Gu saw who was calling, he instinctively recoiled, and then after a pause, he cautiously answered, "Director-General."

Aviloya said indifferently, "Has our superstar forgotten his basic duties?"

Chen Gu hurriedly said, "How could that be? In the match against Heibo, the behind-the-scenes manipulators were Bernice and Ding Zhou. I'm also trying to alleviate your concerns, Director-General."

Chen Gu was not one to suffer a loss. If the mighty Director-General spoke in a sarcastic tone, like a bullied young wife, he would be impolite in return, making it crystal clear to her that this whole affair was ultimately due to her!

Although he had gained huge benefits from it, he really was a victim!

Aviloya fell silent for a moment, seemingly not interested in a verbal battle, and said crisply, "Star State has sent another request. As we agreed last time, you go negotiate with them, and then you help them solve their problem."

Chen Gu laughed. "Watch me fleece them."

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The Rights Association exuded a kind of "superiority complex" typical of Star State, and they were notoriously addicted to freeloading. In any cooperation with organizations from other Star Nations, they always masqueraded under various pretexts of righteousness, only to end up taking advantage.

Externally, they still posed with lines like, "We have helped you," or "We are here to rescue you."

Chen Gu was extremely annoyed by this façade.

The current crisis was obviously very serious. According to the Bureau's intelligence, one colonial planet had already completely fallen. Over the past few days, the Moss Virus had continued its rapid spread. Not only had it not been contained, but three more colonial planets were now in imminent danger.

Yet, the Rights Association's "request for cooperation" was still filled with an arrogant tone, as if to say, "We have decided to give the Bureau of Mystic Security a chance to perform."

The person responsible for negotiating with Chen Gu was a high-ranking council member of the Rights Association.

Chen Gu sat at his desk at the appointed time and opened the video call. Once the link was established, the council member named Richard, with deep-set eyes, a hooked nose, and light brown stubble on his cheeks, began, "Chen, this is a good opportunity for your Bureau of Mystic Security..."

"HA!" Chen Gu laughed and then clicked off the call.

A good opportunity? Good my ass! Thanks, but we damn well don't need it!

Far out in the Star Sea, within the secret office building of the Rights Association, senior council member Richard had just begun speaking. He was preparing to pick up his coffee and have a serious discussion with the 'idiot from the Confederation' on the other end of the call. Richard intended to elaborate on the great assistance that helping Star State would provide to the Bureau of Mystic Security and the entire Confederation. However, he was astonished to discover that the other party had abruptly hung up on his video call!

"Bastard!" Richard cursed loudly. "He dared to hang up on me! Sanctions, I must sanction them!"

"A bunch of frogs in a well, backward and ignorant! They can't comprehend the greatness of our Star State!"

After Richard ranted for a while, the door to his office was rudely pushed open. He was already furious, but when he saw it was his boss, Chairman White, he held back his temper.

"How did the negotiations with the Confederation go?"

White looked somewhat anxious. The terror of the Moss Virus had far exceeded their expectations. Recently, the entire Rights Association had been in turmoil, exerting all their efforts but achieving minimal results.

The Bureau of Mystic Security, which had once "defeated" the Moss Virus, had now become the last hope for the Rights Association.

In anger, Richard said, "Your Excellency, those fools have no awareness of the roles they are about to play. They hung up on me without a word."

White tousled his hair, which now resembled a bird's nest. "So you mean to say there has been no progress in the talks?"

"Er—" Richard sensed that his superior wasn't joining him in his indignation, which he felt wasn't a good sign, but he still argued, "Your Excellency, we are Star State, the greatest in the entire Star Sea! By inviting them, we are greatly acknowledging them; they should feel honored..."

"Shut up, fool!" White was already tired of this "divinely chosen" superiority complex. "We need help right now! I get called and scolded by the higher-ups every three hours, and I don't know how much longer I can hold on!"

"Damn you, Richard! If I go down, I promise you'll be the first to go!"

"Now go and contact the Bureau of Mystic Security again. I don't care how excessive their demands are; even if they demand you get on your knees and lick their boots, I don't give a damn! I just need the Bureau of Mystic Security's support to materialize on the infected planets immediately. Do you understand?"

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Chairman White grabbed a nearby vase and angrily hurled it at him.

Richard agilely dodged but quickly responded with understanding, "Yes, sir. I understand!"

"Damn bastard!" White cursed again, then stormed out and slammed the door behind him.

Richard was extremely frustrated but had no choice but to swallow his pride and dial Chen Gu's number again.

Chen Gu was surfing the internet, looking at posts praising him. His vanity was instantly gratified, and he let out loud laughs.

Then Richard's call request came through. Chen Gu glanced at it and, without hesitation, immediately rejected it.

Richard, left with no other option, sent the request again, only to be rejected once more.

After this happened seven times, just as Richard was about to explode, Chen Gu finally accepted the eighth call request.

"Well, well, if it isn't the esteemed Richard from the Star State Rights Association. Pray tell, what good fortune brings you to someone as lowly as myself?" Chen Gu mocked, a smile playing on his lips that didn't reach his eyes.

Richard's face flushed red, then paled. He wanted to burst into a tirade but restrained himself. "Your Excellency, this attitude of yours is not conducive to our cooperation. This agreement was struck between our Director-General and your Bureau's Director-General. If these talks break down, you won't be able to bear the responsibility..."

CLICK!

Before Richard could finish his sentence, the video call was cut off again.

"AAH—" Richard roared, furiously sweeping everything from his desk onto the floor.

"Bastard!"

STOMP! He shattered a pen holder.

"Son of a bitch!"

STOMP! He smashed a holographic projection device.

"Go to hell!"

STOMP! He pulverized something, rendering it unrecognizable.

After his outburst in the office, Richard panted heavily. He had no choice but to sit back at his desk and have his secretary bring a new set of equipment. Then, still fuming, he reluctantly redialed Chen Gu's number.

This time, it was even worse—Chen Gu had gone offline.

"AH! AH! AH! I'm going to kill that bastard! I swear!"

At that moment, the secretary knocked again. "Sir, Chairman White is on the line again. He's asking about the status of the Bureau of Mystic Security's support..."

Richard deflated like a punctured balloon. Swallowing his immense humiliation, he wrote a lengthy apology letter to send to Chen Gu.

Then, he sat waiting in agony, every minute and second dragging on interminably.

Two hours later, he finally saw Chen Gu come back online and hurriedly sent another call request.

It took a while for Chen Gu to accept. This time, his face was cold, and he said bluntly, "Spit it out. What do you want?"

Richard bowed his head. "We... need your help."

Chen Gu snorted coldly. He should have adopted this attitude from the start.

"We can help the Rights Association and Star State within our capabilities. But our assistance isn't free. You know the Moss Virus is dangerous, and we'd be taking a huge risk."

Richard hurriedly said, "Our previous offer still stands—a super lifeform!"

"But under your previous terms, you get to decide the final amount. That won't work," Chen Gu stated plainly. "My people will go there and risk their lives to help you with the crisis. If, in the end, you judge our contribution insufficient and try to fob us off with scraps, we're not that foolish."

"That won't happen," Richard quickly said. "Our Star State always honors the spirit of contracts. Integrity is our foundation."

"Heh." Chen Gu gave a cold laugh. "I'll bring my team. The basic fee is 50% of a super lifeform, paid upfront. If we succeed in resolving the problem, the remaining 50% must be transferred to us immediately. If we don't solve it, we won't take a cent more."

Richard's expression turned grim. "That's not possible. It's against regulations."

Chen Gu raised his hand, about to hang up. "Then there's nothing to discuss."

"Wait!" Richard, nearly driven mad by him, hurriedly intervened. "We can talk! We can talk!"

Chen Gu's hand paused. "I'm listening. Go on."

The back-and-forth negotiation lasted for a good half hour. In the end, Richard reluctantly accepted Chen Gu's "harsh" terms: a base fee of 40% of a super lifeform, paid upfront. Upon receipt of this payment, Chen Gu and his team would depart immediately.

The remaining 60% would be held by a neutral agency.

Subsequently, the extent of Chen Gu's team's contribution to resolving the Moss Virus crisis would be determined through negotiation by both parties, with the neutral agency making the final payment.

Chen Gu chose a well-reputed Star Sea bank as the neutral agency: the Grand Cross Bank.

It was a bank from a small Star Nation, known for its strict neutrality.

Two hours later, word came from the Grand Cross Bank: the funds had arrived.

Chen Gu smiled and clapped his hands. He announced to the others in his office, "Alright, everyone, pack your bags. We're heading to Star State."

Before they boarded the spaceship, Rainbow suddenly appeared. With a swipe of her slender fingers across a screen, she sent Chen Gu an encrypted file.

Chen Gu glanced at the file name: Taboo Nuclear Combat Technique.

He paused. "Senior?"

Rainbow explained, "The Taboo Nuclear Combat Technique is a secret battle skill from the Atomic Holy Church. It's all-encompassing and even includes sword techniques."

Chen Gu was overjoyed. "Thank you, Senior!"

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Rainbow waved her hand. "No need to thank me. I'm just a 'mere' Eighth Energy Level individual; I don't have enough clout to make the Atomic Holy Church give out this level of secret inheritance. It was the Director-General who obtained it for you."

Chen Gu was surprised. "Her?"

Rainbow scoffed. "Ungrateful brat!"

"The Director-General has always been clear about rewards and punishments. If you work hard and achieve great results, you will receive your deserved rewards; they will be substantial, never lacking."

When Chen Gu opened the "Taboo Nuclear Combat Technique," he became solemn. This wasn't an abridged version, but a complete set, ranging from the First Energy Level all the way up to the Ninth Power Level!

It was indeed as Rainbow had said, "all-encompassing." It contained various weapon techniques, including swordsmanship, compatible with the occupational abilities of a Radiation Missionary.

This meant that Chen Gu wouldn't have to worry about combat skills until he reached the Ninth Power Level.

In the last battle, he had clearly felt that his self-created "Nuclear Frenzy" was somewhat lacking in power. This "Taboo Nuclear Combat Technique" could not have come at a better time.

"Thank the Director-General on my behalf," Chen Gu said earnestly.

Rainbow waved her hand again. "Alright, let's get going. Just focus on doing your job well."

As the spaceship took off, Chen Gu opened the "Taboo Nuclear Combat Technique" and began to practice in silence.

He needed to practice two sets of swordsmanship: the "Destructive Nuclear Strike Sword" at the Fifth Energy Level and the "Devastating Nuclear Incineration Sword" at the Sixth Energy Level.

Each sword technique had three special "ultimate moves," similar to those high-impact sword moves like "Nuclear Frenzy."

After twelve hours of long interstellar travel, they landed on Yorhachi Star, within the territory of the Star State.

When the Star State first entered the Star Sea, its greed was hard to conceal; they rushed to occupy any planet they found. Currently, Star State has the largest number of colonial planets among all Star Nations.

But this was not necessarily a good thing for the Star Sea Era. For example, the Star State currently occupies many colonial planets but lacks the population to settle them all. This results in severe underpopulation on planets other than its few major colonies.

Without sufficient population, the development of these colonial planets lagged seriously behind.

No matter how many laws the Star State passed to incentivize childbirth, the effects were minimal.

By contrast, the Confederation was more restrained in seizing colonial planets. From the beginning, they adopted a strategy that emphasized both colonial and resource planets equally. Thus, the Confederation now possesses the most resource planets.

It's not that other Star Nations didn't value resource planets; they just didn't place as much emphasis on them as the Confederation did.

Yorhachi Star is more than ten times bigger than the ancient homeworld but has a population of less than two hundred million. In today's era, to call it "sparsely populated" would be generous; it's practically "barren."

The outbreak of the moss virus occurred "nearby."

Sol Star, the initial site of the outbreak, has completely fallen, and the Rights Association has lost contact with anyone on the planet.

The other three planets—Joels One, Joels Two, and Joels Three—are also nearly uncontrollable. The Rights Association, together with the Star State government and military, are doing their utmost, hoping to reverse the situation.

Chairman White, accompanied by Richard, stood at the military spaceport on Yorhachi Star, watching the Bureau of Mystic Security's spaceship descend. Turning to his subordinate, Chairman White glared and conveyed through his eyes, "Cooperate with them earnestly. At least until we can confirm whether they can be of help, our attitude must be friendly!"

"If you screw this up, I'll send you to Sol Star!"

"Yes," Richard could only agree.

Chen Gu and his team disembarked from the spaceship. Chairman White approached with open arms, embracing him warmly. "Chen, welcome! Hahaha..."

Chen Gu smiled and returned the embrace. Then, each side introduced their respective teams. When it was Richard's turn, Chen Gu shook his hand with a faint smile, not provoking the arrogant man further.

"Let's talk on the way," said White as everyone got into the vehicles. After the maglev car started, White immediately brought up various data files. "The situation is urgent," he said, "so I won't waste time on superficial pleasantries with our guests who have traveled so far."

"Here are satellite images of the situation on Sol Star's surface."

Chen Gu inquired, "Completely fallen?"

"Yes, we have lost all ability to make contact with anyone on the planet."

Chen Gu looked at the satellite images taken from space. Sol Star, like Yorhachi Star, has a population of only around two hundred million. Judging by its architecture, it seemed slightly more prosperous than Yorhachi Star.

But now, the surfaces of these buildings were also covered with a layer of green moss.

Dead bodies were strewn everywhere on the streets.

Charles asked from the side, "Are they all dead?"

White shook his head. "No, there are some of these things."

He gestured, fast-forwarding the footage. The screen showed a "forest," but this forest was bizarre, resembling both trees and flowers. It had a thick trunk only seven or eight meters tall, around which grew long, tentacle-like green branches. A vibrant and huge flower bloomed at the top of the trunk.

The flower contained stamens and pistils, with a large, bottle-shaped ovary beneath them.

On the outskirts of the forest, a few such plants were actually moving! They pulled their "roots" from the ground, revealing them to be thick black worms covered in flagella.

Their wriggling speed wasn't fast, but due to their immense size, their actual movement was not slow.

"What the hell is this?" Charles and the others exclaimed.

Chen Gu asked, "Is this an evolution of the moss virus?"

In the Confederation, due to timely intervention, the moss virus had not developed to this stage.

White responded, "We are not certain." He gestured again, fast-forwarding the footage. "There are also these creatures," he added, as a new scene appeared on the screen.

Unlike the previous forest, the "species" in this new footage were still a mix of animal and plant. Their main bodies resembled primates crawling on all fours, but they were several times larger—each seven to eight meters long.

Their bodies had turned green. Dense, long leaves with serrated edges grew from their backs, extending out to the sides. From the top of their heads sprouted a flexible yet strong floral stalk, at the end of which was a bright red, sharp-toothed flower. These flowerheads opened and closed erratically, as if ready to bite at any moment!

White said somberly, "There are other species as well. We believe that 'forest' is the result of some insects and the moss virus combining and evolving. As for these ape-like creatures... they are likely humans."

The faces of Chen Gu and his companions turned particularly grim, and a deep unease settled within them.

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"Sol Star is already in this state. Why haven't you deployed the Close Range Attack Ship yet?" Charles asked.

This was precisely the question Chen Gu wanted to ask. However, he had seldom asked these types of questions himself recently, usually letting his team members—primarily Charles and Joseph—ask them.

Since Charles was the one asking, Richard, who had been silent all along, had to stand up and answer, "Because we suspect there are still survivors on Sol Star."

Richard selected an image from the military satellite footage. "Here."

It showed a slope near a city, where an "SOS" had been laid out on the ground with various red strips of cloth.

Richard continued, "We've investigated. In this mountain range, there's a military fortress abandoned for decades. We suspect survivors are hiding inside."

Chen Gu crossed his arms, touched his chin, and silently gazed at the picture. He had already faintly guessed what kind of "help" Star State truly needed.

As expected, Richard continued, "Our fleet is already prepared in the periphery of Sol Star. However, destroying a planet is a matter of great significance. We must confirm that there are genuinely no civilians left on it.

"So, we need a team to confirm whether the person who sent this distress signal is still alive."

Charles was stunned. He pointed to himself and asked, "You want us to go to a planet completely destroyed by the moss virus?"

Richard was about to explain, but this time, Chairman White spoke up. "To be frank, we've already dispatched three teams.

"The first team consisted of robots. Upon landing, we discovered some inexplicable changes on the planet's surface; all electronic devices malfunctioned when they neared the ground.

"They quickly lost contact with us. We tracked them from orbit with a military satellite, but as soon as they entered the mountainous area, a dense fog arose, and we never saw those robots again.

"For the second team, we dispatched a skilled special forces unit composed of military professionals.

"The result was the same. As soon as they entered the mountainous area, they were obscured by the dense fog. Our satellites couldn't locate them, and when the fog cleared, they too had vanished.

"Subsequently, our Rights Association organized a special operations team led by a Sixth Energy Level expert, composed entirely of experienced professionals. However, the outcome was identical; not even that Sixth Energy Level individual managed to escape the fog.

"This dense fog is very peculiar. We don't know why it appears so suddenly, nor why it immediately blankets an area dozens of kilometers wide."

Chairman White looked at Chen Gu. "You have extensive experience with the moss virus. We'd like you to be the core of a joint team for one last attempt."

"Please rest assured, we won't send you to take risks alone. We will dispatch another six professional special operatives to accompany you!"

However, Chen Gu, who had been silent, refused without hesitation. "That's impossible!"

Chairman White was somewhat embarrassed by the refusal.

Chen Gu pointed to the red "SOS" on the satellite image. "Have you considered that this might be a trap?"

"Those strange creatures may still possess some intelligence. They could have set up this signal to lure us to our deaths."

"Why would a dense fog conveniently arise as soon as a team lands? Even a team led by a Sixth Energy Level expert was trapped in it. I'm only a Fifth Energy Level; I have no confidence I could make it back alive."

Chen Gu crossed his arms again and looked at Chairman White. "This matter is non-negotiable. We're not going!"

Richard couldn't help but interject, "If that's the case, we won't be able to pay you the promised compensation. We're facing the terrifying moss virus; any action involves immense risk!"

Chen Gu replied indifferently, "Then we don't want it."

He gestured to his team. "Alright, let's head back."

Chairman White glared fiercely at Richard, then turned to persuade Chen Gu. "Captain Chen, please don't be offended. Richard doesn't represent the Rights Association; he was just speaking rashly. If you don't want to go, we certainly won't force you. How about this: you and your team rest for a while. We have another operation on Planet Joles Three where we also need your help. Once we're prepared on our end, we can discuss it in detail. Alright?"

"Fine," Chen Gu agreed. Chairman White immediately called his secretary to lead them to their accommodations.

After Chen Gu and his team left, Richard grumbled resentfully, "They want the benefits but refuse to take any risks! Those damn Confederation people are inherently inferior!"

Chairman White ignored him, sitting at the table and tapping his fingers lightly, lost in thought.

The Confederation people aren't fools. Should we really dispatch the Association's top professionals?

Chairman White secretly shook his head, feeling conflicted.

On Planet Joles Three, a "poison nest" had formed.

It was located in Deli City, a small city with a population of one million. Here, all living beings had become "nourishment" for the moss virus. The way the virus spread and developed on this planet was different from other locations.

Chapter 677 The Suicide Squad\_2

A massive congregation of moss virus had accumulated within the city. It wasn't evolving into the diverse flora-fauna hybrid life forms found on Sol Star, but instead simply growing stronger in its original viral form.

Now, the entire city was thoroughly covered by the moss virus. According to remote measurement data from military satellites, the thinnest layer of the virus was already three meters thick, and the thickest part was a staggering seventeen meters!

Moreover, in the city center, the moss virus had centered around the tallest building, forming a giant sphere hundreds of meters in diameter, nurturing some unknown entity within.

Chairman White was preparing to organize a reconnaissance team, jointly formed by the military and the Rights Association. With military firepower support, they were to ascertain exactly what this "poison nest" was breeding.

Relatively speaking, this operation was more feasible, and there were no stringent mission requirements; it only said "try your best."

Chen Gu had agreed to it.

They were about to board a military spacecraft bound for Planet Jorges III. The team members from both the military and the Rights Association were ready—all professionals, with ranks mainly concentrated at the Third and Fourth Energy Levels.

However, among these people, the special agents from the Rights Association carried their Star State's usual air of arrogance. The military warriors also upheld the Star State army's typical style, their faces cold and unapproachable.

The supplies were loaded onto the spacecraft, and everything was ready. The captain had already ordered the launch. Suddenly, a military vehicle raced over and screeched to a halt in front of the ship. Chairman White, drenched in sweat, dashed out and waved his arms frantically at the porthole, shouting, "Captain Chen, come quickly! There's been a huge incident!"

A sense of ominous foreboding rose in Chen Gu's heart. He disembarked with his team. Too impatient to go to an office, Chairman White immediately opened data from military satellites on his personal device right there on the tarmac, exclaiming, "Those things have evolved into this!"

It was an image just captured by a military satellite. In the mountainous area where the "SOS" was located, a huge rhizome had suddenly burst through the soil and rapidly grown into a massive stem. At the top, instead of flowers, an open cluster of spores had sprouted, each as large as a fighter jet by volume.

Charles and a few others were puzzled. This bizarre moss virus could evolve in various ways in its later stages, so the appearance of such an entity wasn't entirely shocking. But it hardly seemed like something that would scare the mighty Chairman of the Rights Association to the point of tears.

But when Chen Gu saw those spores, his complexion changed dramatically. "Why haven't you dispatched a Close Range Attack Ship? What on earth are you waiting for?"

White gritted his teeth, thought for a moment, and finally said, "We had no choice."

He went on to explain, "You still remember that SOS signal, don't you?" He opened the image again, showing the signal arranged with red fabric and weighed down by some rocks.

"The arrangement of these rocks is not ordinary; it represents the family emblem of an ancient clan from our Star State."

Chairman White outlined it on the image: a kind of superimposition of an X and Z.

"It belongs to the Hondarei family, a family deeply entrenched in the media industry of the Star State. And according to our subsequent investigation, the person who arranged this distress signal is very likely Gascolin Hondarei—the only biological son of Joseph Hondarei, the current patriarch of the Hondarei family!"

Chairman White looked utterly helpless. "Now you understand, right? We had to confirm first whether Gascolin Hondarei is still alive.

"If we dispatched the Close Range Attack Ship to utterly destroy a colonial star without confirmation, the media would slap a terrible accusation of 'murdering civilians' right onto us!

"Believe me, Joseph Hondarei is no conscientious media figure, and yet he wields such tremendous power!

"If such a thing were to happen, it could lead to the impeachment of the current Star State government!

"This is no small matter!"

Chen Gu understood. Indeed, he had been puzzled. Why would the Star State, on account of an SOS signal whose authenticity couldn't even be confirmed, repeatedly send elite teams to their deaths three times? Why would they even spare no expense to bring a super-lifeform from the Confederation as reinforcements, all to clarify if there were any 'survivors'?

In his heart, Chen Gu knew the Star State's nature well. They spoke grandly of democracy and fairness, but their history of war crimes was too extensive to record.

Chen Gu, with a stern face, asked, "So what now? Are you going to send more people to their deaths?"

White, with a gloomy expression, replied, "I have no choice. I'm not in charge of this—in fact, not even the highest leader of our Rights Association, the Chief Speaker, His Excellency, is in charge. The Great Commander of the Star State has explicitly ordered: he wants proof of life! He doesn't want to offend a bigwig like Joseph Hondarei."

Veins bulged on Chen Gu's forehead from frustration. "The Star State's Great Commander, so devoid of responsibility? Your voters certainly chose a 'great' leader wisely!"

Chairman White smiled bitterly. "What's the use of talking about this now? You should know that during the election for the Great Commander, Joseph Hondarei gave substantial support."

Chen Gu looked again at the giant spores. "This thing... exactly how capable is it? Have you made an assessment?"

"As soon as this thing appeared, we mobilized a large number of military satellites to scan it, and our experts quickly made an assessment. I'm sorry, Captain Chen, it's bad news: once this thing matures, it has the ability to drift into space!"

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Darkness fell before Chen Gu's eyes. This was truly the worst possible news.

Charles and the others were also shocked. "A single spore can drift into space?!"

It was unbelievable.

Chairman White emphasized, "That's the moss virus! Frankly, considering what a terrifying thing it is, I wouldn't be surprised in the slightest by whatever bizarre traits it evolves."

Chen Gu clenched his teeth. "How much time do we have?"

"Do you see those spores? They are still pale green now, but their color is rapidly deepening. Our experts estimate that once they turn pale yellow, they will be fully mature. Then, they will detach from the parent body and drift into space. Any planet could become their landing spot! Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we still have thirty-six hours before that happens."

Charles immediately asked, "Can't we stop these spores from drifting into space? You have laser weapons, don't you? Track and shoot them! Melt them all before they drift into space!"

Chairman White showed a weary expression and shook his head. "This method is just a temporary fix. This is only the first mature stalk. More and more will follow until the entire planet is covered with these things. By then, we simply won't be able to intercept them all."

Charles fell silent as well.

Chairman White made a final effort. "Captain Chen, we're willing to immediately pay the full remuneration stipulated in this agreement, notify Grand Cross Bank, and transfer all the Super Life Forms to you. Furthermore, I have already done my utmost to persuade two Seventh Energy Level professionals. I implore you to form a final exploration team with these two. All you need to do is go to that abandoned military fortress, investigate, and bring back some concrete information. That way, we'll have something to report to Joseph Hondarei!"

"Please believe me, we genuinely have no other options. The high-Energy-Level professionals refuse to go. This is the Star State; we cannot compel those powerful individuals to do things against their will. These two Seventh Energy Level professionals need your experience!"

Chen Gu was indeed at a loss for words. If this were in the Confederation, a single order would compel compliance from many Eighth and Ninth Power Level practitioners within the system. But things were different in the Star State. Those powerful individuals were unwilling to take the risk, and the Rights Association couldn't force them.

Chairman White said, "Once those spores scatter into the Star Sea, they could land on any planet—perhaps a Star State colony, or perhaps a Confederation colony. Captain Chen, this is no longer just a Star State problem."

Chen Gu sneered, "So the Star State makes a mess, and all of humanity has to clean it up for you?"

Chairman White looked ashamed. "I'm sorry..."

Chen Gu took a deep breath and said, "Without high-Energy-Level experts, what about Numbered Items? Surely the Rights Association can deploy some powerful items?"

"Of course," Chairman White said. "I've already arranged for those two Seventh Energy Level professionals to bring two pre-series Numbered Items from headquarters!"

Chen Gu asked, "Which numbers?"

White said, "Celestial Rank Number 4-11 and Celestial Rank Number 2-13! These two items possess tremendous destructive power against plant-attribute targets."

Chen Gu was silent for a moment, then finally took another deep breath and said, "Alright. We'll also need the best equipment. Go and prepare it."

"Excellent!" White was overjoyed. "Captain Chen, please believe me, the Rights Association will never forget the friendship forged today!"

Chen Gu remained noncommittal.

「...」

The mission on Joel's Three was postponed. While Chen Gu and his team familiarized themselves with the new equipment provided by the Rights Association, they awaited the arrival of the two Seventh Energy Level professionals.

Charles was constantly indignant. "The Star State is too irresponsible! This is a crisis that concerns all of humanity!"

Wu Yihuo sneered, "That's because you don't understand the history of the Star State. They've always been like this. Don't be fooled by those films the Star State loves to use to sing its own praises."

After a moment of thought, Chen Gu said, "Wu Yihuo, Chu Zheng, you two will stay behind."

"Instructor!" Chu Zheng and Wu Yihuo stood up together, intending to object.

Chen Gu said coldly, "Sit down. You're both too weak. You'll only be a burden if you come. Understand?"

Though they knew Chen Gu had said this deliberately, they couldn't refute him and could only sit back down, resentful.

After that, Chen Gu said no more. He obtained access permission for a military satellite from Chairman White. He then continuously adjusted the satellite's angle, meticulously studying the spores using the images it transmitted.

Two hours later, the two Seventh Energy Level professionals from the Rights Association finally arrived, travel-worn.

One was named Modric, a Seventh Energy Level Quantum Wizard.

The other was named Balermo, a Seventh Energy Level Hell Titan.

One specialized in assault, the other in evasion—a well-matched pair indeed.

Chen Gu had initially expected these two to be arrogant upon meeting. To his surprise, they were quite approachable. Modric proactively shook Chen Gu's hand and said, "This squad is indeed a 'suicide squad.' We may be of a higher Energy Level, but we have no experience with the moss virus. We will place great importance on your opinions!"

Chen Gu secretly breathed a sigh of relief. "We will also be relying heavily on your formidable strength!"

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Balermo was more straightforward, "There's no time for talk, let's get moving."

Chairman White had already arranged the spaceship. They set off immediately and, in just half an hour, reached the Star Sea outside Sol Star.

Chairman White personally oversaw the operation, shaking hands and saying farewell to each team member, "Once you get within three kilometers of the surface, all electronic devices will fail, and we will lose contact. Everything is in your hands now!"

The small landing craft exited the spaceship's hatch and began its descent toward the planet.

All the team members lay inside the safety pods, bracing for potential attacks.

As the landing craft entered Sol Star's atmosphere and continued to descend, all electronic devices indeed went haywire upon reaching the three-kilometer mark.

Balermo stood up from the safety pod and began to manually operate the landing craft.

A few minutes later, with a loud bang, the landing craft crash-landed on the planet's surface, causing everyone to feel a strong jolt. Balermo scratched his head apologetically, "Sorry, I'm not an excellent pilot."

Chen Gu went to open the hatch, but the rough landing had deformed the hull, preventing it from opening normally. Balermo went over, pushed with his hand, and the heavy alloy hatch flew out with a WHOOSH...

The team members, wearing their individual mecha, filed out of the craft one by one.

The entire planet was a vast expanse of lush greenery—if one didn't know the situation, they might think this planet was teeming with life and had an excellent natural environment.

Chen Gu raised the weapons on his mecha, "Everyone, be careful!"

They had landed near a hillside—from a distance, they could even see the red SOS rescue signal.

Thanks to Balermo's exceptional piloting skills, they were over ten kilometers off their predetermined landing site...

The team geared up and set off, but after only a few hundred meters, Chen Gu suddenly stopped, "Wait a moment!"

Balermo, who was at the forefront, wore a heavy mecha enhanced with various large-caliber, powerful weapons. He turned around and asked, "What's wrong?"

Chen Gu looked around and felt an eerie silence across the planet; not even the sound of the wind could be heard.

He lowered his head, "Do you feel it... the abundant life beneath the ground?"

"Hmm?" The team was baffled, but Charles understood. "Is there something under our feet?"

Before anyone could respond, around the deformed small landing craft they had left behind, suddenly, WHOOSH, WHOOSH, WHOOSH, huge green roots burst from the ground like a giant octopus on a surprise hunt. With a slam, they enveloped the landing craft. Then, with a fierce yank, they squashed the sixty-meter-long craft like a tin can and dragged it underground with those immense roots!

The ground began to tremble, quickly intensifying. The elite team, not requiring any reminders, activated their mecha's rocket engines, blasting flames from beneath their feet and their backs as they took to the sky.

The earth roiled like ocean waves, and with a thunderous boom, countless gigantic roots burst through the ground, shooting towards them in a dense, skin-crawling mass.

However, this attack missed its mark as Chen Gu and his team were already hundreds of meters in the air.

Balermo's frame shook as two large-caliber burst energy cannons flipped over his shoulders from behind, and he began firing down at the ground, BOOM, BOOM, BOOM!

Under the terrifying energy onslaught, the roots broke apart and shattered, their fierce momentum momentarily halted.

Chen Gu said, "No need to waste ammunition here..."

Before he could finish his sentence, from the distant sky, a horde of bizarre plant-animal hybrid creatures came charging. These creatures were entirely green, with bodies like caterpillars and six slender insectoid legs underneath. Charles, the chatterbox, laughed, "They can't reach us if they're on the ground."

Before he could finish, those creatures struggled to extend a pair of huge, translucent wings from their worm-like bodies, then began flapping hard to take flight!

They resembled a combination of butterflies and plants, except that their terrifying mouthparts and the sharp, serrated edges of their wings made it clear they were neither friendly nor beautiful like butterflies.

Charles, staring dumbfounded at the swarm of approaching monsters, watched as Chen Gu turned and fled, cursing, "You jinx! Shut your mouth from now on!"

BUZZING...

The butterfly-like monsters swarmed in, covering the sky. Meanwhile, the roots on the ground, furious at having their prey stolen, thrashed in anger. Yet they were powerless against the battle raging high above.

Chapter 680: Familiar Tactics (Part 1)

FLAP, FLAP, FLAP...

Swarms of butterfly monsters flapped their wings, their menacing mouthparts aimed at the crowd. Usually, butterflies aren't known for their speed, but these creatures were even faster than hawks!

A butterfly monster rushed forward, opening its tripartite mouthparts to reveal a barbed proboscis akin to a biological projectile mechanism!

Joseph made a motion as if drawing a bow. With a light release of his fingers, WHOOSH!

An ice arrow materialized out of nowhere, striking the butterfly monster. Before it could launch its proboscis, the entire creature was encased in a massive ice sculpture and fell straight down, smashing to pieces upon impact.

These monsters were terrifying for ordinary people, but for Professionals, a single one didn't pose much of a threat—perhaps because these were merely ordinary evolved forms, not the most powerful among them.

Joseph, thinking he had smoothly dispatched a butterfly monster, had barely begun to bask in self-satisfaction when a large swarm of over thirty butterfly monsters charged toward him like a massive dark cloud!

Startled, Joseph stopped his fancy moves and, coaxing forth his power, created a simple, no-frills ice wall that blocked the oncoming swarm. He then rapidly spread the freezing power, causing the wings of the closely clustered butterfly monsters to freeze together. As expected, they fell into chaos, struggling and falling together.

Joseph breathed a sigh of relief. Lately, he had become fascinated with certain mystical cultures, often imagining himself as a "magic and martial arts dual-cultivator" from legendary tales.

A template for a protagonist.

With a decent salary from the Bureau of Mystic Security, Joseph had secretly ordered a suit that combined warrior's armor with a magic robe. When home alone, he would put it on for fun, engaging in a bit of 'role-playing.'

He had also ordered an ornate "Magic Wand" that hadn't been delivered yet. Recently, he had taken to performing his skills with a focus on flashiness, favoring techniques like drawing bows, conjuring walls from thin air, and generating chilling light—all in an effort to cultivate a 'cool poser' image.

However, in the heat of dangerous battle, he quickly realized that being 'plain and simple' was the true path to survival. Fortunately, Great Actor Chen hadn't seen the "Magic Wand" he'd specifically ordered; otherwise, Chen Gu would have been utterly shocked: A wand from the "Barbie Fairytopia" series?

The butterfly monsters filling the sky seemed to possess a primal instinct, as most of them pounced towards the strongest individuals: Modric, Balermo, and Chen Gu.

Chen Gu intended to practice his newly learned "Taboo Nuclear Combat Technique," so he simply donned the "Heavy Nuclear Armor" and wielded the "Father-Son Sword." As he swung the sword, great arcs of crimson light flew out, slicing through groups of the butterfly monsters. Green blood sprayed as they fell.

Chen Gu stood his ground. The crimson sword light, initially with a twenty-meter radius, expanded as he grew more proficient with the "Taboo Nuclear Combat Technique." It gradually reached thirty, forty, fifty, then sixty meters, finally stabilizing at a radius of one hundred meters.

From a distance, Chen Gu was enveloped in streaks of enormous, sword-shaped crimson light, resembling a colossal, razor-sharp flower of light.

The butterfly monsters, fearless of death, charged recklessly one after another. Once they entered this range, they would often abruptly disintegrate, their remains showering down like rain.

Chen Gu gradually gained a concrete understanding of his newly cultivated combat skills. Without using "Four Hundred People's Past," relying solely on his Fifth Energy Level as a "Radiation Missionary" to perform a normal attack with "Nuclear Annihilation Sword," the limit of his sword aura was a one-hundred-meter radius.

If he switched to Ba Wuqi's memories, he could exert Sixth Energy Level combat power, and if he performed "Nuclear Incineration Sword," the range of his sword aura would increase to two hundred meters!

Balermo, standing beside him, didn't use his Class transformation. Relying solely on his heavy Mecha and immense personal strength, he easily tore each butterfly monster to shreds.

Modric's attacks, however, were quite a spectacle. He controlled six double-headed short swords that danced around him—likely all items, though it was unclear if they reached the level of Numbered Items.

The six short swords darted and weaved, executing various 'teleporting strikes' and effortlessly dispatching each butterfly monster in their path.

The wounds on these butterfly monsters were small, yet all were in lethal spots, demonstrating the terrifying precision of a Seventh Energy Level "Quantum Wizard."

「Over ten minutes later」

The last butterfly monster lay dead on the ground, and the group reconvened. Balermo looked towards the hillside. "Shall we head into the mountains?"

Chen Gu, however, gently shook his head. "Once we enter the mountains, we'll encounter that strange, dense fog, just like the previous teams."

"Captain Chen, do you have any ideas?" Modric asked.

Chen Gu smiled. "I don't think we need to rush to explore the abandoned military fortress. Why don't we visit those spores first?"

"But those spores are also in the mountainous area; we'd still have to go into the mountains."

Chen Gu chuckled. "Within a three-thousand-meter radius on the ground, all electronic devices fail. We can fly above three thousand meters and approach from high altitude!"

Balermo's eyes lit up, and he laughed heartily. "How did I not think of that? You've got a sharp mind, lad!"

The group ascended, reaching roughly thirty-two hundred meters to test their equipment, which was still affected. They continued to climb until they reached thirty-five hundred meters, at which point the mysterious interference finally ceased completely.

"Let's go!" Chen Gu shouted. Guided by the military satellites overhead, they flew towards the spores.

Chen Gu, in fact, had gained some new insights into the infection and evolutionary mechanisms of the moss virus.

He had personally experienced the first appearance of the moss virus. However, because the Bureau of Mystic Security had acted swiftly and appropriately, the virus was eradicated in the early stages of its outbreak, leaving no chance for subsequent evolution.

The Confederation's losses were limited to the deaths and injuries of several thousand civilians.

In the Star State, however, their failure to control it led to a major viral outbreak, thus allowing for the possibility of selection and evolution. Through the virus's 'selection' process, 'unqualified' individuals died directly, while 'qualified' ones transformed into these hybrid plant-animal monsters and evolved rapidly.

Is this the 'Purification' method of the Digital Group for the entire Star Sea? Chen Gu pondered. What significance does it have for their ultimate goal?

Then Chen Gu soon realized he was also unable to precisely define the ultimate goal of the Digital Group's so-called 'Purification.'

He shook his head. The Mecha was flying fast, and they could already see the spores on the massive stalk ahead.

"The range of interference has expanded!" Charles suddenly exclaimed.

The group immediately continued to ascend, climbing beyond five thousand meters before the interference slowly dissipated. Chen Gu frowned and asked Balermo, "Senior, can your high-powered weapons attack those spores from this range?"

The Mecha contained many electronic devices, but when subject to interference, they could be switched to a primitive 'manual mode.' Therefore, operating the Mecha under interference wasn't an issue.

However, some high-powered weapons, like man-portable missiles, couldn't be used; only simple energy cannons remained operational.

Balermo responded helplessly, "The distance is too great; the energy cannon's attenuation is severe. Even if we hit that thing, it's unlikely to cause significant damage."

"If we use man-portable missiles, once launched, they'd enter the interference zone and become like headless chickens, unable to acquire their targets."

Attacking would require getting closer, but that meant potentially being enveloped in that bizarre, thick fog. Chen Gu thought for a moment. "Senior, please try using the energy cannons first."

"Alright," Balermo immediately agreed. The two large-caliber energy cannons on his back flipped up again, perching on his shoulders.

He quickly aimed, locked on, and then pressed the launch button.

ZIZZ—

Two thick beams from the energy cannons shot out. While five thousand meters was a trivial distance for a warship's energy cannon, it caused severe attenuation for those on individual Mechas.

This was because weapons on individual Mechas were designed for close-quarters combat, not for engaging targets at extreme ranges. Furthermore, Balermo's blast cannons had been specially modified with larger calibers, making their energy cohesion even weaker at long distances.

By the time the beams reached the vicinity of the spores, their power had dwindled to about 60% of its original strength.

The stalk of the spores seemed to sense something. Its tendril-like roots suddenly shot up from the ground, swiftly weaving a large net around the spores.

The energy beams struck this net, shattering it, but their power was completely exhausted, leaving the spores unharmed.

Swearing under his breath, Balermo tried again, but the stalk's tendril-like roots seemed endless, always intercepting the now-weakened energy beams.

Balermo was now completely stumped. He wasn't skilled in tactics to begin with, much preferring to transform into a giant beast and brutally smash everything with his fists.

He looked pleadingly at Modric and Chen Gu. Modric stroked his chin, also somewhat at a loss. He considered a few options, but none seemed particularly reliable.

Boluo, who usually kept a low profile in the team, suddenly noticed Chen Gu looking at him. He shuddered subconsciously. "Captain..."

Chen Gu smiled faintly. "Boluo, do you remember that well-coordinated tactic from when we first met?"

"Ah?" Boluo was stunned, instinctively shrinking back. Dora, at his side, understood and chuckled mischievously.

The rest were puzzled.

Chen Gu continued, "Back then, we barely knew each other, yet we coordinated seamlessly. It was truly fate."

"I just wonder if you and Senior Modric share such a fateful connection."

"No!" Boluo immediately denied. "Definitely not!"

"Don't be nervous," Chen Gu said, waving his hand. "I didn't say we *\*have\** to use that tactic. I have other methods. If those don't work... well, then we'll have to test that fateful connection between you and Senior Modric."

"There must be other ways," Boluo said, his face crestfallen, while Balermo and Modric looked on, completely baffled.

Chen Gu gestured to the two Seventh Energy Level individuals. "Senior Balermo, please give all your high-powered man-portable missiles to Senior Modric."

"Senior Modric, you're Seventh Energy Level. Quantum Teleportation over five thousand meters shouldn't be an issue for you, right?"

Modric nodded, beginning to understand. "Are you suggesting I use Quantum Teleportation to send these missiles directly onto the spores and detonate them?"

Chen Gu nodded. "Senior Balermo, please provide cover with your blast cannons to exhaust those roots. Senior Modric, you will use Quantum Teleportation to send the missiles past the protective net of roots, detonating them directly on the spores."

Balermo's eyes lit up. "That's a good plan!"

Chen Gu then looked at Boluo. "If this plan doesn't work, we'll have to ask Senior Modric to teleport our "Alchemist" over there."

Boluo trembled, praying fervently. It has to succeed!