Governor 1011

Chapter 1011: Coexistence with the Eternal

Using the [Hero] interface for talent enlightenment, [Building] interface for functional building exchanges, and [Training] interface for troop training, these three methods, Gu Hang spends a lot of thought every month to convert tens of billions of gift points earned through war and the fixed monthly income from territories into actual political, economic, and military strength for the Alliance.

Stationed at the Storm God Kingdom, maintaining the Thunder Torch Tower, and using it to suppress the entirety of the Alliance and the New Empire, enabling normal space navigation and interstellar communications, and reducing the impact of Chaos corruption;

As the Imperial Prime Minister of the New Empire, leader of the Alliance, handling major directional and strategic governmental decisions;

Planning the expenditure of Gift Points in the system interface;

These are the three types of daily work for Gu Hang.

It's truly routine, so routine that no aspect of the work can be put aside, and it already occupies the majority of his time.

His free activity and self-managed time are becoming shorter and shorter, almost non-existent now.

Regarding this situation, Gu Hang certainly won't be pleased or enjoy it. Although he has a bit of a workaholic nature, he's not at the point where he's ecstatic working all the time.

But it's not too painful either.

On one hand, he's used to it, already numb to it, inertia drives him to keep doing it; he can endure it.

On the other hand, it's also a matter of comparison.

Although he's also like being in a prison, the level of prison he's in is clearly not as severe as The Emperor's.

At least, Gu Hang can move freely in the real universe, as long as he's willing to pay the price. Whereas The Emperor cannot return to the mortal world.

Even if the price-paying actions are not mentioned, Gu Hang is relatively free on Rage Owl Star. The veil of reality here is thin, and it's the origin of the Storm God Kingdom. As long as he's on Rage Owl Star, it's not much different from staying in the Storm God Kingdom.

Across a whole world, he can at least live some aspects of mortal life. His wife Yelisia, at present, has basically stepped down from all frontline combat command work. She remains a key member of the military committee of the Dark Side Expedition but primarily focuses on administrative tasks.

Though she's quite busy, it's much better than Gu Hang.

At least, the two can still enjoy married life, unlike earlier years when separation lasted a long time.

Although Gu Hang's leisure time is scarce, even a little bit can significantly improve his state.

Life goes on like this, watching as the Empire's territory is gradually regained under the Dark Side Expedition and Unyielding Expedition; within the entirety of the universe, the Empire's citizens are not entirely free from danger, but at least, compared to the Catastrophe Era, and even compared to the Old Empire era, their lives are generally better; across the human race, they have weathered a major crisis and have an opportunity for future brilliance...

These things are already within reach.

Perhaps there's still a considerable journey ahead, and quite some time to walk, but the path is now clear of obstacles, and Gu Hang has a sufficiently long life to witness that moment's arrival.

By then, he can unquestionably say that he hasn't failed the mission of coming to this universe.

Of course, if we are to speak of obstacles, they aren't entirely absent.

The greatest danger still comes from the four Evil Gods and Subspace itself.

Subspace brought Spiritual Energy, brought faster-than-light travel, brought communication capabilities that can instantly reach across Star Domains and the Cosmos Domain. The technology based on utilizing Subspace is the core that supports a Cosmic Empire.

However, changeable, turbulent Subspace, known as the Sea of Souls, is constantly changing, surging; the risks it brings are objective, are 'natural disasters,' which humanity currently cannot fully avoid by any means.

And those four Evil Gods born from Subspace... unfortunately, the stronger Gu Hang becomes, the more he realizes that those four Gods are eternally unyielding.

Those four Evil Gods represent certain aspects of the will of every living being, every soul in this universe. Unless the entire universe is annihilated and Subspace, the Sea of Souls, collapses, the four Gods remain immortal.

But eternal immortality does not mean undefeatable.

On the contrary, the Alliance has already defeated them many times in the past.

And not just the Alliance; throughout the Empire's ten-thousand-year history, they've also triumphed many times.

Though due to the eternal immortal nature of the four Gods, they can return again after losing countless times, whereas a single loss for the Human Empire signifies a trauma. If it's a major loss—such as losing the prior Terra battle—it could lead to complete defeat.

But at least up to now, humanity has persisted.

Gu Hang believes humanity will continue to persist in the future.

Moreover, will Subspace always remain this dangerous?

Not necessarily.

Gu Hang thinks the surge of Subspace indeed has its cycles, only this cycle is very long. According to many historical records, at least ten thousand years ago, when the Empire was first established, Subspace was not as dangerous as it is today.

The Empire civil war erupted, was a major upheaval; but after the civil war, the surges of Subspace have become more ferocious and dangerous.

After a thousand years of intensified surges in Subspace, the peak event was the fall of Cartier and the emergence of Scarlet Scar.

Based on the history of the Spirit Race, before even the Human Empire was established, during the fall of the Spirit Race Empire, that marked the strengthening cycle of Subspace, the signature event being the birth of Slaanesh.

But further back, when the Spirit Race Empire was thriving, including humanity's so-called 'Golden Age,' Subspace was far from being as dangerous as it is now.

Gu Hang can perceive that as Scarlet Scar gradually heals, this cycle of Subspace turbulence should slowly fade.

Perhaps Subspace will never return to its former tranquility; countless years later, another disaster perhaps equal to Scarlet Scar or even more intense may occur...

But the Empire has already endured two cycles, and Gu Hang will lead humanity to respond to future crises, one after another.

Humanity is learning, and in the future will continue to learn, how to coexist with dangerous Subspace and relentless four Gods.

...

Just as Gu Hang was contemplating the future of the entire race, a piece of information arrived at his desk with top priority.

It was news from the Dark Side Expedition - Angel Expedition Army.

They possibly found traces of a Son of God.

Gu Hang immediately closely followed this matter and demanded to be updated with the latest news at all times.

Chapter 1012: Lionheart King

Now, every day, there are many matters coming to Gu Hang's desk.

But for these specific affairs, Gu Hang mostly just looks over them. Even if they are particularly important, he mostly pays attention and rarely gives handling opinions.

Unless the matter has already been handled, but the way it was handled and the result are very unsatisfactory to him, contradicting the grand strategy he set out. Then he will intervene, giving instructions and opinions.

Often by the time it reaches this point, drastic measures have to be taken. It's not just because the matter is important to Prime Minister Gu Hang, but also to correct mistakes in the strategic direction, mandating significant efforts, even if it means overcorrecting.

However, the current issue does not fall into this category.

The appearance of a new Son of God is significant enough by itself.

The situation was discovered by the Blood Angels Battle Group Leader, the supreme commander of the Angel Expeditionary Army - Dante's forces.

After his discovery, he immediately rushed to make contact and reported the information to 'Alliance War Marshal', the commander of the Dark Side Expedition, Matins.

Afterward, the report was delivered to Gu Hang's desk.

Under his close attention, there were reports almost whenever there was progress.

Through these reports, he generally understood the full scope of the situation.

The entire situation originated from the Dawn Cosmos, which the Angel Expeditionary Army is currently focused on attacking and reclaiming. They had encountered some difficulties in their offensive there.

More than a hundred years since the Great Cataclysm, the state of many places has deteriorated to a certain degree, with enemies even having established their Chaos Realms.

These are often a warband or a cult that has grown exceptionally strong, spanning dozens, even hundreds of worlds. Under their evil rule, humans are subjected to harsh treatment, not only being oppressed and forced to provide various resources and services but also being used as sacrificial consumables by the Chaos Combat Groups and cultists.

Under such oppression, their construction achievements, once blood-sacrificed, all strengthen these Chaos forces, enabling them to corrupt more cultists and soldiers locally, and even further open Subspace channels to summon more Demon Armies, funding and recruiting more Chaos Traitor forces.

To eradicate such a Chaos Realm is immensely difficult.

It can only be said that after the New Empire occupied roughly half of the old Empire's territory, the remaining half had already entered the 'deep water area' of the expedition.

The difficulty has increased; situations like those where the fleet arrives and causes local regime changes are becoming less frequent.

As the isolation lengthens, local places' sense of belonging to the Empire weakens; roots established by Chaos or Rebel forces deepen; Aliens become more rampant...

These various situations together have led to the current scenario.

However, these are also within expectations.

For the New Empire, it's just that the road has become somewhat more difficult. The ultimate goal remains before them; it's merely a matter of moving forward steadfastly.

Recently, a major problem encountered by the Angel Expeditionary Army is a warband named Blood Eye.

The area they control spans over a hundred worlds, with a sizeable fleet and deeply entrenched corruption across various worlds. Human rebels and Demon Armies mix within, led by about more than one thousand five hundred Chaos Starfield Warriors, with a Calamity Fleet operating nearby.

One of the Angel Expeditionary Army's detached fleets suffered significant loss there, failing to capture it after half a year and instead suffering heavy losses. They were counter-attacked, had to retreat, regroup the troops, and requested Dante for aid, hoping multiple detached fleets could be dispatched.

Yet, at this juncture, the previously aggressive Chaos adversary suddenly slowed their assault.

Even many troops have retreated.

The puzzled human forces continued to call for support while dispatching reconnaissance ships deep into the Blood Eye warband's controlled area to partially understand the reasons:

An uprising occurred within the Blood Eye warband's controlled zone!

Initially, the expeditionary fleet found it unbelievable.

Uprisings are quite common, after all, who willingly wishes to live under Chaos forces? Living in constant uncertainty, facing death at any moment, subjected to arbitrary slaughter and abuse.

Ultimately, if it's death either way, why not revolt?

However, saying is easier than doing; carrying it out is extremely challenging.

For an ordinary civilian class, achieving a successful uprising in this era is impossible.

Not to mention that acquiring firearms and artillery is unattainable, and even if obtained, what difference does it make?

A bunch of poorly trained mortal soldiers, wielding light weapons, is unlikely to confront the Chaos adversaries.

Only in some worlds where remnants of the original Planetary Defense Force still exist can they form a rough basis for organizing a Rebel Army, engaging in guerrilla warfare against Chaos forces in the wilderness, jungles, and mountains.

However, guerrilla warfare is actually very difficult.

The enemy has the 'low human rights' advantage.

Unlike the Alliance when dealing with Rebel Armies, they hold no qualms.

When the Alliance handles rebels hidden at the bottom of the Nest Capital, sheltered by residents, they are somewhat constrained. The Alliance is unwilling to resort to slaughter during insurgency suppression, even in alien strongholds like Comoros, they haven't done so on a large scale.

Chapter 1012: Lionheart King_2

After all, the ultimate goal of the Alliance fighting a war is to control the area and then develop it. If the land is ruined and everyone is killed, what is the point of occupying and developing it?

However, those Chaos forces clearly do not care about these things.

They speak of massacre and they massacre, and if there is even a suspicion of resistance forces remaining in a certain area, they strike with heavy hands, even resorting to annihilating orbital bombardment if necessary.

It is genuinely difficult to start an uprising under the Chaos forces.

And it is precisely because of this that the Alliance Expeditionary Force was astonished—what kind of uprising force could actually force the main force of the Blood Eye War Gang to retreat?

But in any case, this is good news.

The Expeditionary Force finally got a breather.

They seized the time to rest, maintain their equipment, reorganize their troops, to rally themselves, and also to wait for reinforcements to arrive.

And in this process, they did not give up taking action.

The uprising forces in the depths of the Blood Eye War Gang's control area, since they had made such a big impact, must be fully supported. At least they couldn't stand by and watch them be wiped out.

The Expeditionary Force organized a fleet, risking death to break through.

It consisted of some small but fast assault ships, whose main task was to further investigate intelligence and, by the way, deliver a wave of support to that insurgent force.

Some small but elite armaments, like Feedback-Type Power Armor, Plasma Gun, Blast Bomb Gun...

And there were some reinforcements, a squad of twenty Interstellar Warriors, plus a thousand elite Army Special Forces, forming the backbone.

For a pre-dispatched fleet that had already suffered defeats in previous wars, providing such support was the best they could do.

Actually, their analysis was not wrong.

Under limited conditions, when only a dozen small spacecraft could break through and carry no particularly large or substantial supplies, it is definitely a good choice to carry some small arms as much as possible and deploy elite troops whenever possible.

But in fact... it's not wrong either, just unexpected: the uprising forces appreciated their assistance, but in reality, the Alliance commanders found that they actually didn't really need this bit of support.

After spending great efforts, taking great risks, and breaking through the Chaos enemy's outer lines, the Alliance people found that in the heart of the Blood Eye War Gang, dozens of planets had raised the banner of rebellion, connected in a lively and vibrant manner!

The main force of the Blood Eye War Gang had returned, the insurgent fleet was very courageous, and their tactics were extremely outstanding, although due to differences in quantity and quality, they were two or three levels different from the enemy, they did not engage in reckless battles, maneuvering between multiple planets, using planetary defense systems to deal with the enemy.

Certainly, it's hard to say they had the upper hand in the battles, but at least they managed to hold their ground.

That’s really rare indeed!

Originally thought, for this insurgent force to survive, to cause trouble in the heart of the Blood Eye War Gang and force them back was already the greatest achievement. Yet, in fact, they straight up took fifteen percent of the planets in the heart of the Blood Eye War Gang and established an organization, owning a fleet.

Weapons and equipment?

They have them.

Some are from the counterattack on military factories occupied by the Chaos and produced by restarted production lines; some were seized from the enemy’s armory.

Their ships were also seized from Chaos vessels left behind on the spot and purified for their own use.

The stuff brought by the Alliance assault force can only be said to be useful, after all, something is better than nothing; but to say it’ll make a significant impact, that’s out of the question. With this scale of combat, most fights are in a state of direct engagement, the Alliance task force’s weapons and equipment originally prepared for guerrilla and special operations did indeed have little use.

The only thing that really was of some use was those over one thousand Alliance warriors.

After all, from the Alliance Army’s four special operations battalions, twelve hundred special soldiers, each wearing Feedback-Type Power Armor, and all at least T3 grade soldiers; the twenty Interstellar Warriors, from a Blood Angel Subgroup called ’Hundred Wings,’ were all veterans.

The flag officer of Hundred Wings, serving as the general commander, after assisting in repelling a Chaos counterattack, met with the leaders of the uprising forces.

That was truly a Son of God!!!

They had actually heard about this earlier.

When the assault craft entered the vicinity of the uprising forces' control area, they had captured some broadcast messages from the uprising forces through star-language communication, hearing about the Son of God, the 'Lionheart King,' Leon Charlie.

These uprising forces claimed they were led by the Lionheart King... how was that possible?

The Alliance officers thought this way.

A Son of God, they were beings who lived ten thousand years ago, at the time of the Empire's founding, almost mythological figures.

Indeed, there was the resurrection of Robert, but that was a special case. Technically speaking, Robert never really died; he was placed into an unchanging Static Field after being severely wounded. With the means to save him available, he was taken out of the Static Field, and hence came back to life, right?

It can hardly even be called a resurrection.

But Leon?

He was different.

As the Gene-father of the first legion and the Death Angel Battle Group back then, the Lionheart King was reported missing during the Empire's internal war, in a highly classified battle that eventually led to the complete destruction and fragmentation of the Death Angel Battle Group's homeworld.

Chapter 1012: Lionheart King (Part 3)

Although there is no explicit report of death, being missing for 10,000 years... is not much different from being dead, right?

Anyway, it shouldn't just be casually announced and then it's real.

Rather than believe that the real Lionheart King has appeared, the people of the Alliance would actually prefer to think that it's some ambitious person in disguise; or perhaps some Chaos Traitors using the power of witchcraft to play tricks?

This speculation once made them afraid to land on the ground and fight alongside the uprising forces, fearing they would step into a trap and never return.

However, after carefully distinguishing the uprising forces battling the Blood Eye War Gang, it really didn't seem like an act; in addition, the state of these uprising forces truly showed no signs of Chaos corruption, so they decided to take the risk and try.

They landed, participated in the battle, assisted the uprising forces in repelling the attack, and in the name of the Alliance, the New Empire, and based on their displayed combat strength, they smoothly proposed a request to meet the so-called 'Lionheart King'.

Everything went smoothly.

They met the leader of the uprising forces.

Just at the first glance, the flag officer of Hundred Wings confirmed this was indeed a Son of God.

Although appearing somewhat aged, his majestic stature, his armor in black and dark green alternating, and the lion's head decoration on his shoulder... all were identical to the murals and statues of the Son of God the flag officer had studied and seen.

Appearance alone is certainly not enough to make a judgment, the main point is, the flag officer of Hundred Wings had seen 'Regent King' Robert.

Although Martins is not a Son of God, the flag officer believed, the aura and presence emitted by this man in front of him were very similar to that of the Regent King!

Is this the scent of divinity?

That’s the only conclusion he could come to.

Simultaneously, he felt a bit apprehensive.

In legend, the ’Lionheart King’ is a commander with great talent and vision, but also a harsh and merciless leader. He always achieved victory but never showed any compassion for his subordinates.

Would such a commander be difficult to get along with?

What attitude would he have towards the Alliance, towards the New Empire?

However, after the actual meeting and conversation, he was surprised to discover that Leon could not be described as gentle but could at least be called amicable. Though his words were indisputable and his orders were delivered decisively, he was not entirely closed to suggestions.

Isn’t this quite good?

Leon also valued their arrival.

On one hand, it was their inherent power; on the other hand, it was the reinforcements behind them.

He also readily agreed to the Alliance’s request to spread the news of his appearance.

Or rather, he never intended to hide. Once he understood the era he was in, he realized that his identity as a Son of God carried enormous potential for boosting morale upon his return.

If all of this benefits the Empire and humanity, and can be weaponized reputationally, then he does not mind employing his own prestige.

As for the so-called Alliance, New Empire... he doesn't know who Gu Hang is, nor does he know what Robert is doing.

He will figure it out later, but for now, he must first complete what is in front of him. He is not like Robert, a person constantly filled with ideas; he focuses on one thing at a time, achieving it to the utmost.

Chapter 1013: Meeting (Part 1)

The Blood Eye War Gang was destroyed with overwhelming force.

It was expected.

The Blood Eye War Gang was quite strong, able to gain advantages in battles against one contingent fleet from the Angel Expedition Army, even able to launch counterattacks, which was quite impressive.

Stronger than most enemies encountered during the Dark Side Expedition by humanity.

However, no matter how formidable, there's always a limit.

They might defeat one contingent fleet, but can they handle two?

If necessary, if they were truly tough, the Alliance could send a third or fourth contingent fleet.

Moreover, upon hearing news of the Son of God, the Alliance's higher-ups gave this issue considerable attention. Under orders, Dante personally led the main forces of the Angel Expedition Army here.

With this troop configuration, the Blood Eye War Gang couldn't even handle their internal rebel army; how could they withstand a two-front assault?

Their main forces perished in one battle. Except for a few fleeing stragglers who couldn't present a threat, the remaining forces consisted only of the cultists stranded on various planets.

The war wasn't entirely over, but the remaining tasks were more about law enforcement.

Having reached this stage of the Dark Side Expedition, there's a mature set of methods for the cleanup and reconstruction tasks.

The first step is to assess the planet's importance and value. High-value worlds are tackled directly with significant efforts, where ground forces conduct thorough suppression and cleaning. Costs and time are not significant concerns at this point; it's all about the action.

Such worlds either possess abundant resources, superb agricultural conditions, rich mineral deposits, or precious resources, like fine gold or mithril for extraction and refinement. They might have excellent energy attributes, a large population, or strong industrial capacity...

Essentially, these are the criteria.

Or they could hold strategic value, located at critical transportation hubs in the star chart, blocking numerous interstellar routes if not occupied.

Or they could have significant political meaning; their fall could greatly affect the morale of the entire region, such as having great historical value, or being the capital of a Star Domain or even the Cosmos Domain...

Generally speaking, such high-value worlds are relatively few.

The remaining worlds are then subjected to safety zone strategy assessments; if there's a big problem but they're not important, they'll be categorized under safe zones, with planetary autonomy and Alliance support based on assessment levels. As their issues gradually resolve over time, or if the problems were minimal initially, they'll undergo Alliance governance transformation, under direct Alliance Government control.

Establishing regime, investing, developing economy, providing taxes and profits, building local defense forces...

That's what it's all about.

However, here, they encountered some issues.

With a Son of God present, things become quite complicated.

Without the Lionheart King, the Alliance has a mature approach for handling rebel armies.

Typically, they acknowledge the contributions of rebel, resistance, and defiance armies for their bloodshed and sacrifice in protecting planets and human worlds, praising their achievements, and actively integrating these loyal human forces into the Alliance's governmental system. They respect local contributions considerably, ensuring newly formed regimes include their seats without being too sparse.

But, overall, it still must conform to the Alliance's system; exceptionally high autonomy like the 'local emperor-style' Planetary Governor mechanism of the old Empire is unimaginable.

If these local forces demonstrate dissent after being rescued or have ulterior motives, it's definitely not permitted. First negotiate, then warn; if unsuccessful, issue a final ultimatum.

At that point, they'll be labeled as rebels, defined as enemies of humanity, and struck against. Their treatment is akin to dealing with Chaos, alien enemies, and heretics. The only difference is that the Alliance accepts their surrender, but not the surrender of Chaos and aliens.

But the Son of God... is still too unique.

Currently, within the New Empire's jurisdiction, there's only one area not aligned with the Alliance's system, which is the special district of the Infinite Corps' stronghold, the Infinite Starfield.

Allowing high autonomy for the Infinite Starfield, designated as a 'political special district' in the Empire's constitution, is due to the Infinite Starfield's exceptional governance, comparable to the Alliance's core regions, alongside the crucial factor of Robert's special status as the Son of God.

Otherwise, the reputation of the fledgling Infinite Corps alone wouldn't qualify a Star Domain for autonomy.

Other founding corps like the Saints, the Phoenix, Bat, Golden Knights, and others currently returned under Empire command, only possess autonomy over their birthplace.

That's clearly stipulated in the Star Warrior Codex, and the Alliance has not challenged it.

It's not limited to founding corps; some older corps also follow this rule.

All newly established corps don't have a 'birthplace' concept now.

All Interstellar Warrior training comes from the New Blood Cultivation Center under the Interstellar Warrior Management, their 'birthplace' being the entire Alliance and New Empire.

The Infinite Starfield, leveraging the Son of God and its own excellent governance skills, earned its special district status. But how should the Lionheart King be addressed here?

Dante attempted to request the Lionheart King to order his rebel army to relinquish management and governance, allowing the Alliance Government to establish a new regime.

But Leon rejected this.

Not entirely refusing, but in his words, he's unfamiliar with the Alliance and hasn't heard of the New Empire. Since awakening, when he inexplicably arrived in the area corrupted by the Blood Eye War Gang, leading the people of more than ten planets to resist Chaos rule until now, it's impossible for him to surrender the results.

Faced with this situation, Gu Hang intervened directly.

After a brief discussion with Robert, through Dante, he extended an invitation to the Lionheart King.

Does Leon want to know what the Alliance is, what the New Empire is?

Then let's invite him to Holy Terra.

The Imperial Prime Minister, the Regent King of the Empire, waits in the Empire's capital for this meeting.

The Veil Spirit Gate can fully support such a small-scale meeting.

Even if Leon wants to bring his guards, that's permissible.

His guards, wearing black armor with red borders, donning ancient battle armor, identified as belonging to the Death Angel, but their paintwork, identity, and everything else differ completely from the current Death Angel Battle Group's Interstellar Warriors.

Chapter 1014: Meeting (Part 2)

Sitting in the floating car arranged by the Empire Government, Leon gazed down at the Holy Terra Palace.

This place felt both familiar and strange to Leon.

Familiar, of course, because the overall structure, general layout, and style of the Terra Palace haven't changed much over ten thousand years. He had been here many times before and could recognize many places.

This made him rather sentimental, yet somewhat puzzled: Hasn't ten thousand years passed? How has the palace scarcely changed?

It’s hard to say whether it’s because under the Emperor’s personal supervision back then, the palace was constructed excellently, or if humanity truly has made little progress over the ten thousand years...

Perhaps it’s a bit of both.

As for the so-called unfamiliarity, it lies in some of the few changes in the palace that are particularly conspicuous.

For example, the flags; besides the Empire’s double-headed eagle flag, there is also a blue shield and sword flag.

Is that supposed to be the flag of the Alliance?

How could it even be planted in the palace?

There are even more government officials bustling about in the palace than during the previous Empire era.

Take a look at the guards on duty. The mainstay, the most common, is certainly still the gold-armored, red-plumed Imperial Guard. However, outside the government agency’s gate, there are some blue-helmeted, silver-armored warriors doing sentinel work.

At first, Leon thought they were some Starfighter Battle Group that had received special approval.

Though that also didn’t quite add up, because when the Golden Knight Legion was newly established and stationed long-term on Holy Terra, they were not allowed by the Forbidden Army into the palace as guards, so how could an unfamiliar battle group?

Leon still remembers how arrogant those self-proclaimed personal guards of the Emperor were.

Could it be that their temper has improved now?

However, when he got closer and saw the specific appearance of those blue-helmeted, silver-armored warriors on guard, he dismissed his previous guess and was even more shocked.

Aren't these the Forbidden Army?

Did they think I wouldn't recognize them just because they changed their paint?

But changing the paint job clearly presents a bigger issue, doesn't it? Aren't they following traditions? Can the ancestral methods even change?

All these points made him feel too unfamiliar.

Yet he held back all his words, pressing them in his heart.

Only because earlier on, he had already been astonished.

After accepting the invitation to meet from Gu Hang and Robert, he initially thought it would take him a long time to see his old brother and the current highest leader of the Empire Government.

After all, he knew he was in a remote part of the Southern Border of the Imperial, and no matter what kind of voyage he took, it would take at least over a year to reach Holy Terra.

That would be with favorable winds all the way.

However, Dante said, is interstellar travel really such an inconvenient thing?

He claimed that the new Empire now possesses a more convenient, faster way of interstellar travel.

Although transmitting an army and the resources needed for it is costly, requiring the construction of a massive Veil Spirit Gate and consuming enormous amounts of energy during transmission, this special method is not easily employed unless absolutely necessary.

But if transporting a person, small groups of troops, or a small fleet normally, it's extremely fast and convenient.

To be honest, if it weren't for Dante's proper appearance as a Battle Group Leader of the Blood Angel Corps with a glorious history, Leon would never have believed it, merely regarding it as a clumsy trap.

Even so, he remained highly vigilant.

He brought some of his guards, a group of Interstellar Warriors, and publicly stated these were so-called 'Pardon Angels,' part of the Death Angel Battle Group. He also brought some elite mortal soldiers known as the 'Lion Guard.'

A party of several thousand crossed the Veil Spirit Gate constructed on the planet's surface.

They arrived in Comoros.

Leon also has a relatively deep understanding of the Dark Spirit Race. Ten thousand years ago, the Human Empire also interacted with these cosmic pirates of the Dark Spirit Race, who skirmished everywhere.

At that time, among the enemies the Empire assessed, the Dark Spirit Race was a relatively low-priority opponent, primarily because the destruction they caused was relatively less severe compared to other Aliens. Compared to the magnitude of the Empire, they were more akin to pests like flies and mosquitoes—annoying, troublesome, harmful, and spreading disease, but not deadly.

Of course, with the chance to swat a mosquito dead, it definitely should be taken.

The key issue, however, was that their strength wasn't really just like mosquitoes. They were few in number, without much expansion desire in the real universe, but when concentrated in one area for

battle, they were strong; and their whereabouts were incredibly elusive, making it unrealistic to engage them in direct confrontations.

In the rare large-scale battles against the Dark Spirit Race, it was always them seizing the opportunity to bully humans with localized superior forces, rarely offering chances for humans to attack them with superior forces.

This owed to their mysterious lair, Comoros.

During the time Leon was active ten thousand years ago, he had conceived many extinction plans for various human enemies, including the Dark Spirit Race.

Regrettably, even he couldn't find a way to eliminate this powerful race.

However, it was unexpected that now the new Empire had conquered it?

And it wasn't just a simple conquest.

In Comoros, he saw quite a number of Dark Spirit Race members.

They were clearly in some form of enslavement.

Although the general Empire policy for Aliens is to eradicate them thoroughly, adopting flexible attitudes towards those with special technology or special uses isn't out of the question.

At least, Leon wasn't like some of the Empire's conservative factions, who were dogmatic.

While using the Veil Spirit Gate for rapid spatial travel, he carefully evaluated the reliability of these technologies, instinctively pondering the effects of applying these technologies to war.

The more he thought, the more he felt that the Alliance's approach was reliable.

Although he still couldn’t fathom how Gu Hang had managed to conquer Comoros, the outcome was right in front of him, making him even more curious about the upcoming meeting with Gu Hang and Robert.

The meeting took place much faster than imagined.

When he arrived at Holy Terra, riding the floating car into a palace now used as the Prime Minister’s residence, in the reception room, Robert and Gu Hang were already seated.

Gu Hang maintained his posture, smiling and politely welcoming Leon to sit.

And Leon’s gaze was fixed on Robert.

"You... haven’t changed a bit."

"You’ve aged a lot," Robert replied.

Chapter 1015: About the Divine Artifact

"You... haven’t changed a bit."

"You’ve aged a lot."

"I heard you’re now called the ’Regent King’? Your ambitious spirit back then wasn’t just limited to our mischief, and you’ve truly become the regent of the entire Empire? Who gave you such power?"

"I don’t particularly want to be this so-called Regent King. If possible, I would rather return to my hometown. Nowadays, in our New Empire, we have a new Commander responsible for the Dark Side Expedition. He’s not one of our brothers, yet his capabilities are on par with ours."

"I’ve met him, Martins is indeed quite good. But I must correct you, the Empire doesn’t have a position called Commander; he’s not that either. His official title is ’Commander-in-Chief of the Dark Side Expedition,’ not Empire Commander. Speaking of the so-called New Empire, I’m curious to see what’s new about it and how it differs from the Second Empire you established ten thousand years ago."

"Come on, as if you weren’t part of the mischief back then, ’Commander.’" Robert exaggerated the last two words.

Their banter was quite intense, while Gu Hang looked on with unchanged expression, his smile even deepening.

Perhaps this was their way of interacting.

Gu Hang didn’t mind watching the show for a while longer, but their argument didn’t continue, ending with Robert proactively giving Leon a hug.

"It’s so good to see you back, my brother."

"I feel the same."

Gu Hang cleared his throat lightly with a hint of regret and said, "Let’s discuss some serious matters. Your Highness Lionheart King, I’ve noticed you want to ’see’ how this New Empire is supposed to be new, so let me introduce you to it..."

...

Regarding the current state, vision, challenges facing the New Empire, and its general historical context over the past ten thousand years... all these were already somewhat understood during travel or when Leon led the rebel forces.

However, as Gu Hang introduced the situation, Leon remained patient, listening attentively without speaking.

The topics were the same, yet very different.

Matters, history, context, policies... these were things Leon had heard and understood during the journey.

Yet, Gu Hang's current discussion was entirely different in terms of height and depth compared to what he had heard or seen.

Gu Hang spoke of the 'New Empire' from the perspective of the Empire's rulers and managers, offering a vastly different viewpoint and more profound insights.

He detailed the current policies of the New Empire along with the various considerations and thoughts behind them.

From this perspective, many decisions once ridiculed or questioned by Leon seemed reasonable.

Perhaps these strategies had numerous problems and risks, but they were necessary under objective conditions or the least costly compromises.

Leon had to admit that the so-called New Empire was performing quite well.

In fact, to some extent, though the New Empire now only controlled about half of the Empire's territory, it seemed more promising than the stagnant Old Empire before the Great Cataclysm erupted.

However, the inherently skeptical Leon wouldn't easily dismiss his doubts.

Even though the information he had received from various sources matched up, he instinctively maintained his skepticism.

The entire meeting didn't last very long.

Even though Gu Hang was only a manifestation here, his attention couldn't linger too long, as it would affect his other responsibilities.

And Robert, even more so.

The Boundless Expedition had been underway for a long time; he was the Empire's Regent King, and the highest commander of the Boundless Expedition, overseeing the entirety. Even the Empire's Dark Side 'Commander,' Martins, had to report the progress and situation of the Dark Side Expedition to him.

He was truly busy.

If not for the return of his brother, making him genuinely excited and recognizing its significance for the Empire's future, he wouldn't have taken such a long time for a conversation with Leon.

Leon could understand their current situations.

He didn't waste much of their time but didn't immediately make a decision, either.

Though he indeed had to fight for the Empire, the responsibilities he bore for The Emperor and humanity hadn't diminished even after sleeping for ten thousand years.

He would fight for the Empire. As for whether he's fighting for this so-called 'New Empire,' he already had a general judgment.

However, before making a decision, he needed to do one thing.

"I want to have an audience with The Emperor."

...

For the Son of God to request an audience with The Emperor, there was certainly no issue.

Although The Emperor had long ascended, his Golden Throne still sat at the very core of the Terra Imperial Palace. Although it remained empty, the throne itself was the only means to contact The Emperor.

Despite this connection being very unstable and 'religious,' resembling more divine enlightenment that required interpretation and understanding, most of the time, there was no response, or the response was completely incomprehensible...

But for an audience, there was no other way.

The exact enlightenment or divine descent obtained depended on The Emperor and the individual's insight.

After a detailed conversation with Forbidden Army Commander Yan Xinzhen, Leon arrived before the Golden Throne and knelt on one knee.

...

Lionheart King's audience lasted a day and night.

After coming out, he remained silent and never spoke of this audience.

His brother Robert had already left Holy Terra via the Veil Spirit Gate and returned to the frontline.

However, the Imperial Guard stationed outside the throne hall informed him that Gu Hang was waiting for him.

Returning to the conference room, he met with Gu Hang.

As he stepped into the conference room, Gu Hang's somewhat dazed expression suddenly became animated.

Leon looked at Gu Hang with a complex gaze.

He knew more now, and his attitude towards Gu Hang couldn’t be the same as before.

After adjusting his emotions, he straightforwardly asked, "What does the New Empire need my services for?"

Gu Hang replied, "There is indeed one matter."

"We’ve discovered abnormal congregations of Death Angels, and while we were planning to solve it, your presence provides a better choice for resolution."

"My descendants?"

"Yes, this matter goes back quite a long way, but I imagine you might even understand some details better than I do..."

"We can first discuss matters regarding the Death Angels’ homeworld ’Knight Star,’ and the issue of the ’Divine Artifact.’

Chapter 1016: The Evil God’s Key

Gu Hang had finally figured out what the key he snatched from the Calamity Fleet was.

"It concerns a terrifying ’weapon,’ that’s how I would describe it."

"It’s hard for me now to say what exactly this weapon is or how it will function. But I am certain, if it falls into the hands of our enemies, then the Empire will face utter disaster. This is not mere alarmism, but something that is actually happening."

"And it’s not just that. This weapon holds significant meaning to a certain Chaos God."

"That is Bas Sol, known as the ’Creator,’ a god of inventors, engineers, scientists, and craftsmen. Perhaps the endless pursuit to understand and subjugate nature by all creatures in the physical universe, the limitless demands of technology... these might be the source of his power. Born from countless wars, fueled by the ceaseless arms race, these desires have enabled him to grow continuously, becoming the embodiment of war through technology and machinery."

Gu Hang gave a brief introduction to this Chaos God, Bas Sol.

Leon was unfamiliar with his name, but he did not interrupt and listened patiently.

"This ’weapon’ is sealed in an unreachable dimension and can only be found by obtaining the ’key.’ And this so-called key, you might be familiar with, at least two of them were once held by the First Legion—which is the Death Angels."

Upon hearing this, Leon knew what Gu Hang was referring to.

A core device located on the knight star, the home planet of the Death Angels.

His mind raced with thoughts, but Leon’s expression remained unchanged, and he kept silent.

In fact, there was no need for him to speak.

When Martins became a Genetic Primarch for the first time, he faced off against a Calamity Fleet, from whose hands he snatched a piece of the key fragment.

This fragment had been in Gu Hang’s possession for years. Although various major events in between had distracted him, he maintained a high interest in studying this fragment and invited many Sages from the Sect of Mechanics to participate, including the Mars Great Sage, Kao’er.

After decades of research, Gu Hang developed a profound understanding of the fragment and everything it represented.

Through subspace divination of the past, he even glimpsed the moment when the Knight Star exploded.

According to historical records, that was the battle in which the Lionheart King disappeared, a civil war among the Death Angels.

The core device on Knight Star shattered into countless pieces during the explosion, scattering across the universe as fragments;

The largest piece resides in the stronghold of the Death Angels, within the Giant Stone Monastery.

The so-called Giant Stone Monastery is actually the largest piece of planetary debris from the Knight Star's explosion, captured, hollowed out, and transformed by the Death Angels into their 'home star,' serving as a Space Fortress, equipped with various planetary-grade engines, allowing it to maneuver across the universe, even to engage in subspace travel or traversal through Star Realm Tunnels.

"Bas Sol has been searching for the key fragments for many years. The Calamity Fleet, which has brought severe disaster upon the Empire by appearing across the universe, is the product of his collaboration with the Chaos Warlord, Alchaton."

"One key fragment has fallen into my hands. I must say, Bas Sol indeed possesses peerless technical prowess, even within the entirety of subspace, capable of making the impossible possible. I simply cannot fathom how this key fragment can be reassembled and reforged. But Bas Sol can, and we cannot let him acquire all the fragments."

"Unfortunately, by the time we discovered this problem, it was already too late. Although our Expeditionary Force is vigilantly intercepting the Chaos Calamity Fleet across the universe, and we have figured out how to find other fragments based on the fragment we have, we are still significantly behind Bas Sol in progress."

"Even worse, we might need to gather all the fragments together and conduct prolonged research to maybe—just maybe—recast the key. However, Bas Sol doesn't need to; once he obtains the largest, most indispensable pieces, he has the ability to fill in the rest and complete the reforging. This means even if some minor fragments fall into our hands, it would not prevent him."

"He is now only one essential fragment short, and I believe you know which one it is."

"The Death Angel Battle Group has always been active in the Southern Border of the Imperial, fighting against various enemies of humanity. They possess richer means and technology compared to typical groups, able to, to a certain extent, communicate with many sub-groups across star domains during times of great catastrophe, and even engage in coordinated combat."

"After the establishment of the New Empire, the Central Empire also established contact with the Death Angels. The leader of the battle group, the Supreme Grand Master, E'er Ganglong, acknowledged the Regent King and the new Prime Minister and also recognized the political reforms on Holy Terra. Furthermore, the Death Angel Battle Group accepted reinforcements of newly trained Original Casting Interstellar Warriors from the Central Empire."

At this point, Gu Hang did not elaborate further.

Indeed, there was some prerequisite information that Leon actually already knew.

Previously, while understanding the history during the period he was in slumber and the current state of the Empire, a significant portion of his attention was naturally focused on his genetic descendants.

There's no need to bring up history, but the current state of the Death Angel Battle Group is worth mentioning.

Besides the Alliance and the Infinite Starfield, they are one of the Empire's forces faring the best.

During the Great Cataclysm, the Death Angels, navigating the universe aboard the Giant Stone Monastery, were approximately located at the southwest end of the Southern Border of the Empire, on the side of the Dark Side of the Empire. Upon realizing the drastic environmental changes and losing contact with the Central Empire, the Death Angels decisively began to fortify Imperial territories on the spot. When necessary, they would utilize unique technology to contact their sub-groups and rally them for joint action.

To this day, the areas under the actual control of the Death Angels and their sub-groups total more than four star domains, covering a third of the worlds in the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain in the western part of the Southern Border of the Imperial.

If the Death Angels and their sub-groups focus on managing their territories and expanding well, without the unfortunate encounters with exceptionally powerful enemies like the Blood Angels, their controlled regions could potentially be even larger than they are now.

Chapter 1017: Reclusive

After the cataclysm occurred, Chaos became much more active than in the past. Among them, there were certain special enemies marked as arch-enemies by the Death Angels. They never publicly acknowledged it, but Gu Hang already knew of their existence, and they appeared more frequently.

Internally among the Death Angels, they are referred to as 'Fallen Angels,' reportedly traitors among the Death Angels.

Gu Hang knew about this very early on due to the rebellion incident involving the Oath of Remembrance Battle Group, he even communicated with the Death Angels about it.

The pursuit of Fallen Angels is a top priority for the Death Angels, with a significant portion of their efforts focused in this area.

Expanding occupied territories?

For the Death Angels, it is far less important than hunting down the Fallen Angels.

Honestly, Gu Hang was dissatisfied with this. But in the past, he had no justification or ability to command the Death Angels to do anything.

And after the New Empire was established, there was at least a moral standpoint, but the Death Angels remained quite independent and rather unruly.

If they hadn’t accepted the inclusion of Original Casting Interstellar Warriors—delivered through coordinates provided by the Death Angels via small ships, amidst high risks—Gu Hang would have nearly suspected there was something wrong with this nascent battle group.

Currently, it appears they have little risk of corruption; they have been non-compliant for many years, not a chronic issue that needs immediate resolution. Moreover, the area they control, which is the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain, is still far from the spearhead of the Dark Side Expedition, under the more conservative pace of the Alliance’s expedition. It may still take decades to reach them, a far-off prospect.

Under these circumstances, the New Empire’s policy is to continue to tolerate the situation with the Death Angels, even to the extent of providing support to help them maintain control over the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain.

Stabilizing a third of a Cosmos Domain is also a good thing, preserving more resources to avoid future reconstruction efforts once the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain peacefully reverts.

However, when Gu Hang learned about the connection between ’weapons’, ’keys,’ and the Death Angels, he became extremely concerned about the current situation of the Death Angel Battle Group.

Unfortunately, these arrogant first legion Interstellar Warriors have always been used to independence. They refuse to give up the territory they’ve opened up in the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain, unwilling to abandon the over two thousand worlds under their control, and even more unwilling to abandon their numerous leads on hunting down Fallen Angels.

In reality, having them give up the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain and move the Giant Stone Monastery towards the Alliance isn’t very realistic.

They would have to move the Giant Stone Monastery across an exceptionally long stretch of fallen territory, where the conditions are completely unknown. It would be better to honestly stay in the already stabilized Absolute Night Cosmos Domain rather than being ambushed or raided halfway.

Unfortunately, it’s not entirely stable.

A very powerful Calamity Fleet captured the continuously moving Giant Stone Monastery, which by rights should be difficult to pinpoint. This Calamity Fleet plunged the Death Angels' fleet into a bitter battle, even launching a significant number of Chaos Starfield Warriors into the interior of the Giant Stone Monastery, engaging in fierce hand-to-hand combat with the Death Angels.

The battle line once reached a stalemate.

At the critical moment, the Alliance's forces arrived; a fleet from the Blood Angel Subgroup came to the battlefield to assist them.

The reason the Alliance's forces were able to arrive was due to a previous Alliance exploration fleet, enduring a perilous journey without the guidance of Thunder Torch Tower's light and at great loss, reaching the Absolute Night Star Domain.

The mission of this exploration fleet was to investigate the current situation in the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain and establish substantial contact with the Death Angels, determining their true attitude towards the New Empire.

Additionally, they brought some Original Casting recruits cultivated from the Death Angels' Genetic Seeds.

The Genetic Seeds originate from the Genetic Seed Bank on Mars.

Across the long history of the past, every legitimate battle group was required to submit their Genetic Seed taxes to Holy Terra. These Genetic Seeds were stored in two banks on Mars and Holy Terra. While not infinite in quantity, conducting large-scale, legion-level army constructions was not a problem.

The Death Angels' Genetic Seeds are certainly among them.

The Death Angel Battle Group accepted these new recruits, accepted the assignments from the Central Empire, acknowledged the rule of the New Empire, all of which were good news, fulfilling the exploration fleet's primary mission.

However, beyond this primary mission, they had another task to complete.

After informing the Death Angels, they stopped on an ordinary planet to utilize their equipment and construct a Veil Spirit Gate.

This Veil Spirit Gate was not large. Its purpose was to directly transport more and larger Veil Spirit Gate apparatus from Comoros.

This method was far better than the exploration fleet carrying a large Veil Spirit Gate apparatus over. On one hand, the installation equipment for large Veil Spirit Gates is also quite big and would significantly occupy the exploration fleet's storage space. On the other hand, its value is remarkably high, and the exploration fleet's journey across long distances to the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain is full of high risks, losing many ships, and even inherently carries a non-negligible risk of complete annihilation. Putting such valuable, scarce, and challenging-to-manufacture large Veil Spirit Gate equipment on the ships was too risky.

Using small Spirit Gates to transfer large Gate installation equipment was a much more reliable approach.

Since then, the Alliance established two large and one small Veil Spirit Gates within the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain, inside the territory directly controlled by the Death Angels.

The Death Angels were aware of this, but did not intervene.

This indirectly demonstrated their 'loyalty.'

And when the Giant Stone Monastery was subjected to fierce attacks from the Calamity Fleet and plunged into a bitter battle, the Blood Angel Subgroup that managed to arrive in time did so through the Veil Spirit Gates' system.

Their arrival helped the Death Angels stabilize the situation. Subsequently, Dante arrived with a main unit of the Angel Expedition Army, tipping the scales of the war and helping the Death Angels completely defeat and annihilate the invading enemy.

They received the Death Angels' gratitude, but were also politely asked to leave.

The reclusive Death Angels did not wish for anyone to uncover their secrets, not even the allied forces that saved their lives.

Gu Hang had previously warned them about the so-called 'keys' and the special nature of the Giant Stone Monastery, specifically cautioning them that Chaos would attack them, again and again, without regard to the cost and with relentless perseverance.

They appreciated the warning yet continued to maintain a distant attitude.

Until now.

The intelligence network that the Alliance established in the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain detected that the Death Angels, without informing the New Empire Central, had assembled over thirty subgroups, totaling more than twenty thousand troops, and a massive fleet, marching grandly towards the other half of the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain that was not under their control.

Chapter 1018: Suppressing a Lion

"That's a trap."

Gu Hang said this to Leon.

He was referring to the current action of the Death Angels gathering massive troops and moving beyond the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain.

"But the Death Angels refuse to heed the advice of the Central Empire or even accept reinforcements. They claim it's their own affair, their own vendetta, and they intend to handle it themselves."

"But that's not right; this isn't just their matter."

"To put it bluntly, even if the Death Angels were wiped out, it wouldn't be a big deal. We have abundant production capacity and sufficient Genetic Seeds to rebuild the Death Angel Battle Group in a few years. The loss of nearly twenty thousand Interstellar Warriors is a significant loss, but I can reluctantly accept it, especially since these twenty thousand or so are reluctant to obey orders from the Central Empire. Let them sacrifice if they must."

"But I absolutely will not allow the Giant Stone Monastery of the Death Angels to fall into the hands of the great enemy of Chaos."

"I have already given orders that the Angel Expedition Army will fully assemble and march towards the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain with all its might. Whether or not the Death Angels need reinforcements, our support will arrive."

"If the Death Angels can hold the Giant Stone Monastery, then the Empire can allow them to continue to keep and protect it. If the Death Angels cannot achieve this, then the Empire should take custodianship of the Monastery, or the Death Angels will need to protect it with the Empire's assistance."

"If the Death Angels turn around and become an obstacle to the Empire in defending the Monastery, then..."

"They are the enemy of the Empire, traitors to humanity!"

Upon hearing this, Leon finally couldn't hold back any longer.

Leon Charlie abruptly stood up, his heavy Black Armor scraping against the finely crafted stone chair with an ear-piercing shrill. The massive form of the Son of God was completely enough to overlook the Gu Hang persona, who sat like an ordinary mortal.

"Traitor?! Prime Minister Gu Hang!" Leon's voice was deep and filled with pressure, each syllable laced with power, "You better think carefully about the meaning of your words! Are you accusing my descendants, the most loyal and steadfast Death Angels of the Empire, of being traitors? The First Legion, who bled untold times and gained countless honors, is a traitor? Even the possibility is an unforgivable insult!"

"Unwilling to hand over the foundation guarded for ten thousand years to a..." He paused, seemingly searching for a word less sharp but equally filled with skepticism, "...new government they have not yet fully understood? It’s utterly reasonable! Even if all you say is true, the Death Angels have guarded the Monastery for ten thousand years and will continue to do so for another ten thousand! The loyalty of the Death Angels to humanity, to the Empire, cannot be questioned!"

"I am not accusing their loyalty," Gu Hang’s voice was calm as the abyss beneath a windless sea, "I am accusing their arrogance and shortsightedness!"

"They have the ability to protect it!" Leon growled, clenching his fists, "The destruction of the Knight Star did not extinguish their will! In ten thousand years of staunch defense, even when the Empire was on the brink of disintegration, they defended the borders..."

"The destruction of the Knight Star ten thousand years ago," Gu Hang interrupted, his tone suddenly heightened, "was it not due to unresolvable internal secrets and conflicts?! Was it not because of their stubborn adherence to traditions and actions that gave the enemy an opportunity, leading to a tragedy eventually?! Your Highness Leon, history has given us a lesson written in blood! The tenacity and tradition of the Death Angels, which they are proud of, are leading them into a dead end in the face of the meticulously woven sinister plot of the Evil God! This isn’t tenacity, it’s obstinacy!"

"Who do you think you are?!" Leon’s fury was thoroughly ignited, and as he stepped forward, the ground seemed to tremble, "A Prime Minister serving less than a hundred years?! What right do you have to casually question or even pass judgment on a legion with ten thousand years of glory, carrying my blood?!"

His words brimmed with the pride and authority unique to a gene progenitor, "Their issues are my responsibility! I will handle them, guide them! There’s no need for your ’Empire’ to pronounce judgment this way!"

Their gazes clashed fiercely in the air.

The aura emanating from the Lionheart King was like an awakening ancient lion, enough to make mortals prostrate and suffocate Interstellar Warriors.

Yet Gu Hang’s figure, supported by his formidable spiritual energy and will, did not retreat one bit; instead, he stood more steadfast. A kind of overwhelming "pressure," stemming from the origin of the real universe, spread out centered on Gu Hang. The air grew thick, light slightly distorted, forcibly stalling and neutralizing Leon’s tempestuous aura.

"You are their gene progenitor, the Son of God, the Lionheart King, Leon Charlie," Gu Hang’s voice was no longer passionate but carried a more terrifying, fate-commanding coldness, "But at this moment, do you still acknowledge you are a member of the Empire? Do you still heed the orders of the Empire? Do you acknowledge the New Empire, after you have paid homage to the Emperor?"

Without waiting for Leon to respond, Gu Hang continued, "If your answer is ’yes,’ then let me tell you, I am ordering you as the highest leader of the Empire Government, carrying the Emperor’s will, sustaining all of humanity’s hope of survival in the dark galaxy!"

Gu Hang emphasized the word ’order.’

Even as a Son of God, Gu Hang had never spoken to Robert in this way before.

But with Leon, it was different.

This suspicious, arrogant Son of God, who had slept for ten thousand years before waking, was not one to be reasoned with. Like Robert, pure rational debate wouldn’t work.

This lion must be subdued.

"Even as the Son of God, even with the founding battle group, your honor, the ten-thousand-year tradition of the Death Angel Battle Group, is insignificant on the scale of human survival." Gu Hang’s words were akin to a heavy hammer, "If you think my ’New Empire’ is an illusion, then you can seek an audience with the Emperor again, or try your sword!"

"But at least for now, the order before you: accept the assignment of the Empire Government, immediately join Marshal Dante and his Angel Expeditionary Fleet, and head to the Absolute Night Cosmos Domain!"

The dangerous fury in Leon’s eyes was almost about to erupt as a tangible blaze.

But his last bit of reason restrained his emotions, only his chest heaved fiercely.

"Your mission is not to lead them on a quest for vengeance," Gu Hang stared into Leon’s eyes, asserting without question, "but to prevent a catastrophe caused by their isolation and stubbornness! If the Death Angels accept Central’s orders and abandon that foolish expedition, which is most likely a trap, and assist the Empire in defending the Giant Stone Monastery, they would still be the pride of the Empire. If they persist in their fallacy, pursue personal vendettas at the expense of the Empire’s overall strategy, refuse to cooperate, or even obstruct the Empire’s efforts to protect the Giant Stone..."

"Then, regardless of whose offspring they are, no matter how much glory they’ve accumulated in the past, they become the enemy of humanity! And your duty, Your Highness Lionheart, is to execute the Empire’s will—to control them or destroy them."

Destroy them?

Destroy the legion he created himself and regarded as his own?

He... seems to have done it once already.

After awakening, he was determined that the past would not repeat.

But...

"You have no authority..."

"I have the authority!" Gu Hang declared sharply, the power of reality’s dominion suddenly intensified, causing the light source in the meeting room to flicker. "If you wish to discuss legality, the Empire constitution grants the Prime Minister the highest decision-making power! The dual-headed council of the Empire grants me ultimate authority to handle all major crises!"

"Or would you like to discuss something else? Violence, perhaps?" He pointed at Leon, "Violence is authority, the ultimate violence of humanity is here with me."

At this point, Gu Hang had laid his words bare.

"Choose, Leon." Gu Hang's tone slightly eased, but the coercion did not diminish, "Will you be a warlord serving the overall interests of humanity, or will you succumb to bloodline and legion tradition, possibly ending up personally burying your progeny—a lone warlord? Time is tight, every second wasted brings Chaos closer to what we wish to protect! The Angel Expeditionary Fleet is ready to set sail, and their commander is waiting for you."

"Will you lead your genetic descendants towards redemption, or will you only add to the lament of their downfall?"

A tremendous silence enveloped the meeting room.

Leon's chest heaved violently, and the black armor on him seemed to turn into a heavy burden.

The pride of being the Son of God, the responsibility for his offspring, the anger of not having been openly rebuked in years...

The power displayed by Gu Hang, the guidance when meeting The Emperor, the part of rational thinking within that had to acknowledge the crisis and risk...

These things smoldered and burned within him.

He thought of the chaos upon his awakening, leading the desperate to struggle for survival under the rule of chaos. He understood that for the small alliance to grow into the current behemoth dominating half the Empire, there must be a cold, iron-blooded side to it. Before him, Gu Hang, beneath a gentle facade, harbored a terrifying determination to survive at any cost.

And his previous audience... did The Emperor demand he listen and obey?

No, the oracle of the audience was not that clear.

But the gravity of that request and the will Gu Hang now displayed, willing to crush all obstacles for humanity’s survival, were so similar.

Ultimately, Leon slowly unclenched his tightly held fists.

He did not bow his head, but beneath the burning intensity in his eyes lay deep fatigue and a sense of being tightly bound by the ropes of fate.

"My Power Armor needs a repaint," Leon’s voice was dry and hoarse, filled with the fatigue of ten thousand years of slumber and the fierce argument just past, yet it was full of hardened determination, "Prepare a shuttle to Comoros."

He did not acknowledge all of Gu Hang’s accusations, nor did he completely abandon trust in his offspring, but he chose to obey orders and accept his assignment.

"Where is Dante?" he asked, voice returned to its usual steadiness, as if the previous rage had never occurred. "Assemble my... Pardon Angel Guard. Tell them we are about to correct... a deviation."

Gu Hang’s face regained that signature, polite, yet completely emotionless ripple. He nodded slightly: "A wise decision, Lionheart King. Dante and the transport team will be waiting at the designated ’gate’. Remember, your task is to resolve problems, not to create new ones."

With a flash of light and shadow, Gu Hang’s silhouette vanished like a bubble at its origin, his focus on maintaining this projection clearly drawn to more pressing matters.

In the empty meeting room, only Leon remained. He stood amidst the fading remnants of spiritual energy and cold reality, his heavy silhouette of the Lionheart King exceptionally solitary. He raised a hand, placing it over the cold, hard breastplate, where it seemed to still hold the residual warmth of the anger that had burned just moments before.

"Oh, The Emperor..." A whisper, filled with complex emotions, slipped from his tightly pressed lips.

Chapter 1019: The Angel's Bitter Struggle

The forces of the Death Angels' Supreme Grand Master, E'er Ganglong, have fallen into a bitter struggle.

He rarely feels a tinge of regret.

But just a little.

If given another chance to choose again, he would still gather the mighty army of Death Angels and step into this dead zone, only to be more cautious, to gather more troops, and to more carefully consider whether to accept the support of the New Empire.

But regardless, they must come.

Of course he knows that the Evil God named Bas Sol suddenly revealed itself in the Honey Soil Star District of the Osa Star Domain, clearly for them to detect. That was no coincidence, nor was it due to their great intelligence-gathering ability; it was purely Bas Sol's intention.

This was an invitation, a blatant provocation.

The Death Angels were certainly going to come.

Being infiltrated within the Giant Stone Monastery had never happened in the Chapter's ten thousand year history!

When the Giant Stone Monastery was last attacked, this scenario unfolded. If not for the sudden arrival of the Blood Angels, the assaulted Death Angels might not have endured through that battle.

For the Death Angels, they view this as an enormous disgrace. The Chaos enemies launched a despicable sneak attack while they were vulnerable.

Simply washing away this disgrace is enough for the Death Angels to launch an all-out attack on Bas Sol.

Moreover, the purpose of this war is not just about disgrace and honor.

They have even more compelling reasons to come.

The last time the Chaos enemies breached the internal areas of the Giant Stone Monastery, the Death Angels were most worried about the numerous secrets buried deep within the stone structure.

Were the secrets exposed to outsiders?

Is there a possibility of a large-scale widespread leak?

For the Death Angels, the most important goal is to eliminate potential sources of exposure.

And preferably without involving forces outside the lineage of the Death Angels.

So even knowing this battlefield could be a prearranged area by the enemy, a trap, he still resolutely jumped in with his men.

His daring was not purely reckless.

He had his own backing.

The last time, the Death Angels suffered because they only had a limited force of this main Chapter. Though elite enough, the numbers were insufficient. Under the regulations of the "Star Warrior Codex," the legion had long been split; even the Death Angels could only maintain a scale of around a thousand.

But that was not the full strength of the Death Angels.

This time, E’er Ganglong assembled twenty thousand warriors, enough to be termed a ’legion’ size!

He was determined to completely eliminate those daring to provoke the Death Angels!

What does it matter if it’s a trap? E’er Ganglong believed that with the powerful force he had gathered, any trap would be crushed underfoot!

The battle erupted fully as soon as they entered the Honey Soil Star District.

Initially, the scale of war tilted toward the Death Angels. In space battles and planetary landings, they held a decisive upper hand.

Their advantage not only inflicted severe blows and casualties on the enemy but also forced Bas Sol to reveal himself during a battle, annihilating a squad of Death Angels.

Of course, that wasn’t Bas Sol’s true form, but as per the Death Angels’ Chief Think Tank’s judgment, this avatar was Bas Sol’s full exertion.

Eliminating this avatar would significantly impede Bas Sol’s power, making it impossible for him to project a new avatar into the real universe for centuries, greatly affecting his ability to interfere with reality.

Directly annihilating a Subspace Evil God is nearly impossible, especially for beings of Bas Sol’s level. However, destroying his most important avatar, thwarting his plans, killing the Chaos Traitors serving him... achieving this could satisfy the Death Angels temporarily and mark a major revenge.

Thus, upon the confirmation of the intelligence’s accuracy after this figure appeared, E’er Ganglong decisively threw a large force to the target location.

This was a world named Rain Star in the Honey Soil Star District.

According to intelligence, Rain Star is a rainforest world with abundant rainfall; about 91% of the planet is covered by acidic oceans, with the remaining 9% landmass mostly around the equator, consisting of hot and humid rainforest areas. The total population is approximately 550 million, primarily engaged in logging, processing, and primary agricultural products, making it a relatively poor and backward world.

However, the Death Angels discovered during combat that the 'Rain Star' they encountered seemed not quite right. The land area was significantly larger than recorded; dense forests existed, but unlike the rainforest areas in image records, the type of trees was different, and their forms were rather... twisted.

Initially, they believed the major changes were primarily due to Chaos corruption.

According to Think Tank analyses, Rain Star had significantly plunged into Subspace, even becoming semi-Subspace. Under such conditions, any occurrences on Rain Star didn't seem surprising.

But soon, they realized things weren't that simple.

Rather than saying Rain Star was semi-Subspace and about to fall into the Chaos Demon Realm, it would be more accurate to say what was here was not Rain Star at all.

Everything here was almost identical to the homeworld - Knight Star, which should have been destroyed ten thousand years ago according to Chapter records!

Bas Sol! How dare he provoke the Death Angels like this!

All of this was the Evil God's deliberate doing!

Such blasphemy enraged the Death Angels immensely!

Whatever the Evil God's purpose, whether it was for another agenda or simply to shame the Death Angels, it no longer mattered.

He must be killed!

E’er Ganglong led their elite Death Angels and sub-groups to descend on Rain Star—they refused to acknowledge it as their homeworld, still using its original name.

However, this indeed was a trap.

When E’er Ganglong led his core main forces to Rain Star, he quickly realized the enemy was not as easy to deal with as previously displayed.

He and his forces were trapped in a bitter battle.

Originally, I intended to write a bit even while on a business trip, but... shamefully, I couldn’t.

Updates will stabilize until completion; there’s not much left.

During the holidays, staying home busy writing!

Chapter 1020: Everyone, Follow My Orders

The troops personally led by E’er Ganglong are the main force of the Death Angels.

More than five thousand Death Angels and their sub-groups of warriors landed on the surface of Rain Star. Accompanying them were over ten million Star Realm Armed Forces.

Overall, not only was the number large, but it was also highly elite.

Setting aside the precious Interstellar Warriors, the over ten million Star Realm troops were a crucial asset in E’er Ganglong’s hand. In a scenario where ground forces could only be deployed in limited numbers in a short time, to ensure the landing strike was powerful enough, it was necessary to carefully select the most formidable ones from the vast Mortal Troops.

In other words, E’er Ganglong could even accept if this wave of attack did not achieve the combat objective or fail to take out Bas Sol.

After all, if this wave fails, there will be another one.

However, he absolutely could not accept the annihilation of all forces deployed on the ground.

That would mean his strongest fighting force would be systematically wiped out.

It would also lead to the failure of an entire campaign, leaving them no chance for a comeback.

Yet, the very scenario he could not accept was happening.

According to the original intelligence, the enemy on the ground should have been within the range they could defeat. Their previous advantage wasn’t a bluff; even Bas Sol was forced to surface!

However, the reality proved that their previous advantage was fake; it was the enemy’s plan to lure them deeper.

Worse still, E’er Ganglong fell into the trap.

In the dense forest that resembled their warband’s homeworld, countless distorted beasts emerged. They, along with the Chaos Demon Army and the Demon troops, mixed together, bringing immense pressure to the Death Angels.

Moreover, this Chaos Demon Army was very characteristic of Bas Sol. Under the command of this ’Creator,’ the number of mechanical troops was overwhelming.

These are Demon Engines!

The bound demons were stuffed into mechanical bodies. They served directly as ’drivers’ and, even by ’soul’ nature, transformed into war chariots and Demon Mechas.

When compared to human heavy armored vehicles, Knight Mechas, and Titans, these were more agile and controllable. After all, the operation of these Demon Engines was completed by a single soul, requiring no coordination between drivers.

They clashed fiercely with human heavy units, causing significant casualties in an instant.

Although the number of Chaos Starfield Warriors in the Chaos Demon Army was fewer than the Death Angels, E’er Ganglong’s troops had to allocate elite warriors to specifically counter those terrifying Demon Engines and mutated beasts, to help the Mortal Troops sustain the lines.

If they only had to face the enemy, that would be one thing; the more crucial factor was the entire planet seemed to be against them!

The sudden tremors on the ground occurred on human troop positions, collapsing entire trenches and burying regimented soldiers within;

The twisted forests would move, engulfing freshly established transportation and logistics supply lines;

Monsters disguised as trees would suddenly lash out branches like iron whips, instantly cutting soldiers in half when they got too close;

Such types of altered environments made the battles arduous for the human warriors fighting within.

Initially, E’er Ganglong continued to reinforce the ground and call for battleship support.

But as the war progressed, especially when several battleships trying to provide orbital bombardment were destroyed by previously hidden anti-orbital firepower, E’er Ganglong had to admit a reality: they had indeed stepped into a trap. Even if they continued holding on, risking an annihilation, they might not be able to turn the tide.

Moreover, bad news came one after another.

Were the enemies only doing an enticement on Rain Star to eliminate as much of their viable forces as possible?

Yes, but not just that.

This was also a successful ploy of drawing a tiger away from its mountain lair.

When E'er Ganglong personally led the troops to the ground, the enemy's offensive against the Giant Stone Monastery began.

At the moment E'er Ganglong on Rain Star was shifting his strategy from how to win the war to how to extract as many troops as possible, the Death Angels' base, the Giant Stone Monastery, which had a significant guarding force even in critical times, was under attack.

The Chaos enemies used Subspace Evil Magic to bypass defenses, teleporting numerous troops inside the Monastery. Additionally, many boarding ships breached layers of blockade, reinforcing the attacked base.

A fierce offensive and defensive battle had begun on the Monastery.

Even though the number of defenders was substantial, after E'er Ganglong allocated thousands of Interstellar Warriors and over ten million of the most elite ground forces to Rain Star, the Giant Stone Monastery was at its weakest defensively.

At one point, he even considered abandoning the ground troops in favor of saving more elite forces from the surface.

Failures must be admitted, yet the priority now was safeguarding the Giant Stone Monastery.

However, how could the enemy let them go so easily at this time?

E’er Ganglong’s target of vengeance, Bas Sol’s incarnation, appeared at a nearby distance.

A powerful Mechanical Evil God, leading a massive army, pressed forward, obviously intending to pin them down and prevent their return.

At this step, E’er Ganglong felt a chill throughout his body.

He regretted it.

Why didn’t he cooperate well with the Alliance?

Since accepting the New Empire, fearing to go against the tide, why act so indecisively in collaboration?

If they could unite with the New Empire and the Alliance, might they have had more support during operations?

Even if leading the arrived troops here remained the same, in such dire wartime circumstances, might there have still been someone to call for help?

And now, there was nothing.

Who could still save them?

Could they hope, as before, for the Alliance and Blood Angels to descend from the sky and rescue them?

Actually, they could.

When the flagship of the Blood Angels, that Glory Queen-class Battleship, arrived with an imposing Alliance expeditionary fleet, jumping out from the Star Realm Tunnel reaching Rain Birth Star System, E'er Ganglong was astonished.

Was there a feeling of moving emotions?

Of course, there was.

At the same time, there was a strong sense of shame.

Being rescued yet again...

How embarrassing...

The chaotic battlefield signals made a steady and smooth communication difficult between both sides. However, through observation, the Blood Angels' fleet split into two, with one heading towards Giant Stone Monastery, almost instantly stabilizing the situation for them.

The other headed straight for Rain Star, with large airborne troops descending from the ships.

The salvation of Giant Stone Monastery was a sight E'er Ganglong was willing to see.

But them coming to Rain Star was not.

This place is a trap!

In his view, the top priority should be aiding their retreat. Ensuring the safety of the Giant Stone Monastery first, then long-term strategy could be considered.

After establishing contact with the descending Blood Angels troops, he immediately communicated his demands.

Even in such a predicament, E’er Ganglong remained proud. Even with Dante present, this was his domain, and he naturally positioned himself as the overall commander.

However, a commanding voice said to him:

"From now on, all Death Angels, their subordinate Interstellar Warriors, and all human forces able to hear my voice will follow my command."