Governor 411

Chapter 411, Sudden Change at the Golden Pass Eagle Horse Star Sector, Eagle Horse II Star System, the main force of the Tianma Fleet was navigating to this location.

Yelisia looked at the planets outside the bridge with a hint of impatience in her eyes.

Leaving the Tianma Star Sector to participate in the war against the Iron-Tooth Clan had been over six years, a much longer period than she had anticipated.

The years of constant warfare had also left their marks on her.

Like many of the elite within the Empire, she had undergone a youth surgery.

This procedure significantly slowed down the aging process, maintaining a youthful state until the end-of-life phase, when aging would rapidly accelerate, followed by death.

Combined with life extension surgery, the elite of the Empire could still attain a long, high-quality life.

A combination of the youth and life extension surgeries could extend a normal lifespan from seventy or eighty years to around one hundred and fifty years, and twice that could go beyond two hundred years.

Some people, given their physical condition, could even handle three or four procedures.

However, the more surgeries were performed, the greater the difficulty and the lower the success rate.

Currently, the highest record for a mortal who underwent life extension surgery was six times, living up to four hundred fifty years.

Compared to the true immortals and the Interstellar Warriors who had never aged to death as long as they didn’t die in battle, there was still a significant gap, but it was still a remarkable achievement.

Even though it was only applicable to a very small part of the population.

Even so, the surgery could only maintain her body in a youthful state; it couldn't provide her with limitless energy.

Several years of war and the persistent immense pressure had left her skin dull and unable to conceal her fatigue.

Now, she just wanted to return home as soon as possible, to relax her mind and properly rest for a while.

But that was not to be.

On their way to the Eagle Horse Star Sector, the fleet began to decelerate.

Upon inquiry, she was told that the leaders of the Eagle Horse Star Sector and numerous local dignitaries had cordially invited the meritorious Tianma Fleet to stop by the Star Sector Capital, also known as Eagle Horse II, to attend a banquet.

Yelisia was somewhat displeased.

During interstellar travel, if the fleet could keep flying without stopping, the velocity would increase more and more.

The time spent traveling at high speeds in the middle wouldn't be particularly long; even the time spent warping through the Star Realm Tunnels wouldn't be much.

It was in the process of the fleet's acceleration and deceleration that time was lost.

This stopover would delay their return to the Tianma Star Sector by one or two weeks.

That was what Yelisia found most annoying.

But she also knew it was unavoidable.

The locations of their battles had first been in the Golden Pass Star Sector, then moved into the Silver Pass Sector.

Behind these two Star Sectors, the closest place that had not been engulfed in the flames of war was Eagle Horse.

This place could be considered the main base of the military operation.

A large quantity of supplies were allocated from various parts of the Star Domain through the Imperial Tax or other means, and the distribution started from the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

The local Star Sector Government was tasked with the responsibility of distributing these supplies to the front lines.

It was essential to maintain good relations with them.

On one hand, they had provided considerable help during the past six years of war, even prioritizing the provision of certain materials needed by the fleet.

Now, it was time to express gratitude.

On the other hand, the war was not completely over; only the first phase of the objectives had been achieved.

They would have to fight again, and the Tianma Fleet would surely need to return, making it crucial to sustain good relations.

Under these two reasons, when they took the initiative to invite with the intention of rewarding the loyal warriors of the Empire, it was truly difficult to refuse.

Even if it meant delaying the journey, there was no helping it.

Although it was a decision made by General Tilermungs, the Fleet Commander, in reality, had Yelisia been in the same position, she would have had to make the same decision.

While Yelisia was feeling restless and displeased, and although she was eager to get home, she was still able to muster the patience to do what she ought to do.

When the time was almost right, she changed into a fresh set of clothes.

Her navy rear admiral uniform was neatly dressed, all her medals were in place, and she took a shuttle to the planet's starport to attend the banquet.

At the banquet, she put on a mask of a smile, interacting with the local officials in a manner that was proper, elegant yet enthusiastic.

She reveled in the local officials' praise while humbly responding that it was her duty and couldn't have been achieved without the support of the officials.

No matter how much of it was insincere, at least the atmosphere of the banquet appeared harmonious, fitting the description of a pleasant gathering for both host and guests.

The banquet swiftly approached its climax.

General Tilermungs, in his capacity as the Fleet Commander, was invited to the podium to give a speech.

The general also blended in well with the current environment.

A few humorous anecdotes came to him effortlessly, and the guests below responded with cooperative laughter.

People listened to him recount the fleet's merits and the story of the previous victory.

At the same time, they heard him looking forward to the future, proclaiming that the Tianma Fleet was not only the Star Sea defense force of Tianma Star Sector but also an entity that would maintain the safety of the surrounding Sectors, especially the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

Just as the atmosphere was at its best, a naval aide, regardless of the fact that the esteemed general was still speaking, hurriedly went on stage and whispered something into General Tilermungs' ear.

This was, of course, very impolite.

Even if there was something important, couldn't it wait until he finished speaking and stepped down from the podium?

Chapter 411, Golden Pass Drastic Change_2 But on second thought, she would rather not waste another twenty minutes, which indirectly proved just how important this matter was.

Yelisia could see that General Tilermungs's complexion went through a very dramatic change on stage.

From initial uplifted spirits, his face turned ashen as if touched by death within a moment's time.

What on earth had happened?

Yelisia's confusion did not last long.

Out of the corner of her eye, she saw her own aide-de-camp rushing over.

The aide came up to her and whispered in her ear, "General, a major incident has occurred!

Among the Iron-teeth Greenskins, a new Great Chieftain is suspected to have emerged.

From the depths of the occupied territories, fleets of Green Skins have suddenly swarmed out in far greater numbers than our previous estimates.

Water Fog Star and Silver Pass II have already fallen, the Northern Fleet, after being routed, has regrouped at Silver Pass III and is currently encircled.

Star Domain Naval Command has ordered us to return immediately, to fortify Golden Pass Star Sector, and to lend support to the Yunluo Fleet.

The Yunluo Fleet has already taken action before us to rescue the Northern Fleet."

Yelisia's face also darkened.

The main achievements of the allied forces of the Dragonhawk Star Domain in this battle were actually two-fold: one, to stabilize the conflict-laden Golden Pass; and two, to conquer four star systems in the occupied Silver Pass Sector, which were Water Fog Star, White Fog Star, Silver Pass II, and Silver Pass III.

Six years, for such achievements, and now in the blink of an eye, two of the four star systems were lost.

However, what was most worrisome was not the loss of these achievements, but the emergence of a 'Great Chieftain' within the Iron-Tooth Clan, bringing unity to the leadership of the clan for the first time in decades.

Having lived through years of war with the Orcs, Yelisia fully understood that this race, with or without a strong leader, displayed completely different behaviors in warfare.

But this also depended on the level of the so-called 'Great Chieftain.' The last but one Great Chieftain had sparked a massive waaagh, causing the fall of three or four Star Sectors, establishing the power of the present-day Iron-teeth Empire, directing their force toward the heartland of the Dragonhawk Star Domain until he was unexpectedly killed in battle, finally halting the expansion of the Iron-Tooth Clan;

The last Great Chieftain was rather mediocre, he could barely keep the fragmented Iron-Tooth Clan together, far lesser in prestige, but even so, he ended humanity's ability to recapture the four occupied star systems and caused the six surrounding star systems to fall into years of continuous warfare.

A few years ago, the Dragonhawk Star Domain decided to launch a campaign to retake the occupied territories because that Iron-Tooth Great Chieftain was challenged and killed in the brutal internal struggles of the Green Skin Orcs, and his challenger, equally lacking in authority, soon died too.

Consequently, the once barely unified Iron-Tooth Clan plunged once more into internal strife.

Wasn't this a rare opportunity?

But unexpectedly, the Green Skin Orcs had quickly determined a new Great Chieftain.

Moreover, Yelisia suspected that the war actions of the Dragonhawk Star Domain might have acted as a catalyst for this.

As for the current situation, one could only hope that this new Iron-Tooth Great Chieftain was like his predecessor, who had ascended to power barely and could not truly command sincere submission from all military leaders of the Iron-Tooth Clan.

Regardless, the plan for Yelisia and others to return and regroup was now out of the question.

Even though the entire Fleet's condition was not good, many ships having sustained damage in the previous wars and needing repair, there was no choice now but to drag their wounded selves, turn around, and head back to the frontlines.

A banquet that had begun in good spirits thus came to an abrupt end.

The Tianma Fleet hurriedly headed in the direction of its past engagements.

On the way, Yelisia took the time to use the Star Language Tower aboard the ship to make contact with Gu Hang.

She informed Gu Hang of the latest situation at the front and reminded him to take this matter seriously.

Gu Hang asked, “Could it possibly reach the Tianma Star Sector?”

Yelisia smiled, “That is unlikely.”

Gu Hang understood her meaning; after all, there were still two Star Sectors in between.

From the occupied Silver Pass to Tianma, there was Golden Pass Star Sector and Eagle Horse Star Sector.

However, while one could hope for the best, preparations must be made for the worst.

“I understand, I will make some preparations.”

“Yes.

Even though the chances of the conflict reaching Tianma Star Sector are slim, if the war in the Star Domain escalates, they may consult with various leaders and governors about what to do, and there may be allocations and borrowings necessary, you really should make some preparations in advance.”

Gu Hang instinctively frowned.

Allocations, borrowings…

none of that sounded like good news.

Yet, if the war really deteriorated to that extent, it seemed inevitable.

“`

Otherwise, what can we do?

Watch as the situations in the two neighboring star sectors deteriorate?

Impossible.

A tooth will be cold without the lip.

The Green Skin Orcs have almost no possibility of negotiation; if the situation really turns rotten, there’s no reason they would spare the Tianma Star Sector and not attack.

However, compared to dispersing the barely accumulated wealth of the alliance to the Star Domain Government, or even transferring the troops, Gu Hang was still unwilling to accept that.

If it really came to that step and the situation became unavoidable, then he would rather lead the alliance to join the battle directly.

At least having command and independence in action would be in his own hands.

Gu Hang instinctively distrusted all other commanders from outside.

When he had nothing to do and was reading some of the Empire’s battle examples, documentation, reports, he always felt that the Empire’s generals or even the judges, when fighting, did not spare manpower as long as they could achieve their goals, no matter the number of deaths; it seemed an acceptable price to them.

Objectively speaking, it might indeed be so.

The Empire World counted in millions; the population of the empire was immeasurable, lacking everything but people.

Your Green Skin Orc dies one less, my fifty good brothers are endless.

However, Gu Hang himself truly disliked that approach.

Human resources have always been the most valued by him.

A living person, in their lifetime, can create wealth far greater than being sent to the battlefield to die easily.

He certainly understood that many times, sacrifices, even large-scale sacrifices, are inevitable.

But precisely because of this, one must respect such sacrifices.

Compassion does not rule soldiers; when it's time to be ruthless and disregard casualties, then it must be done; but when it's not that necessary, he's not happy even with one more death.

That's why Gu Hang did not like his subordinates to be commanded by other imperial forces.

They didn't have his mindset and wouldn't be concerned about his soldiers.

"I understand.

Maybe, we might meet on the battlefield against the Iron-Tooth Clan,"

Yelisia smiled and then said seriously, "But I really hope that doesn't happen.

You'd better wish for me to win the battles and return triumphantly…"

Following her words, Gu Hang said, "Return triumphantly and become my wife?"

"…Pah." Yelisia slightly turned her face away, then turned back, "Wouldn't that be the best?"

"Indeed.

But…

you still have to be careful and take care of yourself."

"I will."

…

Having had a conversation with her fiancÃ©, although they didn't talk about much, Yelisia's mood had improved a lot.

She felt she had the strength to face the coming storms.

But at that moment, she was not yet aware of the severity of the problem.

The orders they received were to deploy defenses in the Golden Pass Star Sector, to support the Yunluo Fleet and the Northern Fleet.

The latter was blocked at Silver Pass III; the former was trying to rescue them, which required a supporting force.

At the same time, it was also in preparation for the worst-case scenario.

If the situation at the front changed, and the achievements made in the Silver Pass Star Sector had to be completely relinquished, then the defensive line established by their Tianma Fleet would drag the Green Skin Orcs fleet into the Golden Pass Star Sector.

The situation of both sides would likely revert to what it was before the war started six years ago.

This was almost the worst plan.

However, when they actually entered the Golden Pass Star Sector, they found the situation was even worse than that.

Chapter 412, Heaven and Earth Collapse After several hyperlane jumps, upon entering the Golden Pass Star Sector, the Tianma Fleet was actively seeking the latest frontline news.

But no messages came back.

The Yunluo Fleet, the Northern Fleet, both were unreachable.

In the movements and battles of the Space Fleet, since ships spend most of their time in high-speed motion or even traversing the Star Realm Tunnel, coupled with the varying specifications of Star Language Towers and the proficiency of Star Speakers aboard each vessel, it was quite common to be out of contact.

However, when two entire fleets, without a single ship able to communicate, remain out of contact for several days, that begins to feel terrifying, frightening.

Moreover, shortly after they entered deep into the Golden Pass Star Sector, they unexpectedly encountered Iron Tooth Orc vessels!

Green Skins should not appear in the Golden Pass Star Sector.

From the fallen regions to the core location of the Golden Pass Star Sector, the most central points are White Fog Star and Silver Pass III.

To enter the Golden Pass Star Sector from the fallen regions, these two star systems are mandatory passageways.

These places haven't been lost yet, so how could the Green Skins have made it through?

They still harbored a bit of wishful thinking, suspecting that it was merely a small raiding party of the Green Skins.

That was possible.

A star system, such a vast place, generally has only one, two, or at most three or four developed colonial planets.

Even with the construction of star fortresses, space stations, and even megastructures, the area they can cover is still limited.

But in the universe, it's the empty void that is most abundant.

Gazing at the night sky, those sparkling stars indeed attract the eye, so much so that they make one overlook the vast expanses of darkness in the background.

The only way to fully secure a star sector, not to let even a mosquito through, is to seal off the jump points in the star system's Star Realm Tunnel.

The scale of the universe is so immense, with distances of hundreds, thousands, or even tens of thousands of light-years.

Without the Star Realm Tunnel, without the spatial leaps, the time it would take to reach different star systems is excessively long, so much so that it's nearly considered impossible.

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However, sealing off jump points is quite difficult in reality.

A jump point, although referred to as a ‘point’, is relative to the cosmic scale.

In fact, it’s a very large area.

The small ones are comparable to the size of several stars combined, and the large ones can be as big as hundreds or thousands of stars.

As long as you’re within that area, you can make a jump.

How difficult is it then to enact a blockade?

Some particularly important star systems, such as the Solar System where the Holy Terra, the capital of the Human Empire, is located, would indeed establish multiple star fortresses at all jump points to ensure that the entire range of the jump point is encompassed within the defenses of the star fortresses, guaranteeing that no one could sneak through.

But most star systems simply cannot construct such immense, remote space fortresses away from the planets.

Not to mention the difficulty and cost of construction, the ongoing maintenance is an even greater expense.

Having a space station near the jump point, where people are permanently stationed and serve as an observation platform to monitor the jump point, is already quite good.

Many star systems don’t even have the conditions for this.

In such situations, it's normal for small groups of enemies to slip past the defenses in the vast and boundless void and jump from one Star Realm Tunnel to other places.

In the past, didn't Yelisia also work with Gu Hang at Rage Owl Star to annihilate a small Green Skin Fleet?

It's possible that those Green Skins sneaked over in such a manner, not expecting to be able to conquer planets but mainly aiming for raiding, slaughtering, and harassing the trade routes.

The Tianma Fleet destroyed several small fleets they encountered.

The largest was just the size of a destroyer, and most were just ordinary patrol vessel level.

The Green Skin's junk ships were still junk.

Generally speaking, under the same classification, they couldn't beat the ships of humans.

And, because of their inherent nature, the Green Skin junk ships generally had thin armor but heavy firepower, making them painful to bombard only for a few shots, but on the flip side, hitting them with a single salvo often shattered both their shields and ships.

While clearing out these small bands of orcish pirate vessels that had invaded the Golden Pass Star Sector, the Tianma Fleet continued their unrelenting efforts to obtain the latest situation on the frontline.

On one hand, they continued calling out to the Northern Fleet and the Yunluo Fleet, and on the other hand, they actively dispatched patrol vessel squadrons towards the frontline battlefield, trying to figure out for themselves what exactly had happened.

Finally, the new message arrived.

A squadron of Rapid Patrol Vessels, after venturing out two star systems ahead, finally received a message from the Yunluo Fleet.

They didn't see them; they were simply in the same star system, and the Star Language system was finally able to break through the interference and make contact.

This was devastating news: the Yunluo Fleet had been decimated and was retreating to regroup.

The Northern Fleet was either completely annihilated or soon would beit was finished either way.

According to this new branch of the Yunluo Fleet, they had lost a battle at Silver Pass III.

Their initial mission had been to rescue the Northern Fleet, but just as they had jumped into Silver Pass III, they were ambushed by a Green Skin Fleet that had been lying in wait.

The number of the enemy's vessels was roughly equal to theirs, and under normal circumstances, with the capabilities of human ships, they should have been able to win.

However, for some unknown reason, the human fleet's observation systems did not alert them to the ambush.

No warnings from the augury, no alerts from the Thinker Array, and no signs from the squadrons that had jumped into Silver Pass III ahead of them indicating that everything was normal, which led to the occurrence of this ambush battle.

Chapter 412, Heaven and Earth Shatter_2 Green Skin ships are terrible; they're terrible structurally, slow, and with weak hull strength…

They can be terrible in many ways, but their firepower is absolutely not one of them.

The Yunluo Fleet, having just completed a jump, directly ate two volleys of uninterrupted fire.

Had it not been for the fleet's quick response, with shields promptly deployed, the outcome would have been annihilation, not just defeat.

The Northern Fleet was beyond saving, and the Yunluo Fleet itself took a serious beating.

They managed to destroy a portion of the Green Skin Fleet, but also sustained losses.

Just as they were contemplating whether to continue the rescue mission, they detected another Green Skin Fleet, rivaling their own in size, rushing towards them.

There was nothing more to say; it was time to run.

In a constant game of cat and mouse, most of the Yunluo Fleet managed to escape, though scattered, needing regrouping.

As for the Northern Fleet…

they were essentially beyond rescue.

Even if they hadn't been exterminated yet, it was probably only a matter of time.

The Northern Fleet was done for; next, they would be facing the swarming Greenskinsthis was a pessimistic thought;

The Northern Fleet might hold out for a while longer, keeping the orc's main force tied down at Silver Pass III for as long as possiblethis was an optimistic thought.

The Yunluo Fleet also issued a request, hoping that the Tianma Fleet could continue the support mission, with the only change being that the rescue target had shifted from the Northern Fleet to the scattered Yunluo Fleet.

What to do then?

The Tianma Fleet had no choice but to comply.

The Yunluo Fleet still needed rescue.

In the entire Dragonhawk Star Domain, speaking just of naval strength, there were actually only three legitimate fleets, ranked by strength as follows: Yunluo Fleet, Northern Fleet, Tianma Fleet.

Even with this ranking, the difference in strength between the three fleets was not significant; the strongest, the Yunluo Fleet, had only three more cruisers than the Tianma Fleet.

The rest were just small detachments from local powers, with the Alliance Navy being considered quite strong and negligible in comparison.

With the Northern Fleet likely out of the picture, this essentially meant the naval strength of the Dragonhawk Star Domain had diminished by a third.

It was imperative to save the Yunluo Fleet, otherwise, only the Tianma Fleet would be left, and it would be hard-pressed to stand alone in the future.

They had come to the Golden Pass Star Sector precisely for the purpose of support, which was expected.

However, the situation truly changed thrice in one day.

Just as the main force of the Tianma Fleet let a small Green Skin detachment slip by and was preparing to rendezvous with the Yunluo Fleet at several positions they provided for their regrouping, news came once more: The Greenskins pursuing the Yunluo Fleet were faster than expected.

Forced to change course, the Yunluo Fleet couldn’t stick to the planned locations, and had to keep fleeing southwest, almost spilling out of Golden Pass into the southwest, toward the Curse Bone Star District.

At this point, the position of the Tianma Fleet suddenly became awkward.

If you're running, what should I do?

After picking up a few of the Yunluo Fleet's smaller ships, and receiving this abrupt news, the Tianma Fleet had encountered a small-scale Green Skin pursuit fleet, beaten them, and didn't dare pursue to expand their victory, only to retreat dejectedly.

During their retreat, naval leaders were on tenterhooks.

Geographically speaking, their position was even more perilous than the Yunluo's.

However, there was good news.

The main forces of the Iron Tooth Orcs were not fixated on them, but continued their relentless chase after the Yunluo Fleet, spreading the war further west and south.

As for the Tianma Fleet's direction of retreat, it was toward the southeastern part of the Golden Pass Star Sector, heading for the Eagle Horse Star Sector, a different route.

Yet, even so, they were caught up just as they entered the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

That was at Steel Wing Star.

Steel Wing Star can be considered the most important location in the Eagle Horse Star Sector in this war, a major thoroughfare with connections in all directions.

To the south lies the interior of the Eagle Horse Star Sector, and just a bit further southeast, you enter the Fatches Star System within the Tianma Star Sector.

That’s the core area of ‘Seven Horse Territory.’

If you head northeast, it borders with the Mist Horse Star District.

The Mist Horse Star District’s days ahead are likely to be difficult, as it borders with the Copper Barrier Star District, another area adjacent to the fallen territory.

However, the present situation in the Copper Barrier Star District is not the focus of the conflict and is comparatively betterif the latest intel update is correct.

West-northwest from Steel Wing Star, one enters the Golden Pass Star Sector.

In an era long before, Steel Wing Star could almost be considered a strategic stronghold, the focus of several surrounding Star Sectors with complete defensive fortificationsit could even have been called a fortress world.

However, as peace mostly reigned in the Dragonhawk Star Domain, and the Eastern Cosmos Domain became unified, Steel Wing Star lost many of its enemies and gradually its need to exist as a fortress world, thus transforming into a trade hub station.

But a few decades ago, after the rise of the Iron-Tooth Clan, the chaotic circumstances in the vicinity caused a sharp drop in trade volume, leading to a decline.

It wasn’t until six years ago when war broke out again that the importance of Steel Wing Star was recognized once more; it became the rear base camp for the attack on the Golden Pass Star Sector and the pivotal station for the mobilization of resources and personnel.

After retreating to Steel Wing Star, Yelisia stated in a military conference:

“We can’t retreat any further.”

Upon hearing Yelisia’s words, no one spoke.

Everyone was a bit flustered, looking rather lost.

Tilermungs didn't speak either.

Yelisia was sitting in the conference room of Quintet, looking at the virtual images of her colleagues, and sighed, saying, "If we retreat any further, we will have nowhere to retreat to.

Are we going to retreat all the way back to the Tianma Star Sector?

Without our defense, Eagle Horse will definitely fall completely, and no space force can contend with the Iron-teeth Greenskins.

When that time comes, those Green Skins will still chase us into the Tianma Star Sector, and we will not be able to avoid this war."

"It's better to stay at Steel Wing Star.

There is no other planet more suitable for defense than Steel Wing Star from here on out."

"By staying here, we can also request that the Eagle Horse Star Sector mobilize all available forces.

The Tianma Star Sector will also give us full support.

On the contrary, if we retreat to Tianma, then we only have the human and material resources of the Tianma Star Sector at our disposal."

Under Yelisia's analysis, the minds of the others roughly settled down.

Considering her words, they had to admit she was right.

Defending Steel Wing Star, at least there was a way to retreat.

Even if they really couldn't beat the Green Skin Fleet in a space battle, by hiding under the protection of the firepower platforms, armed space stations, and Star Fortresses of Steel Wing Star, self-preservation was certainly ensured.

Also, because of the defensive facilities and forces on the surface of Steel Wing Star, it would not be easy for the Green Skins to take down the planet through a ground assault.

All things considered, this really was the most suitable place for defense.

But the ultimate question was…

would Mr.

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Gu from the Alliance agree to send people and exert effort to help defend, instead of retreating to Tianma Star Sector?

Yelisia saw the virtual images of her colleagues looking towards her, and she also sighed with a bitter smile:

"I will talk to him."

"Let's decide on that," Tilermungs made the final decision.

…

“No problem, I support your decision.”

After listening to Yelisia’s explanation, Gu Hang agreed almost without thinking,

Yelisia breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Truth be told, such matters would be quite difficult for an average imperial official to accept.

Everyone knows the principle of mutual dependence, but why does it have to be my turn to provide warmth to others when I’m not the one in the cold?

Why can’t you warm me when I am cold?

But fortunately, Gu Hang was not such a person.

As she was thinking this, Gu Hang went a step further and said, “The Alliance will not only support the battle at Steel Wing Star, but I will personally lead the troops there.

The Alliance Navy, Alliance Land Forces, Phoenix Battle Group, Third Group Army of the Dragonhawk Legion, and the Rage Bear Legion will all take part in this war!”

Chapter 413, Overall Warfare Gu Hang accepted the invitation to join the war and was willing to personally lead the Alliance’s troops to participate in the war at the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

The factor concerning Yelisia certainly played a part, but it was not decisive.

The main reason was that the enemy had already reached their doorstep, and this was a battle that had to be fought.

In the past, Gu Hang had reservations about the Dragonhawk Star Domain Government’s war strategy against the Iron-Tooth Clan.

He felt that if the situation here hadn't been resolved in decades, and had been dragged out to this day, it would eventually blow up.

However, it blew up a bit too suddenly, catching everyone off guard.

After all, not long ago, the Star Domain Government had just declared victory in the war, boasting significant gains.

But now, everything seemed on the verge of collapse.

In comparison, the current strength of the Alliance was somewhat insufficient to deal with a disaster that could threaten the entire Star Domain.

To cover the entire Dragonhawk Star Domain, he didn't have the ability for the time being.

Regarding the current situation in the Star Domain, Gu Hang had to admit that he was deeply concerned.

But this didn't prevent him from making the right decision.

Even though he had already decided to join the war, it wasn't time to dispatch troops immediately.

The situation in the Eagle Horse Star Sector was difficult, but no matter how difficult, if Gu Hang rushed there in haste, there would be no good outcome.

Instead of easing the situation, he might end up sacrificing himself, leading to an even greater catastrophe.

Gu Hang recognized that fighting the Green Skin Orcs should not fan the flames; that would only cause the fire to burn more fiercely.

Unfortunately, he didn't have enough power to quell the Iron Tooth Orcs in one fell swoop.

But precisely because of this, the Alliance had to gather strength as much as possible.

Only by clenching their fists tightly could they amass the power necessary to change the course of events.

The Alliance's war machine had been set into motion since Gu Hang received the report about Yelisia's situation.

The Tianma Fleet's branch divisions within the Star Sector received orders from General Tilermungs, demanding that Du Shiliang lead all ships to the Eagle Horse Star Sector immediately.

But Gu Hang intercepted them.

Gu Hang requested that Du Shiliang and the two cruisers, as well as several other ships he was currently commanding, act in concert with the Alliance's forces.

With the Northern Fleet annihilated, the Yunluo Fleet in disarray, and the main force of the Tianma Fleet shivering in fear, what impact on the battle could Du Shiliang have with just two cruisers?

Obviously none.

It was better to go with the Alliance's forces than to rush there on his own.

If something happened on the way, that would be truly regrettable.

Du Shiliang hesitated over this.

Over the past few years, his cooperation with the Alliance had been fairly comfortable.

He had grown accustomed to following Gu Hang's 'suggestions.' But this time, while he thought Gu Hang's suggestion made sense, it clearly contradicted the orders from his superiors.

In the decisive moment, it was Gu Hang who managed to engage General Fufana to work on Du Shiliang's mindset; on the other hand, after learning about Gu Hang's intentions, Yelisia also placed full trust in him.

Yelisia's choice to trust Gu Hang was not because he was using various excuses to conserve strength and avoid battle.

She believed he genuinely had a plan.

Therefore, she personally approached General Tilermungs to persuade him, leading to the retraction of his previous orders.

Additionally, the Alliance Navy was actively preparing for war.

Aside from the existing fleets finishing their assembly and acting in unison with Du Shiliang, the two major shipyards on Rage Owl Star and Flying Wing Star were rapidly taking stock of their current shipbuilding dock operations.

Firstly, all staff holidays were canceled, and they went to work overtime in the factory, with a corresponding increase in worker benefits and 'overtime allowances;' at the same time, political and ideological efforts were intensified, with the Alliance's propaganda department fully engaged in creating an atmosphere of an impending war, proclaiming the navy's importance and declaring this a key moment that would determine everyone's fate.

All Alliance citizens were called upon to grit their teeth and weather the crisis.

For this, the Alliance still wasn't satisfied.

More factory technicians were drawn into the shipyards.

Everything that could be solved with more manpower and resources was being addressed as much as possible.

Across multiple planets, all industries related to shipbuilding followed similar strategies.

Constructing naval ships wasn’t an overnight task.

The cruiser construction period at the Flying Wing Star Shipyard was four years per ship, with two docks.

The previous ship delivery cycle had just passed, and the new cruiser project had only just begun construction.

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Even with various measures to accelerate construction, it would still take at least three and a half years, at the minimum, three years, to deliver the next two ships.

However, smaller ships, such as destroyers and escort ships, were nearing the end of their construction cycles.

These became the focus of accelerated efforts.

Within the shipyard, resources were allocated accordingly.

Priority was given to putting all effort into those ships that were about to be completed.

The goal was to increase the number of available ships in the shortest possible time.

According to estimates, within a month, three additional destroyers and five additional escort ships would be available, not to mention the smaller patrol ships.

Furthermore, another strategy being vigorously promoted by Gu Hang in conjunction with his mother was underway.

Chapter 413, Total War_2 The Alliance had no ships, and the Tianma Fleet had no ships left, and that was as much potential as could be mined.

However, within the Tianma Star Sector, there was one family that did have a lot of ships: the Gu Commercial Firm.

Most of the ships owned by the Gu Commercial Firm were civilian ships, namely transport ships and merchant ships.

Those Flying Pig-Class, Whale-Class, and even the massive Belly-Class ships didn't really have any combat capabilities.

But earlier on, the firm did have quite a number of armed merchant ships.

The combat power of these armed merchant ships was definitely far from that of the regular navy ships of the same grade, but their quantity was not insignificant, which was an advantage.

The navy department of the Alliance, in cooperation with the two major shipyards, quickly assessed the situation and came up with a proposal to further strengthen the armed merchant ships to meet the upcoming confrontation with the Green Skin Orcs.

Really, there wasn't much to it: the basic characteristics of the armed merchant ships, such as structure, energy, and power, couldn't be altered too much.

But if there was room, it was possible to install larger shields or cram in more cannons.

Strengthening protection and firepower was the most basic increase in combat effectiveness.

Although the cost was actually not low, and it seemed wasteful under normal circumstances, in a time of war, it obviously wasn't the time to consider cost-effectiveness.

Under the extremely limited time frame, the Alliance had to muster as much power as possible.

According to the latest estimates, counting the armed merchant ships that had been conscripted, as well as the subsidiary fleets of the Tianma Fleet, plus the Alliance Navy's own forces, and including the ships that would soon be completed swiftly…

all added up, in a month and a half, the Alliance would launch a space force with two hundred ships of various grades.

Although the quality was somewhat lacking, with only two Musician-Class cruisers and about thirty destroyers as the backbone, having a grand total of two hundred ships was still something.

If used properly, their effect would not be too bad.

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On the land forces side, the Alliance couldn't possibly deploy all its troops.

People had to be left on each planet.

The Dragonhawk 3rd Corps and the Rage Bear Legion, totaling thirty million troops, definitely had to be mobilized; a large amount of combat power was called up from various planets, especially Korolya.

The Alliance Land Forces would bring out eighty million troops for combat, which included a large number of the top-ranked teams within the Alliance Army to participate in the war.

Besides the military troops' preparations, Gu Hang had also brought out a sum of grace points.

There wasn’t much point in hastily adding more troops.

After all, if more troops needed to be sent, it wasn’t a problem of manpower itself, but that the delivery capability was limited.

However, in comparison, Gu Hang could improve the combat effectiveness of the troops being deployed.

He didn’t have enough grace points to significantly raise the level of the warriors to T4.

A T4 grade soldier could only train ten people with 1 point of grace.

On the vast scale of battle that was foreseeable, this small number of hands would have a relatively limited effect.

But Gu Hang had another trick up his sleeve.

Under his soldier card training function, there was a rarely used ability: bestowing the ‘Beast Slayer’ trait to soldiers who had completed T5 grade training.

This was a trait that had special attack effects against the Green Skin Orcs; soldiers who possessed this trait would have a better understanding of the weaknesses of the Green Skin Orcs and master various techniques needed to confront this enemy.

Although their overall strength levels were still at T5, with this specific trait, they would receive a significant boost when fighting the Green Skin Orcs, and if they couldn’t reach T4 level, at least they could be considered at a T4.5 level.

And the key was, it was much cheaper.

100 people/point, the same price as training T5 level soldiers, ten times cheaper than T4 level soldiers.

Gu Hang had one hundred thousand grace points at hand, plus the brand new and still warm fourteen thousand that he had just received this month, a total of one hundred and forty thousand.

He spent one hundred thousand of them, and directly created ten million soldiers with this trait from among those about to be dispatched.

Compared to the naval forces of the Alliance, which were just starting out, the Alliance's land forces were a more reliable force.

After all, the Alliance started out with the land forces.

But as powerful as the Land Forces were, the deployment of the hundreds of millions of troops soon to enter combat was a major issue.

Crossing the ocean in a bathtub was impossible, let alone the Star Sea.

Fortunately, the Alliance had managed to cobble together more than two hundred warships.

These ships were packed with members of the Alliance Army, and it wasn't about how many soldiers a warship could carry; the key issue was that the Green Skins really, really liked to engage in boarding combat during naval battles.

Even putting aside the fighting capability of the conventional Navy Marine Corps, their sheer numbers were cause for concern.

If enemies managed to breach the defenses during a battle and a few landing pods or landing ships got through, letting those Green Skins cause havoc aboard, even if it was only a few hundred or a few thousand of them, it would be an exceedingly troublesome affair.

Having the Land Forces inside provided a much greater sense of security.

And who says humans can’t board enemy ships?

However, if sea battles could be settled with sturdy ships and powerful guns, then it was best to do just that.

For human troops, boarding was always a very last resort.

Except for the Starfighter Battle Group.

Aboard the main ships of the Navy, five hundred Phoenix warriors stood ready and waiting, potentially a key force in a critical moment.

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These were roughly the military preparations.

During this period, Gu Hang held one military meeting after another to discuss the major issues and directions of various matters.

He couldn’t possibly handle the specific details himself.

The movement of hundreds of interstellar warships and hundreds of millions of troops wasn’t something he could process with one brain.

At times like this, he could only fully trust in the Alliance system he had helped build to withstand the test of this suddenly erupting full-scale war.

But Gu Hang never forgot one thing: war was about politics, and even more so about economics.

If they went to the Eagle Horse Star Sector and failed to win, or even suffered a crushing defeat and complete annihilation, followed by those Green Skin Orcs cutting a bloody swath all the way into the Tianma Star Sector, then there would be nothing more to say.

At that point, all would be lost, and Gu Hang would have to figure out how to grab a bucket and run, then see if he could make a comeback from someplace else, and he would also need to find a way to cleanse himself of the stain.

However, as long as it wasn't that scenario, if the war stalled to a stalemate to some extent, regardless of whether it was an advantage, disadvantage, or balanced situation, the rear would still need to provide a continuous flow of all the necessary materials for war.

War was not just a matter for soldiers, but also for civilian administrators, workers, farmers, and in fact, for all 61 billion citizens of the Alliance.

The meaning of total war, of general war, lay here: to wage war by mobilizing all the power of a political body!

This was not a matter of a single battle.

The military was only part of a total war, and though important, the maintenance of a wartime economy and continuous supply from the home front were even more crucial.

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Could the Alliance afford to lose a hundred million troops, and then immediately field another hundred million?

Could they afford to lose two hundred ships, ones that took years to build, and then instantly crank out dozens, perhaps a hundred more?

If that were possible, then victory in the war would always be within reach.

Not to mention, the margin for error would be greatly increased, and the range of military strategies that the troops could employ would be significantly expanded.

That was essentially the demand Gu Hang made to Alliance Premier Osenia and the entire Alliance Government.

As for his earlier demand to the Alliance Government for an annual GDP growth rate of more than 10%, that had been indefinitely shelved.

They would revisit that when the war was over.

For this reason, every bit of administrative power that the Alliance had established over the nine planets of the Tianma Star Sector was now mobilized in full service to the war effort.

Gu Hang had signed the relevant documents, declaring that the Alliance had entered into a wartime system.

A third-grade mobilization order had already been issued, and a second-grade mobilization order was on the way.

A large number of civilian factories were converting to military production, and many people, if they couldn't join the military, were at least being pulled into industries related to the war.

The atmosphere of war had descended upon everyone.

Chapter 414, Jump Point Naval Battle The Alliance's forces, no matter how much they needed to gather and prepare in advance, could not afford to delay for too long.

If too much time passed and the Eagle Horse Star Sector fell into disrepair, the Alliance would have to fight to the death against those Green Skins on its own turf.

It would be better to strike at Steel Wing Star instead.

The departure date was set for forty-five standard Terra days after Gu Hang agreed to join the battle with Yelisia.

This timeline made General Tilermungs and Admiral Yuan Chengchuan break out in sweat.

The former goes without saying, but the latter, as the commander-in-chief of the united Defense Force of the Eagle Horse Star Sector, had just been awarded the military rank of Marshal of the Star Sector.

This Marshal rank was an honorary title, or you could say, akin to a Planetary Defense Army Marshal, different from a Star Realm Army Marshal.

Planetary military ranks, although recognized by the Empire, were only valid within the Planetary Defense Force and were unrecognized outside of the planet.

Originally, Yuan Chengchuan was merely the military commander aboard Eagle Horse II at the Star Sector Capital.

However, in these particular times, Ren Wanxia, the head of the Eagle Horse Star Sector, created the title of 'Marshal of the Star Sector' in order to consolidate the military power of the Star Sector to resist the invasion of the Green Skin Orcs, granting him the marshal rank for all planets within the Star Sector, to facilitate the integration of the entire Star Sector's Defense Forces.

At present, on Steel Wing Star, General Tilermungs was the commander of the naval forces and generally regarded as the leader of the entire war zone; Yuan Chengchuan was his adjunct, primarily responsible for the overall command of the ground troops composed of the Planetary Defense Forces.

Both men were under tremendous pressure, especially with the news from the Golden Pass Star Sector one bad report after another, with no good news and a bunch of calls for help and reinforcement.

But how could they help?

They were simply incapable of providing assistance.

At this moment, the entire Golden Pass Star Sector had fallen into the fires of war.

It goes without saying that the space regions were a lost cause.

With the Yunluo Fleet's retreat to the Curse Bone Star District, Tianma Fleet withdrawing to the Eagle Horse, and the fate of the Northern Fleet hanging by a thread, likely more misfortune than fortune, the Golden Pass Star Sector could essentially be considered abandoned.

Of course, losing the space segments did not mean the war was over.

The Orc fleets indeed deployed a significant number of troops for ground invasions on thirteen worlds of the Golden Pass Star Sector, but the Planetary Defense Forces on these planets were still resisting.

Additionally, as the Golden Pass Star Sector had been on the front lines against the Green Skins for decades, its economic development surely had been hampered by the war.

However, the persistent population transfer, military deployment, and conscription by the Star Domain Government meant that the Planetary Defense Forces' combat effectiveness on each world of the Golden Pass Star Sector was fiercer than most places.

The Green Skins would find it no easy feat to conquer every single world so quickly.

In fact, their chances of success might not even be that high.

While the number of Iron Tooth Orc Tribes was terrifyingly vast, they also needed a huge number of troops to conduct simultaneous operations on thirteen worlds.

The forces allocated to each planet might not be that substantial.

Moreover, there might still be human military resistance on the surface of the four planets in the Silver Pass Sector.

After all, the Dragonhawk Legion’s first, second, sixth, and eighth Army Groups, totaling over two hundred million soldiers, were present on those four worlds.

These were legitimate Star Realm forces, not so easily wiped out.

Of course, orbital control is crucial in ground warfare.

If one side completely loses the ability to control orbits, the threat from above becomes terrifying.

Naval guns’ strikes are unstoppable and devastatingly precise when aimed at ground targets.

However, there are not entirely without countermeasures.

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Digging extensive defense works, particularly underground fortifications, can effectively guard against heavy artillery bombardment.

If people take cover and are struck directly by naval guns, their fate is sealed, and even twenty meters underground might not suffice.

But if they’re not at the center of the detonation, the effectiveness of shelters and bunkers can be tremendous, and on the edge of the blast, what would be certain death above ground might result in no harm whatsoever.

Furthermore, by deploying forces separately and avoiding overly congested defensive lines…

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the damage caused by orbital bombardments can be significantly reduced.

However, adopting such a defensive posture essentially rules out any offensive operations.

To attack, you need to gather forces; once you gather, it's easy to be spotted; being spotted means one blast from above, and it's all over.

But with defense alone, the pressure becomes much less.

Admittedly, with the cover of orbital fire, the enemy's offensives are often overwhelmingly successful, but if the defenders grit their teeth and hold firm, they can still drag out the conflict.

Although they may not avoid a defeat in the end, prolonging the battle for a few months, a year or two, even five or six years, is not uncommon.

The most critical point is, this is not a civil war.

When fighting against a hostile species like the Green Skins, no matter how low the morale of the soldiers, no matter how desolate they feel, there may be desertions or a reluctance to fight, but there will never be surrender.

Orcs don't accept surrenders, they only wish to fight and kill.

Surrendering means death, the only difference being whether it's a mass slaughter or being tortured to death within a month as a slave; better to fight with all one's might and take a bite out of the enemy when death comes.

Chapter 414, Jump Point Naval Battle_2 Moreover, what people found most strange was that when those Green Skin Orcs launched their ground assaults, they barely used orbital firepower.

All calls for help mentioned this detail: although the orcs came in great numbers and their offensive was fierce, catching them off guard and leading to heavy losses, they indeed suffered very few orbital bombardments.

Even on the planets of the Golden Pass Star Sector, most of the orbital defense firepower remained intact; some starports hadn't even been overrun.

Why was that?

It certainly wasn't likely that the Green Skin Orcs were showing mercy.

Green Skin Orcs don't know the meaning of "mercy."

So where did the enormous fleet of orcs go?

The answer to this was also quite evident.

Either the Northern Fleet hadn't been completely wiped out, and even though they had lost contact, perhaps they were still somewhere tying up a large number of the orc ships; or another part of the orc fleet was chasing the Yunluo Fleet, heading deeper into the Dragonhawk Star Domain.

Of course, there was also the possibility that a considerable part of the fleet was on its way to the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

In such a case, could they hold out on Steel Wing Star for forty-five days?

Moreover, the forty-five days mentioned by Gu Hang was only the time it took for the main forces of the Alliance to depart.

Even if they were to assemble from the nearest Fatches Star System and set off, it would take five jumps through the Star Realm Tunnels to reach Steel Wing Star, at least half a month's journey.

Waiting for the arrival of the main forces of the Alliance could well mean a wait of up to sixty days.

However, after having an in-person exchange with Gu Hang, Gu Hang's quite calm demeanor made him accept the reality: this was indeed the most extreme limit for the Alliance to mobilize all its forces and issue a mobilization order before departing.

They couldn't expect the Alliance to come over immediately; such a deployment of ships would pose problems, and bringing just one hundred million ground troops wouldn't suffice without a series of heavy equipment, in addition to untold amounts of ammunition, bullets, food, and other supplies all needed.

After all, the troops were being sent to fight a war, not to be sent to their deaths.

And Gu Hang was indeed very sincere.

The first advance fleet had already departed.

This fleet consisted of twenty transport ships, accompanied by a part of the armed merchant escort fleet.

They primarily transported various types of weapons, ammunition, food, and the like, enhancing the reserves on Steel Wing Star in terms of materials and preparing for the arrival of the main force.

Among these ships, the most important thing for the Tianma Fleet was the technical crew that came with the ships, as well as some vital ship components.

The Tianma Fleet was in desperate need of these.

After all, they had been through six years of war.

Although there had been some basic maintenance in the Golden Pass Star Sector during that time, the damage to ships and parts from such prolonged combat was inevitable.

The arrival of a group of professional technicians would allow for the replacement of severely worn parts, and the entire fleet's condition would see a significant improvement.

Looking at these technicians, Tilermungs even recognized some familiar faces.

These were some of the old technicians from the Flying Wing Star Shipyard.

This made him realize that Gu Hang was indeed very sincere, as well as strategic and rational in doing the right thing.

But even so, it didn't alleviate his deep concern.

According to intelligence reconnaissance, his earlier guess had largely come true: the Green Skin Fleet did not provide cover for their ground troops during the attack but continued to amass forces, spreading the flames of war throughout the Dragonhawk Star Domain.

A Green Skin Fleet had already reached the Temir Star System of the Golden Pass Star Sector.

Within this star system, there were three Imperial planets.

The Green Skin Fleet conducted a bombing spree, destroying some of the orbital defense systems, deployed batches of Green Skin legions, and then moved on.

Their next target was the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

The Temir Star System's Star Realm Tunnel directly connected to Steel Wing Star.

This meant that Tilermungs' long-awaited opponent had finally arrived.

Upon learning that a Green Skin Fleet was traveling from the Temir Star System in the Golden Pass Star Sector to Steel Wing Star, he initiated the strategy he had already envisioned: the main force of the Tianma Fleet rushed to the system's jump point to await the approaching enemy.

The two sides collided at the jump point, as was expected.

The Tianma Fleet intended to ambush them here, and the Green Skin Orcs could actually predict this.

Although these beings appear reckless, warlike, impulsive, and seemingly simple-minded with a penchant for relentless action, they are in fact quite cunning and cruel enemies endowed with significant battle wisdom.

Ambushing them without difficulty was a tough task.

That's why it was a battle that was anticipated, and it was brief yet fierce.

Highly experienced, Tilermungs had roughly predicted where the Green Skin's junk ships would appear, down to the minute and second, before they even materialized.

The prep fire was already amassing, waiting to unleash a barrage of intense firepower on the Green Skin ships the moment they came into view.

The first wave of Green Skin Ships to jump in was large in number.

They had expected the Human Fleet to intercept them here, immediately deploying dark green energy shields and preparing to fire as they emerged.

However, the heavy artillery of the humans gave these rampaging Green Skins a hard hit on the head.

Under focus fire, a large number of Green Skin Ships were destroyed as their energy shields couldn't ramp up to full power quickly enough.

Then, amidst the exchange of fire, the Green Skin Fleet, having just completed the jump, even if they had been preparing their firepower as quickly as possible, was still slightly lacking in their counter-attack.

The key was that their ships were still moving at the speed they had before the jump, a velocity difference that Tilermungs exploited.

The Green Skin Fleet burst out as soon as they appeared, but the Tianma Fleet grazed past them at an oblique angle and started circling around the Green Skins.

This caused much of the Green Skins' firepower to miss, giving the Human Fleet some advantage.

After a dozen rounds of exchange, at least fifteen Green Skin Ships of various classes had been reduced to space junk while, by comparison, the Human Fleet emerged virtually unscathed, only losing an Escort Ship.

There was no doubt this was a victory.

Then, the Human Fleet immediately retreated.

Before the battle, Tilermungs hadn't entirely dismissed the fantasy: if this wave of the Green Skin Fleet was not too numerous or powerful, and if they responded poorly, the humans might be able to secure significant victories at the outset, perhaps even attempting to completely annihilate the invading enemy right there.

If they could achieve a decisive victory, even if the Iron-Tooth Clan still had many ships, at least it would significantly reduce the pressure and push back the arrival of the Green Skin tide.

But alas, fantasies are just that, fantasies.

The number of Green Skin Ships coming through the jump point swelled and quickly exceeded three hundred, with clearly more to come.

Although the quality of the individual ships in the Tianma Fleet was much superior to the Green Skin junk ships, their numbers barely reached a hundred.

The gap in strength between the two sides was still evident.

If it came to a real fight, leveraging the initial advantage, they might achieve good results in the early stages of the battle, but it was clear they couldn't achieve a rapid annihilation.

As time dragged on and the Green Skin Ships made their adjustments, that advantage would gradually fade, and the struggle would come down to brute force.

By then, the Tianma Fleet's chances of victory would, at best, be around thirty percent.

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While the enemy in sight was no doubt part of the main Green Skin Fleet, and winning would certainly be a major victory…

To risk the entire Tianma Fleet on a thirty percent chance…

Forget it.

Tilermungs wasn't that reckless.

After gaining the advantage of fifteen ships, it was time to make a quick exit and retreat to Steel Wing Star.

There, a complete orbital system awaited, with the ground equipped with numerous Anti-Orbit Cannons, making it a more suitable place for a decisive battle.

Chapter 415: Steel Wing Star Battle Meeting Gu Hang had always been closely monitoring the situation on Steel Wing Star.

The choices made by Tilermungs in the battle at the jump point were, of course, correct, and he fully supported them.

What he feared most was that a general in one of the regional armies would have their own ideas and then create a major upheaval.

To stake the outcome of an entire campaign on a tactic with only a thirty percent chance of success was absolutely unacceptable.

Playing it safe was better than anything else.

Subsequently, the humiliated Green Skin Orcs were not willing to give up.

They pursued the fleeing Tianma Fleet all the way to Steel Wing Star.

By that time, the main force of the Tianma Fleet had already been positioned.

The Green Skins, not caring for tactics, launched a fierce and furious attack.

And truth be told, such an aggressive stance did indeed bring great pressure.

Steel Wing Star had not experienced war for many years, and much of the war equipment had only been recently reactivated, causing some initial chaos.

But ultimately, after getting through the initial period of adjustment, they still demonstrated the advantages of a complete planetary defense system, stubbornly repelling the Green Skin Fleet's attack and even inflicting significant casualties.

During that month-long battle, the Green Skin Fleet continuously lost thirty to forty warships, but their gains were limited to destroying some armed space stations and fire platforms.

The most important Star Fortress and Starport remained standing.

The main force of the Tianma Fleet was preserved, with only three ships lost.

If they could keep trading at such a ratio, it was a deal they could take a hundred times over.

No matter how numerous the Green Skin Fleet was, they could not sustain this rate of attrition.

They soon slowed their offensive.

However, during this process, the Iron-Tooth Clan played another card: a massive number of Green Skin Orcs, using landing pods, descended to the planet's surface.

Forcing a landing on a well-defended planet like Steel Wing Star came at a considerable cost.

More than half of the landing pods were intercepted and destroyed during descent.

Yet, the planet was so large that compared to the entire world, even a space city-like Starport was a minor detail.

The Green Skin Fleet could always stage a feint in one area to draw attention, then send other ships to less fortified areas to deploy ground troops.

Even if only half made it through, millions of fearless Orcs landed on the ground.

This was exactly what Tilermungs feared most.

If the Iron Tooth Orcs only had an abundance of ships, that would still be manageable.

They could rely on the planet's defensive system, coupled with the Tianma Fleet, which was far from defenseless.

Who would be afraid then?

It was the vast scale of the ground attack that was worrisome.

When the regular Star Realm Armed Forces battled the Iron Tooth Orcs on the ground, even they struggled significantly, let alone now, when Steel Wing Star's main ground forces were the Planetary Defense Army.

Though numerous, counting over a billion, and of high quality within the Eagle Horse Star Sector, Tilermungs still could not fully trust their capabilities.

The outcome of the ground battle was critical to the space battle.

Once a large area of the planetary surface fell, the strategically deployed Anti-Orbit Cannons would be gone.

Without the protection of the Anti-Orbit Cannons, the Starport and Star Fortress would be endangered.

If these two essential structures were destroyed, Steel Wing Star's orbital defense system would collapse completely.

Then the Tianma Fleet would have to flee again.

And there was no guarantee they could escape.

At this point, they were, in a sense, trapped at Steel Wing Star.

To prevent the worst-case scenario from occurring, Tilermungs reallocated several ships away from the struggle against the Green Skin Fleet to support the ground battle instead.

But the Green Skins had countermeasures as well.

Their ships would move into position during key ground battles and open fire on the surface.

Although much of the firepower would be intercepted, it could still provide some support.

Thus, the battle for Steel Wing Star began.

The fighting was still extremely brutal.

Now, Admiral Yuan Chengchuan was very grateful for the twenty ships of supplies previously sent by the alliance.

Although the Eagle Horse Star Sector itself had been prepared with a significant stockpile of supplies gathered on Steel Wing Star before the preparation for war, once the battle truly began, it became apparent that there was never enough military supplies.

Especially since, the supplies sent by the alliance were quality goods.

There's no need to talk about the food and standard ammo, but the crucial items like the heavy explosive rifles, plasma guns, and high-performance thermite bombs were all quite reliable.

Having one could fortify a sturdy fire position; a burst of gunfire or a couple of shots from a plasma gun could destroy a rampaging Orc War Truck or eliminate a killing machine.

This could often save a position or spare dozens of lives.

Steel Wing Star's land mass accounted for 43% of the globe, mainly consisting of a single large continent situated in the eastern hemisphere.

The scale of the ground combat quickly expanded to nearly the entire northern hemisphere.

But human forces couldn't completely neglect the southern hemisphere.

The Green Skins descended from drop pods, and from each 'meteorite' made of rock and metal, often thousands, if not millions, of Green Skins would emerge.

As long as one landed, the impact site and the surrounding area would have to sound the alarm.

Chapter 415, Steel Wing Star Battle_2 Under such circumstances, human troops must be deployed for defense in all terrestrial regions of the entire planet.

Even those desolate wildernesses that seem to hold no value mustn't be neglected.

If a batch of Green Skins were to land in the wilderness and plant those Green Skin spores, and if they were to proliferate, the Green Skins wouldn't even need to bear the heavy casualties of transporting troops from the Golden Pass Star Sector; they wouldn't need to bother with airdrops anymore.

They would quickly build their unique ecological system in the wilderness, starting with basic fungal plants, through all sorts of Skugg Beasts, to fart spirits, and even Green Skin youngsters…

They would keep emerging from the ground and soon become a calamity.

If at present we are facing an enemy invasion, then if that step is reached, human troops will have to contend with a 'planetary cancer'.

It is best not to let this situation occur, or at the very least, to delay it as much as possible.

In fact, the Green Skin Orcs really did make such an attempt.

They dropped some airdrop pods onto the southern continent experimentally.

This highlights the importance of maintaining vigilance across the entire planet.

It is impossible to completely obliterate the Green Skin Orcs.

On those hundreds of ships, there are plenty of Orc youngsters and fart spirits.

Sometimes, halfway through a battle, a few Green Skin Ships would return to the Golden Pass Star Sector to bring back more troops.

The most important objective for Yuan Chengchuan was to not lose anti-orbital capabilities;

The second objective was to prevent the enemy from establishing a stable ecological cycle.

If this trend was detected, even if it meant paying a not insignificant cost, or even calling for support from the busy Tianma Fleet, it was imperative to eradicate them resolutely.

The third objective was to eliminate as much of the enemy's living force as possible.

With this guiding principle, Steel Wing Star eventually stabilized after the initial chaos at the start of the war.

The Green Skin Orcs were also quite committed to this 'interesting' war.

They continued to exert force on the planet's surface, constantly pressuring the human orbital defense systems in space.

The war began to reach a stalemate.

And this was precisely the outcome Gu Hang had hoped to see.

If Steel Wing Star could become a giant magnet that firmly captivated the enemy's attention and could also hold its ground, that would be for the best.

At the moment, it seems that if the Green Skins don't send in large-scale reinforcements, it's not just about holding Steel Wing Star for two months; holding it for half a year, a year, is very hopeful indeed.

But soon, the Green Skins took some measures Gu Hang did not wish to see.

While their main force was blocking Steel Wing Star, they split off a portion of their force.

Arranged in groups of ten or twenty small junk ships, they moved towards the interior of the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

This was unstoppable.

If the enemy diverted a large force, then the Tianma Fleet was not dead; they could easily follow and concentrate their forces to eliminate the divided enemies.

However, if it was merely a small-scale diversion like this, with the main force still converging on Steel Wing Star, then if the Tianma Fleet initiated a decisive battle now and left the cover of Steel Wing Star's orbital system, the chances of victory would still be low.

They still had to hunker down and disregard those small-scale diversions.

However, the significance of such small-scale diversions was not that great.

A dozen small Green Skin junk ships might not even have the combat capability of an average human Escort Ship.

Plus, with their thin hulls, they were unlikely to independently destroy a planet's Orbital Defense system.

However, many worlds in the Eagle Horse Star Sector had Orbital Defense systems that were also average at best; there was little that could be done against these junk ships.

These junk ships roamed around freely, bombing a planet here and dropping a bunch of airdrop pods, then moving to another Star System.

Soon, the entire Eagle Horse Star Sector was engulfed in war.

Within the Star Sector, twelve worlds, nearly every one of them, suffered Green Skin invasions to a varying degree of severity.

Even the neighboring Mist Horse Star District to the north suffered.

The Green Skin ships that slipped from Steel Wing Star into the Mist Horse Star Sector's Emerald Spring II Star System, as well as the Green Skins that invaded Emerald Spring I from the already war-torn Copper Barrier Star District, rapidly worsened the situation in the Mist Horse Star Sector.

And this behavior of the Green Skins significantly disrupted the support level for the war effort among the various human worlds.

Many planets, with their productive capacities destroyed and facing invasions, were forced to deal with immediate problems, reducing their contribution to the broader war effort.

At the same time, the Iron-Tooth Clan's approach of scattering warfires everywhere also plunged multiple Star Sector borders into panic.

These were certainly detrimental effects, but from another angle, as panic was exacerbated, a plan that Gu Hang was advancing became easier to push forward.

With the entire alliance initiating a wartime regimen and racing against the clock to assemble forces in preparation for war, the alliance was also making extensive political efforts.

The location of the Tianma Star Sector lies in the southeastern corner of the entire Dragonhawk Star Domain.

This place also has another name, known as ‘Seven Horse Territory’.

The reason for such a name is that this corner is surrounded by six other star sectors centered around Tianma: Eagle Horse, Mist Horse, Purple Horse, Border Horse, Cultivating Horse, and Iron Horse.

Put together, they are known as the Seven Horse Territory.

And Gu Hang was promoting the establishment of the ‘Seven Horse Pact’, a military defense alliance.

In the face of the threat from the Green Skin Orcs, he hoped to establish a wartime mechanism that could integrate the powers of the other six star sectors.

The pact should stipulate that each star sector would establish a unified military command system and a unified resource allocation mechanism under the Seven Horse Pact.

Of course, the leader of the Seven Horse Pact would naturally be the Tianma Star Sector, that is, the alliance itself.

The alliance would guarantee the military security of every covenant world.

Gu Hang’s envoy, having boarded accelerated voyagers, went to various places, carrying his letters, to discuss with the leaders and planetary governors of the major star sectors.

The negotiation process for the Seven Horse Pact was not very smooth.

Mr.

Gu, aren't you just taking advantage of the war to expand that so-called alliance of yours?

What's the real difference between signing this Seven Horse Pact and joining the alliance?

Although, after signing the pact, the alliance will not continue to expand its system outward.

However, the military would have to listen to the command of the Seven Horse Pact, the Planetary Defense Army would no longer be their own, and additionally, there is a financial expense to fully support the 'Pact Army'.

Providing personnel, providing resources…

Each of the planets naturally had significant doubts about this.

The Imperial Tax is already a huge burden for each planet, and now you want us to pay a 'protection fee' to your alliance?

Why should we?

Because you cannot withstand the Green Skins' attacks by yourselves.

Another important factor was the overall situation in the entire star domain.

Not to mention the situation in the eastern part of the Dragonhawk Star Domain, it was the central and even the western parts where the Green Skin onslaught was truly raging.

The pivotal battle at the Steel Wing Star would not account for the real main force of the Iron-Tooth Clan.

In fact, the main force led by the Orc chieftain named ‘Titus’ followed the remnants of the Yunluo Fleet, bringing the battlefire deep into the core area of the Dragonhawk Star Domain.

From the Golden Pass Star Sector to the Curse Bone Star District, and onto the Snow Eagle Star Sector and Rapid Eagle Star Sector, they were all fully swept by the Green Skin tide.

The Yunluo Sector, where the capital of the Star Domain resides, and the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector wherein lies the only Foundry World Jindi Star of the Dragonhawk Star Domain, are likely the next targets of the Green Skin Orcs.

In fact, the difficulty of interstellar communication with the capital of the star domain from the Seven Horse Territory has become exceedingly challenging due to the Green Skin tide.

The Imperial Tax collection that was supposed to start has been forced to a haltthe Tax Fleet can’t get through, the path is blocked by the Green Skins.

In such a situation, Mr.

Gu, the Planetary Governor, declared that he had been authorized by the Star Domain Government to take extraordinary measures in extraordinary times, even possessing the power to allocate this period’s Imperial Tax.

Many people were skeptical about this, unsure if it was true or false.

But in times of uncertainty, there were those who made a bold decision.

Ren Wanxia, the leader of the Eagle Horse Star Sector, announced first that he and all the planetary governors within his star sector would sign the ‘Seven Horse Pact’.

This set a good leading example.

Chapter 416, are you still going to collect the Imperial Tax?

Was Gu Hang using the war to expand the alliance's influence?

Objectively speaking, yes;

Subjectively, he did indeed have this idea.

However, he felt no guilt about it.

On this matter, he believed he was doing the 'right thing'.

Given the dire situation in the Cosmos Domain, and even the Yunluo Sector itself being hard to defend, the Seven Horse Territory could not count on external reinforcements for at least a short term.

If the situation in the Star Domain deteriorated to a certain extent, the threat posed by the Iron-Tooth Clan would undoubtedly be greatly elevated by the Central Empire.

By then, it might not just be the forces from the Eastern Cosmos Domain that would arrive, but the Central Empire might directly organize an expeditionary force to quell the disaster in the Dragonhawk Star Domain.

However, that would require a long wait.

Based on Gu Hang's understanding of the Empire's response speed, he was very pessimistic about the Empire being able to quickly assemble sufficient forces to suppress the threat as soon as it erupted.

He believed that given the Empire's vast size and endless military strength, the Iron-Tooth Clan appeared to be a catastrophic disaster within the Star Sector and Star Domain, but for the Central Empire, the matter was not too grave.

If the Central Empire so desired, they could quell the issue with a single slap.

But similar disasters were always occurring in the thousands of Star Domains within the Empire's borders.

By the time the Central Empire realized and assembled forces, the entire Star Domain might already have been devastated.

Let alone the Central Government, Gu Hang was even uncertain about when the Eastern Cosmos Domain's reinforcements might arrive.

By the time the support forces from the Cosmos Domain or the Central Government arrived, and if the Seven Horse Territory had already been ravaged, what significance would it have for Gu Hang?

He did not seek to resolve the Iron-Tooth Clan issue by himselfthat would depend on the subsequent development of the war.

However, defending his homeland and the achievements of his years of struggle meant that he had to integrate the forces of several nearby Star Sectors.

Those with people contribute people, those with strength contribute strength; only in this way was it more likely to fend off the Green Skins.

If the alliance's influence expanded in the process, that was just incidental.

As for what Gu Hang told the leaders and governors of other Star Sectors, that he had been authorized by the Star Domain Government and had the power to allocate resources from surrounding Star Sectors to fight this war, he wasn't lying.

He just hadn't told the whole truth.

This matter originated from a communication Gu Hang had with Yunluo Star.

Ever since the tide of Green Skin Orcs swept through the Star Domain, it had become very difficult to contact the Stellar Capital Yunluo Star from the eastern part of the Dragonhawk Star Domain.

Ordinary Star Speakers just feel that the ‘phone’ couldn’t get through, but Gu Hang’s perception was clearer.

When communicating using Star Language, he could distinctly sense that the subspace transmitting the information was churning unnaturally.

Before his eyes was a frenzied green color, a very violent Spiritual Energy force stirring throughout the subspace.

Was this the so-called waaagh?

The term waaagh in Green Skin Orcs refers to many things, originally derived from their battle cry.

They could waaagh in joy, waaagh in anger, and waaagh in sorrow…

oh, Green Skins might not feel sorrow.

The Iron-Tooth Clan had launched a grand waaagh, and this waaagh energy spread throughout many Star Sectors along their campaign.

As a result, subspace became more tumultuous and unpredictable, with a massive amount of Subspace Energy transforming into the green tide, making Star Language communication extremely difficult.

With Gu Hang’s capability, he had even previously managed to contact Holy Terra directly using an average Star Language Tower.

Contacting Yunluo Star should have been easy.

But now, it was difficult.

The surging green tide energy in subspace had great malice towards other forms of energy.

Breaking through the barriers and making contact elsewhere was indeed very difficult.

For this reason, when Gu Hang finally got through with the Star Language communication and contacted Yunluo Star, the other side was also very surprised and immediately alerted many people.

Several bigwigs from the Star Domain Government immediately pulled Gu Hang's communication into their own offices, and so began an unconventional meeting.

Star Domain Head Tan Jiuyi, Minister of Internal Affairs Lois, Minister of Justice Xu Dechen, and General Michelle Oliqi, Supreme Commander of the Dragonhawk Legion, were all present.

They were also eager to know the current situation in the Eastern Star Domain, which had been out of contact for two months.

In fact, before making contact with Gu Hang, they had even braced for the worst, assuming the Eastern Star Domain had completely collapsed.

Tan Jiuyi made it clear to Gu Hang,

"Your call is the only good news I've heard recently."

Then, they exchanged information.

The situation in the Eastern Star Domain was as such, with the focus on the battle at Steel Wing Star, where the fight was still ongoing, and Gu Hang would soon lead a team to fight in the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Central and Western Star Domain was even worse than in the East.

Dozens of Star Sectors were engulfed in war.

Most of the Star Sectors had been rapidly invaded by the Iron-Tooth Clan.

The Green Skin Orcs, like sowing seeds, scattered one Green Skin force after another onto various planets, engaging in combat with the local human armies and attempting to establish their own Green Skin ecosystems.

But these could only be considered ‘minor problems’.

The bigger issue was the Green Skin main force led by Great Chieftain Titus of the Iron Teeth.

Chapter 416, Are You Still Going to Collect the Imperial Tax?_2 As it stands, they have about six hundred or more warships, with the largest being Titus’ own flagship, which in terms of specifications, has already surpassed the flagship of the Yunluo Fleet, the “Dragonhawk” Battleship Cruiser.

Adding the over four hundred warships from the eastern part of the Star Domain, the Star Domain Government can’t figure out how these Green Skins managed to accumulate so many ships within the four Star Sectors they initially occupied.

If they were all junk ships, worthless ships, that would be one thing, but the key is that they have that extremely powerful flagship!

Could it be that the Iron-Tooth Clan had been lying low over these past decades, biding their time for a big move?

This doesn’t seem to fit the character of the Green Skin Orcs at all!

Previously, they didn't even have a unified chief to lead them; in a state of constant warfare against each other, there wouldn't have been enough warships to spare from the losses of their civil conflicts.

How did they save up so many?

The Star Domain Government still hasn't figured out the reason up to now.

But this does not hinder their efforts to deal with the current crisis for the time being.

The greatest effort made by the Star Domain Government was reaching a consensus with the Founding General of Jindi Star, a high-level leader of the Mingyang Sect.

The two parties already had a fairly close cooperation; Jindi Star and Yunluo Sector were simply connected by a Star Realm Tunnel.

They also hit it off when it came to the common goal of opposing the Green Skin Orcs.

At the personal request of Tan Jiuyi, the Protection Army and Fleet of the Mingyang Sect set off.

They engaged in a brief battle with the vanguard of the Green Skin Fleet.

The Mingyang Sect really went all out, even sending out their lifeline of Jindi Star, a "Mechanical Ark," directly into battle.

They defeated the vanguard of the Green Skin Fleet, lifting the embattled state of the Yunluo Fleet that was being pursued relentlessly.

At last, the Yunluo Fleet was finally able to turn their ships around and gather their forces.

Multiple scattered ship clusters were reassembled.

After accounting, the size of the Yunluo Fleet had been reduced to around 30% of its original strength.

Fortunately, the flagship “Dragonhawk” Battleship Cruiser was still there, along with four other cruisers, and two light cruisers as well.

Including the “Mechanical Ark” from the Mingyang Sect, humanity’s naval forces were finally rallying back together.

But the pressure was still immense.

The main forces under Titus had received the news.

He personally led the main Green Skin Fleet and had already moved from the Curse Bone Star District to the Snow Eagle Star Sector.

From the Snow Eagle Star Sector, there are two pathways, each leading to the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector where Jindi Star is located, and the Stellar Capital Yunluo Star Sector.

Now, it’s still unknown which terrible choice this wild beast will make.

But either option is destined to lead to a fierce battle.

The combined Protection Fleet of the Mingyang Sect and the Yunluo Fleet, totaling four hundred ships, are still probably not a match for the might of the main Green Skin Fleet.

Tan Jiuyi posed a question to Gu Hang: Whether the Tianma Fleet and the combined naval forces of the alliance could possibly arrive at the Yunluo Sector soon to assist in the battle?

He even ‘considerately’ thought out their route of advance for them.

Coming directly from the route taken by the Iron-Tooth Clan was definitely unrealistic, but in the southernmost ring of the Dragonhawk Star Domain, the edge of the Iron-Tooth Clan's offensive had not reached.

They could travel from the Cultivating Horse Star Sector to the Heigu Ridge.

The Heigu Ridge Star Sector had traces of Green Skins, and several planets had been invaded, but the Green Skin Fleet's forces should be weak.

As long as they fought their way through Heigu Ridge to the area of White Eagle and Fire Eagle, they could then directly reach the southern part of the Yunluo Star Sector and safely enter.

Hearing this suggestion, Gu Hang suddenly increased the signal strength of the Interstellar Communication, revealing his face to these Star Domain officials.

He maintained a polite smile on his face, not explicitly agreeing or disagreeing, and his gaze fixed intently on each person.

It wasn't until Tan Jiuyi himself coughed lightly twice and awkwardly skipped over the topic that Gu Hang's stare ended.

Such an outrageous proposal, who knew what the Star Domain Head was thinking.

Did the pressure cause him to lose his mind?

Lois quickly stepped in to smooth things over.

"General Tilermungs has done well, and holding Steel Wing Star would also be good.

Gu Hang, you also must fully cooperate with the Tianma Fleet and support the defense actions of the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

If you can attract as many enemies as possible in the Eastern Star Domain, that would be a significant achievement," Lois said.

Gu Hang was still smiling: "Of course, I will do so.

In fact, I have already pledged to personally lead my forces, along with the more than two hundred ships I've gathered, as well as the billions of Land Forces warriors of the alliance, to Steel Wing Star to join the battle."

As he said this, he purposely skipped over the so-called "cooperation."

Then, some of his demands further revealed his goals: "However, defending the Eastern Star Domain and attracting the attention of the Iron-Tooth Clan as much as possible is not just the alliance's task but concerns the whole Star Domain.

Right now, due to the invasion of the Green Skin Aliens, most of the Star Domain is engulfed in war, the Eastern and Western parts are cut off, making communication extremely difficult."

"For this reason, I hope to gain more autonomy in the Eastern Star Domain," he continued.

"For the many worlds and Star Sectors in the Eastern Star Domain, I want to establish a unified front against the Green Skins, sign a treaty, become integral with each other, and help one another.

All Planetary Defense Forces, Planetary Governments, Star Sector Governments, and the ships owned by traders of all grades should operate under a unified command to fight against the Iron-Tooth Clan."

"The Imperial Tax from the Eastern Star Domain has been cut off and cannot reach the Stellar Capital Yunluo Star, so I want to temporarily take over the role of the Star Territory Taxation Department in the Seven Horse Territory and all other occupied areas within the Star Domain to collect the Imperial Tax.

All collected taxes will be entirely used for the war, and the accounts will be fully prepared, with no misappropriation," he explained.

After Gu Hang finished speaking, these high-ranking officials of the Star Domain Government fell silent.

When Gu Hang first spoke about autonomy, they could still continue listening, but the latter two “I want to”s were too excessive.

A unified treaty…

Ambitious Gu Hang, was he finally planning to expand his alliance beyond the Tianma Star Sector?

This was a sentiment that had always existed within the Star Domain Government.

When the Space Domain Government inexplicably approved a multi-star political alliance, ‘the alliance’, many officials within the Star Domain Government were murmuring.

After all, it wasn’t without precedent, but it was somewhat extraordinary.

As the alliance grew in size, eventually occupying the entire Tianma Star Sector, it was no longer murmurs but genuine vigilance.

Many Star Domain officials made a detailed study of the history of the alliance’s rise to power, believing that this tightly structured union should not expand any further; otherwise, it would affect the authority of the entire Star Domain, creating an intractable potential threat.

However, over the years, the alliance had been very compliant.

Now, taking advantage of the war, were they finally showing their fangs, ready to loot amidst the fire?

Your so-called “integral with each other, helping one another,” isn’t that just a replica of your alliance?

Gu Hang's intentions are well known to all!

In normal times, this could not be agreed to.

But in these extraordinary times, Gu Hang's words made sense.

The Star Domain Government here, with the help of the Sect of Mechanics, didn't even know if they could hold back the tide of Green Skins, let alone the loosely affiliated Star Sectors in the Eastern Star Domain.

With communications cut off between the two sides, and only Gu Hang, a top Spiritual Energy practitioner, occasionally able to break through the barriers for Interstellar Communication, how could they fight without the Star Sectors of the Eastern Star Domain uniting under a strong leader?

And if this so-called "Seven Horse Treaty" could still be considered a special measure under special circumstances, the subsequent issue involving Imperial Tax was even more difficult to accept.

What standing do you have to dare to speak of collecting Imperial Tax on behalf of the government?

Chapter 417, All Forces Attack!

Compared to the Seven Horse Treaty, the collection of Imperial Tax is a far more sensitive matter!

Indeed, the very authority of governments at all levels of the Empire finds its roots in the Imperial Tax.

Why do they say that the Planetary Governor is a 'king of the soil,' the absolute ruler of the planet?

It's because as long as the Imperial Tax is sufficiently paid, the Planetary Governor theoretically has unlimited power within the planet to do as they please.

Naturally, in reality, due to differences in planetary strength and importance, Planetary Governors are always subject to various forms of supervision and appointments, but that's another story.

Among the various levels of government, the Star Sector Government actually holds the least power.

Their authority primarily centers on setting the Imperial Tax, assessing population numbers, and development levels of planets.

They don't collect taxes themselves, and their operational revenue is theoretically supposed to come from higher-level allocations, but in reality it is shouldered by the local planets through tax offsets.

This also means that if the head of a Star Sector possesses inadequate skills or fails to garner the support of most Planetary Governors, their authority can diminish exponentially.

However, the Star Domain Government is an entirely different beast, being a formidable local government.

The reason is that the Star Domain Government has established a complete Imperial administrative system.

Beneath the Star Domain Government, the Department of Political Affairs, Department of Taxation, Legal Department, and Military Affairs Department are all present across the Star Domain.

Typically, a unified command center for the Star Realm Army and naval forces is also established in the Star Domain.

Although those four major government institutions still take orders from their higher counterparts, such as the corresponding institutions of the Space Domain Government, and the Star Realm Army and navy theoretically do not fall under local government jurisdiction but have their own chain of command, this complete structure, combined with the responsibility for tax collection throughout the entire Star Domain, endows them with power.

Often, the Star Domain Government can retain 30% of the taxes they collect, with the remainder needed to be forwarded to the Space Domain Government; of which, another 20% will be retained by the Space Domain Government.

This also means that the Space Domain Government, possessing a complete set of government institutions as well and retaining taxes with the direct power of personnel over its subordinate institutions, the Star Domain Governments, forms an even larger powerhouse.

Of course, all these cannot compare to the Central Empire that takes 50% of the tax revenue.

Now, Gu Hang is looking for more than just the military command of the Seven Horse Territory, he is even further requesting the right to collect Imperial Tax.

Although currently, with the isolation between the east and west in the Star Domain, the Yunluo authorities couldn't collect taxes from the east anyway, this is a precedent that absolutely cannot be set!

Once set, what will be done in the future?

If this Iron-Tooth Clan war ended quickly, then it's still manageable, and the Star Domain Government could find a way to terminate the temporary strategies of the 'Seven Horse Treaty' and 'collection of Imperial Tax.'

But if the war dragged on for ten or even twenty years, then, the whole Eastern Star Domain might only recognize the alliance, not the Dragonhawk.

The first to jump out in opposition, unexpectedly but also not unexpectedly, was Nell Lavis, the Chief Administrator who 'promoted' Gu Hang and has been a supporter of Gu Hang all along.

Her voice trembled slightly as she coldly said, "Gu Hang, you are dreaming!

How could the Star Domain Government possibly agree to your collection of Imperial Tax?

You are challenging the entire Empire's legal system and order!"

Gu Hang’s smile remained on his face, but the sharpness in his eyes was like a blade pointing straight at Lois’s heart.

“Chief Administrator Lois, I don’t understand what you mean by ‘challenging the Empire’s laws and order.’ However, please consider our current situation.

The Green Skin Orcs of the Iron-Tooth Clan have been ravaging the entire Star Domain.

If I don’t collect these taxes, who will?

Should we leave it for those Green Skin Aliens to collect?

Would you rather those bullets that should be shot at Aliens, after being seized by the Green Skins, be turned to hit the Empire’s soldiers?

My proposal is to concentrate resources to the utmost to win this war.”

Lois started to speak, but at this moment Xu Dechen, the head of the Legal Department, suddenly spoke up: “I support Gu Hang’s proposal.

In these extraordinary times, we need extraordinary means.

The alliance’s influence and capability in the Eastern Star Domain is currently the only choice.

Everything he’s said makes sense, and I also believe in Mr.

Gu’s loyalty.”

Xu Dechen’s support left Lois incredibly incredulous.

Her gaze almost immediately shot toward Xu Dechen.

What is this Chief of the Legal Department trying to do?

In the past, the ‘Parliamentary Faction’ Xu Dechen represented was not on good terms with Gu Hang.

On the contrary, she was Gu Hang’s supporter.

If she is opposing him, then why is Xu Dechen showing such support?

After a moment’s thought, she immediately said, “Currently, the Eastern Star Domain and Yunluo Star have not completely lost contact.

Gu Hang, the alliance should operate under the unified leadership of the Star Domain Government to support this war.

This isn’t the time to…”

“Enough, Chief Administrator Lois, you know full well the reasons Mr.

Gu has cited,” Xu Dechen interrupted, “If we could act under the unified leadership of the Star Domain Government, that would naturally be the best.

Aren’t we talking about a ‘what if’ scenario here?

We have to prepare for the worst.

In the event we lose contact between the two sides of the Star Domain, isn’t allowing Mr.

Gu to act independently the best option?”

“Above all, our prime objective is to win the war.

Survival is our first concern, everything else can be deferred, isn’t that the principle?”

Lois fell silent.

Tan Jiuyi let out a sigh.

He did not concern himself with the words exchanged between his two subordinates, but instead spoke seriously to Gu Hang, “I cannot accept your terms.

Regardless of my wishes, I don’t have the authority to agree to such a significant request.”

Chapter 417, All Forces Attack!_2 Hearing this veiled refusal, Gu Hang’s expression remained unchanged.

He said softly, “I regret this, but, Mr.

Tan, as well as General Lois and General Xu, please realize one thing: this is not a request but an announcement.

If it comes to the point where we cannot achieve victory without doing this, I will still do it.

I cannot stand by impassively when everything I have is on the verge of being destroyed.

Not a single governor in the Eastern Star Domain, nor any imperial official or even the imperial citizens, will sit back and wait for death.”

After a pause, Gu Hang continued, “I also believe that, after the war is over, the Empire will judge my actions fairly and decide their true nature.”

“Gu Hang!

You are being too presumptuous!”

Lois responded furiously.

Tan Jiuyi gestured for Lois to refrain from speaking further, and then said, “Do whatever you want to do; the Star Domain Government will not hinder your actions, but it will not acknowledge or agree with them either.

That is all, personally, I still hope you can hold up half the sky in the Eastern Star Domain.”

“Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.”

The call ended there.

Gu Hang’s message had already vanished from the Star Language channel.

Meanwhile, the various high-ranking officials of the Dragonhawk Star Domain were still in the channel.

They were silent for quite a while, even Lois, who had been the most emotional before, was now silent.

They all needed time to digest a fact:

The actual person in charge of the Eastern Star Domain, for the time being, was Gu Hang.

Clearly, when it came to affairs in the Eastern Star Domain, the Star Domain Government no longer had a say; they couldn't stop Gu Hang from doing anything.

Even thinking about settling scores after the autumn, that would have to wait until autumn comes.

And, could they really settle the score with Gu Hang after the autumn?

That was far from certain.

Chances are, he might become a war hero again.

But Lois was still in a rather foul mood.

In the past, she saw Gu Hang as one of her own, someone she had supported, a trusted confidant who provided strong support in the local government.

But now, it seemed that Gu Hang had his own thoughts.

A confidant?

Forget about it.

She had the feeling that Gu Hang was out of control.

She found this hard to accept.

She couldn't help but say to Xu Dechen, "Do you realize what you just said?

You're fuelling Gu Hang's ambition!"

Lois was referring to the moment when Gu Hang first started expressing his outrageous ideas, she opposed them, yet Xu Dechen had said some supportive words.

However, Xu Dechen remained unfazed, “General Lois, do you remember who was the one who strongly supported Gu Hang’s rise to power at the beginning?

It was you.

If you now think the Alliance is a problem, then perhaps the root of this problem should start with you.”

For a moment, Lois was at a loss for words.

Even in her mind, a rather unsettling thought arose: Was Xu Dechen setting a trap for her?

Gu Hang carried her mark indelibly, and was Xu Dechen trying to push him in the direction of rampant ambition and then drag her down as well?

Tan Jiuyi remained silent all the while.

What he hoped most, of course, was that Gu Hang would lead his forces to the Western Front and let go of the East.

But he knew that was impossible.

So, as a next best, Gu Hang drawing the Green Skins’ attention in the East as much as possible wasn’t a bad thing either.

Under this goal, the bigger a commotion he made, the better.

As for the Seven Horse Treaty, the collection of Imperial Tax, or even if Gu Hang really used the Seven Horse Treaty to annex multiple star sectors into his so-called alliance, those were not his responsibility.

The person Lois had promoted was Gu Hang, the alliance was established with the impetus of Galaraldo, and there were also signatures from Zuo Zhaofeng and Wang Suan, the two current and former Cosmos Domain presidents none of it could be blamed on me, Tan Jiuyi, right?

…

As for the thoughts of the Star Domain bureaucrats, Lois, Xu Dechen, and Tan Jiuyi, Gu Hang could more or less grasp them.

But to be honest, he didn't care.

Just as he had said before, no matter what those star domain bureaucrats thought, the things he needed to do, would always be carried out.

Those people, their minds were too complex, thinking too much.

For Gu Hang, winning the war came before everything else.

If he won, he had many ways to make all his actions, right or wrong, eventually seem right; if he lost, even if he adhered to all the rules, in the end, all the blame would fall on him.

Now that he had received the Star Domain Government's 'permission', Gu Hang began even more brazenly to peddle his Seven Horse Covenant.

Negotiations with the other five horses continued, and as for the Eagle Horse Star Sector, which had already agreed and even signed, Gu Hang provided clear feedback.

The time agreed with the Tilermungs was also nearly upon them.

The Alliance Army, having completed its war preparations as planned, finally reached the moment of departure.

Over two hundred warships, an equal number of transport ships, 110 million from the Star Realm Army, the Alliance Army, along with an astronomically high number of war supplies, the Alliance's forces set out.

For the Alliance, assembling such a military force undoubtedly meant going all-in with their entire stake.

Under Gu Hang's leadership, the Alliance's ability to regenerate was quite formidable.

Even if this army was completely wiped out, without a single survivor, the Alliance could amass a force no less than the current onepossibly a slightly smaller navy and fewer transport ships, but still sufficient and roughly of the same caliberif given about four years.

But the issue was, if this all-in gamble failed, whether the Iron Tooth Orcs would give Gu Hang four years to rebuild, which was a big question.

As for the future, that was to be discussed later.

At least, Gu Hang's current priority was to fight the battle at hand well.

Total war, although the support from the rear was most crucial, did not mean that the military aspect was unimportant.

If the commander was incompetent, then no matter how strong the support from the rear, it could not make up for the troops being senselessly squandered day after day.

The first action of the embarking Alliance Legion was to fight an annihilative battle at the jump point in the Fatches Star System.

Today, the Alliance's Storm Mage Corps had grown to over five hundred in size, even having three or four B-grade Spiritual Energy users.

At the outset of the war, the Alliance set up its most advanced stargazing equipment within the Fetches II.

Two days prior, they had detected a Green Skin Fleet moving through the Star Realm Tunnel from Eagle Horse III to Fatches.

The number was unknown, but since the battle at Steel Wing Star was still ongoing, the number couldn't be too great.

Thus, the Alliance Navy took the initiative to strike first.

The intruding Green-skin Plundering Fleet of six ships was immediately met with an attack by at least a hundred human warships.

The outcome was predetermined.

Some Green Skin Ships tried to flee, but the 'Blackfish-class' patrol ships of the Alliance Navy were experts at the chase.

They formed groups of three or four and clung to the fleeing Green Skin Ships, reducing their shield strength until the 'Silver Sword' arrived.

Then, the specialized fast torpedo escort ships, the 'Silver Sword', equipped with M-size 'Sky Cleaver' missiles, often ended the battle with a single strike.

A zero-loss naval battle victory served as a good omen for the start.

Although the six downed Green Skin vessels were the lowest grade of junk ships, a victory was still a victory.

There were still a few days left before the scheduled departure time, but since the forces were already at the jump point, the vanguard of the Alliance Navy, after consulting with the central command, simply crossed the jump point into Eagle Horse III.

Were there any Green Skin Fleets roaming in Eagle Horse III?

Unknown, but in any case, they dared not show themselves anymore.

Even the most battle-loving Green Skins wouldn't rush to certain death when completely outmatched.

Immediately following, the navy quickly deployed to the orbit of Eagle Horse III.

'Scalpel', 'Sky Cleaver' missiles; 'Heat Hammer' cannon; 'Meltdown' light spear, began unleashing violently on the surface, over the Green Skins' strongholds.

The Native Defense Forces on the surface of planet Eagle Horse III were greatly invigorated!

They had endured orbital bombardment from the Green Skins and suffered terribly from the onslaught of millions of Green Skin troops.

Now that the Alliance had arrived, it was time to breathe a sigh of relief and fight back!

Taking advantage of the support from orbital bombardment, they launched a counterattack and achieved certain victories.

On the other hand, the Green Skins had to start shrinking back.

Chapter 418, Consider Joining the Alliance?

Merely relying on the orbital bombardment in addition to the counterattack of the Planetary Defense Forces, the situation on Eagle Horse III was greatly alleviated.

The vanguard of the Alliance Navy left behind one destroyer, several armed merchant ships in orbit around Eagle Horse III to continue providing assistance, while also waiting for the arrival of the subsequent main forces.

The rest pushed on, entering Eagle Horse VI, and then proceeded to the Star Sector Capital – Eagle Horse II.

Wherever the Alliance Navy went, the Green Skin Fleet dispersed!

They had no choice.

The vanguard of the Alliance Navy had several dozen ships, even though there were no cruisers, there were several destroyers.

With this number and quality laid out there, those branches of the Green-skin Plundering Fleet could certainly not resist.

In fact, on Eagle Horse II, one Green-skin Plundering Fleet was bitten hard, losing four ships before managing to escape.

It can be said that once the Alliance Army entered the Eagle Horse Star Sector, the space, which had been utterly chaotic and almost completely left to the whims of the Green-skin Plundering Fleet, suddenly became quiet.

Humanity regained space, regained orbit, and the ground combat became much easier.

And at this time, the main force of the Alliance Army also entered Eagle Horse III.

They only made a brief stop here, where Gu Hang met the Planetary Governor of Eagle Horse III.

The latter had already signed the Seven Horse Treaty more than half a month ago, and the Alliance was here to fulfill the treaty.

The Governor of Eagle Horse III, holding the paper document of the Seven Horse Treaty, took a photo with Gu Hang.

Gu Hang left satisfied with the main forces of the Alliance.

Before leaving, he deployed eight divisions to Eagle Horse III.

One Skeleton Division, six infantry divisions, and one Armored Brigade, adding up to around 330,000 troops, all belonging to the ranks of the Alliance Army.

With them, the issues on Eagle Horse III should be resolved.

And indeed they were.

The participation of the Alliance Land Forces immediately turned the ground situation on Eagle Horse III, which had already improved due to the orbital bombardment, into a complete advantage.

Eagle Horse III was a world with approximately 800 million inhabitants, an agricultural plus mining planet, and the Green Skins had cumulatively committed about one million troops to this world.

The quality of the Planetary Defense Forces of Eagle Horse III was mediocre at best, and the scale was only about several million.

Moreover, half of them had been drawn away by Yuan Chengchuan to Steel Wing Star, so they struggled greatly against the million-scale invasion of the Green Skins.

The idea of arming the entire population was hardly effective; they lacked the weaponry.

You can’t expect civilians to fight the Green Skins with pitchforks and mining picks, right?

That would be a pure slaughter.

In reality, the Green Skins already had a vague intention of taking root on the planet.

After they defeated a Defense Army unit on the planet’s tropical continent, they established an ecosystem and started planting mushrooms everywhere.

If left unchecked for a few years, there would be no need to send reinforcements from the Star Sea, as their own numbers would multiply on their own.

However, all of this was destroyed and undone by the arrival of the Alliance Army.

The first wave of orbital bombardment targeted the main forces of the orcs; the second wave took care of their ecosystem.

Afterward, once the Alliance Land Forces landed, according to the agreements of the Seven Horse Treaty, the colonel in command of the eight divisions became the supreme commander of the planetary battlefield.

The nearly two million Planetary Defense Forces of Eagle Horse III also came under their unified command.

At the beginning, the Planetary Defense Forces were a bit reluctant.

Being military men, there is always some pride, and even the Planetary Defense Force felt this way.

No matter what, they had been fighting bloody battles with the Green Skins for the past month, with severe losses.

Even though they couldn't win, they had made sacrifices.

The Alliance came to help us, and we're happy, but where does it say that we should hand over our authority all at once?

If it were the Star Realm Army, that might be acceptable, but we're all Defense Armies.

Are you better just because you have more money?

However, the Governor of Eagle Horse III knew his stuff and under his strong orders, the Defense Army was fairly obedient.

Moreover, as the battles commenced, even the little bit of reluctance among the Defense Army's leaders and officers quickly evaporated.

No matter how reluctant, could they withstand the effectiveness of the other side?

Once assuming total command authority, the Alliance Land Forces had no intention of using the local troops as cannon fodder, a concern that had worried the local military.

Although they required the participation of a million troops to fill the battle lines, that was pretty much their only role.

For the real assault, the Alliance Land Forces rolled up their sleeves and got to work themselves.

The well-equipped Skeleton Division, using their own subordinate armored units as the spearhead, found an area to forcefully push into the tropical rainforest of Eagle Horse III.

Lion King led the Lions, mercilessly knocking down and crushing the jungle trees.

Elite tanks equipped with anti-gravity engines did not care about the condition of the roads.

Robust power and extremely capable tracks are standard issue; on muddy paths, when necessary, the activated anti-gravity devices substantially reduced the weight of the vehicle, even allowing it to hover a few centimeters above ground for a short time, capable of going through any rough terrain.

The Green Skin strongholds were uprooted one after another, and the Alliance soldiers following them quickly eliminated any threat.

The Native Defense Forces behind them would just transport supplies, use flamethrowers to burn the mushrooms and clear the battlefield, and help clear the trees to make way as needed.

It was precisely because they accompanied the Alliance forces in doing this ‘menial work’ that they witnessed firsthand how the Alliance waged war.

Chapter 418, Consider Joining the Alliance?_2 Those Green Skin Orcs, who were considered quite troublesome in their eyes, collapsed under the onslaught of the Alliance’s iron tide, unable to make use of the rainforest as cover.

If the Green Skins ever engaged in combat with the Alliance Army, they first had to endure a round of fierce artillery fire always accompanying the main forces, followed by the merciless crushing of the armored units.

Even if they somehow managed to get close to the Alliance tanks, the Alliance infantry was no pushover.

They generally had excellent shooting skills, superior tactical abilities, and high morale, not at all afraid of frontally confronting the Green Skins.

The heavy machine guns within their squads, the heavy explosive guns and infantry cannons, and rocket launchers in their companiesall of these as infantry firepowerwould also give those Green Skins a lot of pain.

When the two sides were in close quarters, they often could seize the opportunity, concentrating fire from a dozen guns to eliminate Green Skin Orcs one by one, never dispersing their fire, and working together perfectly.

Even in the unlikely event of hand-to-hand combat, the Alliance soldiers would fearlessly fix bayonets and group up to hunt down the rushing Green Skin Orcs.

Despite the tough skin and immense strength of these orcs, who could still inflict significant casualties on Alliance soldiers at close range with their robust vitality and powerful “clack clack” guns, the Native Defense Forces had never seen Alliance soldiers show fear.

Even retreats were due to orders from higher-ups, executing strategic missions, not because they were easily defeated.

If the disparities in equipment were an unacceptable gap for the Eagle Horse III’s Defense Army, the absolute gap in combat skill, tactical ability, and fighting will left them speechless.

The swiftly subdued Eagle Horse III Defense Army became even more obedient.

They cooperated actively with the Alliance Army’s operations and gradually shook off the feeling of impending doom that they couldn’t win, which had gripped them for the past month.

They began to believe that with the help of the Alliance Army, victory would ultimately be theirs.

The rising morale of the Planetary Defense Force was also beneficial for the Alliance Land Forces.

After all, the Alliance Land Forces had only deployed a little over three hundred thousand troops to Eagle Horse III, facing a million Green Skins, and they couldn’t possibly take them down alone.

The Green Skins might use junk, but they themselves were not junk.

The two million Land Forces of Eagle Horse III were still a force to be seriously utilized.

With tighter cooperation between them, the Iron Tooth Orcs’ territory on the tropical continent of Eagle Horse III became increasingly constricted.

The orcs were not the kind to sit idly by and await death.

They launched a fierce and cunning counterattack.

A Defense Army unit, under the command of the Alliance Army, was engaging a group of orcs that had lost all heavy firepower and armored forces, with an eightfold advantage in manpower.

This should have been a relatively simple task.

Although if faced head-on, even with a fourfold advantage, the Defense Army might be overwhelmed by the orc forces, the Green Skins without their heavy artillery, “killer cans,” war trucks, and giant Skugg Beastsarmed only with rifles and macheteswere still no match for the Defense Army with heavy artillery support.

Although eradicating them would still result in some casualties, it was essentially an overwhelmingly favorable battle.

Should the unexpected one-in-ten chance occur, an Alliance Land Forces infantry battalion was nearby, ready to provide support quickly.

However, the unexpected did happen.

An army of Green Skins arrived from outside and encircled them.

All they could do was to call for help.

The Alliance infantry battalion immediately went to provide support; however, the number of enemies far exceeded initial estimates, and they too were besieged.

The calls for help continued, attracting an Alliance Army division along with about a hundred thousand Defense Army troops.

Then, they were also surrounded.

Only at this point did the human side realize that not only were there a large number of enemies, but they also possessed advanced units like “killer cans,” “death cans,” and heavy-armored orcs.

With the combat strength and numbers of this Green Skin force, they could have annihilated the human forces within the encirclement long ago, even denying them any chance to call for help.

Their reason for not doing so was deliberate; it was a fishing expedition, or more accurately, encirclement to strike at reinforcements.

This wave lured in forty thousand Alliance Land Forces and another hundred thousand Defense Army troops, which was enough for the Iron-toothed Boss in command to prepare to net a satisfying catch.

He even brought out a long-hidden Skugg Behemoth Cluster.

A Skugg Behemoth was an excellent war machine.

They were like gigantic unicorns, with the smallest among them being the size of a Lion King Tank.

They were covered with a layer of thick scales on their enormous bodies.

Their skin was extremely tough, and their bones were as strong as steel.

The Green Skin craftsmen would also hang all sorts of armor on them.

While well-protected, their brute strength, tusks, and large feet could smash strong defensive structures.

They often carried a huge cannon on their backs, and many battle cabins hung on either side of their bodies, from which the Green Skin youngsters would shoot or throw explosives from within.

Thus, a Skugg Behemoth could simultaneously serve as a battle tank, troop carrier, and siege weapon.

However, despite heavy investment, the Green Skins found themselves in a bind when it came time to close the net.

Even though this division of the Alliance Land Forces was surrounded, they were still surprisingly tough to chew through.

Chapter 418, Consider Joining the Alliance?_3 Heavy artillery was the core of the infantry division, which gave the Green Skins a lot of trouble.

A sizable number of high-level units were destroyed by heavy artillery in combat.

The terrifying Skugg Beasts, too, couldn't withstand too many heavy artillery strikes.

The Green Skins thought of many ways to deal with the besieged heavy artillery of the Alliance Army.

Orc Air Squadron air raids, special ops airdrops and infiltration, heavy artillery duels, armored beast rushes…

They were effective, of course.

But first, they couldn't completely wipe them out, and second, their own losses were also significant.

The infantry division of the Alliance also placed great emphasis on anti-air defense, with anti-aircraft guns equipped on vehicles featuring powerful servo skull locking systems, and they also carried anti-aircraft missiles; there were individual soldiers equipped with anti-aircraft missiles as well; the Alliance Army's own flying squadrons wouldn't just watch their comrades get encircled, as Wind Falcons and Kirins took off in succession, engaging in dogfights with the Orc air force.

The Green Skins' aerial forces suffered no small losses, and the special ops teams that infiltrated were met with fierce resistance from the Alliance Army's artillery array guards and were wiped out wave after wave.

The armored beast rush was indeed effective.

The mobilization of Skugg Beasts often managed to take a position, but the retreating humans, even with severe losses, quickly rebuilt new positions further back.

The beasts had to bite off one piece at a time while also risking being targeted by concentrated heavy fire.

And the heavy artillery duel was also useful, as the Green Skins managed to muster up quite a few cannons for a while.

But, such dueling takes a long time, and the problem is destined not to be solved immediately.

That Iron-toothed Boss awkwardly discovered that if he wanted to completely devour this group of besieged human troops, the Green Skins would also have to lose about twenty or thirty thousand of their own, the loss of various high-level units would not be small, and it would take at least six or seven days.

To reduce losses, adopting siege tactics was also an option, trapping the enemy until they ran out of ammunition and provisions.

That way, not too many Green Skin boys would need to be sacrificed.

But it would take at least two or three months.

Before he could decide exactly what to do, the humans' response came first.

The Skeleton Division of the Alliance Army, along with an Armored Brigade, arrived in position directly.

Along with them, two hundred thousand of the Defense Army also assembled and came over.

What was originally just a predatory battle by the Green Skin Orcs, an annihilating fight by surrounding and aiming for reinforcements, quickly escalated into a main force battle.

That Green Skin boss was also ferocious.

Seeing that things had reached this state, he too was continuously calling for reinforcements.

In a brutal month-long battle, both sides kept calling in troops, fueling the fire of war, making the battle fiercer and fiercer.

In the end, the total number of troops participating in this battle on both sides reached over one million.

The final result was a victory for the human side.

When one Skugg Beast after another perished under the humans' heavy artillery, fell in clashes with the Lion King; when one armored unit of the Green Skins after another was destroyed by various anti-armor weapons; when one Green Skin boy after another was brought down by various weapons…

That Green Skin boss also fell during a charge he personally led, taken down by a plasma gun shot, followed by a thermite bomb that obliterated him.

The Orc army collapsed thereafter.

About three hundred thousand Green Skins were wiped out in this one battle.

Although the Planetary Defense Force lost over three hundred thousand, and the Alliance Army paid the price of over seventy thousand lives, various armored units and artillery units also suffered heavy losses.

But the victory in this main force battle laid the foundation for the overall victory in the ground combat on Eagle Horse III.

Without their commander, the Green Skin Army became like a scattered herd of sheep.

More importantly, they had almost completely lost their elite forces, leaving the five or six hundred thousand surviving Green Skins severely lacking in high-level units, with their overall combat effectiveness severely diminished.

For now, they could no longer pose any threat to Eagle Horse III.

Apart from the war zones, Eagle Horse III was strenuously resuming production and restoring social order.

Within the war zone itself, these Green Skins would also be completely eradicated within at most half a year.

The Governor of Eagle Horse III was very pleased.

He personally visited the front line to console the Alliance Army and also paid a visit to his own Defense Army.

He lavished praise on the Colonel from the Skeleton Division.

He was even prepared with medals and a promotion in rank.

How could a colonel’s rank do justice to his contribution?

At least a full general’s rank was in order!

But the Colonel of the Alliance refused and left behind a word:

“Perhaps, before long, all ranks will be united.”

After hearing this, the Governor of Eagle Horse III didn’t know whether he should be happy or not.

…

The warfare on Eagle Horse III was a microcosm of the situation in the entire Star Sector.

When the edge of the Alliance’s military entered the Eagle Horse Star Sector, many worlds here played out similar scenarios.

The pattern was much the same: as the Alliance Fleet entered the relevant Star System, driving away or eliminating Green Skin ships, they then provided orbital support to the respective planets, and then, depending on the state of the stars, deployed some troops.

Eagle Horse III was considered minor, and frankly speaking, the Green Skin threat wasn’t that big, just about a million Orcs, taken care of by just eight divisions.

The bigger problem was on Eagle Horse II, which has three human worlds, one of which, the primary star, had a population of 4 billion, making it the most populous world in the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

The entire Eagle Horse Star Sector, with twelve worlds combined, had a population of only about 15 billion.

The second and third planets of Eagle Horse II each had only a few tens of millions of people, purely mining planets.

Chapter 418, Consider Joining the Alliance?_4 Eagle Horse II’s main star was heavily attacked by the Green Skins, with tens of millions descending upon this world.

The Defense Army on Eagle Horse II’s main star was severely beaten, and within a month, several key cities were captured, and the Defense Army was in constant retreat.

Meanwhile, the Alliance Army had committed an entire Army Group.

Over twenty million Allied Army Soldiers, undoubtedly, withstood the onslaught of the Green Skin Orcs, and in conjunction with almost an equal number of Defense Army forces, began to reclaim lost territory and destroy the Green Skins' ecological circles.

The situation in the Eagle Horse Star Sector stabilized rapidly after the entrance of the Alliance Army.

This matter, in fact, was quite shocking.

The group photo of Gu Hang with the various Planetary Governors, and the victorious campaign of the Alliance Army in the Eagle Horse Star Sector that swept through like a broken bamboo, were transmitted along with the star messages to multiple surrounding Star Sectors.

This made the work of the Alliance diplomats much smoother.

Some Star Sectors that had not been beaten up might still be considering or observing.

However, another Star Sector that had been invadedthe Mist Horse Star Districtquickly changed its attitude.

They were willing to accept the Seven Horse Covenant as long as the Alliance Army could get there quickly.

Mist Horse had thirteen worlds, one more than Eagle Horse, but the total population was actually smaller, around 13.4 billion, primarily agricultural worlds, mining worlds, and desolate worlds.

Even the capital planet Mist Horse I was just an ordinary civilized world, with a population of only three billion.

The invasion that Mist Horse Star District encountered was not as fierce as that of Eagle Horse Star Sector.

In fact, a significant part of the invading Green Skin Orcs had jumped from Steel Wing Star to Emerald Spring II before entering the Mist Horse Star District.

The conflict facing the Mist Horse Star District, which was in the direction of the Copper Barrier Star District, was not the main offensive direction of the Orcs.

But, Mist Horse Star District didn't have a barrier like Steel Wing Star to hold them off and attract the main force of the Orcs.

The entire Star District was penetrated by the Green Skin Orcs, and most of it had already been engulfed in war.

Within the Star District, there were no naval forces, and the land forces consisted only of the native Planetary Defense Forces, which were limited in strength.

More crucially, the lack of space transport capability meant that each planet was an isolated island, and the Land Forces could not support each other.

Some planets were not severely invaded and could control the situation from collapsing within themselves.

They had the capacity to support other planets in dire situations, but due to the limitations on transport, they couldn't.

After seeing the Alliance effortlessly resolve the threat in the Eagle Horse Star Sector that was even more severe than their own, the Governors of Mist Horse could no longer hold back.

Their Star Sector leader had not yet agreed, still negotiating with the Alliance diplomats, but many Planetary Governors within the Mist Horse Star District couldn't wait any longer.

They secretly contacted the Alliance one step ahead, expressing their willingness to sign.

The thoughts of these individuals were simple: as Planetary Governors, they should save their own lives first.

Besides, once they signed, who cared about the damn Star Sector Government?

According to the Seven Horse Covenant, it's not just military protection and trade alliances, even the Imperial Tax would be collected by the Alliance eventually.

After signing, the Star Sector Government would be irrelevant.

The Alliance, with a stroke of the pen, took them all in.

However, the Alliance diplomats also made it clear to the Governors of Mist Horse that now that they had signed, the promised military protection would definitely arrivethe Alliance would never break its word.

Still, the most important thing in the current overall war situation was the battle of Steel Wing Star.

The main force of the Alliance would first resolve the issues there.

The Governors should think of some ways to hold on for a while in their own planets.

It wouldn't be too long, at most a month or two.

"The Seven Horse Covenant is a pledge of mutual assistance and vigilance, not an agreement to lie down and wait for the Alliance to solve all problems.

However, Governor, if you really want to do that, I have here a formal covenant to join the Alliance which you might consider."

Chapter 419, Turning the Tide of the Battle To even join the Seven Horses Pact was to be pushed into a corner, so the governors certainly weren't going to consider joining the Alliance now.

The Seven Horses Pact was still a military agreement plus a trade agreement.

As for the Imperial Tax, it had to be collected by someone, and the governors could ignore it, leaving the Empire to take it up with the Alliance.

But if they were to join the Alliance…

They had all heard about the affairs of the Tianma Star Sector.

Under the Alliance, although the position of Planetary Governor still existedas after all, it was a position under imperial jurisdiction which the Alliance couldn't abolishPlanetary Governors within the Alliance were either personally appointed by Alliance leader Gu Hang, or chosen from among high-ranking leaders of the Alliance.

Sometimes, the original rulers were selected, but in essence, it was a symbolic role.

Within the Alliance, the role of Planetary Governor had evolved into an honorary, ceremonial position, which did not involve any management of the planets.

Even the governors themselves were not necessarily staying long-term on the planets they nominally ruled.

Take the two governors with the last name Fatches; they were joyfully enjoying their days on the beautiful Flying Wing Star.

It was the same with the governors from the Mist Horse Star District as with those from the Eagle Horse Star Sector; none had thought of giving up their own worlds yet.

The Alliance wasn't pressuring them.

No rush, take it easy.

There would be plenty of opportunities in the future for them to freely choose.

…

Several worlds in the Mist Horse Star District had joined the Seven Horses Pact, but as the Alliance's diplomats frankly stated, the main forces of the Alliance couldn't come over for the time being.

In fact, even handling the issues of the Eagle Horse Star Sector was done in passing.

The main forces of the Alliance were actually on their way to Steel Wing Star.

They passed through Eagle Horse III, Eagle Horse VI, and Eagle Horse II, as well as Bruck II.

Since they were passing through, naturally, they took care of any problems along the way.

For places not along the path, they could only send a small branch of the Fleet, being extra careful, especially since there were troops being transported.

Losing even one ship could mean a massive loss.

For worlds that were both out of the way and on the periphery, like Eagle Horse IV and Eagle Horse V, along with Fire Feather Star, it was impossible to reach them for the time being.

However, the problems on these worlds were not particularly severe; the Green Skins were few, and the Defense Army could still hold on.

The main concern was the worsening situation on the battlefield of Steel Wing Star.

Tilermungs was becoming dissatisfied with Gu Hang's leisurely progress, wasting time on the journey, and had sent multiple urgent messages.

This so-called deterioration of the situation wasn't really about any drastic changes on the battlefield.

The main issue was that Yuan Chengchuan was starting to falter on the ground.

His main forces consisted of the Planetary Defense Force of Steel Wing Star, as well as other Planetary Defense Forces gathered from various parts of the Eagle Horse Star Sector during the war preparations, totaling around fifty million in number.

The Green Skin Orcs, with relentless determination, kept deploying troops to the surface.

The crew numbers of Green Skin warships, compared to those of humans, were much higher.

Actually, so many weren't usually needed.

After all, to operate the ships and the cannons, and to keep all the work inside the ship running smoothly, only so many people were necessary.

However, the Green Skins often liked to pack their vessels with three to four times the number of humans typical for a Navy Marine Corps, with the excess used for something like 'boarding battles.'

As for Green Skin transport ships, they were more similar to human transport ships.

Small transports like the Flying Pig-Class could carry a hundred thousand people at a time; transports comparable to Whale-Class carried two to three million; and large transports like the Giant Belly, nearly thirty kilometers long, could easily transport fifteen million.

This was just standard transport capacity.

If things were more cramped, pushed to the limit, and the journey was shorter with less need for life support supplies, these figures could triple or quadruple.

No one knew just how many Green Skins were crammed into the main invasion Fleet in the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

In the ground offensive on Steel Wing Star, the first massive landing alone saw them deploying twenty million.

Tens of thousands of drop pods were released continually, and even though more than half ultimately failed to land, millions still touched down, dragging the entire northern continent of Steel Wing Star into the flames of war.

After that, aside from sporadic small-scale drops of a few, or a dozen, rock drop pods, there were two more landings of a similar scale to the first.

Currently, the loud waaagh of the Iron Tooth Orcs on Steel Wing Star, the total estimated number had already exceeded thirty-five million.

In the beginning, Yuan Chengchuan's Defense Army was able to hold on with their numeric advantage and the extensive defensive facilities spread across the planet.

But as the numbers between the two sides significantly narrowed and the Defense Army's lack of quality, along with the maintenance issues of the many old fortresses on Steel Wing Star, were exposed.

His original strategy fell through one by one and could no longer be realized.

The idea of systematically eliminating the Green Skin Orcs' living forces was no longer feasible after the second massive landing.

And after losing control over vast areas, the goal of preventing the Green Skins from establishing an ecosystem also became largely subject to chance.

If the Tianma Fleet in space had time to bombard, they would; the ground forces couldn't coordinate at all.

After the third massive landing, even Yuan Chengchuan's strategic baseline, which was to secure those precious Anti-Orbit Cannon Fortresses, became extremely difficult to achieve.

Often, after an Orbital Cannon Fortress was invaded by the Green Skins, the surrounding human forces would do everything possible to send troops for defense.

After a bloody battle with heavy casualties, the fortress would still end up being captured.

Chapter 419: Turning the Tide of Battle_2 Before the retreat, the human army wouldn't initially destroy the orbital cannons, thinking that if they had the chance later, they could retake them and use them again.

However, over time, they realized that the Green Skin Orcs had inexplicably mastered the ability to modify human orbital cannons.

Then, the few cannons that had been captured by the orcs turned into firepower used to attack the Tianma Fleet from the sky.

That was truly a painful experience.

So far, the number of such incidents hasn't been high; the Tianma Fleet was able to withstand it.

The few captured orbital cannons were destroyed in the counter-attacks by the Tianma Fleet, which settled the matter.

But this could not happen too often.

If the majority of the orbital cannons were occupied and utilized by the Green Skins, Steel Wing Star might no longer be a defensive stronghold, and the Tianma Fleet would instead be caught in the middle, getting hit from both sides.

Therefore, if the human army on the ground was truly forced into a corner and couldn't hold the Orbital Cannon Fortress, they would often choose to destroy the orbital cannons before retreating.

It was a reluctant decision, but it had to be made despite the pain.

But even destroying them was a bad situation; it just wasn't as bad as if they were captured and turned against them.

In any case, if this situation continued, the Tianma Fleet truly wouldn't be able to hold on anymore.

No wonder Tilermungs was so anxious and frustrated.

He had also heard of the Alliance Army's triumphant advance upon entering the Eagle Horse Star Sector.

The combat prowess displayed by the Alliance Army caught him by surprise.

Initially, when he first left for battle outside the Tianma Star Sector, he had no idea that the Alliance was so capable.

The years spent campaigning had changed quite a lot.

This was, of course, a good thing.

The stronger the Alliance, the better.

But…

come on, Gu Hang, stop messing around.

If you're coming, come quickly!

We're about to be overwhelmed here!

After Gu Hang led the main force and arrived, he quickly deployed the Fleet near Steel Wing Star.

During this process, the two fleets succeeded in establishing contact, and at one point intended to encircle the Green Skin Fleet in the orbit of Steel Wing Star.

If they could trap the Green Skin ships in orbit and fight with the support of the Orbital Defense system, they were even confident that they could turn the Green Skin Ships into space debris in one fell swoop.

Unfortunately, it didn't happen.

The Military Governor of the Green Skin Fleet wasn't stupid; no matter how headstrong, he wouldn't let his forces be placed in such a precarious position against a formidable enemy.

When Gu Hang's Fleet went through the Star Realm Tunnel and entered the Star System, the Green Skin Fleet naturally observed it.

In fact, with all the movements of the Alliance Fleet along the wayhaving severely beaten many of their task forcesthe Green Skins could have been tracking the Alliance Fleet's location all this time.

However, during that process, the Military Governor of the Green Skin Fleet and commander of their main force, the Lone Fang Ghoul, decided to try to take Steel Wing Star before the Alliance's main forces could arrive.

It was under such a resolution that they successfully deployed thirty-five million Green Skins to the surface of Steel Wing Star, but at the same time, thirty million died during the deployment process.

It was a rash and irrational decision, but it was very characteristic of the Green Skins.

Clearly, the humans managed to hold their ground.

At this stage, no matter how irrational, he had to let go.

His ships withdrew from the orbit of Steel Wing Star.

He even attempted, after leaving the orbit of Steel Wing Star, to seek a decisive battle with Gu Hang's Fleet main force, which was on its way.

To eliminate Gu Hang first, then turn back to continue the siege on Steel Wing Star.

But soon this choice fell apart.

Gu Hang had no interest in fighting him.

True, he had two hundred warships, while the Green Skins likely had three hundred fifty.

But the bulk of Gu Hang's two hundred warships were armed merchant ships, making the odds of winning a head-on clash with the Green Skins low.

Even if Gu Hang's Fleet joined forces with the Tianma Fleet and engaged the Green Skin main force in battle, the odds of victory were no better than fifty-fifty.

Even with a fifty percent chance of winning, Gu Hang was still not keen on fighting.

The probability was too low.

He was not willing to gamble all he had on a fifty percent chance of victory.

If there was a safer method, it definitely had to be used.

Gu Hang avoided the main fleet of the Green Skins, and the Tianma Fleet also pursued, and the two sides exchanged a few shots across the vast emptiness of space, a very long distance apart.

After cat-and-mouse games lasting for two days, the end result was each side losing two small ships, and the Human Fleet returned within the orbit defense system of Steel Wing Star.

Then, the nightmare for the Green Skin's ground forces began.

It started with intensive and ferocious orbital bombardment.

With the Green Skin Fleet temporarily not pressing the Human Fleet, they took half a day to conduct a fierce artillery bombardment on the Green Skins' ground troops.

The Green Skins' anti-orbital firepower was pitifully inadequate, as they were originally the attackers.

In the midst of the fierce bombardment, all of the Green Skins' offensive operations came to a halt.

Additionally, the ecological system that the Green Skins had managed to establish also suffered a devastating blow.

A large number of Green Skin Orcs perished in this wave of bombardment.

It also helped that their previous attacks had been quite scattered, over thirty million in number, spread across the entire northern hemisphere of the planet.

After the bombardment, those that survived learned to disperse as much as possible and fled in all directions.

Furthermore, during the orbital bombardment, the ground forces were also not in a good position to encircle and suppress them, which meant that not as many Green Skins were killed as one might have thought.

However, without a doubt, any offensive momentum they had was completely shattered during the half-day bombardment.

A large amount of heavy equipment that was difficult to move and spread out was also destroyed in the bombardment.

This was a severe blow indeed.

The orbital bombardment by the Human Fleet only ended when the fleet led by the Duguai Ghost hurriedly returned and resumed the oppressive attack on the Human ships.

But in the meantime, tens of millions of Star Realm Army troops had already been deployed to the surface.

The Rage Bear Legion and the Dragonhawk Legion had all descended, along with about twenty million of the Alliance Army.

Facing the disoriented and heavily damaged Green Skin army, nearly fifty million elite Human Land Forces would be an opponent the Green Skins could not possibly resist.

Moreover, the situation in the space warfare had also changed.

The Green Skin Fleet could no longer keep the Human navy under fire.

After the confluence of the two Human fleets, the naval battle in the void of space would have equal chances of victory for both sides, not to mention that the battlefield was now around the orbit of Steel Wing Star.

Even though a third of the ground-based orbital cannons were out of commission, the remaining two-thirds, combined with the Star Fortress, Starport, and Armed Space Stations, still offered substantial support to the Human ships.

The Green Skin Fleet, attempting proactive attacks to suppress the Human ships, soon found themselves battered and bruised.

After several attacks were repelled and having accumulated losses of over twenty ships,

Even if they were just small ships, it still hurt.

The key issue was that despite these many losses, there was a lack of substantial results.

At most, four or five ordinary Human warships were damaged to the point of being unfit for battle.

The key was that they could just duck into a Starport, and it was possible they could be repaired and sent back out; even if not, the usable parts could be salvaged and placed on other ships as a means of quickly restoring combat capability during wartime.

When a Green Skins' ship blew up, it was truly done for.

Although they did indeed prevent the Human ships from continuing to provide fire support to the ground, the cost was too steep.

But what if they did not interfere?

What about the ground combat?

At least twenty million Green Skins who were still alive could not be evacuated.

Along with the loss of troops from the earlier airdrop, he had thrown in upwards of seventy million soldiers.

Even for the Green Skin Orcs, that was a number that couldn't be ignored.

If Chieftain Titus found out that he had paid such a high price for no results, that would be quite bad.

Duguai Ghost was caught in a strategic dilemma.

But Gu Hang 'considerately' didn't let him struggle for too long.

The Human Fleet seized an opportunity and launched a counterattack.

Chapter 420: Terrifying Spiritual Energy, Tearing Through the Ship's Shield When Gu Hang proposed to take the initiative to attack the Green Skin Fleet, Tilermungs opposed it.

The Commander of Tianma believed that since they had decided to be cautious, they should be thoroughly cautious.

A proactive attack was high-risk and right now they were the only remaining Imperial Navy force in the Eastern Dragonhawk Star Domain, and they could not afford any mistakes.

Gu Hang agreed that what he said made sense, and decided to strike anyway.

"Don't be cautious just for the sake of being cautious," Gu Hang said, "The ultimate goal of being cautious is to solve problems.

Right now, the opportunity is good.

The Green Skin Fleet, already suffering heavy losses, finds itself in a dilemma.

We can seize this chance to deal them a heavy blow, which would greatly ease the situation.

Besides, with the Orbital Defense system of Steel Wing Star at our backs, we can immediately retreat if something goes awry."

Tilermungs thought for a moment and was persuaded by Gu Hang.

The Fleet took the initiative to attack under their joint command.

However, the response of the Green Skins quickly made Tilermungs regret it.

The Green Skin Fleet, which was initially caught in a hesitancy to attack, started to retreat upon seeing the Human Fleet's almost full-scale onslaught.

Their first reaction was to withdraw.

Of course, they didn't want to engage in battle under the cover of human orbital firepower, and even though they lost two ships to temporarily break away, they were quite resolute in their escape.

This first made Tilermungs breathe a sigh of relief, thinking that Gu Hang's strategy was indeed quite good.

Taking advantage of the breach they had made, they could expand their victory.

Driving away the Green Skin Ships, they could inflict as much damage as possible.

If they could do that, it would be a great victory!

Just as he was thinking this, he saw the rear of the Green Skin Fleet suddenly charge forward!

Subsequently, the front of the Green Skin Fleet, using the chaos as cover, made a roundabout maneuver to turn their ships and also surged ahead!

And at that moment, the Human Fleet had already left the coverage of Steel Wing Star's Orbital Defense!

Clearly, the Green Skins did not fear a full-blown battle with human ships as long as the humans dared to chase, they would dare to fight back desperately.

Of course, their chances of winning were not high.

They would have to endure casualties from being pursued, as well as during the transition of their formation, which would drastically reduce their already 50% chance of victory to about 30%.

A rational human commander wouldn't do this, but the Green Skins would.

The Green Skins were not stupid, but quite smart and cunning.

However, they lacked one thing: rationality.

If they cannot be completely annihilated, then don't drive the Green Skins into a corner, or else before they die they will ferociously bite back;

It's safe to set traps for the Green Skins.

Even if they're a bit rough, it doesn't matter.

They're likely to see it coming but still jump in for the sake of a fight, or purely out of confidence that they can win, regardless of the casualties.

And these traits mean that the Green Skins' actions to fight desperately despite the low odds of winning are quite normal.

Now it was his turn to feel uncomfortable.

He estimated his own chance of victory at 70%, but even so, he really didn't want to gamble.

He just didn't want a decisive fleet battle.

What if they encountered that 30% chance and lost?

Even if they won, what if the Fleet suffered heavy losses in the mad counterattack of the Green Skins?

Tilermungs was deeply worried and even considering changing strategies to retreat.

They were still not far from the protective coverage of the Orbital Defense, and they could completely retreat to plan carefully from there.

Even if they got bitten during the retreat and suffered some damage, he was willing to accept that.

If the Green Skins dared to pursue too aggressively, they could fight back again.

However, just as he was about to issue the order, the command from Gu Hang arrived one step ahead:

"Engage!"

"Quintet, Concerto, Violin, Opera…" Gu Hang named several cruisers in succession, including Tilermungs's flagship 'Opera'.

"Advance forward!

Target, enemy flagship, open fire with full force!

Destroy it!”

Tilermungs was a bit perplexed.

What are you doing, kid?

Addicted to commanding?

I am the Fleet Commander!

And to target their flagship with concentrated fire?

That’s not a standard tactic!

The so-called flagship is their designation for the many ships of the Green Skin Fleet.

The less important ones that look very similar might be hard to identify, but the flagship is definitely easy to recognize: it’s the biggest and most formidable one among the Green Skin Ships, likely the flagship of the Green Skin Fleet.

You want to focus fire and take down their flagship?

The idea is beautiful, but it’s quite unreliable in naval warfare.

The enemy isn’t a stationary target; you can’t just decide to focus fire.

The Green Skin escort ships will concentrate on intercepting fire, and they will block firing lines; the flagship, once realizing it's being focused, might retreat, or might increase their energy shield's power significantly, making it not so easily breached.

Most importantly, when you send out your own main ships, the enemy will bombard yours too.

A rash attack can easily result in the enemy's main ship not being destroyed while your own main ship incurs losses instead.

This is something that has been written about in the case studies at the Naval Academy, don't mess around if you don't understand, Gu Hang!

Tilermungs now realized a big problem: the command of their side was somewhat chaotic.

He instinctively wanted to object and stop Gu Hang's order, but he was also concerned about exacerbating the confusion.

He did not immediately order his flagship to act according to the command, but he discovered that Concerto, Violin, and Quintet had all followed the order and moved up.

Chapter 420: Terrifying Spiritual Energy, Tearing Through the Ship's Shield_2 This put him in a difficult position all of a sudden.

If he were to follow Gu Hang's orders and have everyone join in, then in case of any issue, at least there would be mutual support.

If he were to speak out against Gu Hang's command as the Fleet Commander at this moment, and some ships hesitated while others had already committed and couldn't withdraw in time, leading to even greater losses, that would be a complete disaster.

His mind was filled with countless thoughts, which, when brought into reality, resulted in Tilermungs appearing indecisive, and in the end, his Opera Cruiser neither followed Gu Hang's order to move up nor spoke out against him.

Gu Hang, aboard the Concerto, had no reaction to this.

No matter what Tilermungs did, Gu Hang had anticipated it.

If this Fleet Commander were to cause trouble, he would be the first to use his Spiritual Energy powers to temporarily cut off and interfere with his communications.

And if he didn't move up, that was also within expectations.

The other few ships could just come up.

To be precise, three ships moving up would suffice.

As for his own Concerto, there was no need to elaborate.

Major General Du Shiliang's orders, who had coordinated closely with him over the years, had a great influence on the Violin, which was also a ship previously stationed at the Tianma Star Sector, and should likewise follow the orders.

Yelisia aboard the Quintet was also a ship Gu Hang felt confident would coordinate with him.

He believed that Yelisia would trust him.

And indeed, it turned out to be the case.

Three cruisers were enough.

The Green Skins instantly noticed the three approaching human main ships and in an instant, a flurry of firepower descended upon them.

However, the multiple Silver Shield-grade Escort Ships belonging to the Alliance played their part at this moment.

They blocked a significant amount of firepower aimed at the three main ships.

On one hand, they used their excellent interception firepower to stop many of the Green Skin cannons, and on the other hand, they even used their own bodies to block the firing arcs of the Green Skin ships, withdrawing only when their shields were on the brink of failure.

Of course, most of the Green Skin ships' successful hits were directly endured by the three cruisers.

The risky maneuver brought their Void Shields into the dangerous red zone.

But at that moment, the Orc Number One Ship was exposed.

The three cruisers opened fire in full force.

Heavy firepower rained down upon the enemy.

Behind them, Tilermungs was already full of regret.

He should have directly interrupted Gu Hang's orders just now!

Even with the three cruisers focusing fire, there was no way the enemy's Number One Ship could be taken down!

Instead, the Concerto, Quintet, and Violin were completely engulfed by the enemy's assault.

At this moment, even if Tilermungs was indecisive, it was time to make a decision.

He ordered the entire fleet to press forward.

Although this would lead both sides into a fiercer close-quarters battle with higher hit rates for naval guns and the Green Skins' boarding combat becoming more threatening, what else could be done?

The three cruisers that had pushed ahead had tied the fate of the entire fleet to themselves.

However, in the next moment, Tilermungs witnessed a scene that almost made his eyes pop out: the shields of the Orc Number One Ship inexplicably shattered!

The heavy artillery from the three cruisers, whether it was the Loyal Rage Macro Cannon or the Doomsday Light Spear Array, passed through the shields of the Green Skin Number One Ship without hindrance, bombarding it directly!

The Green Skin Number One Ship, stripped of its defenses and struck by heavy artillery, blew up into a dazzling fireburst!

And the Green-Skin Frigates, which should have been escorting it, were inexplicably spinning in place, convulsing.

What the hell was going on?

Not even Tilermungs' extensive naval combat experience could help him understand what was happening before his eyes.

But that didn't prevent him from recognizing a tremendous opportunity.

The enemy's Number One Ship was comparable in scale to a human heavy cruiser.

Currently, the seven cruisers of the Tianma Fleet were, strictly speaking, light cruisers.

If it came down to a head-to-head exchange of fire, even two musician-class ships might not be able to contend with the Green Skin flagship.

With two such flagships on the enemy's side, plus five or six ships roughly equivalent to human light cruisers, they were the core strength of the Green Skin main fleet.

Do not be fooled by the several months of intense engagements, with both sides losing a hundred ships in the process; in actuality, most of the destroyed vessels were the lowest-grade patrol ships.

There were fewer Escort Ships lost, and not a single Destroyer was gone, let alone the core of both fleets, the cruisers.

This was a major opportunity!

The enemy's loss of a heavy cruiser meant that the center of the Green Skin Fleet's formation had a huge gap in its firepower.

The absence of L-grade heavy cannons was a void not easily filled by numerous lower-grade cannons.

Even if Tilermungs was often indecisive, he couldn't possibly continue to hesitate in the face of such an opportunity.

Gu Hang had practically fed him the opportunity on a silver platter!

And at that moment, Gu Hang issued a new command: "Focus fire on the Number Two Ship."

The so-called Number Two Ship was the other of the only two heavy cruisers in the Green Skin Fleet.

If Mr.

Gu was giving this command, could it be that the tactic used just now could be employed once again?

“Engage!

Engage!

Break through the central line!”

Tilermungs’ order was subsequently conveyed to the entire fleet!