Governor 631

Chapter 631, The Essence of Shadows

Gu Hang's intuition was correct.

When Waluk was controlled by Gu Hang's spiritual energy, plunged into a trance, and dismantled until only a breath remained, the subspace shadow surrounding his Divine Realm instantly became fragile.

After Waluk was controlled and dismembered, the most notable change was that the 'him' that Gu Hang observed in the subspace became weaker and dumber.

Of course, the subspace shadow still existed.

Gu Hang could see that the subspace shadow continued to envelop his Divine Realm. He still couldn't easily connect his Storm God Kingdom with the real universe; the insect swarm's attack on the Divine Realm continued.

However, changes were occurring nonetheless.

Gu Hang felt that the concentration of the subspace shadow around him had significantly decreased, and the number of insects endlessly invading his Storm God Kingdom had reduced. This was most directly reflected in the number of heroic spirits sacrificed and revived.

These changes were even more intense than the prolonged stalemate Gu Hang had engaged in with Waluk over the past two months.

Gu Hang taking the risk to directly assault Waluk was a strategic move.

The next step was how to completely dispel the subspace shadow surrounding his Divine Realm.

Gu Hang could now see that in the depths of the subspace shadow, Waluk had become dumb and weak, making the subspace shadow even darker. Yet, the long insect shadow coiled around Waluk showed no sign of weakening.

On the contrary, it grew more violent and restless, to the point of opening its bloody maw to bite at Waluk's projection in the subspace.

But it couldn't chew through.

From this, Gu Hang derived some associations and roughly confirmed that his earlier thoughts might have been correct.

Within this subspace shadow, the most crucial element was actually this long insect.

The so-called insect race technology Waluk concocted was merely a façade, possibly even just a decoy. The real influence came from that shadow.

Gu Hang vaguely suspected it was the so-called swarm will or queen will.

No matter what it truly was, the subspace shadow was primarily released by its reliance.

It presumably parasitized Waluk's soul.

If Gu Hang killed Waluk in the real universe, the long insect shadow might break free. This may well be what inspired Gu Hang not to kill Waluk initially.

Killing Waluk would liberate a formidable enemy.

Keeping him alive turned him into a prison for the long insect shadow.

Seeing its desire for Gu Hang to bite Waluk to death showed the truth of the matter.

After numerous speculations, the core problem remained: how to completely eradicate the subspace shadow?

Achieving it seemed simple.

After its intensity significantly decreased, continuing the current consumption strategy sufficed.

Gu Hang could even actively choose to attack to some extent.

The time needed to completely disperse the subspace shadow no longer felt incalculable.

He roughly estimated that within nine standard Terra months in the real universe, he could thoroughly disperse the subspace shadow.

Honestly, the time wasn't overly lengthy. Spending nine months slowly dissolving a strong subspace shadow surrounding was manageable, without needing extravagant means.

The Alamita campaign lasting nine months... might not be impossible. Gu Hang could take this moment to retreat from Alfonso I with Waluk, imprison him but not kill him, ensuring the subspace shadow remained within a low-intensity range, facilitating its gradual dissolution.

As for the interstellar warriors fighting on Alfonso I's mechanical ark under the subspace shadow... trying to move people en masse into it required pausing Ray Nation's flicker to disperse the shadow. Reversing such feats became challenging, even with the shadow weakened.

Gu Hang could only say: withdraw as many as possible; those who couldn't be extracted would be left behind. Calculating coldly, sacrificing five hundred shadow warriors was an acceptable loss, with compensation not proving overly expensive.

Yet, Gu Hang indeed displayed greed.

He didn’t want this war’s main phase to drag on for nine months before using his spiritual energy to counter-attack, nor did he want to abandon the five hundred elite warriors who followed his command willingly.

Leaving aside the latter, concerning the former, several months seemed excessively long. The current war situation shifted rapidly, unlike the stalemate years ago. Constant updates flooded in from the north and west lines.

While Gu Hang wasn’t provoked by others’ advancements and never compared, overly intense fluctuations bore unexpected risks. Spending over half a year in Alamita risking missed opportunities was acceptable; fearing significant dangers coming was not.

Simultaneously, he didn’t want to forgo the numerous Alfonso Sect ships.

If, by catching the opponent off guard, he could resolve the subspace shadow and assist his fleet with spiritual power, capturing additional ships presented a chance. Whereas, waiting nine months to leisurely resolve things would mean the Alfonso fleet, sensing dire circumstances, wouldn’t foolishly remain, inevitably withdrawing.

Thus, finding a way to address the subspace shadow early became crucial.

Gu Hang swiftly devised a strategy.

His approach targeted the real world.

The essence of the subspace shadow lay in the void insect swarm, soulless creatures accumulating massively, projecting their soullessness into the subspace, forming a void.

The subspace, a wondrous realm, imbues ’voids’ with power.

The swarm will exploited this to counter spiritual energy proficient adversaries.

However, merely assembling numerous swarm organisms didn't guarantee forming a subspace shadow. A powerful will was necessary to consolidate these intents, genuinely forming a void within the subspace.

Returning to the subject, whether the insect technology Waluk crafted or the queen will's immense control, regardless of magnifying a thousand or ten thousand times, a base quantity was essential.

This base quantity constituted the amassed swarm organisms. If substantially reduced, the subspace shadow naturally suffered considerable impact.

Gu Hang's current ship housed over a billion living beings.

Chapter 632

The enormity of the Mechanical Ark is such that loading billions of beings aboard is not an exaggeration.

And with the modification technology handed down by Waluk, the loyal troops he brought out were all biochemically modified, possessing Insect Race traits. At the very least, they were corrupted and infected by the void, parasitized by insects.

They are precisely the main source of the Subspace Shadow.

Of course, merely over a billion beings are not enough to create such a massive Subspace Shadow. The number of beings aboard Alfonso I accounts for only about 15%-20% of the total.

After all, there's another Mechanical Ark and several hundred ships, some of which are large transport ships recently brought from the rear, intended for Alamita's ground offensive. Combined, from sailors to ground forces to logistics personnel, the total reaches between 5 to 8 billion.

Only at such a scale can they, with specialized technology or after the Hive Mind has tampered, be thrown into the subspace-induced void, expanding it into a Subspace Shadow.

And as long as these beings are annihilated on a large scale, it would strike at the root of the Subspace Shadow.

Although this Starship only has 15% to 20% of the scale, Gu Hang doesn't actually need to slaughter all 5 to 8 billion people. By reducing it by 20%, coupled with the previous weakening caused by Waluk's loss of control, the Subspace Shadow would be weakened to a level that Gu Hang could directly penetrate.

By then, the Subspace Shadow would exist but no longer be able to perfectly envelop the Storm God Kingdom. At that time, Gu Hang could tear a gap in that shadow, allowing the Storm God Kingdom's power to some extent penetrate the Real Universe.

Achieving this step is sufficient, as he would have the means to interfere with reality and help the Alliance's forces secure the final victory in this war.

The current challenge facing Gu Hang is how to eliminate the billions aboard this Mechanical Ark.

It's impossible for him and the over four hundred Interstellar Warriors by his side to kill them all one by one.

How long would that take?

The current plan is still to strive to destroy this Mechanical Ark from within.

Once the ship explodes, the vast majority of the billions inside naturally wouldn't survive.

However, he is in a dilemma.

It's not that he can't bring himself to do it.

The current situation leaves no room for mercy. Besides, although Gu Hang has always cared about human lives, these people modified by Waluk and infected by the Insect Swarm are already beyond saving, akin to the dead or Aliens.

The hard part for Gu Hang is... destroying the Mechanical Ark is not easy.

Although an Alpha-class Psychic can allegedly tear apart a Starship with ease, there's a difference between Starships. Tearing apart a patrol ship is one thing, tearing apart a Battleship is another, aren't they different concepts?

Tearing apart the Void Shield is relatively easier. After all, the Void Shield is essentially an energy structure, to some extent harnessing subspace powers. Strong Spiritual Energy has a better tearing effect on it. Not to mention, in the past, Gu Hang had an entire Storm Mage Corps assisting him in such tasks.

Now, Gu Hang doesn't need to deal with the Void Shield, but directly making the Mechanical Ark's physical structure explode from the inside is even harder than tearing the Void Shield open.

Even with the power of the Divine Realm, it couldn't be done, let alone now that he's on his own.

A brute force approach seems unusable...

So, let's use an even more brute force approach!

Gu Hang stood up, his gaze sweeping around as he said, "Follow me, let's find the core of the ship, we must fight our way through!"

...

The strategy Gu Hang intends to use is the most traditional method in boarding battles employed by Interstellar Warriors, directly fighting their way to the core of the enemy ship and planting explosives to destroy it.

But the problem is, how could the Mechanical Ark be the same as ordinary ships?

Finding the engine core of an Escort Ship or Destroyer, blowing it up, then blowing up the ammunition depot or energy hold, would cause internal explosions sufficient to destroy the Starship.

However, at the level of a cruiser, it's not that easy to explode. The ship's design includes mitigations, with multiple separated energy holds and ammunition depots; even if one is destroyed, the explosion is controlled within a limited area due to the damage control design, leading to serious damage to the ship but not its complete explosion from the inside.

Even cruisers have such internal mitigation designs, let alone a massive Mechanical Ark like Alfonso I.

With no better approach, the only option is to push forward, destroying one at a time.

Not every situation allows for shortcuts.

He has already come to terms with this.

With Terminator Squad led by multiple company champions as the vanguard and Gu Hang himself as the core, this team of over four hundred people began their assault within the Mechanical Ark, with the central cathedral as their starting point.

On their path, despite the loss of direct communication with Waluk, the Sect of Mechanics troops were not entirely without command.

One unit after another, whether vast in number or elite in quality, stood in their way.

Faced with these obstacles, Gu Hang and his Shadow Warriors could only bravely charge forward!

Gu Hang's Spiritual Energy transformed into bolts of lightning, blasting forward, destroying mighty war machines; the Interstellar Warriors efficiently cooperated with their lord's formidable power, sweeping away other enemies.

Their primary goal was to destroy the command nodes of the Mechanical Ark.

Unlike ordinary ships, which have a command core with the bridge, the central cathedral plays a similar role on Alfonso I. However, other cathedrals can perform similar functions. The command nodes of Alfonso I are dispersed.

But no matter, destroy one at a time;

Find another engine core, blow it up;

Then find another energy hold, blow it up, and then the second one...

Gu Hang and his Interstellar Warriors fought relentlessly on Alfonso I for a whole six days!

In those six days, they didn't even have time to rest!

Such intense, continuous fighting could only be endured by Interstellar Warriors and top-tier Psychics like Gu Hang.

Despite Gu Hang's oversight, with each battle's hardest point being where Gu Hang broke through with Spiritual Power, more than two hundred Shadow Warriors perished.

Now, surrounding Gu Hang, only over two hundred remain.

And after such immense sacrifices and six days of relentless fighting, they managed to destroy over thirty important nodes on the Mechanical Ark!

The entire

Chapter 633: Alfonso's Retreat

After 144 hours of continuous battle, the number of enemies that have fallen at the hands of Gu Hang and the Interstellar Warriors has exceeded 300,000.

On average, each person has eliminated nearly a thousand enemy units.

Moreover, quite a few of them were not just small fry.

The Protection Army on the Mechanical Ark, in a desperate situation, tried to gather a large number of troops to carry out a blockade.

Poor quality, maximum quantity, they blocked the passage to the energy chamber tightly.

But what use is that?

Having more people is meaningless, it even made things easier for Gu Hang.

There was no need to consider precision strikes, or to estimate how much force to use against high-quality units to avoid not killing them, or going too far and wasting too much power.

Without the Divine Realm to provide backup, it was foreseeable that the battle on Alfonso I would be a long one. Gu Hang had to cherish every bit of his power.

But when faced with such a gathering of riffraff, it was a rare opportunity not to worry too much.

He adjusted his power to the minimum necessary to eliminate the small fry, then expanded the range to the maximum. A sweep of lightning perfectly covered the densely packed enemy positions.

In an instant, no fewer than 30,000 were swept away by the lightning over a vast area.

Only a few managed to withstand Gu Hang's strikes and survive. However, seeing their nearby comrades suddenly wiped out was quite terrifying. More critically, their original coordination was disrupted. The cannon fodder meant to be the stepping stones were all gone, leaving the handful of surviving elite units to face the Interstellar Warriors' assault unprepared.

These so-called elite units might not even have the combat power of the Interstellar Warriors, let alone facing a local battlefield with several times more Interstellar Warriors surrounding them, making them incapable of resistance.

Just like that, after a flash of lightning, the passage that was once crowded with enemies became a smooth road, easily paving the way to kill through.

Thereafter, the command system of the Protection Army stopped trying to pile up people.

It was meaningless.

No matter how large the Mechanical Ark was, the space inside for combat was relatively small, and the number of forces that could deploy at the same time was limited. In the limited space, mass gathering small fry was meaningless, only making it easier for the opponent's firepower to become more effective, providing poor blocking while needlessly sending people to their deaths.

Later, the Protection Army started looking for other methods, switching to deploying high-end military units to block the way.

But the result was not much different.

On Alfonso I, among billions of forces, how many high-end units could be extracted to contend with the Interstellar Warriors?

There were some, but most were large and not convenient to deploy everywhere; and the nimble and precise modified units did exist, but were too scarce.

More critically, even if these forces were dispatched with hopes of blocking the Interstellar Warriors, it would often provoke Gu Hang's intervention again. The summoned thunder, no unit could endure, leaving them all decimated.

As for blocking Gu Hang?

There’s no way.

Truly no way.

They did try, with the two Principal Sages on the Ark and over twenty Dominant Bishops uniting for a surprise attack on Gu Hang.

At first, they assembled high-level military units, set up an ambush outside an engine room to impede the Interstellar Warriors’ advance. When Gu Hang’s Spiritual Power came into play, they launched an assault on Gu Hang.

However, their surprise attack ultimately failed.

It must be said that so many of the Sect of Mechanics’ top forces gathering together did cause quite a bit of trouble for Gu Hang, making his already scarce spiritual energy reserves even more strained.

However, even at some cost, the ultimate result was still that Gu Hang slaughtered them. A few Dominant Bishops escaped only because Gu Hang focused his goals on those three Principal Sages, prioritizing their deaths, letting a few others go.

After this severe blow, not only did Alfonso I lose its only top-tier combat strength, but its ruling upper echelon was also wiped out.

Did these leaders intend to throw their lives away?

Clearly not.

They simply had no choice.

Everyone could see that Gu Hang, with this wave of Interstellar Warriors, was wreaking havoc within Alfonso I, with the ultimate goal of destroying this grand Mechanical Ark from the inside. These leaders

had the chance to leave the ship and escape, but if they still hoped to preserve their ship, to make one last desperate bid, they had to gather everyone to fight back.

Unfortunately, they lost.

But this was not the biggest trouble Gu Hang encountered during his actions.

The greatest crisis arose after these leaders were defeated, leaving a few remaining Dominant Bishops in the dimension with the idea of sacrificing a limb to survive.

It was a ruthless move; they first arranged powerful bombs at an energy chamber and its surroundings. As Gu Hang and his Interstellar Warriors approached, they detonated them themselves.

Blowing themselves up was not the goal, the main purpose was to use the explosion and the chain reaction of the energy chamber to eliminate Gu Hang and his Interstellar Warriors.

Chapter 633, Alfonso's Retreat_2

Even if they couldn't accomplish it, a simple explosion would not be enough to eliminate them. The bombs placed throughout the surrounding area would also blast this energy chamber, taking with it an entire swath of the area, out of the mechanical structure of the Mechanical Ark.

They would rather blow a massive hole on their own Mechanical Ark, sacrificing a portion of the 'body', just to isolate Gu Hang and his group outside.

They succeeded.

But it was pointless.

The issue still lay with Gu Hang. The Interstellar Warrior, protected by Spiritual Energy, moved them into relatively safer structures just before the explosion, surviving the dangerous energy chamber detonation. Subsequently, they collectively teleported from the blasted wreckage into the Mechanical Ark.

The remnants of the Mechanical Sect's higher-ups within the Mechanical Ark were left speechless.

Under the Subspace Shadow, even some of their own devices forged with Spiritual Power were rendered useless. Yet, this Gu Hang... was too outrageous. Not only could he summon thunder with infinite power, but he could also teleport several hundred Interstellar Warriors, making the Subspace Shadow seem as flimsy as paper, offering no real limitations!

But in truth, Gu Hang was not at ease either.

Every confrontation exhausted his strength. Even though he had been using his Spiritual Energy judiciously from the start, knowing he needed to fight for a long time with limited resources, ongoing, uninterrupted battles pushed him to his limits. Despite Gu Hang's prowess and careful resource management, he couldn't help but reach the point of near depletion by the end.

Fortunately, the results achieved were sufficient.

When Gu Hang led the Interstellar Warriors to destroy another critical area, the entire ship could no longer sustain its internal ecosystem.

The life support system was collapsing, the ship was disintegrating, and internal explosions from chain reactions were repeatedly occurring throughout the ship.

The surviving high-ranking members of the Alfonso Sect had already abandoned the Mechanical Ark long ago, fleeing in smaller vessels.

Many followed them.

However, out of the billions aboard the Mechanical Ark, only a tiny fraction could eventually escape.

In the end, the vast majority would be buried with this gigantic Mechanical Ark.

The final vessel to escape from the Mechanical Ark carried Gu Hang and the surviving two hundred Shadow Warriors.

The remaining ships were destroyed as much as possible to prevent further escapes.

But those aboard the fleeing ship, including Gu Hang, were not in a good position either.

While they were inside the Mechanical Ark, the Mechanical Sect Fleet couldn't attack them lest they destroy their own Ark, but now that they discovered Gu Hang and his team escaping in a small ship from the Mechanical Ark, they naturally wouldn't let them go.

A barrage of firepower was unleashed toward them.

In an instant, their situation became perilous.

Yet in the end, they successfully returned.

Two main factors contributed to this: first, Gu Hang's Spiritual Energy played a significant role. Even when he was near exhaustion, he could deftly control the small vessel, making it as invisible as possible, hard to lock onto, while making its trajectory enigmatic and elusive, very difficult to hit.

The other reason was the Alliance Main Fleet's aid.

This fleet had already received Gu Hang's orders early on and took proactive action.

What could the Alfonso Fleet do?

The most important flagship in the entire standoff, Alfonso I, was already in an irreversible state of collapse. Although it hadn't been completely destroyed yet, there was no saving it.

According to a few high-ranking members who escaped from Alfonso I, their leader, Great Sage Valuk, was eliminated by Gu Hang.

Losing both the flagship and their leader left the entire fleet in chaos with weakened resolve.

These infected members of the Mechanical Sect, unlike the Insect Swarm with no concept of morale, were subject to panic and internal disputes.

Moreover, even if they had strong Insect Race traits, Gu Hang had already taken care of Valuk, the current paramount leader. Valuk was arguably the highest-level node organism; his capture would likewise disturb the lower-level node organisms and severely infected members, causing disorder.

Under these circumstances, the Alfonso Fleet had no intention of engaging the Alliance Main Fleet in battle, made a gesture of withdrawal, and retreated.

This allowed Gu Hang to successfully return to his Starship.

After a brief meeting with Yelisia, Gu Hang returned to his private chamber, sitting motionless.

He didn't rush to project his consciousness back to the Storm God Kingdom, instead choosing to rest and recover for half a month.

The prior battles had overtaxed him, and he couldn't withstand it without recuperation.

Moreover, exterminating all the infected, modified organisms aboard that ship would take time. The scale of the Mechanical Ark was too vast. After its collapse, some fragments and wreckage might still harbor survivors. Some might have been lucky enough to find ship debris with independent life support systems and survive, or had equipment enabling space survival. They wouldn't die immediately. Some might even await rescue from the Alfonso Fleet.

But ultimately, those who survived or were rescued would be a minority. The rest would perish en masse over the following days, weeks, or months.

Gu Hang didn’t need to rush.

Half a month passed in the blink of an eye.

Just as Gu Hang was about to conclude his rest and project his consciousness back to the Storm God Kingdom, there was movement in the Real Universe.

The Alfonso Fleet retreated.

How can I let you go?

Yelisia received the order, and the Alliance Fleet set out in pursuit.

They wouldn’t press too hard, but chased closely, watching intently.

A formal attack would wait until Gu Hang resolved the issue of the Subspace Shadow.

And Gu Hang himself returned to his Divine Realm.

As he expected, the Subspace Shadow had significantly weakened.

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Chapter 634

The Subspace Shadow that enveloped the Storm God Kingdom has dimmed somewhat.

The Insect Swarm didn't really attack Gu Hang's Divine Realm, instead, the Heroic Spirits boarded one lightning shuttle after another, rushing out of the Storm God Kingdom's boundaries, battling in the endless darkness outside the God Kingdom.

Every Heroic Spirit is a point of light, like fireflies in the night; though weak, they illuminate a place. Scattered throughout the Subspace Shadow, they appear everywhere at a glance!

These points of light are extinguished now and then, but soon new ones revive within the God Kingdom and charge into the shadow, continuing unceasingly.

Manifested in the vast shadow are thousands of fireflies, flickering endlessly.

This is Gu Hang's method of wearing down the Subspace Shadow.

The time required to entirely erode the Subspace Shadow has been reduced from the initial nine months down to three months.

The degree to which the Subspace Shadow weakens corresponds closely to Gu Hang's previous estimates, roughly about 15% to 20%, aligning with the numbers of infected and transformed members lost by the Alfonso Mechanical Cult.

Do not underestimate this weakening of less than one-fifth; a quantitative change can trigger a qualitative change.

Lacking this one-fifth, the balance of opposition between the Subspace Shadow and Storm God Kingdom is thoroughly upset.

The speed at which the Subspace Shadow weakens will continue to increase over the subsequent time. Hence, the time for Gu Hang to completely wear it down and expel it has directly reduced to about one-third of the original.

But Gu Hang isn't satisfied even with this level.

Previously, he wasn't willing to wait for nine months, choosing instead to risk himself and take proactive action; now, having won the war, is he still expected to wait three months? He's equally unwilling to wait obediently!

This brings us to another qualitative change triggered after the Subspace Shadow weakened by 20%: It can no longer block the Storm God Kingdom.

Gu Hang aims to tear through the veil of reality, projecting the power of the God Kingdom into the Real Universe, an impossibility no more.

It's simply a bit more difficult than the usual circumstances, and the projected power is slightly less.

But it's enough.

Currently, Gu Hang demands that in the Real Universe, the Alliance Fleet trailing behind in pursuit no longer merely follow and drive from behind but begins a full-speed chase!

After engaging battle, Gu Hang's power is displayed in the Real Universe.

Indeed, it's a lot harder than under normal circumstances, and the projected power is rather insufficient.

But the key lies in tearing open the Subspace Shadow, then the reality veil; despite the difficulty, this region is ultimately reconnected with Subspace. Thus, within the ships, the Storm Mages who've been languishing since the battle began regain their abilities.

Subsequently, these Storm Mages in turn become an aid to Gu Hang, able to assist him as before, projecting power externally to strike enemy ships.

Directly trying to tear apart the Void Shield of Battleships or Mechanical Arks, these top-tier large ships, is unrealistic. After all, this task was difficult to begin with, not to mention Gu Hang's now lesser, harder-borrowed power from the Storm God Kingdom.

But it doesn't matter; tearing apart those mid-small ships, or even cruisers can be temporarily put aside; focus instead on targeting those Escort Ships and Destroyers.

Destroy one, and not only does the opposing ship suffer damage, but it also means thousands to tens of thousands of enemy ships of varied numbers are annihilated.

More importantly, when several ships consecutively explode, it exposes the transport ships inside.

Those transport ships appear structurally different but essentially are Colossal Belly Transport Ships, which are quite capable of loading and are cost-effective, useful vessels. If wholly used to transport troops, one could hold up to 20 million forces without issue.

But besides being large, capacious, and cheap, they have no other advantages.

Generally speaking, transport ships are adequate for sailing in safe areas without worry. In risky areas, they are customarily escorted by a fleet, possessing almost no combat capabilities themselves. Even when barely modified into armed merchant ships, they are merely big-bellied; their firepower, defense, and maneuverability are weak, and their combat power might not even surpass that of the most ordinary Escort Ship.

When escorted by a sufficient fleet, such modification isn't necessary. It adds little combat strength, instead becoming slower and consuming internal capacity.

Additionally, typically during fleet battles, intentionally targeting transport ships isn't standard.

There's little necessity.

If one crushes the escort fleet, wiping it out or driving it back, then the leftover transport ships are like fish on the chopping board, left to be handled as desired.

But if the escort fleet can't be beaten, firepower shouldn't be wasted on transport ships, lest it leads to firepower waste. After all, as they attack transport ships protected deep within, they themselves are also subject to attack.

But the current battle scenario is naturally different from the ordinary. Those transport ships casually house over ten million creatures, which is precisely Gu Hang's target.

Sinking a few more ships will drastically reduce enemy numbers, reflected in Subspace, accelerating the fading of the shadow.

This is exactly how the situation unfolds.

Even more, since Waluk is now captured by Gu Hang, regarding the Subspace Shadow technology, nobody else can grasp it without him. Even the surviving Alfonso hierarchy might not necessarily understand what this Subspace Shadow thing entails.

Chapter 634_2

They couldn't figure out why the Alliance, despite having the upper hand on the battlefield, withdrew some main battleships to first attack the escort ships and then the transport ships. What was the purpose?

As seven consecutive transport ships, each loaded with a massive population, were destroyed, and the number of annihilated lives exceeded a billion, the Subspace Shadow surrounding the Storm God Kingdom finally couldn't hold and completely collapsed!

Looking out from the Divine Realm, the flickering fireflies within the dense shadow were becoming more stable, their light growing more magnificent. The heavy shadow was being illuminated, even ignited, and began to disintegrate.

It was on the verge of collapse.

At this moment, Gu Hang exerted more effort.

The Storm God Kingdom began to fiercely blossom with electric light, igniting again!

Just like during the previous two ignitions, the Subspace Shadow was thoroughly dispersed and vanished.

But the difference this time was that after the Storm Kingdom's ignition ceased, the shadow could not recover again.

Not only was there an insufficiency of 'hollow' power, but the core of this Subspace Shadow, the worm entwined around Waluk's subspace projection, was captured by Gu Hang at the moment of the Storm Kingdom's ignition.

Originally, Gu Hang intended to capture both Waluk's subspace projection and the worm shadow entangled in it, bringing them into the Divine Realm to thoroughly study what it really was and consider if there were any benefits to be gleaned.

However, when he took away Waluk's projection, the previously struggling worm shadow suddenly became still, glaring at Gu Hang with a pair of ambiguous eyes, indifferent and bloody.

Gu Hang felt chilled to the bone by the gaze.

Moments later, the worm shadow dissipated.

Gu Hang stood there, stunned for a moment, pondering.

If it had been suspected before that it was the work of the Insect Race's will, did that gaze mean that I was being watched?

Quite chilling.

But on further thought, Gu Hang was no longer troubled.

Who cares if you're being watched or not? The two sides are irreconcilable enemies with no possibility of reconciliation.

If you're being watched, then so be it, I'll dig out your eyes eventually.

With the worm shadow gone, Waluk's projection left behind was meaningless.

Gu Hang checked it once more, but could not find any strange traces on Waluk's projection. With a casual wave, he dismissed it. This projection, having lost its contact with the real-world Waluk and lacking the support of the suspected Insect Race's will, couldn't sustain itself and completely dissipated.

At this point, the Subspace Shadow was entirely gone, and the power of the Storm God Kingdom could once again freely, according to Gu Hang's will, project itself into the real universe.

This meant that the most powerful weapon of the Alliance Fleet in the star battle—Gu Hang's Spiritual Energy—was now completely unsealed!

Gu Hang set his sights on the Alfonso Fleet, which had sensed the disappearance of the Subspace Shadow but were clueless as to why it vanished.

The obstacles had been cleared, and what remained was the hunting moment.

Furyflame and New Age Torch, the two major battle groups, prepared, and the Shadow Battle Group was also getting ready.

Seize the ships!

...

This chase in space continued for another two months.

After Gu Hang tore apart the Void Shield of the Sect of Mechanics' last Mechanical Ark, which was then destroyed under concentrated fire, the Alfonso Fleet lost any fighting spirit.

However, this time, the Alliance responsible for seizing the ships wasn't the powerful Phoenix and Blood Shark but Furyflame and New Age Torch.

Though the Shadow Warriors helped, they couldn't act too openly for one, and for another, they were severely damaged in earlier battles.

In fact, it wasn't just them; Furyflame and New Age Torch also suffered significant troop losses.

By this time, when boarding ships to seize them, they weren't as effective.

By the end of the war, the Alliance had managed to capture one battleship, which was the limit.

As for the rest, deemed inconvenient to seize, they were simply destroyed.

Still, some fast cruisers, destroyers, and battlecruisers managed to scatter and flee. The Alliance fleet was somewhat too small to split up and pursue, fearing the enemy might counterattack.

But by this point, achieving such results was considered a great victory.

In retrospect, Gu Hang preserved the Founding World of Alamita.

Waluk, the Supreme Leader and Great Sage of the Alfonso Sect, was captured by Gu Hang.

The last powerful fleet the Alfonso Sect had assembled was shattered.

Two Mechanical Arks were destroyed, one Retribution-class Battleship was captured, another was destroyed. A total of two hundred other major and minor battleships were destroyed.

...

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Quite chilling.

But on further thought, Gu Hang was no longer troubled.

Who cares if you're being watched or not? The two sides are irreconcilable enemies with no possibility of reconciliation.

If you're being watched, then so be it, I'll dig out your eyes eventually.

With the worm shadow gone, Waluk's projection left behind was meaningless.

Gu Hang checked it once more, but could not find any strange traces on Waluk's projection. With a casual wave, he dismissed it. This projection, having lost its contact with the real-world Waluk and lacking the support of the suspected Insect Race's will, couldn't sustain itself and completely dissipated.

At this point, the Subspace Shadow was entirely gone, and the power of the Storm God Kingdom could once again freely, according to Gu Hang's will, project itself into the real universe.

This meant that the most powerful weapon of the Alliance Fleet in the star battle—Gu Hang's Spiritual Energy—was now completely unsealed!

Gu Hang set his sights on the Alfonso Fleet, which had sensed the disappearance of the Subspace Shadow but were clueless as to why it vanished.

The obstacles had been cleared, and what remained was the hunting moment.

Furyflame and New Age Torch, the two major battle groups, prepared, and the Shadow Battle Group was also getting ready.

Seize the ships!

...

This chase in space continued for another two months.

After Gu Hang tore apart the Void Shield of the Sect of Mechanics' last Mechanical Ark, which was then destroyed under concentrated fire, the Alfonso Fleet lost any fighting spirit.

However, this time, the Alliance responsible for seizing the ships wasn't the powerful Phoenix and Blood Shark but Furyflame and New Age Torch.

Though the Shadow Warriors helped, they couldn't act too openly for one, and for another, they were severely damaged in earlier battles.

In fact, it wasn't just them; Furyflame and New Age Torch also suffered significant troop losses.

By this time, when boarding ships to seize them, they weren't as effective.

By the end of the war, the Alliance had managed to capture one battleship, which was the limit.

As for the rest, deemed inconvenient to seize, they were simply destroyed.

Still, some fast cruisers, destroyers, and battlecruisers managed to scatter and flee. The Alliance fleet was somewhat too small to split up and pursue, fearing the enemy might counterattack.

But by this point, achieving such results was considered a great victory.

In retrospect, Gu Hang preserved the Founding World of Alamita.

Waluk, the Supreme Leader and Great Sage of the Alfonso Sect, was captured by Gu Hang.

The last powerful fleet the Alfonso Sect had assembled was shattered.

Two Mechanical Arks were destroyed, one Retribution-class Battleship was captured, another was destroyed. A total of two hundred other major and minor battleships were destroyed.

Chapter 635: The Rebellion Continues

In this universe, hoping for the complete end of war is purely a luxury.

Even the so-called Alamita Victory has become a certainty, and the Alfonso Sect has lost all capability for active offense. The Alliance Military's leadership is already happily uncorking champagne.

But in reality, the ground war in Alamita hasn't ended.

It's estimated that at least 200 million rebel forces are still active, and the total population in their controlled regions might exceed 2 billion.

However, despite all this, it's still just a minor itch.

Having cut off external support from the Alfonso Sect, the local rebels incited in Alamita are like grasshoppers after summer, unable to jump for long.

The Alliance Army hasn't further reinforced the ground, maintaining the current troop strength is sufficient to solve the problem. The remaining forces needed for suppressing the rebellion will be sourced locally from Alamita.

After Waluk was arrested and Alfonso's main fleet was shattered, Moro, which was once in turmoil internally with unstable rule, suddenly became as stable as Mount Tai. Those local forces that were once unsettled are now lining up to prove their loyalty.

For the local rebels still resisting stubbornly, it's the perfect proving ground.

It would be more accurate to say that the Alliance Army is more of a supervisor than the main force in quelling the rebellion.

The outcome of this war is destined, but the war itself can be utilized.

The cleansing that Moro wants can be carried out here.

Not a traitor? Very loyal? Then deal a heavy blow to the rebels, fight to near annihilation, that's also proving loyalty to the God of All Machines and Governor Gu Hang.

If they are traitors and have defected to the rebels, then it's nothing to worry about. They're just useless waste; gather them up and deal with them.

According to Moro, once the surface war in Alamita ends, he will return a loyal Alamita to Gu Hang.

Even if the war is ongoing, it's actually a minor affair.

Across the entire Founding World, the most important task right now is to restore productivity, especially to restore shipbuilding capabilities.

On Alamita, there is a total population of 30 billion. The vast majority are various types of laborers, technical workers, and machine servants. Even the world's grain self-sufficiency rate is very low. Despite a number of starch factories, a considerable amount of grain needs to be imported from outside.

The dozens or hundreds of worlds surrounding Alamita actually serve this Founding World by providing grain, population, and various resources.

The greatest value of the Founding World is naturally in itself; however, to fully exploit these values, the power of the surrounding dozens or hundreds of worlds must be coordinated before it can be achieved.

Fortunately, after the Alliance shattered Alfonso's main fleet, things became much easier for the worlds around Alamita. A significant portion was already taken by the Alliance during its advance. The remaining worlds, whether they capitulate in the face of winds or require a small army to take them and expend some effort, are not difficult to subdue.

Currently, the production capacity of the whole Alamita is about 15% of its peak. And with the ongoing cleansing, rebellion suppression process stabilization, and the restoration of resource supplies from surrounding worlds... this figure will continue to rise over time.

Even the current 15% shouldn't be underestimated.

It means the shipbuilding industry can be preliminarily initiated; it means Alliance ships, even those severely damaged or newly seized, won't need to find towing vessels to carry them two Star Domains away to homeland shipyards for repairs. Repairs, maintenance, and modifications can be carried out right on Alamita.

This saves a lot of time, because the round trip would take almost a year.

Not to mention, some important shells, aircraft, and army equipment production are very crucial, and nearby supplies can be replenished.

Alamita is Gu Hang's most valued asset.

Unfortunately, the other two Founding Worlds of the Alfonso Sect are not as easy to seize as Alamita.

On one hand, there isn't someone like Moro who can help Gu Hang unify those worlds. On the other hand, seeing Alfonso Sect's arriving army, almost all composed of infected individuals and Insect Race bio-modifiers, one can imagine what kind of state the remaining two Founding Worlds are in.

Gu Hang is extremely pessimistic about this.

He believes those two Founding Worlds probably aren't salvageable, and they may have to be destroyed eventually.

This can be gleaned from another point.

The battleship snatched back by Gu Hang, during its return for overhaul, revealed numerous instances of 'desecration technology.'

Not only was the chapel transformed into a spiritual desecration of the Four-Armed God Emperor, but several biochemical structures were used within the ship. Materials resembling Insect Race chitin were arranged in many places; there are even several digestive pools, incubation pools, and other facilities onboard.

Waluk had little time and couldn't transform the whole ship into a Biological Ship from start to finish; otherwise, it would be useless even if taken back.

Yet, even so, dismantling and revamping all these desecration technologies on Alamita will take considerable time.

If even the ships bear such marks, what state must the two Founding Worlds have been brought to?

The Alliance has already dispatched small ships carrying agents and surveillance devices to those two Founding Worlds.

Carrying out subversion is likely hopeless, but at least confirming if those two Founding Worlds are as ruinous as Gu Hang anticipates is necessary.

As for why not directly taking advantage of the victory and pressuring those two worlds with an army, it's mainly because the Alliance Fleet needs recuperation.

The Alliance Fleet wasn't lightly damaged either.

Anyhow, most of Alfonso's main ships have been destroyed, and it will certainly take a year or two to construct new ones, so those two Founding Worlds won't run away, no need for excessive concern.

Additionally, Gu Hang has gained quite a considerable amount of Gift Points from this war.

He intends to spend them wisely.

The first priority is to replenish the troops lost by Furyflame, New Age Torch, and Shadow Battle Group during the battle.

The three battle groups together sacrificed nearly a thousand soldiers.

This is equivalent to the total annihilation loss of a battle group.

Without their sacrifice, victory in the Alamita Campaign couldn't have been achieved.

But overall, while replenishing the loss of Interstellar Warrior forces costs many Gift Points and money, for the current Gu Hang, it's entirely affordable.

Chapter 636, 30 Consecutive Draws

The victory at Alamita brought Gu Hang an income of 27 million Gift Points.

This income was a bit more compared to the time when he defeated Dubo's fleet, which had invaded the Proudclaw Cosmos.

But they were roughly of the same level.

In fact, the fleet led by Waluk and the one led by Dubo were indeed of the same scale. Although Waluk had an extra Mechanical Ark, two ordinary Mechanical Arks are somewhat inferior to that War Ark.

Moreover, Dubo's fleet had more Battleships, and most of the battle cruisers were captured or destroyed. However, in the victory against Waluk's fleet, quite a few fast ships managed to escape, which is one of the reasons for the difference in Gift Points income.

Though the Alliance destroyed several fully laden transport ships, killing many people inside, it somewhat made up for the loss.

If we include the monthly accrued Gift Points over the past two to three years, Gu Hang now holds over 45 million in 'cash'.

It is precisely because of having such a substantial amount of Gift Points in his hand that Gu Hang doesn't feel much pain from the casualties of the Interstellar Warriors.

The replenishment of the lost one thousand Interstellar Warriors was completed on-site by Gu Hang.

There are many permanent residents on the ships, so-called 'ship families'. It sounds nice, but they are essentially lower-tier crew who can't leave the ship, forming families and raising children onboard.

These ship families, surviving within either the Imperial Navy's ranks or the commercial ship fleets, were often ignored. As long as they could work, anything else was irrelevant. Only the Alliance paid more attention to this, with the Military Affairs Department imposing requirements within the Navy and the Ministry of Civil Affairs having dedicated management bodies for resident ship operators, providing them with rank and military titles, ensuring they receive the treatment a Union Citizen deserves.

In their propaganda, the Alliance Government and military encourage ship officers to preferably have one party take the child off the ship if they get married and have children onboard. This is a humanitarian consideration, to avoid a disaster that leaves none alive.

This is not mandatory. It's merely a promotion, and if one party wants to leave, the Alliance Government will provide facilities, arranging housing and jobs in areas needing population influx. Those remaining on board will sign work contracts with set periods, allowing them to choose renewal or terminate the contract for a large amount of Alliance currency and a career change. The Navy also has a mechanism for crew retirement. Even if not leaving the position or retiring, they have vacations to visit family.

Essentially, it aims to break the somewhat unreasonable ship family structure.

Of course, although the Alliance's policies have changed compared to the Empire's traditional policies, traditional forces are very strong. Furthermore, ships long sailing through the Star Sea make trips of months or years, with family members on planets the ship may not return to for a long time. Due to war, even civilian ships mostly seem always to be requisitioned and tasked. The development of civilian passenger ships has been lackluster. Whether on vacation or retired, if the crew doesn't leave from the family planet, traveling via civilian flights to reunite with family is difficult.

These objective factors make dismantling ship families not proceed smoothly. Currently, ship families abound on both warships and ordinary commercial vessels.

Under these circumstances, the Alliance can only strive to fully equip medical clinics and schools for ship families within the vessels.

However, it's worth noting that these medical and educational facilities are merely basic levels, unlikely to lead to university education.

For these young children to become Interstellar Warriors is an incredibly, incredibly good opportunity.

Of course, not every selected candidate becomes an Interstellar Warrior.

Among the twenty to thirty hundred on Alliance vessels, there are millions. Of that age group suitable for Interstellar Warrior candidates, there are around a million.

From among them, selecting one thousand Interstellar Warrior seedlings is more or less just right.

Training new blood for the Interstellar Warriors involves many derivatives. This million young people between sixteen to eighteen all have good prospects. A small part, with only T5 qualifications, continue as crew on their ship; most with T4 and T3 levels join the Navy Marine Corps, with decent quality and relatively fast military rank promotions, better than remaining as lower-tier crew.

Those achieving T2 level will be absorbed into the Glory Guards.

Just over a thousand T1 level soldiers become Interstellar Warrior seedlings.

Gu Hang exchanged for Genetic Seeds, allowing them to receive them in the ship's biological laboratory one by one, and then assigned them to different legions according to the different Genetic Seeds they received.

Additionally, due to urgent billing requirements, Gu Hang also exchanged for accelerated growth of extraordinary organs and specialized Interstellar Warrior training.

In passing, he had to equip them with commissar training.

All these together cost Gu Hang one million Gift Points.

That's little more than a trifle.

He still has 44 million Gift Points left; if it weren't for the limited stock of Genetic Seeds, Gu Hang could unleash forty thousand tin soldiers!

And they would all be veteran elites from the tins!

Since these over forty million Gift Points cannot directly enhance his army's combat power, Gu Hang converted them into lottery draws.

Keeping 14 million aside for contingencies, he used the remaining 30 million on thirty consecutive one-million-ticket draws.

In the million-tier lottery, Apocalypse-level Technology has a 10% chance. Luck was exceptionally good, hitting one on the third draw.

Afterwards, the chance for Apocalypse-level dropped immediately to 5%.

Then it hit again on the twenty-eighth draw.

Finally, the chance dropped to 1%.

These two technologies are [War Commander-level Titan] and [Planet-Exploding Star Annihilation].

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Chapter 637, Virus Bomb

The [Warlord-Class Titan] and [Ground-Shattering Annihilator], without a doubt, are exceptionally powerful technologies.

Once produced, the former will massively enhance the capability of the Alliance Army. After all, above the warlord class, seeing an emperor-class titan is ordinary impossible; it's only visible within the most elite titan legions of certain top Sect of Mechanics factions, as the most formidable land warfare weapon humanity can present.

Unless it's the kind of battle that could decide the fate of the Empire, even the extremely rare emperor-class titan won't be dispatched into the battle.

In conventional warfare, even Apocalypse-level, having one or a few warlord-class titans is the pinnacle.

If the [Warlord-Class Titan] holds significant meaning for the Alliance, then the [Ground-Shattering Annihilator] is somewhat...

What it can do, the Skyburn Torpedo can barely manage. Both are Extinction Order weapons, though their purposes differ slightly.

The Skyburn Torpedo primarily ignites the atmosphere, not as awe-inspiring as the [Ground-Shattering Annihilator], which shatters a planet from core to crust, but the effect is essentially the same. Anyway, once discharged and hits, both enact the Extinction Order outcome.

Moreover, after the Skyburn Torpedo burns out, if the planet is genuinely wanted, one can wait for it to cool down and use the planetary climate transformation system to restore it. Although the cost is exorbitant and the fees incredibly high, if the planet holds extraordinary value with particularly strong strategic significance, then at least it's a feasible option.

But if destroyed with the Ground-Shattering Annihilator, then it's truly beyond saving. Some fragments will crash into the star, forming asteroid belts, so don't expect them to reform into a planet.

If insisting on special practical uses, it's useful against some alien species hiding deep underground, perhaps not needing oxygen. Burning the surface for over ten days might not eradicate them. In such situations, the Ground-Shattering Annihilator can be utilized.

Additionally, if a planet has been corrupted by Chaos beyond salvation, pulled largely into Subspace, and to prevent it from becoming an anchor point flooding with the Chaos Army from Subspace to the Real Universe, the Ground-Shattering Annihilator might be deployed.

In short, it's useful in specific scenarios. But Extinction Order weapons are seldom used, with limited applications, not to mention the Ground-Shattering Annihilator being narrower and outrageously expensive.

These characteristics essentially dictate to create a finished product in a black box for standby. Unlike the Warlord-Class Titan, its contribution to the Alliance's warfare capability isn't particularly significant, and in conventional warfare, it has virtually no impact.

In reality, Warlord-Class Titan technology doesn't significantly affect the current warfare situation, merely boosting war potential. After all, deploying a production line or directly producing a finished product in a black box requires considerable time. It's estimated that after a year, producing one or two finished products or having the production line fully deployed at the homeland would be excellent.

Aside from these two Apocalypse-level technologies, Gu Hang's thirty successive draws also yielded 4 epic-level technologies and 24 below elite-level technologies.

Some upgrades and functional redundancies for previously acquired technologies are set aside. Noteworthy among them are [Virus Bomb], [Epic Materials Science Research], and [Revenge Goddess Knight Mecha].

[Virus Bomb] is a technology Gu Hang urgently needs. Though costly and with stringent deployment requirements, its effect is remarkably reliable once deployed. Its principle involves analyzing the gene samples of a specific species captured by the Alliance, then fabricating a bomb specially effective against that species.

This bomb can be paired with M-type, L-type missiles, or launched via the Colossal Cannon. Its key feature is that the attack range dramatically outstrips conventional Colossal Cannon shells or missiles by ten or a hundred times. As it explodes, the released genetic viruses typically cover areas stretching for tens of kilometers, generally inflicting lethal damage to that species while being harmless or minimally harmful to others.

Virus Bombs are ineffective for human civil wars, fighting traitors, or battling Chaos Demons. In human civil wars or fighting traitors, it would also inevitably affect one's own people due to its excessively large attack range and slight transmissibility, likely causing major ecological disasters.

If used in non-friendly forces scenarios for remote bombardment, its cost becomes prohibitive; conventional firepower is cheaper and more effective, sparing the use of biological defenses like protective suits, masks, or swiftly developed vaccines to counteract it.

As for demons, those Chaos monsters from the abyss have gene chaos, rendering targeting ineffective since each one expresses different genes, making it useless.

But for non-human aliens, it's quite effective.

Especially against the Void Insect Species and Green Skin Orcs.

Of course, it's not a panacea. Green Skin Orcs might develop biochemical protective equipment after suffering losses; the Void Insect Species could rapidly iterate their biology after heavy losses, allowing gene mutation within or across generations, minimizing the Virus Bomb's damage, even reaching complete immunity over time.

However, biochemical protective equipment might not offer full protection, it's probabilistic; and even rapid insect evolution requires time, allowing the Virus Bomb to deliver substantially reliable damage.

Moreover, with insect gene iteration, humans won't capture them again to create new Virus Bombs?

Of course they can.

Its greatest utility lies in being carried by ground troops during attacks, or fired from cannons or starship railguns, assisting ground troop operations.

This technology is what Gu Hang urgently needs. He's even considering materializing it at hand rather than using Subspace black box factories to get it to the stronghold.

Otherwise, manufacturing the bomb in the Eagle Horse Star Domain and transporting it over would be too cumbersome.

It's better to manifest it directly at hand, then deliver it to Alamita, directly producing the finished product and deploying the production line.

Also, this black box's existence will greatly increase Alamita's loyalty—what gearhead can resist the allure of the black box?

Chapter 638, Direction of Advancement

The virus bomb, among the technologies Gu Hang extracted this round, offers the greatest assistance in the current war. Without this, Gu Hang wouldn't be in such a hurry to start production deployment at Alamita.

Once developed, it will provide significant support for the ongoing and upcoming battles.

As for the other two, [Epic Material Science Research] can similarly use the black box to extract many advanced, high-precision research facilities related to material science. Equipped with skilled researchers, its most significant role is in transforming the products Gu Hang previously extracted, which could only rely on the black box for production and new production line deployment. Without the black box, many technologies within the Alliance would be unusable and lost.

Even if we don't consider this issue, the need to rely on the black box for capacity expansion severely impacts the Alliance's production capacity for those high-tech and urgently needed products.

[Scientific Research] technologies of this kind are intended to solve these problems.

Previously, Gu Hang also extracted similar technologies, and it became clear that the black boxes provided by these technologies could construct laboratories and research institutes that are graded and categorized.

Epic-level, of course, is better than elite-level; biochemical technology research and material science research also correspond to different technical directions, allowing the Alliance to improve its capacity and speed in assimilating different technologies.

The most direct reflection of material science research is seen in the fine gold material technology that Gu Hang had drawn, which hopes to be cracked.

Fine gold has always been considered a rare material found only in a select few worlds in the universe and can be used in producing various high-grade equipment.

Its uses are so widespread that parts bearing extremely high pressure in some precision components must be made of fine gold. Typically, this is its primary use. It is too scarce and precious to be used except in places requiring very little, but crucial, materials.

But to be extravagant, some even use it to make armor!

Where did the gold color of the Imperial Guard's gold armor come from?

That's precisely fine gold!

Doesn't Gu Hang want to use it? If a layer of fine gold plating could be applied to the armor of the Interstellar Warriors, the defensive power would increase significantly!

The fine gold smelting technology gives Gu Hang this possibility.

The product black box of that technology can directly input ordinary metal ores to produce fine gold.

However, the output from using the finished product black box is quite low, only at the level of a very small fine gold mine; the master black box can pull out production lines to smelt common ceramic steel into fine gold, but the deployment is slow, and the output from each production line is minimal.

Previously, Gu Hang hoped that if their Alliance could synthesize such a top-notch material, once the capacity increased, these precious materials could even be exported for revenue creation for the Alliance.

But after developing for several years, the weak capacity hasn't improved; even for self-use, it's a bit insufficient. The fine gold consumed in building Titans, starships, starports, L-level or higher heavy cannons... is such that some need to be imported, relying on wartime supporting regulations provided by the Empire for price-balanced purchasing. Previously, without special resource allocation, importing was difficult due to too few sellers.

Simply using the black box bit by bit to expand the capacity to satisfy oneself, or even refine it enough to use for some ordinary products, is unsure when that would be achieved.

Drawing on this material science research facility technology, which is epic-level like fine gold, should significantly help in digesting fine gold technology.

Of course, its role isn't limited to just fine gold. The optimization and research of various materials can be resolved in the laboratory, and solutions for mass production can be explored. Material advances will also spur engineering technologies in all areas, enabling better solutions.

There's not much help for black box products since black box outputs are the most standard and exquisite; the production line products from the black box are adequately standard, but the precision can't be to the utmost because some manual errors exist. Those products where even the production line is manually crafted in large-scale expansions of capacity are even more inconsistent, sometimes resulting in large quantities of inferior goods. In some cases, to scale up capacity, without understanding some critical technologies, only low-quality parts can be used as substitutes.

The most typical examples are on Titans and starships.

The establishment of facilities for material, engineering, biochemical research, and so on will better solve these problems.

As for the final [Revenge Goddess Knight Mecha], there's not much to elaborate on; it's just a type of Knight Mecha.

It's the largest class within Knight Mechas, and in fact, is even larger than the Warhound-class Titan.

The reason it's still called 'Mecha' instead of Titan is mainly that the [Vengeful Goddess] operates traditionally with a single pilot, unlike the Titan, which requires an operating team.

Currently, the Alliance has also established a complete series of Knight Mechas, from the lower-level [Sentry-type Mecha], [Squire-level Mecha], to the actual Knight Mechas: Ranger-type, Dominator-type, and Vengeful Goddess-type.

In conjunction with the current Alliance, the building technology for this series of Titans, from Warhound-level, Warlord-level, to Battle Command-level, is also available.

The Titan Legion and Knight Order constructed in this manner are the most formidable force combination for the Alliance on any frontal battlefield.

Even Interstellar Warriors cannot match such a Titan Legion in frontal battlefield roles.

The roles they can play are entirely different. You can't just rely on Interstellar Warriors' strength to face a Titan Legion head-on... That would indicate the Commander's brain is problematic.

Unless there is no other way.

In any case, having the Vengeful Goddess means that the Alliance's Titan Legion system will be further completed and perfected.

...

The recently extracted technologies can't quickly be converted into military combat power.

Nevertheless, Gu Hang and his Alliance main force stayed quite a long time at Alamita.

The main reason was waiting for ship repairs.

During this period, some discussions on the main Alliance force's next moves took place internally.

In essence, there were two directions: head to the other two Founding Worlds to stabilize the situation in the Alfonso Star Domain thoroughly.

Or, advance from Alfonso to the Princess Star Domain, and at the same time, allow the partial force led by Matins to proceed from the Thistle Muster Star Field to the Princess Star Domain. The two Alliance units could meet in the Princess Star Domain and pierce into the heart of the Ironclad.

Moreover, it's unknown if they would do so. The Imperial Army on the North Line and the West Line are also doing this.

The commanders of the two lines have even extended invitations to Gu Hang, hoping he would join them in accomplishing this mission.

An attack from three sides is bound to thoroughly end this massive rebellion sweeping the Empire's Eastern Frontier, involving four Cosmos Domains.

Chapter 639: Truly Foolish

Le Buddh Star Domain.

The main fleet of the Northern Frontline is gathering.

As the Northern Commander, Marshal Ruwa is holding an important military meeting here.

The Northern Frontline battlefield has achieved great, decisive progress.

At least, Leroux reported this to Holy Terra.

He is not exactly lying.

From the beginning, the Northern Frontline battlefield did not receive much attention, slightly more than the Southern Frontline. At the outset of the Ironclad Rebellion, the Empire actually counted on the Phoenix Legion of the Western Frontline. Later, when the Phoenix Legion collapsed, Holy Terra invested efforts in assembling a large force, even deploying their elite—Otaubis, combined with the Solar Fleet and Solar Auxiliary Army, this rebuilt the Western Line Army.

As a comparison, the Northern Frontline received relatively little support.

Initially, the Northern Frontline, like Gu Hang at the Southern Frontline, consisted only of local forces assembled in their own Cosmos Domain.

Unlike the Southern Frontline, the Ironclad invasion of the Star Devouring Cosmos was much more intense than their attack on the Eastern Cosmos Domain. The Star Devouring Cosmos, on one hand, mobilized its own troops, seeking support from several legions active within, and on the other, rapidly called for external assistance.

Interstellar Warriors and Batmen, these two fledgling legions, both accepted the call.

Of course, each had its reasons for accepting the call. The Batman's home planet was within Star Devouring Cosmos, whereas the Infinite Corps had been betrayed by their own faction, who were not too far away.

But both legions only sent a company each.

This isn't much, but there's a reason. Fledgling legions are extremely busy. They often consist of several dozen or a hundred warriors scattered across the universe, all with different missions. Being able to spare a fully manned company was already a good effort. Besides, the equipment level and strength level of these fledgling legions are top-notch.

However, due to the limited number of fledgling legions, even the legions within the Star Devouring Cosmos also face their own threats.

To be honest, there's no place in the Empire with idle Interstellar Warriors; they always have work. Responding to summons from the Empire, aiding regions in distress, expanding their territory—this naturally involves ensuring the security of the Star Domain. Rebellions, alien invasions, chaos corruption... all kinds of tasks demand attention.

Some legions are even directly stationed by the Empire in particularly threatened areas to guard.

Unless their home planet faces a direct threat, it is difficult for legions to concentrate all their forces on one task.

Oh, Phoenix, Furyflame, New World Torch, Blood Shark... these legions are different.

They don't have other tasks, only Alliance missions.

Consequently, initially, the Interstellar Warriors gathered at the Northern Frontline numbered just over a thousand. Such a force, aiming to stabilize the Star Devouring Cosmos battle, could at best slightly mitigate the retreating situation.

A counterattack was impossible.

Until the Black Cross Army arrived.

Leroux is the Fleet Marshal of the third fleet of the Black Cross Army, not only equipped with a battle barge and two battleship cruisers as main assets, but also a thousand Interstellar Warriors.

In terms of 'over-birth,' it's hard to say who's more excessive, the Ironclad or the Black Cross Army. The Black Cross Army publicly maintains eight expeditionary fleets, each with a thousand Interstellar Warriors. How many 'reserve recruits' they secretly prepare is unknown. Any losses they suffer are promptly replenished.

Their over-birth is legitimate.

The holy scriptures stipulate that during expeditions, it is permissible to somewhat exceed personnel limits.

The Black Cross uses this law to legitimize their actions.

Why can’t other legions do this... first look at whether your legion is named Black Cross.

Moreover, Black Cross truly works hard. Without a home planet, their eight fleets are at the forefront of various battles across the Empire, actively responding to Empire’s war summons with almost no bad record.

Strong capability, less conflict of interest, diligent work, and good backing... certainly no one bothers them.

The arrival of a thousand men from the fourth fleet directly stabilized the Star Devouring Cosmos and enabled a counterattack.

Until they reached the Le Buddh Star Domain, only a step away from the Princess Star Domain. Then, they encountered a full Insect Nest Fleet, firmly blocked outside.

Until they received reinforcements.

The Extraplanar Tribunal showed great interest in the battles here, and how the strategic coordination with Ironclad against Void Insect Species. They dispatched a Judge and elite Interstellar Warriors from various legions, assembled as Silver Watch Warriors to specialize in combating alien enemies.

Additionally, a large number of Stormtroopers formed the Alliance’s support.

Though the number of Interstellar Warriors wasn't much, with three hundred Silver Watch warriors all being battle experts against void insect swarms; the tens of thousands of Stormtroopers brought by the Judges also constituted a formidable force.

This made the Northern Frontline's battles begin to advance with difficulty.

After the West Front collapsed with Phoenix, Holy Terra panicked. Intense internal political battles led to the ousting of Prime Minister Ou Juren, Galaraldo stepping to the forefront, and rapid reassembly of the West Line's main force. Concurrently, they sought reinforcements for various battlefields.

Gu Hang receiving substantial strategic material support in the Southern Frontline happened under this larger backdrop.

Of course, the North Line also received reinforcements.

Various forces need not be mentioned; mainly it was the Black Cross Army.

They sent another expeditionary fleet.

The Black Cross's seventh fleet joined the battle sequence, directly increasing the active Interstellar Warriors in the Northern Frontline to nearly four thousand, along with powerful fleet capabilities.

Fleet Marshal Mathieu Leroux of the Black Cross Army's third fleet, as the Northern Commander, led his corps in an energetic shift from the previous difficult advance to a much quicker pace now.

Completely eliminating the insect swarm is not easy.

They won a crucial battle, using a planet as the battlefield, turning it into a bloody meat grinder, drawing in tens of billions of insect swarm and even the Insect Nest Fleet's main force.

Then, they won, destroying the main force of the Insect Nest Fleet, with only a few escaping; the tens of billions of ground insects were obliterated under a Skyburn Torpedo.

Despite lingering insect race shadows throughout the Le Buddh Star Domain, Leroux no longer desired to have his army dragged in this quagmire.

The Insect Nest Fleet can no longer threaten the main force of the Northern Line Army, so why not seize this opportunity to directly invade the Princess Star Domain?

Before proceeding, he needs to verify the thoughts of every aspect within the corps through a military meeting.

He is indeed the commander, but the so-called Northern Line Army is so complex that it’s not as if his word alone would suffice for everything.

Ironically, the first agenda of the meeting wasn’t their forthcoming strategic and tactical direction but discussing the distant Southern Frontline and a response Gu Hang sent him.

"Gu Hang refused to cooperate with us from the Southern Frontline to jointly advance into the Princess Star Domain?"

"What a foolish decision."

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"Truly foolish."

This was Marshal Leroux’s conclusion on Gu Hang’s decision.

"Gu Hang has no idea what he’s refusing."

"But it’s no wonder; he’s just a leader from a small place who, by some chance, resolved a few issues and rose to prominence over several decades. Then coincidentally, with no one else to take charge on the Southern Line, that so-called ’Alliance’ he leads became the main force, turning him into the so-called commander."

"Who knows how many illegal, irregular, and heretical elements exist within his so-called Alliance? Is Gu Hang truly fighting for the Empire, or for his so-called grand Alliance? How much of the Alliance he established is really for the Empire, and how much is for himself?"

"He says the issues in the Alfonso Star Domain aren't resolved yet? Is he trying to secure his retreat, or is his separatist mindset prompting him merely to expand territory and consolidate lands?"

"Of course, I'm not questioning his loyalty. If someone thinks that way, it doesn't really matter. It's just that this isn't today's focus. Whether Gu Hang and his highly independent Alliance will become the next Iron Armor is a matter for the future. Perhaps there will come a time to address this issue, but now, we stand on a united front working towards one goal."

"Since he says the issues in the Alfonso Star Domain aren't resolved, let him rot in his Alfonso Star Domain. A leader with separatist tendencies, a man of fortune rising through coincidence..."

"Hmph, I still have to say:"

"He has no idea what he's refusing."

"He is refusing the chance to fight for The Emperor."

"He is refusing the most severe punishment for traitors."

"He is refusing the highest reward given by The Emperor: loyalty!"

"He may not care for these things; a separatist warlord seeks 'interests', not understanding what true noble pursuits are."

"But I am different, and so is everyone present here."

"We understand what the highest honor is, and that is the pursuit of our lives!"

"We have already fought at Leroux, crushing those Swarms. Now, it’s time to get out of those quagmires and charge into the stronghold of the traitors to end this war once and for all!"

"On the Western Line, Otaubis’s Salius Warlord is also advancing rapidly. Come, let’s compete and see who can first set foot in Reiaductus!"

"Destroy those traitors, and The Emperor will witness our glory!"

When Leroux finished speaking, it evoked a unanimous roar from the participants!

He glanced around, feeling gratified.

This way, the purpose of this military meeting was more than halfway achieved.

By stepping over Southern Commander Gu Hang, who refused to attack together, using him as a negative contrast, he successfully stirred the fighting spirit of everyone attending the meeting, aligning everyone’s goals.

The saying that ’loyalty is the best reward’ is a universally agreed-upon value within the Empire, indisputable. By making Gu Hang a negative example, anyone who disagrees with Leroux’s all-out offensive strategy to level the Iron Armor Battle Group’s home base, Reiaductus, is, like Gu Hang the negative, a person with ulterior motives.

As for the competition with Salius on the Western Line, to see who can first step into Reiaductus, he spoke from the heart.

The honor of war always falls upon the one who achieves the most symbolic victory.

In the great rebellion of Iron Armor, the main villain is, of course, Iron Armor; what symbolizes the defeat of Iron Armor? Naturally, it’s the complete cleansing of the traitor battle group’s home base.

With this, Leroux unabashedly laid his ambitions bare.

As for his claim of not caring about actual interests, that might not be entirely true. The great rebellion of Iron Armor affected four Cosmos Domains and tens of thousands of worlds, drawing significant attention from Holy Terra. If one can perform outstandingly in this war, whether through military achievements to gain tangible benefits from Holy Terra or to grant enormous political prestige to the political faction they represent, isn't that still an actual interest?

Of course, Leroux doesn't see any conflict between the two.

Gu Hang not participating in the attack on the Princess Star Domain? In fact, he's even quite pleased about it!

Just let him rot in the South; the highest glory will surely belong to the Black Cross!

...

Leroux's evaluation of Gu Hang was also heard by Gu Hang himself.

First, the Alliance's intelligence agency gathered the information and informed Gu Hang, and then the Imperial Military Department's Galaraldo personally gave him a star talk to seriously discuss this issue.

That Gu Hang heard these words doesn't mean the Alliance's intelligence agency is particularly outstanding, but rather that Leroux's words spread widely.

The occasion where he made these remarks was not in confidentiality. Quite a few people attended the meeting, with diverse identities and backgrounds, so these words quickly spread everywhere, even to the point of being extensively discussed.

The Alliance has people in the Northern Line, Western Line, and even Holy Terra. There are minor spies, purchased informants, and openly dispatched liaisons. With the news spreading like this, it would be impossible for the Alliance's intelligence agency not to know, even if they were weak.

And what was Gu Hang's response?

Indifference, certainly not.

But deep down, indeed, there was not much fluctuation.

As for what Leroux said... there wasn't much wrong with it. That was Gu Hang's attitude.

To be in such a rush to enter the Princess Star Domain, isn't that just foolish? The territory they've conquered hasn't even been fully digested yet.

What Black Cross, Otaubis, and the like, their armies on the Northern and Western Lines were gathered by the Empire's summonings. Whatever regions they conquer will not become their base of power. They have no intention of occupying land, they only want achievements.

Honor, prestige, military achievements... these are their primary goals.

That's why Leroux aims to be the first to enter Reiaductus as the greatest strategic goal. In fact, Gu Hang has no doubt that this guy could make very irrational decisions to achieve this goal, even at the cost of significant sacrifices.

After all, what does it matter if there are sacrifices? If the Black Cross dies, he might truly feel heartache; but more deaths from the Star Realm Army recruited from the Star Devouring Cosmos, from other battle groups, or from the Extraplanar Tribunal, what does it matter to him?

Whereas the army Gu Hang brought consists mainly of his own forces, his own resources, even the death of one is heart-wrenching.

But, having said that, Gu Hang couldn't genuinely disregard these words and let them fester.

He promptly made a speech of his own, outlining his strategy, subtly critiquing Leroux as ’squandering The Emperor’s resources’, ’pursuing personal glory without regard for casualties’, and ’hindering the broader situation’.