Chapter 71 - Chapter 71: Chapter 71, Life is the Coin of the Emperor

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If Gu Hang knew Mondok's thoughts, he'd surely laugh: I just need to kill a few people, why would I bombard an entire city?

Would he really order Yelisia to bombard Revival City?

Yes, and no.

Yes, meaning a small-scale, relatively precise military strike; no, meaning there would not be a destruction of Revival City until the very last moment.

The population of the inner city plus the slums outside Revival City roughly approaches a million.

And what is the population of the entire Rage Owl Star?

Six years ago, in the last year of the second governor's era, when the last tax payment was made to the Empire, the number was forty-two million plus.

A planet with a population of forty-two million, that was 0.5% of Rage Owl Star's population during its heyday before the war.

99.5% of the population was lost in that war and in the century of darkness and chaos that followed.

And after the end of the rule of the second governor, with governors changing every two years for the past six years, has the situation on Rage Owl Star improved?

Obviously not.

Given the circumstances here, the population is probably still in decline.

Compared to the population, the loss of productivity is probably even more severe. This has led to the situation where, although the population is already quite small for an entire

planet, people are still cheap. This is because even this small number of people are barely sustained by the current output of Rage Owl Star.

So now, the answer to this question is very clear: why would Gu Hang absolutely not want to make a light decision to order the starships to bombard Revival City?

Because here lies one of the very few densely populated areas of Rage Owl Star. Based on a population of one million, that's already 2.3% of the total population of the planet six years ago. And the actual proportion is only higher than this figure. By Gu Hang's estimate, the current total population of Rage Owl Star may already be less than forty million, or even less.

Moreover, despite the poor people outside Revival City being destitute, the city is still a jewel of Rage Owl Star. This city, which gathers a million people from both the inner and outer areas, benefits from the scale effect, with an increase in productivity that a hundred settlements, each with a population of ten thousand, could not match.

Flattening Revival City and losing 2.3% or even more of the global population, along with more than 5% of global productivity, are already outcomes that Gu Hang is unwilling to accept. Not to mention, without Revival City as an existing hub of population, a massive potential for development would be lost.

If the city could be peacefully taken and controlled, a million people combined with Gu Hang's technological system could unleash tremendous production capacity. Without Revival City, Gu Hang would have to wander the wastelands gathering people by the thousands or hundreds, searching for countless small, hidden, and highly guarded places like the Abandoned Cave Society to collect the population.

Peaceful control of Revival City is worth a thousand Abandoned Cave Societies to Gu Hang.

This is the greatest reason why Gu Hang would not order the destruction of Revival City unless absolutely necessary.

"Life is the coin of The Emperor," fits the situation precisely, yet there's a subsequent half to it: "Spend it wisely."

If The Emperor still holds true to this, Gu Hang, who theoretically may possess less than forty million in total assets, has no reason to be so extravagant as to waste a million "coins."

...

When they say six hours, it means six hours.

A transport vessel from the Quintet arrived with a Battle Nun Squad.

Under the leadership of Sister Chang Ge Ruite, eleven nuns came to the surface.

With their height stretching beyond one meter eighty, once clad in combat armor, they appeared both taller and more substantial. Their creamy white armors adorned with green patterns made them seem holy and elegant, truly like a living group of lily ladies.

As they emerged from the hatch, Gu Hang thought he saw another Battle Group walk out.

Of course, it was just déjà vu. The difference between the two was quite significant.

The red armor of the Phoenix made them look like battle-hardened warriors who had fought their way through rivers of blood; the tender green and creamy white of the Saintly Lilies' armor made them look like elegant ladies spreading the gospel.

And their most significant difference lay in their size. The Battle Nuns, all towering over one meter eighty and already considered tall and strong among women, were even more massive with their powered armors compared to regular troops.

“`

However, compared to interstellar warriors, who averaged heights of two meters thirty or two meters forty and whose frames were substantial even in width, there was no contest.

Gu Hang collected his thoughts and advanced to meet them.

“Mrs. Georgette, welcome to your arrival. With your help, the traitors of Rage Owl Star and the heretic cultists will have nowhere to hide.”

Unlike the interstellar warriors who always maintained stern, deadpan expressions, the attitude of the battle nun leader was gentle and amiable—at least Mrs. Georgette was like this.

The woman with short white hair extended her hand with a smile and shook hands with Gu Hang.

Her voice was low, gentle, and very comforting, “I am also very pleased to meet you, Governor. I hope that we can cooperate well in the coming times.”

Having said that, she turned her gaze to Commander Matins, who stood not far behind Gu Hang.

She nodded with a smile.

Matins nodded back in response.

Gu Hang noticed this.

These two have a story.

Curiously, he asked, “Do you two... know each other?”

Mrs. Georgette smiled and said, “If Governor wishes to know, it might be better to ask Commander Matins. If he does not wish to tell you, it would not be appropriate for me to say too much.”

Gu Hang turned his gaze back to Matins.

Matins was silent for a while, and Gu Hang thought he wouldn’t get an answer, but in the end, the serious interstellar warrior spoke up, “We have fought side by side in the Organ Star Region.”

Mrs. Georgette said, “I have to thank you. Without you, the Order of the Blessed Lily might no longer exist.”

“No, it is I who should thank you. You could have retreated, but you chose to stand with us.”

Mrs. Georgette’s smile took on a hint of cleverness, “That’s not what you said at the time.”

Matins, uncharacteristically, looked somewhat embarrassed, “I... ”

“Hahaha!” Mrs. Georgette laughed heartily as she stepped forward; despite being much shorter than Matins and both of them wearing power armor, it didn’t stop the Sister Superior from giving the Commander a big hug.

“Anyway, I am very happy to see you again, my comrade-in-arms. Congratulations on redeeming yourselves, and may the Divine Emperor bless your future.”

...

It was rather miraculous for two comrades who had long been separated to run into each other again in a place as minor as Rage Owl Star, and to have the opportunity to fight side by side once more. Their so-called ‘Organ Star Region’ was quite a distance from the Tianma Star Sector.

But they didn’t have much time to reminisce.

The time to depart had arrived.

The reason for the delay was that Gu Hang was waiting for the arrival of the battle nuns. Although there were only eleven of them, they were still eleven exceptional warriors. Just two or three nuns working together could have a fair chance of defeating an ordinary interstellar warrior.

Not to mention they had Sister Chang Ge Ruite. Gu Hang could vaguely sense through psionic perception that the Sister Superior's strength was probably not much weaker than Matins's.

Admittedly, no further news had come from Revival City, and old Hodgson seemed to have disappeared from the face of the earth, his fate unknown.

But Gu Hang was not willing to wait any longer.

The Mech Servant Battalion stayed behind to guard the home, while the combined forces of over fifteen hundred warriors from the 2-6 Battalions, the terrestrial troops, Phoenix Interstellar Warriors, and the Order of the Blessed Lily Battle Nuns... a whole team, escorted the Governor as they embarked from the camp, heading towards Revival City.

Chapter 72 - Chapter 72: Chapter 72, are you pretending?

Chapter 72: Chapter 72, are you pretending?

From the Governor's Camp, getting to Revival City by infantry speed would take almost an entire day.

By evening, the team arrived outside Revival City.

And Revival City had long since been informed of Gu Hang's approach.

Gu Hang hadn't planned on remaining incognito, moving with quite a display, making it somewhat difficult to go unnoticed. There were too many ways for those in Revival City to have advance notice.

If one only considers the inner city, Revival City isn't large; but taking into account the outer city and the haphazardly constructed dwellings of the poor, the area it covers isn't small at all.

And when Gu Hang's team arrived at Revival City, they merely stopped at the outer city.

An army stood in their way.

It was Revival City's garrison.

A multitude of soldiers occupied the slum area in front of the main gate. They were stationed inside houses, glaring outside with predatory eyes; tanks were hidden among

civilian residences, with most of their bulk blocked by the low buildings, their dark barrels protruding.

They were blocking the Governor's team from proceeding further.

An officer, accompanied by a few attendants, approached the Governor's team to request an audience with the Governor.

Gu Hang met with him.

The Revival City officer saluted Gu Hang, "Good day, Your Excellency the Governor, I am from Revival..."

"There's no need to report your name, I'm not interested in knowing. Tell me, why is my city blocking my entry? Why are you soldiers, who should be loyal to me, standing on the opposite side?"

The officer, whose self-introduction had been cut off, swallowed his saliva.

He felt incredibly tense.

He looked to his left, seeing a red-armored giant, knowing that was a starship warrior; he looked to his right, a lady in white and green armor, that was a Battle Nun. His gaze then turned back to the middle, to his Governor, the highest ruler of this planet.

He thought, with what merit or bravery does he dare to speak in front of these legendary figures?

But he still spoke up, "I am acting on orders from the Alliance Council, from the Marshal of Revival City's defenses, Major General Mondok, to... to request that you halt your advance. There is no issue with Your Excellency the Governor entering the city, but you are allowed no more than a hundred guards, and... and that must not include a starship warrior or Battle Nun."

Gu Hang reacted as if he heard a preposterous joke, "Mondok? Major General? He's making requests of me?"

The officer seemed to realize himself how ridiculous his statement had been, and could only slightly lower his head in silence.

"So," Gu Hang said, "I now inform you in my capacity as the Governor of Rage Owl Star, regardless of whatever posts, whatever authority that Mondok you spoke of previously had, he no longer holds. He is no longer an Alliance Councilman, nor a military commander. Now, take this message back to your comrades-in-arms."

Gu Hang had already given the officer a chance.

But he hadn’t seized it.

It was evident that he was under tremendous psychological pressure, but he still resisted, saying, “I apologize, Your Excellency the Governor, but please comply with General Mondok’s...”

He couldn’t finish his sentence.

He felt an incredible power clutching at his throat.

Quickly, he fainted due to lack of blood flow to the brain.

Releasing the power of his telekinetic control, he let the body fall to the ground. Gu Hang waved his hand and soldiers came forward to drag the man away.

This officer was very courageous.

But his courage was misplaced.

At that moment, Commander Matins spoke up, “Governor, the situation is now very clear. That man who claims to be General Mondok, his actions amount to rebellion. What stands before us now are all rebels.”

“So, Commander Matins, what do you suggest we do? Kill all the ‘rebels’? Can the seven Phoenix Warriors accomplish that?”

Matins actually began to calculate carefully before replying, “Relying solely on the seven of us to completely defeat an army of ten thousand, equipped with heavy firepower and armor, would be difficult. I need the cooperation of the Sisters of Saint Lily of Mercy along with the artillery fire from the Quintet. At night, we could enter the target area, mark it for an orbital strike, and then let the starships commence the bombardment. We could move in to sweep the area afterward. With this plan, we should be able to complete the mission with a relatively small loss.”

Battle Nun Georgette, however, raised an objection, “I’m sorry, Commander Matins, I would relish another opportunity to fight alongside the Phoenix again. But our mission on this descent to the planet’s surface is not to quell a rebellion, but to deal with Heretic Cultists. I will not partake in a campaign against human rebels. Mr. Governor, I also ask for your understanding.”

Gu Hang was not disappointed; instead, he displayed a calming smile, “I understand, I certainly do. Commander Matins, your plan is sound—when I deem these enemies before us all need to be eliminated, I will adopt your plan. But for now, we don’t need to complicate matters to such an extent.”

“What do you plan to do, then?”

“Rest for now. You might be unaffected by a whole day of marching, but my soldiers need rest to recover their combat strength. As for the specifics of the plan, I will inform you later. I also ask you, and Superior Georgette, to coordinate with me tomorrow.”

Matins gazed at Gu Hang for a moment before ultimately nodding in agreement.

Georgette also expressed her stance, “We will not slaughter human soldiers, but we will provide you, Mr. Governor, with the necessary protection.”

“To have achieved this step is already very much appreciated.”

...

Within Revival City, Norris and Bradford waited anxiously for news from the outer city.

Upon learning that Gu Hang had set out, and that he actually had space warriors with him, even Battle Nuns, these two Alliance Councilmen who were merchants were quite panicked.

Regret filled their hearts, and even when General Mondok decided to lead his troops to defend the outer city, they raised their objections.

But their objections were weak and powerless, as always.

They could only watch as Mondok positioned himself in front of the Governor and then pray that conflict would not erupt.

And indeed, it did not.

Mr. Gu, the Governor, had stopped right outside the outer city.

This was indeed joyful news!

Bradford spoke, “It seems we overestimated how tough Gu Hang would be. Perhaps, his toughness was all just an act.”

Norris said with a chuckle, “At least we can sleep peacefully tonight. We indeed need a hardliner like Mondok; he’s done very well.”

“Yes,” Bradford said, “the threat of war has greatly diminished. Now, the remaining issue is how to get that capricious Governor to stop playing around building camps outside and quickly return to where he belongs.”

“Yes, once he’s back, everything will return to normal.”

“Just like the previous three Governors.”

“Yes, we have countless ways to deal with him. There’s no need for him to dream of saving the world—the Rage Owl Star doesn’t need his salvation. All he has to do is to dutifully serve as Governor, enjoy a couple of comfortable years, and then retire peacefully when it’s time.”

Chapter 73 - Chapter 73: Chapter 73, why isn’t anyone hitting him?

Chapter 73: Chapter 73, why isn’t anyone hitting him?

On the second day, at dawn, the sun had not yet risen, and the sky was just beginning to brighten.

Outside Revival City, many soldiers had been on duty throughout the night.

At the very front, the officers in charge of the checkpoint were two lieutenant colonels.

“Last night, Landolf didn’t come back,” one of them said, “I don’t know whether he’s dead or if the governor detained him.”

“Did General Mondok get angry?” asked the other.

“No,” the first lieutenant colonel replied, “The General was actually quite pleased when he saw that the governor’s troops really had stopped outside.”

“Pleased? But Landolf is his own nephew.”

The former simply shrugged his shoulders, indicating that that was just the way things were.

“So cold-blooded, poor Landolf.”

While chatting idly, suddenly one of them stretched out his hand, pointing towards the faint morning fog on the outskirts: “What is that?”

The other looked in the direction of the outstretched hand.

It was not yet fully light, the visibility was obscured by morning fog, but he could still make out, vaguely, the figures of a few giants slowly approaching.

The two exchanged a glance; one retreated and blew his whistle, alerting all the soldiers at the checkpoint to be vigilant, while the other took aim with his gun into the thick fog and asked, “Who goes there?”

However, there was no response from within the fog. The figures approaching through the mist remained silent. Only after they drew somewhat closer could heavy footsteps be heard.

The sound of footsteps was somewhat abrupt; there had been no sound before, as if they were ghosts; and now, after being spotted, the sound was so distinct, so heavy, it was as if a war drum had been struck in their hearts.

He had already realized who was coming, but he didn’t know what to do about it.

Should he open fire? He didn’t dare!

First of all, he did not dare to take the responsibility for firing the first shot;

Second, and more importantly, considering his current situation, standing in front of the checkpoint without any cover, if he dared to fire the first shot, he’d be dead the next second.

But should he just do nothing?

Amid his dilemma, he noticed that the soldiers stationed behind him had prepared themselves following the reminder of the colleague with whom he had just spoken. Dozens of guns were aimed in this direction, which reassured him considerably.

He refocused his gaze towards the front and called out again.

“Who goes there? Please respond!”

This time, there was still no answer.

But as the footsteps drew closer, he could now faintly see the figures approaching.

The fiery red powered armor and the signature colossal stature undoubtedly marked their identity. The man they were escorting, though he had never seen him before, must surely be the governor.

As they walked closer and closer, the obstructing officer grew more and more nervous, his hands sweating on his weapon.

He couldn’t help but issue a third warning.

“Please halt, you are not permitted to pass!”

Still, there was no response, as if what approached were not living people, but a host of ghosts.

After the third warning was issued, the figures were very close.

He couldn't help but turn his head back, looking to his companion, as if seeking guidance on what to do next. To his dismay, he found that his companion was also looking back at him, eyes revealing the same question.

According to the rules of the wasteland, when faced with such a situation, there would be no hesitation; one would just fire a salvo first. If the people were dead, they wouldn't pose a threat anymore.

But here, regardless of political decorum, could the rifles in the soldiers' hands be of any use against these steel-bodied adversaries?

What to do?

No one knew what to do.

Under hesitation, conflict, helplessness, enormous pressure, and intense nervousness, these checkpoint soldiers and officers simply allowed the star warriors and battle nuns, escorting the governor, to approach them.

The moment for a final decision had come.

The commanding officer, still not daring to give the order to fire, could not just let them pass either.

At last, gritting his teeth and bravely stepping in front of the advancing crowd, he stretched out his palm to the leading star warrior, making a halting gesture while saying:

"Halt! Ahead is forbid—"

There was a dull thud.

His head caved in.

The red-armored warrior at the front had no intention of stopping. When faced with an obstruction, he simply extended his hand as if swatting away a fly, his backhand striking the officer's face.

The movement was too fast for the officer to react or dodge, and his head caved as if struck by a sledgehammer.

The splattered blood stained the vivid red armor, hardly noticeable.

His body slumped to the side, legs still twitching. Blood kept pouring from his misshapen head, quickly pooling into a large puddle.

No one cared, no one paid attention.

The Death Angel who struck the blow didn't even alter the rhythm of his pace. Those who followed didn't spare a glance to the side. Even the holy and merciful battle nuns were indifferent.

The commanding officer was dead, but the soldiers still did not dare to shoot, not even when a star warrior kicked Landolf aside.

Nor did anyone dare to block their path.

Like this, they simply let the governor's procession pass.

The way behind, for Gu Hang and his companions, was also clear.

Although someone had died at the first checkpoint, the commotion wasn't great. There were neither gunshots nor cannon fire, and many soldiers behind were completely unaware of what had happened, with a considerable number still asleep, undisturbed.

Under these circumstances, the 19 of them, including Gu Hang, strolled confidently down the street from the outer city to the inner city gate.

The outer city's environment wasn't great, haphazardly constructed with no planning—narrow alleys typical of densely populated slums. However, the main avenues extending from the gates leading to the inner city remained spacious.

The deliberately produced heaviness of the powered leg armor echoed far and wide. Many soldiers on duty, now awake, peeked out and saw them.

The imposing star warriors and the striking battle nuns were an awe-inspiring sight, further accentuating the governor's distinguished aura under their protection.

Were such figures something these lowly soldiers could contend with?

No one dared think so.

At the same time, they felt more at ease in their hearts.

Before, General Mondok had firmly prohibited the governor from entering the city, even adopting a stance ready for a forceful confrontation. Thankfully, General Mondok had since changed his mind.

—Most of the soldiers in the rear were unaware of what had happened at the checkpoint. Seeing the governor's procession moving arrogantly on the main road, they assumed it was normal, that the general had allowed them passage.

Otherwise, why wasn't anyone shooting at them?

Chapter 74 - Chapter 74: Chapter 74, Dilemma

Chapter 74: Chapter 74, Dilemma

"Why has no one stopped them?"

Located in the outer city, guarding the gate, and presiding over the military, Mondok had just been woken up when he received the news, and he already felt very anxious.

Yesterday, after the arrival of the Governor's troops, although his deployed nephew failed to return, the Governor's forces had indeed stopped outside, honestly not moving an inch. This satisfied him; his tough stance seemed to have been effective. The next step was to consider how to negotiate with the Governor.

But who could have expected that early this morning, he would hear such shocking bad news!

With the escort of seven Star Realm warriors and eleven Battle Nuns, the Governor strolled through his army and was now walking on the main road, heading towards the inner city.

And throughout the process, the interactions between his army and the Governor's guard were very 'peaceful.'

It was said that an officer who tried to block the way had his head crushed with a single punch.

But besides that, not a single shot was fired, not a single cannon was shot.

His soldiers just let the 'enemy' walk right through.

Why is that?

Could it be that all my troops have mutinied?

This was the source of Mondok's anxiety.

Because it wasn't impossible.

He was a general, a commander, but nominally he was a subordinate to the Governor, who was the supreme commander. The ordinary soldiers didn't understand the twists and turns above them and wouldn't easily categorize the Governor as an enemy.

To some extent, if the soldiers really 'rebelled,' what could he do?

Mondok even couldn't help but look around, fearing that the next moment, before the Governor's people arrived, his own soldiers would bind him, chanting something like 'lending General Mondok's head for use.'

But fortunately, that situation did not happen. His personal guard was still loyally guarding outside.

The adjutant who came to report responded to his earlier question, "Indeed, no one stopped them. I inquired about it, and it is said that you might have allowed the Governor's troops to pass, so the soldiers did not dare to block or open fire..."

Not to mention others, even he himself thought so.

"Bullshit!" Mondok bellowed!

"Er... You never issued such an order, Sir?"

Faced with this question, Mondok instead calmed down.

He composed himself and quickly analyzed the current situation in his mind.

The situation might not be as bad as he had initially thought.

Right now, the soldiers were just confused, bewildered, and at a loss; they had not yet shown any intention of mutiny.

The prestige Mondok had established within the troops was still intact; the soldiers would still consider him the highest commander of the forces.

And more importantly, the propaganda that they had been doing within the alliance authorities, the troops, and the whole city, was still effective.

The era of the brutal rule of the second governor had only ended six years ago, and the memories were still fresh in people's minds; no one wanted to return to those times. It was with the help of this public sentiment that they, over the past six years, had puppetized the governor on one hand, making sure his decrees could not leave his office,

let alone affect the broader lands beyond Revival City. On the other hand, they had also silently shifted the blame for many of their own misdeeds onto the governor.

In Rage Owl Star and Era City, despite some still cherishing the gubernatorial revival led by the first governor, people now held not too much affection for the governors sent by the Imperial Faction.

Hatred was perhaps an overstatement, since the new one had not had enough time to commit bad deeds. But the lingering fear and resentment had not diminished in the slightest.

After Gu Hang arrived, the fact that he ventured beyond the confines of Revival City to meddle in external affairs was beyond the expectations of the alliance's upper echelons, but it was a development they were happy to see.

If he wanted to play some construction game, then let him play by himself. No one believed he could survive the imperial tax two years from now by starting from scratch with external construction. Once the governor was executed two years later, the top brass of the alliance would simply scapegoat some members of the Governor's Government, have them finished off together, and then just wait for the arrival of the next governor—all to endure another two-year cycle.

Because of this, they had recently loosened their smear campaign against the new governor.

Not to mention, amongst them had emerged a traitor like Hodgson!

Unintentionally, the news of the new governor's thriving activities outside had spread among the poor outside Revival City.

It was only recently that they realized the seriousness of the problem. Not only had they executed Hodgson, but they had also made it clear to the governor that they were ready for confrontation. Under these circumstances, they restarted a round of urgent propaganda, attempting to mold Gu Hang into a new "second governor," claiming he would return to seize power and sentence half of Revival City's population as tribute for the imperial tax, and portraying how tragic it would be to be given as human tribute...

But in truth, if the poor were taken as human tax... it might not be such a bad thing. Working as slaves on starships might be better than living as poor in Rage Owl Star.

Of course, there was also the chance of being sent to the Star Realm Army as slaves, cannon fodder, or to the front-line logistical transport team... That could be slightly worse. Though they would have enough food, the average lifespan measured in hours was a downside.

However, in their propaganda, they would neither mention having enough to eat nor discuss issues of glory and honor—only the short life expectancy.

Their propaganda was somewhat effective.

Previously, Gu Hang's construction projects outside had been vibrant and absorbed many refugees. Henry and Hodgson hadn't held back with their positive promotions, which greatly boosted his reputation.

Now, as they began to speak ill of Gu Hang, the effect was somewhat limited. But at the very least, they had managed to dilute his previously good reputation, reigniting the fear of being ruled by a governor in the people's minds. Attitudes that had begun to lean a certain way became uncertain again.

Reflecting on this, Mondok couldn't help but feel relieved. It had been a good move; otherwise, he might truly have faced the scenario where the soldiers might have defected en masse at the governor's call to arms.

Having analyzed the situation, Mondok had a rough idea of what he needed to do.

He needed to personally step up and, with his own authority, strengthen the soldiers' resolve, helping them understand the situation clearly and distinguish who was the "enemy" and who was the commander.

Even at critical moments, he needed to further maintain his tough stance, inspiring his personal guard to decisively prevent Gu Hang from advancing, thus influencing the entire army.

But at this thought, he hesitated again.

Rationally speaking, there was no issue; but to confront star realm warriors personally?

If the governor really acted recklessly, ordering a sudden assault, could a few hundred men from his personal guard hold them back?

He feared that before the army could react, and the heavy artillery could be deployed, his own head would be rolling.

Mondok found himself caught between a rock and a hard place.

Chapter 75 - Chapter 75: Chapter 75, 3 Warnings

Chapter 75: Chapter 75, 3 Warnings

Mondok knew what the right course of action was, he just didn't dare to take it.

There was no other reason, simply the fear of death.

Hesitant and wavering, but as he floundered, Gu Hang's steps were so firm, and they were getting closer and closer.

He knew this, and as time passed, he began to realize that he couldn't hesitate any longer.

At this point, making a choice, even the wrong one, wouldn't be worse than doing nothing at all.

He really didn't dare to face the governor's dignity and the threat of the Star Realm warriors in person; but he couldn't surrender to the governor either, that option was no longer available; he was also unwilling to give up the current situation and retreat back into the inner city, which would amount to a complete loss of face. A general who abandoned his troops would never again earn their loyalty, and then the governor might actually be able to take command of the troops by asserting his moral high ground.

In the end, he came up with a compromise.

...

Gu Hang finally met with resistance.

To be honest, he was disappointed.

The reaction was too slow.

Even though, in the current scene, this was one of the many possibilities he had anticipated. The soldiers might be at a loss because of the governor's status, because of the suddenness, because they had never opened fire. This was also why Gu Hang chose to set out when the sun was about to rise and many were still asleep, and why he didn't let anyone shoot at the previous checkpoints.

But now that it had happened, he still lamented his opponent's indecisiveness.

If Gu Hang himself had been in the opponent's position, he would have already made a decisive order: pull up the heavy artillery, pull up the tanks, never mind accidental injuries or the consequences after firing, just blast the hell out of them first.

That Mondok, didn't he realize that he wouldn't survive?

He was still hedging his bets, unaware of what there was to be cautious about.

Of course, if the enemy really did that, Gu Hang wasn't afraid either. Since he dared to come, he naturally had means to break the situation.

Heavy artillery wouldn't kill the Star Realm warriors, wouldn't kill the Battle Nuns, and wouldn't kill him either.

To be more precise, they couldn't hit him.

But since that didn't happen, there was no need to discuss it further.

And at the moment, Gu Hang cared even less about this slight impediment.

About a company of soldiers, led by several officers, blocked the road ahead tightly. They had obviously arrived in a hurry; there was no time to set up a roadblock, so they just used their bodies to block the way, and hadn't even started shooting yet.

But there was an officer at the front, with a megaphone, shouting:

"Stop advancing! After three warnings we will open fire! The governor must come forward alone!"

Hearing the warning, Gu Hang could also see the soldiers blocking the way; their guns had already been raised, hands on the triggers, ready to fire at any moment.

Three warnings?

Gu Hang's lips curled into a cold smile.

"Those up ahead, are definitely rebels," Gu Hang said softly.

The officer opposite was about to issue a second warning, but at that moment, a bomb burst his body apart.

A large-caliber bullet, made of diamond, completely destroyed most of the officer's torso. The bomb, with extreme penetrative power, continued unabated and killed another soldier before exploding among the crowd.

The characteristics of a standard bomb include, besides a large-caliber bullet with strong penetration, an internal explosive fuse and a micro shaped charge. When it detonates, the combined power of the impact and shrapnel is even more ferocious than that of a typical hand grenade or rifle grenade.

In the hands of the Star Realm warriors, the grenade gun is an overwhelmingly powerful weapon against ordinary armies. It can be used as a rapid-firing small-caliber grenade launcher against light infantry or as an armor-piercing shell against armored units.

Piercing through the armor, the bomb then explodes inside the vehicle, killing the targets within.

Seven Star Realm warriors opened fire simultaneously. The firepower of the grenade guns blanketed about a hundred soldiers acting as a human wall on the road, and almost instantly, completely obliterated them.

Even if there were two tanks among those soldiers, that was equally meaningless.

If they were the main battle tanks of the Star Realm Army, like the Lion King Tank, the grenade guns would indeed be less effective. However, the two tanks present were just local products manufactured by some military industries of Rage Owl Star, not the main battle tanks of the terrestrial forces in the Star Realm Army. Although their armor looked thick, their design, technological content, and the materials themselves were not up to standard and couldn't withstand the diamond-constructed bullets of the bombs.

The bomb pierced through the armor and exploded inside the tank.

A hole in the tank might not seem too bad, but the people inside were certainly not able to survive.

During this process, as some of the hundred or so soldiers started to react, they pulled their triggers and fired at the Star Realm warriors.

But by the time they were almost wiped out, the number of bullets that made it their way probably didn't exceed twenty, and most went astray. Those few that did hit couldn't even leave a scratch on the Star Realm warriors' powered armor.

A Star Realm warrior at the forefront spoke up, "What gave these mortals the courage to think they could block us, without any cover, without any fortifications, and with outdated equipment, daring to hold their position in a dense formation on an open road?"

Gu Hang knew the speaker was Schneider. This bald-headed warrior when not wearing a helmet, was a more elite fighter than the veterans. And Gu Hang could tell, this fellow was also at odds with the battle group commander, Matins.

But right now, Gu Hang didn't have the time to pay attention to these matters or to the words Schneider had just said.

He had more important things to do.

Spiritual Energy surged, Telekinesis amplifying the vibration of the air caused by his voice speaking, sending his words to the ears of many soldiers who had just witnessed the one-sided, devastating slaughter:

“I am the Governor-General of the Empire, I am the ruler of the Coalition; anyone who dares to obstruct me will be considered a traitor! I order all soldiers to obey commands, stand by on the spot, and await the outcome!”

“I am the Governor-General of the Empire... all soldiers, obey commands, stand by on the spot, and await the outcome!”

...

This sentence, as if forming waves in the air, echoed continuously.

Meanwhile, the speed of Gu Hang and his companions suddenly increased.

When the Star Realm warriors and the Battle Nuns moved at full speed, their velocity was comparable to that of armored vehicles, with an explosive power more intense than that of sprint champions and stamina stronger than marathon champions.

And of course, Gu Hang wasn’t going to chase them on foot. His Telekinesis took effect again, an invisible force lifting his body, allowing him to half float, closely following the advanced soldiers, ensuring he remained within their protection.

————

Releasing two chapters together at noon, does it feel better?

Previously, I was publishing them in two separate updates, one at noon and another in the afternoon, which seemed a bit disjointed.

Chapter 76 - Chapter 76: Chapter 76, Can’t Escape

Chapter 76: Chapter 76, Can’t Escape

Although Gu Hang used the power of Spiritual Energy to convey the warning and command to every ally soldier in the vicinity, he was not about to leave fate in uncontrollable hands.

The soldiers might very well ignore the warnings and commands, whether due to their loyalty to Mondok and the Alliance or a stress reaction, and open fire directly on Gu Hang and his team.

Therefore, Gu Hang needed to be prepared to receive a blow.

If the surrounding soldiers did make a move, the armor on the warriors and Battle Nuns in motion would serve as Gu Hang's best cover, impervious to ordinary firepower.

Should any heavy artillery shells come flying, not to mention whether they could easily hit in a high-speed movement state, even if they did, Gu Hang had the ability to identify them in advance and use the power of Spiritual Energy to cause a slight deviation while they were mid-air, making them miss their target.

At the same time, they would turn into a sharp dagger, piercing through the entire army and heading straight for Revival City's military command center, to capture General Mondok alive.

He believed that under a high-speed charge, nothing could stop the nineteen top warriors, along with his assistance as a Spiritual Energy user.

At least the Revival City military didn't have the capability.

However, despite Gu Hang's preparation for the worst, this bad situation did not occur at all.

The surrounding soldiers still did not fire.

Perhaps the words Gu Hang had sent with Spiritual Energy had indeed had an effect. The soldiers hesitated due to Mr. Gu's position and the pressure of becoming traitors to the Empire, daring not to make a move.

Or perhaps, the sight of the star warriors annihilating an entire tank and infantry combined squad in just a few seconds was simply too terrifying. Admittedly, this was because Mondok's personal guard, completely misunderstanding the combat style of the star warriors, chose an extremely wrong deployment, leading to their group's annihilation. But the ordinary soldiers onlooking were probably just caught in shock and disbelief, and it would take a while before they could make sense of it.

Besides, even after making sense of it, would it be any less frightening? The wreckage of over a hundred bodies along with two tanks was the result of just seven people in two seconds; it was literally to die for.

And those Battle Nuns hadn't even made a move.

Of course, these two factors might have worked together. The soldiers were indeed scared, and Mr. Gu's words gave them a reason to convince themselves.

In any case, the soldiers did not act.

And in the midst of their sprint, Gu Hang and his group continued inward.

Their speed was even faster than the time it took for Mondok to receive the message.

Those who could contact Mondok directly had just been killed; and some clever ones, wanting to go back to report, had to run faster than the star warriors and Battle Nuns.

This led to the situation where, by the time Mondok learned that his personal guard sent to intercept had been wiped out, Gu Hang, leading his team, had almost reached his face.

And Mondok's face had long turned deathly pale.

The force he could count on for assured loyalty was his personal guard. This part of his troops, in a previous decision, had been divided into three parts. Apart from those sent to stop Mr. Gu and those still by his side, the rest had been ordered to rally more troops.

Of course, he had considered what would happen if a conflict really broke out and Mr. Gu chose to take action—or rather, whether he should prepare to take action himself?

He had thought he was prepared, but when he discovered that Gu Hang could pass through checkpoints without being stopped, he began to doubt this and dispatched a squad to try and directly command the larger force below.

But it seemed too late.

What to do?

He felt that he had only pondered for a moment in his mind, still undecided whether to leave or stay or fight, when the sound of gunfire rang in his ears.

The most loyal guards to him bravely returned fire against the nineteen people charging straight at them.

However, such resistance was utterly meaningless.

Mondok's so-called 'command post' was essentially a larger, relatively nicer-looking house selected within the outer city, which had been requisitioned. A portion of the surrounding buildings had been demolished, and the debris was used to hastily construct defenses. The guard soldiers were stationed around it, along with four 'Challenger' tanks and a combat command vehicle.

In the face of an attack, the post could hold out; if necessary, given the cleared surrounding buildings, he could also escape conveniently in the command vehicle.

His guard troops had a suitable place to station themselves and had preemptively adopted a defensive posture. They weren't bunched up and had cover and foxholes for protection, so they couldn't be easily wiped out with a volley from a grenade rifle. Although there

were many casualties from precise shots and small-scale explosions, at least they could still fight.

At the same time, when these guards engaged in battle, a significant number of nearby allied soldiers were also spurred into action. After all, General Mondok was right there, and a considerable portion of these allied soldiers also started attacking instead of standing idly by.

But even though the space warriors couldn't clear the defenders in one wave, they were not stopped either. Without needing cover, they charged forward. Bullets fired at their cerametal armor were mostly ineffective; thrown grenades didn't reach them; there were few rocket launchers to speak of, and those with low accuracy that did hit were deflected by Gu Hang using Spiritual Energy.

In fact, even without deflection, it might not have been a big problem. At worst, they would stagger a bit, feel a little uncomfortable from the shock, get some soot and smoke on their armor- but nothing too serious.

Of course, the Battle Nun might be more affected. The Saintly Lilies' white-green armor was beautiful but definitely not as sturdy as that of the space warriors.

So, Gu Hang paid a bit more attention to the firepower aimed at the Battle Nun.

Sister Chang Ge Ruite also noticed this and nodded slightly to Gu Hang before throwing herself even more vigorously into the fight.

She charged to the forefront, accelerated and broke through the line, swiftly nearing a tank that was trying to turn its cannon to fire. She brandished a long-handled battle halberd in her hands, and with a single swing, the golden blade sliced the tank's cannon clean off.

After that, she leaped high, penetrating the tank from the top with her halberd.

The soldiers inside only saw a golden light shining down upon them before they witnessed their commander and driver skewered together like candied haw.

The men were terrified.

And this was just a glimpse of what was happening on the battlefield.

The firepower of ordinary soldiers could not at all stop the advance of the superhuman warriors. And the grenade rifles in the hands of the space warriors and the Battle Nun could easily eliminate any enemy that stood in their way.

They didn't quickly kill all the soldiers, but there was no need for that. In just a moment, they had already broken through the soldiers' defensive line.

Gu Hang could even see Mondok.

The Revival City general was right in front of his eyes, just having hurriedly boarded a command vehicle, seemingly intending to flee.

But thinking of fleeing only now, how could he possibly escape?

Chapter 77 - Chapter 77: Chapter 77, Execution by Shooting

Chapter 77: Chapter 77, Execution by Shooting

By this time, Mondok was destined not to escape.

The one who made the move was still Sister Chang Ge Ruite.

She knew that for Gu Hang, capturing this rebel leader alive would be of greater value, even though the guy's ultimate fate would still be an inevitable death.

After cutting through a tank, Sister Chang didn't stop but instead sped up.

She leaped high into the air, and the battle pack on her back suddenly burst into a deep green flame, propelling her body to accelerate fiercely in midair. The command vehicle that had just started moving didn't have time to pick up speed before Sister Chang was upon it.

In midair, she fired with one hand, and the infantrymen accompanying the command vehicle were each picked off with precision. By the time she landed, there were no enemies left around her.

With a swirl of her glaive, a pair of the command vehicle's rear wheels were sliced in half; another slash, and the door was cut open, revealing Mondok's startled face.

At this time, the rebel leader still showed some bravery. Trembling, he raised the pistol he had prepared earlier and pulled the trigger at Sister Chang.

But how could a regular self-defense pistol shake Sister Chang in her reactive power armor?

He managed to fire only once before the bullet ricocheted off the armor. Right after that, he was grasped by the collar with one hand by Sister Chang and dragged down from the vehicle.

The general, like a dead dog, lay on the ground and was dragged by Georgette towards Gu Hang. He kept struggling, but it was meaningless; Sister Chang's hand was like steel, not loosening in the slightest.

The surrounding bodyguards, who were still alive, could only watch helplessly.

The general, who used to be so high and mighty, was now being dragged on the ground. Some wanted to save him, but they didn't know what to do. Should they shoot bullets that were utterly ineffective, or should they bombard with heavy firepower and risk killing the general in the process?

And even more terrifying were these male and female warriors themselves.

They had also faced these extraordinarily elite super soldiers of the Empire head-on, and their only impression was: could such an enemy even be considered human?

Immune to blades and guns, impervious to bombardment. Yet, on the other side, a casual shot meant that if the ranks were dense enough, groups of them would be taken out.

The Death Angels, as if leisurely strolling through their own backyard, captured their general from within their protection.

They did not fail to fight desperately, but all they could do was to die.

This kind of battle, destined to be lost with no chance of victory, they could no longer continue to fight.

Seeing the general captured, they even felt a sense of relief: since they had already lost, could they stop fighting now?

This thought filled their minds, and the fingers of the soldiers pulling the triggers were no longer so resolute.

The star warriors, too, lowered their firepower. Soldiers who had stopped firing and just hid, they couldn't be bothered with them any longer, focusing their grenades only on those who still resisted stubbornly.

The Phoenix, a battle group so impoverished, valued their grenades much more than the lives of these local rebel natives.

At this moment, Georgette had already brought Mondok in front of Gu Hang.

Now, General Mondok, who was always tough and dressed in battle uniform, had completely lost his usual image and demeanor. Being dragged along the ground all the way, due to Sister Chang's excessive roughness, he spent half the time with half of his face on the ground. By the time he reached Gu Hang, the dragged half of his face was a

bloody, unrecognizable mess, and his bloodied, dusty clothes were tattered, making him look extremely pathetic.

He was thrown in front of Gu Hang, struggling to stand, but he was in too much pain to get up.

Not that he needed to get up by himself.

An invisible force lifted his body, raising him up.

He was able to face Gu Hang directly.

He opened his mouth with difficulty, trying to say something, but couldn't utter a word. Similarly, an invisible force blocked his throat, making even breathing difficult, let alone speaking.

Of course, this was Gu Hang's doing.

Whether the man in front of him wanted to stay tough to the end or beg for mercy, Gu Hang no longer planned to listen.

Now, whatever Mondok's attitude was, it no longer had any significance. For Gu Hang, capturing this guy alive meant he was only good for one thing.

"The security issue, it's up to you now," said Gu Hang, his voice ringing in the ears of the star soldiers and battle nuns.

Georgette nodded with a smile.

Actually, that comment was primarily intended for her.

Next, Gu Hang would be exposed to the gun barrels of all enemies. He wasn't worried about the ordinary soldiers, nor even the bombardment of artillery fire. He could handle all that.

Only, he was concerned there might be Heretic Cultists from the Primordial Wrath Owl Sect hidden within the army.

It was possible.

If they made a move, combined with the bullets and artillery fire from some controlled soldiers, they indeed could pose a threat to him.

Death was unlikely; at worst, he would just sneak into the protection of the star soldiers and battle nuns if the situation turned dire. Was there anyone on Rage Owl Star capable of breaking through the protection of these nineteen people and killing him?

Impossible, absolutely impossible!

However, that would be somewhat embarrassing and detrimental to Gu Hang's efforts to establish his authority.

What he needed from Sister Chang Ge Ruite was to ensure he wouldn't end up in that awkward position as much as possible.

This had been discussed in advance, and the sister had agreed very promptly.

Or, in other words, if it were merely about helping the governor crush the rebellion, the Sisters of the Merciful Lily were somewhat lacking in enthusiasm. Their core objective in coming to the planet's surface was to combat the Heretic Cultists.

And this job of 'guarding against the possible emergence of Heretic Cultists' suited them perfectly.

Gu Hang shifted his gaze away and then returned his attention to Mondok.

It was time to make use of this Alliance general.

Under the dominion of Telekinesis, Gu Hang's body began to rise, taking Mondok with him.

Gu Hang's golden governor uniform moved without wind, as he looked stern and solemn, overlooking the entire battlefield.

Mondok's figure was slightly lower, his limbs and throat bound by Spiritual Energy, leaving him unable to move or speak.

Only Gu Hang's voice, carried by the power of Spiritual Energy, echoed at the scene.

"All soldiers, lay down your weapons!"

"I am Gu Hang, I am the representative of the Empire to whom you have sworn your service, I am the vicar of the Divine Emperor who rules this land..."

"I am the master of Rage Owl Star, I am your governor!"

"And this man, whom you call general, has betrayed the Empire, betrayed the Divine Emperor, betrayed... me!"

At this, the star soldiers and battle nuns showed subtle changes in their expressions.

Betraying the governor indeed meant betraying the Empire; and to betray the Empire was to betray the Divine Emperor, wasn't it?

He was absolutely correct, yet the way His Excellency the Governor equated himself with the Empire and the Divine Emperor... something felt a bit off, didn't it?

But they didn't say anything.

Gu Hang didn't care what these devout believers of the Divine Emperor thought, and he continued:

"I hereby declare, in the name of The Emperor, to strip General Mondok of his title and sentence him as a traitor to the Empire!"

"Soldiers, regardless of any orders you have received before, they are now entirely terminated. In the name of the governor, I command all of you to lay down your weapons. Your past actions will no longer be pursued; but from this moment on, those who still refuse to obey orders will be similarly regarded as traitors!"

Amidst his words, Gu Hang raised a pistol and aimed it at Mondok's forehead, executing him with a single shot.

Chapter 78 - Chapter 78: Chapter 78, Lay Down Your Arms, Don't Be a Traitor.

Chapter 78: Chapter 78, Lay Down Your Arms, Don't Be a Traitor.

Killing Mondok in his current state was as easy for Gu Hang as snuffing out a chick. His spiritual energy could lift Mondok's entire body into the air; the same force could easily break Mondok's neck without any problem.

Gu Hang did not do so; instead, he chose to shoot Mondok, and the reason for an execution by gunfire was the sense of formality.

Gu Hang wanted to use this symbolically significant method of execution by firing squad to tell all the soldiers that their former commander was a criminal, a traitor to the Empire. And they should, at this moment, completely disassociate themselves from the traitor and accept the leadership of the Governor.

He also did not plan to immediately put to use all of these ten thousand soldiers of Revival City. But at the very least, these men definitely could not become an obstacle to his next actions.

If a great purge was inevitable, it would start first within the army.

The surrounding soldiers almost all saw what happened in the sky and heard the Governor's declaration.

The General, a traitor?

This news was somewhat difficult to accept all at once.

It wasn't as if the soldiers would really consider Mondok a traitor and Gu Hang their commander just because Gu Hang said so. After all, they were not very familiar with Gu Hang before this, whereas Mondok had been their leader for many years. Many among them were officers promoted by General Mondok.

However, Mondok was now dead.

He died right before their eyes, executed as a convicted criminal.

The object of their loyalty had been lost.

Many were left in a state of confusion.

What was to come next?

To avenge the General?

This...

For some who were deeply indebted to Mondok, this was indeed an option. In fact, some had already tried to do so.

An officer attempted to continue rallying his soldiers to launch an attack.

But this was not particularly effective.

The most crucial point was that they had no way of denying Gu Hang's status as a ruler. He was the genuine Governor, and he had executed the General, leaving the surviving soldiers with almost no reason to continue fighting. Merely incited by officers, the efforts were not so potent. Only a few who were muddled in their minds would draw their weapons and attempt an attack.

Facing these attacks, Gu Hang remained unmoved in the air.

This was not the time to back down. He had to stand here, repeatedly broadcast the declaration he had just made to the soldiers, and imprint his identity deeply into the soldiers' minds.

As for those who were stubbornly deluded, their attacks were within the range that Gu Hang could handle. His telekinetic control was enough for him to catch the bullets aimed at him from a certain distance, and deflect them away from hitting the target. And even if there were a few bullets that he could not capture in time, he still had spiritual energy as a last resort to protect himself.

If faced with a barrage from ten thousand people, no doubt, Gu Hang would have to flee instantly; but that situation did not occur, and the ones who attacked him were only a minority in the end.

This small number of hard-liners was soon suppressed powerfully.

The star warriors would take action.

The bomb guns in Phoenix's hands were always precise in eliminating the rebels.

However, the cultists Gu Hang was worried about posed no threat to him.

His previous speculation had been correct; within the Revival City army, there surely were sorcerers from the Primordial Wrath Owl Sect hiding. After he took to the sky, these sorcerers quietly emerged and targeted him.

Within the range of Gu Hang's psionic perception, he had already detected the traces of these heretic cultists.

Aside from planning to attack Gu Hang with their spiritual energy, they were also trying to incite the soldiers around them to continue their assault on Gu Hang.

Yet, trusting in the battle nuns, Gu Hang did not move.

And the sisters, led by Superior Georgette, indeed did not betray Gu Hang's trust.

In the previous action, the Sancta Liliums, who had seemed somewhat slack, now became proactive. Eleven of them, without the need for communication, neatly paired up into teams of two, with Georgette acting alone. In total, six groups rushed into the crowd of soldiers.

Shouting in the name of The Emperor, they rooted out the cultists who had revealed themselves and were ready to attempt using forbidden magic to attack Gu Hang.

They were true experts in combating heretics, the nemesis of all that is heretical, cultist, and spiritually powered.

A faint glow arose from the Sancta Liliums, the Divine Emperor's blessing had arrived. Within a certain range, all hostile spiritual energy and malevolent methods were directly hindered.

Of course, this obstruction was not absolute. If the target was too powerful, the evil magic that should be cast would still work. After all, their anti-psionic strength came from the divine magic they wielded, from the blessings of The Emperor. Essentially, when any hostile spell took effect, their divine power would immediately counteract it.

However, at least the sorcerers present could not break through the suppression of the battle nuns' anti-psionic power.

With their magic and psychic abilities ineffective, those cultists mixed among the soldiers had no ability to fight back and were easily eradicated.

Seeing the battle nuns kill their 'comrades' nearby, some soldiers began to resist. Whether their counterattack was instinctual or they were truly bewitched by the cultists, the Sancta Liliums showed no mercy and eliminated all resistance.

The cultists infiltrated among them looked no different in appearance and attire from ordinary soldiers. The soldiers did not know that these were cultists, with some thinking they were being slaughtered.

To prevent the spread of such a misunderstanding and avoid the already tense situation sliding into total chaos, Gu Hang used his spiritual energy to amplify his voice and again spoke next to the ears of all the soldiers:

"Lay down your weapons! Cease resistance! Cultists intending to destroy Revival City are plotting action, and the battle nuns are purging the heretics. Lay down your weapons! You will not be implicated! Anyone continuing to hold weapons will be regarded as traitors!"

"Lay down your weapons! Do not become traitors!"

In confusion, a considerable number of soldiers finally stopped resisting.

And at this moment, Yan Fangxu's infantry brigade also appeared on the scene.

They cautiously approached the Alliance Legion's defensive line, also shouting along with the governor to lay down weapons and stop resisting.

The disarmed soldiers stayed in place peacefully; those few still holding weapons, whether they resisted or not, were all executed.

As a human loudspeaker in the air, plus casting a 'persuasion to surrender aura' over the entire Alliance Army; star warriors and battle nuns inside rooting out stubborn traitors, confiscating ordinary soldiers' weapons; Yan Fangxu leading the infantry brigade began disarming from the outside...

The main battle thus ended; most Alliance soldiers, after witnessing the execution of General Mondok by firing squad, the governor's personal orders to surrender, and facing the overwhelming star warriors and battle nuns, chose to surrender.

They did not want to fight any longer.

Unable to win and unclear about the meaning behind continuing the fight, why keep fighting?

Chapter 79 - Chapter 79: Chapter 79, The Situation is Set

Chapter 79: Chapter 79, The Situation is Set

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The overall situation had been decided.

Gu Hang also breathed a sigh of relief.

He had reason to be happy, his prepared ultimate measure had not been used.

His actions today involved some risk, but not a large one. Under the dual protection of the star warriors and the battle nuns, and being a rather powerful spiritual energy practitioner himself, he was not too likely to run into trouble. Moreover, his authority as the governor acted as a deterrent, rendering the Alliance soldiers indecisive, fearing to damage valuable equipment, and unable to commit fully to battle—adding another layer of protection.

It was with these advantages that he dared to come and behead Mondok, and subsequently subdue the entire army.

And the greatest risk was simply the failure of the operation.

At this moment, the goals he had set had been achieved.

Of course, he had also considered the possibility that this venture could spiral into complete chaos.

In that case, he might have to face being trapped in the midst of an army ten thousand strong with only nineteen people. But on one hand, he was confident that in such a

scenario, he still could manage a full-force breakout; on the other hand, he had the ultimate measure to completely resolve the problem.

In space orbit, the Quintet was already on full combat readiness, the starship's Colossal Cannon ready to rain orbital strikes down on the ground at a moment's notice.

If the situation completely spiraled out of control, Gu Hang would leave a mark and break out with all his might. The team led by Yan Fangxu would also provide cover outside and build defensive lines to blockade the Alliance Legion outside Revival City.

After he had broken out, the starship's cannons would commence orbital bombardment, striking the Alliance Legion stationed in the outskirts of the city with relatively precise, smaller-scale attacks.

An orbital strike wasn't completely unbeatable; if those under bombardment had dug deep enough air-raid shelters and tunnels, complemented with strong bunkers specifically designed to withstand orbital strikes, then the destructive power of the bombardment could be greatly reduced, minimizing damage.

But clearly, the Alliance Legion had not prepared for this, and hastily digging in was impossible.

Once the orbital bombardment had ended, Gu Hang could then lead his forces to sweep the battlefield and achieve the goal of destroying the Alliance Legion just the same.

But that was a last resort, a final measure.

Orbital bombardment couldn't be completely precise, and it was inevitable that some of the shells might fall on Revival City's inner city, or non-combat areas of the outer city, causing severe collateral damage; the fear of orbital bombardment would spread through Revival City. This panic could potentially assist Gu Hang in his subsequent actions, but it might also intensify the resistance of the city's residents.

If it came to that, the troubles ahead would be numerous.

But if it did reach that extent, Gu Hang would not be merciful. Otherwise, he wouldn't have made such contingency plans.

But of course, it was better not to resort to such measures if possible.

The current outcome was much better than paving the way with orbital cannon fire.

The Alliance Legion was now his.

These ten thousand fully armed legionnaires, to completely control and turn them into reliable subordinates, that would certainly not be enough. Even just disarming them and

taking them into custody had already taken quite an effort. After executing Mondok, disarming and settling these soldiers had taken up almost an entire day.

Mainly because among these soldiers, although most had accepted their fate, there was still a small minority who refused to surrender their weapons, resulting in conflicts with the infantry brigade led by Yan Fangxu, with incidents of bloodshed occurring.

At the same time, a considerable number, while they didn't dare openly resist, took the opportunity to flee with their weapons.

Gu Hang's direct troops, totaling just about fifteen hundred soldiers from five battalions, were somewhat stretched thin. Although they did their best to prevent such events, a significant number of Alliance soldiers still managed to escape with weapons.

These fellows would likely become troublesome in the future. If they hid in the slums of the outer city, they could become future security risks; if they fled outside the city, they might become bandits.

Troublesome as it was, this was just a minor irritation, not a major issue.

Excluding those who died and those who fled, about seven thousand soldiers ended up being taken into custody.

Next, Gu Hang did not rush into the city.

The situation in the city, the problem with Hodgson, were no longer the main issues. After the army had been disarmed, the city had become prey easily seized, unable to move, just waiting for Gu Hang to harvest it.

Actually, what Gu Hang was facing now was far from the full military potential of Revival City. This operation couldn't even be considered a 'war'.

If Gu Hang were to name it himself, it should be called a 'special military operation'.

Gu Hang's keen judgment had discerned that although Hodgson's disappearance meant that the Alliance authorities had declared war on him, in this 'war', his enemies were not the entirety of Revival City.

On the contrary, that city should be his; the people in it and the army defending it should not be his enemies, but rather his subjects.

Clearly understanding who the real enemy was, and who should be persuaded to join him, was the core reason why Gu Hang was able to achieve such significant results at such a small cost. It was only by understanding this that he could achieve maximum effect with minimal effort and avoid foolishly treating the entire city as the enemy, which would have resulted in a pyrrhic victory.

With the question of strategy resolved, what remained was how to execute it.

With star warriors, battle nuns, starship Colossal Cannons, and his governor’s status... the means to solve the problems were not a big issue.

After dealing with the Alliance Army, Gu Hang sent people to split his forces in five directions.

Four infantry battalions, each took charge and closed off one of the four gates to the inner city. Those in the inner city who had protected themselves behind high walls now found, to their astonishment, that the walls had become their prisons, and the four exits were no longer passable.

Thus, the elites of the inner city, and the one hundred thousand residents living there, were locked inside, isolated from the eight or nine hundred thousand people outside.

Another battalion was guarding the seven thousand disarmed, captured Alliance soldiers.

Gu Hang was there as well.

These seven thousand were critical.

Gu Hang didn’t delude himself into thinking he could turn them into his subordinates immediately, but in the future, they would become an important component of Gu Hang’s military force.

He could not afford to ignore these seven thousand.

Even though he had the system’s training capabilities, good sources of troops were still important.

But before he could incorporate this army, Gu Hang still had a lot of work to do.

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Chapter 80 - Chapter 80: Chapter 80, Ideological Construction

Chapter 80: Chapter 80, Ideological Construction

Over seven thousand soldiers had been disarmed and gathered for surveillance, but that didn’t mean the matter was over.

Were there still Heretic Cultists among them? Was it possible that some cult followers had not revealed themselves during the recent actions against Gu Hang?

It was very likely.

The Battle Nuns were in charge of this task. Unlike the Phoenix, which had become idle after the battle, the Sisters of the Holy Mercy became even busier.

They began searching within the entire army for any latent cult members. Under the watchful eyes of the Holy Mercy, the Heretic Cult had nowhere to hide. They were quickly identified, exposed, and executed publicly.

Their actions did not provoke a backlash from the soldiers; on the contrary, they further aided Gu Hang.

The Primordial Wrath Owl Sect did not have a good reputation. When the soldiers realized there were many heretics among them, they were actually angry. They wondered whether the previous commander had intentionally tolerated this. Did they really want to continue opposing the Planetary Governor alongside the treasonous cultists?

Certainly not.

In other words, this gave the soldiers another reason to convince themselves to peacefully accept the decision to surrender.

At the same time, the Sisters of Holy Mercy also seized the opportunity to proselytize, instilling the national religion's teachings, faith in The Emperor, and loyalty to the Empire into the hearts of the soldiers.

Their strength had already made a deep impression during the previous bloody battles; now, they were showing mercy. Their faces carried gentle smiles, and from them radiated a divine light.

The faith in the ascended Divine Emperor was already the most widespread belief throughout the Human Empire, Rage Owl Star being no exception. Capitalizing on the cult's defeat, carrying the victor's authority, and leveraging the soldiers' post-defeat confusion, their proselytizing was quite effective.

The Sisters of Holy Mercy did this not specifically to help Gu Hang.

Was there any other reason for the nuns to evangelize?

As for the fact that it objectively helped Gu Hang, the spokesman for the Empire's rule and Planetary Governor, by reinforcing the soldiers' loyalty, that was an unexpected boon.

While the Battle Nuns were busy, Gu Hang was not idle either.

He met with all the surviving company and battalion-level military officers in the POW camp and talked with each of them for a while.

After completing the one-on-one meetings, he gathered all the company-level and higher military officers for a closed-door meeting.

During the conversations, Gu Hang listened a lot and also said a lot.

He learned about the soldiers' confusion, demands, and hesitations, and he gave many firm responses.

Gu Hang had not come to destroy Revival City; on the contrary, he had come to build it. Loyalty to the Empire was every soldier's duty. They would be able to earn more merits on the battlefield, fighting for a better tomorrow for themselves, their families, and their hometowns.

Of course, such things were abstract. But Gu Hang also discussed many concrete matters:

In Revival City, the treatment for those of the Alliance Regular Army was fairly decent, and Gu Hang could ensure that their material supply would only be higher than before, officers included;

In the future, the army would expand, and well-performing officers were likely to have more opportunities for promotion;

The army would receive more attention, better equipment, which would be distributed among the troops;

All soldiers' and officers' families would get subsidies according to their ranks;

If there were casualties, the compensation ratio would be higher than before...

On both the spiritual and material levels, Gu Hang provided assurances to these mid- and lower-tier military officers.

The officers, one after another, were as though injected with adrenaline, thumping their chests and assuring the Governor that they had been deceived in the past and now understood that loyalty to the Governor was the only right path.

Overall, the conversations were satisfactory for both host and guests.

Of course, Gu Hang was not naive.

Could he fully trust the words of people thumping their chests? Could he immediately consider them his own people?

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That was clearly unrealistic.

For instance, Gu Hang could not possibly assign the task of blockading the city to these Alliance soldiers now.

If that were the case, a bunch of powerful individuals familiar with the officers, drawing on connections, and offering bribes with money... It would be feared that in the end, an unknown number of people would escape.

In the current situation, it would be exceedingly foolish for those seasoned soldiers and officers mixed within the political circles of Revival City not to say some pleasant things.

But Gu Hang didn’t care.

As long as he presented the right attitude, that was enough.

After that, Gu Hang would have plenty of methods to increase the armed forces’ combat effectiveness and tighten his control over the military.

He would truly fulfill the promises regarding material conditions without deceiving anyone. Soldiers rely on provisions, and by ensuring the promised benefits were delivered, he could establish a foundation of loyalty; the construction of a spiritual civilization needed further strengthening. In this regard, Gu Hang planned to adopt some special measures.

He would select a batch of people from the six infantry battalions he had created and put them through special training. He planned to invite Battle Nuns and interstellar warriors to teach them classes.

After they completed these classes, Gu Hang himself would also teach.

He would not conduct any particular military training, but rather cultivate ideological awareness. Loyalty to the Empire and faith in the Divine Emperor needed to be further emphasized. And Gu Hang had to associate loyalty, honor, and faith with himself.

There was no problem with that, logically speaking.

If you have faith in the Divine Emperor and are loyal to the Empire, then as the Planetary Governor appointed by the Empire, I am the very person executing the Divine Emperor’s rule on Rage Owl Star. Loyalty to The Emperor equates to loyalty to the Governor.

There was nothing wrong with that.

However, inserting this personal merchandise into the mix was not a job for the Phoenix or the Merciful Lily; Gu Hang was willing to take on the extra burden himself.

And all the individuals who were trained would be placed among the various levels of officers within the Alliance Legion.

They were not there to seize power or act as military leaders, but to work as political officers.

Their responsibility was to spread devotion to the Governor throughout the entire army and review the actions of military leaders. If there were any signs of disloyalty among the officers, the political officers would report it to their superiors for action to be taken; in times of war, or other emergency situations, they even had the authority to execute military leaders and take over command of the troops.

Similar positions existed within the Imperial Regular Army.

But what Gu Hang intended to do was even more radical.

He intended to establish political officers right down to the level of individual units!

Building the army, strengthening discipline, boosting morale, and spreading loyalty... these were the tasks these individuals would undertake for Gu Hang in the future.

For these tasks, Gu Hang stayed outside the city for a full two days.

The nearly fifty ‘political officers’ were also selected. They temporarily donned black coats, put on newly dyed red military hats, moved into the prisoner of war camp, and joined the various units within the Alliance Legion.

Although these individuals were pushed into their roles rather abruptly, and even the planned ideological indoctrination by Gu Hang was quite basic—half a day of conversation with the nuns, and a half-day chat with Gu Hang himself—that was it.

Regardless, their personal loyalty to Gu Hang was somewhat guaranteed. Throwing them into the army would enhance control over the military, no matter what.

As for training, once there was spare time and the situation had calmed down, it wouldn’t be too late to start a more in-depth process.

While Gu Hang was busy with the army, the inner city was turned upside down in these two days.

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It is estimated that at zero o’clock on Monday (twelve o’clock Sunday night), the story will be on the shelves.

There are three chapters added today; there will also be two regular chapters tomorrow noon; chapters launching on the shelves start at night!