Governor 711

Chapter 711: Too Expensive

"Prime Minister Xu, what are you saying? Do you understand what you're talking about?"

Luo Fei questioned sharply.

But his previous series of words seemed somewhat pretentious under Xu Fuzhen's previous remarks.

"Of course I know what I'm talking about." Xu Fuzhen's tone was unapologetic, "I'm discussing a financial issue of 20 trillion over ten years, which will affect the stability of the entire Empire."

"According to your scheme, our open losses might not just be this 20 trillion. If the Tribunal fails to handle the corruption of a Nest Capital World, could it lead to a world's destruction? Without a substantial expenditure, Solaria cannot suppress the region. After ten years of turmoil, won't there be more worlds shrouded in darkness again, withdrawing from Central Empire's rule? Such situations aren't rare."

"All these losses, when summed up, how much are they? I can't assess. But surely, when I tell the Grand Judge that central funding over ten years will reduce by 3 trillion, he'll tell me a number; the turmoil in Solaria, the administration, navy, and Star Realm Army will surely give me an answer."

"How can you calculate it like this?" Luo Fei's voice became even more strained.

Xu Fuzhen mocked: "Why not? Didn't you say the same when you asked me for funding? Easily demanding hundreds of billions, saying if not granted now, we'll need another trillion in future funding; saying if granted now, the Department of Taxation will be able to increase revenue by how much in the future..."

Luo Fei was embarrassed: "Haven't most of those been realized? Uh... the majority can be achieved..."

"Many haven't been realized." Xu Fuzhen said, "Now, when reducing funding, why do you say it can't be calculated this way?"

Not having an argument here, Luo Fei shifted the topic: "Thinking financially, consider this Iron Armor War? We have cumulatively invested over fifty trillion, and it's Holy Terra's direct expenditure, not including the debts to supplement local forces, fleets, and battle groups after deployment... If the Alliance revolts again, or raises a larger scale rebellion than the Iron Armor War? Don't risk a loss of two hundred trillion in warfare because of a mere twenty trillion over ten years!"

It seemed somewhat sensible.

But Xu Fuzhen was undaunted.

She continued, "What makes you think Gu Hang will surely rebel? What has Holy Terra done poorly to him, forcing him to rebel? Or has the Alliance's past performance made you think he will rebel?"

"He pays taxes, and he pays them fully, directly to Holy Terra. I see, not only won't he rebel, but he's the Empire's most loyal local governor. If every local governor in the Empire were like Gu Hang, the Empire will become incredibly strong!"

Pausing, Xu Fuzhen presented her scheme: "According to my plan, the Alliance is to be left to him; the seat of the Spiderweb Domain Chair is also to be given to him. But in exchange, the Imperial Tax of the entire Spiderweb Domain is to be paid according to his previous commitments."

"Next year, the Alliance's payment will no longer be 300 billion, but 500 billion; after ten years, it won't be a stable 1.3 trillion, but 2.1 trillion."

"Over ten years, he is to pay a total of 13 trillion."

"As long as he provides this amount, we can permit the existence of the Alliance; we can even allow the Alliance to expand in the Spiderweb Domain."

"What's wrong with that? Moving forward, while he pays 2.1 trillion yearly, what will he have left?"

"Ordinary Cosmic Domains have a total annual tax of about 1 trillion; 2 trillion is in regions with better development and less chaos."

"Furthermore, all other local governments, including Star Domain and Cosmic Domain levels, keep 60% of taxes for their construction, incurring significant tax losses. We might only receive one or two hundred billion."

"Now, we can net 2 trillion per year; the Alliance cannot keep 60% of its tax revenue for its own construction like other local government."

"In this situation, does he have any capital to rebel?"

"Conversely, with such a substantial revenue increase for the central government each year, how many corps can we build, how much can we develop loyal battle groups for the central authority?"

"Additionally, pairing with Gu Hang's personally drafted 'Alliance Plan', supervising the Alliance's military scale, and regularly checking Alliance development status, raising taxes as development rises."

"With these measures combined, can the Alliance possess sufficient strength to rebel?"

"As long as the Alliance is drained dry, leaving them powerless for rebellion; as long as Gu Hang is given enough respect, leaving him unwilling to rebel; then the Alliance's future will be the Empire's most vital single tax source! The foundation of the Empire!"

"Whether the Alliance becomes an unstable factor or the engine of the Empire relies solely on a single thought."

Facing Prime Minister Qi Bodu after the final word, Xu Fuzhen added: "Please reconsider, Prime Minister!"

...

"...That’s how the situation was at the time!"

In the call, Galaraldo was vividly describing the content of the meeting then.

According to reason, the content of the Supreme Council should be confidential externally.

But in reality, seconds after the meeting ended, the content was everywhere, which was normal.

No one would pursue responsibility anymore.

After listening, Gu Hang also found it quite amusing.

He asked:

"From what you say, did it pass in the end? Letting me serve as Spiderweb Domain Chair and maintain the existence of the Alliance?"

"Not at all." Galaraldo smacked his lips a bit, saying regretfully, "Towards the end, Qi Bodu called it off. He didn’t even let it enter the voting stage, saying it will be discussed next time."

"In other words, do I have a good chance?"

"No, are you serious?" Galaraldo said earnestly, "Didn’t I just tell you? Don’t just focus on getting the Spiderweb Domain! You need to see how much you’ll have to pay!"

"Do you think that woman Xu Fuzhen is doing you a favor? 2.1 trillion a year, only her mother could come up with such an idea!"

"Ten years down the line, you’ll have to pay so much money!"

Black, it is indeed black.

The 1.3 trillion mentioned in the "Alliance Plan" is actually not much of a problem.

According to the Empire’s standard of one-tenth taxation, with a total population of ten trillion in the five-star systems, an annual tax revenue of one trillion is reasonable; the additional 300 billion comes from some worlds with higher levels of development, hence they pay a bit more tax.

There are quite a few planets within the Alliance with high levels of development, especially the two core circles of the Dragonhawk Star Domain that Gu Hang has managed for a long time: the Seven Horse Territory and the Yunluo Center, which are quite prosperous.

Some planets, with high levels of development, are required to pay higher taxes.

However, similarly, there are two Founding Worlds, Jindi Star and Alamita, that are tax-exempt; at the same time, two Battle Groups, Blood Shark and Phoenix, that have achieved meritorious service, can also claim tax exemptions for their home planets.

Previously, neither of them had Recruitment Planets. Having now achieved meritorious service, they can naturally request one, and the Central Empire has already approved this, with their locations set within the Alliance’s territory.

Although, their model is completely different from ordinary battle groups. The home planets are managed by the Alliance, and the planet’s income is also managed by the Alliance. Theoretically, they own the wealth of their home planets, but it is meaningless. What the Alliance gives them is far more than what their home planets produce.

Ordinary battle groups also need to expand their influence, using the home planet as the core, radiating to the surroundings, letting dozens to hundreds of planets supply their development, maintaining a good balance; it is impossible to solely rely on an uncertainly wealthy or poor planet to supply all the needs of a battle group.

Gu Hang need not worry that these two battle groups will become infiltrating sand from the central empire.

Phoenix is absolutely impossible.

Blood Shark is unlikely as well. Not to mention that, within this battle group, one-third is already new blood provided by the Alliance; they do not want to return to the Dark Outer Domain, and want to develop well within the borders, contending for influence with the Alliance is meaningless, as the Alliance can easily lock them down.

Following the Alliance has become their only path.

Unfortunately, the Spear of the Dragon King, Furyflame, and New World Torch, all three have been sentenced to penance expeditions. The latter two with a penalty of a 200-year expedition period; the former is much less, only fifteen years. But even the smallest Spear of the Dragon King has been stripped of ownership of their home planet.

Of course, on their home planet in the Thistle Muster Star Field, although nominally no longer theirs, Gu Hang still allows them to station and operate there long-term.

The current income of these three groups relies entirely on Alliance support.

They also rely on the protection of the Alliance to avoid truly facing desperate battles like other penance expedition groups.

But they can’t provide the Alliance with tax exemption quotas.

So be it. The two Founding Worlds and two Recruitment Worlds, the tax exemption quotas they can provide are not insignificant in absolute terms, after all, if the Founding Worlds were taxed according to their level of development, it wouldn’t be low; Gu Hang will also give the two more developed Recruitment Planets exemption quotas which need to be utilized properly.

The combined tax amount, possibly around a thousand billion or so.

Say what you will, but compared to the entire tax amount the Alliance is required to pay, it... only slightly eases the pressure, and the effect is not significant.

However, overall, according to the "Alliance Plan," the biennial tax settlement involves three hundred billion in the first year, five hundred billion in the second year, combine to eight hundred billion in taxes, which is actually quite manageable.

Even, it is relatively easy.

Just the Dragonhawk Star Domain, by accounting for the taxes, and taking out the fiscal surpluses of the two years, would cover it with plenty left over.

And under the stimulus of war, under the constraint of taxation, the Alliance's developmental strength will rise rapidly in the coming years; with the advancement of reconstruction works, other star systems will also gradually show potential.

Completing the taxation goal of 1.3 billion ultimately is just somewhat challenging, but actually not at all.

The dual-level governments at the Star Domain and Cosmos Domain levels need funds for their own developmental use, though some have been handed over, they are quite confident that the Alliance's developmental speed will surpass everyone's expectations. After offering this sum, there will also be enough resources for their own development.

For the normally high tax costs within general imperial regions, the Alliance has even less pressure.

The administrative efficiency of the Alliance is considerably high.

Although, when a political entity reaches a scale of four thousand worlds, more than half of which has been acquired within the last fifteen years, with all sorts of issues; the population scale within the political entity reaches the trillion level... with such a size, achieving absolute efficiency is unrealistic.

But whether it is efficient or not is a comparative matter.

Although Gu Hang is dissatisfied with the inevitable bloating and inefficiency following the expansion of the Alliance Government, and does not shy away from stating that corruption issues within the Alliance, although constantly suppressed, cannot be eradicated.

Nevertheless, despite many issues, as long as the comparison target is the overall situation of the Empire, the Alliance immediately becomes a high-efficiency and clean system.

The cost of taxes would never reach the dreadful level of 60% usually speaking;

In the context of unified collection, management, and transportation, the Alliance can keep losses below 10%, even 5%.

Completely fine.

Moreover, the Alliance possesses a condition that other imperial forces fundamentally lack — two Founding Worlds that Gu Hang can now claim complete control over. These two Founding Worlds' output can also be utilized by the Alliance, contributing to the Alliance's tax revenue.

However, what Xu Fuzhen mentioned about handing over the entire Spiderweb Domain to Gu Hang, letting Gu Hang be the chairperson, and raising the tax standard to 2.1 billion a year... that's where the pressure becomes significant.

Primarily because, besides the three star systems, Proud Claw, Thistle and Mustard, Alfonso which the Alliance had previously captured, the other regions of the Spiderweb Domain are completely devastated.

The Alliance is so reliable; once conquering an area, it governs that area. With the threat of the Insect Race, the Pest Control Office is established for local governance; although prior to finalizing its status, along with the Alliance's main focus still on the war, no direct inputs were made in the regional economic and political reconstruction. But honestly, as long as governance keeps up, and there is no haphazard meddling, many worlds, even without external support, would merely recover a bit slower.

What governance experience does the Alliance have?

Setting aside those little insights, techniques, and methods.

The most core theory: do not meddle haphazardly, just carry out normal operations.

Just this point already surpasses countless places.

The reason for such obvious contrast is because many places are meddling haphazardly.

Like the previously mentioned other places in the Spiderweb Domain.

They are complete burdens, and yet to let Gu Hang bear an additional 800 billion/year tax obligation, that pressure is massive.

Chapter 713, Population Dilemma

Except for the three Star Domains controlled by the Alliance, there is not a single good land left in the entire Spiderweb Domain.

No one can blame the Princess Star Domain; it's beyond the point of being called rotten — it's as if the entire Star Domain has been emptied out.

Approximately one-third to half of the worlds have been baptized by the Extinction Order, turning them worthless.

The remaining worlds have very little leftover population. Perhaps among three hundred or so worlds, only a hundred billion people are left?

On average, each planet holds thirty to forty million people.

This reminded Gu Hang of the Rage Owl Star when he first started out.

Relying on these local populations to rebuild one planet after another? Gu Hang is not keen on doing this.

It's not that it's impossible.

Back then, when rebuilding the Rage Owl Star, Gu Hang didn't have such strong abilities; everything was built from scratch, and yet look how it turned out?

However, he knows better than anyone how much effort is needed for this.

The cost-effectiveness is too low.

It's better to gather the population as much as possible and select a nearby world with a good natural environment, acceptable levels of destruction by the Insect Race, for uniform resettlement and development.

The other planets can be put aside for now.

Treat them as training grounds, slowly clearing them out, like the former Iron Tooth Orc occupied area in the northeastern part of the Dragonhawk Star Domain.

Over the past twenty or so years, it has done quite well under the policy centered on recolonization, assisted by long-term monitoring and military cleanup. Now, there's basically no worry about the beastmen forming massive and unified tribes sweeping through a planet. With the Alliance's armaments, the combat strength of the colonization groups is enough to counter those beastmen.

Four Star Sectors, forty or fifty worlds, under persistent immigration and encouragement for birth, the population has already exceeded six billion.

In the vast and sparsely populated plain regions, where the threat is relatively small, large farms have been opened. A family of two adults and maybe one or two elderly can give birth to three to five children. There may only be two or three laborers, but they can form a small farm, often having over 500 hectares of land.

There's simply no need for intensive farming; using well-bred crops from the Alliance Biological Research Institute and advanced agricultural machinery for large-scale mechanized production is enough.

Even under these circumstances, it can be ensured that only truly fertile lands are cultivated.

These are all considered national farms of the Alliance. The produced grain belongs to the Alliance. The workers on the farms aren't really farmers but agricultural workers with ranks and wages, and they also get a share of the farm's yield. Due to high production, the speed of rank advancement is relatively fast, which allows their descendants, upon adulthood, to acquire more land — whether by expanding the family farm or by splitting off to open a new farm elsewhere.

Life is quite good.

It's just a bit sparsely populated, with life relying on Alliance broadcasts, TV programs, and alcohol. But compared to their life before migrating, living on the lower strata in Nest Capital or the like, it is definitely much better.

There are worlds whose ecological environments are not suitable for large agricultural production, where mining is also pretty good.

In short, those four Star Sectors have long ceased to be a burden to the Alliance, instead becoming granaries and mineral resources, meeting the massive food demand of Seven Horse Territory and Yunluo, while also providing military rations and having surplus to be sold as goods or collected as taxes.

The successful experience in these four Star Sectors is what needs to be replicated in the salvageable worlds of the Princess Star Domain.

However, besides the Princess Star Domain, the Fox Moon Star Domain at the easternmost part of the Spiderweb Domain is barely considered a relatively better situation, similar to the Thistle Muster Star Field.

But, the former battlefields of North Line and West Line are a complete mess.

The West Line is relatively better; at least the West Line battle was won, and the Insect Swarm didn't massively devour planets. The main issue is with infections, which can still be resolved through the 'Pest Control Office' plan in the Thistle Muster Star Field.

It can be considered a worsened version of the Thistle Muster Star Field.

But the North Line is terrible.

The Northern Line Army really left Gu Hang with a huge hole. They let the infections spread and then lost the war.

There, it can't be solved with a simple 'Pest Control Office' plan; it requires recolonization.

However, there is slightly good news.

The Black Cross Legion feels a bit guilty about the mess they left behind. They will leave behind a force including 500 Interstellar Warriors, a large number of Mortal Troops, and a combat fleet centered around a battle barge to cooperate with the Alliance to gradually solve the mess in the North Line.

They don't need Gu Hang to pay for their warfare.

However, although it saves a portion of military expenses, the larger cost still lies in reconstruction.

The North Line's Lefo and Sword Gate Star Domains only slightly surpass the condition of the Princess Star Domain.

Conducting recolonization requires at least a decade of effort before results can be seen.

Moreover, there is another difficulty.

One reason recolonization was feasible in the former Iron Tooth Orc occupied area was the abundant population in the Dragonhawk Star Domain, with multiple Nest Capital Worlds with population figures exceeding Alliance estimates.

In those Nest Capital Worlds, population was already a burden, having long surpassed the ecological carrying capacity of the planet, much like the previous Korolya III, treating population as a resource to offset taxes.

This was clearly a huge waste.

By emigrating, it not only solved the major population requirements for recolonization but also relieved ecological pressure on the planet, moved people to better, brighter futures. Except for initial investments, the rest was all gain.

However, the devastated Spiderweb Domain truly lacks population.

Indeed, larger-scale immigration can be done from the Menghe Star Domain and Dragonhawk Star Domain to the worlds in Spiderweb Domain.

But clearly, such costs would be much higher.

Moreover, it may not be enough to meet demand.

Basic policy encouraging birth must be issued.

Aside from that, Gu Hang must come up with other ways to rapidly increase population.

Birth may not be enough or fast enough; immigration within his own territory may be insufficient; remaining options involve external immigration.

Purchasing can be done.

Surrounding Cosmos Domains, including other Star Domains in the Eastern Cosmos Domain, have Nest Capital Worlds that make money by selling population.

However, buying population is expensive. A basic price for one adult is 10 tax coins; Gu Hang's desired additional population is calculated in hundreds of billions or trillions, which is too costly. The transportation cost of the population is also quite high.

There are many pitfalls.

Having Gu Hang take over the entire Spiderweb Domain, and then bear the heavy taxes, is really quite pressuring.

However, Gu Hang still decides to accept.

This is a good opportunity for lawful and reasonable expansion.

Let the pressure be greater, it can be borne.

And a huge territory, an entire Cosmos Domain, means enormous development potential. Suffering in the early stages, the future is bright.

Chapter 714

Gu Hang was, of course, still keeping an eye on matters on Holy Terra.

However, it was no longer the most important thing.

Gu Hang had already decided to accept the plan proposed by Prime Minister Xu of the Department of Taxation.

Of course, it wasn't going to be right now, immediately.

There are still many details that need to be discussed.

For example, the location of tax settlements, the Alliance's plan mentions that the Five Major Star Domains will fully pay taxes to the Empire, but with Gu Hang becoming the Cosmic Domain Chair of the Spiderweb Domain, without allowing the Alliance to expand, should the other nine Star Domains leave 30% with the Star Domain Government and 20% with the Space Domain Government?

After all, these nine Star Domains are not Alliance territories and do not need to comply with the Alliance Plan.

Of course, in exchange, while the government agencies in the Cosmos Domain can be organized by Gu Hang as the Cosmic Domain Chair, the appointment of the Star Domain Head and the bureaucracies of the two levels of Space Domain and Star Domain Governments are subject to the right of interference by the Administrative Institute. Besides the government, there are also vertical administrative structures like the two-level Military Affairs Department, Tax Department, and Legal Department, which are also subject to the vertical leadership of the Central Military Department of the Empire, the Imperial Central Tax Department, and the Legal Department.

Needless to say, the Tribunal, Star Realm Army, and Navy need to be equipped, and all are subject to restrictions.

And the construction of the Star Realm Army, the Navy, and the activities of the Tribunal require funding. Not to mention directly applying to the Department of Taxation for funds, these departments, agencies, and military units will need their superior departments to allocate funds.

In exchange, these units such as the constructed Star Realm Army, Navy, and government departments have to listen not only to the Cosmic Domain Chair but also accept top-down leadership.

This is a political arena.

The key is whether the superior's funding is more substantial or the Space Domain Government's funding; it's about the contest for personnel rights. The ultimate outcome is that these departments, in executing the will of the Cosmic Domain Chair, Star Domain Head, and the Central Empire, sway back and forth, coupled with their departments' interests and the personal interests of departmental bureaucrats...

There are already so many interest entanglements, not to mention corruption? What about claims? Political ideals?

Just thinking about it makes one's head spin.

How can efficiency be improved in such a situation? How to execute those 'salvation plans' that Gu Hang previously envisioned for the worlds of the Spiderweb Domain?

Gu Hang is actually, in essence, unwilling to see the Alliance completely restricted in its expansion and for his rule over the Spiderweb Domain to only rely on the conventional local government institutions of the Empire. The set of Cosmos Domain, Star Domain, Star Sector, and Planet is too slow and prone to red tape.

However, despite his reluctance, Gu Hang does not hesitate to use this matter for negotiations.

The point is, if you don't let the Alliance expand, then the Alliance Plan won't include the other areas of the Spiderweb Domain, which means that those areas' tax revenue cannot be guaranteed, and you cannot get an additional 800 billion in taxes beyond 1.3 billion; it should be based on the regular Empire local government taxation scenario.

That would mean not only leaving more than half of the tax revenue for local governments, but the Alliance also won't guarantee low losses.

Taking everything into account, the tax revenue that the Central Empire might receive could be just five billion?

A tenfold difference.

If you don't let the Alliance expand, I'll pay you more taxes;

If you don't let the Alliance expand, there will be no money.

Gu Hang's intention is quite clear: the Department of Taxation needs to put in more effort.

Moreover, even if expansion is allowed, it would require some good bargaining.

The nine Star Domains that have been devastated by intense wars over the past decade may be large, but they are in such a ruined state. Eight hundred billion is really not worth it, and it needs to be negotiated down.

In addition to using money to continue to hold the Imperial Central Tax Department at bay, Gu Hang also needs to apply pressure on the Department of Political Affairs.

Since it's not under the Alliance's system nor in the Alliance Plan, should the Central Star Realm Army Headquarters and Navy Headquarters provide funding for the construction of Star Realm Army and Navy in these areas?

Should the Administrative Institute provide funding for government construction for planetary rebuilding?

Should the Department of Taxation allocate funds to build the Tax Fleet? Otherwise, how to collect taxes? Surely the Alliance can't be the one to collect them, as it has nothing to do with the Alliance; you're not letting the Alliance intervene externally.

The same applies to other Space Domain and Star Domain matters.

When summed up, aside from the Alliance-controlled areas, the Spider Web Domain Empire may not even think about pulling in five billion a year, adding in these funds, the Central Empire might end up having to pay money back to Gu Hang.

Deal with it as you see fit.

These matters are not things that can be finalized quickly.

Let's take it slow in negotiations.

The Alliance's ambassador dispatched to Holy Terra is quite high-ranking. Salihoovich used to be an important figure in the Alliance Foreign Affairs Department. As the Alliance's scale grew larger, external relations, particularly with Holy Terra, became crucial, thus requiring the most important person to take on the role of ambassador.

Gu Hang has a great deal of confidence in Salihoovich.

Needless to say, this person is now at Level 8, and all of his upgraded traits are related to diplomacy, negotiation, and charisma—he is the most talented person in the Alliance in this regard.

Of course, as the saying goes, what you can't get on the battlefield, you can't get at the negotiating table. Salihoovich can speak well, read the room, and make people like him, holding firm when needed, but he can't turn black into white or secure excessive interests.

Ultimately, it's about setting the right plan and having a strong Gu Hang and a strong Alliance behind him to let Salihoovich's skills be utilized to the fullest.

The good news is that Salihoovich can still get support from Galaraldo.

Having a High Lord lend a hand is very effective.

On one hand, it's possible to obtain information that couldn't be obtained through normal channels. Otherwise, even the most capable intelligence department within the Alliance would struggle to get the latest info on what's being discussed in the Supreme Council.

Finding out on the second round isn’t an issue because there are leaks everywhere.

On the other hand, there are strategies where Galaraldo can help by voicing support in the Supreme Council.

Let’s take it slowly.

However, it won’t drag on for too long.

The time for the next tax collection period needs to be set.

Whether to implement the Alliance Plan or to come up with other methods will become clear in just a month or two.

Chapter 715

"Sister, brother-in-law."

Arno Qinko entered the door carrying large bundles of gifts.

Behind the door to welcome him were the male and female masters of the house, Alliance Premier Osenia Qinko, and her husband, Zhu Ye.

Arno carefully examined his sister.

In appearance, she still looked very young. However, there were traces of age in her eyebrows and eyes, which not even rejuvenation surgery could completely halt.

But undoubtedly, she was still at her peak age. Beauty was never her most emphasized characteristic.

She was one of the highest-ranking and most influential figures in the Alliance, managing political affairs for Mr. Gu from humble beginnings. When the Alliance was first established, she became the Alliance Premier at less than thirty years old, and has held the position for thirty years now.

The Alliance's development to the present day owes a great deal to Mr. Gu, who is its most important leader. However, Osenia's contributions must not be overlooked.

It can truly be said, without Gu Hang, there would be no Alliance; without Osenia, perhaps another highly capable premier could have managed the Alliance well.

However, for the past thirty years, that person has been Osenia, not anyone else; and for the foreseeable future five, ten years, it will still be her.

This is also related to her and the internal political ecology of the Alliance itself.

The internal political struggle within the Alliance cannot be said to be nonexistent; at least it is very mild. The main reason is that Gu Hang himself dislikes internal conflicts, and with his strong suppression, political struggles become controllable.

Additionally, one cannot ignore the fact that the Alliance has always been in a state of development and expansion.

Development itself is the best remedy for many problems. The Alliance has always been in a state of expansion, whether in government agencies, military units, or even business opportunities. Technicians in factories and agricultural workers... all have great upward mobility.

There are countless colonial planets needing managers, entrepreneurs, engineers, farmers... offering a wide range of positions. As long as one has a little skill, or even without skill, just the willingness, it is relatively easy to change one's fate, rise through the ranks, and prosper.

In such an environment, internal conflicts are not severe. Put in effort, do a good job, and naturally, one can get promoted, get a raise, or transfer to a location that suits one's desires.

Development, expansion, these are the themes of the Alliance; involution and competition are not.

Even for someone like Osenia, who has long sat in the position of Alliance Premier without change for decades, progress is tangible.

In fact, it is greater than anyone else's. Although always a premier, initially she didn't even fully control one Planet; later, multiple planets, an entire Star Sector, half a Star Domain, and now five Star Domains, plus other occupied areas in the Spiderweb Domain...

Although her title hasn't changed, how many times has her power multiplied?

And Osenia has always been diligent and dedicated.

Her marriage is also a reflection of this.

Osenia remained unmarried for a long time. It wasn't that she didn't want to or looked down on others. The main reason was she was too busy and really had no time.

Sometimes there wasn't even time to eat or sleep, let alone date?

Moreover, compared to the great cause she was part of, personal life, romance, marriage, having children... seemed trivial.

But her marriage was also necessary.

The Alliance has always maintained policies encouraging childbirth and valuing education. As Alliance Premier, Osenia certainly needed to set an example as a political statement.

But simultaneously, her marriage had some issues—how many people in the Empire could match her, and ironically, those who seemed most suitable were even less so.

She had always been the head of the Alliance Government and long into the future would continue to be. Marrying a high-ranking official, a big businessman, a General... someone with significant political power, wouldn't it seem like a political marriage?

If Osenia sought such a person, forming a seemingly powerful political family through a political marriage... what was her aim?

Gu Hang never mentioned or made any rules about this, and the Alliance had no explicit regulations either. However, as Alliance Premier for so many years, Osenia certainly had a political awareness.

A few years ago, Osenia got married.

Her husband Zhu Ye is a senior engineer and also an associate professor at a university.

Although his status wasn't low, it was purely a technical position with virtually no political influence.

He supervised students and adjusted equipment in factories, nothing more.

Not a single thing was worrisome.

Their wedding was quite low-key, and many of Zhu Ye's colleagues didn't even know his wife was the head of the Alliance Government!

And this year, they had a son, who is now almost one year old.

Even with childbirth, Osenia only started her leave two or three days before the due date, and returned to work a few days after giving birth.

In total, she didn't take more than seven days off.

Arno was very concerned for his sister.

He acknowledged the sacrifices for the Alliance, as he himself had done the same. As a senior agent, he had repeatedly ventured behind enemy lines, risking his life.

Chapter 715_2

But this was voluntary on his part, not forced, not compelled by circumstances.

However, his sister's marriage seemed a bit forced by circumstances.

He also believed that work is work, mission is mission, but it doesn't conflict with personal life.

His sister never really had a personal life, yet she has to be with someone she doesn't love...

Ever since Arno learned of his sister's marriage, this has been his thinking.

But in reality, this was the first time he ever met Zhu Ye in person. He didn't even attend his sister's wedding. At that time, he was still busy shuttling between planets in the northern part of the Spiderweb Domain, doing intelligence work.

They had a meal together, cooked by his brother-in-law himself. During their cheerful conversation, he unexpectedly found this person quite nice.

He could even see some traces of 'affection' between them.

This made him quite gratified.

And a little curious.

After finishing the meal and seeing the baby, the nanny cleaned up the dining room, the brother-in-law was coaxing the baby, and Arno and Osenia went to the study together, having a private space to chat.

Arno wanted to ask his sister how she's been living recently, but didn't quite know how to start. Eventually, he said, "From what I saw in the Le Buddh Star Domain, things aren't bad. The Alliance's army has already moved in. Although each planet may only get a few divisions, it's enough to establish a stable foothold on the surface. The key still lies in various ordnance and supplies from the Alliance, helping the local residents to rely on their own strength to arm themselves within the base and resume production."

Osenia nodded slightly, then smiled and said, "I've seen all this in the reports. Your CIA isn't bad, but shouldn't this kind of intelligence be managed by the Foreign Affairs Bureau? You guys in the CIA have quite a reach."

Arno smiled sheepishly, and deflected, "That's something the Prime Minister should discuss with Lambert Chief Justice, let him manage our Director Isaacson. I'm just a grunt, doing whatever tasks come my way."

The two of them had this conversation because the three major foreign intelligence agencies of the Alliance, in fact, each had slightly different responsibilities. In these external intelligence tasks, work related to economic and political espionage should primarily be handled by the Foreign Intelligence Bureau under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Their Central Intelligence Agency belongs to the Alliance Legal Affairs Center, and their main work, as it should be, primarily involves spying on any criminal, espionage, or invasive actions against the Alliance. Of course, in crucial times, they can also execute political subversion, incite chaos, or turn key individuals.

However, now with the focus on war and economic reconstruction, counter-crime work is relatively less important. Naturally, the CIA wouldn't leave the most important work undone.

Indeed, they might be accused of overreaching, but anyway, all intelligence is compiled and categorized. What needs to be given is given. As for the leaders' discussions among themselves, as Arno said, it has nothing to do with people like him who are actually working.

Osenia stared at Arno with a stern face for a long moment.

Arno was a bit uneasy.

Ever since they were young, his sister had been in charge of him. Although he was somewhat rebellious, the bloodline suppression always existed. Besides, having held a high position for many years, Osenia had developed an aura of authority, which combined with these, made Arno a bit uneasy.

But in the next second, Osenia suddenly laughed, and the previously tense atmosphere dissipated.

She touched Arno’s face and said, "It’s been a long time since we’ve seen each other, and the first thing you want to discuss is work?"

"Uh..." Arno looked slightly embarrassed.

Indeed, he had been thinking about his sister’s life earlier. How rare it is to have a chance for a one-on-one conversation, and yet they talked about work?

But... he sighed, "You’re busy. Nothing is more important than the Alliance’s grand cause. You can even casually choose a husband and have children; I’m about the same. Today on this planet, tomorrow I don’t know where I’ll end up; often facing dangers in the darkness, a small mistake leads to eternal damnation..."

"For people like us, besides eating and sleeping, it’s all about work. So what else is there to talk about if not work?"

After saying this, Arno laughed at himself.

Osenia seemed a bit dissatisfied, "My husband wasn’t casually chosen, and my child wasn’t born casually either."

"Oh? How many times did you and brother-in-law meet before getting married?"

Osenia replied calmly, "Not many, indeed. He might not fully understand me, but I surely understand him well enough."

At that, she smiled, made a cup of tea, and handed it to her brother, "My marriage is a big deal for the Alliance. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Security Department, and Anti-Corruption Bureau gathered a lot of intelligence and found many candidates for me to choose from. I thoroughly reviewed every detail of Zhu Ye's life from birth to now, read countless intelligence analyses, before I decided on him."

"Heh." Arno still felt uncomfortable inside.

"He is the most suitable person for me. I believe I will fall in love with him, although my way of loving might be... different from most. I also believe he will fall in love with me, even though most of my time is spent on work. But the analysis reports suggest that he doesn't have a high demand for affection, and he'll be a family-oriented person who can accept a wife like me," Osenia said, "The facts prove that the intelligence analysis wasn't wrong, and my judgment wasn't wrong either."

Arno got even angrier, sarcastically saying, "I never expected that my colleagues from internal intelligence would use their professional skills to help the Prime Minister with her love life and marriage."

Osenia gave him a look, "What else could they do? You shouldn't worry too much. Whether my life is going well, don't I know best? Zhu Ye is great; he never talks indiscreetly outside, and even his colleagues don't know who I am. He keeps the house in good order and takes great care of the child. He also has his own career, which he's passionate about. We can be great soul mates, spending a lifetime together, and I'm quite satisfied with that."

Without letting her brother speak further, she instead teased, "But how about you, young man? You weren't as honest as you claim to be. Who's the one spreading affection across planets in the Spiderweb Domain?"

Arno's face showed a trace of awkwardness, "How did you know... Well, I couldn't help it in this line of work, sometimes you just have to sacrifice a bit, can't help it, I didn't want it either."

Even while saying that, he cursed his colleagues to the heavens in his heart.

Why does everything have to be compiled into an intelligence report and sent to the Prime Minister’s desk?

Don’t I care about my reputation?

But at this point, the atmosphere between the siblings finally lightened up.

Arno also believed that his sister was an incredibly strong and rational person.

Compared to himself, Osenia surely knew what she wanted.

And with her position and capability, there’s no chance she wouldn’t live happily—could that brother-in-law Zhu Ye really bully her?

With that thought, Arno couldn’t help but advise, "You should still pay more attention to resting, and spend more time with my little nephew."

"The Governor also told me that." Osenia sighed and continued, "But... how can I find time to rest with so much to do?"

"You, who are active in the Spiderweb Domain, can see many things more clearly."

Chapter 716, Attending the Hongmen Banquet Alone

Gu Hang is going to Holy Terra.

This matter hasn’t been confirmed yet, but it’s basically unavoidable.

He also fully realizes that this trip carries a certain level of danger.

They speak nicely, saying things like they want to hear the Alliance leader and Cosmic Domain Chair's thoughts on the upcoming work, and that a war hero must make a round in Holy Terra so that the people and officials there can meet Gu Hang.

But in reality...

What kind of agreement must Gu Hang personally go to sign?

Is Holy Terra really so kind as to promote Gu Hang's reputation?

On the contrary, it seems more like an invitation akin to a Hongmen Banquet.

Especially since the previous assassination order is still a mystery, and it's unclear who was behind it.

Inviting Gu Hang out of his most loyal Alliance, to Holy Terra, to the place where their power is strongest, turns Gu Hang into fish on the chopping block.

If someone really wants him dead or not returning, it would be difficult to handle.

There's nothing much to fear from covert assassinations.

But if it were a public, political move to prevent Gu Hang from leaving, or to imprison him in a black jail, then what?

He couldn't openly resist or, rather, has no way to resist.

His spiritual power is indeed strong, but being alone in Holy Terra, he cannot suppress everything with personal power.

One could say his personal power is not great enough, not to the level of the Divine Emperor. But Gu Hang, to this day, does not know how to reach the level where he could observe those four Evil Gods and the Divine Emperor's domain in Subspace.

He is said to be an 'Inferior Deity,' but compared to those five big shots, it's like gravel to the sun.

On the contrary, if Gu Hang is in the Alliance, Central Empire must take care no matter what. If truly pushed to the brink where both sides fall out, the Empire would find it hard to swiftly organize a powerful expeditionary force to deal with him.

To attack the Alliance, at least they'd need to replicate the previous Iron Armor lineup, and even that might not be enough.

The Empire would need to weigh their options.

Therefore, if they want to destroy the Alliance, the best way is to eliminate Gu Hang, the highest leader, and core figure.

After all, it's evident to anyone with eyes that the Alliance isn't one that could push out another person of the same status and role immediately if it's not for Gu Hang. Instead, without Gu Hang, the Alliance would be greatly weakened, if not falling apart.

The best way to kill Gu Hang is to have him come over himself.

By then, he'd be alone, while Holy Terra has the Assassin Court, Tribunal, elite of the Legal Department, the Golden Knight Legion... If all else fails, the Imperial Forbidden Army won't allow any rampage on Holy Terra.

Despite all the potential dangers, Gu Hang still has to face them alone.

He knows all these things, and so do the elders on Holy Terra. Yet, precisely because of this, they must insist on Gu Hang's arrival.

This is a loyalty test.

If you don't even dare to come, how can I believe you are truly loyal?

It's almost certain that if Gu Hang doesn't go, the relationship between the two sides will immediately enter a very delicate situation.

Galaraldo also thinks so.

He didn't bluntly say it but earnestly urged Gu Hang to definitely go.

Discussions on Holy Terra have basically reached an impasse.

Under financial pressure, the opposition has already declined. The strongest opposition, Prime Minister Luo Fei, also has to consider the budget he can use in the upcoming years.

However, as for the true power with decisive words in such major matters, Prime Minister Qi Bodu, he has only made one statement so far: he wishes to meet with Gu Hang.

This is the most critical point.

The Prime Minister cannot possibly come to meet Gu Hang, right?

Thus, it must be Gu Hang who goes to meet him.

If there's no meeting, there's no way to fulfill wishes; no meeting guarantees future armed conflict.

Unless Gu Hang is prepared to go to war with the Empire within the next five to ten years, this trip is a must for him.

Arranged everything in a month’s time—sounds a bit ominous, but that’s the truth.

Then, he set off.

Those departing included not just him, but also three other important individuals:

Mrs. Wang Qi, Admiral Yelisia, and Gu Hang’s six-year-old son, Gu Jing.

That is, Gu Hang’s entire family came along.

If they’re going to show loyalty, they’ll show it clearly and cleanly.

If Qi Bodu wishes to meet me, then I will go;

I’ll bring my whole family too.

Saying that it’s for the wife, mother, and son who’ve never been to Holy Terra to see the world, but the political implications are clearer than anything.

And once an accident truly happens, the situation Gu Hang absolutely doesn’t want to see... To be honest, if something happened to him, his mother, wife, and son shouldn’t expect to survive; on the contrary, as long as nothing happens to him, nothing will happen to them.

Moreover, perhaps under Gu Hang’s protection, they might be in the safest environment.

...

Once Gu Hang set out, the Alliance entered the ’Three Giants’ period.

Besides Gu Hang himself, the normal operation of the Alliance mainly relies on three senior officials.

Firstly, Oseina Qin Ke, as the head of the government.

Secondly, Lambert Hodgson Chief Justice, responsible for the Alliance's Legal Center, including the Legislative Committee, Law Enforcement Committee, and Discipline Committee.

Below the Legislative Committee, besides legislative work, there's the judge system, which is the Alliance's judicial system.

Under the Law Enforcement Committee, there is the General Police Department and Security Bureau.

Beneath the Discipline Committee, there is the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Audit Bureau...

Overall, they act as the legislative, enforcement, monitoring, and oversight roles. For the Alliance Government represented by Osenia, the Legal Center's series of work are checks on power.

The third giant is Tadeusz representing the Military Affairs Department.

He represents the military, responsible for the entire Alliance Navy, including the Interstellar Warrior Battle Group, in routine management. He can reject all orders for troop movements; he holds the highest personnel power within the military; he has the mission to form armies...

But likewise, he has constraints. He has no authority to move troops without the government head's command; he lacks command authority, which is in the hands of the Navy General Command; he lacks the authority to develop battle plans, which is with the General Staff Department.

This is the temporary system of the Alliance when the supreme leader Gu Hang is away.

Actually, whether Gu Hang is present or not, the Alliance operates this way. Without Gu Hang, theoretically, the Alliance's structure remains unchanged.

A government managing thousands of worlds and trillions of people can’t stop functioning because one person is missing.

However, Gu Hang’s departure indeed had a tangible impact.

People became unsettled.

More so than the last time Gu Hang went to Holy Terra.

’The Three Giants’ can only barely sustain themselves, hoping Gu Hang returns soon.

Chapter 717, Top-notch Cattle and Horses

Arno got a rather long vacation, which is quite rare.

After the holiday, he doesn’t know where he’ll be sent next, or what mission he’ll have to carry out.

Logically, Osenia should cherish this period of time, and try to carve out some time apart from work to reunite with family and accompany each other.

However, there was simply no way to find the time.

The affairs came one after another. First, before the governor left, there were continuous meetings to set the direction for the subsequent work. This period really couldn’t be delayed, as Mr. Gu could only stay within the Alliance for another month before leaving.

After seeing Mr. Gu off, she didn’t become more relaxed, but instead even busier.

Originally, many decisions could be handled in the Governor’s Office, where hundreds of the Empire’s elite staff would issue the finalized decisions to the Alliance Government according to the governor’s wishes. Osenia found this part of the work relatively relaxed, as she didn’t need to use much brainpower and could just follow the Governor’s Office’s opinions.

And there wouldn’t be much room for disputes.

Do the government departments disagree with the decisions? Have opinions?

Keep them to yourself!

That is the governor’s will; the instruction is only to implement, with no room for bargaining!

Osenia needn’t think, nor come up with plans, smooth things out, just execute and it’s done.

But now, it’s gone!

Without the governor, it was naturally impossible for the staff in the Governor’s Office to transmit the governor’s opinions.

While more than half of them stayed and did not go to Holy Terra, the remaining... actually had no need to exist, as they were all placed as middle and high-level officials in government, legal, and military lines.

This was also a traditional route for the governor’s staff. The governor’s staff were always drawn from government units, legal units, local units, military units, and schools to serve as the governor’s aides. Moreover, there would be a significant proportion of excellent graduate talents among them. Members from diverse backgrounds jointly formed the Governor’s Office.

After serving for a period, they would be dispatched, often with a significant promotion.

This is also a conventional means for the governor to train high-level officials.

It can be considered as gilding, but it’s more than just gilding. In the Governor’s Office, these aides could encounter high-level affairs throughout the alliance, broadening their perspective; they often had the opportunity to hear Mr. Gu’s visionary ideas, further understanding Mr. Gu’s thinking, and after being deployed, could represent the governor’s will for a long period. Their loyalty, beyond doubt.

From Gu Hang's perspective, it was also about nurturing loyalty and ideological awareness in advance with the stars of potential and future mainstays of the Alliance so that Mr. Gu could better grasp the entire Alliance.

Now that these people have been released, although the government departments have gained many excellent hands, they still cannot replace the governor's decision-making role.

Now, many things require the government departments, which means Osenia herself, to handle.

Not to mention the increase in workload, it was already exhausting for the mind, and now even more so.

Take now, for example, the leaders of the Alliance's Production Ministry, Ministry of Civil Affairs, and Tax Special Committee are arguing heatedly in front of Osenia.

The three have different opinions, mainly regarding the supply of agricultural products and industrial consumer goods, the overall well-being of all people in the Alliance, and the coordinated collection work for the Imperial Tax, which indeed spawned conflicts among each other.

The supply side actually isn't much of a problem. The Minister of Production, Zhao Jiuzheng, mainly came to report on the current coordinated production situation of the Alliance, and he actually didn't have much of an opinion on how it should be specifically distributed.

If he must express an opinion, he's on the side of Wen Zhengnan, the Minister of Civil Affairs: he hopes to ensure that the living standards of the industrial workers don't fall, and hopefully even improve.

That consequently implies a general rise in salary grades.

Wen Zhengnan has the same objective.

In fact, what he aims to accomplish isn't merely for various industrial workers.

At the level of the entire Alliance, he intends to steadily advance the rise of all citizens in terms of salary grades.

The salaries and welfare of the Alliance's people are linked with their salary grades. Familiar E9 and below grades actually bear low burdens; the welfare and consumption of individuals aren't extensive. Though it's the largest demographic, they're also producing incomes, and their outputs often exceed the welfare and salaries afforded by their grades and consumed goods.

But further up, the disbursement for welfare and salaries becomes substantial.

Of course, it doesn't mean those in high grades contribute little. On the contrary, ascending to such high status signifies considerable contributions.

Especially for those advancing swiftly, it's even more the case. Within Grades E, advancing an annual level; starting from Grade D, every two to three years a level, also requiring assessments—failure to pass delays advancement. Breaking conventions for rapid advancement demands outstanding performance; for D5 and above, it is a promotion every 5 to 6 years. Above D8, it's an 8 to 10-year advancement.

Calculating based on a person reaching E5 at 18 years of age in adulthood, spending 5 years in E grade, it takes 14 years to reach D5, putting them at 37 years. Then 18 more years to reach D8, another 9 years to D9, and the person would be 64 years old, essentially obtaining a D9 salary grade and enjoying retirement—during retirement, receiving all political benefits according to rank, 70% welfare benefits, and 40% salary benefits.

Chapter 717, Top-tier Cattle and Horses_2

If a Union Citizen, from adulthood to old age, this is the trajectory of life.

If one can be promoted like this, life would be quite beautiful. Reaching level D1 provides a relatively comfortable life, with no worries about food and drink, and offers a sufficient salary to purchase fairly decent large appliances. In terms of benefits, one has multiple guarantees such as housing, healthcare, and education. At level D5, it is defined by the Union as the middle class level, and according to the standards of a typical Empire World's Nest Capital, some small industrial owners can enjoy a similar standard of living. Even in some Garden Worlds, those with decent incomes only live at this level. At level D9, one reaches the level that most Empire citizens can only dream of, and it is the pinnacle that the salaried class can reach in the majority of Empire Worlds.

At level C and above, in terms of personal life, one is considered affluent.

Clearly, at this level, the treatment of a Union Citizen is quite good.

But even in the Union, it's impossible for everything to be as wondrous as a utopia.

For every citizen to smoothly progress from age 18 to 64, the high welfare and salary expenses are a financial burden even the Union cannot bear.

In reality, starting from level D, evaluations become difficult; evaluations are required to reach the time limit, and failing them results in delays; passing them allows time accumulation to continue; doing well allows direct promotion without considering the time limit; outstanding achievements even allow for skip-level promotions.

Moreover, all job levels require matched work. If unemployed, forget about promotions, demotions occur annually.

This 'evaluation' is essentially based on indicators.

The enormous system of the Ministry of Civil Affairs calculates the year's total budget for human resources expenditure based on the fiscal budget, and distributes these promotion indicators according to the overall plan. Whether it's enterprises, individual businesses, or government personnel departments, it all depends on performance. If done well, the department gets more promotion indicators; otherwise, it might even face demotion indicators.

The internal organization department of a department then allocates these spots to lower-level departments, eventually down to individuals.

Macroeconomically, it's essentially about how many promotion spots are available and looks at the total output of the Union, and the budget allocated for human resources expenditure from that output.

During wartime, a large amount of resources is put into military production. Additionally, a large number of newly occupied zones need funding for development, meaning the available promotion spots are relatively limited.

Some wartime mobilization orders have even been issued, requiring reductions in welfare and salary ratios at all levels.

Now, as wartime mobilization orders are lifted, the newly incorporated populations from various occupied zones, even if initially rated very low, represent massive numbers in the hundreds of billions, drastically increasing human resource expenditures.

Additionally, all units' organizational departments are constantly reporting upward; as the Union has initiated grand production plans, units are launching various production incentive policies. Those who perform well and strongly are more likely to be promoted, to drive stronger production enthusiasm.

All of this calls for human resource costs to keep rising.

In essence, this is repaying the public for wartime exploitation and preparing for the upcoming grand growth period, where development benefits must be shared with the populace to stimulate growth.

The populace desires an improved living standard, having little use for military goods or heavy machinery. They desire proper quality of life.

This calls for more abundant material supply, from food and clothing to various entertainment consumption...

Increases in service industry personnel or the populace's living standard demands all require a large amount of consumer goods.

This conflicts with the Alliance Tax Special Office.

They specifically resolve issues concerning the collection of the Imperial Tax, primarily focusing on heavy industries, but also placing significant importance on collecting consumer goods, especially food items.

This conflict arose sharply in the allocation of agricultural products and processed agricultural goods in the northern parts of the Dragonhawk Star Domain this year, especially in former beastman-occupied zones that now experience a bumper harvest.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs demands more consumer goods be included in the budget, while the Department of Taxation insists a significant proportion of consumer goods be incorporated into the tax system and transported to the storage world located at Shi Ping Star, at the easternmost part of the Spiderweb Domain, currently under construction in the Tanggu Star Domain.

Neither side gives in, each seeking assistance from their respective leadership, escalating the dispute up to Osenia.

In the past, Osenia sometimes handled similar issues herself, but sometimes when overwhelmed, she'd direct them to the Governor's Office, and once the document representing the governor's will was issued, everyone complied without objection.

But now, everything is piled up on Osenia.

After listening to both sides argue, Osenia rubbed her head, and quickly acted according to her thought process and the governor's parting instructions, to stop the conflict from continuing and decisively resolved it.

"Follow Minister Wen Zhengnan's advice; we indeed need to put a large number of consumer goods into civilian incentives."

"The value of civilian consumer goods is relatively low; their massive collection to fill tax quotas is akin to adding a drop of water to a vast ocean."

"However, the Ministry of Civil Affairs must collaborate with the Ministry of Production, requiring each production department and local government to increase production indicators, as quotas are given out. We need to use low-value civilian consumer goods to exchange for greater production value. Military production, shipbuilding, and raw material processing are top priorities. My expectation is to exchange ten billion shirts and one billion tons of food for more warships, and then send them to the Empire as part of the Imperial Tax, rather than simply enhancing civilian welfare."

After making the decision, she dispatched everyone and immediately called her secretary:

"Additionally, have someone from the Ministry of Commerce come see me."

Subsequently, she arranged some work concerning the Ministry of Commerce.

She demanded that the Ministry of Commerce strengthen trade within and outside the Union. High-value consumer goods should be well-marketed to increase their price, so citizens whose job levels have risen can spend their money; simultaneously, these high-value consumer goods, including military goods and heavy machinery, should be traded externally for tax currency if surplus exists.

The market fluctuates; the Imperial Tax has clear assigned values for each product. However, some planets might be experiencing food crises, while others might be at war externally, requiring more military goods. Often in such times, corresponding products can fetch higher value.

Distributing one billion consumer goods to Union citizens can produce ten billion military goods, which is then sold to needful planets in exchange for twenty billion consumer goods, further distributed to citizens, incentivizing the production of more military goods... generating greater circulation value through exchange.

Excess output beyond market demand is directly taxed, mitigating concerns about overcapacity; trade profits are used for taxation, amplifying capacity value...

Diverse methods must be employed to meet Imperial Tax obligations.

Not to mention, besides taxation, Osenia did not forget the need to balance the Union’s development.

Having finished these tasks, Osenia suddenly realized she hadn’t rested for thirty-three hours. Even her meals were the simplest fast food.

Sometimes she couldn’t help but smile bitterly, as she qualified for level A7 treatment, with an annual allocation of salary and welfare having a total value exceeding three thousand tax currency.

However, spending a hundred tax currency a year is quite an achievement for her.

Eating fast work meals, living in the office, wearing tailor-provided uniforms, maintaining a peak physical condition thanks to rejuvenation procedures that extend her lifespan and bolster her vitality, allowing prolonged intense work without illness...

Luxury goods are utterly unnecessary. For travel, all vehicles and ships are provided by the state.

At times, she feels like the ultimate workhorse—a term that originated from a joke by the governor, now prevalent across the Union.

But even someone as energetic as her, after thirty-three hours without rest, is quite exhausted and tired.

Glancing at the schedule, the piled-up work remains mountainous.

She plans to sleep for six to seven hours before continuing.

However, before going to sleep, she has one last thing to do.

The time for a call with Wu Jiarong Sage is approaching.

They need to discuss the Union’s production issues once more.

Chapter 718

Osenia was quite familiar with Wu Jiarong.

At least they were quite familiar before.

That was back on Rage Owl Star, when the Alliance was just starting out.

Osenia was always the major manager in the rear, while Wu Jiarong was in charge of production technology.

Inevitably, the two would have a lot of work interactions, naturally becoming familiar with each other.

But as decades passed, Wu Jiarong looked more and more unfamiliar to Osenia.

It wasn't that their work interactions had lessened.

Although they didn't meet as frequently as in earlier years, even now, they still often interacted in work.

Wu Jiarong's 'sense of unfamiliarity' was a kind of... change that Osenia found hard to describe.

Moreover, this change happened right before her eyes, occurring during each of their contact.

Changes occurred in appearance and voice.

She still remembered that once, Wu Jiarong, although her arms had been modified to a mechanical form early on, her eyes turned mechanical, tubes behind her head connected to her waist and back, rising to an always-moving, flexible auxiliary operating machine with numerous control sticks...

But regardless, although the degree of modification was significant compared to ordinary people, overall, she was still humanoid in appearance. Osenia remembered the special beauty when Wu Jiarong's hair fluttered, revealing fair skin touching the mechanical structure; she also remembered her slightly baby-faced smile, which could be described as sweet.

That wasn't something Wu Jiarong deliberately pursued; she grew up in an environment that didn't value appearance. That was her most natural self, the aspect left from that time.

And these appearances, as time passed, also disappeared rapidly with Wu Jiarong's technical progress and rise in position in the mechanical corner.

Osenia felt that each time they met, something seemed to diminish from Wu Jiarong, or something increased, or something changed.

Her body was changing, her voice was changing, her emotions were changing...

Nowadays, the only thing left resembling her past self was her unchanged face. That face, nourished by nutrient solution, couldn't make expressions. It wasn't that Wu Jiarong lacked the technology; she simply chose not to, keeping the same expression in all circumstances was best. Even preserving a face was just to keep a biological recognition mark, to let ordinary people know whom they were facing.

Other than this face?

Only the skull and brain remained original.

All others were changed to mechanical devices, even the exterior wasn't preserved.

Covered under a robe, only showing a face, Wu Jiarong's face was expressionless, the mechanically synthesized voice without emotion, the hormone secretion organs that easily influenced emotional change were gone.

Of course, she still was a person.

At least according to the Empire's definition of a 'person,' she was undoubtedly human.

However, how much emotion or sentiment from humanity was left in her was hard to say.

Osenia felt a mix of emotions but didn't feel uncomfortable.

No one forced Wu Jiarong. Every component on her body was crafted and replaced by her own hands, chosen by herself.

Originally, Osenia thought about exchanging a few pleasantries before starting the formal topic, but when the screen connected, she hesitated and thought better of it.

Seeing Wu Jiarong's calm demeanor didn't seem like she had any interest in idle chit-chat.

Thus, she decided to save time and get straight to the point.

What Osenia wanted to ask about was a 'secret project.'

The confidentiality level of the project was extremely high, even Osenia as the Alliance Premier and government head didn't have enough clearance to view all the details of this project.

This was quite normal. Although she was one of the highest authority figures in the Alliance besides Gu Hang, only Gu Hang himself had the right to access all intelligence within the Alliance; no one else had the complete authority.

Like Wu Jiarong not knowing many of the sensitive data of the Alliance Central Government, some secretive technology and production projects were unknown to Osenia as well.

She understood all this and was always aware of maintaining discretion, never probing into what shouldn't be asked.

However, this time was different.

This secret project had already had a significant impact on the Alliance Government, she had no choice but to inquire.

The first phase planning alone had a budget of sixty billion, the project's finances, personnel organization, technical production, transportation... all conducted confidentially.

A project costing sixty billion... was already astonishing. This amount was enough to construct a complete battleship.

But reportedly, this was just the initial phase.

As the person in charge of the project, Wu Jiarong was already having the Alliance Government prepare for the second phase budget, which was needed next year and the amount was increased, totaling eighty billion.

Altogether one hundred and forty billion over two years... The initial Alliance's yearly Imperial Tax only amounted to three hundred billion! This project would consume half of the Imperial Tax in two years, is that feasible?

Already scratching heads under the pressure of the Imperial Tax, and still having to bear such a hefty project.

It was extremely challenging.

Of course, this project was settled by Mr. Gu before he left, giving the Alliance Government orders to cooperate to the utmost, Osenia certainly couldn't hinder it. Not only to follow Mr. Gu's orders, but she also understood that with such a high-level of confidentiality and huge input, what was being built must hold a critical purpose for the Alliance's development.

Chapter 718_2

But the financial pressure is still too great. This time, she just wanted to discuss with Wu Jiarong whether the plan could be revised.

The first phase of 60 billion has already been paid, use it first; can the second phase of 80 billion be a little less? That 60 billion is quite a large sum of money, use it first to hold on a bit, surely it wouldn't be spent all so quickly?

Even if not a bit can be reduced, can it be delayed a little?

It won’t be too late, just a few months, until after the first two-year Imperial Tax is paid, then allocate this new sum of money.

Wu Jiarong refused.

"This is the Governor’s project, crucial to the survival of the Alliance."

Wu Jiarong first emphasized this point.

Using the Governor to pressure me?

Osenia felt somewhat uncomfortable.

But she wasn’t going to show it.

Maybe engineers are all like this, can’t expect them to have high emotional intelligence after having many organs replaced and dealing with machines daily.

"This is not a demand." Osenia patiently explained, "It’s a request, a discussion with you. The government side is under a lot of pressure, hoping you can understand."

"I can understand you, Prime Minister Oseina." Wu Jiarong still maintained a rather firm attitude and responded, "But there is no room for negotiation on this matter."

However, she wasn’t really arrogant enough to hold Osenia down just with the Governor’s demand.

She did offer a little explanation: "The current expenditure has already been precisely calculated, it’s the optimal solution under very extreme conditions. The number of workers in the entire secret project, the number of senior engineers, raw material consumption, energy consumption... are all too much. Additionally, we need to place orders with various high-tech factories from all regions of the Alliance,

even to Alamita and Jindi Star. Some orders even require the Sages to personally lead and manufacture."

"Expenses are extremely high, and the current situation truly is the most extreme state within calculations. The current research and production status is already proceeding on a dangerous bridge. If we pull back slightly, the entire bridge may collapse."

Wu Jiarong had tried her best to speak nicely, even using some adjectives!

Osenia could feel it too.

She sighed and accepted the reality: "All right, I will find a way."

At this point, the two fell into silence for a moment.

Osenia brushed off some of the disappointment from not achieving her goal and brought up another matter.

The most important issue she needed to discuss with Wu Jiarong, of course, was the secret project. The second matter was regarding the Alliance's technical support for production recovery and enhancement in various regions.

This is not particularly related to those new areas in the Spiderweb Domain.

It's not entirely unrelated, but those places' main task is still to restore production. It's either these planets already had a certain production capacity and industrial level before the occupation, so they could find ways to retrieve equipment and workers from the original planets; or, if they can't retrieve them or the planet's production capacity is lacking, they need to rely on the technology spillover from the core areas of the Alliance.

Relocating some 'lower-end industries' from the core areas to these regions would be enough.

But after relocating the low-end industries, surely the workers in the core areas wouldn't be left with nothing to do?

No, that's not the case.

Higher-value industries are needed to absorb those experienced workers and engineers.

And for these, it depends on what assistance Wu Jiarong can provide.

On this matter, Wu Jiarong did give Osenia some good news.

There indeed are quite a few excellent industries that can be shipped out.

Rage Owl Star has now transformed into the core technology base of the Alliance. Regarding the transferred industries of the Seven Horse Territory, many stronger industrial supports have been brought in.

Advanced heavy engineering machinery, Star Fortress construction factories, more shipyards, more Titan factories, more advanced energy compression factories, more stellar power stations...

All require more people.

They cannot be completed by low-level workers, it must be those with rich experience and accumulated technical skills. Those who have been liberated from the lower-level industrial sectors can exactly do this.

For these workers and engineers personally, it's also beneficial. More advanced and important industries clearly provide better upgrade opportunities.

A satisfied Osenia, after ending the call, immediately had her clerks form records and summaries of this conversation and sent them to Minister Zhao Jiuzheng of the Production Department.

He was also quite invigorated, immediately starting to arrange personnel to connect with Rage Owl Star regarding these technologies, equipment, and technical guidance personnel, then plan where to construct these new factories.

Meanwhile, Osenia herself began her next task.

...

In the capital city, Snow Fox Star, in the Fox Moon Star Domain, which is very far from the Seven Horse Territory and Dragonhawk Star Domain, a Jason Morgan was also holding a crucial meeting.

The situation in the Fox Moon Star Domain is quite different from many other star domains in the Spiderweb Domain. This star domain is located east of the Princess Star Domain and northeast of the Alfonso Star Domain. Going east from the Fox Moon Star Domain, it already leaves the Imperial Territory and enters the Dark Outer Domain.

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Chapter 719: How Great the Contribution, How Deep the Love

Jason Morgan is also an elder of the Alliance.

Back when the Alliance was just starting out on Rage Owl Star, Jason Morgan was the head of the first province established.

He himself was indeed quite capable, and if there were no unexpected occurrences, his political career would have been smooth sailing.

Unfortunately, the Alliance's first major corruption case happened under his jurisdiction. Although he himself had no issues, he still bore the leadership responsibility, which greatly affected his promotion path thereafter.

Otherwise, he would have already been a high-ranking official at the Central Empire of the Alliance by now.

But in the end, he was a seasoned fighter, and his capabilities were enhanced through the process of managing a planet, and later a Star Sector, especially during his tenure in the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector, where he performed quite well.

He secured an Alliance battle cruiser named after the capital of the Steel Fire Dragon, Ronglin Star, gaining a good reputation and winning over the locals, making them proud of their association with the

Alliance; afterwards, he also strengthened ties with the most important planet within the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector—Founding World Jindi Star.

In the past, under the conventional Empire system, although the various worlds of the Steel Fire Dragon were under Empire jurisdiction, due to their proximity to the Founding World, they were naturally heavily influenced by the Founding World.

Which wasn’t necessarily a good thing.

The "old hands" of the Founding World never cared much about places outside their homeland. These places served as a shield for the Founding World, as resource acquisition sites, fiefdoms for Knight Families, and exile places for those who failed in political struggles...

But overall, they weren’t places meant for proper development.

Extensive, exploitative management left the development of these planets less than desirable.

The Alliance certainly would not allow this situation to continue.

The Mingyang Sect initially had quite a few criticisms about this, but soon stopped caring. All they wanted was security and abundant resources. The Alliance could fully guarantee both, leaving no need to continue clinging to these planets.

In this regard, the proximity between the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector and Jindi Star showed its advantages: they could undertake many tasks serving Jindi Star, from providing consumer goods to services, even labor export.

Besides, they could locally receive substantial foreign investments from Jindi Star, or investment attraction, and undertake some manageable low-end industrial orders from Jindi Star.

Plus, acting as a transit hub for trade between the Alliance and the Mingyang Sect...

With little developmental funding from the Alliance's center, Jason Morgan wisely leveraged geographic advantages to rapidly bring many worlds of the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector into industrialization and commercialization.

After more than a decade of development, today's Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector has become the region in the Dragonhawk Star Domain second only to the Seven Horse Territory and Yunluo Center. It is gradually showing signs of becoming a third center. Its developmental momentum has extended beyond the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector itself, covering two or three nearby Star Sectors that used to belong to the Mingyang Sect's sphere of influence.

In this series of efforts, the outstanding leadership of Jason Morgan played an indispensable role.

A capable, experienced, and meritorious regional governor naturally gains promotions.

Past blemishes can no longer hold him back from advancing further.

Now, he has become the Star Domain Governor of the Fox Moon Star Domain.

The first thing he did upon arriving at the Fox Moon Star Domain was to clearly analyze the basics of Fox Moon, as well as the goals he needed to achieve, to better plan the subsequent work.

His most important and core goal is to improve productivity.

Whether it is to ensure the Fox Moon Star Domain Government has more financial surplus or to enhance the overall living quality of the Fox Moon Star Domain populace, stronger productivity support is necessary.

And to boost productivity, the new Alliance Star Domain Government must strengthen control over the entire Star Domain.

The local forces, be they companies, landlords, or feudal lords, as well as the remnants of the Imperial Bureaucratic Institution... in Jason Morgan's view, they are all stumbling blocks hindering the development of productivity, and he wishes to clear them all at once, then deploy civil servants and

administrative officials from the core area of the Alliance to take over the entire Star Domain, so that he can operate it smoothly.

But evidently, that is impossible.

If he insists on clearing these groups, who knows how many years that would take. While it's not impossible, the duration is too long, and by then, his achievements in Fox Moon Star Domain might not just be mediocre; he might even cause great disappointment to the Alliance's center.

If he wants to quickly make the entire Star Domain's forces work for him, then negotiation, compromise, and interest exchange are indispensable.

He has to pinch his nose and endure for the moment.

Mutually enduring for the sake of the country, indeed.

In this regard, Jason Morgan is quite experienced.

Throughout his decades of work experience, dealing with stubborn conservative interest groups has constituted a large part of it.

Moreover, many experiences are applicable because the political environment faced is similar: the regions to which he was appointed belonged to newly acquired Lands of the Alliance, and the Alliance held ultimate authority over these lands.

In the past, Gu Hang was the Head of the Dragonhawk Star Domain appointed by the Empire's center, and as the appointed Star Zone Leader, Jason Morgan was naturally the highest legitimate officer. Now, in the Fox Moon Star Domain, he is also the Star Domain Head appointed by Cosmic Domain Chair Gu Hang, similarly with full legitimacy.

Moreover, the Fox Moon Star Domain was conquered by the Alliance through martial force. Although it wasn't the main battleground, daily war reports allowed even the slightly notable figures within the Fox Moon Star Domain to clearly see the changes in the war situation.

Whether they were once the Iron Armor Group or the Alfonso Sect, in the eyes of these local forces, they were akin to heavenly presences.

Now, they have all been shattered by the Alliance.

The Insect Swarm War that swept across thousands of worlds in the Spiderweb Domain also left them in fear. Just a slight ripple of the spillover, a bit of infection, was enough to leave these local forces completely overwhelmed.

They know full well that the infection in other star domains within the Spiderweb Domain is far more intense than what they've encountered. Yet, even so, the Alliance managed to suppress it all, overcoming the disadvantages, and defeated the Insect Swarm.

Fifteen long years of war, and the duration is just secondary; the key is the unimaginable intensity of these consecutive fifteen years of conflict!

Once the dust settled, with the Alliance's victory, and Gu Hang obtaining the most legitimate ruling power, how could the local forces within the Fox Moon Star Domain even muster half a thought of opposing the Alliance?

Even though the military force the Alliance stationed in the Fox Moon Star Domain isn't large in scale, they remain very docile.

This is also evident when Jason Morgan, as the Star Domain Head, entered the Fox Moon Star Domain and received a very enthusiastic welcome.

This mindset brought great convenience to Jason Morgan's work. Regardless of what the leaders of the local forces might think deep down, at least on the surface, everyone is very polite, even obsequious. A considerable portion of people have indeed recognized the clear general trend and desperately want to latch onto the Alliance's robust support.

I am loyal as well, I, too, wish to progress!

However, the revolution is not a dinner party. The Alliance-style systemic reform tangibly hurts these interest groups.

In fact, the Alliance-style reform is precisely about dismantling these groups and taking their lifeblood.

During this Alliance-style reform, even if the leaders of these interest groups receive preferential treatment, are suddenly assigned high-level positions, and are not worried about food and drink, can even maintain a relatively luxurious lifestyle.

Yet, the income from their positions cannot compare to past earnings.

In the past, some groups controlled entire planets, some controlled inter-star sector trade caravans, some had monopolies over multiple planetary industries...

In short, they exploited tens of millions, hundreds of millions, or even billions of people, or monopolized entire markets, dominated a certain resource across a star domain.

How much money was that?

How immense was that power?

Luxurious living? Extravagant lifestyle? It’s more than just that! There’s also the supreme status of being beneath one yet above billions! The authority to decide life and death, to rule the world with a single word!

Now, they are just given a position, even an A-level, which is merely a few thousand tax credits of personal income per year... the difference is vast.

Even so, they wish to progress?

The majority still wants to advance.

Otherwise, what are they waiting for if not to have their lifeblood taken?

They hold no advantage in terms of righteousness. Militarily, although the Alliance forces currently deployed aren't numerous, suppressing individual forces is more than sufficient. Even if they really had the capability to unite and incite a rebellion sweeping across the star domain, the final outcome would undeniably provoke the Alliance Army to conduct a stronger suppression, and the ultimate outcome would still be to be crushed.

There is no necessity.

Even if their lifeblood is taken, that doesn't mean death.

The experienced Jason Morgan pinpoints the Achilles' heel of these interest groups, treading just below the line they find unbearable, employing what appears to be extreme but is actually quite safe pressure.

Relinquishing a part of their bottom line is equivalent to giving up all of it.

Dealing with those extremely stubborn;

Cracking down on those who are uncooperative and perfunctory;

Allowing those with a cooperative attitude to taste some sweet benefits, like retaining industries, entire staff transitioning to become high-level members of the Alliance after which the original controllers can still maintain control over the transitioned companies. They can also swallow up some industries and shares left by stubborn elements.

Stick and carrot in play, coupled with the overwhelming trend and Jason Morgan's rich experience and skillful methods...

In conclusion, everything, though somewhat challenging, progressed fairly swiftly.

Politically, the essential issue is one of distribution.

Jason Morgan engaged in half a year of political struggle, which boiled down to clawing back much of the cake distribution rights of the Fox Moon Star Domain, changing the past state where interest groups took the largest share, the government took a small slice, and the populace universally lived wretched lives, to where the Alliance Government took the largest share, the general populace's living standards rose under the allocation of levels, and the interest groups faced severe suppression and disassembly.

This state is undoubtedly unstable and relies on the strong arm of the Alliance to be executed.

But it doesn't matter, as long as the strong arm proves effective.

No matter how great the contradictions caused by the reforms, they can all be kept securely contained within the unyielding 'pressure cooker' of 'Alliance strong arm,' unable to erupt.

And as long as it doesn't erupt quickly, then Jason Morgan has enough confidence to find the pressure relief valve to gradually release the pressure over a longer period of time.

To be more specific, it's about nurturing new interest groups—the countless populace benefiting from the new rank system, ascending to previously unthinkable high positions in subsequent promotions as Alliance-style upper echelons. Among them are bureaucrats, new entrepreneurs, new technical civil servants, engineering groups...

If a rebellion can't be staged now, then over time, as the Alliance rank system takes root in people's hearts, as wide-scale Alliance cultural propaganda spreads, these reactionaries will increasingly find themselves unable to rise in rebellion.

And the responsibility for this cultural propaganda and people's education falls on his wife.

Heliss Morgan is also a long-time member of the Alliance. Back then, it was her persistent persuasion that led Jason Morgan to embark on his political career and join the Alliance.

Later, Heliss herself became the Director of Ideological Education at the first Loyal Heir Academy on Rage Owl Star. She went on to become the principal, and later even assumed a position in the Alliance Ministry of Education.

Heliss had a long period of living apart from Jason Morgan, during the time he worked in the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector.

In those ten or so years, they were basically only able to communicate through letters sent during material transport and occasional Star Language Tower communications.

From the Tianma Star Sector to the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector, a round trip would take a month. With the nature of their work, wanting to take a month for a trip was very difficult. They met twice in between, and both times it was Heliss who used her accumulated leave to visit Jason.

It was all thanks to the slight progress in the sector's civil aviation industry developed by the Alliance during the war, otherwise meeting would have been hard even with time.

Jason worried whether their relationship would deteriorate due to long-term separation.

Heliss sensed this concern, and during their first meeting, she said something that left a deep impression on Jason Morgan:

"The greater your contribution to the Alliance, the deeper your love for me."

No wonder she comes from an ideological education background, no wonder she's a professor at Loyal Heir Academy training political commissars.

This time, Heliss was also appointed. The organization generally prefers to keep families together, and Fox Moon Star Domain happened to need a system to establish an educational network radiating to the eastern part of the Spiderweb Domain.

So, Heliss came along.

She will establish a Loyal Heir Academy, nurturing a new generation of Alliance people locally.

She will also set up cultural propaganda institutions to propagate the brilliance of the Alliance to the masses.

Movies, TV shows, radio, newspapers, novels, music... all can be utilized as media means.

With multiple approaches, and the couple joining forces, it will surely make the future of the Fox Moon Star Domain even brighter!

Chapter 720, Wang's Trading Company

Jason Morgan's various tactics in the Fox Moon Star Domain are essentially about dividing the pie.

That's certainly important, as the benefits of productivity should be controlled by the Alliance. Otherwise, it would fall back into the inefficient bureaucratic system of the Empire. How could the Alliance pool resources to accomplish major tasks? How could it collect enough taxes to satisfy the Empire while still having the capacity to develop the local economy?

However, merely dividing the pie is not enough.

While understanding the situation in the Fox Moon Star Domain and pacifying various forces, Jason Morgan also did not forget about enlarging the pie.

Development is the fundamental goal.

In this regard, he also possesses a unique advantage: Jindi Star and the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector.

The two are essentially one and the same.

He has worked in the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector for many years, and its development is inseparable from the Mingyang Sect. He has made numerous trips to Jindi Star, making many friends and personally negotiating many collaborations.

These tactics can also be employed in Fox Moon.

Negotiating cooperation from Jindi Star is somewhat far-fetched due to the distance; however, Alamita is not too far away, and discussions are possible.

Furthermore, it involves obtaining some industries that overflow technically and are moved out from the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector.

This is something the central Alliance has been encouraging and promoting.

The core regions of the Alliance focus on high-value production and industry upgrades. The obsolete capacities naturally need a place to be accommodated. Forcing the core regions to continue these tasks is not advisable. Even if some can't enter high-end industries, transitioning them into service or ancillary industries is more reasonable.

Leveraging his identity as a former 'old leader' of the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector, he can smoothly absorb the overflowing production lines from there.

Several industries can be transported to the Fox Moon Star Domain.

He has already decided to build a new industrial center in the southernmost Nine Women Star District of the Fox Moon Star Domain.

Nine Women has a natural geographical advantage, being relatively close to Alfonso's Alamita Casting World in the south. In the past, it undertook considerable resource processing and served as a supplier for Alfonso's three casting worlds.

This means that the Nine Women Star District actually already has a certain industrial base.

The industries Jason transferred from the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector require an industrial base to develop properly.

The most valuable among them is the production technology for some general components for Titan;

This includes not only the introduction of the production line but also a complete set of technical specifications, which means that if the industrial base is solid, this production line can be expanded.

These Titan components hold significant value for the Alamita Casting World.

Just this one industry can immediately provide jobs for millions; around the tens of thousands working in high-value production, a series of ancillary processing industries, energy industries, and service industries can be spawned... The entire planet would benefit.

As the production line expands later, the industrial radiation effect will be even stronger.

Of course, this is just one of the production lines transferred from the Steel Fire Dragon Star Sector. There are others, which, although not as technologically advanced, are quite suitable for the industrial base of the Nine Women Star District and for working for Alamita.

Doing contract work for the Founding World is a development path Jason Morgan has taken before, so he is quite familiar with it.

However, relying solely on a Titan components manufacturing industry is definitely not enough to support the development of an entire Star Sector.

Jason’s goal is to develop the Nine Women Star District into a star industrial center within ten years.

Fortunately, his wife has been the principal of the Loyal Heir Academy in the central Alliance for many years, establishing quite reliable connections. As an experienced member of the Alliance, he also knows many people.

Combining both, he has also pulled in a major investment from the Alliance's total project for supporting industries in the nine major Star Sectors of the Spiderweb Domain: a Camel-class civilian transport ship production line.

The Camel-class is not particularly large, a bit bigger than a Flying Pig, but much smaller than a Whale class. It's not a warship, so its production value is not extremely high.

Nevertheless, a civilian ship is still a Starship!

The shipbuilding industry, as a final industry, is an absolute heavy manufacturing industry, and it possesses the most representative feature of a final industry—massive integrative power.

From raw materials to industrial processing, then to the energy industry and under vast employment, various consumer goods industries, and service industries... everything will take off.

Even the Camel-class, a not particularly large civilian transport ship, is priced at fifty million per vessel.

As long as the annual production rate yields a few ships, the impact is already considerable.

Directly using them for tax payments is possible;

If there is a surplus, they can be collected to develop the civil aviation industry, serve as merchant ships, expand the fleet scale of the local Star Domain, and accelerate the circulation of goods within the Star Domain, greatly facilitating overall economic development.

The ships carrying the related technical blueprints and equipment are about to arrive.

Jason Morgan, as well as many locals in the Fox Moon Star Domain, are eagerly anticipating it.

Jason also knows that the fleet responsible for transporting this equipment comes from the second-largest commercial firm within the Alliance—Wang's Trading Company.

Its scale is second only to the Gu Commercial Firm.

In fact, it was once part of the Gu Commercial Firm, receiving significant investment from it.

It possesses dozens of fleets, tirelessly transporting supplies and personnel to frontline troops during wartime. In peacetime, it maintains trades between the Alliance and the outside world, earning capital. Currently, it also shoulders the responsibility of transporting industrial relocations.

More importantly, Jason Morgan has heard that this convoy, passing through the Fox Moon Star Domain, is particularly large and is not solely for transporting equipment and technology to the Fox Moon, but will also bring along many materials and take away many materials. After passing through the Fox Moon Star Domain, it will head north and ultimately complete a trade with the Star Devouring Cosmos.

The trading partner is the renowned 'Infinite Starfield'. The Aote 500 Stars have been a shining achievement in the history of the Human Empire. It was once home to the largest Infinite Legion during the legion era. Although the legion is now disbanded, the founding Battle Group, the Infinite Corps, still protects this Star Domain with Aote Star as its home planet.

The Infinite Starfield is located southwest of the Star Devouring Cosmos and is also part of the Empire's Eastern Frontier. The distance from the Superlimit Domain to the northern Spiderweb Domain is not particularly far. While it crosses the Star Devouring Cosmos, it doesn't require traversing the entire region. It can simply enter from the southwestern corner.

They have come to do business with the Alliance, naturally at the behest of the Infinite Corps.

During the last war, a company of the Infinite Corps was saved by the Alliance, fought side by side throughout the entire war, and formed a friendship.

This trade serves as a testament to that friendship.

To show sincerity, the convoy dispatched by Wang's Trading Company for this occasion is led by a prominent figure—Madame Wang Jiarong.

As the head of Wang's Trading Company and the cousin of Governor Gu, she is the most prestigious person that could be dispatched from the Alliance to travel such a long distance.

Jason Morgan also has a little plan in mind.

He hopes to meet with Wang Jiarong. It doesn't need to be long, just a chat for ten minutes would suffice. With a little help from her, he can be well-nourished financially.