Governor 931

Chapter 931: Emperor's Sword

Gu Hang casually flipped through the war reports.

Every day in the entire universe, during the Dark Side Expedition, within the section handled by the Terra Expedition Alliance, countless wars are ongoing.

He also receives innumerable reports.

Among these many battles, the importance of the Papallier Campaign is the highest.

Or, in the past few years, the Papallier Campaign has also been the largest battle fought by the Alliance.

Although its duration was not long, starting from the appearance of the Calamity Fleet, it lasted less than a month. But the intensity was not low at all, and the enemy's strength was considerable.

Because of this, after the final victory was secured, the results were quite glorious.

This was the first time the Alliance systematically destroyed a Calamity Fleet, and from the prisoners, it was learned that this fleet, among all the fleets, even if not the largest, was one of the largest. Its destruction was a heavy blow to the entire Chaos forces.

The Alliance's main fleet also suffered certain losses in this process.

Although the opposing side lost their central command, resulting in chaotic leadership, they were still encircled and attacked. However, the quality of the opposing fleet was evident, and during desperate counterattacks, they could inflict certain damage. The Alliance Fleet suffered approximately three hundred losses, the Glory Queen Battleship required considerable maintenance and repairs to restore combat capabilities, and combined losses of six battleships and aircraft carriers, as well as six losses in battlecruisers.

This was also a considerable loss for the Southern Line Army. However, in general terms, while there was an impact on the expeditionary actions of the Southern Line Army, it was relatively limited. They were still able to continue their operations, but could not act too recklessly. If they encountered any significant, tough challenges, with the Glory Queen undergoing repairs and the main fleet not yet supplemented, they would have to proceed cautiously.

The time required for the Southern Line Army to restore overall combat power won't be too long. A year or half a year of maintenance for the Glory Queen should suffice. Once the flagship is repaired, the Alliance's new batch of warships should be ready to be dispatched to the Southern Line Army, restoring the main fleet's size to the level before the Papallier Campaign.

Another point Gu Hang is very interested in regarding this battle is that this was the first campaign Martins participated in after undergoing transformation. Gu Hang was eager to see what kind of performance this Son of God he created would demonstrate, whether it would be worthy of his significant input in Subspace essence.

Indeed, it proved to be quite worthwhile.

From both aspects, the impressive campaign command capabilities and individual combat strength exhibited by Martins were outstanding.

Even to a level that surprised Gu Hang slightly.

He originally referred to what Martins embodied as the "Little Primordial Body," with the minimum baseline being capable of reaching the battle capabilities of the Bone Shattering King, which was barely considered qualified.

But the actual outcome exceeded the qualified line, reaching an excellent level.

Martins' individual combat capability must have surpassed the Bone Shattering King.

As for whether he could reach the true level of a Son of God... Gu Hang felt it might still be a bit lacking.

After all, he has truly seen the capabilities of a genuine Son of God.

That, naturally, is Robert.

For the Empire, even for the Infinite Starfield, Robert's place of awakening and home base, Robert summoned a Terra Expeditionary Army and led them into Subspace, becoming utterly silent from then on.

Only occasionally, every few months, Star Speakers on Super Sea Star received a few sparse words sent back across Subspace by the Expeditionary Force.

Only through this bit of evidence can it be confirmed that the Expeditionary Force that stepped into Subspace is still alive and striving towards Holy Terra.

This period has already been fourteen years.

If using the Star Realm Tunnel without interruption, from Infinite Starfield advancing toward Holy Terra, even at a slow pace, one and a half or a maximum of two years would suffice.

But Robert's army began its Subspace journey to now, spanning fourteen years.

From this, it's evident that Subspace travel is not only less safe and unstable, but its time efficiency is considerably inferior compared to using the Star Realm Tunnel.

Of course, if it were a normal Subspace journey, it wouldn't take so many years.

Robert himself would have authority on the matter. Before he was dying and entered the Static Field, in the era when the Empire widely used Subspace navigation technology, he embarked on countless journeys from Super Sea Star to Holy Terra. The time spent ranged between two to four years, certainly not fourteen years.

The reason for such a lengthy duration is evidently due to his troubled navigation.

Others may not see it, but Gu Hang, through his true offspring on board, can see it clearly.

In the past century after the Great Cataclysm, Subspace has been constantly turbulent, further complicating and making Subspace travel more perilous.

Moreover, the Empire's only living Son of God, his emergence attracted countless gazes.

Numerous Subspace Demons, itching to find him. If they could kill this Son of God and present a grand gift to their respective Evil God, it would immeasurably please the divine beings, elevating them to Divine Masters!

However, pinpointing ships in Subspace is no easy task.

Subspace is vast and boundless, even to its native demons.

Ancient technology from ten thousand years ago is in effect; as the Human Fleet sails, their whereabouts are elusive, and demons need to spend time finding them and often make errors.

Furthermore, finding them doesn't guarantee victory.

Under the Emperor's Sword wielded by the Son of God, any demon daring to come forth faces inevitable death.

And it's true death.

This is truly terrifying for demons.

Generally speaking, demons feel unbridled in both the real universe and Subspace, relying on their immortality. They possess Subspace essence; if their essence remains undestroyed, being killed merely means rebirth from Subspace after a time.

Few entities can genuinely wipe them out.

But the Emperor's Sword is such an entity.

It is indeed the divine sword once wielded personally by The Emperor.

Chapter 932

When demons are slain by the Emperor's Sword, their subspace essence is annihilated alongside them.

That signifies true extermination.

After realizing this, the number of demons daring to cause trouble drastically reduced.

Of course, there are always those not afraid of death who will come knocking, or those under the guidance of higher-level demon lords or even Evil Gods, attempting to capture the position of the Expeditionary Force to intercept them.

The arrival of demons not only sparks a battle but also makes the waves of subspace more malicious, causing the fleet to lose its way.

If it weren't for some divine protection, they would've been lost long ago.

Who is the protector?

It is naturally the Divine Emperor taking the lead.

However, Gu Hang also offers some minor assistance.

Logically, with help, the Expeditionary Force clears away wave after wave of approaching demons, and in most cases, the course is secretive and not detected, so they should have long reached Holy Terra.

Even if it's slower than subspace travel by 2-4 years, with 6-8 years, they should have arrived.

As for why it has been delayed for so long?

To put it simply, if everything were normal, that would indeed be the case.

However, another force has acted at this stage.

That is the Dark Spirit Race.

These troublesome creatures suddenly made a move.

The Spirit Race, whether their skin is white or black, typically won't enter subspace. For them, it's extremely risky; even a small mistake can lead to their downfall.

What could make them take this risk must be a matter of great importance.

In fact, Gu Hang knows exactly why.

The prophecy known to every Spirit Race force, about a prophecy child who will utterly decide the future of the entire Spirit Race, all the crucial interpretations are within this fleet.

If the youngest Evil God refers to Gu Hang, then it's Gu Jing; if it refers to the Divine Emperor, then it's Robert.

What's most precious is that for a long time in the past, Robert was in a static field, in the Divine Successor Hall of the Super Sea Star, tightly protected by one of the most powerful corps, the Infinite Corps.

And Gu Jing was also within a powerful alliance, right under Gu Hang's eyes.

Making a move on either of these two was exceedingly challenging.

But now, this truly is a heaven-sent opportunity!

They've all plunged into a life-or-death voyage in subspace.

No one can protect them now, not to mention they are constantly threatened by both demons and the inherent dangers of subspace travel.

Despite still retaining some of the powerful and mysterious methods from the glorious era of the Spirit Race Empire, the Dark Spirit Race individuals still possess excellent strength. However, their dwindling population and the race eternally on the brink of extinction remain unsolved issues.

As pirates in the universe, they leverage the Spirit Race's webway for unpredictable movements, supported by Comoros, the Veil City, situated in the void between the real universe and subspace, allowing them a defensive or offensive stance. Coupled with their formidable single combat ability and advanced technology, they hold advantages in some small-scale battles, making them some of the most feared pirates.

But... that's where their limits lie.

Why be pirates? Why not dominate the universe? Is it because they don't like it?

Clearly not.

Strength is the key.

In any human world, when you look up to the starry sky, each visible star belongs to humans!

The Ark Eldar only have their so-called 'World Ark' as their home; the Dark Spirit Race only have their infinitely vast Comoros as their home.

How could they possibly compare to the Human Empire, which truly owns the entire star cluster?

Not to mention compared to humans, even against the endlessly multiplying and fiercely combative Green Skin Orcs, or the Void Insect Species intent on devouring the entire universe, they stand no comparison.

The Spirit Race has only a glorious past.

Looking to the future, there is only darkness.

This is a race with no future.

In the grand scheme of the universe as a chessboard, the Spirit Race has never been a major force.

They are merely the scraps.

At least, in terms of overall strength, they are 'scraps'. Compared to the main players like humans, Chaos Rebel Army, the Four Gods' followers, Green Skin Orcs, and the Void Insect Species, they can't defeat any of them or even wage a frontal battle.

But the Spirit Race themselves don't see it that way.

Though they cannot wage a frontal war, in certain key places and events, they can exert crucial influence and guide the cosmic trend toward their desired direction.

There's no need for overwhelming overall strength, nor a need for a full-scale war, just a particularly elite force, or some critical technology and methods, and the goal can be achieved.

An excellent example is the team led by Divine Envoy-Meifenier, which revived the Son of God, Robert.

This is evidently an event with significant impact on the cosmic situation.

And now, the Dark Spirit Race intends to do something similar.

They have received the same prophecy, but their interpretation of it is different.

To help the ’person of prophecy’ and then hope that the ’person of prophecy’ makes a decision beneficial to them regarding some future event that will determine the fate of the Spirit Race?

That’s far too passive.

Placing the fate of the entire race in the whims of others?

It’s simply laughable!

Absolutely unacceptable!

Instead, the Dark Spirit Race prefers to control the initiative themselves.

Now, they have the opportunity to ’invite’ those two to Comoros as guests, so why not do it?

Comoros has long been ready to welcome them with open arms.

However, even against a force that’s not the entire Human Empire but just an expeditionary force summoned by Robert, strictly speaking, a force of only the Infinite Starfield.

Yet, engaging in direct conflict with this expeditionary force, the Dark Elves still aren't confident in a guaranteed victory.

If it were in the real universe, perhaps they would try.

But in subspace? They'd rather not.

Subspace is hazardous for human fleets and even more so for the Spirit Race.

They are patiently waiting.

They are making preparations, and for a Dark Spirit Race army to venture into subspace without being spotted by their great enemy, Slaanesh, much preparation is required.

Meanwhile, during their preparations, they are also waiting for the expeditionary force, or those bothersome subspace demons,

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Chapter 933:

"How long can the Vibranium Gate on the second defense line hold?" He wiped off the brain matter that had seeped into his eyepiece. The earpiece relayed an engineer’s scream mixed with the buzz of a chainsaw: "The mutated virus is corroding the energy pipeline! Estimated nine minutes fo..."

A lightning-like impact interrupted the communication. The foundation of the entire church trembled as three heavily armored Chaos Terminators broke through the eastern alloy wall; their power claws, covered in a corrosive slime, tore open the chests of two machine gunners. As blood splattered onto the icon, the eyes of the Judge holding a scale on the mural suddenly began to bleed black.

"Purification Protocol!" Chapter Priest Calov’s roar exploded alongside the scent of incense. He swung his powered cudgel filled with atonement prayers, smashing the nearest red-armored traitor into a supporting pillar. As the Judgment Fire at the end of the cudgel ignited the fleshy growths between the gaps of the Terminator’s armor, Talasa saw an unnatural metallic reflection rise behind the Priest—three intelligent mines tracking his thermal signal.

"Get down!" He kicked off from the shattered prayer bench and lunged forward. Before the explosion wave tore apart the final image on his retina, he vaguely glimpsed the Double-headed Eagle insignia etched onto the mines’ shells.

The ground was collapsing. The entire ceramic steel floor plunged into the underground catacombs, the pile of falling rubble echoing with the sound of breaking bones. Talasa spat out half a broken tooth as the power armor’s servo system emitted a squeal on the verge of collapse. The earpiece suddenly connected to a high-priority channel, Martins’ cold, mechanical voice pierce through the battlefield noise: "Is the Subspace beacon at coordinate S-17 still operational?"

He fumbled to pull the data crystal from his belt and inserted it into the tactical terminal. In the depths of the catacombs, the holographic projection lit up, revealing ancient equipment never mentioned by the staff department—seven bronze pillars entwined with quantum circuits encircled a coffin-like container, with dark red energy seeping from its cracks.

Chapter 933: Please Come Visit Comoros

A Dark Elves army appeared within the warp space.

This army, although not as massive as the Terra Expeditionary Army assembled by Robert, was nearly comparable in strength for the Dark Spirit Race, even if it wasn't utilizing their entire race's power.

In terms of numbers, it was certainly far from an all-out mobilization.

They simply couldn't achieve that.

For the Dark Spirit Race to engage in warfare within warp space, they must employ a unique technology and consume enormous energy to cloak the souls of all their members, thereby evading notice by Slaanesh.

The energy cost is immense, as the Dark Spirit Race has brought out their last reserves of wealth, with countless compressed energy crystals powering the cloaking system, yet the number of people they can conceal remains limited.

This means that although they can mobilize a considerable number of personnel overall, they can't afford any waste, let alone bring along numerous cannon fodder.

They emerged on the warp battlefield just as a Demon army was launching a surprise attack on the Terra Expeditionary Army.

The Dark Spirit Race didn't rush into battle; instead, their fleet dispersed, forming a special formation to encircle the entire battlefield.

Front, back, left, right, up, down... In this three-dimensional space, the encirclement by the Dark Spirit Race's fleet was inevitably incomplete.

Even if a blockade was formed, it was a weak one. Once a victor emerged between the Demons and humans on the battlefield—likely the Terra Expeditionary Army—it would become a trivial obstacle if they decided to break through, turning the encirclement into a sham.

The sudden appearance of the Dark Spirit Race on the border of the battlefield was, of course, noticed by the Human Fleet. However, by analyzing their strange movements, Robert could discern that the enemy's blockade had no real significance and couldn't trap them entirely.

Yet, he also knew that these Dark Elves, taking great risks to enter warp space, weren't there for tourism.

He maintained a cautious attitude towards the Dark Elves, but since their actions posed no immediate threat to the Human Fleet, he chose to ignore them for the time being. The higher priority lay in dealing with the persistent Demons.

In warp space, Demons don't even need warships. They swarmed in, transforming from formless to form, attacking each ship with abandon. Colossal Cannons weren't very effective in such battles unless targeting a powerful Demon with a massive shot from the naval guns. However, against the multitude of Demons, powerful single-shot naval weapons like Colossal Cannons or lances were less effective.

In contrast, missile weapons proved somewhat more effective.

However, during the long warp space journey, they had gone through many battles, consuming a significant amount of all types of munitions. Even though the fleet had Mechanical Arks from the Sect of Mechanics and small engineering vessels, all equipped with mechanical workshops capable of reproduction, raw materials remained a problem. Despite the presence of many transport ships carrying supplies, they had to rely on scavenging the battlefield for recyclable metal debris after battles, a supplement method that was extremely limited.

The overall stockpile of various materials was at a dangerously low level.

They were compelled to allow the enemies inside the ships, engaging them in brutal shipboard combat using the Interstellar Warriors and mortal soldiers within the vessels.

But this also led to losses.

The soldiers' spent ammunition was a drain, their casualties were a drain, and damages to the ships required repairs, which also consumed resources.

Honestly, if not for the presence of Robert, the Son of God, the Human Expeditionary Army would have already perished.

Among the many Sons of God from millennia ago, Robert was not known for his martial prowess, nor for his military command abilities.

He was a 'civil administrator,' reputed for his strategic skills and political-economic management capabilities.

Yet, even so, when compared to the 'Little Primordial Body' Martins crafted by Gu Hang, their combat abilities might be close, five to three in Robert's favor; for tactical command, eight to two, Robert's advantage; in strategic and political-economic leadership, ten to none—Robert wins ten.

Overall superiority, Robert surpassed Martins even in his 'weaker' areas, let alone in areas of strength.

Unfortunately, in this setting, Robert couldn't fully utilize his excellent political-economic leadership abilities, but his management skills still proved valuable.

Without being an outstanding leader, how could he endure the grim darkness and harrowing warp space journey that spanned more than a decade, maintaining the fleet's integrity without disbanding and even keeping the spirits of soldiers, warriors, and sailors high?

Moreover, his battle command ability, relatively superior among all the Sons of God, enabled him to minimize losses and maintain the fleet's long-term operation in nearly every battle while achieving victory.

This current battle was no different.

Defeating the invading Demons wasn't the real challenge; the challenge was how to minimize losses.

This required precise maneuvers by Robert.

This time, however, he couldn’t dismiss the seemingly inexplicable behavior of the Dark Elves on the side.

While allocating part of his forces to monitor them, Robert, with an instinctual sense of unease, decided to expend slightly more power this time to expedite clearing the demonic foes ahead.

Otherwise, who knew what might happen afterward?

Soon, someone came over to report what the Dark Elves were actually doing.

That was Gu Jing.

The son of the Alliance Leader, a Spiritual Master, accompanied by Terriot, the chief Intelligence Director of the Infinite Corps, approached him together.

"Those Dark Elves are using a unique force to sever this entire warp space. They are attempting to pull us closer to the real universe."

"Are they trying to expel us from the warp space, leaving us astray?" Robert pressed further.

With a grave expression, Gu Jing replied, "I’m afraid that’s not all. They intend to trap us between the warp space and real universe’s veil. That’s where their lair, Comoros, is located."

"Between the veils, Subspace Engines, or conventional engines, their efficiency will be greatly diminished. They’re inviting us to ’visit,’ and escaping from there will be exceedingly difficult."

Chapter 934

"Close your eyes!" The channel burst open with Yulin Army’s distinctive avian screech warning.

Talasa’s visual sensors suddenly overloaded, the retinal afterimage showing a three-meter-tall dark green figure appearing out of thin air. This warrior’s faceplate eyes emitted a ghostly blue arc, wielding a weapon resembling an ancient power spear but covered in optical nodes, sweeping through— the body of the Chaos Sect of Mechanics priest dissolved into elementary particles in the energy wave.

"Phase anchoring complete." The voice of the Yulin Army warrior was heavily encrypted, "Initiating reverse engineering protocol."

More dark green figures emerged in the quantum glow, traversing the battlefield with trajectories that defied the laws of physics. Talasa watched as one of them thrust a rhombus device into a coffin container, the seeping dark red energy was unexpectedly reverse-extracted. When the first flame of Nirvana cut through the surface, he realized that the ruins of the cathedral overhead had been cleared, and the Phoenix banner, burning with blue flames, stood on the scorched earth.

Martins’ Thunderhawk Gunship crashed directly into the plaza where the Chaos Lord resided. As the figure of the Primarch, wrapped in Spiritual Energy lightning, leapt out of the cabin, all Chaos creations within a hundred meters spontaneously combusted. Talasa witnessed this Father of Genetics swing the Titan’s Grip Warhammer, the released silver-white ripples shattering the Desecration Gunship into metallic dust in mid-air.

"Purification array deployed." Along with the Yulin Army’s announcement, twelve floating gun turrets surrounding the cathedral’s ruins unfolded into a hexagonal force field. All Chaos warriors trapped within began to weather rapidly, as if an invisible hand was wiping away erroneous existence.

However, the real killing blow came from the Phoenix Battle Group. Twenty elite warriors carrying six-winged thrusters formed a Firestorm Formation, their Nirvana Bombs did not explode, instead releasing a blue-purple vortex that devoured Chaos energy. When a Chaos Fearless Mecha, brimming with power, charged into the vortex’s range, its loaded Subspace Engine became a fatal weakness— this war machine was obliterated in the self-tearing dimensional rift.

Chapter 934: Veil City

The tactics of the Dark Elves are somewhat enigmatic.

They scattered about, surrounding the battlefield entirely, not at all considering military strategy, nor entertaining any idea of catching others off guard.

They simply wanted to seize the moment while the Human Expeditionary Force focused on dealing with the invading Demon Army, to unfold their Array.

On the entire encirclement, each Dark Elves' vessel is a node on the Array.

Once they have fully expanded the Array, the entire area within their encirclement will be cut off, severed from Subspace, and pulled into the reality veil.

It is the crevice between Subspace and the real universe, the lair of the Dark Spirit Race—Comoros.

In Subspace, it is difficult for the Dark Elves to amass enough force to directly crush the Human Expeditionary Army. However, in their lair, things are quite different, and they have many tactics at their disposal.

Perhaps the population of the Dark Elves isn't very large, but the countless slaves they've plundered from other races over the years make the perfect cannon fodder. With these slaves, even the Dark Spirit Race has the resources to employ the human wave strategy!

The premise is the battlefield being in Comoros.

That's exactly what they're implementing now.

Robert, weary-looking but with unwavering determination.

He no longer broods over the reliability of the intelligence.

Throughout the expedition to Terra, Spiritual Masters Terriot and Gu Jing have provided numerous suggestions, helping the expedition overcome many difficulties, and Robert trusts them deeply. During the expedition, he is certainly the indisputable absolute core, yet the assistance from the two Spiritual Masters cannot be ignored.

He issued commands methodically, one after another.

The entire fleet began to accelerate its operations. The Infinite Corps and various sub-corps abandoned the previously conservative, low-consumption strategies and grew fierce. Grey Knights were dispatched to execute decisive blows against key Demon units.

Simultaneously, a significant portion of the fleet power swiftly assembled, altering course, instantaneously forming several spearhead formations.

The seemingly sluggish, worn-out, and exhausted Human Fleet, weary from the lengthy expedition, suddenly turned razor-sharp!

It was like an engine, long dormant but internally well-maintained; as long it was fueled and commanded, the explosive roar was still deafening!

While handling the Demons, the human army could still spare forces targeting significant nodes of the Space Cutting Array formed by the Dark Elves.

The Dark Elves' fleet was too scattered, and the garrison at each node was quite insufficient. Even though the humans must deal with Demons and are splitting their forces, in comparison to maintaining the vast scale of the Array by the Dark Elves, human forces were much more concentrated.

Still, Gu Jing and Terriot remained deeply concerned.

They posed a significant issue to the Son of God: the Dark Elves' Space Cutting Array doesn't necessarily require preserving every node to be effective. Within limited time, a critical number of nodes need to be destroyed; otherwise, the final outcome won't change, and the Array will still be activated.

The Son of God nodded, indicating his understanding, but the orders remained unchanged.

He patiently provided explanations and reasons:

Since the appearance of the Dark Elves' fleet, he has been observing and analyzing these uninvited guests. The deployment of the Dark Elves' forces is clear in his mind.

Simultaneously, he even more clearly understands his own forces.

Before the battle, if a full-scale offensive divided the fleet like the Dark Elves, attacking every node was feasible. Significant losses could be ignored, but... the time spent wouldn't be short either.

Because the pressure each node of the Dark Elves endures would drastically lessen, while maintaining their defense—the speed of node destruction would greatly increase.

Humans would need to fight for a considerable time to destroy all of the nodes completely.

Robert calculated that if combat proceeded that way, they estimated it would take thirty-nine hours to destroy all of the nodes.

But herein lies a contradiction—according to Gu Jing and Terriot's analysis, the Dark Elves could complete their Array within eight hours.

The disparity of nearly fivefold in time cannot be remedied.

Fortunately, it's not necessary to destroy every Array node, equivalent to complete annihilation of the Dark Elves' forces, to be considered successful.

As long as a sufficient number of Array nodes are destroyed within those eight hours, the entire Dark Elves' Array can collapse.

But the issue is, neither Gu Jing nor Terriot can analyze where the critical point is for the collapse of the Dark Elves' Array.

What's Robert to do?

He can only adopt a tactical plan to destroy enough nodes within the eight-hour timeframe.

This is the one currently underway.

The tightly-packed Human Fleet battered down several dozens of nodes rapidly. Then, they immediately split forces, attacking outwards from the captured nodes.

Every attack target, meticulously calculated by Robert, is attainable within the estimated time to swiftly diversify forces elsewhere, achieving maximum efficiency in eliminating those Dark Elves' nodes.

Since the exact number of nodes needing destruction is unknown, proceed toward the eight-hour upper limit and strike as many as possible.

Unfortunately, the final result isn't great.

By the seventh hour, the Human Fleet had already destroyed sixty-one nodes, roughly one-sixth of all Dark Elves' Array nodes.

However, the Array still successfully activated, one hour earlier than Gu Jing and Terriot's estimated time.

Robert, draped in Destiny Armor and wielding the Emperor's Sword, pulled the blade from a Dark Elves governor's chest, witnessing this scene.

Nothing seemed to invoke emotion in the famously rational Son of God—not even this sight.

From the external observation window of the boarded enemy ship, he saw an entire slice of Subspace being severed.

It seemed like a giant thin membrane engulfed the battlefield where humans and Demons struggled, along with these Dark Elves' node areas, including the previously destroyed nodes.

Then, the membrane vigorously expanded outward, slicing their region apart.

To the vast, boundless Subspace resembling the universe, this was a minuscule space, yet it was enough to envelop the entire Human Expeditionary Force—along with the Dark Elves' elite troops.

The sliced region collapsed inward swiftly, and Robert saw bizarre external scenes altering rapidly, the entire ship convulsing intensely.

Once they regained footing, the view outside had completely changed.

No longer was it the ominous, kaleidoscope-like appearance of Subspace, but instead a serene realm of black and blue.

Within the faint glow, a grand architecture filled with various towering spires was visible in the distance.

It should be the old lair of the Dark Spirit Race, the Veil City—Comoros.

Chapter 935: Not Without Solutions

Gu Hang has always been able to keep an eye on the situation of the Expeditionary Force.

He has indeed been closely observing it.

From his perspective, the Alliance is undoubtedly the core of saving the entire Human Empire. He does not believe anyone else can accomplish as much as he can.

However, if there can be a strong ally, that is also a good thing.

Gu Hang holds Robert in high regard and has high hopes for him.

Of course, according to Gu Hang's idea, it would be best for Robert to stay put in the Infinite Starfield, using the home base of the Infinite Corps as the center to launch a military action akin to the Alliance's Dark Side Expedition focusing on the Spiderweb Domain and the Eastern Cosmos Domain, expanding territory within the Holy Territory of the Empire.

Instead of rushing to Holy Terra, it's better to steadily manage one world after another.

By then, even if Holy Terra is truly finished, destroyed, and the Human Empire ceases to exist, the Alliance would still have preserved half of the Empire's Dark Side, then see how much territory Robert can secure in the Empire's Holy Territory.

Worst case scenario, they can work together, step by step, to reclaim the Human Ancestral Star on Holy Terra.

Of course, losing Holy Terra would be particularly significant and could trigger an even greater crisis, which Gu Hang also agrees with. Therefore, when Robert decided to launch this highly risky Terra Expedition, he ultimately did not oppose too severely.

And since the expedition has already begun, it contains not only Gu Hang's expectations for the situation in the Empire's Holy Territory to improve, but also his own son is involved, so naturally, he cannot ignore it completely.

The Expeditionary Force departing from the Infinite Starfield managed not to get lost in Subspace, not only due to the Emperor's blessing, but also with a little help from Gu Hang.

But overall, Gu Hang's ability to help was not sufficient.

At least, it's very difficult for him to directly dispatch troops or deliver supplies to the Expeditionary Force's ships.

The costs would be too high, even Gu Hang isn't willing to do that.

However, there is other assistance that can be provided through Gu Jing's presence to the Expeditionary Force.

Especially in terms of information.

Robert possesses a highly intelligent mind, but he requires a lot of information as a basis for decision-making.

And Gu Hang can provide much information about Subspace, the Evil God, Demons, Spiritual Energy... these clues and knowledge. As soon as something happens, Gu Hang can usually understand what is going on by looking through Gu Jing's perspective.

Gu Jing understands it himself, and he told Robert; but there are many things Gu Jing doesn't comprehend, despite his years of study and practice. The ceiling of his power is there; without reaching a certain level, he's just not aware.

Then Gu Hang would often inform him of the information, and he would convey it to Robert.

Many pieces of information provided by Gu Hang helped Robert avoid many pitfalls and indirectly saved the entire Expeditionary Force multiple times.

Including this incident with the dark elves, it was the same.

However, even Gu Hang misjudged a little this time.

Only a little.

After all, the Spirit Race's foundation is still terrifying; they were the dominant force in the universe countless thousands of years ago. Even after their downfall, they managed to survive under Slaanesh's pursuit until today. They truly have some cards up their sleeves.

Gu Hang did not realize the dark Spirit Race's intentions when they first appeared. It wasn't until after the array unfolded that he took some time to analyze the purpose of this array.

He predicted the array would take effect in eight hours, but it actually took effect after seven hours. This reduction was due to numerous array nodes being destroyed, delaying the activation time.

However, there's one point Gu Hang had already analyzed earlier but didn't share with Gu Jing and Robert.

To disrupt the Subspace slicing array of the dark Spirit Race, the critical point of node destruction is half.

The reason for not sharing this with the two is that after Gu Hang analyzed it, he observed the onsite situation and knew that the Human Expeditionary Army could never achieve this goal.

In other words, being drawn into the curtain was inevitable.

There was absolutely no way they could destroy half the nodes within eight hours.

Which means being dragged into the curtain was a foregone conclusion for the entire Expeditionary Force.

What's the point of saying anything?

Do we inform the Expeditionary Force, leaving them disheartened?

It's better to let them maintain high morale and strive to destroy those nodes.

Destroying each node means another Spirit Race army, Spirit Race ship is destroyed.

Since they must hold the nodes, delaying node destruction, they can't leverage their best flexibility and elusive actions. So it's best to kill as many Spirit Race individuals as possible.

Once the Spirit Race individuals are killed, although their souls will return to Comoros and be reborn, the process of growing a physical body takes time, and the newly reborn Spirit Race will endure a long period of weakness and will require significant time and effort to rediscover their peak state.

For the relatively scarce Spirit Race population, the losses are considerable.

As for the Spirit Race, despite such significant losses, pursuing their grand strategy... in Gu Hang's view, it's not entirely insoluble.

Chapter 935: Not Without a Solution (2)

After realizing that Robert and his expeditionary fleet were inevitably being drawn into the Veil, Gu Hang's thoughts shifted from how to prevent this situation to how to utilize it.

The Dark Spirit Race, it's not like the Alliance hasn't dealt with them before.

Before the Cataclysm occurred, the pirates of the Dark Spirit Race frequently roamed several areas in the southern part of the Eastern Cosmos Domain, this had been a persistent issue for a very long time. In addition, Spirit Race pirates often harassed the trade routes between the Alliance and the Infinite Starfield.

Gu Hang learned that the so-called 'prophecy' obtained by the Spirit Race was acquired from captives of the Dark Spirit Race pirates.

Moreover, taking advantage of this, the Alliance even seized the opportunity when a group of Dark Spirit Race pirates were fleeing and using their exclusive Veil Spirit Gate from Comoros to the real universe and fired a few shots right into the gate.

Those few shots should have fallen inside Comoros, causing some regional damage.

Of course, those few shots alone were not critical.

The main thing was that Gu Hang took the opportunity to send some 'contraband' into Comoros.

His Valor Spirit Legion.

Not many slipped in, and quite a few were quickly caught and eliminated, returning dead to Gu Hang's Storm God Kingdom.

However, Gu Hang hoped that, upon entering Comoros, the Valor Spirits representing part of his power, even if their existence was brief, would allow him to navigate and find the precise location of Comoros.

The power of the Dark Spirit Race lies in the fact that no one can break into their lair, and they only attack others on their initiative, right?

If it is possible to find their lair, and even find an opportunity to launch an offense or destroy Comoros, then humanity would have a chance to completely annihilate this annoying, 'fly-like' dark alien.

Gu Hang, unlike some human rulers, did not harbor absolute hatred for all non-human races. However, if the Dark Spirit Race, definite enemies of humanity, could be entirely destroyed in one fell swoop, it would be quite satisfactory.

Unfortunately, they do have their heritage.

Gu Hang could still sense his Valor Spirits existing, and could even command them. However, he couldn't send more power or locate Comoros via these spirits.

That was somewhat mystifying.

Gu Hang didn't even know how the Dark Spirit Race achieved this.

But it's not worth being too surprised.

If the lair of the Dark Spirit Race could be found so easily, allowing Gu Hang to recklessly project spiritual energy to Comoros through a few coordinates, there's no way they would have escaped the pursuit of Slaanesh for so many years.

Gu Hang didn't think he was stronger than Slaanesh. If Slaanesh hadn't achieved it, it's entirely normal for Gu Hang not to either.

However, Gu Hang never gave up his interest in Comoros.

After the Cataclysm, throughout the Dark Side Expedition, humanity's main enemy was chaos, yet the alien threat never diminished.

On the alien front, threats mainly came from the Green Skins and the Void Insect Species. But occasionally, the Dark Side Expedition would encounter the troublesome Dark Spirit Race.

Comoros itself doesn't produce resources; even if they have some scarce greenhouse plants, it's not very useful, not to mention the massive amounts of minerals, metals, and energy, all of which need to be obtained from the real universe.

The Dark Spirit Race either establishes colonies in the real universe, using slaves for production,

or they form pirate raiding teams to loot.

The Dark Spirit Race does both.

Colonization and looting are the ways of survival for the Dark Spirit Race.

The Cataclysm offered them an opportunity.

The Human Empire became unprecedentedly weak and fragmented, making their actions to plunder planets, acquire population, and establish colonial stars much smoother.

This inevitably led to encounters with the Dark Side Expedition.

The Alliance, based on past dealings with the Dark Spirit Race, also has a specialized action manual to counter these alien enemies.

When dealing with the Dark Spirit Race, finding the Veil Spirit Gate linking the real universe and Comoros is the key focus.

And every time the Veil Spirit Gate is found and destroyed, Gu Hang's will descends, sneakily placing some Valor Spirits inside.

The Valor Spirits that enter remain quite low-key and do not actively cause trouble.

They even conceal their human appearance—it's easy because they're originally the embodiment of Gu Hang's power, the embodiment of the storm. The human memory and appearance they had when alive are secondary, bestowed by Gu Hang.

When necessary, maintaining a non-human form is convenient.

They appear as element creatures, pure storms of gathered energy.

Elemental creatures, or energy beings, though rare in this universe, do exist, and some have even established civilizations.

Among the numerous slaves and mercenaries enslaved or hired by the Dark Spirit Race, there are such elemental creatures.

Gu Hang's Storm Heroic Spirits, in this guise, infiltrate Comoros.

The overall number isn't large, but Gu Hang doesn't expect these mere ten thousand storm heroic spirits disguised as elemental creatures to be able to perform overly significant military tasks.

Chapter 935: Not Without a Solution (3)

Their most important task was to gather intelligence efficiently after entering the social system and structure of the Dark Spirit Race, allowing him to better understand this Veil City of the Dark Spirit Race.

The results were considerable. Gu Hang's understanding of the Dark Spirit Race had significantly enriched compared to the past.

And there was an even more surprising gain.

Elemental creatures seemed to have special uses for a certain family. As a mercenary, half of Gu Hang's Storm Heroic Spirits had entered a medium-sized family named 'Dark Source'.

During this period, the Storm Heroic Spirits, disguised with a mindset completely different from ordinary carbon-based creatures, managed to gather a piece of information. The biggest supporter behind this 'Dark Source' family appeared to be a major force within the Dark Spirit Race — the Wu Ling Sect.

As one of the three pillars of the Dark Spirit Race, it's quite normal for the Wu Ling Sect to support a family to serve them. Gu Hang also took this opportunity to allow his Storm Heroic Spirits to further engage with the Wu Ling Sect through the Dark Source family, hoping to obtain higher-level, more core intelligence.

The whole process was even smoother than expected. The Witch Spirits utilizing supernatural powers really liked these precious mercenaries, the elemental creatures. The leader of the storm elements, 'Wind General', was even unexpectedly received by the leader of the Wu Ling Sect, known as the 'Crone'.

This is a truly influential figure!

If one were to rank the influential figures in Comoros by their status, the Crone would undoubtedly be in the top three.

It was also through her and the Wu Ling Sect as a whole that the status of the Storm beings quickly rose, gaining access to many pieces of information that were initially difficult to obtain.

And now, this information could be put to use.

Robert was indeed quite capable.

Amidst such a drastic change, he managed to pacify the entire fleet swiftly, preventing them from remaining in a state of panic for too long. As a result, those dark-skinned Expeditionary Force members who had been sent home failed to seize the opportunity to launch an attack on the unstable Human Fleet and instead suffered a setback.

It's understandable; although these dark-skinned Expeditionary Forces were elite, they were not numerous and had suffered considerable losses maintaining an Array previously.

Seeing no success, they quickly withdrew without lingering much.

After all, in their view, the Human Fleet trapped within the Veil was already a sitting duck, certain to be dealt with sooner or later.

Failing to resolve it for now, they could easily withdraw and regroup the main force, mobilize necessary cannon fodder, and gather the strength of various families, then continue the fight.

Here, they had endless supplies, whereas human warriors lost one with each death, and a bullet used was one less.

During this time, Robert regathered the scattered fleet and, amidst the chaos, found a new target at the right moment.

Gu Jing had informed him of the precise location of the Comoros Veil Port.

It was the common launch point for the Dark Spirit Race pirate fleets and the location where the Veil Spirit Gate opened and closed. The Dark Spirit Race pirates used this place to open the Veil Spirit Gate, allowing them to easily traverse between the real universe and the Veil.

As long as it could be captured, humans could harness this most crucial technology of the Dark Spirit Race!

Chapter 936: Bloody Battle of Comoros

Such a scene has never been witnessed by anyone before.

The human ships received their directive and advanced towards their intended target. Outside the observation windows of each human vessel, an immense and majestic city could be seen.

Many people have understood the concept of 'cities' mostly as 'Nest Capitals.' Such enormous, multi-layered cities that can often house up to tens of billions of people already provide enough grandeur and excitement when viewed from afar.

A few fortunate ones have visited Holy Terra and seen the Empire's largest group of Nest Capitals, which almost cover the entire surface environment of the Human Ancestral Star.

However, it still cannot compare to what lays before them now.

After all, the Human Ancestral Star is built upon a planet, viewing planets from space is a common sight.

Yet, a scale comparable to Holy Terra's Nest Capitals, standing in the void and before the entire fleet, presents a dramatically different scene.

The entire fleet seemed so small before the vast, Dark Spirit Race-style void city.

Even the experienced Robert was seeing such a city for the first time.

Comoros, its reputation is deserved.

But there was no admiration in his eyes.

Under his command, the Human Fleet advanced rapidly, with a clear and focused target—a curtain port.

Comoros has more than one curtain port, but this one was meticulously selected by Gu Hang based on intelligence provided by the Storm Heroic Spirits. Considering various factors like scale, defense level, enemy support speed, etc., they aimed to find a relatively easier target that would yield significant benefits upon victory.

The place was called Queen Rose Port.

At this moment, the guards here have already realized that the human target is aimed directly at them.

The guards urgently prepared for battle.

However...

Honestly, they had contingency plans for facing attacks.

To maintain operational secrecy, the plotter of this campaign, 'Black Witch King' Victor, initially did not notify too many people about the plan. After the operation commenced, the information was released, requiring everyone to be prepared for a human army that was about to 'visit' Comoros.

Still, honestly, most contingency plans focused on proactive offense.

After all, in the minds of the Dark Spirit Race, guests drawn into the curtains were seen as sheep ready for slaughter.

The reason not to slaughter outside is because the great Spirit Race finds it inconvenient to expend effort outside Comoros, so fighting in Subspace is impractical.

However, pulling the main battle back to Comoros was different. The Spirit Race's power could be fully exerted, throwing their enemies into chaos.

Eventually, all will become new slaves within Comoros.

Reportedly, among the ’slaves’ this time are numerous human Interstellar Warriors.

These are rare species! Worth collecting and playing with.

As for Comoros attracting proactive attacks from these prey?

Ridiculous, impossible!

However, this situation was right before their eyes.

Their original plan was directly impacted from the first step after drawing the Human Fleet into Comoros, they would immediately use existing forces to bind the Human Fleet, followed swiftly by reinforcements from Comoros, completely destroying any human resistance.

The unexpected outcome was that problems emerged from the first step.

During the Subspace Array construction, one part exceeded expectations—the nodes were more extensively damaged.

Although their plot ultimately succeeded, bringing the Human Fleet in, each lost node in the prior battle represented the essence of the Dark Spirit Race forces.

Their forces suffered more losses than anticipated.

This triggered a chain reaction—when they finally drew the Human Fleet toward Comoros, the remaining troops could not fully bind them, waiting for reinforcements.

Forced to retreat here, they had to return sooner to Comoros to gather for the next wave of attack.

It provided the humans the opportunity, allowing the Human Fleet to counter-attack the entrance.

’Black Witch King’ Victor couldn’t help but be astounded by the so-called ’Son of God,’ the one who decides the Spirit Race’s destiny!

Ordinarily, under such drastic change, people would be panicked and lost. However, Robert managed to quickly reorganize the fleet, calmed moral, then launched an assault.

This was not easy.

What was even more remarkable was his precise judgment to locate Queen Rose Port as the best overall target.

Why?

While Victor deployed forces, he also took a moment to ponder this matter.

He ultimately connected with his trusted aides—the Nightmare Corps.

"... Focus investigations on the old crone."

...

Gu Jing fired a Spiritual Energy Cannon, aiming at a defense turret. The powerful spiritual energy instantly destroyed the turret. The black-skinned soldiers operating the turret were naturally obliterated without leaving any flesh, and the sharp tip of the turret was bent, precisely being the Spirit Race’s cannon emitter.

Then, wielding supreme might, he seized a fast-advancing speed boat that had already killed several Interstellar Warriors. It suddenly couldn't advance as if caught by an invisible hand, then was smashed into the shielded position of an Alien mercenary squadron with great force. Immediately, human soldiers attacking the position charged bravely, seized it, and used it as a new stronghold, continuing the assault forward.

Chapter 936: Bloody Battle of Comoros (Part 2)

Behind him, the phantom of a Great Demon with a gold-feathered blue flame bird's head recklessly spread its wings, assisting Gu Jing in fully unleashing his Spiritual Energy.

Its core function was to enhance the power of Gu Jing's every Psychic Spell, and simultaneously, it could also act as another initiator of Psychic Spells, performing dual casting.

From the wings of the Great Demon's phantom, clusters of azure Spiritual Fire traced elusive arcs in the air, targeting one enemy after another and blasting them to death.

Gu Jing's mighty power significantly altered the battlefield's dynamics.

In the past, although many high-ranking members of the Expeditionary Force knew the extent of Gu Jing's strength and that he could command a purified Great Demon, he rarely used this power fully.

On one hand, because it was both exhausting and dangerous; on the battlefield, blades and bullets showed no mercy, and even the strongest could have mishaps. It's safer and more sensible to preserve energy when possible.

Another more important reason was that this power was somewhat taboo. Because of his special status, many had to hold their noses and tolerate it, but unless necessary, he preferred not to flaunt it in others' faces.

But today was different.

This battle was of immense significance.

Even though Gu Jing was just a consultant, a guest of the Expeditionary Force, he could not afford to hold back at all.

Not only him, but all the experts of the Expeditionary Force were also vigorously fighting on the front lines.

The Battle Group Leader Nero of the Infinite Corps was leading the trusted aide unit, fighting in the toughest places; Telyoet wielding his top Grade S Psychic power was assisting the group's advancement. The experts from the Infinite Sub-group, summoned by the Father of Genetics, were also courageously fighting.

All of this was because his genetic father, the true Son of God, Robert himself, was also wielding the Emperor's Sword, fighting at the forefront of the battlefield.

Not far away, the fleet of the Human Expeditionary Army was frantically unleashing firepower upon Queen Rose Port and its surrounding areas, bombarding them. They destroyed the defensive capability at the enemy's core front line, blocking reinforcements.

Of course, such close support from the fleet came at a price. Although Comoros had not experienced such a large-scale enemy attack for a long time, the Dark Spirit Race had never slackened in their defensive preparations for their stronghold. This race, which lived under the constant threat of extinction, was far from dying in its sleep.

Their resistance was resolute and strong, and although restricted by angles and the human fleet's attack zones, their external firepower on Comoros, even if only partially effective, was still a terrifying threat.

One by one, human battleships were blasted into scrap metal.

And assault boats, aircraft, and warships from other ports of Comoros were continuously supporting the battlefield. The human fleet's critical task was to intercept these enemies.

The Glory Queen-class Battleship inherited by the Infinite Corps from ten thousand years ago, acting as the flagship and keystone of the entire fleet, was doing just that.

This Glory Queen already bore numerous scars. Its powerful Void Shield had been extinguished and restarted twice. Yet despite being in such a perilous situation, the precious battleship did not retreat a single step, because their leader, their Son of God had commanded them to hold the front line with their mighty bodies and sharp artillery, sustaining the human fleet's formation.

However, Gu Jing still felt concerned. He could see that although the human attack came suddenly and fiercely, suppressing the Dark Spirit Race fighting on their home ground.

But this was merely a flash in the pan, the final frenzy.

Without backup forces, with personnel and supplies impossible to replenish, the Human Expeditionary Army had only this one overwhelming assault capability. If they failed to succeed, the peak of battle to the fleet's destruction would be but a moment.

Refocusing, worrying about these things was useless.

Right now, only battle matters!

He continued to rally his Spiritual Energy, and this time his target was distinctly chosen—the Veil Induction Tower at Queen Rose Port!

This building was a core strategic target, mentioned in whispers from his father and must be captured. Only by utilizing the Spirit Race's technology within this tower could the Veil Gate linking the real universe be opened.

This position had been conquered. The enemy was launching a frantic counterattack, and Gu Jing's Spiritual Energy was a crucial force in quelling the enemy's counteroffensive.

With full firepower, he was not at ease. The enemy contained some highly formidable units, whether those Great Witch Spirits, those accursed flesh constructs, or the extraordinarily strong individual units among the alien races employed by the Dark Spirit Race... all were exceedingly difficult to kill, and letting them through would put immense pressure on the human troops' defensive lines.

He had to exert considerable effort to clear them out one by one.

And in this process, his conspicuous fighting style naturally became a target for enemy focus fire.

Relentless shelling, heavy unit assaults, and swift raids from assault boats forced him to expend energy in defense.

Even he was gradually feeling overwhelmed, inevitably growing anxious.

"We must be quick..."

Inside the Induction Tower, already seized by the human troops, the Sages of the Sect of Mechanics and scholars from the Psychic Cultivator's Association, under the leadership of the Great Sage Kao'er, were striving to decrypt Spirit Race technology.

The Judges were working hard to extract information from captured prisoners directly from the battlefield to help the Great Sages speed up the decryption process.

However, humanity's efforts in decrypting the Veil Spirit Gate, the Dark Spirit Race's highest level technology, continued to encounter numerous difficulties.

Even with the presence of Divine Envoy-Meifenier, progress was limited.

The Ark Eldar had some understanding of their dark counterparts' technology, but the two sides' technological routes were not entirely the same, and could only offer limited assistance rather than directly solving the issues.

The Great Sage kept stating that he needed more time, more information, urging all forces to strive to earn it for him.

Robert was also coolly issuing orders one after another, enabling the forces to remain unshaken amidst the Dark Spirit Race's stormy counterattacks.

Yet, the situation continued to worsen little by little.

Even now, reports were coming in from some units stating they had used their last bullet, fixed bayonets, and were ready for a decisive struggle once the enemy came. Within minutes, they were silent, unable to send any further information.

In these circumstances, Gu Jing suddenly noticed a peculiar 'enemy' approaching.

A group of energy beings generating electric discharges all over their bodies, seemingly driven by a squad of Dark Spirit Race elites, were launching another strike towards the Induction Tower.

From these energy beings, Gu Jing sensed a strength that felt oddly familiar.

Could it be...

His thoughts shifted, Spiritual Energy roared forth, and head-sized blue fireballs exploded amid the enemy formation, deliberately avoiding the energy beings.

When the Spirit Race elites driving them were blown into chaos, these electric energy beings suddenly turned against their allies, attacking the Spirit Race forces nearby!

Chapter 937: Old Acquaintance

The Storm Elemental creature that turned against them, Gu Jing recognized it.

It was a Heroic Spirit from his father's Storm God Kingdom!

He didn't know how these Heroic Spirits ended up in Comoros, but it was certainly a great thing!

Just talking about the combat ability of these Storm Heroic Spirits, they weren't weak. However, their numbers weren't many, only a few thousand appeared on the field.

No matter how powerful, they were far from reaching the level of Interstellar Warriors. A scale of a few thousand was not enough to change the battlefield situation.

However, their greatest value was certainly not military.

When Gu Jing saw them initially mingling with the Dark Spirit Race and then turning against them, he realized that this group of Storm Heroic Spirits might have been in Comoros for quite some time. Their appearance here had a profound meaning.

Furthermore, combining with the rapid acquisition of intel about Comoros by his father, and after pointing out Queen Rose Port as the attack target, he could make a bold speculation — these Storm Heroic Spirits might hold very important information!

Gu Jing found a way to let these Storm Heroic Spirits into the Reception Tower and informed the Great Sage Kao'er.

Honestly, Kao'er was doubtful about this.

What if this was a plot concocted by those cunning dark-skinned ones? Letting a group of energy beings into the Reception Tower was quite dangerous, wasn't it?

However, they didn't have much choice when it came to the relevant moment.

The time was too tight, and their progress in opening the Veil Spirit Gate was not so smooth. Under such external pressure, Kao'er had to consider taking more risks to achieve breakthroughs quickly.

The effect was significant!

The energy beings who entered the Reception Tower transformed their forms in front of the human garrison, from pure energy aggregates with no specific individual characteristics to distinctly human-like appearances.

At most, they appeared slightly translucent, with arcs surrounding them, looking rather unique.

Of course, this could easily identify them as different, and typically, they would be attacked immediately.

However, the troops defending the tower received Kao'er's order not to attack these energy beings but instead to block the firepower of the dark-skinned ones pursuing them.

The Storm Heroic Spirits who successfully entered the tower even saluted the human soldiers stationed there with a standard Sky Eagle military salute.

Despite feeling strange, these human soldiers instinctively returned the salute.

The Storm Heroic Spirits were quite organized. One of them, dressed in Alliance military uniform, stepped forward to communicate.

He introduced himself as a colonel of the Alliance Army and the Imperial Star Realm Army, claiming to have a very important mission in execution, requesting to meet the head responsible for deciphering the Veil Spirit Gate technology here.

A Heroic Spirit claiming to be an officer... Yet, his flawless military uniform, clear rank, and serious demeanor, which visibly resembled a soldier, made people instinctively accept it.

Initially, soldiers had orders to welcome them, and prepared humans formed a team to escort them up.

Kao'er, waiting there, saw them.

Although these people might bring hopes of deciphering the Veil Spirit Gate, he couldn't put all his hopes on it. He continued to lead his deciphering team in their work, not stopping when meeting with the Heroic Spirits.

However, when a few Heroic Spirits stood in front of him, he was somewhat surprised to see familiar faces.

"Teacher Kao’er, it’s been a long time."

Kao’er’s electronic eyes flashed momentarily as the data in the memory storage chip quickly recalled every detail of his interactions with the ’person’ before him.

"Yu Che... It truly has been a long time, perhaps over a thousand and one hundred years. Are you dead?"

"Yes, but I have been resurrected by the leader’s great power, and I can once again serve the God of All Machines."

The speaking Heroic Spirit appeared like a high-ranking member of the Sect of Mechanics in form.

At least, he was in his lifetime.

Yu Che, the name of this person, was a Sage once belonging to the Alfonso Sect and now the Alamita Sect. During the Iron Armor War, he defected to the Alliance’s side, becoming one of the core figures in the Alamita Sect, built upon the remains of the Alfonso Sect.

As a Mechanicus Sage, he lived a long life of over fourteen hundred years, which was quite lengthy but not unusually so — at least not as incredible as his teacher during his study on Mars, who lived for ten thousand years.

However, his life also reached an end. He died in battle while following the Dark Side Expedition Fleet against a planet occupied by the corrosive force of the Dark Mechanic Cult.

His special status made Gu Hang regard him differently, spending effort to retrieve his soul back, not letting him return to the Golden Throne to rest forever but turning him into a Heroic Spirit in the realm of the Storm God Kingdom, managing significant Alliance secrets within it — the Black Box Factory.

Though becoming a Heroic Spirit means no further progression is possible, and all thoughts solidify at the state before death, losing the concept of life. Essentially, it's a projection constructed by extracting soul imprints and utilizing the power of the Storm God Kingdom.

Nevertheless, the influence of past memories and thoughts made him instinctively excited when seeing so many Black Boxes, and he was very satisfied with the new work arranged by Mr. Gu, considering his life after death quite happy.

And when new missions arrived, he wouldn't refuse — although Heroic Spirits didn't have much choice in that matter.

During several deployments of Heroic Spirits to Comoros by Gu Hang, he was among them. Gu Hang hoped that through this former Mechanicus Sage, they could potentially grasp and decipher some technologies of the Dark Spirit Race in advance to prepare for the future.

Among them, the technology of the Veil Spirit Gate was the top priority for decryption.

In the beginning, it wasn't very smooth; Yu Che had access to few technologies, and those weren't crucial.

After Storm Energy Beings became honored guests of the Witch Spirit Sect, the situation drastically improved, granting access to more secrets.

This included information on the Veil Spirit Gate.

In Yu Che's 'mind,' a vast array of data on the Veil Spirit Gate technology had been stored and parsed!

Chapter 938

The technical data of the Veil Spirit Gate is indeed the core technology of the Spirit Race, with a very high level of confidentiality.

However, unlike other secrets, the Veil Spirit Gate is something that has to be used frequently.

In their past decades of experience as mercenaries in Comoros, these heroic spirits who have transformed into storm element creatures have not been strangers to using the Veil Spirit Gate to cross into the real universe for tasks.

Sometimes, their target is even the Alliance's territory, and they engage in battles with Alliance forces.

Though they are unwilling, the heroic spirits continue to play the role of traitors, diligently striking hard while their hearts bleed.

To some extent, the trust and elevated status of the storm heroic spirits do not just stem from the appreciation and favor of the Witch Spirit sect. Their displays of power and reliability in action after action cannot be overlooked.

And in the countless times they have used the Veil Spirit Gate to shuttle, they have personally experienced and operated it. There's even a set of Veil Spirit Gate components in their hands. Although they can't use it at will, they can at least secretly research it during regular times.

What's more, they've specifically found opportunities to steal a set of technical data.

And all these things are stored in Yu Che's mind.

The data and technical analysis of the Veil Spirit Gate are already complete.

At least many of the critical parts have been figured out.

But there's also a problem:

The minds of heroic spirits remain fixated on their former lives and cannot learn anything new. With new technology, they can at most reach the step of analysis, using their existing memory, knowledge, and thinking patterns to break it down. Though technically at this point, they could make slight deductions to master the technology, their limitations prevent them from doing so.

Nevertheless, at this moment, these technical data and analyses prove to be of great use.

The brief greeting between mentor and apprentice was only a single word when they met, both aware of the urgency and heavy task ahead. Yu Che released his spirit, a blue thread of energy carrying the technical data and analysis information forward.

Kao’er extended a mechanical hand, where a data interface had already opened and connected to the energy line.

The transmission of information between the two entities was completed in this wondrous manner.

After receiving the information, Kao’er’s eyes flickered rapidly with red glows, frantically receiving, absorbing, and analyzing the technical information passed to him by Yu Che.

Once everything was done, it took no more than three to five minutes.

The Kao’er Sage regained his senses, showing no expression, but feeling quite complex as he looked at his former student.

According to the information Yu Che transmitted, everything was actually very complete. During the process of receiving the information, Kao’er hardly needed much thought; he almost naturally completed the last step — learning.

And that is precisely where he feels marvel.

Yu Che’s current state seems unchanged from when alive, perhaps even better — at least, he no longer wastes any time on basic physical needs or unnecessary emotions, dedicating his heart entirely to research.

However, missing the final step—true thinking—makes everything different.

Kao’er felt a bit saddened but this feeling was fleeting.

After gaining the technology of the Veil Spirit Gate, what he needs to do next is a race against time.

Earlier he obtained a few coordinates from Gu Jing.

These coordinates are of the real universe, defined by human standards, inconsistent with the technology of the Veil Spirit Gate. But calm and composed, he could complete the translation of the coordinate information, using the function of the reception tower at Queen Rose Port, where several Veil Spirit Gates suddenly unfold.

One human battleship after another majestically passed through various Veil Spirit Gates, arriving at the battlefield!

Their arrival drastically changed the battlefield situation!

The Expeditionary Fleet, which was fighting quite hard, suddenly received reinforcements and supplies, not only providing substantial assistance in combat but also greatly boosting the morale of all Expeditionary Force warriors!

They succeeded!

They are no longer fighting alone!

...

Ji Hao is the Battle Group Leader of the Dawn Messenger Battle Group.

His battle group was not established long ago, built from the seeds of the Saints Battle Group after they joined the Alliance. The entire battle group consists entirely of ’newcomers’.

But this doesn’t mean their combat power is weak.

The Dawn Messenger is a group with a strong sense of personal honor, for one reason only — strength!

Every new recruit was the best performer during training at the Interstellar Warrior New Blood Cultivation Center. Their implanted seeds are excellent, their performance is outstanding, and they have undergone very special training. According to the materials copied from the mother group’s sacred text, they are all ’Blessed Children’. In the past military era, they existed as the elite guard of the Son of God’s trusted aides. Even in the battle group era, they are the elite force representing the most elite of the Saints Battle Group, the trusted aide of the Battle Group Leader.

Therefore, while they may not dismiss other battle groups, a sense of self-pride is certainly not harmful.

Ji Hao, as Battle Group Leader, is eagerly hoping to lead his warriors into the Dark Side Expedition, showing their pride to all humankind, proving to Mr. Gu and The Emperor that their pride isn’t mere arrogance but a true representation of their strength, and that their pride will yield results in the future!

Yet, for a long time, their core mission has been to guard the Alliance’s homeland.

Guarding the Alliance’s homeland is undoubtedly significant, but ultimately, it is too leisurely.

...

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Chapter 939: Nightmare Executioner

Just like Ji Hao, there are several other groups executing similar missions.

Among the various crises faced by the Alliance, the Dark Spirit Race is certainly not considered an important adversary. Although they frequently launch attacks on human planets and fleets, the scale is indeed small, and the losses are somewhat manageable—at least compared to other alien and chaos enemies.

They are like annoying mosquitoes, biting humans and sucking blood, causing large swellings, which are bothersome, but honestly not the most lethal threat, unlike the danger posed by wolves and tigers.

However, mosquitoes, when numerous, can also be quite irksome. Especially in the Alliance's central heartland.

Alliance forces have specifically conducted strikes against this aspect.

Numerous Dark Spirit Race strongholds have been identified and eliminated by the Alliance.

However, some have been left intact, according to Gu Hang, because they are still useful.

The result is that they are used in this location.

Before the battle began, the Alliance's forces had already taken control of those Veil Spirit Gates. Moreover, the combat forces deployed by the Alliance were vastly superior to those guarding the Veil Spirit Gates of the Dark Spirit Race.

Not only in quantity but also in quality.

Like the Dawn Messenger Battle Group led by Ji Hao, the entire team employs the 'Glory' seeds from the Saints Legion, and all members have undergone the training of Blessed Offspring, achieving considerable prowess.

Such a fully assembled battle group unleashes formidable power.

Before the defenders at those Veil Spirit Gates could react, they were all eliminated.

And this operation involved not only these elite units.

There was also the Central Front Army.

Currently, five front armies are engaging in expeditions for the Alliance.

In the Dark Side Expedition, there are four. The Northern Front Army mainly defends against the entire Scarlet Scar, preventing chaos troops emerging from the scar from threatening the Alliance's heartland. The Southern, Eastern, and Angel Front Armies, from three directions, have mostly reclaimed the entire Eastern Border of the Imperial, with the next step heading toward the Southern Border of the Imperial.

The Western Front Army, having conquered two Cosmos Domains located in the Dark Side of the Empire's Central Territory, is heading toward Holy Terra after crossing the Scarlet Scar via the Seven Star Corridor. Their actions have moved beyond the Dark Side of the Empire, becoming part of the Terra Expedition.

And the final front army is the Alliance's Central Front Army.

This unit appears not to be involved in external war operations, but its responsibilities are no less significant. Their main work is to guard the heartland of the Alliance, as well as numerous already occupied and developing areas.

Even though these regions are already Alliance territory and the reclamation work is complete with the main battles fought, in the dark cosmos, despite the light of the Thunder Torch Tower, chaos influence and alien corruption persist.

Before the great catastrophe, disasters never ceased across regions, let alone after it.

The Central Front Army is responsible for these operations.

The Alliance's occupation has never been just seizing territory and calling it done. Given their pursuit of lasting peace and stability, apart from political stability, economic development, and military defense of the planets themselves, a powerful military force is needed to suppress all threats.

In fact, the Central Front Army is arguably the most powerful among the five front armies!

However, it's not just that the Alliance keeps its strongest military force idle at home. As the territory acquired from the Dark Side Expedition grows larger, the sections the Central Front Army must guard naturally increase, adding pressure. Furthermore, the Alliance employs a rotation mechanism. Troops from various front line units, when fatigued, need to come back to rotate and recuperate.

Before returning to the front lines, they are naturally redeployed into the Central Front Army.

And those structured units from the Central Front Army also rotate to other front armies during this stage, as new force supplements.

Overall, the Central Front Army continually maintains the most powerful unit in terms of scale among the front armies.

Frankly, the Alliance indeed requires a sufficiently strong corps stationed centrally. If everything is sent to the Expeditionary Force, what happens if issues arise? A steadfast army capable of suppressing all problems is needed.

And when necessary, they can carry out large-scale military operations.

Such as now—fully attacking Comoros!

The seven Veil Spirit Gates are not large in scale. While they can accommodate ships like battleships, they can only permit one to enter at a time.

If relying solely on Veil Spirit Gates, the war couldn't be fought. The Dark Spirit Race on the other side could merely block the entrance, without needing to destroy or close the gates, simply destroy one entering Human Fleet, and it's over.

But fortunately, currently Queen Rose Port remains under human control to a large extent. This allows the Alliance Fleet to steadily amass forces, with the Dark Spirit Race capable of no more than interference.

Chapter 939: Nightmare Executioner (Part 2)

After all, they still haven't managed to solve the Expeditionary Fleet yet. That Queen of Glory from the Infinite Corps is here like a cornerstone!

Moreover, it hasn't ended yet.

When humanity mastered the Veil Spirit Gate and the port, did they satisfy themselves with just using these seven 'small pipes' for troop deployment?

That is certainly not the case.

Expanding the existing Veil Spirit Gates, and even constructing new, larger ones, is imperative.

The Dawn Messenger Battle Group led by Ji Hao bears this responsibility.

The fully staffed Dawn Messengers, over a thousand blessed children, were rapidly deployed to the ground battlefield under the cover of orbital fire, through hundreds of fighters and transport aircraft.

At this time, the forces of the Alliance entering Comoros have already connected with the command system led by Robert of the Expeditionary Force. Gu Hang actually doesn't mind letting Robert command the Alliance's troops, but their command systems are not compatible, and it's not advisable to hastily coordinate tactics without exercises, as that would likely cause issues.

The Alliance's army will still execute its own mission according to its original plan.

At most, they will communicate relevant information to the Terra Expeditionary Army during their actions.

The current Dawn Messengers are doing exactly this.

Robert is remarkable in that he can even manage cooperative combat commands under such circumstances.

The current target of the Dawn Messengers is to seize a warehouse identified in previous intelligence. The number of Dark Spirit Race troops stationed there is unknown, perhaps not many, but the most challenging point of the mission is that the enemy might destroy the warehouse if they can't hold it.

Inside that warehouse are materials needed for the construction of the Veil Spirit Gate, essential for the subsequent expansion of Veil Spirit Gates by human troops.

These things cannot be produced by humans themselves and must be seized from the hands of the 'Black Skins.'

Upon learning the mission of the Dawn Messengers, Robert promptly cooperated.

An armored division, pure and formed from a religious world, under the fervent shouts and calls of State Church Priests, launched a brave charge, opening a path for the Dawn Messengers in advance and attracting the enemy's attention.

When Ji Hao led the Dawn Messengers to approach the warehouse, orbital fire support from an Expeditionary Cruiser swiftly arrived.

The exploding orbital fire began well for the ground forces. The area around the warehouse coordinates faced a bombardment.

To avoid affecting the warehouse, the firepower standard used was not high, but the effect was still quite good.

A Star Warrior Trooper Squad from an Infinite Warriors Sub-group initiated the attack first. This was to conduct a round of fire reconnaissance inside the warehouse to assess the enemy's strength. Nearly a hundred Interstellar Warriors actually constitute a considerable force. If the enemies inside the warehouse are not strong, they might even capture the warehouse directly, saving the Dawn Messengers the trouble.

Even if they can't, at least they can further clear the enemies for the Dawn Messengers.

Overall, under Robert's command, a set of combined moves were executed, leaving the Dawn Messengers with almost nothing to worry about; they could simply proceed to the target location and take what they needed.

Ji Hao was quite moved by this.

Fighting under the command of the Son of God is indeed comfortable.

However, he was somewhat unaccustomed, or perhaps, not very fond of it.

The Dawn Messengers were established not long ago, and have always been within the Alliance's Central Front Army, having only engaged in small skirmishes and not yet had the chance to rotate to the frontlines of the other armies. As the Battle Group Leader, he had great confidence in his battle group's strength; most other groups were certainly not their match. It was because of this confidence in strength that he was eager to lead his battle group to achieve glorious war records, so that people would raise their thumbs whenever they mentioned the Dawn Messengers; he wanted to leave a brilliant history as the inaugural Battle Group Leader.

A critical battle, a key performance, is what he valued greatly.

As a result, the path paved by Robert was incredibly smooth, and Ji Hao was somewhat frustrated.

Of course, this did not prevent him from adjusting his mindset and diligently executing the mission.

However, the opportunity for performance quickly arrived.

That squad suffered unexpected losses and had to issue a request for assistance.

According to their report, there is a very strong elite force of Dark Spirit Race among the enemy with individual combat power even surpassing the Interstellar Warriors, preventing them from completing the task of clearing the surrounding enemies.

Ji Hao took this seriously.

While it's not good for friendly troops to be hit hard, he couldn't help but feel a bit excited.

However, his reason kept him from acting rashly. His main forces continued to advance as planned, while he dispatched the second company to support and help the friendly forces retreat.

...

Nightmare Executioners, Belson knew of such enemies.

As a seasoned captain of the Holy Infant Governor Battle Group, an Infinite Sub-group, he had encountered such enemies even before the outbreak of the catastrophe.

It was while defending trade routes from the Alliance to the Infinite Starfield, during defensive and counter-attacks against various raids by the Dark Spirit Race, that he met these opponents who left a deep impression on him.

These super warriors of the Spirit Race, clad in black heavy armor yet moving unpredictably like phantoms, were even more fierce than regular Interstellar Warriors. They were not equipped with long-range weapons, yet could somehow swiftly and irresistibly reach the Interstellar Warriors.

They even utilized a technique similar to short-range teleporting or blinking. Their pitch-black bodies could truly transform into shadow-like forms, disappearing on the spot and then reappearing at the target location.

Subsequently, their decapitation scimitars, which possessed very strong armor-piercing capabilities, posed a significant threat to the Interstellar Warriors in close combat.

Belson had many battle brothers who had fallen to the scimitars of the Nightmare Executioners in battles before the catastrophe.

But previously, the Nightmare Executioners were always few in number. He had never encountered a Nightmare Squad with more than ten members.

This time, however, the Nightmare Squad he foresaw numbered fifty!

A single teleporting assault cost Belson's company twenty Interstellar Warriors.

Their offensive ceased immediately, and they were forced to fight while retreating and promptly sent out a request for assistance to the Dawn Messengers.

The enemy's counterattack was aggressive. The warriors of the Holy Infant Governor were not unable to fight back; they just had to be wary of the Nightmare Executioners' raids. After the initial wave of attacks, the Nightmare Squad withdrew under the cover of other Dark Spirit Race troops. They clearly didn't want to engage directly with the Interstellar Warriors after being exposed but rather retreated to find another opportunity for assault.

Belson's men had to keep their formation especially tight, even though this made it nearly impossible to counterattack and made them very vulnerable to casualties under artillery fire. They had no choice. Otherwise, once the formation scattered and the Nightmare Executioners launched another teleporting assault, silently and stealthily reaching their rear, another swift deadly blow could easily claim dozens of battle brothers at once.

Fortunately, the Dawn Messengers arrived in time to support.

However, when Belson saw that only a hundred Dawn Messengers had arrived, his expression changed.

"Why is there only one company?" Belson’s voice held a hint of trepidation.

In his view, even another company wouldn’t make much difference; the Nightmares would quickly teleport in, decapitate, and then withdraw again. With a few more such cycles, the newly arrived Dawn Messengers would find themselves in the same predicament.

A substantial number of Interstellar Warriors would be necessary to charge and break through the enemy, causing the Nightmares to lose the cover of their kin troops, forcing them into open combat.

While the Dark Spirit Race’s Nightmares also had strong open combat abilities, they certainly couldn’t withstand the assault of several times, even dozens of times, the number of Interstellar Warriors.

Yet, what could one company achieve?

Chapter 940: Such a Huge Gap

Belson’s doubts were met with a response from the Dawn Messengers.

"Please trust us, we’re enough to handle this."

To Belson, the words of the Dawn Messengers seemed absurd.

What do you mean enough? How do you just believe that?

Have you encountered such enemies?

We have faced these enemies directly, suffered, and experienced their threat. We’ve told you they’re tricky and require strong support, and yet you dismiss it so easily?

This can’t be real!

He nearly lost his temper.

However, what happened next drastically changed his perspective.

The arriving Dawn Messengers quickly launched an attack on the enemy after just a brief notice.

Without any special preparations, they used conventional tactics, at most putting away long-range weapons and charging forward primarily with melee weapons, using methods suitable for close-quarters combat.

Against ordinary enemies, it wouldn’t be an issue.

The long-range fire from the Dark Spirit Race troops mostly missed, and even when it did hit, the protection of the power armor deflected it. Moreover, for the fire that did hit, most could be endured without much damage. The Dawn Messengers didn’t deliberately take hits but chose to dodge attacks that would be less damaging, avoiding potentially lethal blows.

Seeing this, Belson found nothing extraordinary.

Although the Dawn Messengers advanced quickly and dodged fire with precision, so what?

The real threat was the Nightmare Executioners they brought, and that threat hadn’t been resolved.

Belson was getting anxious, but what more could he do? Before the Dawn Messengers arrived, he had already informed them of the characteristics and threats posed by the Nightmare Executioners.

What could he do if the Dawn Messengers didn’t take it seriously?

He had no intention of watching the Dawn Messengers fail and then smugly pointing out, ’I told you so.’

Though angry, he fought for humanity and didn't want to see a neighboring battle group suffer heavy casualties, making the situation worse.

Frustrated and helpless, he ordered his troops to maintain a tight formation, defensively postured to prevent internal breaches, while supporting the Dawn Messengers with weapons like Blast Bomb Guns and Plasma Guns.

However, this significantly minimized the impact of the governor's dozens of warriors on the battlefield. Their long-range support helped, but not critically.

Ultimately, it depended on how well the Dawn Messengers fought themselves.

When the second wave of Dawn Messengers clashed with the enemy, blades bared and battle erupted, the last thing Belson wanted happened—the Nightmare Executioners hidden within the enemy ranks appeared silently, like smoke, behind the Dawn Messengers.

Their dark, artful curved blades from the Dark Spirit Race struck down suddenly.

Then came the shocking moment for Belson.

The expected scene of heads rolling, which had occurred among his soldiers, did not happen.

During the ambush, only two Dawn Messengers were unable to react in time or were attacked by exceptionally skilled foes, resulting in fatal injuries with their helmets and heads falling. The rest realized the ambush and many swiftly counterattacked!

This was completely different from the governor's experience!

Among Belson and his warriors, some did react and even counterattacked, killing the Nightmare Executioner that ambushed him. But if half of them managed to respond and survive, that was good enough; the other half, nearly twenty brothers-in-arms, were instantly killed.

The Dawn Messengers had a completely different ratio!

Was it because they were prepared by his warnings?

Yes, but not solely because of that.

Otherwise, Belson wouldn't fear the Nightmare Executioners so much.

Even with preparation, the Nightmare Executioners came too quickly and suddenly, and they themselves were formidable warriors, strong even against veteran Interstellar Warriors.

The Dawn Messengers lost only two!

Furthermore, in their counter and counter-kill, they directly killed over twenty Nightmare Executioners!

The survivors didn't dare to continue fighting the Dawn Messengers and hurriedly activated short-distance teleportation to flee.

The Dawn Messengers remained unflustered. They continued with their plan, slaughtering the other Dark Spirit Race troops.

If Nightmare Executioners weren't opponents for the Dawn Messengers, the ordinary Dark Spirit Race troops stood even less of a chance.

When the Dark Spirit Race numbers rapidly dwindled, the Nightmare Executioners could no longer hide among the crowd.

Their short-distance teleportation wasn't endlessly usable; if it were, their power would far exceed the present situation.

Short-distance teleportation could serve as a ghostly strike method but was difficult for long-distance escape.

In the end, fewer than ten Nightmare Executioners escaped by various means. The rest were all slaughtered.

After annihilating the fifty-strong Nightmare Executioner squad and wiping out the guarding forces drawn from the target warehouse fighting alongside them, the Dawn Messengers paid the price of only eleven lives.

The help from the governor warriors couldn't be entirely ignored. Their earlier intelligence and participation in the chase after the Nightmare Squad threat was neutralized did contribute somewhat.

But just somewhat.

Belson himself acknowledged that winning relied entirely on the Dawn Messengers' exceptional prowess.

Now, he could see clearly. The Dawn Messengers' high survival and counter-kill rates during the Nightmare Executioner ambush weren't due to any special method. Or, if they had one, it was because their individual power was incredibly strong!

If merely the Nightmare Executioner ambush wasn't enough to see it clearly, or if one could deceive themselves into thinking a special method was involved, then the subsequent waves of confrontation and seeing the Dawn Messengers slicing down Dark Spirit Race in melee proved it was truly a matter of strength.

All being Interstellar Warriors, why was the gap so wide?

Belson fell into deep doubt.

Especially during post-battle discussions when he learned the Dawn Messenger Battle Group had been established less than twenty years and the Comoros campaign was their first significant war, his self-doubt deepened.

We’ve fought for so many years... How are we still not as good as a newly formed battle group?