

## **Ice Age 1051**

### Chapter 1051: The Lord of the Ocean Makes His Move

General Huo En trembled with rage. No matter the outcome this time, he would definitely be dismissed from his position upon returning.

A mere Chaos had played them all for fools!

"Cadillus, attack! Go kill that bastard Chaos!"

General Huo En gave Cadillus the order to strike!

Sensing the powerful aura that had suddenly appeared in Mist Valley and hearing General Huo En's command, Cadillus finally chose to make his move.

The truth was now clear - they had all become pawns in Zhang Yi's chess game, ruthlessly manipulated by him.

How could someone as proud as Cadillus tolerate being treated this way by Zhang Yi?

He leaped up from the main cannon of his flagship and shot straight toward Star Island like a cannonball.

The tremendous force of his jump caused his flagship to sink several meters, sending water splashing in all directions.

Meanwhile, at the joint command center of the two major regions, they still didn't know what was happening over there.

But the successive appearances of Epsilon-level powers, especially that last, even more formidable presence, had everyone feeling extremely nervous.

"What exactly is happening over there?"

Li Tianyang swallowed hard. He had originally been quite confident about obtaining the Divine Source.

But now it seemed that even if Qinglong broke through his limits, he couldn't guarantee securing the Divine Source.

And right at that moment, they discovered that Cadillus was disregarding their agreement and charging straight toward Star Island!

"Why is Cadillus attacking? Has he gone mad?"

Li Tianyang glared fiercely at the Colombian Navy command center on the radar display.

He was considering whether to have Xuanwu annihilate that fleet outright.

But just then, Xuanwu suddenly removed his headset, his spirit form instantly teleporting to the command platform.

"Something major seems to be happening in Mist Valley!" he said with a grave expression.

At that moment, intelligence personnel reported to Li Tianyang that General Huo En, the commander of the joint forces command center, was requesting communication!

"Put him through. I want to see exactly what they're trying to pull!"

Li Tianyang said with a dark expression.

After Cadillus made his move, the Colombian Navy stood no chance against Xuanwu's assault.

Whether they lived or died rested entirely on Xuanwu's whim.

Li Tianyang now strongly suspected that everything happening on the island was part of the Colombian Navy's scheme.

The video call connected quickly, and General Huo En's face appeared in the projected display.

"Huo En, what exactly are you trying to pull? Breaking our agreement without authorization - do you really not fear death?"

Li Tianyang slammed the table and roared furiously from the very start.

Huo En's expression was equally dark. "You shouldn't be asking me that question, but your so-called allies!"

"Don't you realize you've been played for fools?"

He relayed all the intelligence reported by Canero directly to Li Tianyang and the others.

After hearing General Huo En's account, the command center meeting room fell completely silent.

Everyone was stunned by this story, feeling as if they were listening to some fantastical tale.

This operation was unprecedented in scale - never since the apocalypse had there been such a massive multinational superhuman battle!

They had fought for half a month, with countless casualties.

And now they were suddenly being told that they had all been played.

The Divine Source had been taken by Chaos half a month ago.

And he had been there all along, watching the show like someone amusing himself with performing monkeys.

Who could accept this outcome?

General Huo En's voice continued.

"Let me tell you one more thing. The reason we came to Star Island in the first place was because we received some intelligence."

"Intelligence that came from Huaxu Kingdom."

Li Tianyang's eyes nearly burst with rage. Fury and shock made his entire body tremble violently.

The situation was now crystal clear.

This was all part of Zhang Yi's scheme!

He had played everyone for fools!

"Chaos!! Damn you, damn you Chaos, aaaaaah!!!"

Li Tianyang smashed the table in fury.

He couldn't accept that the Divine Source had fallen into Zhang Yi's hands. The humiliation of being played made him feel like a complete joke.

Moreover, he had treated Zhang Yi so poorly before.

Now that Zhang Yi had become an Epsilon-level superhuman, Li Tianyang would definitely face retaliation.

He turned around fiercely, glaring deathly at the Jiangnan Region representative Situ Xin.

Situ Xin was equally bewildered. After hearing the story, he too felt like he was listening to some unbelievable tale.

"Damn it, your Jiangnan Region planned this well!"

Li Tianyang's right fist smashed hard into Situ Xin's face. As a reinforcement-type superhuman, his punch sent Situ Xin flying several meters.

Situ Xin wasn't a superhuman, and this punch knocked him unconscious.

But before he passed out, his mind remained completely confused.

How had all this become Zhang Yi's design?

How... how had he suddenly become an Epsilon-level superhuman?

General Huo En said to Li Tianyang, "Xuanwu isn't suited for land combat. I'll have Cadillus deal with him. Minister Li, this time you're also victims, brutally betrayed by your allies. So I hope Xuanwu won't interfere!" RÁÑoBE\$

The reason General Huo En dared to send Cadillus to kill Zhang Yi was precisely because both his and the East Sea Region's positions had changed.

Zhang Yi had now thoroughly offended the East Sea Region as well.

Baihu of the Four Spirits had fallen in battle, Qinglong had been forced to pay an irreparable price to advance his realm, and fleet commanders Bai Ze and Xie Zhi had both been killed.

All of this was because of Zhang Yi!

In the command center, all eyes fell upon Li Tianyang.

The current situation was extremely delicate.

They were all somewhat confused about who were allies and who were enemies now.

From a national perspective, Zhang Yi was Huaxu Kingdom's Epsilon-level superhuman.

From a patriotic standpoint, Huaxu Kingdom gaining another Epsilon-level superhuman was tremendously beneficial.

But from the East Sea Region's interests, they had clearly been severely screwed over by Zhang Yi.

So, what should they do?

Should they really cooperate with the Colombian Navy and stand by watching as Cadillus attacked Zhang Yi without intervening?

General Huo En stared intently at Li Tianyang - he was gambling too.

But after a moment, seeing the look in Li Tianyang's eyes, General Huo En knew his gamble had paid off.

Li Tianyang said coldly, "This time, we won't intervene!"

In his view, Zhang Yi and the Jiangnan Region had wronged them first.

If Cadillus and Zhang Yi could fight to the death, Cadillus's strength should be sufficient to kill Zhang Yi.

And if Zhang Yi could seriously injure Cadillus, resulting in mutual destruction, that would be the most favorable outcome for the East Sea Region.

In any case, he would never help Zhang Yi!

Chapter 1052: This is the gap between me and you.

Li Tianyang made his decision to let Cadillus pursue and kill Zhang Yi. He absolutely would not allow Xuanwu to help Zhang Yi!

Xuanwu furrowed his brows, internally weighing the pros and cons of this matter.

Zhang Yi's actions truly made him feel disgusted!

But considering that the East Sea Region had screwed Zhang Yi over first, it wasn't entirely unreasonable to understand his behavior.

This was Xuanwu's mindset.

Not because he was particularly fair or just.

Simply because Zhang Yi had now reached the Epsilon-level superhuman realm and could speak with Xuanwu as an equal.

As for his fallen East Sea Region colleagues like Baihu, Bai Ze, and Xie Zhi, in Xuanwu's eyes, these people weren't even worth a second glance.

As long as he, Xuanwu, remained alive, what did it matter if all those fleet commanders died? He was the absolute core combat strength of the East Sea Region.

...

On Star Island.

Zhang Yi wasn't in any hurry to pursue the fleeing Canero and Hammond.

Because there were still several Epsilon-level individuals in front of him that needed dealing with.

Soul Reaper and Oni God Child were already battered and bruised from fighting each other, and now Zhang Yi had severely wounded them further.

They stared furiously yet warily at Zhang Yi from a distance, but neither dared to make the first move.

Moreover, there was still someone with unclear allegiances present!

Zhang Yi looked toward Qinglong not far away.

Then he said with a smile, "What about you? Do you want to fight me too?"

Qinglong flapped his wing-like arms, remaining silent for a moment before speaking leisurely:

"I finally understand now why our meticulously planned operation, prepared over such a long time..."

"Was still discovered by the Colombian Navy in the end."

"Chaos, from the very beginning, it was you who leaked the information about the Divine Source on Star Island to them, wasn't it?"

The smile on Zhang Yi's face widened.

Not speaking was equivalent to admission - he couldn't be bothered to deny anything at this point.

Qinglong's tone turned angry.

"You made everyone from both our regions pave the way for you! You got many people killed!"

Zhang Yi waved his hand impatiently at him. "Stop, stop, stop, don't lecture me here. What does their deaths have to do with me? What, are we close friends or something?"

"During the island assault, weren't you planning to use Jiangnan Region superhumans as cannon fodder, as stepping stones for yourselves? Now that you've lost, you're giving me moral lectures? How disgusting!"

"When you dragged me away in handcuffs and injected me with Compound 3 for interrogation, I didn't see you being so righteous then?"

"Simply put, whoever has the strength gets to play!"

Qinglong wanted to say more, but Zhang Yi's Void Blade was already pointing at his head.

"What, not convinced? Do you want to fight me too?"

Qinglong fell silent.

Fight?

Go fight a genuine Epsilon-level superhuman?

Damn it, he was literally burning his lifespan right now - what could he possibly fight with?

"Ahem, the past is the past, the present is the present. Actually, I've always been on your side, Chaos. You know I'm not a bad person."

"That's good then."

Zhang Yi said indifferently, looking completely unconcerned.

If you're weak, practice more - don't be a sore loser.

The truth of everything was actually very simple.

Ever since Zhang Yi had been forcibly taken by the East Sea Region and interrogated, his mindset had changed.

He understood the most fundamental truth - in the apocalypse, simply being passive wasn't enough to survive well.

You needed strength to determine how you could live.

So, he accepted Yang Xinxin's proposal.

That he would retrieve the Divine Source himself and advance to Epsilon-level!

Back then, he had been injected with Compound 3, and everyone believed he could only obediently stay in the shelter during that period.

Even Zhu Zheng had lowered his guard against Zhang Yi.

But they didn't know that Zhou Ke'er's ability could purify negative status effects in his body.

Including clearing the Compound 3 from his bloodstream.

What followed was relatively straightforward.

As a spatial-type superhuman, he could accomplish things many couldn't, and go places others wouldn't dare imagine.

So, Zhang Yi brought Hua Hua and Lele, using their animal instincts to find the Divine Source during that one-week blank period.

As for why he pretended nothing had happened and continued cooperating with both regions' plans?

Heh, the reason was equally simple.

He wanted exactly this kind of opportunity to weaken the three most powerful forces around Tianhai City.

Moreover, even after advancing, he still needed many high-quality origins.

And...

Thinking this, Zhang Yi looked into the distance and called out, "Hua Hua!"

Zhang Yi's shadow suddenly elongated, becoming enormous, as a massive monster leaped out from the darkness.

A world-shaking roar erupted from Mist Valley!

A giant monster dozens of meters long soared into the air.

Its body was covered in black patterns, with two wings growing from its back, and a white "king" character on its forehead.

Its ferocious fangs emitted an awe-inspiring cold gleam.

"ROAR!!!"

Hua Hua flapped its wings, circling around Zhang Yi. The power radiating from it made Qinglong's expression change dramatically.

"9800... or 9900?"

Hua Hua hovered respectfully beside Zhang Yi like a guardian, yet its gaze surveyed everything around them with authority.

Zhang Yi reached out and stroked Hua Hua's head, saying gently:

"The Divine Source was a key - for me, it only served to advance me to Epsilon-level earlier, so I didn't use much of it."

"Most of it, I gave to it to use."

Qinglong's mouth hung open, his entire body going numb.

He said tremblingly, "You mean to say... your cat will also become Epsilon-level in the future?"

"Exactly so."

Zhang Yi answered cleanly and decisively.

He had hunted so many high-level superhumans on the island, but in reality, he had only absorbed a small portion himself.

Most of it had been used to cultivate Hua Hua.

He had hesitated between Liang Yue and Hua Hua before, wondering who to give it to.

But ultimately, he chose Hua Hua.

The longer you spend with humans, the more you prefer animals.

He trusted Liang Yue relatively well, but if he had to choose someone to use the Divine Source, Hua Hua was still the better option.

Qinglong looked at Hua Hua, his eyes actually containing a hint of jealousy.

He never imagined that after all his years of hard work, he would end up inferior to a cat.

Zhang Yi sensed Cadillus's aura in the distance.

But that guy would still need some time to reach here.

This amount of time was more than enough for Zhang Yi.

"Although they're damaged origins, they still barely qualify as Epsilon-level."

"I'm someone who treasures food the most - I never waste a single grain of rice."

Zhang Yi looked toward Oni God Child and Soul Reaper, who were staring at him with grief and indignation in the distance, and raised his Void Blade.

"Die."

Chapter 1053: This is Absolute Defense

Soul Reaper's eyes were completely engulfed by red light, overwhelming his last shred of reason.

With less than 24 hours left to live and his final hope already snatched away by Zhang Yi, all that remained was to fight!

Soul Reaper roared as he charged wildly toward Zhang Yi, the ground shattering under the force of his power.

Zhang Yi's Void Blade traced patterns through the air, and one by one, Dimensional Gates slowly closed in around Soul Reaper's body.

"Void Coffin!"

A rectangular coffin completely enveloped Soul Reaper, trapping him within Zhang Yi's Alternate Dimensional Space.

Inside the dimensional space, Soul Reaper rampaged left and right, unleashing every ounce of his power without restraint.

For a monster that had lost all reason, the sluggish sensation of slowed time passage seemed nonexistent.

All that remained within him now was the desire to kill, the impulse to destroy everything.

And his most primal mission—to kill Chaos!

With Soul Reaper contained, Zhang Yi turned his attention to hunting down Oni God Child!

Karasenshu emitted an eerie scream from her mouth as Oni God Child's two hundred-meter-long greatswords slashed through the air, releasing wave after wave of black evil energy, the taste of resentment so foul it made one nauseous.

Zhang Yi simply extended his Void Blade.

A black sphere rapidly condensed and took shape at the blade's tip.

"The speed of Condensing the Void has become so much faster than before."

"Let's see how you like this move!"

What once required extensive charging time could now be executed in an instant.

The black energy sphere compressed to a single point, then unleashed indiscriminate attacks across a wide fan-shaped area ahead!

Oni God Child's power was instantly overwhelmed, and even its main body was enveloped by this attack.

The samurai armor formed from the resentment of tens of thousands of pregnant women and infant spirits shattered like paper, rapidly disintegrating.

Soon, the flesh and skeleton beneath were exposed.

Under the impact of the void power, they disintegrated into dust like dandelions scattering in the wind.

As for Karasenshu inside Oni God Child, she didn't even have time to make a sound before being decomposed into particles mid-air.

This false Epsilon-level power obtained through curse techniques of resentful spirits lacked a true high-level origin, so destroying it was no loss at all.

Zhang Yi glanced at Soul Reaper, who had completely lost his mind and was wildly destroying everything within the dimensional space, and curled his lips slightly.

"You still have some use left, at least."

The remaining Epsilon-level origin could still be absorbed.

Soul Reaper couldn't break through Zhang Yi's Alternate Dimensional Space. No matter how tenacious his life force, he would die within a few hours.

By then, Zhang Yi would harvest a complete origin power.

Just at that moment, Cadillus finally arrived.

Zhang Yi said to Qinglong, "You should leave. The coming battle is beyond your level."

Qinglong looked meaningfully at Zhang Yi, but suddenly coughed up a mouthful of blood.

"I'd like to leave, but... I'm afraid I'd die even faster."

His Dragon God form vanished, reverting to his human shape.

His face was deathly pale, like a corpse.

Maintaining that state by force had drained him tremendously, and the slightest misstep could have killed him on the spot.

After battling both Soul Reaper and Oni God Child, he had long exhausted all his energy.

"It seems I can only wait for death now."

He laughed bitterly.

Zhang Yi glanced at him, then said to Hua Hua, "Hua Hua, take this guy and leave."

Hua Hua looked at Zhang Yi, then at Cadillus flying through the air by manipulating water.

"Master, can you handle this guy?"

"I can't lose."

Zhang Yi responded with simple calm.

He knew this battle was inevitable. After the truth was exposed, not only would the Colombian Navy be furious, but even the East Sea Region would be thunderously enraged!

No one could accept being so thoroughly deceived!

But did Zhang Yi care?

He didn't care.

One must have strength to qualify for facing any challenge.

Now he was strong enough—his rules were the rules.

"Chaos. I didn't expect we'd meet again so soon."

Cadillus stood on a patch of water, using it to float in the air.

Looking at Chaos whom he hadn't seen for days, Cadillus didn't display any particular rage.

He even wore a smile, though it was chillingly cold, like a hyena eyeing its dinner.

"You, you're really a cunning fellow. I never expected you could fool so many people!"

"However," he spread his hands, "do you think you can escape now? In the face of absolute power, your clumsy schemes can only amuse people, but they won't change the outcome."

Suddenly, Cadillus's face twisted into a vicious expression.

"Yet, you took what should have been mine! That makes me very unhappy!"

Zhang Yi looked calmly at Cadillus and said simply, "I want to see how much power the Lord of the Ocean retains when separated from the sea."

Zhang Yi wouldn't fight unprepared battles.

For today's confrontation, he had made preparations. Even if Xuanwu joined Cadillus in attacking him, he had already considered that possibility.

He didn't expect the East Sea Region to help him after learning the truth.

Still, seeing that Xuanwu showed no intention of intervening, a faint smile touched Zhang Yi's lips.

Cadillus's smile grew even more sinister.

"Hahahaha! I'm being looked down upon, am I?"

Around him, a massive water element began to coalesce—a very special type of water.

Zhang Yi had witnessed the power of this substance before, when it easily pierced through his Alternate Dimensional Space.

This was Cadillus's ability—primal water!

A huge mass of primal water gathered behind Cadillus, like a giant gelatinous substance.

"Today I'll make you understand that even within the Epsilon realm, there exists an insurmountable chasm of difference!"

"Even away from the sea, I can still annihilate you instantly!"

After speaking, he snapped his fingers crisply.

The primal water exploded, shooting out countless water arrows that instantly crossed the thousands of meters between them.

A rain curtain—a massive rain curtain!

It covered the entire sky before Zhang Yi like a celestial dome.

"Manifold Phenomena!"

With a wave of his hand, Zhang Yi summoned Dimensional Gates that rapidly appeared one after another, forming a barrier before him.

Silently, the water arrows disappeared into his Dimensional Gates, unusually creating ripples like raindrops falling on a lake surface.

The torrential assault continued for dozens of seconds before being completely absorbed by Zhang Yi's Alternate Dimensional Space.

Zhang Yi remained unharmed, standing exactly where he was.

However, the smile vanished from Cadillus's face.

"No, nonono!"

"That's absolutely impossible!"

Zhang Yi said calmly, "Nothing is impossible."

"I know that without a fight, neither you nor the East Sea Region would accept me taking the Divine Source."

"So don't say I didn't give you a chance. Come! After this battle, you should all give up!"

Cadillus's gaze turned fierce. He crossed his hands, gathering more primal water in his palms, then launched another attack against Zhang Yi.

He refused to believe his attacks would have no effect on Zhang Yi!

An 18,000-point Epsilon was still an 18,000-point Epsilon! Even away from his main battlefield at sea, he should still be able to kill a superhuman who had just entered the Epsilon realm!

This time, Zhang Yi chose not to take the attack head-on.

Cadillus's attacks weren't completely without pressure for him to handle.

That super-elemental assault placed a significant burden on his Alternate Dimensional Space if absorbed repeatedly.

However, if he didn't want to receive the attacks, he could simply avoid them.

Chapter 1054: The Traces of All Things

Zhang Yi's vision of the world gradually became clear.

Layer upon layer of influences overlapped and intertwined, finally appearing like a movie being projected.

When he focused his attention on a particular object, he could see its movement trajectory within the next two seconds.

After advancing to Epsilon level, his ability [Echo of Time] had also achieved a qualitative breakthrough.

From merely passively predicting the arrival of danger, he could now actively foresee the future within a two-second timeframe.

This ability was called [All Things Follow Traces].

When one could grasp the movement patterns of all things in the world, not only could they avoid all dangers, but they could also strike preemptively against enemies.

Cadillus's attack came once again, but while he was still gathering his power, Zhang Yi had already struck first!

One hundred Dimensional Gates unfolded around Cadillus, then erupted with incredibly violent Void Power, like hundreds of black tentacles extending toward Cadillus!

Cadillus's gaze sharpened as he quickly expanded the primal water in his hand, forming a spherical water curtain around himself.

This thin layer of water curtain didn't appear sturdy, but the moment those black tentacles touched it, they extinguished like fireworks falling into water!

Cadillus raised his right fist and flew directly toward Zhang Yi, just like a superhero in cartoons!

The primal water enveloped his entire body, and he didn't even fear Zhang Yi's Alternate Dimensional Space.

"This super-material element would cause significant damage to my Dimensional Space. If I suck him into the Dimensional Space, there's a high risk of dimensional collapse."

Zhang Yi calmly analyzed the battle situation.

"Whoosh!"

His figure flashed, and he was already several thousand meters away.

Cadillus flashed past the spot where he had just been.

In the area he passed through, any material touched by the primal water was directly and silently dissolved.

Zhang Yi unhurriedly took out Baldier's longbow, slowly charging it while using his future-prediction ability to dodge Cadillus's attacks.

When the charging was complete, based on his prediction of Cadillus's movement trajectory, he fired an arrow!

"Shhh—"

The black Void Arrow swept across an area of Star Island, instantly obliterating half of a small city.

However, Cadillus dodged this attack, looking at the ruins behind him with a trace of apprehension in his eyes.

Zhang Yi gained some insight.

"Although I can foresee the future within two seconds, the future can be changed. So if I strike too early, I might alter the fate of him being hit."

It was like how a person could see the future of a leaf falling from a branch and eventually landing on the ground.

But if one reached out to catch the falling leaf, they might create wind, causing the leaf to deviate from its original trajectory.

"The All Things Follow Traces ability is simplest for predicting an opponent's moves. If used for attack, I need to time it perfectly so the opponent doesn't have time to dodge for it to be effective."

Cadillus was a genuine veteran Epsilon-level powerhouse among the opponents Zhang Yi had fought.

Both his strength and combat experience were impeccable.

Battling him could provide Zhang Yi with substantial combat experience.

Zhang Yi continued learning while fighting Cadillus.

It wasn't because he was arrogant enough to learn how to fight at such a time.

But rather because, in his battle with Cadillus, taking the initiative to attack didn't hold much significance.

Even though he had now stepped into Epsilon level, his offensive capabilities still weren't sufficient to threaten Cadillus.

What he relied on was purely his undefeatable defensive power.

According to Zhang Yi's own calculations, his current superhuman ability index was around 13,000 points.

Winning against Cadillus on land would be difficult.

But not losing was relatively easy.

As the saying went, for Zhang Yi, not losing meant winning. He had already achieved his objectives in his Star Island journey and obtained everything he wanted.

So there was no need to fight Cadillus to the death.

He just wanted to make Cadillus and Xuanwu understand that from now on, they could no longer threaten Zhang Yi's life.

That was enough.

Cadillus launched frenzied attacks against Zhang Yi, while Zhang Yi only defended without counterattacking, handling everything with elegance and composure.

This made Cadillus extremely furious.

Outside Star Island, the ocean roared, with waves surging dozens of meters high, yet they futilely washed against Star Island's coastal areas, unable to reach the Mist Valley battlefield for Cadillus to utilize.

Once the Lord of the Ocean left the sea, his abilities were significantly diminished.

"So, away from the ocean, it seems you can't do much to me!"

Zhang Yi said calmly to Cadillus.

Cadillus's gaze was terrifyingly dark. He suddenly clenched both fists and slammed one hard into the ground below!

Like a heavy hammer breaking through a wall, the tremendous force directly shattered the earth, sending countless rocks and soil flying. Even the permanently frozen permafrost ground couldn't withstand such a blow!

The powerful force penetrated several thousand meters of soil, and what Zhang Yi saw next made his pupils slightly dilate in surprise.

Because he saw a surge of hot steam shooting skyward—this was clearly underground water being drawn up after the surface was broken through!

They surged upward under Cadillus's propulsion.

But soon Zhang Yi smiled. The ordinary underground water emitted white mist, but shortly after reaching the surface, it rapidly froze into ice.

Underground water wasn't seawater; it wasn't as resistant to freezing.

Cadillus forcibly pulled out a several-hundred-meter-long ice spike from underground and threw it at Zhang Yi as if venting his anger!

The light in Zhang Yi's right eye rapidly distorted, focusing on the giant ice spike flying toward him.

"Divine Destruction!"

The space before him twisted in sections, and everything existing within that space shattered accordingly. The massive ice spike instantly turned into countless crystalline ice fragments, beautiful like falling snow.

Cadillus's offensive showed no signs of stopping. He roared, continuously attacking Zhang Yi using the power of primal water.

Zhang Yi remained unhurried, using his [All Things Follow Traces] ability to predict Cadillus's attack trajectories and then dodging them.

This battle lasted a long time, moving from Mist Valley throughout the entire Star Island.

City after city was left riddled with holes by Cadillus's powerful attacks.

But from beginning to end, Cadillus couldn't break through Zhang Yi's [Manifold Phenomena] to harm his true body.

"Damn turtle! What's the point of fighting like this? If you have what it takes, come fight me properly in a real battle!!"

Cadillus pointed at Zhang Yi, shouting angrily.

This battle frustrated him immensely. In terms of combat power, he was definitely stronger than Zhang Yi.

But Zhang Yi just kept hiding and refused to fight him properly, leaving his abilities with no place to be used.

How could he not feel frustrated?

But Zhang Yi remained unmoved, saying unhurriedly, "Me not fighting back doesn't mean I've lost."

Chapter 1055: Talent Gap

Zhang Yi had attempted to attack Cadillus.

His Void Power was growing increasingly potent, but Cadillus's superhuman ability index far surpassed his own.

The primal water could effortlessly block his Void Power.

However, by the same token, Manifold Phenomena could absorb nearly all of Cadillus's attacks.

Even if absorption wasn't possible, he could use the All Things Follow Traces ability to evade in advance.

This was precisely why the noble dual-attribute superhuman of space and time was so utterly unmanageable.

Moreover, the more completely his abilities were unleashed, the more immense the advantages he displayed became.

The gap in natural talent was simply massive.

"Cadillus, stand down! You can't kill me. Continuing this fight won't gain you any advantage."

"Don't forget, there's another genuine Epsilon-level threat here who can truly endanger your life!"

Zhang Yi's reminder involuntarily drew Cadillus's gaze toward the coastline.

Out at sea, the East Sea Region forces were holding their positions, awaiting the outcome of this battle.

If he could swiftly eliminate Zhang Yi, that would be one thing—the East Sea Region could vent their frustration at being deceived.

But currently, he couldn't conceive of any method to kill Zhang Yi in the short term.

Prolonging this engagement would only deplete his own origin energy.

He wasn't a perpetual motion machine capable of fighting indefinitely.

If Xuanwu seized the opportunity to strike then, joining forces with Zhang Yi to attack him, he might genuinely be in danger.

Zhang Yi extended his right hand, speaking calmly, "You've made your efforts. Since you can't kill me, there's no need to pretend you're enraged."

"Me obtaining the Divine Source isn't a bad outcome for you. At the very least, my existence makes your position within the Colombian Ocean Fleet even more crucial."

"But, if you still wish to continue fighting me..."

Zhang Yi's gaze held a hint of amusement, "I've already made arrangements with Xuanwu. I'll exhaust your energy first, then he'll join me to finish you off!"

These words made Cadillus's expression grow even darker.

He knew Zhang Yi was deliberately trying to intimidate him.

But he had to remain cautious—if the situation truly deteriorated to that point, he could sustain serious injuries, or even perish here.

"Know when to quit while you're ahead!"

Zhang Yi stated indifferently.

For this battle, Zhang Yi had also made thorough preparations.

As long as they weren't in Cadillus's primary combat environment, he could only exert sixty to seventy percent of his strength at most, posing little real threat to the current Zhang Yi.

Cadillus's face shifted through conflicting emotions—no one could discern his true thoughts from his expression.

However, he disliked being told what to do.

"Chaos, you truly are despicable! Do you think hiding inside your spatial turtle shell means I can't touch you?"

He spread his arms wide, suddenly snarling viciously, "I may not be able to kill you, but I can go after the people around you! You must have someone you care about deeply, right?"

"They can't hide inside this thick turtle shell like you do, all the time."

"Even if I can't kill you now, you also lack the capability to stop me from killing anyone I choose!"

Zhang Yi's heartbeat quickened momentarily.

His first thought went to his companions back at the Tianhai City shelter.

Having companions meant having vulnerabilities.

If Cadillus decided to target them, the shelter's defenses wouldn't hold out for long.

However, Zhang Yi quickly regained his outward composure.

"Fine, fine. I imagine not just me, but the East Sea Region would also be quite pleased to see you leave your main base."

"When that happens, I'll charge straight into your fleet's main formation!"

"You understand my capabilities perfectly—those low-tier thermal weapons pose zero threat to me, while I can effortlessly eliminate every single commander and officer in your fleet!"

Zhang Yi's expression suddenly turned fierce, "At worst, we all lose everything and die together! Let's see who's truly afraid of escalating this!"

The smile slowly froze on Cadillus's face.

A noble space-time dual-attribute superhuman couldn't be measured by ordinary logic.

If it were Xuanwu, that massive physical form could still be deterred by the Death Reaper of Love.

But how could anyone possibly lock onto Zhang Yi with the Death Reaper of Love?

By the time they could confirm his location, he'd likely already be charging through the naval formation, slaughtering indiscriminately!

Cadillus couldn't accept that reality.

He still needed those people to provide everything he desired.

Without the navy, he'd just be a lonely powerhouse—a existence he refused to accept.

Cadillus thrust his right index finger sharply toward Zhang Yi, "You..."

He wanted to threaten him with harsh words, but realized he currently had no means to deal with Zhang Yi.

And in a true base-exchange scenario, he equally couldn't threaten Zhang Yi.

He came to a realization—in a certain sense, Zhang Yi was just like him, primarily caring about himself above all others.

Perhaps the deaths of everyone in Tianhai City would sadden Zhang Yi.

But it wouldn't completely break him—it would only provoke his most ferocious retaliation.

Cadillus stared intently at Zhang Yi, his facial expressions shifting between light and shadow.

Suddenly, he reached a decision and launched his most violent assault yet against Zhang Yi!

Zhang Yi's eyes lit up with understanding as he sensed the ferocious momentum of Cadillus's attack, swiftly dodging aside.

Then he drew Holy Judgment, coating the blade with Void Power before slashing outward. Hundreds of massive Void Slashes emerged from numerous dimensional gates, beginning indiscriminate assaults on the area where Cadillus stood!

The battle on Star Island grew increasingly intense.

Even the command centers of both forces far out at sea could clearly observe it.

General Huo En felt inner tremors.

"Chaos can actually withstand Cadillus? Even away from the ocean, Cadillus remains formidably powerful. How is he accomplishing this?"

What shocked him most was how Zhang Yi, in less than a month, had advanced from a superhuman with a 9800 ability index to his current terrifying level!

His adjutant Keludi pondered for a moment before speaking slowly to General Huo En:

"Perhaps... this simply comes down to the gap in natural talent!"

General Huo En looked up sharply—Keludi's words had enlightened him.

Zhang Yi nominally belonged to the Jiangnan Region but wasn't truly subordinate to any individual or faction.

He belonged to the free faction, having attained his current strength entirely through his own luck and caution.

Without the Jiangnan Region's support, he still managed to advance to Epsilon-level at lightning speed.

This could only mean his innate talent far surpassed that of other superhumans!

A person can reach certain heights through diligent effort.

But to achieve the highest realms in any field, the higher you climb, the more it depends on natural talent.

Take Zhang Yi, for example.

After advancing to Epsilon-level, the advantages of his abilities were fully unleashed, allowing him to hold his own even against an established powerhouse like Cadillus.

General Huo En took a deep breath.

"What incredible talent the Jiangnan Region has squandered!"

Chapter 1056: Abyssal Creatures

On Li Tianyang's side.

Seeing Zhang Yi and Cadillus locked in a prolonged stalemate, his heart began to grow anxious.

By now, Situ Xin, the person in charge of the Jiangnan Region, had already been taken to a hospital room and placed under strict surveillance.

The soldiers from the Jiangnan Region had also been temporarily "invited" to isolation rooms for detention.

What Li Tianyang truly desired was for Zhang Yi and Cadillus to mutually exhaust each other, then for Xuanwu to step in and clean up the battlefield!

This was his only chance to turn the tables.

Otherwise, he would have no way to explain himself to Li Guangxiao upon returning.

And just at that moment, Xuanwu, who had been intently watching the spectacle, suddenly had his eyes light up.

He opened the communication channel and saw Zhang Yi's incoming communication request.

Xuanwu thoughtfully glanced at Li Tianyang, then opened the communication channel.

Zhang Yi's voice came through the communication channel.

"Xuanwu, I can't hold on much longer! If you don't intervene soon, I'm going to be killed by Cadillus."

"But he said if I'm willing to surrender, he'll let bygones be bygones."

"If you don't help me, I might just go with him!"

Xuanwu's expression immediately darkened.

That guy Zhang Yi had no bottom line.

If the East Sea Region truly abandoned him in his time of need, at the brink of life and death, he really might surrender to the Colombian Navy.

Xuanwu quickly said, "Chaos, don't panic, wait for me!"

Having watched the show for so long, it was time to make his move.

On the sea surface, Xuanwu's true body's eyes suddenly erupted with blue light.

It turned its body and opened its massive mouth toward Cadillus's position on Star Island.

A huge atomic energy sphere rapidly condensed in its mouth, then erupted with terrifying power, transforming into a sword-like atomic breath that shot straight toward Cadillus! RĀNÓ฿ËS

Cadillus was in the midst of fierce battle with Zhang Yi when he suddenly sensed a power from behind that made his heart tremble.

Turning his head, he saw that Xuanwu had made his move!

Cadillus gritted his teeth, blocking with his left arm as massive amounts of super primal water condensed into an enormous shield in front of him!

The atomic breath had already pierced through the air, crashing into Cadillus's super primal water shield.

Seizing the opportunity, Zhang Yi fully unleashed his Manifold Phenomena, transforming it into thousands of dimensional gates all aimed at Cadillus.

Countless strands of Void Power extended like tentacles from the gates, blotting out the sky as they stabbed toward Cadillus's body!

Moments later, Star Island erupted with astonishing energy fluctuations, causing severe electromagnetic interference for both armies.

The soaring heat waves transformed into a massive mushroom cloud, sweeping away the toxic miasma and even snow and ice for hundreds of miles around, leveling vast urban areas!

This was the first time three Epsilon-level powerhouses had fought together since the apocalypse, and the destructive power they unleashed even approached that of the Death Reaper of Love!

Everyone who witnessed this scene was struck dumb with amazement, too terrified to speak.

After a long while, Li Tianyang was the first to react, angrily questioning Xuanwu:

"Xuanwu, why did you intervene so suddenly! Why not wait until Cadillus finished off Chaos first? Wouldn't that have been better timing?"

Xuanwu looked at Li Tianyang with indifference.

"Do you think Chaos is an idiot? If I didn't intervene, knowing he couldn't defeat Cadillus, he would definitely choose to surrender to the Colombian Navy."

"At that point, would you want to add another powerful opponent to the East Sea Region?"

Xuanwu completely disregarded Li Tianyang's attitude.

Within the East Sea Region, his status was transcendent, answering only to the supreme commander Li Guangxiao.

Li Tianyang couldn't command Xuanwu, which was exactly why Zhang Yi had bypassed him to communicate directly with Xuanwu.

On Star Island, Zhang Yi and Cadillus faced each other from a distance.

Although that last attack had seemed earth-shattering, neither of them had actually sustained any injuries.

Among Epsilon-level powerhouses, unless they fought to the death, casualties were extremely rare.

Everyone had worked hard to reach this transcendent level of existence—as long as they stayed alive, they could enjoy the finest material comforts the world had to offer.

Who would truly risk their life in a fight?

Cadillus took a deep look at Zhang Yi, then glanced at Xuanwu out on the ocean.

He silently communicated to General Huo En: "Xuanwu has already intervened. If we continue fighting, I won't gain any advantage. Chaos's strength... is formidable. I can't kill him quickly."

"Even if I exhaust myself to kill him, I would be in danger too. At that point, you wouldn't be able to withstand Xuanwu's fury."

General Huo En's expression looked worse than if he'd eaten something disgusting.

He hadn't expected that even Cadillus couldn't defeat Chaos.

And now that Chaos had just recently advanced to Epsilon-level, letting him go meant they would have another dangerous enemy in the future.

But aside from withdrawing and swallowing this bitter pill, they had no better options right now.

Gritting his teeth, Huo En said word by word: "Fine, the operation is temporarily canceled. Return!"

Cadillus closed the communication channel and looked at Zhang Yi, his eyes filled with complex emotions.

This time, they had reached a tacit understanding—neither truly wanted to fight to the death.

However, from now on, Cadillus would have another opponent in the East Sea territory.

His reign as the sea emperor wouldn't be so comfortable anymore.

"Let's end it here for today! I hope we don't meet on the battlefield again!"

Cadillus said to Zhang Yi.

Zhang Yi nodded: "I feel the same way."

He inwardly breathed a long sigh of relief.

After this battle, his strength had gained recognition from both Cadillus and Xuanwu.

From now on, his status would be solidified, and the whole world would know that Huaxu Kingdom had gained another Epsilon-level powerhouse.

With sufficient strength, troubles would relatively decrease.

Just as both were preparing to leave, very abruptly, a dangerous premonition surged within Zhang Yi's heart.

From the completely devastated Mist Valley, within that primitive sinkhole, a terrifying presence suddenly emerged!

Both Zhang Yi and Cadillus felt their limbs turn cold from this suddenly appearing aura.

Something terrifying beyond their comprehension had appeared!

In the distant sea, Xuanwu also sensed it, his eyes fixed intently on the direction of that abyss.

"Chaos, what's happening over there?"

Zhang Yi's eyes were fixed on that massive abyss—the place where the Divine Source had appeared, a natural giant sinkhole.

Zhang Yi had previously wondered how such a sinkhole had formed and whether it hid some terrifying creature.

Humans always approach the unknown with curiosity, awe, and fear.

Unexpectedly, that terrifying feeling had now become reality.

As Zhang Yi and Cadillus stared into the massive abyss, they truly saw something that defied their understanding.

It was a humanoid creature.

A massive humanoid being over five meters tall, with human-like limbs but a long tail extending from its back.

#### Chapter 1057: Overwhelming Strength

Above the massive abyss, a humanoid creature over five meters tall hovered silently in place.

His body was encased in black armor, making it impossible to clearly see what his face looked like.

He simply floated in mid-air, arms crossed, his gaze sweeping over everything around him.

Zhang Yi, Cadillus, including Xuanwu and the fleets from both major regions—all were captured within his view.

He clearly hadn't done anything, yet a chilling sensation radiated from his very being.

Zhang Yi swallowed hard, then said to Xuanwu, "A monster with terrifying power suddenly appeared on the island! Did your East Sea Region not know about this?"

Xuanwu frowned. "Do you think it's possible that we were responsible?"

Xuanwu's meaning was clear.

If this suddenly appearing figure belonged to the East Sea Region, with their advantage of two Epsilon-level powerhouses, they could have swept across the battlefield outright.

Why would they need to go through all the trouble of fighting?

By the same logic, that strange figure couldn't be from the joint forces' side either.

"That's troublesome then."

Zhang Yi took a deep breath and said this.

After observing for a moment from the air, the black-armored strange man suddenly turned his gaze toward Zhang Yi with interest.

Then he tilted his head.

His right palm opened, revealing not a human hand, but something resembling a dragon's claw, covered in black scales on the back, with sharp, terrifying talons.

A surge of black energy instantly condensed in his palm, and the next moment, he unleashed it toward Zhang Yi!

The raging energy wave obliterated everything in its path, the power contained within it making Zhang Yi's eyebrows shoot up in alarm.

Because the black-armored strange man's power was even greater than Cadillus's! Significantly greater!

"Manifold Phenomena!"

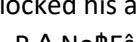
Thousands of Dimensional Gates layered together one after another, forming a massive heavenly gate that blocked the space in front of Zhang Yi.

The black energy cannon tore through space, arriving before Zhang Yi in an instant, then slammed violently into his Alternate Dimensional Space!

An intensely sharp sensation of being torn apart immediately surged in Zhang Yi's mind.

Zhang Yi was greatly shocked inwardly; the enemy before him was clearly someone he couldn't handle!

"All Things Follow Traces!"

The light in his left eye began to distort as he locked his ability onto the black-armored strange man, using it to predict the trajectory of his actions. 

Seeing that Zhang Yi had blocked his attack, the black-armored strange man seemed somewhat surprised.

The next moment, he became a blur in Zhang Yi's vision.

Zhang Yi's eyes widened.

Even though he could see into the future, the man's speed was simply too fast—so fast that without using his precognitive ability, Zhang Yi wouldn't have known what this person was about to do.

"I'm dodging!"

Without the slightest hesitation, Zhang Yi immediately opened a Dimensional Gate behind him and retreated into his Alternate Dimensional Space!

The black-armored strange man arrived at the spot where Zhang Yi vanished in the blink of an eye. Seeing Zhang Yi was gone, he paused slightly, then turned his gaze toward Cadillus in another direction.

Cadillus's pupils contracted sharply, finally realizing that Zhang Yi's action was meant to draw the black-armored strange man's attention toward him!

"F\*\*K!"

The black-armored strange man's figure flickered through the air like a ghost, arriving before Cadillus in an instant.

Cadillus erupted with formidable power.

"Superman's body!"

His muscles bulged all over his body. As a super soldier, he naturally possessed a superhuman physique!

Facing this suddenly appearing bizarre powerhouse, he chose to confront him head-on!

The black-armored strange man reached Cadillus and swiftly threw a punch aimed at his head!

Cadillus roared and threw a punch right back at him!

The two engaged in the simplest, most brutal showdown mid-air, their punches echoing like thunderclaps over the entire island.

Cadillus was beaten back step by step, soon sent flying thousands of meters by a single punch!

"Just who is that guy? When did an Epsilon-level superhuman of this caliber appear in the East Sea?"

Xuanwu watched, utterly dumbfounded.

In his own fight with Cadillus, he could only manage a defensive stance, yet this black-armored strange man before him was overwhelming Cadillus in close-quarters combat!

The black-armored strange man did not press his advantage. He suddenly stopped in mid-air.

From his movements, not much killing intent could be discerned.

Instead, he seemed curiously focused on observing his surroundings, as if he had never seen anything like it before.

Xuanwu held his breath and concentrated, unwilling to provoke this mysterious powerhouse.

However, the black-armored strange man didn't seem to share the same thought.

Such a massive turtle floating on the sea surface, and at the Epsilon-level no less, was as conspicuous as a lighthouse in the dark night.

He opened his right hand, an energy cannon rapidly condensing, then blasted it toward the distant Xuanwu!

The power of this shot was too astonishing; if hit, the consequences would be unthinkable!

Xuanwu's expression changed drastically. His spirit form moved to his main body's head, and he raised both hands.

Simultaneously, his main body opened its huge mouth, also gathering an atomic breath to blast forward!

Two terrifying forces collided mid-air. With just that initial contact, Xuanwu's power was instantly suppressed!

Xuanwu's face turned extremely grim. Without hesitation, he chose to retract his head inside his shell.

His tortoise shell was the sturdiest defensive object, possessing defensive capabilities even comparable to Adamantine Metal.

The black-armored strange man's strike hit his shell, sending Xuanwu's enormous body flipping over in the sea, tumbling several times before finally stopping!

Everyone inside Xuanwu was thrown into disarray, a complete mess.

"What happened? What kind of monster is that? How does he possess such immense power?"

"His power level must be at least 20,000 points, maybe even higher! Can't even three Epsilon-level superhumans deal with him?"

Zhang Yi emerged from his Dimensional Space at this moment.

Without the slightest hesitation, he made the most decisive choice—escape!

"Hua Hua!!"

Zhang Yi shouted loudly. On Star Island, Hua Hua, who had been evading while carrying Qinglong, immediately flew swiftly toward Zhang Yi on beating wings.

Zhang Yi activated Manifold Phenomena, preparing to escape with Hua Hua.

The black-armored strange man tilted his head. Faced with Zhang Yi's spatial abilities, he also seemed to find it somewhat troublesome.

Zhang Yi's eyes were fixed intently on him, his ability All Things Follow Traces activated against him.

The next moment, he saw an unbelievable scene.

From within the black-armored strange man's armor, hundreds of pitch-black chains extended out, piercing through the void and blocking all possible escape routes!

This sight left Zhang Yi utterly stunned.

Since his debut, relying on his tricky spatial abilities, he had always fought enemies stronger than himself, yet always managed to escape danger.

But this time, he had encountered a tough opponent; the other party seemed to have countermeasures for his abilities.

#### Chapter 1058: Capture

Fortunately, Zhang Yi possessed both time and space abilities, allowing him to predict his opponent's prediction in advance and quickly change his displacement direction.

But just as he was leaving, hundreds of black chains still flew out from the Black-armored Strange Man's armor, instantly shooting straight toward him!

What shocked Zhang Yi the most was that the man wasn't just targeting him alone.

Simultaneously, he was attacking Zhang Yi, Cadillus, Xuanwu, and even the entire joint forces fleet!

"Is he... treating all of us as prey?"

Zhang Yi used the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms to shield himself.

What he was using now wasn't just two simple Dimensional Gates. After advancing to Epsilon level, all his abilities had received massive upgrades.

Even the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms was now constructed from 72 diamond-shaped Dimensional Gates forming a sphere-like structure with much more stable defensive capabilities.

The black chains instantly pierced through his spatial barrier, the intense tearing sensation almost making Zhang Yi suffocate!

Fortunately, this attack wasn't specifically targeting Zhang Yi, otherwise he wasn't sure he could have blocked it.

Both Cadillus and Xuanwu were also showing their disheveled state.

They used all their means to resist the Black-armored Strange Man's chain attacks.

On Star Island, terrifying power erupted violently!

Cadillus's super primal water exploded to its maximum extent, while Xuanwu's body spun like a top, stirring up enormous waves.

About a dozen ships from the joint forces all suffered indiscriminate attacks.

General Huo En immediately ordered full firepower against the Black-armored Strange Man in mid-air!

But in the blink of an eye, several ships were still pierced by the black chains.

The sturdy warship hulls offered no more resistance against those black chains than butter meeting a hot knife!

With a slight pull of his hand, the Black-armored Strange Man dragged several massive warships out of the sea like toys, sending them flying toward the direction of the Mist Valley abyss.

Zhang Yi had already realized that this opponent was a superhuman on a completely different level from them.

Taking advantage of not being specifically targeted, he activated All Things Follow Traces to its maximum capacity, then decisively opened three thousand Dimensional Gates with Manifold Phenomena, escaping at light speed!

The Black-armored Strange Man noticed Zhang Yi's escape. Though his masked face showed no expression, his peculiar movements seemed to convey interest in Zhang Yi.

"Clattering—"

Dozens of black chains instantly pierced through the void, chasing after Zhang Yi.

But at this distance, with Zhang Yi's future-prediction ability and single-minded determination to escape, he could no longer be caught.

The Black-armored Strange Man hovered above the Mist Valley abyss. After a moment's hesitation, he chose not to pursue Zhang Yi.

This action caught Zhang Yi's attention.

He could sense this bizarre entity was incredibly powerful, beyond anyone Zhang Yi had ever encountered.

Perhaps only the owner of the Hell's Guillotine ability from Shengjing could compare.

However, he gave off a strange feeling.

From beginning to end, he never left the area above the Mist Valley abyss, as if he had some apprehension, or something was restraining him from going too far.

"What exactly... is this being?"

Zhang Yi continuously teleported, quickly escaping to the sea.

He cautiously maintained sufficient distance from both forces, as their large scale made them more likely to attract the Black-armored Strange Man's attention.

Xuanwu noticed Zhang Yi fleeing and quickly transmitted a message: "Chaos, come help me!"

Zhang Yi pretended not to hear.

As the saying goes, a wise man doesn't stand under a dangerous wall—better others die than oneself. You guys can deal with that strange man!

Zhang Yi fled into the distance without looking back.

Xuanwu and Cadillus were grinding their teeth in frustration. They didn't have Zhang Yi's powerful escape methods and could only choose to withstand the Black-armored Strange Man's attacks head-on.

Zhang Yi fled several hundred miles in one go before finally hovering in mid-air and looking back toward Star Island.

The distance was too great to see the battle situation, but he could still sense the terrifying energy fluctuations coming from there.

"Inhale—Exhale—"

Zhang Yi took a deep breath. Everything that had just happened was too intense for him.

"Could he be a superhuman who obtained the Divine Source before me?"

If he were truly a native of Star Island who had obtained the Divine Source earlier and advanced to Epsilon level, it wouldn't be surprising.

However, it didn't quite seem that way.

Because upon careful reflection, the Black-armored Strange Man's peculiar armor design completely differed from any known nation's combat suits.

It had a bizarre yet powerful aesthetic.

"I hope you all survive."

Zhang Yi thought of his acquaintances in the Jiangnan Region and couldn't help but sigh inwardly.

If those people died, he'd have to deal with new people, which would be quite troublesome.

But such is life—old people always leave your world, and new people come along.

You get used to it. Actually, there's no particular feeling. After all, in this world, no one stays with anyone forever, and he didn't really need that anyway.

Zhang Yi thought for a moment and ultimately decided not to leave.

He waited at this safe distance for the battle to conclude.

If possible, he wouldn't mind rescuing a few survivors, provided he was in absolutely safe conditions.

During this time, Zhang Yi received multiple distress calls from Xuanwu, but he turned a deaf ear.

The old turtle eventually got so angry he started cursing, but Zhang Yi just picked his ear and paid no attention.

After more than ten minutes, Zhang Yi sensed the energy fluctuations gradually dissipating.

He flew to high altitude and began communicating with the Jiangnan Region's satellite system, requesting permission to observe the situation there.

As an investigation team captain, and one with higher clearance than ordinary captains, he quickly received authorization.

Through the satellite system, he could see the sea around Star Island.

And now, not only the sea around Star Island, but even Star Island itself, which had initially been covered by toxic miasma, had become clear.

The entire island was left in ruins, the dense toxic miasma long dispersed by the Epsilon-level powerhouses' attacks, with many cities completely obliterated!

From the satellite imagery, he could see a massive abyss lying quietly in the southeastern part of the devastated Star Island, like a demon's eye.

Zhang Yi looked at the sea surface. The Columbus Ocean naval fleet had already moved away, but half their warships were missing—the other half had probably been captured by the Black-armored Strange Man.

"Why would he capture warships?"

Zhang Yi didn't quite understand the Black-armored Strange Man's actions.

But he didn't have time to ponder it now.

Whether it was the Divine Source, Star Island's mysterious toxic miasma, or the half-born spirits and the Black-armored Strange Man, everything carried an air of mystery.

It would probably be a long time before he got answers to this entire matter.

#### Chapter 1059: Extortion

Xuanwu dragged his exhausted body away from the Star Island waters, heading back toward the East Sea Region.

His internal systems were in complete disarray; many of the devices constructed inside him by the East Sea Region had been damaged during the battle with the Black-armored Strange Man.

Fortunately, there weren't many casualties among the personnel.

Xuanwu's spirit sat atop his main body's head, still feeling lingering fear.

That previous battle had been far too dangerous. If they hadn't discovered that the Black-armored Strange Man couldn't venture too far from the abyss, whether their two forces could have escaped would have remained uncertain.

Involuntarily, Xuanwu thought of Zhang Yi who had fled, grinding his teeth in frustration.

Just then, a streak of light flashed in the distance.

Zhang Yi appeared directly above Xuanwu's head.

"Oh my, Xuanwu, you're alright? That's truly wonderful! You have no idea how worried I was about you."

Zhang Yi spoke to Xuanwu with a face full of concern.

Xuanwu stared at Zhang Yi, so angry he felt like his nose might twist sideways.

"Heh, I truly appreciate your concern! Weren't you running away quite swiftly earlier?"

Currently, Xuanwu had suffered significant energy depletion, and even if he wanted to vent his anger at Zhang Yi, he lacked the capability.

After all, Zhang Yi had now reached the Epsilon-level superhuman rank with exceptionally strong defenses, no longer someone he could easily handle like in the past.

Zhang Yi spread his hands. "What are you talking about? I'm just a minor character who recently advanced. What use could I possibly be on the battlefield? We still have to rely on you and the Lord of the Ocean!"

"By the way, did that guy die?"

Xuanwu took a deep breath, struggling to control his urge to curse.

"He didn't die. That guy's escape skills are first-rate, especially on the ocean."

Zhang Yi couldn't help but sigh. "What a true pity!"

Xuanwu continued, "However, although he escaped, he sustained quite serious injuries. Given his personality, he's definitely found a safe place to heal right now."

Hearing this, Zhang Yi raised his eyebrows.

"Oh? You mean he's not currently with the Colombian Navy fleet?"

Xuanwu's eyebrows shot up immediately; he sensed Zhang Yi had some special intentions.

"What do you want to do? Chaos, although we're hostile with the Colombian Ocean Fleet, launching a sneak attack on their fleet now wouldn't be a wise decision."

There are no permanent enemies or friends, only permanent interests.

If Zhang Yi took advantage of Cadillus's absence to attack their fleet,

then if they retaliated, they would similarly strike their home base.

This was precisely why Epsilon-level superhumans were globally recognized as humanoid nuclear weapons.

Once reaching this level, it became extremely difficult to restrain each other.

If any side impulsively deployed an Epsilon-level superhuman, mutual destruction would be the most likely outcome.

This was also why the prolonged standoff between the East Sea Region and the Colombian Ocean Fleet had never erupted into large-scale warfare.

Zhang Yi's lips curved slightly upward. "Don't worry, I know my limits when doing things."

After speaking, he instantly teleported through space, chasing after the Colombian Navy's direction.

At that moment, General Huo En couldn't care about anything else, focusing solely on quickly leading the fleet back to their naval base.

The Star Island area had become a forbidden zone in his mind.

Half their fleet had been forcibly taken by that mysterious Black-armored Strange Man!

Now with Cadillus severely wounded and having fled, staying behind offered them no benefits.

"Hurry, increase power, full speed ahead! Get us out of this terrible place quickly!"

General Huo En ordered.

Lieutenant Colonel Keludi turned his head, looking at General Huo En with a strange expression.

Seeing Keludi's odd expression, General Huo En angrily said, "Do you have donkey hair stuffed in your ears? I told you to get to work! Why are you staring at me?"

Just then, another head appeared beside Keludi's head.

Zhang Yi smiled and waved at him.

"Hello, nice to meet you!"

The entire command center fell silent, nobody daring to breathe heavily.

Even some relatively powerful Delta-level superhumans lowered their heads, pretending not to see the man who had suddenly appeared in the conference room.

General Huo En swallowed hard.

He turned his head and quietly asked his subordinate, "Where did that Cadillus guy go?"

The subordinate officer whispered in response, "He went back early for treatment."

Cadillus had been thoroughly terrified by the Black-armored Strange Man this time. If that entity hadn't been unwilling to leave the Mist Valley abyss area, Cadillus might have been completely destroyed.

Hearing this, General Huo En became angry.

"This is absolutely outrageous!"

"Look at you all! We have a guest, and you're just standing around dumbfounded? Go get some tea immediately!"

General Huo En turned to look at Zhang Yi, his face full of smiles.

"I'm truly sorry, Mr. Chaos. I'm afraid we've given you quite a laugh. These fellows have no sense of propriety."

Zhang Yi walked up to Huo En with a smiling expression, not saying a word, simply staring at him.

This made General Huo En's hair stand on end.

Here and now, if Zhang Yi wanted to kill him, nobody could stop it.

This was the power of a noble space + time Epsilon-level superhuman!

Their only reliance—powerful warships and advanced weaponry—was completely useless against him.

What else could they do except obediently lower their heads?

"I think... we can talk."

"Actually, people like me are a dime a dozen in the navy. Killing me wouldn't bring you any value."

General Huo En glanced sideways at the superhumans around him.

But they all pretended to be deaf and mute, not daring to make a sound.

They understood better than anyone how powerful Epsilon-level beings were, and there was no reason to take a bullet for Huo En.

Zhang Yi chuckled, "Heh heh," startling Huo En so much his legs trembled.

This imperial navy general wasn't as unyielding in the face of might as one might imagine when confronting the threat of death.

"J-just... as long as you spare me, you can make any demands!"

General Huo En couldn't withstand the pressure any longer, shouting in complete collapse.

A sharp glint flashed in Zhang Yi's eyes.

"Did you really say that?"

His purpose in coming here wasn't to kill Huo En anyway.

There are no permanent enemies or friends, only permanent interests.

Killing these guys wouldn't bring him any benefits—it would only land him on Colombia's most-wanted list, which wasn't worthwhile at all.

In the end, Zhang Yi took advantage of the situation to extort what he wanted.

Two of the latest model warships.

He had promised Lu Keran he would get her these new warships to build mechas.

If he didn't seize this opportunity now, such a good chance might not come again later.

Although General Huo En felt the pain of the loss, he agreed to save his own life.

Chapter 1060: The Liquidation Begins

Zhang Yi stored the two warships into his Dimensional Space, then turned and left without looking back.

General Huo En wiped the sweat from his forehead, his face dark as he slammed his fist violently against the table.

"Damn that Chaos! If it weren't for protecting everyone's lives, I would have fought him to the death!"

Everyone glanced sideways at General Huo En, their expressions difficult to read.

General Huo En raised his voice, speaking excitedly:

"My death wouldn't matter, but there are so many people in the entire fleet, all representing the Navy's future. I can't let you all throw your lives away for nothing!"

"So for everyone's sake, I'm willing to bear this humiliation!"

Lieutenant Colonel Keludi quickly approached, speaking to General Huo En with an agitated expression:

"General, this must be so difficult for you! But rest assured, we all understand you had no other choice in that situation."

In his agitation, General Huo En drew his service pistol: "What's the point of me still being alive!"

"General, no! You mustn't die!"

Keludi and the nearby officers swiftly rushed over and wrestled the gun from his hand.

General Huo En let out a long sigh: "Ah, with you all like this, how will I face the Commander when I return?"

Everyone quickly offered their comfort.

"This mission overall can't be considered a complete failure. Although we didn't obtain the Divine Source, didn't the East Sea Region also fail to get it?"

"Moreover, no one could have predicted that Black-armored Strange Man would suddenly appear."

"Yes, yes, this was an unforeseen accident that no one could have anticipated, General. You shouldn't blame yourself."

After everyone's persuasion, General Huo En finally agreed to reconcile with himself.

As for the two warships taken by Zhang Yi, they could simply blame it on that Black-armored Strange Man afterward, claiming he sank them and Zhang Yi just salvaged them.

After all, Zhang Yi was a space-type superhuman, so him salvaging warships wasn't too hard to believe.

The Colombian Navy went about their business, returning to their naval base.

...

After extorting the Colombian Navy, Zhang Yi quickly turned back to find Xuanwu.

But by this time, Xuanwu had long since disappeared.

Zhang Yi could barely contain his laughter.

He didn't need to think hard to know that Li Tianyang and Xuanwu must have deliberately submerged and escaped because they knew Zhang Yi would come back to settle accounts with them.

Yet Zhang Yi wasn't the least bit anxious, because he still held leverage over them.

This time, he contacted Li Tianyang directly.

"Why are you running away in such a hurry? Qinglong is currently severely injured and urgently needs treatment. Come back quickly to pick him up, otherwise he could die at any moment!"

Zhang Yi wasn't joking about this.

Forcibly raising his cultivation level had inflicted unbearable severe injuries on Qinglong.

Although Zhang Yi had injected him with medication to sustain his life, if he didn't receive proper treatment soon, he would undoubtedly die!

This put Li Tianyang in a real bind.

Qinglong held significant strategic value for the East Sea Region.

He was their second strongest fighter, only behind Xuanwu.

Now that the mission had already failed and the East Sea Region had suffered heavy losses, if anything happened to Qinglong, Li Tianyang might as well shoot himself when he returned, without even needing to face a military tribunal.

"You ruthless Zhang Yi, you're really vicious! Using Qinglong to threaten me."

"Mark my words, the East Sea Region won't let this matter end so easily. You must give us an explanation!"

Li Tianyang's face darkened as he thought for a moment, still feeling he couldn't just abandon Qinglong.

He didn't trust Zhang Yi and couldn't entrust Qinglong's life to Zhang Yi's hands.

"Xuanwu, have him deliver Qinglong to us!"

Li Tianyang said to Xuanwu.

Xuanwu was currently submerged at a depth of over a thousand meters underwater. Hearing Li Tianyang's words, he looked at him expressionlessly.

"Are you sure?"

Li Tianyang snorted coldly: "Of course! Qinglong's life holds great value for the East Sea Region. He can't die now!"

"Besides, I am after all the overall commander of this operation. What could Zhang Yi possibly do to me?"

"Moreover, we still have all the people from their Jiangnan Region in our hands!"

A cold smile appeared on Li Tianyang's face.

He felt that with leverage over Zhang Yi in his grasp, Zhang Yi couldn't cause too much trouble.

Xuanwu nodded: "Alright."

He began surfacing and sent Zhang Yi his coordinates.

It didn't take long for Zhang Yi to arrive at Xuanwu's location.

Xuanwu opened his massive mouth, and Zhang Yi had Hua Hua emerge from Jingwei's shadow.

On its back was the severely injured Qinglong.

Zhang Yi walked into Xuanwu's mouth, a relaxed smile on his face.

In this state, Xuanwu couldn't do anything to him, so Zhang Yi wasn't worried about Xuanwu suddenly attacking him.

Li Tianyang approached with a team of guards.

As soon as he saw Zhang Yi, Li Tianyang couldn't help but swallow nervously.

Epsilon.

Currently the world's top tier of superhumans, possessing the terrifying combat power to single-handedly destroy cities!

Anyone who said Li Tianyang wasn't inwardly terrified would be lying.

But remembering that they were inside Xuanwu's body, and that he controlled all the people from Jiangnan Region—this was his best leverage—Li Tianyang felt somewhat more confident.

"Chaos! You set up quite the elaborate trap this time! You nearly ensnared all of us. After we return, I will demand that your Jiangnan Region give us an explanation!"

Before his words even finished, a slap suddenly materialized from the empty space beside him, striking his face hard!

"Smack!"

Caught completely off guard, Li Tianyang staggered from the blow.

However, he was also a superhuman—although just an ordinary Beta-level enhancement-type superhuman, his physical fitness was still superior to normal people.

Seeing that Zhang Yi actually dared to slap him in front of so many people, Li Tianyang instantly became enraged.

"Zhang Yi! How dare you hit me!"

"Oh?"

Zhang Yi hadn't expected this old fool to be so resilient, so he simply pulled out his gun.

Everyone's expressions immediately changed—Zhang Yi was playing for real now!

Xuanwu's spirit form also flew over. "Chaos, don't be impulsive!"

Zhang Yi glanced at him coldly: "What, you want to fight me?"

Xuanwu: "..."

He looked deeply at Zhang Yi, then silently retreated.

After all, they were inside his body, and he was currently severely weakened—what could he possibly use to fight Zhang Yi?

Smart people don't need lengthy explanations; he knew what choice to make.

Li Tianyang widened his eyes, blustering with false bravado as he shouted: "I am the Operations Department Head of the East Sea Region!"

Zhang Yi raised his gun and shot him in the left kneecap.

Li Tianyang collapsed to the ground with a "thud!"

As he struggled to stand up using his other leg, Zhang Yi aimed at his right kneecap and fired another shot.

"Ahhh!!!"

Li Tianyang lay paralyzed on the ground in agony, wailing incessantly.

Although he was a superhuman, when had he ever undergone proper training and combat? He had merely propped up his physical foundation with medications.

Zhang Yi pointed his gun at Li Tianyang's head and walked over step by step.

"Operation Commander Li Tianyang, incompetent and foolish, issued chaotic commands on the battlefield leading to the tragic deaths of multiple operation team members."

"Moreover, you suppressed superhumans from allied regions, specifically targeting investigation team captain Chaos who performed outstandingly. You even watched people die without saving them, deliberately placing Chaos in life-threatening danger."

"Tell me, don't you deserve to die?"