

Ice Age 871

Chapter 871: I Am the Investigation Team Captain of Jiangnan Region

After boarding the ship, Zhang Yi underwent another thorough inspection before being taken into the cabin. The shackles on his wrists were specially made - crafted from pitch-black metal with flickering red lights. They contained miniature explosives that would detonate immediately if he attempted to escape or resist.

Captain Klean Connor couldn't wait to have Zhang Yi brought before him. Looking at the seemingly ordinary Asian man before him, he smiled and asked, "Tell me, what's your name and what position do you hold in Huaxu Kingdom?"

Zhang Yi raised his head and replied calmly, "My name is [Chaos]. I'm the captain of Jiangnan Region's Investigation Team."

For a moment, Connor's mind went blank. The Columbian Navy rarely interacted with Jiangnan Region, so he wasn't familiar with what an Investigation Team Captain represented. However, the name "Chaos" rang faintly familiar.

"Hun Dun... I feel like I've heard that name somewhere before..."

Then he saw the young Asian man curl his lips into a cruel smile.

Suddenly, Connor's mental processing sped up. He remembered recent internationally reported events - Ronin from Neon Nation landing in Jiangnan Region, a captain-level figure rebelling, and the one who turned the tide to resolve the crisis was called Chaos!

"F**K!"

Connor's pupils contracted as he swore loudly. But black flame-like energy had already manifested around Zhang Yi's hands, completely melting the supposedly unbreakable shackles.

Having crossed the Rubicon, Zhang Yi decided to go all the way. To protect the secret of the Divine Source, he had to break all pretense with the Colombian Navy. There was no need to hold back now - everyone on this ship had to die today!

Terrifying void energy erupted violently within the Copernicus' cabin. No one aboard could have imagined that in the middle of this vast icy sea, on what appeared to be an unremarkable civilian vessel, they would encounter the highest-level combatant from Jiangnan Region.

With less than three meters separating them, Connor immediately activated his superhuman ability in that life-or-death moment: [Dragon Beast Transformation]. Cyan scales covered his entire body as he grew to over three meters tall, his hands transforming into massive, terrifying claws over a meter long with razor-sharp edges.

Lieutenant Colonel Klean Connor, captain of the Copernicus, possessed a superhuman ability index of 6500 points - placing him among the upper echelons of the entire Colombian Ocean Fleet. But Zhang Yi was fighting against time and wouldn't hold back in the slightest.

Void flames wrapped around Zhang Yi's body, burning fiercely before madly spreading in all directions! Zhang Yi himself charged straight at Connor wielding Holy Judgment. Those supposedly indestructible dragon claws were sliced through like tofu the moment they touched the void-black-flame-engulfed Holy Judgment.

The sacred blade severed both massive dragon claws before cleaving vertically through Connor's head and body, splitting him cleanly in half from top to bottom!

"RAAAAH!"

With a furious roar, Zhang Yi immediately began wildly swinging his horizontal blade to destroy the entire ship. His priority was disabling the Copernicus' communication systems to prevent contact with the Ocean Fleet headquarters at Ropefly Island. While this would undoubtedly alert them immediately, it would at least prevent them from accurately assessing his true strength.

As long as they didn't realize the representative of Jiangnan Region's peak combat power had come to the ocean, their response couldn't be timely or precise. This window of confusion was Zhang Yi's chance to escape!

BOOM!!!

Zhang Yi unleashed his full combat potential like a man dismantling a mecha with bare hands - he would tear apart the entire ship and kill every last soldier! Against such an overwhelmingly powerful superhuman, the ordinary soldiers aboard the Copernicus stood no chance.

Even the heavily armed, world-class Colombian Navy soldiers who took pride in being the strongest naval force were like paper before Zhang Yi. The void flames burned fiercely, but their method of killing wasn't combustion - it was complete erasure from existence. In this sense, Zhang Yi's method was quite humane - they didn't even have time to feel pain before being consumed by the void.

Meanwhile aboard the Golden Edge, Che Haicheng and his group were loudly mocking Zhang Yi and Old Tian's crew. Having witnessed Zhang Yi being handcuffed and Old Tian's group surrendering their weapons without protest, they were venting their pent-up frustrations.

"Hey, you bastards who acted so high and mighty before! Can't be so arrogant now, can you? I'm a Colombian citizen now, and from today onward you'll only be fit to serve as our slaves!"

Old Tian and the others just watched them coldly without responding. Their absolute trust in Zhang Yi made them ignore these petty clowns. This silence only made Che Haicheng's group think they were afraid.

Then an earth-shaking explosion suddenly came from the distant Copernicus. Everyone's attention was drawn to the plumes of black smoke rising from the warship five nautical miles away - something was clearly wrong. But at that distance, no one could make out what was happening.

Several Colombian soldiers froze in confusion, unable to comprehend why their advanced warship would malfunction. One quickly grabbed his radio to contact the ship.

But in the next instant, a figure appeared out of thin air on their deck. Zhang Yi's eyes were terrifyingly cold - the murderous intent of someone who had killed many.

Swish! Swish!

Holy Judgment casually traced two elegant arcs through the air. Before the six Colombian Navy personnel could react, their bodies were sliced into seven or eight pieces each - heads split in half, arms and legs severed. They died instantly without even time for fear to register in their eyes.

A suffocating silence fell.

Everyone in the Rockflow Group was stunned speechless by Zhang Yi's sudden reappearance and immediate slaughter of all the soldiers.

With a stylish flourish of his blade, Zhang Yi flicked off a large splatter of blood onto the deck. Without even glancing at Che Haicheng's group, he ordered Old Tian: "Full speed away from here immediately! Shut down all radar and communication systems!"

Even with the Colombian Navy's superior detection capabilities, they couldn't be found if all communication devices were disabled. But this came at a heavy price - they would lose all navigation in the vast ocean. It was like traveling at night and extinguishing your lantern - while harder for others to spot you, you'd also be plunged into darkness.

But Zhang Yi had no choice now. If the Colombian Navy's main forces and top superhumans arrived, even he couldn't guarantee safety.

Chapter 872: Lord of the Ocean

Old Tian received Zhang Yi's order and immediately arranged for the operation without uttering a word. As an experienced sailor, he naturally understood the danger involved. But at this moment, this was their only choice. Turning off the lights meant everyone wandered in the dark forest—only the weak could survive. Otherwise, they would be completely annihilated by the strong.

The members of the Rockflow Group stared at Zhang Yi in bewilderment, still unaware of what was happening.

"BOOM!!!"

"BOOM!!!"

"BOOM!!!"

Continuous explosions erupted in the distance, stirring up terrifying waves that even affected the Golden Edge. Everyone looked over and were shocked to discover that the mighty Columbian Ocean warship Copernicus was engulfed in flames, its hull rapidly tilting before sinking into the sea!

"That warship... was actually sunk!!" Li Zongyu's face was filled with disbelief. These people had no idea what the outside world had become, nor could they comprehend the destructive power of a superhuman like Zhang Yi. But now, the undeniable truth was right before their eyes—the Copernicus had been destroyed, while Zhang Yi stood unharmed on the Golden Edge. The answer was obvious: Zhang Yi had single-handedly sunk a powerful Columbian Ocean warship!

Everyone looked at Zhang Yi as if he were a monster—or even a god. Even Su Nuanxi, who always had something to say, swallowed back her accusations this time. She was utterly terrified.

But at this moment, some faces were ashen with fear and despair—Che Haicheng and his gang, who had been mocking Zhang Yi and Old Tian just moments ago. They had thought the situation was settled, that their clever schemes had doomed Zhang Yi and the others on the Golden Edge. They even believed they had secured the protection of the Columbian Ocean Navy and could live happily ever after.

Yet their dreams were shattered in an instant. The invincible, seemingly unbeatable Columbian Ocean Navy—a Epsilon-class cruiser—had been sunk by Zhang Yi alone! He wasn't human; he was a monster! The betrayers could already feel death approaching. To make it worse, Zhang Yi didn't even glance their way, intensifying the pressure to unbearable levels.

Che Haicheng gulped audibly, raising his hand with a forced, ingratiating smile. "Um... Mr. Zhang, let me explain..."

Zhang Yi didn't even look at him, instead heading straight for the cabin to fetch Zhou Ke'er. He also needed to inform Zhu Zheng about the situation and request reinforcements. Zhu Zheng would definitely find a way—unless he was willing to abandon the critical intelligence about the Divine Source.

Zhu Yunque awkwardly approached Zhang Yi. "I'm sorry, I thought just now..."

"Contact Commander Zhu. This is the last time. After this, your communication device won't be used again anytime soon."

Zhu Yunque was already thoroughly frightened. The pressure from the Columbian Ocean Navy had been overwhelming, but even more terrifying was Zhang Yi, who had single-handedly sunk the Copernicus.

"But won't we be left without direction?"

"There's no other choice right now. We'll take it step by step."

Everything had happened too suddenly, and Zhang Yi hadn't yet figured out the next steps. But for now, they had to leave this dangerous area and call for help.

Zhang Yi and Zhu Yunque entered her room. Tommy's wailing made Zhang Yi frown and Zhu Yunque close her eyes tightly, struggling to suppress her anger. She regretted her decision more than ever—bringing this child along had been nothing but a burden.

She called Su Nuanxi over and ordered her to take the child elsewhere so they could focus on more important matters. Only after shutting the door did she take out the communication device to contact Zhu Zheng.

Zhang Yi quickly briefed Zhu Zheng on the situation. As expected, Zhu Zheng's expression turned grave—direct confrontation with the Columbian Ocean Navy was the last thing they wanted. But there was no avoiding it now.

"Did you obtain the intelligence on the Divine Source?" Zhu Zheng asked.

Zhang Yi smiled slightly and tapped his temple.

Zhu Zheng fell silent for a moment, rubbing the back of his hand. Zhang Yi could sense his hesitation. But after a few seconds, Zhu Zheng finally spoke:

"Zhang Yi, your abilities are enough to sustain the ship at sea. You made the right call—cut off all external communications to avoid detection at all costs! I'll mobilize every resource to support you!"

Zhang Yi nodded. "Understood. I'll follow your instructions and await reinforcements at sea." He didn't make any additional demands.

The current situation seemed dangerous—and in reality, it was anything but safe. But that didn't apply to Zhang Yi. As a last resort, he could abandon everyone on board and escape with just Zhou Ke'er. It all depended on how much Zhu Yunque meant to Zhu Zheng.

At the very least, he and Zhou Ke'er would be fine.

Zhu Zheng continued, "From now on, you must change course. Avoid the waters near Neon Pirate territory at all costs. It's best to detour through the southwestern region. If you reach there, I'll have the Rose Squad rendezvous with you—they're currently on a mission in the southwestern waters."

"Remember," Zhu Zheng's eyes carried a warning, "do not engage the Columbian Ocean Navy head-on! According to our latest intel, their Ocean Fleet includes a superhuman with a superhuman ability index of 18,000!"

"His codename is [Lord of the Ocean]! It's because of him that the East Sea Region has struggled to expand into the ocean territories."

"So you absolutely cannot confront them alone!"

Zhu Yunque didn't react much—she had no idea what an ability index of 18,000 meant. But Zhang Yi felt a chill run down his spine.

That was a superhuman nearly twice as powerful as him—an Epsilon-level entity!

Zhang Yi took a deep breath. "Understood. I'll head for the southwestern waters."

Zhu Zheng reassured him, "Don't worry too much. In the vast ocean, finding you would be like searching for a needle in a haystack—it won't be easy. And I'll do everything in my power to secure reinforcements and distract the Ocean Fleet's forces."

The only possible "reinforcements" Zhu Zheng could mean were the East Sea Region—the only force in the ocean capable of opposing the Columbian Ocean Fleet. Among Huaxu Kingdom's six major regions, the East Sea Region possessed the strongest naval power, nearly on par with the Shengjing Region, which had the greatest overall strength.

Curious, Zhang Yi asked, "Does the East Sea Region also have Epsilon-level superhumans?"

Zhu Zheng's gaze turned profound. "The East Sea Region has never confirmed it. But I believe it's highly likely."

Chapter 873: Vanishing into Darkness

After listening to Zhu Zheng's words, Zhang Yi felt slightly relieved.

However, once the call ended, they could only drift blindly at sea from then on.

Without advanced navigation systems to guide them, they had to rely on Old Tian and the experienced crew's sailing knowledge to grope their way southwest, evading pursuit by the Colombian Ocean Fleet.

Zhu Yunque also wanted to say something to Zhu Zheng, but he merely told her coldly to follow Zhang Yi's orders from now on.

Zhu Yunque awkwardly nodded in agreement.

The communication ended quickly, and Zhang Yi immediately confiscated the device to prevent Zhu Yunque from impulsively contacting outsiders again.

"I'll return it to you once we're back on land," Zhang Yi said.

Zhu Yunque pouted. "You just don't trust me!"

Zhang Yi nodded. "At least you're self-aware."

Fuming, Zhu Yunque could only clench her fists and sulk alone.

Ignoring her, Zhang Yi first returned to his room to retrieve Zhou Ke'er from the hidden compartment.

After briefly explaining their current situation, he brought her to the control room.

"We'll be drifting at sea for a while, but don't worry too much. As long as I'm here, no one can harm you," Zhang Yi said, giving her a meaningful look.

"Just remember one thing—don't grow attached to anyone on this ship. We might have to abandon them at any moment."

Zhou Ke'er pressed her lips together, then smiled brightly. "Don't worry, I'm not as foolish as Zhu Yunque. After all the life-and-death situations we've been through, I know what choices to make."

Zhang Yi nodded in satisfaction.

A girl tempered by the apocalypse truly understood things well.

The two arrived at the control room.

By now, the entire ship had shut down all communication devices, and even personal communicators had been confiscated by Old Tian.

Anything capable of transmitting signals had to be eliminated—otherwise, they might face an intercontinental missile strike within minutes.

Zhang Yi had never tried absorbing an intercontinental missile with his Dimensional Space before.

But based on his estimation, given his current strength, attempting to contain such destructive force might risk collapsing his dimensional pocket entirely.

This was the terrifying power of humanity's most advanced weaponry—never to be underestimated.

Looking around the control room with all electronics disabled, Zhang Yi accepted a nautical chart from Old Tian.

"We're already heading west at full speed as you instructed. But returning to Huaxu Kingdom means sailing at least 5,000 nautical miles—over 9,000 kilometers!"

"Without navigation systems, we have to rely on experience to guess our route. There's no telling how long we'll drift at sea."

"Even..." Old Tian licked his dry lips, hesitating.

"Speak plainly," Zhang Yi said. "This isn't the time for pleasantries."

Old Tian continued, "It wouldn't be surprising if we drift for half a year."

Zhang Yi frowned slightly, though this possibility had already crossed his mind.

"Don't overthink it. Just keep heading west!"

"We have plenty of supplies. Time isn't the issue—avoiding the Ocean Fleet is."

He tapped a spot on the map.

If they continued northwest, they would eventually reach the South Sea Islands.

"Once we're here, I'll figure something out!" Zhang Yi declared confidently.

Old Tian and the others exchanged surprised glances.

"But... if our ship appears in these waters, nearby nations will detect us."

"There's no guarantee they won't report us to the Colombian Navy at Ropefly Island."

Zhang Yi replied calmly, "I have my methods. Just follow my orders."

He hadn't embarked on this voyage unprepared.

While the current situation was troublesome, it still fell within his contingency plans—not because he could predict everything, but because he always prepared for the worst-case scenario.

Hearing Zhang Yi's assurance, Old Tian and the crew felt slightly more secure.

They quickly returned to their posts, steering the Golden Edge at full speed toward the western seas.

As for what would happen next, even Zhang Yi didn't know.

They could only take things one step at a time.

Their greatest hope might still lie in Zhu Zheng's arrangements.

"Mr. Zhang, what should we do about those people?" Old Tian gestured outside.

At the mention of them, Zhang Yi's eyes narrowed, his murderous intent so palpable that Old Tian gulped nervously.

He rarely saw Zhang Yi this furious.

Only blood could quell the rage burning inside him now.

If not for Che Haicheng and his traitorous dogs tipping off the enemy, they would have soon passed through the Colombian Navy's patrol zone.

Once in Huaxu Kingdom's territorial waters, they would have been completely safe.

Yet everything was ruined because of those rats!

"Let's go have a chat with them."

Zhang Yi smiled—an exceptionally bright smile.

Old Tian and the crew members also radiated killing intent.

Everyone loathed those damned traitors!

They emerged onto the deck where two armed crew members stood guard.

Kneeling on the deck, trembling uncontrollably, were Che Haicheng, White Mo, Xie Yunfan, Eisenmann, and Rudolf.

Nearby, the Rockflow Group members watched anxiously, though they cared little about these men's fates.

They only stayed to hear Zhang Yi explain their current predicament.

Su Nuanxi hid behind Zhu Yunque, her face pale.

When the Colombian soldiers arrived earlier, she had wanted to leave with them.

Now she feared Zhang Yi might punish her too.

But Zhang Yi only gave her a cold glance.

He knew Su Nuanxi hadn't participated in the betrayal—she had been with Zhu Yunque the whole time and lacked the opportunity.

More importantly, someone as foolish as her wouldn't have been included in the scheme anyway.

She wasn't evil—just stupid.

And sometimes, stupidity was more irritating than malice.

Zhang Yi approached the kneeling men.

The moment Che Haicheng saw him, he began kowtowing frantically.

"Mr. Zhang! I'm innocent! They forced me to do it! Please spare me! I'll be your loyal dog—I'll do anything!"

White Mo kept pleading in terror, "Don't kill me... I was wrong... Please no, please!"

Zhang Yi's expression grew eerily calm.

He crouched down, his gaze sweeping across each face like a blade.

Several of the men had already wet themselves.

"Explain," Zhang Yi said softly.

"How did you do it?"

Chapter 874: Skewers

Soon, the desperate men spilled out their entire plan in detail. Xie Changming, who had been watching the drama unfold, instantly turned pale with rage.

"Mr. Zhang, I... I swear I wasn't involved in their scheme!"

Zhang Yi glanced at Xie Changming and said calmly, "I know. This isn't your fault. If anyone's to blame, it should be me as the captain."

Hearing this, Xie Changming felt a heavy weight lift from his chest, his eyes moistening slightly. Such a leader who didn't shift blame was truly rare.

"Drag that woman over here too."

Zhang Yi pointed at Kim Kimee in the crowd. When Che Haicheng and the others were planning to escape, Kim Kimee had been completely clueless the entire time. To keep the secret, Che Haicheng had never told her the real purpose behind his instructions. She was just a puppet on strings - having spent too long in New Rohan's entertainment industry, she'd learned not to ask unnecessary questions.

Eager to prove himself, Xie Changming strode over, grabbed Kim Kimee by her hair, and dragged her across the deck. Kim Kimee wept from the pain, begging Zhang Yi for mercy.

"Mr. Zhang, I knew nothing about this! It was all Che Haicheng - he made me do it!"

Che Haicheng angrily shouted, "Damn bitch! What does this have to do with me? Don't falsely accuse me! I was forced too!"

Seeing Che Haicheng shifting blame like this, Kim Kimee flew into a rage. She pointed at him and screamed hoarsely, "You despicable scum! You planned this escape but didn't even think to take me with you! Was I just a tool in your eyes?"

Che Haicheng roared back, "Filthy whore, how dare you talk back to me! If not for me, you'd still be in New Rohan taking turns entertaining those chaebols every day! I gave you the honor of being a prosecutor's wife - you should pay the price by obeying me completely!"

Zhang Yi silently watched them tear into each other, desperately trying to drag the other down even in the face of death. When the Columbus Ocean Navy arrived, Kim Kimee had looked genuinely bewildered - clearly unaware of the situation. So Zhang Yi decided to spare her life... for the little value she still held.

"Old Xie, do you have feelings for this woman?"

Zhang Yi asked Xie Changming, who froze before hurriedly shaking his head. "No no no, Mr. Zhang. You can deal with her as you see fit. I have no objections."

Zhang Yi waved his hand. "Then she's yours!"

Zhang Yi knew exactly what Kim Kimee had been up to during her half-month on the ship. She was just a pretty but brainless fool, always used as Che Haicheng's tool. Rumor had it she'd even performed exotic dances to please certain chaebols. Rather than kill her, it was better to give her to Xie Changming as a favor. Keeping subordinates happy was part of being a leader.

Touched by Zhang Yi's generosity, Xie Changming pulled Kim Kimee aside and issued a stern warning. "From now on, you're my woman. You'll obey Mr. Zhang and me without question - no more schemes!"

Pale-faced from terror, Kim Kimee nodded eagerly - she'd do anything to survive.

Seeing her get to live, Che Haicheng wailed, "I'll do anything to live! Anything at all! Please have mercy!"

Zhang Yi strolled over, smiling at the group. "Now we can have a proper chat. I'm curious - why betray me when you had it so good?"

The men turned ashen, none daring to speak. Zhang Yi's smile widened. "Talk, and I'll make your deaths quick. Stay silent... and you'll regret it."

Their faces grew even more grim as they kept kowtowing and begging.

"We didn't mean to harm you! We just wanted to reach Columbus Ocean!" White Mo cried. "For God's sake, spare me, please!"

Zhang Yi chuckled. "Sorry, I'm not religious. Anything else to say?"

Engineer Eisenmann forced composure. "You can't kill us! You've already sunk a Columbus Ocean warship - holding us is bad enough. Killing Columbus Ocean citizens would make it worse. Keep us alive as bargaining chips!"

Zhang Yi burst into laughter that soon turned icy with contempt. "You overestimate yourselves! If you had any value, they'd have taken you already. Truth is, you're worthless nobodies! Thinking they'd hesitate because of you? Don't dream - you know nothing about the apocalypse!"

He stood up. "Well, since you're all so stubborn, I'll stop playing. You chose painful deaths - I'll oblige."

The kneeling men howled desperately. "You can't do this! We just wanted to live - what's wrong with that?"

Zhang Yi had meant to ignore them, but this made him turn back. "Let me ask - did I mistreat you aboard? Did I starve you?"

They fell silent. Xie Yunfan argued, "But you killed Yamada Masami and those Neon Pirates! Can you blame us for worrying?"

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow. "Always excuses. My thought? Add more oil."

No one understood his last words... until he asked cheerfully, "Ever had skewers?"

This food was uncommon abroad. Xie Yunfan, being of Huaxian descent, recognized it as a Huaxu Kingdom specialty. "I have."

Zhang Yi nodded. "Good." Turning to Old Tian and others, he ordered: "Chop them into pieces, skewer them, and roast them at the bow!"

Only by making these traitors pay a thousand cuts could Zhang Yi's hatred be satisfied!

Chapter 875: John Cadillus

Zhang Yi took Zhou Ke'er back to the cabin.

However, he instructed Old Tian that every single person on board must be brought to witness the fate of the traitors with their own eyes.

Everyone, including those from the lower deck cabins, was brought to the deck.

Zhu Yunque and Su Nuanxi were no exception.

No excuses were allowed—they had to personally witness the execution of the traitors.

But because the scene was too brutal, Zhang Yi, being kind-hearted, couldn't bear to watch and thus left with Zhou Ke'er.

Soon, agonized screams tore through the air outside.

Old Tian had Xie Changming take charge of the executions, as the cook was skilled with knives.

Following the standards of skewered hotpot, each traitor endured at least several hundred cuts.

They were then impaled on sharpened wooden stakes or iron rods and displayed at the ship's bow.

This punishment left an indelible mark on everyone aboard, showcasing Zhang Yi's mercilessness toward betrayers.

Even if they closed their eyes in horror, the heart-wrenching wails still pierced their ears.

Lu Dahai, however, watched the executions with indifference, a mocking smile playing on his lips.

"I always knew you scum couldn't be trusted!"

Li Zongyu, Zhang Weiwei, and Ma Wenzheng felt nothing but relief.

They had correctly assessed the situation and avoided making the wrong decision.

At the same time, they were deeply awed by Zhang Yi's power.

Even as fellow superhumans, Li Zongyu seemed pathetically weak in comparison.

Any rebellious thoughts were thoroughly extinguished from their minds.

Zhu Yunque and Su Nuanxi couldn't stomach the spectacle, vomiting repeatedly until only stomach acid remained.

Tears streaming down their faces, they cursed Zhang Yi's inhuman cruelty.

The executions alone were bad enough, but forcing everyone to watch the entire process was psychological torture.

Yet despite their complaints, few pitied the traitors.

They had been on the verge of reaching safe harbor and stable lives.

Now, they were adrift at sea indefinitely, with the constant threat of Colombian missiles sinking them.

All because of these few hundred selfish skewers!

Zhang Yi had carried out the most brutal punishment possible on Che Haicheng and the other traitors—anything less wouldn't have quelled his fury.

But with this matter settled, the voyage had to continue.

To avoid detection by the Colombian Navy, he had to shut down all communication equipment, including sonar and radar.

Every personal communication device was confiscated.

Military-grade shielding equipment was activated aboard the ship.

This meant they would now be sailing blind, relying solely on the sailors' instincts.

Yet Zhang Yi knew full well the magnitude of trouble the leaked Divine Source intel would bring.

The next steps depended on how Zhu Zheng handled the situation.

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Ropefly Island.

Colombian Ocean Fleet Headquarters.

Before the blizzard hit, the larger vessels had been moved to deeper waters.

Only smaller boats remained frozen near the harbor, forming picturesque scenery along the coastline.

Beyond the ice, however, hundreds of warships encircled the Ropefly Island naval base like stars around the moon.

The steel-gray battleships stood tall like an impregnable wall.

Their massive main guns, extending over ten meters, could easily obliterate thousand-ton vessels.

Deeper in the ocean, the fleet's core—the monstrous aircraft carriers capable of launching dozens of fighters—lay dormant.

In this ice age, supercarriers had become increasingly impractical.

Their enormous, cumbersome frames required exponentially more energy to operate.

And transporting fuel itself had become a monumental challenge.

Even shipping oil from Colombia's abundant reserves incurred multiple times the usual consumption.

By any measure, aircraft carriers' cost-effectiveness had plummeted.

Their massive profiles also made them prime targets for deep-sea predators.

The extreme cold severely compromised aircraft functionality.

Thus, carriers were gradually being replaced by smaller vessels in this glacial era.

Yet even without carriers, the Colombian Ocean Fleet remained one of Colombia's most powerful naval forces, capable of dominating entire sea regions.

The naval base operated with military precision, its soldiers bundled in specialized cold-weather gear.

Armed naval personnel maintained vigilant patrols.

Suddenly, a deep rumbling echoed from the distance.

The sound drew the sailors' attention.

Looking seaward, they saw a towering white wave—composed of seawater and ice chunks—rising over ten meters above the surface and racing toward shore.

The roar grew louder, reverberating across the entire Ropefly Island base.

From his office window, Five-Star Admiral Douglas puffed on his pipe and remarked calmly, "Cadillus is back. Bring him to me."

Naval Captain Ponca Bolcato saluted and exited, his expression dark.

"That bastard Cadillus grows more arrogant by the day!"

The spectacular maritime display drew increasing crowds.

The entire base was abuzz.

"Looks like Lieutenant Colonel Cadillus is returning!"

"He always makes such a grand entrance!"

"But he's earned it. If I had powers like his, I'd be even more ostentatious!"

"Hey, you're not suggesting you should be admiral instead, are you?"

"Wouldn't rule it out."

The sailors bantered lightly, their gazes toward the sea filled with envy.

Only when the massive white wave approached within two kilometers of the base did its composition become clear.

A school of fish—an enormous school!

Dozens of whale-sized mutated leviathans led the charge, surrounded by every manner of transformed sea creature storming toward Ropefly Island!

The teeming mass of mutated organisms represented what seemed like the entire oceanic food chain.

And standing atop the largest whale—a 200-meter-long behemoth—was a man in blue-and-white combat gear, his face obscured save for the jawline beneath a sea-blue helmet.

The Colombian naval base's most powerful superhuman, one of its ultimate trump cards, a strategic deterrent on par with nuclear submarines—their strongest individual combatant: [Lord of the Ocean] John Cadillus.

Chapter 876: Commanding All Sea Creatures

He arrived commanding all the sea creatures, standing proudly atop a giant whale's head like a sea god, with all marine life beneath his feet bowing in submission.

This awe-inspiring scene triggered deafening cheers from the naval headquarters, all to welcome Cadillus's arrival.

Female soldiers even ignored the bitter cold, excitedly pulling out their undergarments and waving them in the wind.

Male soldiers whistled continuously.

Cadillus loved this kind of atmosphere, waving his arms forward with a broad smile.

As the tidal wave approached the harbor, he jumped down from the whale's head, then naturally formed a wave of seawater and crushed ice beneath his feet that carried him forward gracefully.

Those terrifying sea creatures obediently remained in place, not advancing further.

Cadillus passed by warship after warship, arriving elegantly and composedly at the shore.

Female soldiers immediately threw their garments toward him, colorful butterflies dancing in the air. Cadillus reached out and caught a sexy bikini, a mischievous smile appearing at the corner of his mouth.

"Wow, these are truly impressive dimensions!"

The laughter and cheers on shore grew even louder.

That female soldier blew him a kiss, shouting loudly: "Hey, Cadillus, want to come rest at my place tonight!"

Cadillus laughed heartily, "I'll consider it."

At that moment, Naval Captain Borcado had just arrived at the shoreline with a squad of marines.

Seeing this circus-like spectacle, he took several deep breaths to suppress his inner agitation.

As a senior naval officer, he deeply despised such attention-seeking behavior.

However, Cadillus, being the strongest combat force of the ocean fleet, had always been Admiral Douglas's favorite.

Even though Borcado was his superior officer, he couldn't restrain Cadillus's actions.

"Lower-ranking officers will always be lower-ranking officers. Even after gaining power, they can't change their vulgar nature."

Borcado muttered under his breath.

Cadillus had previously been just an ordinary corporal.

If not for the apocalypse allowing him to stand out from naval experiments, he would never have become the navy's darling.

Borcado believed he was merely someone who got lucky.

But this casual remark caught the attention of Cadillus in the distance.

"Hey, Borcado! Don't whisper behind my back. You're a naval captain after all - this just makes you seem petty!"

Cadillus pointed at Borcado and spoke without hesitation, simultaneously walking toward him.

Borcado hadn't expected Cadillus to hear his muttering from such a distance.

But he raised his head and said: "Lieutenant Colonel Cadillus, in the military you address those of higher rank as sir!"

Hearing this, Cadillus suddenly laughed, revealing his gleaming white teeth.

He stepped closer to Borcado, and several officers beside Borcado watched them with concern.

Because Cadillus was famously the navy's madman.

Cadillus walked up to Borcado, looking down mockingly at the naval captain who stood five centimeters shorter.

Cadillus's smile was brilliant, but his eyes were ice-cold.

"In this entire naval base, only General Douglas is worthy of my respect. What exactly are you?"

Borcado instantly flew into rage:

"What gives you the right to say that! You're just a lucky brat who happened to gain powerful strength."

"My medals were earned through battle achievements, one after another!"

Cadillus spread his hands with a smile.

"Oh, my Captain Borcado. You're absolutely right, but that's all in the past now."

He suddenly reached out and pressed Borcado's shoulder, staring coldly at him: "But now, you're just a muggle. While I... am the Big Boss!"

From Cadillus's ice-blue eyes emanated utterly terrifying emotions.

The overwhelming pressure made Borcado only able to widen his eyes, staring fixedly at Cadillus.

Fortunately, two officers nearby stepped in to mediate:

"Lieutenant Colonel Cadillus, General Douglas wants to see you immediately! He has very important matters to discuss with you."

Hearing Douglas's name, Cadillus finally released Borcado.

The naval captain collapsed to the ground as if completely drained.

Cadillus didn't even glance at him. "Since it's the general's summons, I'll go then!"

After speaking, he stepped over Borcado's body and strode proudly toward the naval base.

If they weren't at the ocean fleet headquarters, he might have actually killed Borcado and framed some neighboring nation.

But here, he couldn't arbitrarily kill a captain.

After Cadillus left, Borcado stared resentfully at his retreating figure, then angrily threw his cap to the ground.

A colleague nearby advised: "Let it go, Borcado. We need him now!"

Borcado took a deep breath, speaking with cursed intensity:

"Let this military experiment enjoy his arrogance for now! His eventual fate won't be pleasant."

The colleague shrugged: "At least for now, we can't afford to provoke him."

Chapter 877: Douglas [Extra +1]

Cadillus arrived at Douglas's office and saw the navy commander who liked to smoke old-fashioned pipes.

As the ace commander of the Colombian Navy, Douglas held an incredibly high prestige within the navy.

Even Cadillus, a superhuman of Epsilon-level, was willing to obey his orders.

All of this stemmed from the god-making plan selection after the apocalypse in Colombia.

All soldiers participating in the experiment had to guarantee their loyalty to Colombia and could not be reckless ambitious individuals.

For example, Cadillus.

His favorite things were women, money, and slot machines.

So even though he possessed great power, at most he was arrogant and overbearing, but he would never entertain thoughts of overthrowing the navy's upper echelons.

Because that would be very troublesome for him, and it was better to enjoy the huge benefits he currently had.

Cadillus met with Douglas.

The first thing Douglas did was glance at the clock on the wall and said, "You're two hours late!"

Cadillus laughed and sat down opposite Douglas.

“You know, I’ve always been busy. If I didn’t watch the East Sea, the Huaxu Kingdom’s fleet would have already broken through! They are eager to carve out a foothold in the ocean region!”

Douglas took a puff of his pipe, exhaling white smoke.

“There’s a more important task for you right now!”

He pushed a document on the desk toward Cadillac.

“Yesterday afternoon, one of our cruisers was destroyed. All crew members died!”

“And the opponent was only an icebreaker ship. So we concluded that it carried a top superhuman from the Huaxu Kingdom!”

Cadillac casually flipped through the information.

“Copernicus. It was carrying 24 heavy missiles and hundreds of high-speed torpedoes. It actually got sunk!”

He stroked his chin while speaking. “But if the other side has a superhuman, that makes sense. After all, you know this isn’t a big deal for me.”

Cadillus smiled.

Douglas was long accustomed to Cadillus's personality.

"The problem now is that losing a warship and dozens of soldiers is a huge blow to us!"

He tapped the desk seriously. "We must respond! We have to catch that killer!"

"If we don't, others will think we have lost control over the ocean region!"

Seeing Douglas's serious expression, Cadillus put away his playful smile.

"Is the enemy very strong?"

"No critical information yet. But according to our intelligence, that ship came from the Jiangnan Region of the Huaxu Kingdom, and there are no Epsilon-level superhumans there."

Cadillus laughed easily.

“If that’s the case, I don’t even need to take action, right?”

Douglas said, “But I don’t want a dead man. I want him alive! There’s very important intelligence on him.”

“To capture him alive, it has to be you.”

Cadillus wore a relaxed expression.

Though catching someone was a bit troublesome, the opponent hadn’t even reached Epsilon-level.

Moreover, the main battleground was at sea.

For him, this mission might waste some time but carried no risk at all.

He shrugged. “Since you personally asked, I definitely agree!”

General Douglas nodded.

“The enemy is cunning and has probably stopped all outward communication. Our navy’s detection instruments can’t find him. You have to use your own abilities to locate him.”

“I knew this would be a troublesome job. Fine! Who told me I’m part of the navy? Anyway, just wait for my good news!”

Cadillus stood up and started to leave after hearing this.

“Oh, General, I have a suggestion.”

He turned back and pointed at Douglas. “Bortoka is an idiot. You better transfer him out of headquarters. I think putting him in the Fisheries Department to catch fish is pretty good.”

After saying that, he laughed and left Douglas’s office.

Douglas took two puffs from his pipe, watching Cadillus’s arrogant manner and shook his head with a smile.

Although Cadillus’s personality was arrogant, he had to admit he was a very useful soldier.

At the very least, the missions he was assigned were completed very well.

Douglas could give Cadillus whatever he liked.

Money, power, women, and the vanity of being admired by thousands.

As long as he obeyed Douglas's management, everything was negotiable.

Cadillus left Douglas's office.

He put his hands on his hips, exhaling a breath of foul air and grumbled, "What a pain! I'm the king of the ocean, and they actually want me to act as a detective! That damn kid better not let me catch him, or I'll stuff you in octopus slime for a whole day!"

Just as he was complaining, a beautiful woman in a military uniform with golden hair gracefully walked over in high heels, holding a stack of documents.

Chapter 878: Rose Squad

Cadillus' eyes lit up. The girl in front of him was very beautiful—exactly his type.

But in truth, his tastes were extremely complicated, especially after gaining power.

It could even be said that he was indiscriminate in his desires.

He walked over and blocked the path of the blonde girl.

“Hello, beautiful lady, what is your name?”

The blonde beauty, upon seeing Cadillus, immediately recalled the legends about him in her mind. Her heart raced with both nervousness and excitement.

“My name is Juliana, sir.”

“Juliana, such a beautiful name, just like you.”

Cadillus smiled as he took her hand, while his other arm naturally wrapped around her shoulder.

“I’m about to go on a mission soon, so before I leave, could you comfort my weary body a little?”

“Sir, but I still have to—”

“No, no, no! Don’t say a word. This is your duty, so you cannot refuse.”

Juliana had no choice but to swallow the thought of delivering important documents to Douglas.

Because Douglas had verbally informed everyone around him: if Cadillus took a fancy to any woman, they had to comply unconditionally.

Even if she was a general's wife.

Of course, Douglas's wife was exempt from such risks, as she was already a woman in her fifties.

Cadillus hadn't developed such perverse interests yet.

...

Because Zhang Yi had sunk the Copernicus, and because of the leaked information about the Divine Source, the consequences were undoubtedly enormous.

Zhu Zheng and Douglas were both taking active measures, determined to obtain intelligence about the Divine Source.

Although the Jiangnan Region was far weaker than the Colombian Ocean Fleet in naval power, Zhu Zheng had his own methods.

He immediately arranged for Zhang Yi to flee southwest.

Because there, a reconnaissance team he had previously dispatched on a mission was stationed.

In the southwestern sea area, an archipelago was shrouded in thick black smoke that billowed skyward.

The frigid icy sea was momentarily warmed by the raging flames.

Hundreds of ships, large and small, were almost completely destroyed at this moment.

The Tianlong Pirate Crew's Sixth Squad captain, Babu, was in an extremely miserable state.

His face was viciously stomped on by a high heel, his body covered in terrifying wounds, blood soaking the deck beneath him.

"Babu, I'll ask you one last time. Where exactly is the Tianlong King's lair?"

The cold voice came from a chilly woman.

She wore a battle suit of blue and white, a white military cap on her head, chestnut natural curls reaching her back, and a resolute face. Her ice-blue eyes were especially striking.

Especially those sword-like sharp eyebrows, which gave an aura of deadly seriousness.

She was the captain of Rose Squad, Linghu Feixue, known as the Moon Star Deity and the Moon Palace Fairy.

Babu was covered in wounds, so tortured that he looked like a mess, his body grotesquely swollen.

Yet despite Linghu Feixue's interrogation, he still coldly chuckled, "Heh heh, I'm not telling you, you stinking woman! You'll never find Tianlong Island!"

Linghu Feixue looked at him coldly, then suddenly put all her strength into her foot, piercing his eyeball!

Babu let out a pig-like scream of agony.

At that moment, a member of Rose Squad walked over and said to Linghu Feixue:

"Captain, an urgent message from headquarters!"

Linghu Feixue said to Babu, "That's enough for today. I've had my fun."

She turned around with style and left.

Suddenly, huge, colorful bubbles appeared in the air, dazzling and dreamlike.

Those bubbles gathered around Babu's body, even entering his seven orifices and penetrating inside.

"Wuu... wuu..."

Babu soon suffocated, unable to even struggle.

But moments later, his body violently exploded, scattering bloody fragments everywhere.

Linghu Feixue returned to the ship and took a call from Zhu Zheng.

"Commander, this is Linghu Feixue."

Crossing her legs, she sat in the chair, maintaining her usual indifferent demeanor while talking with Zhu Zheng.

Zhu Zheng seemed used to it and didn't press her on the rudeness.

He simply asked, "How is the mission in the South Sea area going?"

Linghu Feixue said, "The Tianlong Pirate Crew is very cunning; their lairs keep shifting. Locking down their position is extremely difficult."

"I just wiped out their Sixth Squad, but judging by how quickly these pirates are expanding in the South Sea, it's probably useless. They will soon exploit displaced people from all over to expand their influence."

Zhu Zheng said, "Set that mission aside for now. There is another important task you need to complete."

"Oh?"

A strange gleam appeared in Linghu Feixue's eyes.

Changing missions mid-way?

That had never happened before.

Unless there was an especially critical emergency, Zhu Zheng would never make such a decision.

Because every mission required extensive preparation before execution.

Zhu Zheng said solemnly, "Chaos went out to sea on a mission but has now clashed with the Colombian Navy. I instructed him to flee toward your location."

"You must immediately go to assist him. Make sure he returns safely!"

Linghu Feixue showed curiosity at the mention of "Chaos" for the first time.

"Chaos? The one who defeated Gao Changkong?"

A mission involving someone who could make that man move must be extremely important.

Linghu Feixue didn't ask further.

"I understand. I will go assist him."

Zhu Zheng continued, "To avoid detection by the Colombian Navy, they cannot contact the outside world. You have to find a way to locate them in the vast ocean yourselves."

"I have already transmitted their information to you."

Linghu Feixue smiled.

"Good, I understand."

After ending the call, Linghu Feixue reviewed the data on the Golden Edge and Zhang Yi.

She smiled faintly and immediately ordered all team members.

"Kill all the pirates here, then turn south!"

"Gu Yufei!"

A female team member with long hair came forward to Linghu Feixue.

"Yes, Captain!"

Linghu Feixue told her about the search mission.

“Have your teammates help find the ships of Huaxu Kingdom.”

After receiving the order, Gu Yufei immediately went to the ship’s edge.

She placed both hands on her chest, parted her cherry lips slightly, and emitted an extraordinarily beautiful and magical sound.

An arioso.

This ability allowed her to communicate with all living beings.

After more than ten minutes, a group of dolphins swam through layers of broken ice, responding to Gu Yufei’s call with sharp cries as they approached.

Gu Yufei smiled gently, lowered her head to look at them, and requested their help in searching for ships.

The dolphins happily responded, then dived into the water and swam westward in all directions.

Chapter 879: Regional Cooperation

After Zhu Zheng finished contacting the Rose Squad, he finally let out a slight sigh of relief.

However, deep down, he was very clear that relying solely on the Rose Squad was insufficient to contend with the Colombian Navy.

There had to be a powerful naval force capable of holding the Colombian Navy at bay, buying time for Zhang Yi and the Rose Squad to escape.

Otherwise, even if Zhang Yi and the others fled to the ends of the earth, they would find no route back to the Jiangnan Region by sea.

"I must talk to Old Li!"

Zhu Zheng sighed.

Not long ago, the Colombian Navy had already contacted him.

It was only an official document asserting the legitimacy of their actions.

Of course, they never mentioned their attempted forcible ship seizure, only focusing on Zhang Yi sinking the Copernicus cruiser.

Between great powers, actions require justification; this was the basic tacit understanding between them.

As for Zhu Zheng's explanations, Douglas would not even listen.

So, Zhu Zheng planned to contact the East Sea Region, hoping they could help create space for Zhang Yi.

But such help would come at a significant price.

Zhu Zheng opened his computer, thought for a moment, and sent a picture to Li Guangxiao.

Then he sat quietly at his desk, waiting for Li Guangxiao's response.

Sure enough, minutes later, Li Guangxiao's communication came through.

Zhu Zheng connected the video call.

On the other side of the screen, Li Guangxiao's face was full of smiles, mixed with a trace of urgency.

“Old Zhu, did you find the Divine Source?”

They all had information on the Divine Source, given to them by the Shengjing Region.

Although Shengjing would not share the Divine Source itself, they did share intelligence, after all, the six major regions were like a family, dependent on one another.

Thus, both Zhu Zheng and Li Guangxiao had seen images of the Divine Source.

Because of this, Li Guangxiao became excited the moment he saw the picture.

Zhu Zheng smiled and said, “Old Li, don’t be anxious, let me explain slowly.”

He clarified the sequence of events to Li Guangxiao but concealed many crucial details.

He only said that they had gone out to rescue someone who knew about the Divine Source.

All information about Li Zongyu was kept secret.

After listening, Li Guangxiao couldn't help but draw a sharp breath.

"That kid under your command is ruthless! He actually dared to directly sink a Colombian cruiser in the ocean!"

"If this had happened in the past, it would have triggered a major international war!"

Zhu Zheng snorted coldly, "What time do you think this is? It's no longer a peaceful era. Besides, if they hadn't struck first, how could my men have fought back?"

Li Guangxiao extended his tone, "Oh, if it's for the Divine Source, that's very reasonable. Forget sinking a cruiser, even if it came to fighting them, it would be worth it!"

Now, many of the world's top powers were aware of the Divine Source.

This mysterious thing appeared at an unknown time.

But its power was staggering, capable of elevating a top Delta-level superhuman to Epsilon-level!

Everyone knew how strong an Epsilon-level superhuman was.

The higher-ups valued such superhumans for their enormous strategic significance.

With the era of great mutations arriving, superhumans would become more numerous.

One day, ordinary soldiers might even be replaced by superhumans.

At that point, firearms would lose their prominence.

If countries wanted to maintain their strength, they had to prepare in advance.

Weapons had limited power.

Superhuman power had yet to reach its upper limit.

Li Guangxiao said to Zhu Zheng, "You want my men to help you, right?"

Zhu Zheng smiled, "That's exactly my idea."

Li Guangxiao chuckled; the old fox had already started considering the cost-effectiveness of this move.

They were currently locked in a standoff with Colombia in the East Sea, and no one dared to act rashly.

Strictly speaking, the East Sea Region's navy and the Colombian Ocean Fleet were evenly matched.

But they had the home advantage, able to launch missiles from land to attack the Colombian fleet or even their headquarters directly.

"Helping you isn't impossible, but we can only hold them back. We won't really start a large-scale naval battle."

"Also, you must share the Divine Source intelligence with me when the time comes!"

Li Guangxiao straightforwardly put forward his demands.

Zhu Zheng and Li Guangxiao were old friends, both military men, so there was no beating around the bush.

Li Guangxiao's conditions were not excessive, and Zhu Zheng did need their help, so he agreed.

"Alright, when we get the Divine Source, we'll cooperate!"

“Good, I will immediately send people to the East Sea to apply pressure!”

The two did not discuss how the Divine Source would be divided.

It wasn't that they didn't want to, but until now, except for some people in Shengjing, no other region had come into contact with it.

They didn't even know what form the Divine Source took or if it could be divided.

But one thing was clear to both.

When there was an external enemy, they had to join forces first to resolve external conflicts.

“Old Li, you must do your best! After all, the person I sent is very important to the Jiangnan Region.”

“If you can't withstand the pressure, I might have to ask that person in Shengjing for help.”

Zhu Zheng spoke earnestly.

No matter Zhang Yi's attitude, he was currently the Jiangnan Region's top combat power.

In any case, Zhu Zheng had to protect Zhang Yi well.

The Jiangnan Region had suffered repeated blows and could no longer afford to lose a top fighter.

Li Guangxiao indeed felt the pressure.

If Shengjing intervened, they would probably be sidelined entirely.

Because Shengjing's style was always domineering, and coupled with the terrifying power of the Hell's Guillotine ability holder, once they acted, Jiangnan and East Sea would only be mere props.

"Old Zhu, what are you saying? Our East Sea Region is not that weak!"

Li Guangxiao said angrily, "Just watch! World's best, my ass! I fight with the elite!"

Zhu Zheng smiled brightly and nodded, "Alright, alright, I'll count on you then!"

"I won't let you act in vain. This operation's military supplies will be provided by our Jiangnan Region."

Jiangnan was wealthy and held one of the two major granaries in the Central Plains.

Now, after the apocalypse, it was slowly recovering, using technological capabilities to restore productivity.

Its combat power might be inferior to East Sea and Shengjing, but in terms of supplies, it made other regions envious.

“Good, then it’s settled!”

After finishing their discussion, Li Guangxiao immediately ordered surveillance on every movement of the Colombian Navy.

And to show sufficient deterrence, he directly dispatched East Sea Region’s four strongest naval fleets toward Neon Ropefly Island.

Chapter 880: Zhu Yu

Because Zhang Yi sank the Copernicus, the entire East Sea region was stirred by turbulent undercurrents.

On the side of the Colombian Ocean Fleet, to obtain intelligence on the Divine Source, they did not hesitate to deploy their top combatant, Cadillus.

Meanwhile, the Jiangnan Region and East Sea Region of the Huaxu Kingdom also sent sufficient manpower.

Their goal was perfectly aligned: to block all information and hunt blindly for Zhang Yi who was navigating the vast sea in darkness.

Like the butterfly effect, the actions of these two great powers stirred huge ripples in the surrounding area, dragging many smaller countries into the fray.

No one outside knew the true cause behind the naval standoff between the two nations.

The surface intelligence only indicated it was due to the sinking of a Colombian warship.

But everyone understood that in such extraordinary times, these two superpowers would not lightly start a war.

If they did, it had to be over some enormous interest or conflict.

However, neither Jiangnan, East Sea, nor the Colombian Ocean Fleet would leak any information about this.

Even to the highest levels in Shengjing Region or Colombia itself, they tacitly chose to keep it secret.

After all, the Divine Source was such a precious thing that everyone wanted to claim it for themselves, not share with others.

Although the six regions of the Huaxu Kingdom shared the same root and branch, each held independent local governance rights.

Colombia was the same, with various states allied or hostile to each other, divided into multiple factions.

They could unite when facing outsiders.

But without external pressure, they competed fiercely among themselves for influence.

In short, the situation in the East Sea soon descended into chaos.

The supreme commander of the East Sea Region, Li Guangxiao, immediately ordered his strongest western squadron to head to the East Sea to intimidate Douglas.

This western squadron was led by the top superhumans stationed in the western part of the East Sea Region.

Due to official secrecy, their personal information was unknown to outsiders.

The only official notice was that they were named after the ancient western spirits of the Huaxu Kingdom.

They were Qinglong, Baihu, Zhuque, and Xuanwu.

It was said that the captain of the western fleet in the East Sea Region did not acquire this western title easily.

Because this western title was extremely coveted, many top superhumans from various regions hoped to claim it.

But in the end, all contenders gave up competing.

The only reason was that they realized the gap in strength.

The deployment of the Western Spirit fleet first forced the Colombian Ocean Fleet headquarters to watch from across the sea the major ports of Ropefly Island.

This forced Douglas to mobilize a large number of ships to confront them.

This also greatly relieved pressure on Zhang Yi.

...

Blizzard City.

Zhu Zheng had been busy for two consecutive days over matters concerning Zhang Yi.

His phone calls came one after another.

When it involved a power struggle between major countries, not a single detail could be overlooked.

Especially since the matter had escalated, other regions of the Huaxu Kingdom were paying close attention.

First came inquiries from Shengjing Region, and Zhu Zheng had to find ways to explain.

They had to keep the conflict within a threshold and prevent the situation from escalating into war over Zhang Yi or a single Divine Source.

After a day of hard work, Zhu Zheng was mentally and physically exhausted.

But he believed it was all worth it.

Because Li Lingxue had once said:

Zhang Yi's upper limit was absolutely beyond the Delta level!

He was an extremely rare individual, possessing an Epsilon or even higher talent.

Such a person only appeared once in hundreds of millions.

Currently, the strongest known in the Huaxu Kingdom was the owner of the Hell's Guillotine ability in Shengjing Region, codenamed Houtu, an extraordinary Epsilon-born existence.

"If Zhang Yi can obtain the Divine Source, he might possess power not inferior to Houtu!"

"At that time, our Jiangnan Region will shake off the label of the weakest combat power among the six regions."

Zhu Zheng took a deep breath and whispered faintly to himself.

Zhang Yi's loyalty was beyond doubt.

When Gao Changkong almost killed him, it was Zhang Yi who saved him.

Most importantly, Zhang Yi was someone who desired no power or gain; such a person was the one Zhu Zheng trusted most.

If he could not trust Zhang Yi, then no one in Blizzard City could gain his trust.

But at this moment, he could not help but think of Gao Changkong, feeling a wave of sighs.

If Zhang Yi possessed Epsilon-level talent, perhaps Gao Changkong did as well.

But the past was unbearable to recall, and now both stood in a life-or-death position, making it difficult to debate who was right or wrong.

Just as Zhu Zheng was sighing with emotion, Lan Xincheng came to report that Li Lingxue from the research department had come to see him.

“She also brought a little girl with her.”

When Lan Xincheng said this, he glanced at Li Lingxue beside him, and at the shy little girl hiding behind her legs.

The girl looked about five or six years old, with big eyes but carrying a strange ethereal quality.

Innocent and naïve, as if an angel just descended to the human world, with a beauty untouched by worldly affairs.

Lan Xincheng didn’t understand why Li Lingxue would bring such a child here.

But Li Lingxue’s reputation was already poor; those who knew her thought she was a scientific eccentric who often did things others couldn’t understand.

Hearing this, a strange expression appeared in Zhu Zheng’s eyes.

“Let them come in!”

“Yes!”

Lan Xincheng allowed Li Lingxue and the little girl to see Zhu Zheng.

Since the Gao Changkong incident, Zhu Zheng's security level had been raised.

To meet him, one had to pass through multiple layers of screening.

Except for Zhang Yi and a few others, no one else could meet Zhu Zheng directly.

His bodyguard Sun Luxuan even lived and ate with him, never leaving his side.

It was said that because of this, Zhu Zheng's wife was somewhat displeased, but as a mature woman, she could handle such minor matters herself.

Li Lingxue brought the angelic little girl to Zhu Zheng's office.

"Who is she?"

Zhu Zheng looked at the little girl curiously and pointed at her, asking Li Lingxue: "What's her sequence number?"

Li Lingxue, wearing thick black-rimmed glasses with deep dark circles beneath, always looked half-asleep.

“Specimen number 486.”

“She is the most special one and currently the only successful product to have shed its shell.”

Zhu Zheng’s expression suddenly became excited.

He stood up from his chair and walked over to the little girl who looked confused and ignorant, like a newly hatched chick.

The girl shyly hid behind Li Lingxue.

Li Lingxue spoke without caring about Zhu Zheng’s reaction: “She integrates our latest technology and materials, with a very high comprehensive data index.”

“She can be said to be the most perfect experimental product we have obtained since the apocalypse.”

But Zhu Zheng raised his hand to stop Li Lingxue from continuing.

“No, don’t call her that.”

“She should have her own name.”

Zhu Zheng squatted down and looked at the little girl with a kindly face.

“From now on, you shall be called... Zhu Yu!”

“Knowing my brothers are climbing high, everywhere wearing cornelian, one is missing.”

The girl blinked her big eyes and softly recited, “Zhu... Yu.”