

## Wow 711

### Chapter 711: Incident 2

"Of course it's true," Bai E nodded calmly, turning to gesture toward the giant figure on the other side of the distant gate, "But right now, I don't have time to discuss this with you. Maintaining the stability of the city is also our duty as soldiers. I just want to ask you, can you make that big fellow stop?"

"A soldier's duty..." The old man was taken aback, a look of agreement smiling across his face.

Yes! A soldier's duty.

It was their duty as artificial humans as well.

Maintaining the stability of the city had once been a deep-seated commitment for every artificial human.

But... he had never intended to disrupt the city's stability either.

"We, we just want to let this city see..."

See our determination.

See our faith.

See whether we artificial humans truly deserve trust.

The old man stared at Bai E, whose indifferent face somehow gave him a complete sense of relief and familiarity, filling him with absolute trust.

Artificial humans had no kin, but every artificial human was a brother!

"We have no intention of disrupting the city's stability, 'he' will not take any harmful actions, you can be completely assured. We only wish to present this item, with no other intentions."

"..." Bai E squinted his eyes, "But your actions are too extreme."

The old man gave a wry smile, "I'm sorry, but... we have no other options left."

They had considered expressing their current thoughts more peacefully.

They had repeatedly approached the city's research institutions, offering to donate their artificial brains for study, but each time they were flatly rejected, told that artificial humans posed deadly risks and were wholly unsuitable as the foundational units for such core technology.

If no one would accept them even when they willingly offered themselves, what power did these exiled soldiers have to change everyone's fixed perceptions of artificial humans? How could they clear the name of the old Field Marshal who had been implicated by the artificial humans?

Only by establishing indisputable facts could they challenge everyone's prejudices.

The "ultimate weapon" of tonight was the final statement of their efforts to vindicate artificial humans.

"We... just want to let everyone see."

"But you could have chosen a milder way to proactively submit new technology to the city, I believe the Scientific Research Institute would never refuse to gain a completely new technology directly..."

"We've tried that... but we couldn't even get through their doors."

The old man's rationale was somewhat frustrating.

Even Caesar, who was overhearing, couldn't help but curse those institutions under his breath as "idiots."

The anger and frustration of these old soldiers, expelled from the barracks, had been pushed to such an extent that they triggered tonight's major crisis – a ludicrous misunderstanding.

So he quickly reminded them, "Then quickly get it under control and bring it back. We've seen your creation, and the city has seen it too. As soon as it's reported up, it will definitely attract attention, and scholars from the Scientific Research Institute will come personally. As long as your technology has no issues, it will be a great contribution to the city!"

Having a "brother" from their own ranks of artificial humans and even a de facto ruler of the city in attendance, the old man seemed to finally be at ease, "Alright, I'll speak to the other brothers right away."

However, after the old man picked up the communicator prepared by Zhou Wenjie and spoke a few words into it, his expression slowly turned to one of confusion.

"What's wrong?" Seeing this, Caesar's heart skipped a beat, and he proactively asked.

The old man didn't make a sound, only turning his head to look into the darkness behind him, "Wolfscorpion, bring Wenjie over."

In the midst of the battle with the security forces, Wolfscorpion, in order to protect Wenjie, did not engage directly in the fight.

Now called by the old man, the two emerged from the darkness not far off.

The old man handed over the communicator designed to communicate with the "giant" directly to Wenjie, "Is this thing broken? Why isn't there any response to the communication commands I'm sending?"

Although the wills of the old brothers had been altered to become more mechanical in nature, the basic response function was built into the system by Wenjie from the start. It shouldn't be malfunctioning, should it?

Wen Jie casually fiddled with the communicator before handing it back to the old man, his words full of conviction, "The communicator is not the problem."

"Then why has there been no response to my calls?"

"The signal's transmission and reception are both fine, but it hasn't been carried out correctly." Wen Jie's gaze drifted into the distance, through the light and shadow streaming from the gate, to the giant seemingly about to lift its foot, "The issue must be on their side!"

In the world of technology, it's either one or the other.

Wen Jie was quite sure of this answer.

"But I didn't instruct them to take the next step," the old man said, his expression slightly stunned.

His intention from the beginning had been only to make the city "see," not to let it suffer any harm.

Entering the Upper City was their final step; he certainly had not issued the next set of instructions to his old comrades.

"Wen Jie, those android brains made into biological main brains, do they still possess a will of their own?" Bai E, smelling a hint of ominous air, turned to Zhou Wenjie and asked, bypassing protocol.

"Responding to the master... theoretically, they shouldn't have any. Apart from a slim chance to 'recognize a person' and grant control permissions, they no longer have the subjectivity to act on their own," Zhou Wenjie respectfully replied.

Bai E had not hidden his identity at all. Upon Bai E's arrival, Zhou recognized the one who had first welcomed him into the organization and assigned him his missions.

Zhou was unfamiliar with "loyalty," but he was equally unfamiliar with "betrayal."

He only knew that if he agreed to something, he had to carry it through—not because he was dull, nor because he was dumb.

It was simply about being straightforward, saying what he meant—it was just less worrisome...

He belonged to the master, so naturally, he laid everything out when questioned.

"So, it's 'that' which has malfunctioned," Bai E turned to look at the mechanical foot raised in the distance. With a flash, he shot out towards it.

Conspiracies and deceptions swirled, an evil presence surged.

[Warning! Warning! Current turmoil level: 9999! Please prevent the situation from worsening as soon as possible!]

The warnings on the panel turned a blood red, the alarm sounding more piercing than ever.

"Boom!"

The mechanical foot, crashing down, was suddenly countered by a small "steel needle," prompting the "giant" to look down curiously at what had stopped its step.

But looking down was merely a human habit; its countless sensors had already mapped out everything beneath its foot, laying it all out within its processing center without fail.

A creature as insignificant as an ant had its hands raised high against the sky, pressing against the sole of the foot that was meant to move forward.

Within those glowing green skulls, the hollow eye sockets emitted a sinister purple light, flickering eerily amidst the dim, misty air.

The giant, unwilling to yield, lifted its foot high again and brought it down once more.

The giant's frame, several times larger than the standard mecha in the military camp, made it seem like a pillar holding up the sky. With a forceful stomp, it pressed the resisting "steel needle" into the ground beneath its foot.

Only after feeling that the ground underfoot was finally level did the giant, satisfied, once again raise its trailing foot, ready to stride forward.

The dazzling lights of the human city were in the distance, beckoning it to take a closer look...

Caesar turned his head towards his subordinates as he watched the one viewed as the "savior," General Bai E, effortlessly crushed underfoot by the giant, realising that they were unaware of the full extent of the giant's capabilities, his fur bristling instantaneously, "Have the Mechanical Court's people arrived yet?"

Upon seeing the giant for the first time, Caesar knew the situation couldn't be resolved by their law enforcement team alone, so he immediately had his men contact the city's highest authority—the Mechanical Court.

Though it hasn't been long since the incident occurred, given the Mechanical Court's superior equipment, they should have arrived by now...

"They're here, they're here!" his subordinate received a response from the Mechanical Court at the same time—

"Our mech pilots have arrived on the scene and are assisting you in subduing the target."

A streak of light rushed towards them from afar, crossing the city's skies in the blink of an eye...

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The mech pilot from the Mechanical Court has arrived!

Seeing that streak of light, piercing through the gate and gazing up at the giant, every member of the security team felt a surge of exhilaration.

This was, after all, the strongest combat force in the city. With their timely arrival, surely the situation wouldn't deteriorate any further, right?

Although General Bai E had also arrived on the scene and was indeed formidable, he hadn't brought his exclusive vehicle, had he?

Without his mecha, General Bai E was just not as reliable as the top-notch mechas.

"Whoosh~"

The streak of light rapidly closed in, and several trails with tail flames shot forward even faster than the mecha's flying speed, aiming directly at the giant's face.

However, no matter how fast these were, they couldn't surpass the giant's reaction speed. As the small missiles approached within a certain distance, the giant manipulated its numerous individual weapons to fire instantly.

Even though the missiles followed nonlinear trajectories as they raced towards their target, they couldn't evade the barrage of fire that filled the sky.

In fact, very little of that intercepting fire went astray.

Countless individual thermal weapons intercepted the stray shots in advance, causing a series of explosions to erupt at a certain distance from the giant.

The flames illuminated half of the sky.

The targeting capabilities of these numerous weapons, controlled by a biologic central processing unit, were no worse than the current military's anti-missile systems—perhaps even surpassing them.

If it weren't for the limited output level of these individual thermal weapons, the giant wouldn't have needed to let the missiles get so close, nor would it need to control so many weapons to fire simultaneously.

Seeing the missiles intercepted, the mechs from the Mechanical Court didn't insist on continuing the long-range bombardment.

The amount of ammunition, including its yield, that a flying-type mecha could carry was limited; long-range bombardment wasn't its strength.

Agile close combat and versatile tactics were its true advantages.

A dark purple blade flickered in and out of visibility in the night; the mecha, holding the blade, sped towards the giant.

But the giant, which wasn't actually slow in its movements, easily avoided the mecha's slashing strike, and one of its arms even swept past the edge of the mecha's body.

Predicting the mecha's movement path was much simpler than predicting the trajectories of those stray shots and intercepting them accurately.

If the mech pilot controlling the mecha hadn't reacted in time, they would likely have been hit by the giant's palm.

But even though they dodged the strike, the threat to the mecha was far from over.

"Da da da da da!"

The giant's arm, which could be described as an amalgamation of numerous individual thermal weapons, didn't stop it from opening fire the next moment just because it missed a strike.

Facing fast-moving, irregular missiles that could be precisely intercepted, locking onto the larger, slower-moving mecha was even easier for the giant.

"Ding ding ding ding ding!"

A series of bullets colliding with alloy resonated continuously, with every shot from the individual thermal weapons striking against the mecha's surface.

The mech pilot controlling the mecha had an icy look in their eyes.

It didn't matter.

This big thing was using merely individual-level firearms. The surface barrage seemed dense and intense, but in reality, it was more bark than bite.

The attack wasn't powerful enough; no matter how many, they were just scratching the mecha.

Even the toughest octium alloy had a concept of metal fatigue, but individual-level weapons couldn't achieve that standard in a short time, no matter how many there were.

Water can carve stone, but it requires sufficient time.

'It's just an intimidating appearance.'

The mech pilot's eyes were frosty, becoming even calmer after withstanding the attack.

After all, it was impossible not to have any doubts at the first sight of something so huge.

But now they were letting their guard down.

But the next moment...

A muffled "puff" sound, as if it came directly from the machine, made the mech pilot slightly startle.

The mech's internal systems didn't raise an alarm immediately, and the pilot, fully trusting in the mecha's self-diagnostic system, didn't take the strange noise too seriously.

Some noise caused by movement and aging within any mechanical structure is normal; it doesn't necessarily mean that the mecha's defenses were penetrated.

There was no need to scare oneself.

But the very next moment, the firearms on the giant's arms erupted once more, unleashing a fierce barrage, and countless bullets swarmed towards the mecha like ants shaking a tree.

"Thump thump thump thump thump!"

Unlike before, the sounds were now continuously shaking the moving mech.

In an instant, the scarlet emergency alarms blared within the cockpit, bathing the mech pilot in ominous red light.

"Damn it!"

"How did its bullets penetrate the octium alloy defense?!"

However, by the next moment, the thought was engulfed by flames that burst forth.

The searing heat exploded right at the damaged spot, and a violent blast tore through the middle section of the mecha.

The emergency ejection system shot the entire cockpit out, as the life of a well-trained elite mech pilot was far more valuable than that of a mecha.

Watching the burning mech, split in two by the explosion and plummeting from the sky, fell along with the plummeting hearts of all the security team members.

"How could this happen..."

Caesar's deputy watched in shock as the mech, now a ball of fire, fell before his eyes, his gaze filled with disbelief.

How could the highly anticipated mech pilot from the Mechanical Court be so easily defeated?

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"What kind of monster have you unleashed?!" Caesar turned his head and glared angrily at the old warrior by his side.

"I don't know..." The old man looked just as confused, turning to ask Wen Jie beside him, "Does our 'Ultimate Weapon' have this kind of ability?"

Zhou Wenjie shook his head, his expression grave, "I don't know either..."

The main body of the Ultimate Weapon was actually a system with fifty-seven human brains composing its biomechanical brain system. There were no extraordinary elements factored into its design, and they did not possess the capability to do so.

As for the structures that made up the entire body of the "giant," they used whatever their war party could get their hands on.

But even the best things their war party could procure were quite common and ordinary in this city; if their party could get them, so could the other parties.

The individual-level weapons they had were just that—suitable for fighting against humans, perhaps, but lacking confidence against their own world's heavy armored vehicles or tanks.

Although Wen Jie had never been in contact with the truly core technological creations of this world, he knew that the humanoid mecha that had come flying from the sky was extraordinary, surely a trump card of this city's combat power.

Whether in terms of technology or materials, this "Ultimate Weapon" wasn't really much to speak of.

The only thing worth noting was the computational power provided by its "biomechanical brain system."

But in combat, this only allowed it potent predictive abilities and targeting capabilities; as for attack power... it could never exceed the limits of the individual-level weapons that constituted it.

But now...

"There's the scent of Spiritual Energy."

Bai E stood at the giant's feet.

The mechanical structure of the giant wasn't formidable. The two feet that seemed to trample him into the ground actually twisted and deformed due to his resistance, but they reformed almost instantly under the giant's control.

He himself was like a nail, with a vertical space squeezed out between the ground and the giant's foot.

As for him, he was of course unharmed.

Having escaped earlier, he had watched the entire process of the Mech Pilot from the Mechanical Court battling with the giant.

He hadn't expected the mecha of the Mechanical Court to fall so swiftly either.

Top-tier mecha defenses were not easily breached, even by him, in such a short time.

Yet, unexpectedly, the giant had managed to do so using those individual-level guns and cannons.

Because of... Spiritual Energy?

He had perceived a faint fluctuation of Spiritual Energy earlier, but not much.

After all, the biomechanical brain system was made up of many human brains. Humans could potentially possess Spiritual Energy, so a brain system composed through special methods could have the ability to manipulate Spiritual Energy. It was within reason, similar to the terrifying Spiritual Energy of that hive queen.

But more than that... the bullets from those guns and cannons all hit the same exact spot on the Mechanical Court's mecha.

This was his most crucial observation from watching at the sidelines—

Even as the Mechanical Court's mecha was engaged in rapid, erratic, and changing movements, the giant could still maneuver its many guns to precisely hit the same spot with every bullet in a short span of time.

Standing far away, Bai E even suspected that the precision of this "same spot" was on the scale of centimeters.

A structure so immense could lock its point of attack within such a precise area—the capabilities of this biomechanical brain system might be beyond everyone's imagination.

And that brief flash of Spiritual Energy? It was likely just playing a "supportive role."

As this thought flickered through Bai E's mind, he didn't have time to delay any further.

The giant, having quickly defeated the mecha sent by the Mechanical Court, continued unhesitatingly towards the core of the upper city district without looking back.

Fortunately, a large area connecting the two districts was an uninhabited structural zone, so the giant's steps had not yet affected any residents' lives in the upper city district.

But if it were allowed to continue, encountering any resident would cause the mission's chaos value to skyrocket well over 10000 in an instant.

It mustn't be allowed to advance any further!

Bai E's form darted like lightning, climbing along the giant's body.

Sensing that the ant trampled earlier had not perished and was still wreaking havoc on its own body, the giant did not show any particular reaction.

Its feet didn't stop moving, but the structures all over its body began to shift and change, trying to fling Bai E off through this transformation.

As for firing...

Humans are not mecha.

No matter how precise the aiming, it would inevitably end up hitting itself.

The mech's structural integrity was actually not very high; it certainly wouldn't perform an operation that would damage itself.

However, merely changing the mech's structure couldn't shake off the troublesome Bai E.

But Bai E couldn't just watch his target continue to advance.

As Bai E ascended around the giant's body like lightning, in the blink of an eye, he reached the height in front of the giant's chest, stomped with his foot, and leaped forward.

Bai E somersaulted out in front of the giant's chest while a silver rod in his hand grew longer and thicker...

With both hands, Bai E swung the rod, which grew significantly larger as it smashed down towards the giant's head.

"Grow!"

"Grow!"

"Grow!"

With the wind, the rod extended instantly, becoming a towering pillar that reached the sky.

With infinite might, the strike landed solidly on the top of the giant's head.

"Boom!"

The devastating strike, called "Instant Kill Hundred Heads," came crashing down with over a dozen shadows of the rod, almost cleaving the giant's body into countless pieces from top to bottom.

But a moment before being solidly cleaved by Bai E, Zhou, who had finally detached from the giant's body, was simultaneously locked onto by the countless individual firearms mounted on the giant.

"Ratatatata!"

The calibers of the countless firearms flashed with flames in succession, and although the firing rates and muzzle velocities varied, they almost simultaneously shot lethal bullets towards Bai E's chest... his heart.

"Puff puff puff puff!"

In almost an instant, Bai E, who was in the midst of his swing, felt a tearing pain in his chest.

Countless bullets pierced through Bai E's golden body—a product of "Absolute Defense"—in the blink of an eye, and even the spiritual energy defense skill, which was hard to breach by high-dimension demons in a short time, collapsed under the simultaneous fire from the giant's arsenal.

Without the protection of Absolute Defense, Bai E's flesh faced the same attack and was even more easily shattered.

Bullets tore through the skin, and the soft inner organs were even less resistant.

The explosion from the gunpowder burst open inside the body, yet a strange substance rippled out with an odd wave of light.

The authority that cheated death locked onto the scraps of Bai E's blown-apart flesh.

The pieces that were blown into the air began to converge towards the same spot almost at the same time...

"Dead... dead?"

"All... dead?"

All onlookers were stunned.

Everyone, dead.

Whether it was General Bai E or that giant.

The battle had unfolded at lightning speed.

Whether it was the Mechanical Court's mecha's instantaneous defeat or the mutual annihilation of General Bai E and the giant...

They all witnessed the entire process with their own eyes.

Especially the sight of General Bai E's scattered remains, and the mechanical debris from the giant shattered by a single strike that is still falling before their eyes.

"Is... is this real?"

The events unfolded so quickly and were shockingly intense.

For a moment, almost everyone found it difficult to accept the reality.

No one anticipated that a mere battle group could come up with a weapon capable of destroying Mechanical Court's mecha instantly.

No one thought that General Bai E could actually smash this mighty weapon with a single strike... and also perish in the process.

Caesar was completely dumbfounded, unable to accept the reality before him for a moment.

He preferred to believe it was an absurd dream...

But no one expected that the giant was not entirely destroyed, General Bai E... wasn't dead either.

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The mechanical wreckage scattered all over the ground began to converge towards the center under some marvelous force, and the fragmented bodies reformed into a new whole under the central control system of the bio-core brain.

Seeing that the existence was about to become that terrifying giant again, Caesar grabbed the leader of the Doctor Battle Gang by the collar, "This is what you call harmless?!"

"We... we..." The old man also had a bewildered look in his eyes, "We really didn't set up any programs for it to attack on its own..."

"Then tell me what this is!" Caesar pointed to the huge figure that was about to rise again amidst the city, "He killed the only artificially created person of yours who climbed to a high position!"

General Bai E was dead! They didn't have another General Bai E.

Even without considering the future, what could they do about this giant right now?

Without General Bai E, what could they use to contend with the giant?

"Captain! The Mechanical Court has been informed of the destruction of their Mecha, and reinforcements are on their way! Let's try to delay this giant's advance as much as possible!"

"Delay? With what are we supposed to delay?!" Caesar's temples throbbed with bulging veins.

Even General Bai E was instantly focused down and killed by the giant, what could they possibly do?

"Wait! Look over there!" One of Caesar's subordinates suddenly pointed towards the distance.

Without anyone noticing, a figure, stark naked, appeared in the direction he was pointing to.

"There shouldn't be anyone there..."

In their recollection, that direction was empty. When did this naked individual come over?

"It's General Bai E!" Caesar enhanced his sight with Spiritual Energy, and his vision became even clearer.

The moment he recognized the target, Caesar instinctively felt elated, "General Bai E isn't dead!"

Then he thought about the "fragments" that had just scattered, 'What were those things that just flew apart?'

Torn to pieces by countless bullets, General Bai E exploded into chunks of debris, which they instinctively thought were the remains of his body being blown apart.

The entire person was torn to bits; how could he still be alive?

But now...

General Bai E was standing there intact. Could it mean that what they saw earlier were just... General Bai E's clothes?

Or perhaps some parts of flesh, but with General Bai E's extraordinary ability for bodily regeneration, it was repaired in the blink of an eye?

This was the only explanation, otherwise, how to explain General Bai E's resurrection?

The answer was one – he never died in the first place!

The cheers of his team echoed in Caesar's ears, "Thank goodness General Bai E is not dead!"

General Bai E, with heavy gravity in his eyes, looked towards the likewise reassembling body of the giant. Battle information belatedly appeared in his view on the panel—

[Your "Absolute Defense" has been hit by a "Supercharged Overclocking Strike," defense shattered.]

[You have sustained 279 points of piercing damage, "Defy Death" has been activated! You will retain a minimum of 1 hit point.]

["Rapid Recovery" is rapidly repairing your body, and you have regained the ability to move.]

[Hit points +1...]

[Hit points +1...]

Watching that giant in the midst of reassembly, Bai E knew he couldn't just wait for it to complete its body's reconstruction.

A fully-formed giant possessed the ability to annihilate him with a volley of bullets in an instant, and his second life was not a match for that terrifying strike either.

The only good news was... the opponent was a glass cannon.

Possessing terrifying offensive power, the opponent's defensive capabilities were also weak.

The body he had smashed with a single blow was now reassembling at a visibly slower pace, indicating that the core system had also sustained significant damage.

And the time it took for the opponent to reassemble was the best opportunity for him to turn defeat into victory!

Just in the moment of their recent engagement, Bai E had already confirmed.

The reason for this giant's "madness" was not due to the control of that battle gang.

Having dealt with high-dimensional demons enough times, Bai E couldn't be more certain that this giant's errant behavior was actually due to the erosion by high-dimensional demons!

From the tomes in the city library, Bai E had long understood that any piece of technology developed by humanity could be influenced by that master of "conspiracy".

The god controlling conspiracies was also the transcendent being in charge of curiosity, wisdom, knowledge, and other domains of power.

Every single piece of technology developed by humans had to go through repetitive and meticulous scrutiny over a long period to ensure that the final product wouldn't be exploited by the master of conspiracy.

That is why, following the Golden Age, the speed of human technological development had drastically slowed down, so much so that after so many years, the technology at their disposal was far from reaching the peak of the Golden Age.

Every process in the Scientific Research Institute's development had to undergo rigorous scrutiny, but these battle gangs did not have the means for such luxury in their private tech development.

Ordinary, matured technology was one thing, hardly considered "development" and less likely to attract the attention of that deity of wisdom.

But the "bio-core brain system," a piece of fresh cutting-edge technology, was undoubtedly targeted and exploited by that master of wisdom.

Now, the will controlling this giant's body did not originate from the control of that battle gang's handlers, but from... the highest Demon God in the high-dimensional space!

To drive It away... was actually quite simple.

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Bai E reached out and the space next to him rippled.

The Sword of Judgment that had slain demons materialized in his palm, and his entire body shot forth instantly.

"Swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh!"

The sword light flickered in the air, and under the infusion of Spiritual Energy, the air through which the Longsword passed still retained the sparkling Spiritual Energy characters.

Exorcism Magic Circle!

This was Bai E's sole method of breaking the situation at the moment.

By driving out the demonic forces affecting the "bio-brain system" back into the high-dimensional space, the uncontrolled giant would naturally cease its aggressive behavior, and the crisis would resolve itself.

Spiritual Energy surged like a violent tide, quickly activating the characters surrounding the luminescent green iron ring, dazzling with blinding light under the stimulation of Spiritual Energy.

As the Exorcism Magic Circle began to operate, the supreme law drove the forces from the high-dimensional space to be compressed and expelled by the rules of the material world once again.

The deep purple aura was forced strand by strand out of the spherical containers holding heads by the spiritual sense, and the mech's reassembly process finally came to a halt.

"Boom!"

A metal ring studded with green beads fell powerlessly to the ground, the "bio-brain system," no longer under the command or influence of demonic power, finally became harmless.

"Whew~"

Energy sapped, Bai E casually grabbed a set of clothes from his storage space and draped them over himself, then collapsed to the ground.

The energy consumption required for rapid physical reconstitution was, to put it mildly, terrifying.

Although the battle was short, it was the most perilous one he had ever faced!

The security teams and fighters from the combat support group, having seen the giant finally fall silent, cautiously approached.

"General Bai E..." Caesar walked at the forefront, calling out with respectful intonation.

Gazing at the scattered wounds, Caesar asked cautiously, "This creature..."

"It's over..." Bai E, leaning against a mech, casually waved his hand, "It's not their fault. This thing has been corrupted by demons."

"It was the demons' doing?" Caesar blinked, then his eyes lit up, "Was the combat power it demonstrated also because of the demons?"

"Not sure." Bai E equally uncertainly shook his head, "Hard to say, only further investigation by the Scientific Research Institute can determine the true limits of this thing's abilities."

The main value of the bio-brain system was in computing power, but whether the demonstrated combat capability came entirely from its computational abilities and its inherent small amount of Spiritual Energy, or was solely a result of the influence of the ultimate demon of wisdom and trickery, was still a matter of debate.

"I'll notify the Scientific Research Institute right away!" Caesar said, excited.

Even though the actions of this combat group had caused an unnecessary scare in the city, if the creature they had provided truly possessed the abilities it had exhibited, it would undoubtedly be of great help for the development of Blackwater City!

"I've already informed Helen ..." Bai E waved his hand.

Ever since he confronted Helen, Bai E had realized that there was competition within the Institute as well.

Such cutting-edge technology, of course, had to be studied by "one's own people" to be reassuring.

Directly notifying the Institute, you never knew who might show up.

But directly informing Helen, this technology would most likely end up in Helen's hands.

Caesar looked deeply at Bai E and nodded in agreement, "Okay."

'It seems that General Bai has a good relationship with Helen as well.'

Thinking this, several streaks of light approached from a distance.

"Where's the target?" came the buzzing voice from the communicator in the hand of Caesar's deputy.

That was a Mech Pilot from the Mechanical Court asking for instructions.

"Bai E has subdued them, and the scene is now under control. We are handling the aftermath," Caesar took over the communicator and calmly replied.

"Received."

The Central City District, which had been in turmoil all night, finally fell into silence.

The unrest that had kept many on edge was finally quelled, thanks to the cooperation of the city's security forces, including those "unsung heroes."

But the turmoil at another level was just beginning.

Within an hour of the unrest's end, the city council urgently convened all attending council members.

Large-scale unrest often indicated a significant opposition between the city's policies and the people's lives.

If the situation was serious, it could even threaten the city's foundations and had to be taken seriously.

"At 10 o'clock last night, a total of 34 battle groups from The Lower City launched an uprising against the Central City District. With the fastest response from our security forces, fortunately, the unrest did not cause too much trouble for the city. However, we must pay attention to the motives behind the unrest and the factors that triggered it! Only by doing so can we avoid repeating the same mistakes next time..."

"I heard that these battle groups had no animosity; they just wanted to vent their frustrations in the Central City District. In the end, it's because the city doesn't provide a legitimate channel for them to vent."

"If the city doesn't provide toilets, everywhere becomes a toilet. In my opinion, we need to establish a 'toilet' for these folks that we can control," someone said.

The nobles who initiated the unrest began to exert their influence.

No one cared about the real losses caused by the unrest or the real victims. Similarly, no one was paying attention to the special battle group that reached the upper city district.

Their purpose in starting the unrest was for the post-uprising council meeting.

Any military action is an extension of political maneuvers. This upheaval was deliberately instigated by them for some political demands.

"Nonsense! This is not the way to vent, they are seeking death! The actions of these battle groups clearly have a unified planning behind them, they are the dirty means used by some people to achieve their goals!"

Hearing the forces within the city start quarreling again in the meeting, Bai E's thoughts drifted away.

He was not interested in bickering.

In fact, he was only interested in the "biological brain system" research that Helen had already embarked on.

He wondered whether the giant showed such combat capability due to the "biological brain system" itself or because of the demon...

The arguing continued for a long time, until it was interrupted by an impatient voice—

"Enough already! I think everyone has an idea about the cause behind this unrest. Instead of arguing here pointlessly, it's more practical to hold another vote after everyone calms down. Gentlemen, rather than spending a lot of time on this endless debate, we should focus on the most unique aspect of this incident—"

"The battle group called 'Doctor', and the future policy on artificial humans..."

After the incident, all participants in the council received information on the development and reasons behind the event.

While Bai E's role was certainly crucial, for those in the city, such performance from him was simply routine.

If Bai E ever faced a setback, that would probably surprise them more.

What intrigued them more... was the will displayed by the group of veteran artificial humans, and their creations.

"As artificial humans are taking on an increasingly important role in our city, we must start considering policies for this special group. Gentlemen, do you think... we should grant artificial humans the same rights as natural humans?"

The Mechanical Court mecha's record of being instantly killed by the giant undoubtedly shocked many, but the role of artificial humans in this remained unclear to many.

"It's just technology stumbled upon by a battle group by mistake. I think it still needs validation."

"Even if artificial humans mainly developed this technology, I don't believe this inherently flawed group deserves more rights."

"Whatever artificial humans can do, if it were us natural humans, we would definitely do it better!"

"I think it's premature to discuss this matter now. Perhaps, we should wait until the Scientific Research Institute completes the fundamental research on this technology before we can decide the role artificial humans can play."

The next moment, someone shouted, "Helen has arrived."

Chapter 716: Wisdom creatures' spirituality

Helen was decisive and efficient as she stood on the central podium, casually activating a projection screen that faced everyone, "This is our research result on the creation recently named the 'Biological Brain System'!..."

"The results of the research suggest that the performance of this system witnessed by the security team at the scene does not fully originate from the system itself."

Her eyes briefly flicked towards Bai E, who was sitting in the center circle, "The information provided by General Bai E... We are carrying out step-by-step investigations to determine how much comes from those existing blessings."

"Furthermore, regarding the valuation of this system... it has computing and coordination capabilities comparable to our current top computer technology. In situations where internet computer technology is inappropriate, this system can perfectly substitute. However, based on our preliminary simple simulations, replicating this system would be quite difficult at the moment. The success of this battle

gang contains an element of chance; even given another opportunity, they might not be able to succeed."

"Above is the technical appraisal report on the seized goods."

The council is a place that values interests the most.

If new technology possesses enough benefits to excite interest, then naturally, its developers would receive a certain reward.

But if the benefits offered by this new technology are insufficient, then the "crimes" committed by its developers must be settled in full.

Helen's summary was actually quite straightforward—

The capabilities of this system do not exceed existing internet computer technology, and its technological route is not interoperable with our current technology, making it highly difficult for mass production and widespread application.

In other words... for the city, the value of this system is insufficient.

And that is the only aspect the Scientific Research Institute needs to be involved in this matter.

Helen, as a researcher, was unaware of the causes and consequences of the event; what she had at hand was just the technological product.

After delivering her speech to everyone, she turned to leave.

Although the new technology might be of little consequence to present-day Blackwater City, it did have its intriguing points for Helen.

After Helen left, the council continued.

Those battle gangs involved in mere chaos were directly subjected to severe punishment, but there was a certain controversy surrounding the Doctor Battle Gang.

Yet now, this point of contention was completely discarded due to the lack of value.

"No matter what this battle gang verbally claims, the reality is that their people invaded the upper city district and even confronted the security team and the Mechanical Court's dissuasion, still breaking through and causing tremendous losses. According to the city's laws, they should be executed! I propose, like the other instigators, they be thrown into the Soul Furnace to offer their last bit of warmth."

Ordinary crimes could permit the criminals to be reformed through military service in the barracks, but rebellion was a crime the city could least tolerate, punishable by death upon conviction.

That's also why the leader of the Doctor Battle Gang was resigned to death from the very beginning.

"Request to reconsider!"

"Request to reconsider!"

A battle gang without any backing naturally had no one to care for their fate.

Bai E's gaze slightly knitted; he wanted to speak.

His status and identity were different now, and he had the right to speak.

However, before him, another aged voice spoke first, "I disagree!"

The elderly former marshal rose from his seat in the corner, having hurried to the city center upon receiving the message; he was no longer willing to see those stubborn artificial veteran soldiers hurt again due to past events.

"They only acted today because they were not supposed to be seen. With hearts full of sincere devotion, they've ended up with this result. These soldiers who came out of our barracks, even after leaving the

barracks, will always be a part of it. They did nothing wrong, and shouldn't be subjected to any form of punishment..."

Before he could finish, an impatient voice interrupted, "Lawrence, have you forgotten something... You're no longer the marshal of the military region. We all know you're hoping to make a comeback using these artificial people, but old is old, and you should rest now."

"Truth does not age with time..."

Yet, a harsh elderly voice asserted, "Sorry, Lawrence, what I mean to say is, in reality, you should not have the right to be here."

"I too agree with the words of the old marshal," said Bai E, who sat in the central circle of the chamber, suddenly speaking out.

He stood up and looked around, "These men are soldiers from our barracks, and if they have erred, it is the responsibility of our barracks. But if they have not erred, there should be no form of punishment. To say they are guilty is to say that our entire barracks is guilty."

Upon hearing Bai E speak out, the entire place fell into silence.

Facing this rising star who was now highly influential within the city, no force or individual in the city dared to readily oppose his opinion.

Those solid achievements were still heavily weighing on everyone's minds, even in the recently concluded event...

A creation that could easily destroy a Mechanical Court mecha stood no chance against General Bai E.

General Bai E even fought with his bare body, without manning his mecha.

Not to mention, according to the live accounts from the security team, they all felt they had witnessed something extraordinary—their General Bai E being resurrected after being reduced to minced meat...

Chapter 717: Wisdom creatures' spirituality\_2

Of course, it might also be a case of everyone being dazzled at once.

But regardless, beneath each incident that erupted, it only served to prove that General Bai E's value was still increasing.

In such circumstances, General Bai E's opinion had become an undeniable will.

Amid the ensuing silence, someone clapped and cheered, "I think General Bai E is right, these old soldiers, even after leaving the barracks, still long for the city. It's precisely to demonstrate their own value that they took such a bold move. If they hadn't shown us first-hand, how could we have realized the true power of the technology they've provided? I support General Bai E's words!"

"I support it!"

"I support it too!"

With Bai E's speech, the atmosphere in the room instantly shifted.

The same words, coming from Bai E's mouth, had an entirely different effect than when spoken by others.

"General Bai E, I know you too are an artificial human, but please be aware of the many drawbacks of artificial humans in your heart. Marshal Lawrence once got involved with the artificial human controversy. You have a great future ahead, and we actually hope that you won't get too entangled in such matters."

"I know," Bai E responded expressionlessly, "but I believe every artificial human will not betray... the city. They've done nothing wrong, they should be released outright."

And so the decision was made, "Alright! Then let's do as General Bai E suggests and release them immediately!"

Following this unexpected turn of events and the conclusion of the meeting, Bai E headed straight for Helen's research institute.

Inside the institute, figures in white lab coats bustled back and forth, everything spotlessly clean against the backdrop of white and green.

When Bai E saw Helen, she was standing beside a ring of transparent glass containers.

Contained within were the "biocomputer brain-based systems" made up of human heads.

To Helen and all the researchers in the city, the value of this new system was likely equivalent to that of a substitute for internet computing technology.

However, Bai E saw a unique value in this system.

It was needed for the mecha enhancement plan 2.0.

Even though the existing mechas performed well under Bai E's control, they were still far from reaching the original intent of mecha design.

Only by completely innovating the current mechas could potentially reveal the strength envisioned by the original designers of the mechas.

Yet Bai E didn't currently have the complete ability to design and manufacture an entire mecha by himself within the scope of the mecha enhancement plan 2.0.

If there was no other way, of course, one would have to figure it out by themselves, but given that Helen was deemed trustworthy, collaboration would naturally make it easier to achieve the goal.

This was the reason he had come to find Helen.

Upon receiving notification from Bai E, Helen, without lifting her eyes from the control panel she was working on, casually asked, "Has the meeting concluded?"

"Yes," Bai E replied as he approached, "Does this new system truly have no practical value?"

"For now... the value is not high," Helen said with a slight frown, "The technological barriers are too high, and considering we already possess internet computing technology, the cost of transitioning is too great. However, if there's one area where this system might potentially surpass internet compute technology, it would probably be in the field of Spiritual Energy..."

The human brain is a quantum system far more complex than electronic computing systems, and its inherent "spirit" as a sentient being adds an infinite number of variables to this quantum system, including the transcendent Spiritual Energy. Theoretically, the brain's potential is boundless.

When individual brains are networked together as a single entity, this effect is exponentially magnified.

The more individual brains there are in the system, the higher the capabilities of the system.

Correspondingly, to create a system, the requirements for each individual within the system are exacting.

"In fact, during the time of electronic silence, we have conducted research into similar technology, but all have ended in failure. Individuals who could be part of the system must have sufficient cognition and insight to cultivate their spiritual essence and intelligence. Yet, they must also have a stable and detached character, free from strong competitive or utilitarian instincts and have complete trust in each other as parts of the system."

Where there are human hearts, there is always chaos that is unpredictable and difficult to completely control.

Furthermore, while researching technology, one must also be constantly vigilant against demon corruption.

Thus, the already slow research process was always set back by various issues that arose during the experimentation.

Even in two identical processes, with every measure exactly the same, a sudden idea from one of the participants could lead to the collapse of the entire experiment.

Over time, Blackwater City abandoned the technology, considering it a feasible theory but too difficult to pursue in practice.

Nowadays, funding is hardly approved, and only research groups with nothing else to do and sufficient funds on hand might occasionally explore it.

So the veterans' volunteering was bound to be ill-fated.

"However, no matter what, the development team that completed this finished product, they are really impressive," Helen said after learning about the ins and outs of the situation and knowing that the veterans and Bai E had the same origins. "They are really impressive."

When her gaze fell on the green cans before her, Helen's eyes were filled with reverence, "The will of these veterans... is also tough enough. They, in fact, are still alive."

Living mechanically like this seemed like eternal torture.

Yet they consented willingly.

After waiting for two or three seconds, seeing Helen pause in her speech, Bai E spoke softly, "You just said... they also possess the potential for Spiritual Energy?"

Bai E also wanted to know where the lethal power that outmatched the Mechanical Court Mecha and himself came from.

Was it the demon? Or spirituality? Or perhaps... simply the power of computation itself?

If mere computational power could achieve that extent, would the increasingly sophisticated city-controlled internet computer systems also be able to produce the same results in battle?

This weapon, assembled by the Small War gang from limited materials on hand, almost cost him his life. Could the city, once it fully mastered this power... make his own voice gradually irrelevant?

Another question remained—if computational power could achieve all this, what about the weapons controlled by the Smart Machinery inherited from the Golden Age?

When he single-handedly attacked the Smart Machinery Factory, why wasn't he easily torn to shreds by them?

Helen sighed softly and shook her head, "This is exactly what I'm trying to figure out."

She was certain that the firepower networks formed by the current human-controlled computer systems could not instantly shred the top-tier Mecha of the Mechanical Court. She found it hard to believe, and even harder to accept, that the computational power of this organic brain system could surpass the existing internet computer systems.

In the experiments they conducted after obtaining this organic brain system, it could no longer perform the same operation.

That leaves only two possibilities—

Either a gift from the demons or innate spirituality...

But both of these carry variables, as the manifestation of spirituality requires a catalyst, not to mention demonic influence.

To determine which possibility it might be, a certain opportunity is needed.

"If it comes from spirituality, is there any way to harness it?"

"Oh?" Helen glanced over with her beautiful eyes, "Do you have any ideas?"

Bai E's words would not be without foundation; as someone who had fought it personally, his opinions were extremely valuable.

"I was thinking... could this ability to directly connect with machinery be used in piloting Mecha?" Bai E and Helen looked at each other quietly, "The current way of operating Mecha is too antiquated..."

Helen's eyes lit up, "That's actually a very good idea!"

Chapter 718: you can call me Tiger

Bai E's proposal was merely a vision for the future; actualization was certainly not an overnight effort.

The application of the Dynamic Source Sword and Miniaturized Kinetic Theory, as well as Mecha modification plan 2.0, involved numerous technologies that needed time to be refined and synced with each other.

The pressing matter at hand was to expedite the production of each batch of bioengineered humanoids and to complete their training.

The nobles' demands following the first rebellion were not met, being vetoed in the final vote of the parliament; they were even warned by the higher-ups of the Elder Council.

They would certainly lay low for a short while, but this silence would not last long.

The next outbreak would be even more intense; he must complete the construction of the military before that time in order to seize the opportunity and see if he could fulfill his ultimate ambition.

...

The "Doctor" gang members who were released could hardly believe this turn of events.

"We're released?"

"We're fine? We're fine?! Hahaha! We're fine!"

"I thought we were goners this time! Turns out, those noble masters aren't that bad, eh? Looks like I had them all wrong, hahaha!"

"You really think there're good people among those noble masters? If it wasn't for our leader's relationship with the big shots in the barracks, we would've been dead for sure. Didn't you see how those who arrested us were looking down their noses at us?"

"Right, boss?"

"..." The old man shook his head, not responding.

He knew he had no actual connection with the other party; indeed, the event they had just gone through was the first time they had met.

However, the other party too originated from bioengineered humanoids – bioengineered humanoids understand each other, and perhaps that was enough.

Their origins sharing the same roots, the other wasn't tainted by the city's rules.

The only surprise was... that someone of a bioengineered humanoid origin could obtain such a level of influence in the city.

He didn't know what had happened in the barracks during the time after he left.

Perhaps... he could contact the brothers from Black Street.

They seemed to maintain some communication with the people in the barracks, and they might have a better understanding of the current situation there.

Thinking this, the old man casually asked those around him, "What is everyone thinking of doing next?"

Not all members of the gang were old soldiers retired from the barracks.

In fact, apart from the leader, most of their backgrounds were not much different from riffraff.

They were rescued by the leader in their most desperate times and even provided with free prosthetics, which led them to follow the leader out of gratitude and to help him.

And now... the old man no longer wanted to maintain this gang.

The sole reason for establishing the gang was to garner funds under its name to support technological research and development.

But now that his goal had been achieved and the old soldiers' will had been carried out, he wanted to live for himself in the days to come...

His words instantly startled the brothers in the gang, "Boss?"

"Boss?!"

"It's nothing, it's nothing..." The old man waved his hands with a grin, "I'm just getting old. If you guys want to keep this gang going, it's up to you. But I have one request for you, do not engage in illicit activities."

The battle gang actually had plenty of ways to make money and could survive without relying on oppression or strife, but life might not have been as comfortable or as free as it otherwise could be.

However, the "Doctor" battle gang always survived on mission commissions and prosthetic surgery earnings, and there was no change in style for the individuals in the gang.

And since everyone was safe and sound, Wolf-Scorpion and Wen Jie naturally had no issues either.

Wolf-Scorpion held considerable prestige within the gang, and Wen Jie now had full mastery of the gang's core technologies.

If they were willing to take over, the Leader had no objections.

Seeing all those old brothers teary-eyed, the Leader couldn't stand the over-sentimentality and, with a wave of his hand, said his dashing farewell, "Alright, alright, I'm off. Whether you have your own lives to live or want to continue maintaining this battle gang, that's all your own choice. Don't bother me unless there's something important. I'm out!"

Under the morning light, the old man walked towards the outskirts of the city.

After he shed his former identity, the first thing he wanted to do was to return to that original spot outside the city.

After leaving the barracks, they started a brief life in the closest settlement outside the city, which over time became known to people as the old soldiers' camp.

The initial group that had started with him ventured into the city, and to prevent any future troubles from deeply implicating those old soldiers left behind, they had completely disconnected, only later providing some assistance within their means without revealing their identities, once they had become somewhat capable.

But now... as he was alone without attachments, he could naturally come back to see what that initial camp had turned into.

Once out of the city, following his memory, the old man headed straight for that past settlement.

In his memory, the settlement was shabby, full of dark corners, damp moss, and rotting mud.

The environment wasn't good, but under the soft light of memory, it seemed somewhat warm.

But now...

The old man turned around, looking up at everything before him.

He felt dizzy as the bright and angular buildings seemed to spin into his view.

Wen Jie had mentioned that the place had changed a lot... but this change was simply too drastic, wasn't it?

Putting a bit of force into his step, he could only feel the hard concrete ground beneath him.

The roads were wide and crisscrossed in a grid pattern, without the twisty turns of the past.

If one disregarded the minor risks outside the city limits, this new settlement was much, much better than the city's interior, polluted by oily air.

Perhaps the retirement place of his dreams could only look like this now?

Seemingly noticing the old man's bewildered stance, a bald man with prosthetic limbs called out with a smile from the corner, "Old man, is this your first time here?"

Ever since Black Street opened up trade with other places, new faces were often seen here.

But those people usually traveled in groups and all had clear intentions.

Even if they were surprised by the buildings they had helped construct, they wouldn't show this complete confusion.

Only those who had run out of options elsewhere or were returning from the wilderness would look like this.

These people could be absorbed into Black Street and become part of it.

Strengthening Black Street's power meant strengthening the power of that former "teammate."

"Yes..." the old man nodded, "And how may I address you?"

"Tiger, you can call me Tiger."

Chapter 719: Albert's Discovery

"Tiger?" The old man paused slightly, "That name..."

"I'm an artificial person who retired from the military." Tiger explained with a smile.

"Artificial person?!" The old man's gaze fastened on Tiger, with a hint of pleasure in his eyes.

He hadn't expected to run into a natural brother as soon as he arrived.

The other's appearance was still very young, indicating a short period of service.

"My name is Albert." The old man didn't want to reveal his identity as an artificial person right away, aiming for more comprehensive information, "The development here seems very special."

Albert looked around, his face filled with surprise, as if he had never seen such a scene before.

"Of course." Tiger said proudly, "Our Black Street didn't used to be like this. Since it was taken over by our current... leader after a certain incident, it has gradually become what it is today. Now it's well-known far and wide. May I ask where you're from?"

"Me? ...I come from within the city," Albert replied ambiguously.

"It's tough to mix in the city..." Tiger said with sentiment, finding an "origin" for the other man.

Albert looked down slightly, his honest poverty evident in his embarrassed demeanor, "The incident you just mentioned... what was it?"

"It was an invasion of those unspeakable beings..." Tiger began slowly, "Although the invaders were killed by the leader, because all the residents of Black Street had witnessed the incursion of unspeakable beings, there was a considerable potential risk. According to the Arbitration Place that handled the incident at the time, there were only two choices before everyone—either submit to the leader's governance or... collective execution. Of course, the leader was also faced with two choices—accept or reject. Obviously, no one here wanted to die, and our leader was compassionate. As a result... over time, it developed into its current form."

Tiger's gaze swept over the surroundings, each brick and tile bearing the efforts of all the people of Black Street.

"Of course, after development, we also faced envy from other surrounding forces. For those harboring ill intentions, we naturally show no mercy. But for those sincerely seeking to scrape out a living, we are quite welcoming. After all, being able to have a warm meal these days is already rare. Wouldn't you agree?"

"Yes..." Albert nodded in agreement, "So, may I live here? I can't stay in my original place any longer..."

"Of course, you can," Tiger said brightly.

All this talk was to encourage the newcomer to stay and become part of Black Street.

"I'll show you around." Tiger led the way, gesturing ahead, "This is our public bathhouse. The leader says we all need to clean ourselves regularly."

"...This is our cafeteria; although the dishes are the same every day, the taste is actually quite good."

"This is..."

Tiger was showing Albert around Black Street when they suddenly encountered a group of people in uniform, marching with precision.

The leader, scrutinizing with a sweeping gaze, shifted his focus from Albert and moved briskly in another direction.

Albert looked at Tiger, who had pulled to one side, in confusion and asked, "Who are they?"

Each person had prosthetics and carried a military demeanor.

That gave Albert a whiff of a familiar scent.

"Black Street's security squad," Tiger watched their retreating figures, "They are also my former comrades-in-arms. We're all artificial people who retired from the military. Luckily, our leader saw potential in us, and we became the law enforcement squad of Black Street."

Laughing heartily, he glanced at Albert's aged profile and said, "You still don't know our boss's identity, do you? Our boss... is also an artificial human. It's just that he's currently serving in the military, so he doesn't appear on Black Street very often."

"..." Albert's gaze froze, and instantly, a figure popped into his mind.

So, with anticipation, he carefully asked, "Our boss, what should we call him?"

"He named himself Bai E..."

'As I thought!'

The title "General Bai E" was something Albert had heard from the members of the Law Enforcement Squad.

Unexpectedly, the Black Street outside the city was now under his control too!

"General Bai E must have been fighting hard in the military camp for a long time..."

"No," Hu shook his head, his thoughts seemingly drifting back to the first day he met the other person, which was also the day the other emerged from the incubation chamber, "It's only been a few months... Our boss has already become the de facto supreme controller of the military district!"

Even witnessing it all firsthand, Hu still found the magical career trajectory unbelievable.

"However..." Hu smiled and patted Albert's shoulder, "No matter what achievements the boss has, life is always our own. Come on, I'll take you to meet the registrar of Black Street. Once you're registered, you'll receive two sets of clean and tidy new clothes, as well as a small house of your own, which is a treat you can't find anywhere in Blackwater City."

"Okay!" Albert hesitated slightly before looking earnestly at Hu and revealing his own identity, "Actually, I am also an artificial human, from a very, very old batch."

"..." Hu smiled knowingly and slapped his shoulder vigorously again, "No problem! Welcome home! Here, artificial humans aren't subject to any discrimination. You must have suffered in other places!"

"Thank... thank you."

Albert joined this new family.

The most frequent thing he heard was the legend about that "boss."

Everyone was filled with absolute reverence for that boss.

Except for some... guys whose behavior was a bit odd.

It's not to say they didn't respect the "boss," but these people's actions and speech... were all a bit strange.

Strange... like the few "spies" that were caught by the Law Enforcement Squad a while ago.

"I've been seeing some... people with rather odd behaviors around Black Street lately?" One day, Albert approached Hu, expressing his curiosity about what he had noticed.

"You mean those people? Everyone generally calls them Wanderers..." Hu shook his head, "I don't know where they come from, but I heard the boss is quite fond of them. They might act weird, but they are all good people."

"I also saw a lady dressed up like a member of the nobility."

"You're probably talking about Franca... She indeed is a noble lady, and also an experienced Arbitration Officer. After all, this place is where unspeakable beings once descended, so the Arbitration Place always needs to be extra vigilant."

"I saw them talking secretly about something?"

"Don't worry, those Wanderers like to help the community, and it's quite normal for Franca to ask for their assistance."

Chapter 720: Mixed in

"Does that mean they are trustworthy individuals?"

Then, the things he had heard didn't seem impossible to secretly assist with.

Albert thought to himself and nodded to show his understanding, "I never expected that within the lord's domain, there would be hidden dragons and crouching tigers, to the extent that even people from the Arbitration Place would actively seek cooperation."

He hadn't been here for long, but had already fallen in love with this small garden in a chaotic world. If there was anything within his power that could help, he was willing to lend a hand.

After all, he had heard that those people were strangers in the city and even the enforcer from the Arbitration Place appeared to lack subordinates or informants in the city. With such rash actions, they would most likely face setbacks here.

While their battle group was not the top in the city, years of establishment had given them some understanding of the "rules" that should be followed in the Lower City.

They might not be like fish in water, but at least they wouldn't step into traps.

He decided to go and greet some old brothers...

...

Within the Lower City, the terrain was complex and Kuang Xin and his group found the slightly choking smell of machine oil in the air to be rather uncomfortable to breathe.

Compared to the strange sulfur-laden scent outside the city, the air quality here wasn't much better either.

"The smell we noticed when we came into the city last time isn't quite the same as now..."

"Nonsense, last time we took the main roads under the guidance of that jackal, and we didn't duck into these narrow alleys."

"Speaking of which, this mission is our first proper encounter with the minions of demons, so we have to be careful."

This mission was issued to them by the enforcer from the Arbitration Place.

The target was a group of Believers worshiping deities.

Players who had come to understand some of the background stories of this world had long known that there were no real gods in this world.

The so-called gods were merely demons from the high-dimensional spaces who wield various powers.

But ordinary people didn't know this.

While Blackwater City did not heavily suppress all information about demons, the understanding of common people, with their limited cognitive abilities, about demons—and indeed the truth about this world—was very limited.

For those who live day to day in dire straits, even among the ordinary populace, the poor can only hope for the existence of omnipotent, kind-hearted gods in this world to save them from their misery.

Without a concrete entity to place their faith in, their aimless "prayers" can only "communicate" with the demons in the high-dimensional space in the end.

However, the power of demons is not infinite; they choose their "Believers" based on their preferences and viewpoints, so not every prayer to them receives an answer.

In most cases, not receiving a response is the norm, or even if one does receive a response, it may just be the most rudimentary, hard-to-say whether it's a "curse" or a "blessing."

Those "Believers" who do not receive a response, or who have very limited demon power, are difficult even for the enforcers carrying out missions for the Arbitration Place to track down accurately through the investigation of demonic energy.

Now, Miss Franca from the Arbitration Place had tasked them to investigate a large, but extremely loosely organized group of Believers in the Lower City.

"To investigate such an organization, do we first have to disguise ourselves as poor people of similar circumstances?"

"And then what?"

"Then it's just trying our luck... The intelligence says their recruitment is quite random, it's all about who has better luck."

"That's not a bad idea," Gu Lan stroked his chin and thought Dai Lian's suggestion made sense.

"Let's spread out and try individually then. Sticking together will only raise their suspicions."

...

Kuang Xin lay in a dark corner of the Lower City, his ragged clothes stained with blood, and his exposed skin showing many scabbed-over wounds as he groaned weakly.

Before him, a pair of slender legs wrapped in black silk stockings suddenly appeared.

The skirt, adorned with thick ink blue flowers, fluttered in the wind around the legs. Kuang Xin's gaze traveled up the legs until he saw a striking face with a scar.

It was very familiar...

A viper.

Standing beside her, with a smile on his face, was Zhou Wenjie.

"You... you guys?" Kuang Xin's face showed some confusion, "What are you doing?"

Wen Jie had his own path, and they had theirs; when their paths didn't intersect, they didn't keep in touch all the time.

After receiving the mission, they hadn't contacted Wen Jie or the battle gang he was with.

But now...

"Those guys are not as naive as you think," Viper said with an emotionless face.

Although she had received a message from her "adoptive father," the former gang leader, that she should help this group of rootless folks in the city, Viper still felt a headache when actually facing them.

"Coming onto someone else's turf without any preparation and trying to blend in, you're really not taking your opponents seriously."

In The Lower City, the most important thing is to be cautious.

Any detail can become a deadly specter.

Those who underestimate others have long been ground into dust by the gears of this steel mechanical city.

"So you know about our mission... what we're supposed to do?" Kuang Xin looked at them with some surprise but didn't dwell on the question, focusing solely on the mission at hand.

"What should we do then?"

Viper's expression turned colder, as all the justifications for their source of information she had prepared were unnecessary, "What to do? Follow me! Have them all join up, don't embarrass yourselves here!"

The bedraggled gamers, in a deserted corner, gathered around Viper and Wen Jie. Viper coldly spoke to herself, "Regarding what you're about to do, I've been entrusted by a certain party to offer you some assistance..."

'A certain party?' The gamers thought in tandem and an image flashed simultaneously in their minds.

'My Lord!'

Apart from their own lord, who else would care about the life and death of these gamers?

The lord is awesome!

If it's the handiwork of the lord, then there's no need for doubts.

Furthermore, Viper and Wen Jie were no strangers; they probably wouldn't harm them.

The few gamers looked eagerly at Viper, their faces earnestly waiting for her next words.

"Please speak."

Seeing these people so amenable and not requiring much explanation, Viper internally breathed a sigh of relief, but her face remained serious.

"You who are new to the area, thinking you can infiltrate that organization is an impossible task! In fact, regarding your target organization, we have had word of them for some time. But the individuals they recruit are all thoroughly and slowly scrutinized before they are approached. Your new faces will never gain their trust."

At these words, Kuang Xin's face fell in disappointment, "Then is the mission a bust?"

Viper glanced at him and remained silent.

If she had sought them out, it obviously wasn't without reason.

"Indeed, it's extremely difficult to infiltrate them actively, but it's not entirely impossible. Newcomers may not have a chance, but those old faces lurking in The Lower City still have a good opportunity. Next, I will fabricate identities for you and temporarily kidnap the original owners..."