

## Wow 781

Chapter 781: The commander-in-chief is swimming with dragons\_2

In front of it, only those three hive guards who had already lost their defensive targets remained.

"Gulp."

The clear sound of swallowing saliva echoed inside the quiet armored vehicle.

The female messenger subconsciously made this gesture before realizing how inappropriate it was, but when she cautiously looked around, she discovered that her companions had the same dumbstruck expression on their faces.

What happened?

Did they get the wrong script?

Could a human Mech actually dance like a dragon amidst the encirclement of giant beasts?

Penetrating deep into the Bug Race's territory as if entering a no-man's land!

Even the Mech Pilots in the imperial capital couldn't achieve such impressive feats.

With just one Mecha, he had flipped over five thunder beasts protected by three hive guards.

The arrogant Mech Pilots in the capital wouldn't even dare talk big like this.

The messenger team leader moistened her somewhat dry lips and looked to the Blackwater City diplomat she knew best, "Is this the strength of your supreme commander?"

The Blackwater City diplomat proudly puffed out his chest, the Mecha standing tall on the earth, just like his unyielding backbone, "Yes! This is the power of our General Bai E!"

"General Bai E..." the messenger team leader softly repeated the name, which he heard for the first time since coming to Blackwater City.

His gaze returned to the surveillance footage transmitted by the drone, which showed a Mecha holding a war blade facing the three hive guards alone.

These guards were even more difficult to face.

If during the fight against the thunder beasts, one might dodge the guards' pursuits and execute a beheading strategy, then confronting the guards directly would not be as easy to manage with such tactics.

The guards' defenses were more comprehensive, and they were even harder than the thunder beasts.

Not to mention they possessed terrifying strength and a pair of indestructible Vajra Claw Blades.

Only through continuous and relentless strikes could one cause these beasts with extremely frightening defenses to reveal the slightest flaw.

In direct combats, Mech Pilots from the imperial capital usually chose to gang up...

"Is no one going to help him?" the female messenger asked softly.

In the midst of silence, the Blackwater City diplomat selected the most emotionally intelligent response, "Our General Bai E prefers to fight alone..."

"Oh~" the messenger team leader nodded in understanding.

Understood.

Such caliber of strength was indeed singular.

The higher the skill level, the better the cooperation.

The reason for preferring to fight alone was simply because there was no one on the same level as him.

Just like the situation with that lord from the imperial capital.

In this world, there are geniuses.

However, many times, special talents are serendipitous.

The imperial capital has a "War God," but so far, they have been unable to cultivate a second War God.

That Blackwater City managed to nurture a "General Bai E" doesn't mean they can cultivate another genius Mech Pilot.

He decided to report this name with emphasis back to the capital. General Bai E might just be the greatest "value" Blackwater City had to offer the capital!

But before that, it was first necessary for "General Bai E" to survive on the Bug Race battlefield.

His escape routes had been completely blocked by the three guards in his thrust for the decisively beheading strike.

Ahead lay the true depths of the hive, with even greater terror yet to emerge.

Behind, three guards were lying in wait, ready to launch a deadly encirclement at any moment.

Facing the three guards alone, this pressure...

On the guards' side???

The situation on the field shocked everyone once again.

The three hive guards, after a brief standoff with the blue and white Mech, gathered together cautiously in a defensive posture, and slowly retreated toward the deeper parts of the hive, completely yielding the path back to their forces.

"What are they doing?"

"Since when do these bugs let their prey slip away?"

"Perhaps the reason they stopped fighting was because their target to protect had died?" another member of the messenger team posited, looking at the speaker with an incredulous and questioning gaze.

Did he even believe what he had just said?

The human army was already on their doorstep; did they expect the humans to turn back now?

It would be foolish not to take advantage of this isolated opportunity to surround and eliminate them. Allowing such a force to regroup with their main army would only increase their own difficulties.

The Bug Race's leader would never make such a stupid mistake.

Therefore, the only explanation could be...

"They... are scared?" the messenger team captain said with narrowed eyes and a somber expression.

Even the Bug Race, which felt neither fear nor pain, would avoid the deadly threat posed by the Mecha of Blackwater City.

It was a bold thought, but when all other possibilities had been ruled out, however improbable the remaining answer might be, it had to be the correct one!

The three guards were scared of the lone Mecha fighting valiantly!

General Bai E!

This was the true measure of the enemy's worth!

But the more this was the case, the less they could afford to watch their opponent fall completely!

"Honorable sirs, issue the order to retreat!" the messenger team captain couldn't help but urge, "Our Imperial City has already encountered two Bug Nests, and the Great Horror has yet to appear. If their overlord shows up, I fear your forces will suffer losses... they cannot afford."

The messenger team captain wouldn't really grieve the Blackwater City troops' deaths; at most, out of solidarity with his human kin, he would mourn them for a moment.

But if the astronomically powerful General Bai E were to fall to the overlord, that would be a real loss for the empire.

If General Bai E, with his strength, could join forces with that person in the Imperial City, they could revive the twin fortresses of the human empire!

However, upon hearing these words, many high-ranking officials of Blackwater City just sneered, "The overlord? We are set to take down the overlord!"

General Bai E's invincible performance had already confirmed the city think tank's prior internal analysis of him.

With a Mecha at his disposal, General Bai E was capable of going in and out of the Bug Nests, wreaking havoc as he pleased. Given that, what was there to hesitate about?

The end of the Bug Nests would be today!

General Bai E was to stay out of the city's internal politics.

But when facing external enemies, they had to let specialists take charge!

"Honorable messengers, please be patient, just watch," they said.

Seeing the shortsighted arrogance of these so-called high officials, the messenger team captain couldn't help but curse in his mind.

'A bunch of idiots!'

Was the overlord something humans could defeat?

In the two Bug Nests the Imperial City had destroyed, they had encountered two overlords. Both had been brought down only through nearly endless barrages of long-range heavy firepower and the suicidal charges of Mecha squads.

Now, were they expecting General Bai E and his partner to take one down in a Mecha with theoretical limitations?

Theory wasn't enough!

Not to mention the overlord's ability to unleash large-scale psychic shocks that could easily incapacitate all soldiers, turning them into lambs to the slaughter.

Apart from soldiers who had undergone special training to resist psychic pressure, no one could withstand the overlord's suppression.

Who would be able to come to General Bai E's aid then?

Oh right... even if they hadn't lost the ability to move, the Blackwater City army, without heavy firepower support, wouldn't be able to back up General Bai E, either.

So never mind...

'Your mother died!'

The messenger team captain's brain raced as he considered how to save the life of General Bai E, potentially one of the future twin pillars of the empire.

But time waits for no one.

As a wave of Spiritual Energy ripple spread, a huge, crimson figure slowly rose from the depths of the Bug Nest.

The blades of its four arms breathed like living things, demanding submission from the entire battlefield the moment it appeared!

"It's over!" said the messenger team captain, his face deathly pale, "It has arrived..."

Under the cover of the Spiritual Energy field, a look of bewilderment appeared in the eyes of the soldiers.

Even the most strong-willed needed time to break free from the overlord's control.

Chapter 782: The Battle Standard Above the Insect Nest

However, the swarming insects that had already closed in on the warriors' faces were not about to give them that chance.

"Are you not ordering a retreat yet?" The messenger captain was nearly driven mad with urgency.

Before seeing General Bai E in action, he'd thought this trip to Blackwater City wasn't all that important.

Succeeding would be great, but if not, consider it a tourist visit.

But now... the total annihilation of Blackwater City's army wasn't even as critical as a single hair on General Bai E's head.

Armies are easy to recruit, but a general is hard to find.

If it weren't for the lack of personnel in his hands, the messenger captain would've been tempted to mutiny right there and take command away from the Blackwater City officials!

However, upon hearing the messenger captain's words, one of the Blackwater City officials looked at the messengers with a strange expression, "How do we order a retreat?"

"Order them to retreat! Order Bai... order them to retreat!"

The messenger captain pointed at the Blackwater City warriors in the screen who were being intimidated by the psychological domain's dominion, "Caught in the dominion's domain, they have lost the power to resist. Can't you see that the insects are already swarming over them?"

Every inch gained by an insect, felt like a step trampled directly upon the messenger captain's heart.

It was absolutely nerve-racking.

The numerous Blackwater City officials were also intently watching the developments on the screen, murmuring under their breath, "It all depends on you now, General Bai..."

Even they were tense when it came to this moment.

The speed at which General Bai E killed the dominator was a race against the insects devouring the army.

"What's the use of relying on him," the messenger captain laughed out of sheer exasperation, "After the entire army is wiped out, are you expecting him to single-handedly destroy the entire insect nest?"

People have limits.

Even the invincible War God from the capital would inevitably enter a period of weakness requiring recovery time after prolonged combat.

If General Bai E could single-handedly destroy the entire insect nest... then you might as well believe I'm a giant of light from the M78 Nebula.

The Blackwater City officials knew they couldn't count on General Bai E to eradicate the entire nest alone, "But he can kill the dominator."

Another official, unwilling to see their city questioned, added, "Once the dominator is dead, its psychological realm will naturally collapse."

"???" The messenger captain seemed to hear the biggest joke in the world, his finger almost directly pointing to the dominator beast on the screen, even if it occupied only a corner from a distance, "Do you think that thing can be killed by a single Mecha? Is your understanding of these creatures too narrow-minded?"

Looking at the three slightly smaller beasts guarding the dominator, the messenger captain continued to point and comment, "Not to mention the three escort protectors! Without sending the full army to wear it down through attrition, I don't even know how you plan to win!"

After panting heavily, the messenger captain, red-faced and thick-necked, pointed at the nose of the Blackwater City official who had interjected and scolded, "You don't understand the insects at all!"

"It's you who don't understand General Bai E..."

'F\*ck this mission, I'm done. Today I've got to set these idiots straight!' The messenger captain vowed in his heart, ready to completely fall out with these so-called officials of Blackwater City.

If he could just wake these idiots up and get them to agree to a retreat, even if it meant a complete fallout, it would be worth it.

"Captain..." Just as he was about to explode, a soft call from his female team member came through, along with the gentle tug at his sleeve.

"What?" The captain turned and glared at her, signaling her not to drag at the heels of her captain when he was about to unleash his fury.

"Look at that..." The female team member carefully pointed toward the live drone footage on the big screen, somewhat puzzled, "That General Bai, he seems unaffected."

The dominator's psychological realm spread like ripples, and even with such rapid expansion, the Mech Pilot aboard the innermost Mech was surely the first to be controlled.

Yet that great general seemed completely unaffected by the dominator's psychological pressure.

There he stood, still holding aloft the battle flag in his left hand, the will of the Ying shining at the very core of the insect nest.

"What is he going to do?"

"Die with dignity?"

The messenger captain's face lit up with joy, "Quick, quick, quick! Hasten the retreat for General Bai E, he's not being suppressed, and there are no obstacles on his retreat path! Let the others die if they must, but General Bai E absolutely cannot die!"

"..."

A few Blackwater City officials looked with deep resentment at the messenger captain representing the will of the imperial capital.

Is their favoritism now totally undisguised?

We kindly let you into our city as a guest, only to find you now coveting the treasure of our city's defense?

"We can't order it." The Elder Council's leading elder replied with a distant voice.

"Why can't you give the order?!" The messenger captain didn't understand at all.

What kind of miracle were they waiting for at this point?

"Because General Bai E is the supreme commander..."

The Blackwater City official, tired of being pointed at and criticized, finally couldn't tolerate it anymore and burst out, "We've been telling you from the start! General Bai E is the supreme commander! General Bai E is the supreme commander! Are you deaf or what!"

Blackwater City's diplomat also murmured in agreement, "Theoretically, we are supposed to be under General Bai E's command as well."

The Elder Council's elder maintained an utterly calm and collected demeanor in front of outsiders, "From the moment the army left the city, every detail of the entire force only obeys the will of General Bai E alone. Not just us, even if the lord of the city himself were present, the absolute command of this battle would rest solely in the hands of General Bai E. This is our absolute trust in him."

Chapter 783: War Banner Above the Insect Nest\_2

"..." The messenger captain's mouth moved slightly, somewhat at a loss.

All command authority was in the hands of that general?

But things had already developed to this point...

"I saw the light..." A member of the messenger squad suddenly muttered.

"I also saw the light..."

The two were not looking at the live drone feed, but outside the transparent window... in the direction of the frontline battlefield.

'That's not light...' Yue Ying, who had been silent during the journey in the vehicle, finally murmured to herself, willing at last to lift her head from the shadow of her hood, and look toward the core battlefield that decided everything.

'That is... the glow of Spiritual Energy.'

...

The Mecha's left hand tightly grasped the flagpole, shielding the structure of the Mecha so that Bai E could not directly feel the attributes of the object in his Mecha's left hand.

Fortunately, with the link through the "Body of Mech," Bai E could feel the true existence of external objects through the diffused Spiritual Energy, step by step, and modify them.

[Spiritual Energy creation in progress, please do not detach from the target object.]

[...3]

[...2]

[...1]

"Thrust!"

The long alloy flagpole was violently thrust into the ground beneath his feet like a javelin, piercing through the soft, sticky mycelium soil, creating a deep fissure that reached into the earth.

The flag at the end of the pole fluttered violently in the high winds, and a ripple of white light emanated from the flag, spreading out in a spherical pattern.

[You have obtained a Spiritual Power Creation—Inspiring Flag\*1.]

[Inspiring Flag: As long as this flag exists, all individuals within a 625-meter radius sphere centered on the flag will be inspired by it, automatically gaining the "Trait—Heartening Inspiration," with Physical Ability +6, Reflexes +6, Insight +6, and Health Regeneration +8/min.]

[Inspiring Flag (Spiritual Power Creation Blueprint): You can solidify your Spiritual Energy on an object, and all those you acknowledge within the covered range of this Spiritual Power Creation and who can see the object will receive a certain level of mental inspiration, as well as a mild boost in physical strength and recovery ability. All effects are positively correlated with the level of Spiritual Energy used at the time of creation, with the current number of this Spiritual Power Creation set at 1; creating another object will automatically nullify the Spiritual Energy effect of the previous one. Properties of the creation: Permanent, destructible.]

This was the Spiritual Energy ability Bai E had learned from Kiro Lan before departing, which she said was also inspired by a player under her command named "Gong Yan."

The fact that those players could create their own skills was a path Bai E had never considered, but fortunately... now this handy skill was hers.

The Inspiring Flag that was deployed with the Eagle Flag carried with it the great courage that uplifted the spirit.

However, within the ripple's 625-meter range, there was not a single individual to be affected.

He had penetrated too deep into the Bug Race's nest, already far removed from the front-line combat troops.

If it only had this level of effect, Bai E would likely have carefully controlled his depth of penetration into combat.

But now, having undergone a second genetic optimization, such minor concerns no longer needed to be considered.

[Hidden Trait—Will of the Bug Nest, awakened.]

[Trait—Collective Will (Tamed): Those who deeply believe in your goals will receive your care. From now on, when you are among your own troops, your "Protective" Spiritual Energy power will receive a 200% boost, and you will perfectly guard every unit within your troops.]

The Will of the Bug Nest, once belonging to the mantis Bugs, had finally become an ability that was absolutely human after genetic assimilation and could now be used by him.

Bai E, charging forward at the forefront, seemed always able to feel a huge and warm mass of air at his back.

Every soldier named after Blackwater City trusted Bai E deeply, their leader.

Each of these warriors completely devoted themselves, entrusting their all deeply in the will of Bai E.

Their spirits and their wills, as if made tangible, turned into a thick and warm mass of air, always following behind Bai E.

So much so that Bai E almost felt he could reach out and touch this solidified will.

And as a gesture of reciprocity to those who believed in him, Bai E finally announced the manifestation of his own will to everyone at this moment.

He gripped the banner in his hand tightly, linking the authority of the collective will and the inspiring blessings of the flag closely together.

"I bestow upon you the courage to face formidable enemies, you will bravely march forward despite all hardships and difficulties."

"I bestow upon you the power to conquer adversaries, you will receive extraordinary blessings that tear through everything before you."

"I bestow upon you the consolation to soothe the hesitation in your hearts, no mental blow will ever fell your spirit!"

"Whoever gazes upon this banner will receive the warrior's soul's protection!"

"So long as the battle flag stands, the warrior's spirit lives on!"

The white light of soul protection followed the diffused will of the believers and traced back to the source of each will.

The inspiring aura that once only lingered around the banner within a radius of 625 meters instantaneously affected every person in the Blackwater City army that went into battle.

Even those individuals who had not fully devoted their faith felt a warm power emanating from their hearts, thanks to the blessings on the warriors nearby.

In the armored vehicle at the very back of the rear guard, whether it was the messenger squad from the outer city or the high-ranking officials from within the city, they all simultaneously felt the warmth of that power welling up from within.

"What's happening? It's as if I've suddenly grown years younger?"

"My strength... has increased a lot."

"The old wounds I had, why do they feel itchy?"

The female messenger closed her eyes, feeling the waves churning inside her, and her complexion turned a flushed red, "My body, it feels strange."

"Captain, look at those soldiers!"

Almost at the very instant this warm sensation affected each person, the soldiers who had been rigid due to the dominion of the Bug Race's mental realm in the drone's live feed also moved suddenly.

Seeing the insect mouthparts nearing, the awakened warrior rolled nimbly aside; the Bug-Slaying Blade in his hands seemed much lighter, his sharp awareness instantly catching an excellent opportunity as the bug revealed a major weakness.

The Bug-Slaying Blade was swung mightily, cleaving the bug's body in two.

Avoiding the bug's bodily fluids and flesh instinctively, the warrior then looked towards the rear of the sea of bugs.

There, a banner waved fiercely in the wind.

Beside that banner, a heart filled with absolute faith, wielding the Bug-Slaying Blade, initiated a devastating charge towards the Bug Race's last four behemoths.

With surging hot blood in his chest, the warrior raised his hefty Bug-Slaying Blade high above and roared to the heavens, "Humanity shall prevail!"

"Humanity shall prevail!"

"Humanity shall prevail!"

The overwhelming cries were almost continuous, rolling and thundering as if summoned by the gods.

"Gulp."

"Gulp."

The sound of swallowing was unmistakably clear in the cramped carriage.

The members of the messenger squad looked at each other, never expecting the situation to unfold in such a way.

What Bai E had achieved now was far more incredible than if he had simply annihilated the Bug Race's nest by himself.

One's own strength is always just that, one's own.

Yet the power to awaken the battle will of so many and to arouse them from the Bug Race's dominion over the mental realm was even more staggering!

At this moment, even they were ready to offer up their most fervent fanaticism to this "Bai E" they had never met.

"If it were him, using a mecha to slay the overlord and its three guardians, it doesn't seem impossible..."

Chapter 784: Flying Mecha

["Lucky Strike" charge +10.]

[Your Emotional Absorption has absorbed a massive amount of emotions, transforming a portion into Spiritual Energy that has been added to your reserves, Spiritual Energy +50/50.]

[The warriors' souls deeply trust in you, and your "Soul Black Hole" has absorbed those dissipating fiery spirits, successfully converting them into 50/50 Spiritual Energy added to your reserves.]

Feeling the once again expanded capacity of his spiritual energy reserves, Bai E's lips slightly pursed.

Since this body has become the vessel for many faiths, he must then give everyone a future to look towards!

Surging Spiritual Energy burst forth, covering every corner of the vast mech's body.

Although utilizing Spiritual Energy on a mech would grant the base explosion of mech power, it also required a 10-fold consumption.

Even with the near-endless Spiritual Energy from the "Virtual World" as replenishment, the instant burst capability was still limited by the total amount of Spiritual Energy one possessed.

After his last advancement to the third tier and an additional 100 points to his Spiritual Energy limit, when Bai E operated the mech, he no longer found himself in the embarrassing situation of his recovery not keeping up with instantaneous use like last time during the battle against the Sovereign and its guards.

Thus, before everyone's eyes, the military mech, equipped with no flight capabilities... unexpectedly took to the sky!

After entering the third tier of Spiritual Energy—Free Will, a Spiritual Energy user already possessed the ability to fly.

And with the expenditure of more than 10 times the energy, even the mechs without flight capabilities were now soaring into the sky amidst the blaze of Spiritual Energy.

Bai E, who had come to initiate the final decisive battle against the hive, held nothing back.

Blackwater City wanted to use this battle to demonstrate their strength to the Imperial City, and he too needed such an opportunity to intimidate and awe the hearts of the people.

The path to seizing control of the city was by no means smooth sailing, and sometimes those whose loyalties were not firm—fence-sitters—were also key to determining victory or defeat.

They might only follow the victor, but before the outcome of victory and defeat was clear, it was also necessary to instill in them enough confidence of a winner!

If enough people believe, even the false can become true.

Watching the mech that had suddenly taken off from the ground and now held its battle blade aloft in the sky, everyone inside the armored vehicle was utterly bewildered at this moment.

"What happened?"

"It... it flew up!"

"How could it fly?"

"Since when did the military mechs have flight devices installed?!"

"Impossible! The military mechs don't have the conditions to be fitted with flight devices!" a high-ranking member of the Mechanical Court felt as if their entire worldview had been shattered.

"All the mechs in the Mechanical Court capable of flight use special materials and have dedicated aerodynamic designs, this is the only solution our city's research has come up with."

Do you know the kind of knowledge accumulation it takes to send such a massive object not designed for fluid dynamics into the sky?

For this flying ability, in fact, the mechs of the Mechanical Court had made concessions in many other areas.

For instance, the number of weapons they could carry was limited, their armor's defensive power was limited, and although there were technologies like shields to compensate, the immediate consequence was the prohibitively high cost of production.

A single Mechanical Court mech capable of flight could cost at least as much as ten military mechs.

Just based on the design and size of the military mecha, it had absolutely no condition to fly into the sky.

But at this moment...

Staring at the image of the massive floating object on-screen, a high-ranking Mech Pilot from the Mechanical Court had his eyes wide open in disbelief, "I know now, it must be a gift from the Mech Soul Master!"

The Mech Soul Master, omnipotent!

I knew that the Mech Soul in our Mechanical Court was holding back a move from us!

Isn't their Mech Soul so sensible?!

The mecha hovering midair did a flip on the spot, diving down with a battle saber held in hand.

Carrying an unmatched force, it launched a deadly attack directly at the target Dominator from midair.

The three nest guardians, only able to fight on the ground, could only stare blankly at the target in the sky for a moment.

Facing the enemy attacking from the air, they had no space to chase and block, and if they stayed too close to the Dominator, they would undoubtedly restrict its movement space—making it unclear whether they were helpers or hindrances.

While Bai E indeed possessed the skill to fervently emerge and engage in a forced one-on-one battle, the Dominator, with its strong learning capability, didn't need its guardians to contend against it. It simply

used their bodies as moving barriers in its path, making it tough for Bai E to bypass their blockade and behead the Dominator forcefully.

The longer the delay, the greater the odds for the bugs' victory.

This time, the human armed forces were not as strong as in the previous two encounters, and if Bai E didn't break the stalemate, the frontline battlefield was uncertain to offer much advantage. Once night fell, it would be an even greater disaster for the humans.

Not to mention, what Bai E least wanted to see now was the close-combat bayonet fight.

The faster it ended on his side, the fewer casualties there would be among his warriors on the frontline.

Once the nest was wiped out, the remaining forces might be all he had left, his absolute core strength for the future!

He would feel the loss even of half of them.

Therefore, Bai E pushed his Spiritual Energy output to the limit, unleashing all amplifying abilities without reserve. The first slash aimed at the Dominator was filled with the power to instantly annihilate a hundred.

Facing the Dominator raising its four arms to block with blades, Bai E easily sidestepped, initiating a swift turn from its flank.

With the current enhancement abilities Bai E mastered, no matter to what extent he strengthened his alloy battle saber, it was never a match for the Dominator's four bone blades singing in unison.

Using skill to force the Dominator to spread out its bone blades was the only option for Bai E to evade its strong point.

The Bai E from last time could do this, so naturally, it wasn't difficult this time around.

The challenge lay in the frequency of attacks. An effective assault every 10 seconds versus one every 5 seconds would naturally reduce the Dominator's health at a completely different rate.

He hadn't been able to kill the Dominator last time because his killing efficiency was limited, unable to seize the moment under various restrictions.

But now... with the battle shifting from two-dimensional ground combat to a three-dimensional war with the added vertical option, the space for tactical choices had increased exponentially.

The capability for effective assaults against the Dominator had also doubled.

For a moment, the heavy mecha, with its newfound ability to float, was like an agile bird flipping and flying through the air. Each brilliant flash of the saber tore a piece of flesh from the Dominator.

Almost powerless to retaliate!

Chapter 785: Slash!

Three guardians, reduced to utter spectators.

They too were overwhelmed with their own challenges to assist.

The speed at which it instantly killed the Mechanical Court mecha lay in the attack speed at the moment it struck.

If the Mech Pilot from the Mechanical Court had been slightly more vigilant, they might not have been instantly killed.

After all, their huge size limited their agility.

Against mechs piloted by ordinary Mech Pilots, it could easily crush them with the power of its blade-like bone arms, but when facing a Mech Pilot like Bai E who could manipulate a mecha as if it were his own limb, its lack of agility became apparent.

Substituting for the Mechanical Court Mech Pilot, with carefulness and teamwork, it wasn't impossible to inflict damage on it.

In the end, what truly needed to be tested was just how long the Mech Pilots could endure.

For Bai E, the process of rapidly depleting and replenishing Spiritual Energy was like turning oneself into a balloon, expanding violently and then deflating.

This discomfort, along with the pain from burning large amounts of Spiritual Energy in an instant, tormented his nerves and his willpower constantly.

The will reflects the body, and the body determines the will.

Any hint of hesitation could lead to severe consequences in battle.

But for Bai E, what he never lacked was persistence.

From his first arrival in this world, the first quality Bai E was forced to learn was...persistence.

Even when reaching the limit, he would take one more step forward, then another...and another!

Keep persisting, persist until you can no longer persist, then still try to break your own limits and persist a bit longer!

Countless tough battles had honed Bai E's will to a frightening level.

Facing all kinds of discomfort feeding back from his brain, body, spirit, and will, Bai E was clearly aware of these feelings, yet he didn't numbly dismiss them.

This constant struggle had provided Bai E with an incredibly flexible resilience, such that no enemy could defeat him before he was completely downed.

Today, this persistence allowed Bai E to achieve a victory beyond anyone's imagination in this world-defining decisive battle!

A one-sided suppression.

From beginning to end.

His precise performance that never erred, his relentless combat spirit, and that bit of whimsical tactical choice born of human wispiness.

All of these reduced the Dominator's health under Bai E's war blade like an avalanche, the painful screams mixing with the despair in the Psychic Sound Wave area, making the suppressive effect of Spiritual Energy even more terrifying in an instant.

Yet, under the awe of that invincible mecha, even the weakest-willed warriors of Blackwater City felt a gentle warmth always supporting them from behind.

It was as though a giant sun shone behind them, no matter where they went or how dangerous the opponent they faced, they were always under that man's watchful eyes...

[Inflicted 1000 points of Slash Damage to the target!]

[The Bloodthirsty Demon Blade has absorbed a significant amount of the target's flesh. Special attack effect is upgrading 3500/3000. (Stacked)]

[Star Devouring Blade (Enchanted Blade): As a blade blessed by the true God, this ordinary alloy combat sword has now permanently acquired all attributes bestowed by the true God—High-Frequency Cutting, Disintegration Field, +40% Attack Power against the Bug Race, ignoring 40% of the Bug Race's armor. You may name this war blade. Only those with your permission and who utter its true name can wield its full power.]

[Your skill — Enhanced\*Enchanted Blade has successfully recorded the upgraded racial special attack attribute (Star Devouring Blade) (Tier 2): +40% Attack Power against the Bug Race, ignoring 40% of the Bug Race's armor. From now on, any enchanted weapon you wield may be granted this special attack attribute. However, if you wish to enhance the effect of this special attack attribute, you will have to use the initial blade that completed the ascension first. The current third-tier special attack effect progress is: 500/5000]

The specialty against the Bug Race was furious offense and armor-piercing capability.

The direct doubling of attack power instantly elevated Bai E's killing ability to another level.

[Dominator (Bug Race): Health 80,000/100,000; Defensive Power: 800...]

75,000...

70,000...

63,000...

54,000...

The ruler indeed possessed the on-the-spot adaptive evolution ability.

However, facing an opponent like Bai E who was powerful, comprehensive, and showed no flaws whatsoever, its combat evolution abilities had been completely blocked, leaving no space for evolutionary choices.

After its health dropped below half, Bai E became even more frenzied, propelled by his bloodthirsty instinct.

Under the plummeting health, the ruler didn't flee in advance as it had the last time.

Whether it was an illusion or not, Bai E could even see a hint of utter fanaticism in the ruler's enormous eyes.

Completely different from the withdrawal it had shown in their last encounter.

'Again?'

That strange feeling.

'Is it because I've become stronger and it knows withdrawal is futile?'

'Or is it because... it was actually waiting for me to grow stronger?'

Initially, when humans encountered the Bug Race, they showed mercy, clearly capable of crushing humanity but choosing not to strike, and later events proved that to be true.

The ruler's psychic spiritual energy field could have been made to only affect humans.

And now...

Bai E smelled a whiff of "going willingly to one's death" from this Bug Race ruler.

A thick air of conspiracy enveloped Bai E.

Yet, with his extremely fast processing mind, his actions were not at all hesitant.

No matter what tricks the ruler was brewing, that was a matter for later.

For now, humanity needed to defeat it, Blackwater City needed to defeat it, and he himself needed to defeat it.

Everyone would begin a new chapter with its death.

Even if it meant letting it die "as it wished."

Bai E raised his battle sword high, and the ruler, kicked back and losing its balance, flailed its bone blades in vain, leaving its center wide open to a slicing blow.

Acid mixed with blood gushed out like a fountain.

This was the most serious wound the ruler had suffered so far.

[Ruler (Bug Race): Health Points 4,750/100,000; Defensive Power: 800...]

On the brink of death!

As if realizing it was about to die, the ruler raised its head and let out a silent, mournful screech.

Only the Bug Race could feel the psychic sound waves that pierced through endless obstructions, heading in the direction they were meant to go...

[Activating "Critical Hit."]

Bai E's foot was planted on the ruler's bladed arm, the mech's right arm raised high with the battle sword in hand, striking down with the direction of the sunlight...

[Loot Drop Acquired: Bug Tribe Essence Extract\*100,000, Combat Experience 80,000 points, Trait: Node Detection.]

Chapter 786: Bug Race Nemesis

[Node Perception: From now on, you can clearly perceive the full sensory experience of every individual in the "collective consciousness," including "vision," "hearing," "touch," "smell," "taste," "spiritual sense," and so on, through the connection of "collective consciousness." Moreover, with the consent of the target, you can also attach your will directly onto the target in the form of "descent." Your will carries all your battle experience and most of your Spiritual Energy abilities. Thus, you can use your will to control the target to do anything you need them to do. A single target cannot be "descended" upon continuously, nor can it endure the pouring of your will for an extended period (The duration of the descent and the cooldown time are both regulated by various factors such as "the target's physical condition," "the strength of the target's will," "the target's level of Spiritual Energy," etc.).]

After a long time, the once unchallengeable Overlord had become a soul under Bai E's blade.

Back then, the panel that couldn't be viewed through drop rate now just provided 80,000 points of battle experience.

As Bai E's strength increased, the benefits provided by the same opponent naturally decreased as well.

The Overlord's body fell with a terrifying roar, and its massive figure hit the ground, causing the Earth to tremble as if in an earthquake.

The psychic field that enveloped the entire scene also vanished instantly, and the Bug Race, without a unified command, instantly became chaotic.

Small node commanders, like praying mantis bugs, could also command lower Bug Race members within a certain range, but their detailed command was limited, and they could not perfectly coordinate and communicate with each other.

The greatest advantage of the Bug Race was their real-time shared Bug Hive Will Network.

Now, with the Overlord, who provided the network, down, each group of bugs could only fight their own battles under the command of a few praying mantis bugs.

Without the Overlord, the Bug Race didn't have any sense of fear; instead, the abundance of flesh and blood close at hand was driving their ravenous hunger to madness.

Madness couldn't enhance their killing ability.

The chaotic Bug Race only became the target of human tactics, not to mention that the human warriors still had the blessing of "collective consciousness" after the loss of the Overlord's psychic field suppression, making them even more powerful.

As one side weakened and the other grew stronger, the situation instantaneously took a one-sided turn.

Feeling the instant dissipation of the terrifying Spiritual Energy ocean that belonged to the Overlord, Yue Ying, who was inside the armored vehicle, suddenly opened her rosy lips.

"Really... really killed it."

The fall of the Overlord's body on the screen couldn't be taken as conclusive evidence by her, yet the dissipation of the Spiritual Energy ocean undoubtedly proved that it had all happened indeed.

"Over... Over... Overlord?!"

Even just seeing the sight of that once invincible figure falling, every member of the diplomatic squadron from the capital felt genuinely incredulous.

Even though this General Bai E from Blackwater City had shown enough power to contend with the Overlord in previous actions, him truly bringing down the Overlord still inevitably made them feel a surreal sense of the shifting of times.

Even the Overlord, who was a tough challenge for the capital, was successfully slain by an army assembled in Blackwater City, not at all well-equipped; it was self-evident who played a central role.

The point wasn't that Blackwater City had the power to eradicate the Bug Hive on its own, but rather that the Bug Hive was almost single-handedly destroyed by General Bai E.

If that was the case... General Bai E's existence had strategic significance for them in reclaiming lost territories.

Although they in the capital could also wipe out Bug Hives one by one, it would cost a lot of resources, and each eradication would require time for rest and rearmament.

But what about General Bai E?

With such strength, he could traverse the globe alone, leading the armies of each city to directly slay the Overlords.

The efficiency of this recovery was unimaginable; perhaps the ambition of humanity returning to its peak could be fully realized in their generation!

"We must report back to the capital as soon as possible!"

"General Bai E's existence is the biggest discovery of our mission!"

A few team members suppressed their shock, cautiously exchanged looks, and shared their thoughts in their minds.

After the Overlord died, the remaining bugs posed no threat at all.

The three guardian behemoths, no longer having a target to protect nor commands from the Overlord to direct their actions.

Facing the imminent threat before them, they had not the slightest desire to flee.

Swinging their huge, spherical arms from different directions, they attacked Bai E.

Too bad that without the Overlord's coordination, their tactics were even less effective, easily slain by Bai E.

[The bloodthirsty blade has absorbed a large amount of the target's flesh, special attack effect is upgrading 9500/5000.] (Stacked)

[Star Devouring Blade (Magic Blade):... +40% attack power against the Bug Race, ignores 40% of the Bug Race's armor...]

[Your skill — Empowered \*Magic Blade has successfully recorded the racial special attack attribute after the upgrade (Star Devouring Blade) (Third Tier):... Current Fourth Tier special attack progress: 4500/10000]

The slowly setting yellow sun on the horizon cast light on the blue and white mech, reflecting a dazzling orange glow.

The armored vehicle, which had been at the very rear of the army, now arrived at the front line of the battlefield as the dust settled.

The high-ranking officials from Blackwater City and the members of the diplomatic squadron stepped onto the scorched ground from the high stairs.

Like being baked by fire, the ground still held a bit of warmth.

Chapter 787: Bug Race Nemesis\_2

The damp, humid heat rose from the ground, stimulating everyone's senses.

Among the remains and fragments of bugs littered across the ground were many pieces of human corpses.

Above the battlefield, tainted with the stench of body fluids and gunpowder, the Imperial Army's Eagle Flag fluttered eternally over the hive.

Atop the mucous-covered hive, countless human warriors wielded flamethrowers, thoroughly torching it again and again.

This incineration had to be repeated several rounds.

Whether it was all the contamination left behind by the bugs or the dismembered corpses of beastmen, fire was their greatest nemesis.

Bugs that knew neither fear nor flight didn't require humans to go searching for them; their bloodthirsty nature ensured they would present themselves before humans, one after another.

Now, what was left was an empty nest that no longer harbored a single bug.

The empty nest needed cleaning, and the world would also require time to detoxify or assimilate the bug's ecology... all of which demanded time.

But nonetheless, there was no longer any threat here.

The Blackrock District Hive, annihilated!

The darkness of this place would no longer be an absolute no-go zone for humans.

Humans could now freely choose to spend the night here or return to camp for rest.

Today, years later, everyone in Blackwater City could once again proudly declare to the world, "We humans are back!"

The Bug Race had been subjugated, and the remaining threats in the wilderness no longer posed a significant concern to Blackwater City.

It was only a matter of time and strategy before they extended their reach beyond the city walls.

And all of these achievements... much of the credit belonged to that tall, silent figure standing above.

Every once in a while, each person attending to their tasks would pause and gaze from afar at the blue and white Mecha, standing amongst the corpses of four gigantic beasts.

No one spoke, no one dared to disturb.

No one knew what this new human star, who had led the fighters of Blackwater City to take down the hive, was considering at this moment.

Was he immersed in the joy of victory, or was he planning for the future of mankind?

Bai E had no time to ponder these things.

[Side quest—Slay the Overlord, completed.]

[Reward: 10,000 universal experience points, title—Bane of the Bug Race, awarded.]

[Title—Bane of the Bug Race: You have personally slain an absolute overlord of a Bug Race Vanguard Team within its hive, their secrets can no longer hide before you, and no bug can easily approach you. You will be able to sense the presence of any bug within a 10-kilometer radius with you at the center.]

The closer they are, the more accurate the detection. However, having been tainted with the will of the bug overlord, you will face the Bug Race's most frenzied reprisal—their fleet roaming the Star Sea will quickly move towards your location. You die, or it ends!]

This quest from long ago appeared in his panel, promptly after he had slain the overlord.

However, this title's reward could not necessarily be considered purely beneficial.

If one had the mindset to level up, then being a human bait that attracts bugs wherever one went was undoubtedly the best reward.

But if what one sought was development, human safety, and happiness, then such a so-called reward was no different from the most profound curse.

Wherever he found himself, the Bug Race would always come knocking.

Not just one or two bugs, and not even a squad or two of them.

But... fleets.

Bai E, with a decent background knowledge of this "game world," had always known that the setting of this game was not merely confined to this one planet.

His future was destined to wander among the Star Sea, to witness firsthand what the stars of this universe looked like.

However, this plan, which had no set timeline in his mind, might now need to be expedited.

After all, it was the vanguard fleet of the Bug Race that had once struck terror into the humans of the so-called Golden Age on this planet.

No one knew the true scale of a full Bug Race fleet, nor did anyone know when the follow-up fleet to this Bug Race Vanguard Team would arrive at this planet.

Maybe tomorrow, perhaps in the near future, or maybe they would never come...

This was before.

Now, as long as Bai E, who holds the title of "Nemesis of the Bug Race," remains on this planet for even a day, he would draw the Bug Race's fleet closer to this place by a fraction.

A Vanguard Team's base hive was almost his limit; who knew what kind of terrifying strength the real Bug Race main fleet possessed.

If he continued to stay on this planet, there was no doubt he would be bringing destruction to this world that had just begun to see hope.

Pressing his lips together, Bai E stood atop his towering mecha, looking into the distance.

The earth and sky almost merged into a single line far away, and the afterglow of the setting sun fought desperately at the horizon, staining the snow-white clouds a dazzling gold-red.

Bai E suddenly laughed.

I no longer have any rivals on this planet; where else to go if not to the starry sky?

Turning around, sheathing his sword.

Bai E walked alone towards the direction of Blackwater City, never looking back.

Ambition for the starry sky did not require anyone's consent.

Only after acquiring enough power to carry out his plans, would it be his path.

Hope... May the alliance's action this time in the imperial capital achieve ultimate success.

Otherwise, relying on Blackwater City alone, Bai E did not have much confidence to craft a spacecraft capable of flying to the stars.

In his spare time, Bai E also discussed such topics with Helen.

But in Helen's expert opinion, Blackwater City, on its own, had no hope of sending humanity safely to the starry sky.

Union, only union!

"Thud!"

"Thud!"

With each step the mecha took, it caused a tremor upon the land.

As the blue-and-white mecha walked away, all the onlookers cleared a broad path in reverence.

"I don't know if it's just me, but doesn't General Bai E seem a bit desolate?" a high-ranking official from Blackwater City said, stroking his chin in confusion.

"Maybe he's tired? He took out a Dominator and its three guards all by himself; I can't even imagine how he did it. Battling at that level—if he's not tired, is he even human?"

"But to be able to do that, I think it doesn't seem like something a human could do..."

"Bai E... Bai E!" The captain of the messenger team gazed at the receding figure, his eyes sparkling with light.

He suddenly turned his head, looking at the Elder Council member from Blackwater City who had accompanied him, "My lord, considering the formidable strength displayed by your city, there are some matters I need to report back to the authorities in the imperial capital to determine more detailed plans for the alliance. To save time and speed up the alliance process, we plan to leave now; please grant us your permission."

"Go, go," the elder answered with a chuckle, "We will wait here in Blackwater City for your response."

That was the decisive sentiment held by him, or rather, the entire leadership of Blackwater City.

They used the power to destroy the hive to make the imperial capital recognize the status of Blackwater City, thus establishing an important geopolitical center for the new united empire to develop, in areas surrounding what had been an inconsequential Blackwater City.

This was the ideal plan that would allow them to not abandon the city in the union and yet not sacrifice the interests of any Blackwater City residents.

Lingering on the fringes, Yue Ying's eyes flashed briefly; she stepped back and detached from everyone's perception, quickly chasing after Bai E.

"Bai E..."

As he strode back, Bai E suddenly heard Yue Ying's messaging, and the next moment he saw her, not knowing when, sitting on the shoulder of his mecha.

"Hmm?"

"After you go back, my sister, look for you."

Before setting out, Wind Spirit had instructed Yue Ying.

"After Bai E leads the troops in annihilating the hive, tell him to come see me immediately."

Chapter 788: Kneel down!

As night fell, everyone from the various powers gathered within Blackwater City felt anxious.

Usually at this time, the army attacking the hive would have either been defeated or won, but a result would have been relayed back.

But today it's already so late, why is there no news from the front at all?

Have we won, or have we lost?

Not to mention the formal invitation issued by the Prophet of the Elf Race...

"The Prophet wants to see our General Bai E now... what does that mean?"

"Didn't General Bai E lead the troops to attack the hive? Hasn't anyone informed her?"

Amidst their confusion, a technician from the information department received communication from the front line, and the next moment, with a greatly elated expression, announced loudly, "Great victory! A great victory at the front!"

"This is a real-time recording of the Military Department cleaning the hive contamination! General Bai E has decapitated the mastermind, and all the swarms of the Blackrock Bug Nest have been put to the sword! Now General Bai E is returning alone in her mecha, please make sure to be ready to receive her in the city!"

After a deathly silence, at that instant, all the power representatives anxiously awaiting in the meeting hall burst forth with an earth-shaking cheer that nearly resounded through the entire sky above Blackwater City.

"We've won!"

"We've finally won!"

"Those damned bugs are all dead!"

"The world belongs to us humans!"

At this moment, even the politicians who harbored various schemes in their hearts were genuinely and sincerely excited about the conquest of the hive.

All internal human strife, at least, is predicated on the fact that we are all humans.

No matter who wins or loses, at least the victors will continue to move forward in the name of humanity.

But the bugs... they are a wholly and purely different race! The enemy!

To witness the eradication of the bugs in their lifetime is such a moment that even the most calculating politician would shed a tear of joy.

"Hurry, hurry, prepare the reception ceremony!"

His subordinate who was given the order had some doubts, "What scale should we use?"

"The highest scale!" The elderly man with silvery white hair energetically waved his hand and said, "Publicly! A city-wide celebration! At this moment, regardless of Upper, Middle, Lower City districts, regardless of status high or low, let every person come to Blackwater Avenue to witness the majesty of the War God! It's time for every citizen to see the strength of our official forces!"

"What about the invitation from the Prophet of the Elf Race..."

"Let her wait! This moment is indispensable for Blackwater City!"

As people like Caesar with intricate thoughts sat in the corner of the hall and heard this news, their eyes flickered slightly.

The front line had just sent back word that General Bai E was rushing back.

And the Prophet of the Elf Race had already sent out an invitation in advance, this...

Could it be that the Prophet of the Elf Race really possessed the ability befitting her name?

If this were the case...

The Elder Council elders, who also realized this, couldn't help but suppress their joy and asked, "Has the Prophet of the Elf Race mentioned what she wants to do by finding our General Bai E?"

"I heard she wants to give him two paintings..."

"Paintings?"

It is said that the elves always like to use works of art to carry things of true meaning, so could these "paintings" also be a manifestation of the Prophet's ability?

The elder paused for a moment, then gestured carefully, "Ask her to wait a moment, General Bai E first needs to make an appearance before the entire city."

"Yes, my lord!"

"Announcement! The city lord has arrived! The city lord has arrived!" At this incredibly unified yet chaotic moment, a sonorous voice suddenly erupted from outside the meeting hall.

All eyes in the hall instantly turned toward the now opening large doors...

The city lord, who rarely showed himself, chose to appear before everyone at this particular moment?

Indeed! If not now, during such a moment, when would he ever appear?

...

With the full operation of the official forces, the entire Blackwater City stirred almost instantly.

The Blackrock District Hive, obliterated!

Outside Blackwater City, there would no longer be such a deadly threat!

The people who had been hiding in the city for hundreds of years... they might have the chance to venture into the wilderness to feel the breeze of freedom!

And all of this was achieved under the command of the wise and insightful... Marshal of the Military District – Marshal Weslin!

Marshal Weslin is the only and true savior of this city!

Every citizen of the Middle and Lower City who comes out to breathe the fresh and free air under the sun should eternally remember this name!

"Weslin! Weslin!"

"Invincible Marshal! The Marshal is unrivaled!"

The throngs filled both sides of the widest street in the city, Blackwater Avenue, and their thunderous roars could even penetrate Bai E's eight-alloy breastplate to reach her ears.

Marshal Weslin, who had just recovered from his injuries, sat pallid on the shoulder of his mecha, watching those tiny figures below him cheer and leap with fervor, and an unusual flush appeared on his sickly pale face.

"Well done! Well done indeed!" Marshal Weslin smacked the mecha's shoulder plate he was sitting on hard, and through the channel that could communicate directly with Bai E in the cockpit, his voice converted into electric signals passed, "All my past support and training for you was not in vain, you've done very well this time! Once I become the city lord, you'll be the sole high official just below me!"

"All thanks to the lord's good teaching." Bai E replied calmly, her eyes indifferently sweeping over the crowd, among which were many familiar faces.

At this moment, all of them were looking up in her direction, appearing to be full of resentment.

Chapter 789: Kneel down!\_2

"What is Weslin to be so presumptuous? He dares to claim such a prize just after waking up?!" Aglaya squinted her eyes, her blue-purple hair filled with the charm of Spiritual Energy shimmering under the city lights as bright as daylight.

"Who allowed him to have a city lord for a father?" Caesar leaned despondently against the wall, looking entirely indifferent to everything that was happening.

"The city lord has gone too far this time..." Nolanitz, the Judgment Chief of the Arbitration Place, sighed softly, feeling sincere dissatisfaction with the city lord's decision.

"To elevate his own son, the city lord has really stopped at nothing!" The elder from the Elder Council's eyes flickered, glancing towards the end of the avenue before them.

The makeshift throne was immensely majestic, and the emperor sat high above, waiting for his most loyal followers to come before him.

This was the attitude shown towards the War God of Blackwater City who had just accomplished unprecedented feats...

No matter how long Blackwater Avenue may be, it eventually came to an end.

No matter how slow the Mecha's pace, it ultimately had a stopping point.

The burly old man with deep-set eyes and a gray-white stubble on his chin rose from the grand throne behind him, extending a hand towards the slowly approaching Mecha, then curling three fingers downward.

"Kneel!"

He said.

Under the influence of Spiritual Energy, his voice spread out like tangible waves, powerfully reaching the front.

Residents slightly closer to the avenue trembled under this force and instinctively felt the urge to bend their knees to the supreme authority.

The position of city lord was never hereditary.

A status earned step by step through one's own efforts could never belong to just any commoner.

Player characters mixed among the crowd looked excitedly towards the old man, and Xu Ruoguang's eyes emanated a fervent glow, "Is that our lord's master? Is he the Emperor? Is he the Emperor?"

After overcoming the initial confusion of entering the game, this mission from the beginning of the game had never faded.

He became even more convinced that there must be an Emperor in this world waiting for him to take down!

Seeing how arrogant and despicable that guy looked, if he was not the Emperor, then who was?

"He's a der, that's what he is!" Kuang Xin curled his lip in disdain, "And he wants our lord to kneel to him? Who does he think he is?"

"Exactly! Tonight, we'll go chop him down," Gong Yan said with a laugh, backing him up.

So, Kuang Xin shrank his neck slightly, "Well, let's wait for our lord to make a move. That BYD city lord looks exactly like an enemy of our class, we'll definitely have to deal with him!"

However, no matter what, all eyes remained fixed on the blue and white Mecha, anticipating how it would respond.

In the silence, Weslin chuckled and patted the large iron shell he was sitting on, "Let me down, I need to pay my respects to the city father."

"Creak~" The Mecha's operating sound was incredibly jarring on the quiet street; as the blue-white Mecha bent down, some people silently shifted their gaze away.

Standing next to Zuo Jin, Kiro Lan's gaze sharpened, turning to glance at the burly figure alone on the high platform.

Whether it was the first time he met the so-called city lord, just today's actions alone were enough to merit the ultimate death sentence!

"Creak~"

The Mecha bent over to place Weslin down from its palm, then turned... striding away.

The avenue was utterly quiet.

Morphie beside Kiro Lan clenched her teeth hard, somewhat angry, "Not willing to kneel for even a moment of victory! How can our lord act so recklessly!"

"If he was willing to kneel, he would not be our lord," Kiro Lan watched the solitary figure departing, waving gently into the bustling crowd.

In an instant, under her signal, the atmosphere was lively again.

"The Marshal is invincible! Invincible Marshal!"

"Weslin! Weslin!"

"oooooooooh!"

The city lord's face turned ashen as he watched the giant figure turn and walk in the other direction, his pupils full of displeasure.

How long had it been?

In this city, no one had ever dared defy his will.

In the cold pupils, a dangerous light flickered.

Seemingly feeling a chill, Weslin knelt on the ground with a thud, "Father, General Bai E is an artificial human by birth; his mind has always been unclear. He does not understand these rules. Give me some time, I will teach him."

"..." The city lord retracted his gaze and looked at his son kneeling before him.

After a moment, he revealed a smile, and his voice once again spread grandly through the power of Spiritual Energy, "This time you have led the army to exterminate the insect nest, also removing a great threat to Blackwater City from the wilds! From this moment on, Blackwater City will once again focus beyond our walls, that is the fertile ground we will expand into! I announce, from today onward, every resident of Blackwater City who ventures out for expansion will receive the city's funding for expansion! May the light of Blackwater bless all directions!"

"Bless all directions!"

"Bless all directions!"

...

Listening to the noisy crowd outside the window, the Elf Prophet Wind Spirit chuckled as he looked at the human male before him inside the diplomatic camp.

"General Bai E, I originally thought this celebration was being held for you."

So much so that the Blackwater City officials who received him all excitedly stressed that he was the absolute protagonist of the celebration, indispensable.

Bai E smiled indifferently, "I never liked these kinds of events."

Then he looked at the other party, eyes filled with puzzlement, and asked, "Yue Ying said you were looking for me, is something the matter?"

Wind Spirit smiled mysteriously, pulling out a canvas and a paintbrush from seemingly nowhere.

"My painting needs a protagonist, would you like to be it?"

Bai E was slightly startled, unsure of the deep meaning behind the Elf Prophet's words.

After all, the title of "Prophet" was always shrouded in mystery, no matter the time.

Even after he and Yue Ying had had in-depth conversations, he could not learn more details about the motives behind the Elf Prophet's actions from Yue Ying.

The one thing that was certain was that the Prophet had never meant to harm him, "As you will. How should I cooperate?"

"Hmm..." Wind Spirit's eyes shimmered with a faint glow of Spiritual Energy, looking at Bai E's form but seemingly without focus, more like looking through a hollow shadow towards a distant future.

"The first painting... you don't have to do anything, just, turn around and look."

"Turn around and look?"

Bai E repeated, then complied, "Like this?"

"Yes, just like that." Wind Spirit's voice contained some joy. "Stay still, it will be done shortly!"

"Ssh ssh ssh ssh~"

The sound of the paintbrush scrubbing on the paper was particularly clear in the quiet room, and Bai E kept his pose, unintentionally relaxing his mood under the tranquilizing sound.

And gradually eased.

Drowsily, a distorted, dim vision seemed to appear before him.

Dozens of light orbs of various colors streaked vague arcs across that void dim space and faded away... faded...

He subconsciously tried to grasp at them, but found it was in vain.

"Done!" Wind Spirit's voice, full of joy, snapped Bai E out of that drowsy state.

The tall female elf twirled the paper in her hand, presenting it to Bai E, "This is for you, but you'll need to leave me a copy."

Bai E glanced at the piece of paper Wind Spirit thrust into his hands, only to see it prominently featured a dozen beams of light vanishing into a darkened space.

It was exactly the same as what he had seen while in a dreamlike state just moments ago!

Bai E was completely unaware of the Elf Prophet's methods.

Thus he asked curiously, holding the piece of paper, "What are these? Shooting stars?"

"Shh~ Don't ask." Wind Spirit playfully put her index finger to her lips, her delicate finger pointing at the empty space beside her, "There are 'watchers' who might hear."

"..." Bai E nodded obediently, following her instructions, "What about the next painting?"

Chapter 790: Second painting

"The next one..." Feng Ling turned her head, looking towards a distant direction.

Shadows of time flickered rapidly in her pupils, and a scene of raging war ultimately froze before her eyes.

"Walk towards me."

"Mhm." Bai E obediently did as he was told.

The moment he had just lifted his right foot, Feng Ling spoke out to stop him, "Stop! Just stay like that."

Bai E's excellent reflexes allowed him instantly to realize what Feng Ling was saying and instantly freeze in place.

Even if his body was somewhat unbalanced, under his current control, it wasn't a problem at all.

"Shasha shasha shasha~"

The sound of the brush scraping across the paper quietly rose again, but this time Bai E no longer felt that muddled sense of detachment.

Feng Ling was clearly a master of painting, as a new image, starkly different from the previous one, quickly unfolded before Bai E's eyes.

If the previous painting of departing lights in dark space had an abstract style, the one before him now was pure realism.

Thick ink outlined the dense smoke of the battlefield, the dim sky showed no daylight, only countless shadows whose features were indistinct due to distance.

In one corner of the canvas, the distant horizon loomed in the background, with shadows that should have darkened the sky, but in this piece only hinted at the tip of the iceberg.

On the ground, rows of artillery fired roaring tongues of flame into the sky, and behind the ruins of human buildings in the foreground, a human figure was stepping out from among them.

"Is this me?"

Bai E asked, pointing to the most conspicuous human figure on the canvas.

Everything the Prophet did had a purpose, and this might be her way of revealing some possibilities about the "future" to him.

"It's not important." Feng Ling's lips curled in a smile, "It could be, or it could not be. In fact, this painting is meaningless to you. The causality entwined around you gifted me with some inspiration, so I simply recorded it, that is all."

Bai E gazed at the second painting, the recorded battle scene drawing his concern.

Just that he didn't know how far into the future this was, or who the opponent was...

Feng Ling seemed to notice Bai E's pondering and asked with a smile, "General Bai E, with your level of Spiritual Energy, you must have already experienced the foundations of high-dimensional space, haven't you? Whether it's the stars that represent all changes in the world, or the rolling river of time... the foundation of all things, they're as real and tangible there as the existence of a physical entity."

"...Yes." Bai E nodded.

He had witnessed these things when he first awakened his Spiritual Energy.

At that time, he might not have understood deeply, but as his Spiritual Energy grew stronger, Bai E became increasingly clear—everything he had seen was the absolute foundation behind the formation of high-dimensional space.

The definition of space and time became so vague there because it represented the very essence of "space" and "time."

Seeing Bai E's candid response, Feng Ling's eyes showed a hint of satisfaction and she asked in a deep tone, "So... do you believe in 'fate'?"

A person's life from the moment of birth has a predetermined trajectory, and every seemingly random choice made at every moment of life was actually destined.

If not so, how could "time" become a river?

An entity with a concrete form, wanting to intervene and make changes, that too is just the final stage of growing strength.

And if destiny is not fixed, then who's future is it precisely when those with the power to interfere in the river of time reach the so-called "future"?

The more profound an entity's grasp of higher-dimensional space, the firmer their belief in "fate."

But...

"I don't believe it," Bai E said, his eyes slightly lost in thought.

If everything is predestined, then this life... is just too meaningless.

Even if he should find himself trapped in some absolute cycle of fate in the future, he would try every possible way to break free!

Fengling's eyes curved into crescents, and she chuckled with her lips pursed, "I don't believe it either."

As she said this, she gracefully stood up and saw her guest to the door, "I'm sorry for taking up so much of General Bai E's time. If the general has other matters to attend to, please feel free to take leave."

"Then I won't impose any further," Bai E nodded, turned, and left.

If he stayed any longer, he feared she would not be able to hold up.

He didn't know what she had done, but during the second painting, he felt a terrifying surge of Spiritual Energy gathering around the elven Prophet, some of which even stirred a fraction of his own dispersed spirit.

Even with his current level three spiritual energy, in the face of those tumultuous waves, he seemed utterly inadequate. For her to mobilize such immense spiritual power must not have been easy.

Sure enough, with Bai E's departure,

Fengling, who had been staunchly suppressing her body's weakness with "self-restraint," suddenly softened at the knees and collapsed onto the ground, her face deathly pale.

The sweat that broke out instantly soaked her thin clothes, and her body lay limp on the floor like a snake, gasping for air with heavy breaths.

"It's still... too forced," Fengling bit her lip, her eyes filled with agony, "It's indeed too difficult to change fate..."

Looking down at the painting she was clutching tightly, Fengling's eyes finally showed a trace of relief, "Fortunately, there is still a glimmer of hope left."

Although this world was merely an accidental stop for her, she still did not wish to see it become a withered relic in the universe once Bai E left.

"Prophet...," came the call of her kin from outside the door, "The human officials are seeking an audience; they say they wish to view your latest creation."

Fengling casually tossed the canvas so that it landed in the hands of her people outside the door, "Give it to them..."

After all, it was prepared for them.

No matter what, humans are the absolute masters of this planet!

...

Following humanity's great victory over the Bug Nest, more and more residents of the lowest city gave up the safety inside the walls to venture into the wilderness beyond.

There may still be various threats in the wilderness—mutated beasts, roaming orcs, wandering warlords, and so on...

But humanity's greatest enemy had been vanquished, and the rest of the dangers were not relentlessly targeting humans.

Compared to the confinement within the city, the dangers of the wilderness were negligible in the pursuit of freedom!

Those nobles, who had endured various reasons and suffered in silence, finally could bear no more. A chilling voice emerged from the dark chambers, "Over this period, our family's income has decreased by thirty percent. Those branches which had their funding reduced can hardly be appeased. Now, with the unrest among the lower city's inhabitants, this is our last chance!"

