

Wow 971

Chapter 971 Traversed, Traversed

This pressure lasted for only two seconds before receding like a tide.

"Thud," "Thud."

Several "Dusk" guards and Victor's group had their legs go weak, almost collapsing to the ground, gasping for breath as they stared in fear and disbelief at the figure that suddenly appeared on the scene.

They had never felt such a terrifying, so freely controlled power!

Gray Falcon's pupils also shrank suddenly, and cold sweat instantly seeped down his back.

He was an experienced warrior himself and could better comprehend the terror of that moment—

It was not brute force, but an exquisite mastery of power!

The master of this Mine Star, is far more unfathomable than the rumors!

"In my place, follow my rules." Bai E's voice was not loud, but it reached everyone's ears clearly, "You can raise objections. But no fighting."

The scene was dead silent.

Gray Falcon looked at this figure, vaguely feeling that his previous plans might need to be adjusted...

This guy, he was probably even stronger than his own boss... much stronger.

How could it be... his boss was already one of the strongest humans he'd seen.

If their boss wasn't such a formidable fighter, Dusk wouldn't have become such a large mercenary team in just a few years.

Where did this guy come from, another god?

A figure who originally had a nonchalant smile was sitting cross-legged on the spaceship, watching the live feed.

Just when he was eagerly anticipating that his trained brats would teach those natives a lesson, a figure suddenly appeared and subdued the whole scene.

From his distant position, he couldn't feel the pressure, only that this person ruined his good show.

But when that figure slowly turned around, seemingly glanced in his direction, the man on the spaceship shivered, and fell off his chair with a thud.

"Whoa whoa whoa... damn!"

"Boss!"

...

"I crossed over, I really crossed over!"

Kuang Xin looked into the mirror, deeply enamored with the new body he received.

Look at these muscles, look at these inverted triangle lines... Oh boy, I never thought I'd be in a cool transmigration story too?

Ever since the spaceship crashed in high-dimensional space, it had been four days since he was able to play Galaxy Online.

After surviving the three-day death cooldown, Kuang Xin immediately logged into the game.

Unexpectedly upon logging in... hey! He couldn't log out!

If a game makes all experiences feel exactly like the real world inside, and there's no way to log in and out at will, is this still a game?

Isn't this transmigration?!

And it's a painless transmigration, without having to gamble on the highway.

Kuang Xin accepted the fact that he had crossed over extremely quickly.

But he soon discovered a new problem—

This wasn't the planet he was familiar with, and even his initial identity was a soul transfer.

He seemed to have become the last legitimate heir of some broken aristocratic family, but unfortunately, he was sold to a dark arena to perform a life-and-death battle with a beast in front of an audience.

Human vs. beast? Life and death?

Initially realizing this situation, Kuang Xin felt his heart sink halfway because, in reality, he was a law-abiding citizen.

Not to mention fighting, he had never even argued to the point of blushing and neck thickening.

However, when he punched a three-headed monster into a cage so hard that it got stuck and couldn't be pulled out, he suddenly realized that the skills he had accumulated in the game seemed to remain unchanged.

The system was gone, but the skills remained.

So what's there to say? I don't eat beef!

In less than a month, Kuang Xin took down the entire arena.

In just three months, Kuang Xin conquered the entire city he was in, and along the way, reclaimed the family's past glory... Although he didn't care, the people he defeated automatically brought all the scoundrels who had bullied his family in front of him.

Kuang Xin didn't even bother to look at them, waving them off casually since he didn't feel any affinity with the identity of this body.

Unexpectedly, the people below assumed he wanted them executed, and thus the name of Great Demon King Kuang Xin spread quickly without restraint.

He consolidated family assets, conquered every corner of the city!

Under the Great Demon King Kuang Xin's might, the once notorious Sinful Airport soon became a gathering place for law-abiding good citizens.

After all, who could be eviler than that Great Demon King?

Kuang Xin's path to fame was just pure aggression!

No matter your name or origins, take a punch first.

Having conquered the airport, Kuang Xin grew bored and began pondering the meaning of life.

He tried searching for the adults' whereabouts, but clearly to no avail.

Since "Li Ming" wasn't here, "Dusk" rose to the occasion.

If henceforth there is no light, I shall be the only fire!

Kuang Xin vowed to conquer every corner of the universe.

Dusk, the evil dusk.

The formerly evil and oppressive Evil Port transformed into the Dusk Interstellar Security Company.

Kuang Xin took this group of inherently evil individuals and began to gallop across the universe, fighting violence with violence.

In the midst of the battles, Kuang Xin gradually realized the vastness of this world.

'The world is so big, could the adults be hiding in another corner of the world?'

Realizing this, Kuang Xin began conscientiously accumulating assets, aiming to form his own expedition team to search for the star where the adults resided.

Chapter 972 - Another Transmigration

He always believed the adults were living beings; there were so many times he felt this while in the game back then.

Now, even he has come to this world, he's even more certain the content he originally experienced in the game was real.

With such power and personal charisma, no matter where the adults go, they should shine the brightest.

The reason he hasn't encountered them must be due to the adults being trapped in certain predicaments for some reasons.

Find the adults! Find that former planet!

I love "Li Ming" so much.

And now...

Kuang Xin almost rolled and crawled out of the spaceship, in the incredulous eyes of a bunch of evil people's subordinates, he suddenly pounced at Bai E's feet, hugging his leg tightly.

"Adults! I've found you!"

...

"???"

"???"

"???"

"Boss!"

"Boss!"

"Boss!" A bunch of underlings only felt the sky had fallen.

Where's their evil Great Demon King?

Where's the mighty, unbeaten strongest in the universe?

Where's their former Kuang Xin, the big boss Kuang who intimidated everywhere, and whose every stomp made the airport tremble three times?

How could this happen?!

Xing Zhuo, watching from the side, felt his worldview collapse even more.

What's going on?

A leader of the Golden Swallow is your former subordinate.

Now comes a boss of the Dusk Interstellar Security Company, also your former subordinate.

Brother Bai, what on earth did you do before? And do you even know that your little brothers are all so impressive now?

If he had known this great deity was so capable, what was he jumping around for?

What's the sanction from the three giant heads? What's the power of the Peak Alliance?

A Golden Swallow, plus a Dusk.

These two combined, even if they can't surpass the entire Peak Alliance, at least they don't fear any of their three giants.

It's a completely different nature, not even on the same level.

No wonder Bai E disdainfully rejected those recruitment conditions they proposed before. Judging by the level of his subordinates, they all far exceed those offered benefits.

What's there to say now...

Xing Zhuo is completely powerless and completely relieved.

Faced with this unknown deity, isn't it enough just to watch them show off?

...

"Alright, alright... get up quickly." Bai E shook his leg, having no way with this little brother hugging his leg with a runny nose and tears.

Back when they first met, this little brother looked so sinister; who would've thought in the interstellar realm he had become such a powerful leader, yet still this appearance... can it be said he's staying true to his original intention?

Kuang Xin giggled and got up, "Boss, I've finally found you, boss. I've been looking for you for three years..."

"Three years?" Bai E was stunned for a moment, then waved his hand, "The spaceship crash only happened a month ago."

"Hmm?"

"No worries, someone will explain it to you later." Bai E clapped his hands, "End the farce, let's talk business."

"Yes! Business!" Kuang Xin's playful face disappeared and turned into a battle-ready face.

"Go, call all our people over!"

Gray Falcon was startled, "All?"

Kuang Xin's face hardened, "What? Need me to say it a second time?"

"Yes! Yes!" Gray Falcon nodded vigorously; the familiar Great Demon King was back.

Fleet gathering takes time, but this bunch of guys from Evil Port clearly moves fast.

They received instructions from the highest level—Boss is angry!

Thus, the fleets dispatched on missions from all over Dusk gathered at this place. In the high-dimensional space channels, one ship, two ships, three ships... big or small, with different paint but all exuding a fierce aura, warships emerged like a fleet of sharks from the darkness.

Slowly, they sailed towards the Mine Star's orbit after the assembly.

Their numbers far exceed Huowali's second border patrol fleet, and several of the main ships are distinctly larger and more heavily armed, clearly hardened in the grey zones, modified countless times and enhanced into "war beasts."

The Huowali fleet's monitoring system raised the alarm instantly.

"General! Detected a large number of unknown ship signals! Gathering towards this area! Number... exceeding twenty ships! Among them, at least three heavy modified battleship class!" The monitoring officer's voice trembled with disbelief.

Admiral Glen's face turned pale as he watched those densely arriving glowing dots on the tactical screen.

He originally thought they would at most trouble him with a few mercenary ships, but didn't expect them to directly bring such a massive private fleet!

This fleet's combat power is absolutely enough to crush his second border patrol fleet!

"What are they... planning to do?" The adjutant's voice was dry.

Soon, they would find out.

The "Dusk" fleet didn't fire, but provocatively infiltrated Huowali fleet's encirclement grandly, and several smaller, fast assault ships almost flew past Huowali's escort ship's windows, arrogantly.

The public communication channel was forcibly cut in, a rough voice with coldness sounded: "Huowali people? Heard you're playing house here, daring to block my boss's door? Ten minutes for you to scam, or... let's play for real. Counting to ten..."

"Who are you? This is the military operation area of Huowali United States!" Glen responded, forcing calm.

Kuang Xin paid him no mind, only counting, "Ten, nine, eight..."

The countdown tolls like a death knell.

Cold sweat dripped from Glen's forehead.

Fight? Absolutely can't win, and once it starts, it's forming a deadly feud with "Dusk," these lawless warmongers, endless troubles follow.

Not fighting? Really just withdraws like this? Domestic big shots would swallow him alive!

As he hesitated, something more devastating happened.

A micro-attack boat with no markings, matte black, shaped like a ghost, stealthily pierced through "Iron Curtain Judge"'s multi-layer outer defense and surveillance network, attached directly to the flagship's main armor strip!

The next second, the air-tight emergency tunnel door beside the bridge was forcibly pried open; a man in simple combat attire, face with a broad grin, single-handedly tossed their guard leader onto the floor like garbage, then swaggered into the bridge.

None other than Kuang Xin.

"Yo, quite lively." Kuang Xin looked around at the dumbfounded officers and soldiers, his gaze finally settling on Admiral Glen with the highest shoulder badge, "You're the one in charge?"

"You... how did you..." Glen's finger trembled pointing at him, both shocked and angry.

Are the flagship's defense systems made of paper?!!

"Don't bother how I got in." Kuang Xin waved his hand, walked a few steps to Glen, and before he could react, grabbed his collar, lifted him off the command chair like a chick, "Come on, meet my boss. As for you..."

He glanced at the adjutant attempting to draw their weapon beside, merely snorted casually, and an invisible spiritual energy shock flipped that person's eyes, causing them to faint.

"Polish my shoes for me! No, polish my boss's shoes!" Kuang Xin grinned, grabbing the ashen-faced Admiral Glen, turned and exited through the broken passage, boarded the assault boat, and left.

The entire process was smooth, arrogantly reaching levels beyond measure, the rest in Huowali's bridge didn't even dare make any effective blockade.

At the Mine Star landing pad, the assault boat landed.

Kuang Xin tossed Admiral Glen at Bai E's feet like a sack, then rubbed his hands, resuming that playful crafty smile: "Boss, I brought you the man! This bloke is the head of that fleet. How to deal with him, just one word from you!"

Bai E looked at this scene, then at the magnificent scale of "Dusk" fleet in the distant starry sky, and finally his gaze fell on Kuang Xin, momentarily lost for words.

This guy... has really grown.

"Xin!" A soft call rang out from afar.

Chapter 973 - Reinforcements to the Frontline

"Yanzi!" The moment he saw the other party, Kuang Xin's eyes instantly brightened, and the joy on his face was beyond measure.

Gong Yan looked at him from afar, sighed softly, then smiled, and walked over slowly, "Long time no see."

"Yes... it's been a long time." Kuang Xin scratched his head and laughed, "I thought I would never see you again... By the way, the boss said it's only been a month since our spaceship incident. What's the deal with that?"

"About that..." Gong Yan squinted his eyes and began to slowly explain...

...

The crisis on Mine Star was almost resolved without bloodshed under the formidable threat brought by Kuang Xin's mighty forces, which forced the Huowali Republic's fleet to retreat.

They lifted the blockade and withdrew from Mine Star's orbit with their tails between their legs.

Xing Zhuo witnessed the entire process, and the last lingering reluctance and doubts in his heart completely vanished.

He had seen firsthand that Bai E not only possessed immeasurable personal power but also had old allies like Gong Yan from Golden Swallow Trading Company and Kuang Xin from Dusk Interstellar Security Company hidden under his command.

This seemed beyond the scope of ordinary power, more like... destiny?

"Mr. Bai E." As Xing Zhuo was leaving, his attitude towards Bai E was almost reverent, "The troubles on Mine Star have been resolved, although I couldn't help much. But I hope you remember the threat from the Bug Race continues. According to the latest intelligence, those few massive Bug Race biological ships haven't stopped after devouring Lorin Colony Star. Their trajectory... is directed towards the Karian Federation's Capital Star."

He brought up the star map, pointing at a marked speculative path: "Karian Federation, while not considered the most powerful, has a Capital Star with a population of over five billion, making it an

important industrial and cultural center. With the previous example of Lorin Colony Star, they are now extremely terrified. The Federation's senior officials have issued their highest level request for assistance to the Alliance, and have even begun secret contact with the Star Alliance, but distant water cannot quench proximate thirst."

Xing Zhuo looked at Bai E, his eyes earnest: "If you are willing to go to the front line, the Karian Federation has clearly indicated that as long as you can help them resist the Bug Race, even if only to delay, they will offer you the highest level of courtesy and full support. They will open all military facilities, share intelligence, prioritize logistical supply, and even... voice for the Bauhinia Republic's legal status within the Alliance."

This was an extremely tempting condition.

Public support from an Alliance member country would be a great help in Bai E's plan to rebuild Bauhinia.

"The Bug Race should be my problem to resolve." Bai E didn't hesitate, "With Gong Yan and Kuang Xin here on Mine Star, development is temporarily without worry. I will take a refined squad over."

He pointed out a few people: Catherine, Victor, Black Beast, and twenty of the most elite veterans selected from the Seventh Legion, whose loyalty had been assured with memory secret techniques.

As for Kuang Xin, Bai E had him temporarily garrison Dusk's main fleet around Mine Star as both a protection and a kind of deterrence.

Gong Yan continued to be responsible for connecting with Golden Swallow Trading Company, using the window period after lifting the blockade to speed up material delivery and infrastructure construction.

"Boss, rest assured to go! I'll take care of things here. I guarantee not even a fly will get in!" Kuang Xin patted his chest and promised.

Gong Yan also bowed to see him off, "Sir, I will quickly establish a stable supply chain and start planning the long-term development scheme for Mine Star. Please... be careful."

All arrangements were set.

Bai E led his squad, quietly departing from Mine Star...

Meanwhile, in the Peak Alliance's highest council.

The atmosphere was far more solemn than before.

The tragedy of Lorin Colony Star being devoured, though tightly sealed, couldn't be completely covered. The undercurrent of panic had already extended among high-level and various national intelligence systems.

Now, with the Bug Race fleet heading toward the Karian Federation's Capital Star, this was no longer a "fringe conflict," but a direct threat to an important planet of an Alliance core member country!

"The representative of the Karian Federation has been waiting outside for three hours! They demand the Alliance immediately dispatch the main fleet to intercept!" an anxious councilor's voice rose.

"Main fleet? Did you forget the disastrous defeat of the joint fleet last time? Six main ships were destroyed and the rest are damaged! Do we have a complete main fleet now that can definitely beat the Bug Race?" another councilor retorted.

"Are we just going to stand by and watch Karian's Capital Star follow Lorin Colony Star's fate? That has a fifty billion population!"

"And what's going on with the weapon development of the Divine Fragment? How much longer does the Academy need?"

The Academy representative named wiped sweat from his forehead: "Everyone, the knowledge embedded within the Divine Fragment far exceeds our current technological level. The decoding and implementation require time! Conservatively estimated... at least another year, if not longer!"

"A year? Will the bugs give Karian a year? They have at most half a month before entering Karian Capital Star's defense perimeter! Didn't you swear with your chest that you could solve the Bug Race's problem?!"

"But who knew those bugs would stay mobile..."

Arguments, prevarication, and sentiments of despair permeated the council hall.

At this moment, a voice sounded, belonging to a senior councilor of the Thousand Stars Commerce Alliance, who had received Xing Zhuo's earlier tip-off: "Everyone, perhaps we have another option... or say, an opportunity to try."

Everyone's focus shifted to him.

"According to the latest report from Commander Xing Zhuo, the Legendary Mechanic Bai E has agreed to go to Karian's front lines to assist in defending against the Bug Race."

As the words fell, the council was first silent, then burst into even greater voices of discussion.

Chapter 974 - Reinforcements to the Frontlines (Part 2)

"Him? Alone? Even if he succeeded last time inside the Bug Race's ship, that was with a team and inside a single biological ship! Now we're on the front lines, facing five complete Bug Race bio-dreadnoughts! I've even heard that after devouring the Lorin Colony Star, they've manufactured another bio-dreadnought on-site... That's six now!"

"The Karian Federation is desperately clutching at straws! Pinning their hopes on an individual?"

"But at least he has experienced success against the Bug Race before. And we... do we have any?" Xing Zhuo's voice connected via remote communication, calm yet powerful, "The failure of the last coalition fleet has proven that conventional tactics are limited against the Bug Race. Before the technological weapons of the Divine Fragment are unveiled, Bai E is the only one we know of who has in-depth understanding and has achieved results against the Bug Race. The Karian Federation is willing to bet on him, so why not give them, and ourselves, a chance to observe and verify?"

He paused, his voice low: "Moreover... we have secretly sent a request for help to the Star Alliance. But due to the Star Alliance's bureaucratic processes and distance, reinforcements will take at least three months to arrive. So, who will hold back the Bugs during these three months? Our already demoralized fleet?"

The harsh reality left the council silent once again.

Finally, the presiding chairman knocked his gavel: "In that case... approve Xing Zhuo's proposal. Dispatch a small technical and intelligence support team to the Karian Federation in the name of observers from the Alliance, and closely monitor Bai E's actions there. We need to know just how effective his so-called 'method' will be against a structured Bug Race fleet's direct assault."

This is the maximum level of 'support' and 'observation' the Alliance can provide without the power to offer direct military assistance.

Essentially, they still have doubts about Bai E's role, but the desperate situation forces them to grasp at any possible straw.

The message quickly reached the ship carrying Bai E and his companions.

"The Alliance has approved the observer group, but they won't dispatch a fleet for support," Catherine reported to Bai E, with a hint of sarcasm in her tone, "They still can't swallow their pride, or rather... they dare not risk another fleet loss."

Bai E was unsurprised: "It's irrelevant. I wasn't counting on them anyway. The attitude of the Karian Federation is what's crucial."

"On the Karian side..." Catherine pulled up the latest communications, "They reaffirmed their commitment and have temporarily opened the secondary military command authority of the Capital Star 'Dawn City' to us. Their President wants to have a holographic meeting with you upon your arrival."

"Fine." Bai E nodded.

He needs to understand the Karian Federation's specific defensive power, planetary layout, and... the latest detailed movements of the Bug Race fleet.

"Additionally," Catherine added, "Xing Zhuo has passed on messages that, although the Alliance is officially only observing, the three major powers—especially the Thousand Stars Commerce Alliance and the Thunder Dragon Empire—are actually assembling a rapid response fleet in secret, deploying near the Karian Federation's Star Domain. Officially it's to 'prevent the situation from escalating,' but in reality... they might be waiting to see your performance before deciding whether to lend a helping hand, add insult to injury, or... swoop in to clean up the mess and take the spoils after you've both worn each other out."

The Black Beast snorted in derision: "The faces of such major powers haven't changed for hundreds of years."

Victor appeared somewhat anxious: "Brother Bai E, can we... really hold off those Bugs? I heard there are now six Bug Race bio-dreadnoughts..."

Bai E gazed out at the swiftly passing stars through the porthole, his expression calm yet sharp:
"Whether we can hold them off, we'll only know after we try. But this time, we are not fighting alone. Behind us, we have a nation ready to give its all, under our feet is a planet of five billion lives unwilling to abandon their home. And moreover..."

He withdrew his gaze, looking at those in the cabin: "We are better prepared and more knowledgeable than last time. The Bug Race is not invincible; they have their weaknesses. My task is to find and exploit them."

His voice, while not impassioned, carried a reassuring determination. Catherine, Black Beast, Victor, and even the old veterans listening intently, felt their unease slightly diminish.

Indeed, following this man, how many miracles have they wrought?

From the desperate counterattack on the Mine Star to breaking the encirclement by the Huowali Fleet... this time, against the Bug Race, they still choose to believe.

The spaceship's engines roared at full capacity, slicing through the silent starry sky, like a blade piercing the Bug Race's shadow-covered Star Domain.

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Meanwhile, on the Karian Capital Star "Dawn City," panic and hope entwined.

The government tried its best to maintain Order, but rumors about the tragedy of the Lorin Colony Star couldn't be contained.

The wealthy and powerful sought ways to flee, while ordinary people could only pray.

The military went into the highest state of alert, all Orbital Defense Platforms were charged, fleets assembled at the planet's outskirts, yet everyone knew that against those planet-devouring monsters, these defenses might be futile.

In the presidential office, the President of Karian looked solemnly at the star map, where the Bug Race signal continually approached.

He had just finished a difficult call with several Alliance councilors, receiving only vague promises and limited 'observation support.'

"Mr. President, Bai E's transport ship is expected to arrive at our outer post in one hour," the military advisor reported.

"Raise the reception to the highest level. No, I will personally go to the space station to welcome him," the President decided resolutely, "Also, notify all departments, they must unconditionally cooperate with Mr. Bai E's every reasonable request. This is our only hope for now, even if this hope looks similarly bleak."

He gazed out the window at the city's prosperous nightscape, its lights brilliant yet seemingly on the verge of being swallowed by endless darkness at any moment.

"May the ancestors bless Karian... bless humanity."

In the distant cosmos, the Bug Race fleet moved like six slowly advancing malignant tumors, unwaveringly along their course.

They seemed to sense something, as the Spiritual Energy vein patterns on their hulls flickered slightly, emitting an ever darker glow.

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The spaceship accurately arrived one hour later.

Guided by the safe corridors provided by the Karian Federation, the spaceship crossed multiple security perimeters, finally docking at the largest Orbital Defense Platform— "Shield of Defense"—on the outskirts of Karian Capital Star "Dawn City."

The space station's docking hatch opened, revealing a grand honor guard of high specification, and at the forefront stood the President of Karian, dressed in a deep blue federal military ceremonial uniform, somber yet with a tinge of barely concealed anxiety.

He personally led military and political leaders to welcome, exceeding normal diplomatic protocol, more akin to an all-in bet of placing all hope on the arrivals amid desperation.

"Mr. Bai E, I am the President of the Karian Federation, Edwin Sol." The President stepped forward, extending his hand, his voice steady but with urgency in his eyes, "Thank you for extending your help in this time of crisis. The entire Karian Federation will remember your kindness."

Bai E shook his hand without excess formalities: "Mr. President, time is of the essence. I need to immediately understand the full defensive deployment of the Capital Star, the latest precise movements of the Bug Race fleet, and... the highest command authority."

"As you wish." President Edwin nodded without hesitation and gestured to the side, "Please follow me, the command center is ready. From now on, the secondary command authority of the Dawn City defense system, as well as the highest access to relevant intelligence systems, are open to you and your team. We have only one request—to protect our homeland at all costs."

Chapter 975 War Begins!

The group swiftly passed through heavily guarded corridors, entering the core area of the "Shield of Defense" space station—the Planetary Defense Command Center.

This place was more than a hundred times larger than the rudimentary command center on Mine Star. The gigantic circular main screen displayed segmented real-time information flows of planetary orbits, outer domains, fleet deployments, ground anti-air arrays, and more.

Hundreds of officers and technical personnel were busy in front of holographic consoles, the atmosphere as tense as a taut bowstring.

President Edwin personally led Bai E to the central command console, ordering the responsible general, "General Aleksey, report the situation comprehensively to Mr. Bai Er. From now on, Mr. Bai Er's commands have the same level of priority as mine."

General Aleksey, whose hair was grayed but eyes were sharp, saluted Bai E, then brought up the star map and began to report quickly and clearly:

"Mr. Bai E, the current situation is as follows:

First, the Bug Race fleet: Confirmed to have six biological giant ships, one more than previously reported, presumed to have been constructed using resources after devouring the Lorin Colony Star. They are currently located at the outer Kuiper Belt of this star system, advancing in a direct line at a constant speed towards Dawn City.

Based on their current velocity, it is estimated they will enter the inner planetary orbit of this star system in 5 days and 16 hours, and reach the edge of Dawn City's near-Earth defense perimeter in 7 days and 8 hours.

Second, our defensive power:

On the orbital level, we have four large Orbital Defense Platforms, all equipped with heavy Plasma Cannon arrays and missile silos; a native defense fleet, including one heavy battleship, three cruisers, eight destroyers, and several frigates. Additionally, some hastily modified armed merchant ships from adjacent Star Domains have limited combat power.

On the ground, Dawn City has the 'Sky Dome' Energy Shield system covering major global cities, capable of momentarily withstanding main battleship-class bombardments, though with immense energy consumption. The underground bunker network can accommodate about 70% of the population, and there are over three hundred anti-air missile sites and laser interception towers deployed globally. Army and orbital airborne units have been placed on maximum alert.

Third, major issues:

Our fleet and defense platform firepower, after evaluations from the last Alliance Fleet report, are considered insufficient to directly pierce the specialized armor of the Bug Race's biological giant ships, especially with their potential rapid repair and adaptive evolution capabilities. The 'Sky Dome' shield cannot be sustained indefinitely, and the Bug Race may employ biomass projection or spiritual energy erosion to penetrate it. Public panic is severe, and the exodus of elite and technical personnel affects logistics and morale."

Having completed his professional report, General Aleksey looked at Bai E, his eyes complex.

He was a traditional soldier, more inclined to trust fleets and heavy artillery, instinctively feeling doubt and anxiety about pinning hopes on a super individual.

Yet, the President's orders and harsh reality forced him to suppress these emotions.

Bai E did not immediately give an opinion but instead walked to the master control console.

With the highest authority granted directly to him, more detailed and foundational data streams began to open up to him.

His gaze quickly swept over the vast information regarding energy distribution, weapon cooling cycles, shield generator loads, fleet fuel and ammunition reserves, personnel deployment statuses, and more.

Catherine, Black Beast, and others also found positions, accessing the system to analyze the areas they specialized in.

Victor, somewhat nervously, followed behind Bai E, striving to absorb this massive amount of information beyond his previous experience.

A few minutes later, Bai E raised his head, looking towards President Edwin and General Aleksey.

"The foundational defensive system is solid, but the tactical approach needs adjustment. The Bug Race is not a traditional fleet; they are a living, thinking, learning biological collective. Using static defenses and array bombardments meant for mechanical fleets will yield even worse results than the last Alliance Fleet."

He pointed to the predicted path of the Bug Race fleet on the star map: "They will charge directly, using biomass and spiritual energy to withstand our firepower, then, like devouring Lorraine Star, insert appendages into the planet's surface. Our goal is not just to repel but to weaken and stall their movements as much as possible before they make contact with the planet while seeking opportunities to destroy their core."

"How exactly do we do that?" General Aleksey couldn't help but ask.

"First, adjust the orbital defense platform and fleet formation."

Bai E brought up the deployment chart and quickly made marks, "Abandon the traditional linear interception formation. Arrange the four defense platforms and main fleet in a multi-layered, staggered dynamic defense net with Dawn City as the center. The platforms should no longer focus on maximum fire coverage but instead emphasize high-frequency, precise point defenses and harassment fire, aiming to disrupt the coordination and external sensory organs of the Bug Race's giant ships.

The fleet should act as a mobile strike force, avoiding direct confrontations, utilizing small detachment formations for high-speed harassment, targeting potentially weaker energy node points—I'll guide you in real-time on this."

Since the last close encounter with a Bug Race biological giant ship, Bai E, the 'Insect Race Killer,' had become acutely "aware" of certain weaknesses on some of the Bug Race biological ships.

"Second, re-plan the 'Sky Dome' shield." Bai E brought up the shield energy distribution map, "Do not keep it at maximum power throughout. Instead, based on the cyclical fluctuations of the Bug Race's spiritual energy impact, implement intermittent and regional enhanced defenses. The saved energy should be prioritized to supply the weapon systems of the orbital defense platforms and the precision interception units of the ground anti-air arrays."

Chapter 976 War Begins! (Part 2)

"Third, organize a special strike team." Bai E looked at Catherine and the Black Beast, "I need a rapid response unit composed of the most elite mech pilots and spiritual ability users, equipped with high-mobility assault vehicles. Once the Bug Race's massive ship approaches a certain distance, or our harassment tactics create a brief opportunity, execute a boarding operation to infiltrate the enemy ship for sabotage. This is the riskiest mission, but it's also a potential way to achieve key victories."

"Fourth, intelligence and psychological warfare." Bai E concluded, "Comprehensively monitor every subtle movement of the Bug Race's fleet, record and analyze any energy fluctuations, shape changes, or speed adjustments. At the same time, internally unify the propaganda, emphasizing that we have new defensive strategies and 'expert' guidance to stabilize both military and civilian morale. Panic can sometimes be more terrifying than the enemy itself."

He remembered that back on the planet, the Bug Race had types that could disguise as humans; Bai E needed to eliminate the possibility of internal infiltration.

A series of clear, specific, and highly targeted commands issued from Bai E's mouth not only slightly alleviated the doubts in General Aleksey's eyes but also invigorated President Edwin.

This reputed Legendary Mechanic was not just brave; his understanding of the Bug Race and rapid grasp of the defense system demonstrated true strategic insight and command ability.

"Immediately adjust according to Mr. Bai Er's plan!" President Edwin decisively ordered.

"Yes!" General Aleksey's response was much more straightforward this time.

Whether they fully agreed or not, at least the other side provided a plan different from the past, and it sounded feasible.

In dire situations, having a plan is better than sitting idly by waiting for death.

The entire defense machinery of the Karian Federation began operating at unprecedented efficiency and with a fresh perspective under Bai E's takeover and adjustments.

The fleet and platforms in orbit started maneuvering and changing formations, while the ground shield control center recalculated energy allocation plans. The selection and equipping of elite units were carried out overnight.

Bai E stood in front of the large porthole of the command center, gazing at the beautiful blue planet outside and the six approaching specks of light in the distant starry sky, representing destruction.

Taking over the defense was merely the first step.

The real test would come in a matter of days.

He must fully integrate his understanding of the Bug Race, past combat experience, and the defensive forces of the Karian Federation into a net strong enough to temporarily halt the tide of death within this limited time.

For the fifty billion beings on this planet and for the future of himself and the Bauhinia, this battle was not to be lost.

...

Five days passed in the blink of an eye.

The Bug Race's fleet, for some unknown reason, arrived at the planetary system's orbit two hours earlier than predicted.

The defense system surrounding the Karian Capital Star "Dawn City" had been completely adjusted according to Bai E's deployment.

The four orbital defense platforms and the home defense fleet formed a multi-layered, staggered dynamic defense mesh, like a metal porcupine covered in spikes, quietly waiting for the enemy to arrive.

On the planet's surface, the "Sky Dome" shield system was in standby activation mode, and the lights of the global air defense array flickered like stars in the night.

Over fifty billion people, most had entered underground shelters, while a few soldiers and technicians remaining at their posts held their breath, waiting.

Panic had not been entirely eliminated, but the series of clear instructions and professional posture demonstrated by Bai E after taking over defense had instilled some confidence.

Inside the command center, on the large tactical screen, the six specks of light representing the Bug Race's massive ships had crossed the Kuiper Belt, entering the planetary orbit range of the system.

Their vast spiritual energy field, like an invisible tide, had already covered ahead, interfering with long-range detection and communication and bringing a nauseating oppressive feeling full of malice.

"They're here." General Aleksey's voice broke the silence of the command center, carrying a subtle trembling.

No matter how much preparation was done in advance, when destruction truly approached, the fear stemming from instinct was still hard to completely suppress.

Bai E stood in front of the main control console, his gaze calmly fixed on the screen.

Through the perception of the "Insect Race Killer," he could more clearly see the sinister outlines of the six massive ships.

They were larger and more terrifying than the Bug Race mothership previously encountered near the competition planet.

The thick, writhing chitin armor covered the ships, with surfaces densely packed with dark blue or ghastly green biomass turrets, their barrels resembling living eyes, gleaming with ominous light.

Numerous thick, tentacle-like or flagellum-like biological structures extended from the ship's surface, slowly swaying in the vacuum as if sensing the surrounding space.

Some areas were covered with thick, translucent biomass mats within which numerous smaller Bug Race units seemed to be writhing or hatching.

The spiritual energy fluctuations emitted by the entire fleet were no longer relatively restrained, as in the last encounter, hinting at "capturing" and "testing," but rather pure, naked hunger and malice meant to devour everything!

"Stronger than last time... and more complete," Bai E muttered softly.

Having devoured the Lorin Colony Star, they gained more biomass and energy, not only replenishing their losses but potentially stimulating new evolution.

The Bug Race fleet in front of him appeared more like a moving, armed-to-the-teeth living nest cluster.

"All units, enter combat state level one according to the established plan."

Bai E's voice was transmitted throughout the entire defense system via an encrypted channel, "Remember, our goal is to disrupt, delay, and weaken, to seek out weaknesses. Do not engage head-on; maintain mobility and execute harassment tactics."

"Understood!" The command officers of each defense platform and fleet responded in unison.

The Bug Race fleet began to accelerate.

They too seemed to sense the assembled defensive force on the planet ahead, but their ravenous malice showed no sign of diminishing; instead, it burned even fiercer.

For them, the planet ahead was just another morsel of delicious flesh waiting to be devoured.

"Entering firing range!" the observer reported loudly.

"Orbital defense platforms, first round of interference shooting, target: enemy fleet's spiritual coordination nodes and external sensory organs, open fire!" Bai E ordered.

The main cannon arrays of the four defense platforms simultaneously glowed with dazzling radiance, but what was fired was not heavy plasma clusters aimed at maximum destructive power but precisely modulated high-frequency pulse energy beams and interference barrages.

These attacks, like raindrops, poured onto the Bug Race fleet, aiming not to penetrate the thick biological armor but to interfere with its internal spiritual network coordination, disrupt its turret aiming and charging rhythms, and obscure some of its senses.

Almost simultaneously, the biomass turrets of the Bug Race fleet spewed out dark blue plasma torrents and corrosive acid shells.

However, under the influence of interference shots, the accuracy and synchronicity of their first broadside were noticeably reduced. Most of the attacks were pre-emptively avoided by the Karian fleet

and defense platforms or intercepted by the point-defense systems, with only a few brushing against the shields, creating ripples.

"It's working!" an officer shouted excitedly.

Previously, when facing the Bug Race fleet, human firepower tended to be more like tickling, hardly causing any real trouble, much less disrupting their attack rhythm.

"Stay focused! Fleet maneuvers, execute established tactics, target: suspected weak points in the massive ship's thrusters and energy lines, attack!" Bai E continued to command calmly.

Several small formations, composed of a cruiser and several fast destroyers, darted from the main fleet formation like agile fish, rapidly and irregularly approaching the sides and rear of the Bug Race's massive ships.

Rather than seeking face-to-face artillery battles, they utilized their speed advantage, launching high-speed armor-piercing missiles or precise plasma slicing shots during the Bug Race's cumbersome turns and aim pauses, targeting those areas suspected of being energy transport nodes or thruster nozzles.

Chapter 977 Backstab!

Facing the human fleet's assault, more ghostly blue defensive Spiritual Energy lights lit up on the surface of the Bug Race's giant ship. In some areas, the outer shell cracked under the attack, spilling viscous acid and fragments of tissue.

The damage caused by the small fleet was far from fatal but did interfere with the actions of the biological giant ship, forcing them to divert part of their attention and defensive power to deal with these annoying flies.

"That's it! Keep up the pressure! 'Sky Dome' shield, intermittent reinforcement between sectors 3 and 7 according to Spiritual Energy shock wave patterns, reduce power in other areas, prioritize energy transfer to the orbital platform point defense array!"

Bai E's commands came one after another, precise and efficient.

He combined his perception of the Bug Race's Spiritual Energy fluctuations with the Karian defense system's monitoring data, achieving near real-time allocation of defensive resources.

The battle unfolded intensely in the outer space of Dawn City.

Ghostly blue and blazing white energy beams crisscrossed, with explosions constantly blooming against the dark backdrop of space.

Under Bai E's command, the Karian Federation's defensive forces demonstrated far more resilience and tactical flexibility than ever before.

They no longer attempted to engage in direct gunfire exchanges with the Bug Race's giant ships but rather used harassment, interference, and maneuverable defenses to slowly deplete the Bug Race's power, delaying their advance towards the planet.

Casualties were still present.

A destroyer, moving slightly too slowly while evading the acid barrage, was struck by subsequent Plasma Cannon fire on its engines, erupting into a ball of fire in space.

An orbital defense platform's point-defense array overloaded, was breached by a swarm of flying bugs, and suffered multiple surface damages.

Yet overall, the situation somehow maintained a fragile balance, with the Bug Race fleet advancing slower than expected.

Inside the command center, the tense atmosphere slightly eased, with many eyes filled with admiration and hope when they looked at Bai E.

This rumored existence not only possessed immense individual strength but also demonstrated astonishing talent in commanding large-scale defensive operations!

"Mr. Bai E, your tactics have worked! We've delayed them for at least over an hour!" General Aleksey said, his tone invigorated.

Bai E, however, frowned slightly, his perception continuously locked onto the core of the Bug Race fleet.

He could feel that the Bug Race's counterattacks were becoming more orderly, and they seemed to be quickly adapting to this harassment tactic, and... within those six giant ships, there was a more subtle and concentrated Spiritual Energy brewing.

"Don't let your guard down. They're adjusting. Notify the special strike team to be ready to engage at any moment," Bai E said in a deep voice.

At this moment, the observer reported again: "Detected new warp signals! On the battlefield's flank, approximately 0.3 light-years away! Signal identification... It's the Alliance Fleet! Not large in scale, roughly the size of a rapid response sub-fleet!"

"Reinforcement from the Alliance?" President Edwin's eyes lit up.

Although Xing Zhuo had said the Alliance wouldn't directly send the main fleet for support, a rapid response sub-fleet arriving at a critical moment could greatly boost morale, and possibly even change the course of the battle!

"But they did not immediately take action."

The newly appeared Alliance Fleet hovered on the edge of the battlefield, observing without immediately joining the fray.

"Are they evaluating the situation, looking for the best time to engage?" a Karian general speculated, "Seeing us hold against the Bug Race under Mr. Bai E's command, they might be waiting for us to further deplete the Bug Race, or for the Bug Race to show a more significant flaw before they strike, securing greater credit with lesser loss."

This idea took root in many people's minds, even General Aleksey nodded slightly, finding it reasonable.

After all, major powers always considered maximizing their benefits.

Bai E's frown deepened.

His Spiritual Energy perception swept over the newly arrived fleet, noticing a lack of familiar Spiritual Energy traits belonging to Xing Zhuo or other high-ranking Alliance figures.

Instead, there was an extremely subtle, instinctively repelling, twisted sense mixed within the regular Spiritual Energy background of the human fleet.

"Something's wrong..." he murmured.

Before he could voice his warning, a sudden change occurred!

The Alliance rapid response sub-fleet, which had been observing on the sidelines, suddenly adjusted its formation, engines roaring to life, not rushing towards the Bug Race fleet.

Instead... they charged directly towards the rear flank of the Karian Federal Defense Fleet!

Simultaneously, the public communication channel was forcibly hacked, a cold, clearly electronically generated distorted voice announced: "Karian Federal Defense Fleet, you have been corrupted by Bug Race Spiritual Energy, lost control, and are threatening the safety of Alliance property. I am ordered to execute the 'Purification' procedure, disarm immediately and submit to inspection, else you will be destroyed!"

"What?!" Everyone in the command center was stunned.

"Are they crazy?! We're fighting the Bug Race!" President Edwin was shocked and furious.

"Fire! Traitors! They've been controlled by the Bug Race!" Bai E reacted instantly.

Such a thing had happened before, but it was unexpected that humans in the cosmos could be so easily impersonated and replaced.

But it was already too late.

The Alliance sub-fleet had long completed its targeting, unleashing dozens of massive plasma main cannons and a barrage of missiles like a deadly serpent striking fiercely at the unprepared flank of the Karian Fleet!

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Intense explosions reverberated throughout the Karian Fleet formation!

Two destroyers and a cruiser were critically hit almost immediately, their shields overloaded, hulls torn, turning into burning wreckage in space.

Chapter 978 - Backstab! (Part 2)

More battleships have been disrupted by the sudden attack, their formation collapsing instantly.

"Damn it! What are they doing?!" Black Beast gritted his teeth, "Are humans only capable of internal fighting?"

"We are allies! We are allies!" The high echelons of the Karian Federation, caught off guard by the sudden change, continuously announced through voice channels.

But it was useless.

The opposing side still fired frantically, as if possessed.

Meanwhile, the Bug Race fleet seemed to receive a signal, and their previously harried tactics turned violent and precise!

They ignored the high-speed assaulting small formations, concentrating all their firepower on the Karian Fleet's main forces and orbital defense platforms!

With attacks coming from both inside and outside, the Karian defenses were instantly at a critical point!

"Report! 'Iron Wall' platform shield overload, structure severely damaged!"

"Report! 'Federal Glory' battleship heavily damaged, lost power!"

"Report! Flanking formation tangled with Traitor Fleet, unable to provide reinforcements!"

Bad news came like an avalanche. The barely maintained balance was completely broken, and the situation rapidly deteriorated, sliding towards complete collapse.

"Mr. Bai Er! We..."

President Edwin looked ghostly pale, turned to Bai E, his eyes filled with despair.

To be stabbed in the back by humans themselves, such betrayal was more chilling and weakening than the direct attack of the Bug Race.

Bai E's gaze was cold as iron.

The learning and infiltration ability of the Bug Race far exceeded common imagination.

The remnants of the Alliance Fleet that returned defeated last time were probably already infiltrated to a riddled extent, and those fleets that secretly observed and aimed to seize the opportunity became the best cover and trump card for the Bug Race!

"Catherine, Black Beast, Victor!" Bai E's voice was firm as iron, overpowering the alarms and chaos in the command center, "Special strike team, launch immediately! Target: Bug Race Biological Battleship Spiritual Energy Core! We don't have time to search one by one, we must quickly paralyze their command and attacking capabilities!"

"Yes!" The three responded in unison, eyes burning with a battling spirit of doom.

The situation had reached this point, only by taking out the leadership was there a slim chance of survival!

"General Aleksey, shrink the line, abandon the outer platforms, concentrate strength to protect the 'Shield of Defense' and fleet core, hold off the Bug Race and Traitor Fleet! President Edwin, activate the final refuge protocol, protect the civilians as much as possible!" Bai E quickly issued the final defense orders.

"And you, Mr. Bai Er?" President Edwin asked urgently.

Bai E did not answer, he already turned, striding towards the launch passage.

Bai E's exclusive blue-white mecha stood silently on the launch rack, like a silent giant... This was the best mecha the Karian Federation could prepare for Bai E, "Star Emperor".

This time, there was no Legendary Pilots Team to cooperate, no Alliance Fleet support, not even ample time or clear targets.

Meanwhile, the Bug Race's Brain Worm had smartened up, hiding the Spiritual Energy core extremely deep, its fluctuation barely perceptible.

Bai E's "Insect Race Killer" detection could only roughly lock onto the area with the most concentrated Spiritual Energy, unable to precisely locate the core as before.

He could only fight through each battleship one by one!

Using the most violent method, tearing open these biological battleships from the outside, fighting to the deepest part, until finding and destroying the core commanding everything!

"Brother Bai Er!" Victor shouted in the communications channel, his voice carrying concern.

"Execute the order." Bai E's voice was calm and unbroken, "If I fail... find a way to withdraw with the people."

He didn't say "if I can succeed," because even he didn't know, in such a dire situation, single-handedly with one mecha, whether he could truly penetrate the six evolved Bug Race biological battleships.

The mecha cockpit closed, system activated, Spiritual Energy link instantly connected.

The familiar, surging sense of power filled his whole body, but also brought clearer, enormous pressure from the entire battlefield and Bug Race fleet.

"Special strike team, launch!"

Four mechas shot out like fiery meteors from the emergency launch port of the "Shield of Defense" space station, facing the sky full of artillery and Bug Race flyers interception, charging unwaveringly towards the nearest, largest Bug Race biological battleship!

The four mechas maneuvered through the hail of gunfire with difficulty.

The Bug Race seemed to also sense the threat of this team, originally dispersed attackers like flying insect swarms and biological boats converged like sharks smelling blood, attempting to overwhelm them from all directions.

Blue acid darts, corrosive spore clouds, self-destructing small locust flyers... various attack methods emerged endlessly.

"I'll open the path!" Black Beast's "Night Owl" mecha displayed the bold courage of a pirate leader, heavily modified cannons firing frenziedly, tearing open temporary pathways through the swarms, the mecha surface corroded by acid, emitting sizzling white smoke.

Catherine's "Silver Feather" played to its advantage of precision shooting, selectively targeting Bug Race units trying to launch surprise attacks from blind spots or casting spiritual energy interference from a distance, clearing threats for the team.

Victor's "Dawn" was a newer standard mecha with balanced performance; he strived to follow the team, providing fire support with missiles and machine guns, though tense, his operation became steadier under pressure.

Bai E's "Star Emperor" led the charge, the Devouring Star Blade gripped in hand, the blade flowing with armor-breaking spirit light against the Bug Race.

He didn't waste energy clearing minor enemies, focusing his spiritual energy detection to the utmost, like the most sensitive radar, searching arduously for that one core fluctuation amidst the chaotic battlefield and immense spiritual energy backdrop of the Bug Race battleship.

Chapter 979 - Backstab! (3)

"Primary target, port midsection, concentrated Spiritual Energy reaction, possibly a secondary node or command unit! Follow me!"

Bai E locked onto a general direction, the mecha's engine spraying a brilliant blue tail flame, increasing in speed like a sharp blade, fiercely stabbing into the writhing biological armor of the Bug Race's giant ship!

"Boom!"

The Devouring Star Blade, in coordination with the brief explosion of a hundred instantaneous kills, sliced into the thick chitinous shell!

Thick, pressurized bodily fluids and corrosive gases gushed out, freezing and vaporizing instantly in the vacuum.

Inside the breach lay a deeper, flesh cavity filled with pulsating blood vessels and nerve bundles.

"Go in!" Bai E was the first to break through.

Inside was a familiar yet alien inferno of flesh and blood.

The enormous cavity, with its intertwined biological pathways, maintenance bugs shuttling about, and the various defensive bugs rushing in from the depths of darkness.

But this time, the Bug Race's defense was more targeted.

Not only the previously seen types appeared, but also new units that had clearly evolved against mecha tactics.

One was a relatively slender, ghostly fast "assassin bug," capable of firing highly penetrating bone spikes, specifically targeting mecha joints and sensors.

Another was a "Spiritual Jellyfish," floating like a jellyfish and emitting strong electromagnetic interference ripples, making the mecha's internal electronic equipment and Spiritual Energy links extremely unstable.

There was also a "heavy fortress" like a mobile turret, its thick biological armor nearly immune to small and medium-caliber firepower, with a biological turret on its back continuously spraying high-temperature plasma streams.

"Watch out! They've evolved!" Catherine shouted, her Silver Feather barely avoiding a bone spike aimed at the joints from an "assassin bug."

"Don't get entangled! Our target is the core! I'll clear the way, you follow, and clean up the flanks and rear pursuers!"

Bai E calmly ordered, the Star Emperor mecha bursting with incredible speed and strength, the Devouring Star Blade unfolding into a curtain of light, cutting through the blocking heavy fortress along with its armor and bugs, forcefully carving a bloody path through the dense swarm of defensive bugs!

His fighting style was ferocious and efficient, completely abandoning defense, using most of the Spiritual Energy to enhance attack and mobility.

The mecha's surface was continuously hit by acid, bone spikes, and plasma streams, the blue and white paint rapidly turning scorched and damaged, but the core structure, under Bai E's precise control and Spiritual Energy protection, never suffered fatal damage.

Catherine, Black Beast, and Victor gave their all to follow, clearing the flanks and covering the rear for their shared leader.

The battle was so intense that every second someone hovered on the edge of life and death.

Black Beast's Night Owl armor was heavily damaged, with one mechanical arm nearly scrapped.

Catherine's sniper rifle barrel needed frequent cooling and replacement due to overheating and corrosion.

Victor's missile reserves were quickly running low, forcing him to rely on his machine guns for point shooting.

They pushed forward along the path Bai E had torn open, penetrating deeper inside the giant ship.

Along the way, they destroyed several suspected energy nodes and flesh structures controlling the turrets, causing local cavity spasms and energy disarray, but the overall impact on the giant ship seemed limited.

"No, the core isn't on this ship!" Bai E suddenly stopped, his Insect Race Killer sense, during the incursion, detected that although the Spiritual Energy inside this giant ship was dense, it lacked the absolute core feeling that dominates everything, more like a powerful auxiliary brain or regional command node.

"What?" Catherine's heart sank.

"The Brain Worm is hiding deeper than last time, possibly not on the foremost giant ship or transferring between several ships!"

"What do we do? Should we retreat?" Catherine calmly inquired.

Continuing to penetrate and eliminate command nodes on this biological ship might slightly alleviate the battle pressure on the front line but would undoubtedly greatly delay their time in finding the core Brain Worm.

How to choose was an urgent issue.

"Continue!" Bai E instantly made the decision.

Chapter 980 - Encirclement

Giving up promptly might save the squad more energy, but continuing deep to take out this command node will surely relieve the combat pressure on the frontline troops significantly.

Rescue is never about lamenting in front of ruins that you've done your best; it's either letting yourself be destroyed before the city turns into ruins, or blocking all storms and bearing the heavy burden.

Bai E's choice has always been the latter.

"Keep moving forward!" Bai E's voice was resolute, "Take out this command node! Relieve as much pressure as possible!"

Without hesitation, the "Star Emperor" mecha once again transformed into a blue-white lightning bolt, the Armor-breaking Spirit Light of the Devouring Star Blade carving a deadly path through the dark fleshy cavity.

The instant kill power for hundreds was used to the fullest, the blade light like a waterfall, tearing apart any bugs blocking the way in swathes.

Bai E no longer pursued precise weak-point strikes, but pushed forward with the most ferocious efficiency, like a mud truck, towards the area where Spiritual Energy reactions were most concentrated!

Catherine, Black Beast, and Victor, spirits lifted, followed closely behind.

They trusted Bai E's judgment and were motivated by this indomitable momentum.

Silver Feather's sniper rifle picked off locusts attempting ambushes from cavity wall holes, Night Owl's heavy machine gun swept at the incoming bug tide, and Dawn's cannons roared to open a path for the leader.

The battle was fierce yet efficient.

The squad was like a red-hot branding iron, searing into the nervous system of the Bug Race's giant ship.

The fleshy nodes and energy conduits destroyed along the way increased, causing violent spasms and energy disorder throughout the cavity.

On the external battlefield, the attacks from the Bug Race giant ship noticeably slowed and became chaotic, its previously precise volleys now scattered, easing the pressure on Karian's defense line and the "Traitor Fleet".

"It's working!" In the command center, General Aleksey observed the tactical screen, noting the significant drop in attack efficiency of the giant ship, his voice tinged with post-survival excitement, "Mr. Bai E and the others succeeded! The coordination amongst the Bug Race has been disrupted!"

President Edwin's tightly clenched fist slightly relaxed, yet his gaze remained fixed on the other five giant ships still manically attacking and the backstabbing "Alliance Fleet".

The pressure was only slightly eased, far from a breather.

Inside the giant ship, Bai E finally advanced to the core region of Spiritual Energy reactions.

It was a large, heart-like pulsating fleshy sphere, entwined by thick biological nerve bundles, its surface flowing with eerie blue Spiritual Energy veins, and surrounded by dozens of Elite Insect Race units with specialized forms.

"That's it! Destroy it!" Bai E shouted sharply, full power to the mecha as it charged forward into a barrage of acid stings, bone blades, and Spiritual Energy blasts!

Catherine and the other three covered desperately, opening full fire to try to divert some of the attack away from Bai E.

But the defense intensity here far exceeded what was before, the Bug Race's counterattacks like a tide, instantly engulfing the three.

Black Beast's "Night Owl" mecha was hit at the joint by a "assassin bug" bone sting, its movements slowed immediately, then a plasma stream grazed its back, melting a large area of armor.

Victor's "Dawn" missiles were depleted, its gun overheated, assailed by several "Blade Dancers", covering the mecha's surface with numerous deep scratches.

Catherine's "Silver Feather" exposed her position to defend Bai E, firing continuously, but was enveloped by interference ripples from several "Spiritual Jellyfish", causing severe fluctuations in electronic equipment and Spiritual Energy links, nearly losing control.

"Don't mind us! Take it down!" The three screamed into the communications channel almost simultaneously.

Bai E's gaze was steely cold, not looking back.

The Devouring Star Blade shone with unprecedented brilliance, combined with the stacking of the instant kill power for hundreds and the Alpha Limit Overclock Attack, one cut into the pulsating fleshy sphere's core!

"Pff— Boom!"

A violent Spiritual Energy explosion erupted from the sphere's interior, eerie blue arcs sizzled everywhere, shaking the entire cavity as if the giant ship released a silent wail.

Externally, all turrets on that Bug Race giant ship went out simultaneously, the Spiritual Energy light over the hull dimming, drifting silently like a dead fish in space, although not completely destroyed, it was clearly temporarily incapacitated.

"We did it!" Victor shouted in excitement but was immediately engulfed by a sensation of imbalance — his mecha's leg was severed by a "Blade Dancer" taking advantage!

"Retreat! Same way back!" Bai E made a decisive call, turning to kill back, blade light sweeping, temporarily pushing back the bugs besieging the three.

This was just the beginning, far from time for celebration.

The Bug Race still had five giant ships, and the Brain Worm was still nowhere to be found.

The four, bearing their injuries, struggled back into space through the breach.

The sight before them sank their hearts. Karian's defense line had shrunk further, the "Shield of Defense" station damaged and smoking in many places, fleet losses exceeding one-third.

And the "Traitor Fleet" was still frantically attacking on the flank.

The remaining five Bug Race giant ships were thoroughly enraged, their assault increasingly fierce.

Moreover... they started adjusting formation, implicitly concentrating fire towards the area where Bai E's squad had appeared.

"Next ship!" Bai E wasted no time, locking onto another giant ship with strong Spiritual Energy reactions, charging once more.

Time was tight, every second concerning the survival of fifty billion souls in Dawn City.

The second boarding battle was even more challenging.

Clearly, the Bug Race intensified defenses internally and made tactical adjustments against the squad.

More new units appeared, the environment becoming harsher.

Black Beast's "Night Owl" mecha faced severe damage from previous injuries and new attacks shortly after the incursion, one mechanical arm was totally disabled, the engine was also damaged, greatly reducing mobility.