

## Wow 991

### Chapter 991: Despair (Part 2)

The orbital defense is on the brink of collapse.

The three main battleships of the Seventh Legion, under precise point shots from the Bug Race's giant ships and harassment from floating organisms, soon had one cruiser hit by plasma beams, losing most of its power, and drifting towards the planet, trailing smoke.

Another destroyer was surrounded by dense floating organisms, continuous spiritual energy pulse explosions caused a massive overload and paralysis of its internal systems, while subsequent acid barrage pierced the hull, exploding into a fireball in space.

The two orbital defense platforms bore even greater pressure.

The interceptive fire they launched was mostly neutralized or disrupted by suicidal floating organisms, and their harassing shots at the Bug Race's giant ships yielded little effect due to the enemy's high-speed maneuvers and spiritual energy shields.

Soon, the point defense array of one platform failed completely due to overload and corrosion, submerged by the swarming floating organisms and the subsequent acid flood, the structure moaned under the intolerable burden, exploding in multiple places.

On the ground, the "Sky Dome" shield of New Jing City wavered intensely under intermittent orbital bombardment from the Bug Race, consuming an astonishing amount of energy.

Although most citizens had entered shelters, panic still spread like a plague.

Everyone watched the desperate battle scene in space through observation screens or occasionally through the explosion light that pierced the clouds.

"Sir... our orbital defense is rapidly collapsing!"

Gong Yan's voice echoed in the command channel, filled with uncontrollable anxiety, "Energy reserves are declining quickly, the Seventh Legion has lost over a third! At this rate, we won't hold much longer!"

Driving the Star Emperor, Bai E dashed through the battlefield.

He could devastate nearby floating organisms, could use the Devouring Star Blade to fend off sporadic attacks from giant ships, and occasionally seize the chance to inflict surface damage on some giant ships.

His combat skills remained exquisite, and the perception from the Insect Race Killer allowed him to avoid most lethal attacks.

But the results were limited—

His speed in eliminating small Bug Race units was far slower than the Bug Race's speed in devouring the Mine Star's overall armed forces.

Unable to protect all defense lines simultaneously, he couldn't break through the tactically sophisticated blockade.

It's like being stuck in a viscous mire, with abundant power but unable to effectively exert it, forced to watch helplessly as his side's living forces were slowly consumed.

He looked around—

As the battle continued, members of the mobile warrior squads were forced to withdraw or directly perished due to mecha damage, energy depletion, or severe injury.

Even Catherine and Victor's core mainstay mechas were heavily scarred, compelled to retreat for preservation following orders.

Ultimately, the once bustling sortie airspace gradually turned into only the blue-white Star Emperor mecha, still stubbornly shuttling, charging, parrying, and counter-attacking amidst the Bug Race's fleet and countless floating organisms.

He became the most dazzling yet loneliest target in the starry sky, attracting most of the Bug Race's firepower and attention.

The Bug Race's tactics were clear: using minions and harassment to exhaust, using giant ship maneuvering to evade, using overall superiority to crush his companions and homeland.

The longer Bai E fought, the more Bug Race units he killed, the more it highlighted the limitations of his personal power in a cosmic fleet war of such scale—

He could be an indomitable sharp blade, yet unable to simultaneously transform into a shield covering the entire planet.

Bai E's heart sank continuously.

Personal power, in the face of such a vast cosmic battle situation, ultimately seemed insufficient.

He could devastate nearby floating organisms, fend off sporadic attacks from giant ships, yet unable to protect all defense lines simultaneously, nor break through the Bug Race's intricately arranged tactical blockade to engage in boarding combat.

At the moment when the entire Mine Star's defensive system was nearing collapse, despair shrouding every inch of space, Bai E's spiritual energy perception suddenly captured a strange fluctuation.

It was neither from the Bug Race, nor from any of his own units.

It was a... profound, converging, and gradually heating "thought".

They came from the underground shelters of New Jing City.

From those miners, immigrants, soldiers, children, who huddled in the refuge, tightly embraced together, gazing at the starry sky, silently praying or murmuring his name...

From those figures who ignited symbolic candles in the Pioneer Memorial Hall, silently kneeling.

Although Bai E had repeatedly publicly stated he did not need personal worship, the miracles created during the Karian campaign, the power he demonstrated daily, and his current blood-soaked battle in defense of them had already ignited a near-instinctive fire of faith in countless hearts.

In the desperate situation where life and death hung in the balance, this faith was no longer reserved, but transformed into the purest and strongest spiritual power—

Trust, plea, and the will to completely entrust one's fate.

This power, though individually as weak as a firefly, when hundreds of thousands, millions of thoughts spontaneously converged and resonated in fear and hope, formed a trickling stream, beginning to flow towards that brightest, most steadfast "beacon" in the starry sky—Bai E's spiritual body.

Bai E trembled all over.

Such a feeling... how similar it was to the overwhelming power that gathered the survival will of fifty billion souls at the last moment of the Karian battle!

Except, the scale was much, much smaller.

The population of Mine Star was far less than the fifty billion of Karian; the power of faith gathered, though pure, fiery, tinged with the unique resilience and expectation of Mine Star's people.

But in terms of "quantity", compared to the "brilliance" that burst out in the human worst-case scenario during Karian, capable of briefly illuminating high-dimensional space, there was a world of difference.

Nevertheless, this relatively weak power infusion revitalized Bai E, making the operation of spiritual energy much smoother and the link with the Star Emperor mecha even closer.

More importantly, it brought a clear "echo"—he was not fighting alone.

Behind him, there was an entire planet's worth of people pinning all their hopes on him.

"Not enough..." Bai E thought to himself.

This power might allow him to endure longer, react faster, but it was far from enough to unleash the dazzling posture needed to slash a ship and reverse the situation like in Karian.

After evolution, the Bug Race fleet has strengthened further, with strong tactical targeting.

Even with this slight enhancement, he still could not break through the blockade, nor easily slay any giant ships.

The situation continued sliding into the abyss of despair.

If it drags on, maybe eventually he will become the last human combat unit in the starry sky.

While the planet beneath his feet, freshly revived, will likely not escape being devoured.

So... should he also be buried alongside this planet?

...

"Looks about right."

The Peak Alliance member observed the situation from afar with furrowed eyebrows.

The defeat of this Mine Star was faster than he thought... perhaps because Bai E's exaggerated performance led him to overestimate the combat strength of his subordinate forces in his subjective impression.

Facts proved, apart from Bai E himself, these combat forces under his command were far inferior compared to any main member state within the Peak Alliance, let alone compared to the three major powers of the alliance.

"Maybe let them act."

"If we drag on and really let those bugs completely devour this planet, who knows what changes might occur."

"Just wait... he hasn't died... he hasn't died..." A pair of steadfast eyes coldly watched the solitary fighting silhouette in space.

They abandoned the honor of being human, abandoned the bottom line they held to in their youth, setting up this current deadly scenario, precisely to eliminate that guy.

Mine Star? New Bauhinia?

Who cares?

Without Bai E, these are just marginal scraps that no one pays attention to.

It is because of Bai E that they managed to ascend to the stage of the universe.

"No need to wait..." Another voice said: "Afraid even when everyone on Mine Star is dead, he might still not die... let those Elves act! Destroy everything indiscriminately!"

Chapter 992: The Out-of-Control Elf

In the cold cosmic void far from the main battlefield, several alien ships are silently drifting.

Their designs are completely different from human vessels, with slender, twisted, and elegant lines, like black branches frozen by the stars, or like some enormous and intricate keys.

There is no obvious glow from thrusters or portholes on the surface of the hull, only some obscure purple runes flickering like breaths, flowing gently.

Inside one of the largest ships, resembling intertwined thorns, the scene is starkly different from that of human ships.

There are no neat instrument panels or bustling officers, replaced by a grand, empty, circular hall that resembles both a temple and an arena.

The floor of the hall is semi-transparent, revealing the dim universe below and the distant explosions from the Mine Star battlefield.

The air is filled with a subtle blend of metallic fragrance, incense, and the faint hint of blood.

The grand war happening in the cosmic space seems irrelevant to them, as an unusual performance unfolds in the center of this hall.

Several tall, pale or deep-purple-skinned Dark Elves, dressed in extravagant and revealing battle armor with elongated ears, surround a bound and struggling giant star beast with Spiritual Chains.

They are not simply slaughtering; it is as if they are crafting some cruel form of art.

With gleaming spears, whip blades, or bare hands, they precisely cut and pierce through the beast's body, avoiding vital spots to prolong its agony.

The beast's wails, splattering blood, and the expression of lazy, delightfully intense concentration on the faces of its assailants create a bloody and eerie scene.

The other Dark Elf spectators, whether sitting or standing around, express low, satisfied admiration or picky commentary, as if enjoying a theatrical performance.

"The angle of the seventh vertebra was slightly less aesthetic than last time, Alice."

The male Dark Elf reclining on a throne decorated with bones and gems, swirling a crystal goblet filled with dark red liquid, commented casually.

"Hmph, it's the uneven flesh of this 'Starry Sky Worm' affecting my performance."

Alice, the female Dark Elf warrior, flicked the blood droplets off her whip blade, pouting in dissatisfaction.

Even though they were invited there, they showed no concern for the brutal war on the nearby Mine Star, involving the survival of millions.

The Peak Alliance's requests from those ants?

Merely invitations to a new "production" that might bring them some amusement.

They came not to "help" humans,

but to observe whether this "drama of destruction" starring the Bug Race is exciting enough to provide some fresh thrill to their long, mundane eternal lives.

Human betrayal, the evolution of the Bug Race, the struggle and collapse of a new force...these are quite good seasonings.

"What about that cornered little thing, the so-called 'King of Purple Orchid'?"

The male elf on the throne, known as "Prince Shadow Blade," slightly raised his eyelid.

With a slightly mocking tone, he seemed to peer through the ship towards the distant battlefield, "I heard he made quite a show on another planet last time?"

"A mere dying struggle." Alice sneered, "No matter how strong an individual is, in the war of races it is just a bigger ant. Watching him slowly ground to death by those ugly bugs might have a unique charm?"

A glint of cruel anticipation flashed in her eyes.

"Those bugs' methods of playing with prey are too crude." Another Dark Elf noble commented lazily, "There's no artistry... pure devouring, how tasteless. If it weren't for that one's interest in these bugs, I wouldn't bother coming to such a place."

As they talked, their eyes discreetly glanced towards a dark corner.

There, a high throne stood.

A slender figure was concealed within.

No one knows where that terrifying elf came from; they only know that around half a year ago, this figure, along with her so-called sister, suddenly appeared on their Dark Elf ship...

Their interests seemed detached from everything the elves were obsessed with, such as sex, art, skills?

She only wanted to fight...

Using it to suppress the increasingly uncontrollable urge within her.

No one knows what she desires, she never cares to communicate her thoughts with anyone.

She simply beat everyone into submission....

...

"You can barely suppress it anymore..." The pale-skinned elf gently grasped her sister's palm.

Those hands wielding war swords, surprisingly smooth like her own.

An elf's body, impacted by pleasure, becomes increasingly alluring, as the replenished genetic information, once had but suddenly lost, makes this world's most beautiful treasure increasingly yearn for indulgence.

To repress these growing desires, she could only choose to numb herself with battle.

Yet suppressing it without relief will only intensify this forcibly repressed emotion... she can barely control it anymore.

Curled on the throne, the elf gently caressed her smooth thighs, even such minimal skin stimulation made her body tremble softly.

"I want..." The elf's eyes were blurred, murmuring indistinctly from her throat.

Even the mere overflow of desire made the elf standing nearby also feel a strange impact... a subtle blush surged to her cheeks.

Chapter 993: The Out-of-Control Elf (Part 2)

My sister's level of Spiritual Energy is becoming stronger, but also more dangerous.

I have never crossed any forbidden zone, yet under the influence of her thoughts, I feel as though I have...

"Nothing will happen... nothing will happen..." The elf can only gently hold her sister's hand, striving to use her own Spiritual Energy to calm the increasingly turbulent waves.

...

"Let's move."

The elf received a signal from the human allies.

Alice respectfully approached the throne and asked, "Master, we... can move now."

Upon hearing this, the elf, whose consciousness was almost foggy, slowly opened her star-like eyes.

The gradually exciting battle spirit began to drive away the burgeoning lust in her eyes.

She slowly rose from the throne, the loose, slippery robe sliding off her body.

"Zing..." The battle sword reflected a dazzling cold light as the elf walked barefoot towards the front.

"Kill!"

Bugs are the enemy of Bai E.

And almost simultaneously, a mutation occurred.

All the dark elves in the hall, whether they were the perpetrators "creating" or the leisurely audience, almost at the same moment, their bodies slightly stiffened.

The careless or cruelly joyful expressions on their faces instantly solidified, replaced by a touch of shock that was hard to conceal and... some deeper, odd stirred emotion.

Their gazes, without prior agreement, turned to the direction under the hall floor, towards the Mine Star battlefield.

There, at the center of the Star Domain cloaked by insect fleets, explosive flames, and despair, a point of blue-white light was growing increasingly bright!

It wasn't the light from the battleship engine, nor the light from explosions.

It was a more pure, more restrained, yet seemingly containing endless potential, Spiritual Energy radiance!

It originated from the blue-white mecha "Star Emperor" that was struggling to shuttle through the insect swarm, trying to break through the blockade.

Just now, when the power of faith from the Mine Star populace converged on Bai E, resonating with his own Spiritual Energy and the attributes of an "Insect Race Killer," his Spiritual Body in the high-dimensional space underwent a subtle yet essential change.

Though not nearly at the scale of Karian, the Spiritual Energy fused with firm faith, protective will, and the attributes of an "Insect Race Killer" attained a remarkable level of purity and uniqueness.

For the keen-sensed dark elves, who were born with deep connections to Spiritual Energy and high dimensions, this change was like casting a glowing pearl into the silent deep sea; even if the light wasn't dazzling, its unique frequency and taste pierced through the barriers of matter and Spiritual Energy, making it clearly perceived by them.

That light... carried a flavor that made them feel incredibly familiar yet had been lost for countless ages.

It was... the flavor of the sun.

Warm, steadfast, dispelling darkness, bringing order and vitality...

Quite the opposite of the chaos, decadence, and despair pervasive in this current universe.

It was the afterglow of the "Silver Age" from the previous era, belonging to the glorious, orderly, yet the most despairing for these "alien races" remembered.

"This is..." Prince Shadow Blade suddenly sat upright from the throne, the crystal goblet in his hand silently slipped, shattering upon the soft animal pelt floor, the dark red liquid spreading like blood.

But he paid no heed, his deep purple eyes fiercely locked onto that distant point of blue-white light, full of disbelief and a... nearly greedy complex expression.

"How could it be... in this era... in this corner..." he murmured softly, his voice tinged with a scarcely detectable tremor.

The other dark elves also fell into brief silence.

The hall was left with only the faint groans of dying starbeasts.

The thrill brought by that bloody "art" appeared so pale and cheap in the face of this soul-deep shock and heartbeat.

Alice turned her head back, the cruel joy on her face vanished, replaced by intense solemnity and curiosity: "Your Highness... what is that? Why... do I feel it..."

"Dazzling, ' right?" Prince Shadow Blade took her words, his lips curling into a peculiar and dangerous arc, no longer laced with previous laziness and apathy, but full of the excitement of discovering prey.

"Dazzling enough... to make you want to approach, want to touch, want to... see to what extent it can burn, and when, and how it will extinguish."

He slowly rose, his slender figure casting a shadow in the dim hall.

"Master..." Prince Shadow Blade turned to the throne, intending to inform that mysterious and sudden fellow of the "sun's" danger to their elves, only to find the master's shadow absent from the throne.

"Where is the master?"

"Already out?" Some elves saw the powerful fellow's figure within the transparent floor.

"It seems our master is more interested in him than in us..." Prince Shadow Blade's lips curled in an arc, "Then what are we waiting for? Forward!"

...

The dark elf fleet began to glide silently like phantoms towards the edge of the Mine Star battlefield.

Their arrival went unnoticed by both warring parties.

The bugs remained focused on their warfare tactics, while the Mine Star side was already nearing its limit.

Bai E was oblivious to the dark elves' attention.

He was perfectly fusing the power of faith from the Mine Star populace with his own Spiritual Energy and battle will.

A faint golden halo, like dawn, began to flow around the blue-white "Star Emperor" mecha.

Although not nearly as brilliant as the "light wings" during Karian's time, it made the mecha's movements more agile, and the Armor-breaking Spirit Light on the Devouring Star Blade grew more refined.

He still couldn't easily break through the bugs' blockade, nor quickly slay the giant ships.

But, at this moment, his battle will burned fiercer than ever.

Because he was not fighting alone.

Behind him was his homeland, his people whom he promised to protect.

Every piece of conveyed faith was a heavy entrustment and an unallowable responsibility.

"Come," Bai E whispered in his heart, the Devouring Star Blade in the mecha's grip pointed towards the advancing giant bug ships, its blade faintly shimmering with golden-white light.

"Surpass me, then talk about death."

He no longer fixated on impossible rampage strikes but shifted his focus to the tide-like swarming floating creatures and insect guard units.

The Devouring Star Blade, under the blessing of golden-white light, danced with refined blade light trajectories.

Bai E no longer sought fatal harm to the giant ships but concentrated his power on rapid, precise point kills and area sweeps.

His mecha shuttled through the insect swarms, each flash of blade light silently annihilating pieces of floating creatures or accurately severing the vital points of sneaky elite bugs.

He operated like a high-efficiency purifying machine, tearing open one temporary "clear-zone" after another within the bug's precisely arranged harassment network.

The orbital defensive pressure of Mine Star lightened for a moment.

The remaining Seventh Legion's battle ships and defense platforms seized the chance, reorganized formations, and concentrated fire on the weak points of the bug giant ships exposed by the reduced floating creatures.

The battle situation seemed to have a faint turnaround, amidst the atmosphere of despair, a breath of respite emerged.

The observing Peak Alliance executives saw this scene, furrowed brows.

"He's still holding... even seems... a bit stronger?" Someone was incredulous.

"What about those elves?! Wasn't it said they should act by now!" An icy gaze locked fiercely onto that shimmering blue-white figure on the tactical screen, lowly growling.

But in fact, the order had long been sent via hidden channels to the edge of the battlefield where several strangely shaped dark elf ships were.

"They say... they've already moved." The personnel receiving the reply reported.

Chapter 994: Guidance

A slender figure, almost impossible to catch with the naked eye, shot out from the massive mothership of the Dark Elves that looked like entangled thorns!

She wasn't piloting any vehicle or mecha, relying solely on her physical body, tearing through the cosmic vacuum at a speed beyond common sense, leaving behind a trail of ethereal purple and silver-white phantom, heading straight for Bai E encircled by the Bug Race in the center of the battlefield!

The speed of that figure reached the extreme, so much so that most observational equipment could only capture a blurred stream of light.

Yet the terrifying spiritual energy fluctuations contained within, and the pure, cold battle intent were like a supernova explosion, instantly sweeping over the entire battlefield region, even briefly overpowering the immense hunger and malice of the Bug Race fleet!

"It's here!" The Observer of the Peak Alliance felt a jolt in his heart, a sinister smile of conspiracy success appeared on his face.

"The Dark Elves made their move! Hmph! Bai E... let's see how you'll escape this time!"

This sudden attack was precisely their meticulously planned strategy to drive the tiger to swallow the wolf—

Using the Bug Race to exhaust Bai E, then provoking these life-disregarding, thrill and "art"-seeking Dark Elves to deliver a fatal blow to Bai E!

Almost exactly as they imagined.

As the slender figure approached Bai E at close range, no long-range attacks were used.

Instead, her speed increased further, like a peerless sword sweeping across the cosmos, with the resolve to cut through everything, she crashed straight into the blue-and-white "Star Emperor" mecha!

Not a sneak attack, not long-range sniping, but the most direct, most violent, most filled with personal will—the close-range impact!

"Boom——!!!"

The indescribable loud sound was not transmitted through sound waves, but through the spiritual energy impact of violent collision and the ripples of material annihilation, exploding directly in the sensory perception of all observers and sensor equipment!

One golden white like dawn, the other ghostly purple mixed with silver, two equally dazzling, equally imposing, equally condensed to the extreme spiritual energy forces collided fiercely in the starry sky!

The burst of light instantly illuminated the entire combat space, even briefly overshadowing the eerie green glow of the Bug Race fleet and the explosion flames of the battleships!

At the center of the collision, space seemed to lament and distort.

Ripple after ripple of visible spiritual energy waves spread outward like tsunamis, instantly clearing and annihilating nearby floating organisms, Bug Race remains, and even some small battleship fragments!

All bystanders... whether it's Catherine and Gong Yan in the command center on Mine Star or the Observer from the distant Peak Alliance, or the cold consciousness of the Bug Race fleet, were astounded by this sudden, intensely terrifying one-on-one collision.

Even those from the Peak Alliance who orchestrated all this felt genuine tremors before the scene.

"Is this the might of a Dark Elf? Such level of spiritual energy isn't beneath Bai E."

They worried about Bai E, naturally they also worried about the existence of forces almost equal to Bai E in the world... even if this individual isn't human, but from a darker and chaotic Dark Elf clan.

The Mine Star side was filled with concern, "So... powerful! Bai E, our lord..."

"Where did this strong figure come from, one who matches our lord?"

Even Kuang Xin, Gong Yan, and others who always harbored absolute confidence in Bai E were taken aback by the visitor's prowess.

They never considered that there could still be individuals capable of evenly rivaling their lord in this world.

And perhaps due to dread or adopting a sit-on-fence attitude, the Bug Race fleet that had been entangled with Bai E maintained a level of silence after the collision between the two.

They ceased movement, seeming to wait until one of them emerges victorious... or both perish together.

On this cosmic battlefield, those two inconsequential individual shadows became the most dazzling presence on the scene.

Everyone silently watched their duel, anxiously and powerlessly waiting for the final outcome between them.

"Swish swish swish swish swish..."

The two flashes of differing colors almost turned into a single sheet, so fast that the ordinary eye couldn't see what's happening between them, even the most sophisticated instruments had difficulty capturing the essence of their duel.

Every breath, every moment was filled with endless confrontations.

The space surrounding the two subtly showed signs of breaking waves.

"Can he win..." Everyone in the Mine Star command center had a sweaty grip.

The lord not only had to face the threat from the Bug Race, but also challenges from other powerful figures... at such a critical juncture.

And even if he wins, after being exhausted by such a powerful adversary, will the lord still have the strength to deal with the Bug Race threat?

...

Yet positioned at the collision's epicenter, Bai E felt a slight sense of surprise the instant he came into contact with the opponent.

The spiritual energy waves contained within that ghostly purple and silver-white aura, the unique combat rhythm, the essence that he could sense even through mecha and spiritual ability field...

Why does it feel familiar?

Despite the opponent's spiritual energy being tinged with unfamiliar, ghostly cold qualities, despite that battle intent surging far beyond before, but the core, the pure pursuit of the "way," and some deeper, unique frequency identifiable only through prolonged intimate contact... it can't be wrong!

Nearly simultaneously, a familiar yet seemingly tinged with a slight quivering icy voice, pierced directly through the turbulent spiritual energy streams and mecha barriers, and through spiritual energy communication, echoed clearly in Bai E's deepest mind.

Chapter 995: Guidance\_2

Though just a short sentence, it was filled with extraordinarily complex emotions and a resolute will: "Defeat me. What I taught you."

"So it really is you." A slight smile blossomed on Bai E's face.

"Stay focused." Yue Ying's tone remained cold.

Her attacks didn't pause for even a moment!

The aftermath of the collision had barely settled when that slender figure, like a ghost, closed in. In her hand appeared a long battle sword seemingly forged from starlight and ice. Her swordsmanship was sharp and fierce, each strike aimed directly at the "Star Emperor" mecha's power joints, spiritual energy transfer nodes, and even the weaknesses in Bai E's perceptions.

It wasn't blind hacking, but rather precise strikes imbued with a high understanding of the Sword Dao, aiming at the mecha's structure and Bai E's combat habits!

Even more startling to Bai E was that within Yue Ying's sword moves, he could vaguely see the shadow of the Elven martial arts he had once learned.

But now they were wilder, more direct, imbued with a resolve to destroy everything.

As if suppressing something, yet simultaneously releasing something.

"She's guiding me..."

Bai E instantly grasped the meaning of Yue Ying's words "Defeat me."

This wasn't a life-and-death struggle between enemies, but more like a... special instruction in the direst of circumstances? A trial forcing him to surpass his limits?

This master from the Elf Race had always been a master; even as he advanced step by step, she never once halted.

Even after he achieved extraordinary growth, her level remained the combat peak he could reach...

Whether when he first traversed, or even now.

Yue Ying's sword, like the sternest mentor, forced him into a desperate situation.

Every attack of hers pressured Bai E to bring everything he had learned—

The Elven combat skills, battle footwork, and spiritual energy utilization learned from her, along with the instant strike technique he later comprehended and everything else into full play, to respond, to counter, to... transcend!

"Is she using this method to make me truly integrate and embark on my own 'Dao path'?" Bai E understood in his heart.

The Elves revered the "Dao," pursuing the ultimate in skill.

The attacks that seemed brutal were actually guiding him in the most extreme way to integrate all power and insight, breaking out skills that surpassed the current level!

He couldn't betray her expectations! Nor waste this "teaching" opportunity gained at the risk of life!

Bai E's gaze sharpened, dismissing all extraneous thoughts.

Whether the burden of responsibility he carried or the excitement of reuniting with a friend... only battle remained.

Facing Yue Ying's sword force that was as fierce as a storm yet exceptionally splendid, he pushed his perception to the limit, trying to capture the traces and rhythm of the "Dao" within Yue Ying's attacks.

The former self could find the subtleties of any opponent's or instructor's techniques under the disguise of the system, but later realized it was merely his innate talent.

Initially under the system's mask, he could master all skills in "instruction mode," and now, even when facing the ultimate "Dao," he felt not a hint of confusion.

The Devouring Star Blade in Bai E's hand shone with radiant gold and white light, and his blade technique no longer stuck to fixed moves but began flowing with perception and combat instinct.

At times like a shooting star breaking the sky, at times like a tidal wave engulfing, gradually integrating his spiritual energy, power of faith, mecha performance, and combat skills.

Their battle in the galaxy turned into two intertwined and clashing streams of light, moving so fast that onlookers could hardly see the specific moves, only witnessing more frequent explosions of spiritual energy and shockwaves blooming.

Occasionally, a "tentacle" of the Bug Race strayed into the battle zone, only to be torn apart instantly by the residual waves of their combat.

In the core of the melee, Bai E fought with ever-greater vigor.

Under Yue Ying's pressure, which could be described as "death instruction," he felt a qualitative change happening in his understanding of power and control over combat.

The sensation was akin to touching the threshold encountered during Karian's planetary will convergence, which during this clash between life and death and the tempering of skills, became clearer and closer.

"Dao..." Bai E came to a realization in his heart.

His blade began to truly carry a hint of his own, merging the essence of protection, resistance, unyielding spirit, and the utmost in skill.

Yue Ying perceived Bai E's transformation, a faint, nearly undetectable mixture of relief and complexity flickering deep in her eyes beneath her surging battle intent and icy exterior.

Her attacks became even fiercer, but the guidance within could only be understood by the two combatants.

"Just like that... keep going... surpass me..."

She whispered silently in her heart, while her sword transformed into a more violent galaxy, slashing at the "sun" that was arduously gathering yet already beginning to shine.

The fierce battle in the starry sky entered a completely new phase that no one could have predicted.

Under the pressure of Yue Ying's sword force, which was like a raging storm yet hinted at guidance in every stroke, Bai E reached unprecedented focus.

He activated and fused everything he had learned along the way.

It was no longer a simple accumulation but a fusion aiming at deeper, more essential integration and sublimation under tremendous pressure.

His blade ceased to be merely a weapon, transforming into an extension of his will.

Within the golden-white blade light, that trace of the "intention" to protect Mine Star, resist unyieldingly, and pursue the ultimate in skill grew clearer and more refined.

Every swing of the blade no longer merely followed techniques or instinct but seemed to adhere to a more profound "trace," the nascent form of his personal combat "Dao."

"Remember this feeling!" Yue Ying's cold voice resounded again directly in Bai E's consciousness, but this time it carried a resolution with a hint of acknowledgment rather than a reminder.

"Use your blade to carve a path ahead!"

As soon as her words fell, Yue Ying's attack pattern abruptly changed!

The ethereal purple and silver-white sword light ceased its blind assault, instead aiming like a guiding star at a relatively weak node area exposed due to previous battles and internal energy fluctuations in a Bug Race dreadnought!

Simultaneously, her spiritual energy resonance mysteriously aligned with the nascent form of Bai E's "Dao," clearly pointing out that spot for him.

Without the need for words, Bai E instantly comprehended.

In that moment, he felt as if he, Yue Ying, the mecha, and even the blade in his hand had merged into one.

All the power, will, and skill poured into the Devouring Star Blade!

"Slash!"

There was no roar, only a calm intention that seemed capable of severing the fabric of the universe.

The "Star Emperor" mecha and that slender figure separated suddenly and, almost at the same instant, transformed into two intercrossing streams of dazzling light!

One gold and white, the other ethereal purple and silver-white, like the sharpest double-edge blades in the universe, drawing two beautiful yet deadly arcs, slicing precisely through the weak point Yue Ying indicated on the Bug Race dreadnought!

"Screech—!!!"

It wasn't an explosion, but a sound like thick fabric being torn, a noise that made one's teeth ache.

The Bug Race dreadnought, always maneuvering quickly and shielded in multiple layers by plankton, had its thick biological armor easily sliced through by the two condensed beams of blade and sword light as if like butter under a hot knife!

The wound was deep enough to reveal the core, with its internal spiritual energy veins, fleshy cavities, and energy conduits completely severed and shredded!

More crucially, this strike seemed to destroy a key coordination hub!

"Screech——!!!"

The heavily damaged dreadnought emitted a painful spiritual energy wail, with the ethereal green radiance on its surface turning chaotic and dim.

Its originally agile high-speed maneuvering came to an abrupt halt, tilting and spinning in space like a kite whose string was cut.

The dense plankton surrounding it lost unified command and fell into disarray.

"Opportunity!" In the Mine Star command center, Katherine and Gong Yan shouted nearly in unison with their nerves taut.

"Launch a counterattack!"

No one needed to remind them; Bai E didn't need to give orders.

The strike, jointly made by Bai E and that mysterious strongman, sounded the horn of retaliation!

Chapter 996: Rout!

No one knows who this mysterious strong figure is, nor what kind of agreement the lord and this mysterious figure reached during such earth-shattering engagements.

Only Kuang Xin, Gong Yan, and others had some vague guesses in their eyes as they watched that petite figure standing tall in the cosmic star space.

Once, on the planet's surface, the only one who could face off with the lord seemed to be that person...

But regardless, it doesn't affect the complete counterattack initiated here on Mine Star.

The remnants of the Seventh Legion warships, orbital defense platforms, and Planet Defense Army's fighters immediately poured all their firepower onto the bio dreadnought that had lost both mobility and effective protection!

Under concentrated fire, the dreadnought's wound rapidly expanded, finally turning into a huge, slowly dispersing ghostly green fireball amidst a series of internal explosions!

The first Insect Race dreadnought, destroyed!

And this was only the beginning.

Yue Ying's figure made a light turn in the air, and her starry icy battle sword again pointed to a position on another dreadnought. Her Spiritual Energy resonated once more with Bai E: "Continue!"

Bai E hesitated not a bit, and the "Star Emperor" mecha went into full power, closely following Yue Ying.

The two no longer needed lengthy exchanges; their fighting tacit understanding reached its peak in the previous "lesson" and joint strike.

One person guided weak points, while the other gathered the edge of "Dao" for the main assault, with Yue Ying's sword light occasionally adding a critical strike.

They were like beams of death shuttling through the Insect Race Fleet, clearing the floating biological groups with the frenzied aftermath of battle wherever they passed.

The Spiritual Energy shields and biological armor of the Insect Race bio dreadnoughts seemed fragile under the attacks that fused extreme skill and personal willpower of "Dao".

The second dreadnought was destroyed, losing drive after the propulsion unit was destroyed by combined force and annihilated by concentrated Mine Star defense firepower.

The third dreadnought attempted to release more special Insect Race units to intercept, yet was constrained and pinpoint killed by Yue Ying's masterful sword light, with Bai E seizing the opportunity to slash into its suspected command node area, inducing widespread internal paralysis.

The battleground witnessed a stunning reversal once the two joined forces!

Simultaneously, a more astonishing scene unfolded, leaving several Peak Alliance high-level personnel in sheer disbelief.

Those few weird motherships belonging to the Dark Elves, which had been floating at the fringes of the battlefield like ghosts, finally began new maneuvers.

Contrary to the Peak Alliance's expectations, they did not emerge to harvest when Bai E clashed with the Insect Race, nor did they attack Bai E.

On the contrary, their engines glowed with a ghostly purple light as they elegantly and rapidly cut into the battlefield!

They did not attack Mine Star's defense facilities nor touch the remaining, observing Insect Race dreadnoughts.

Their targets were apparently those Insect Race floaters and sporadic units fleeing in chaos after losing unified command from the dreadnoughts!

The Dark Elves' ships displayed a combat style sharply different from humans.

Their weapons did not fire scorching plasma beams or explosive missiles but unusual, intensely Spiritual Energy-disturbing ghost energy beams.

These attacks worked excellently against Insect Race biological units, often paralyzing or dissolving them on a large scale.

Moreover, one huge mothership, resembling entangled thorns, opened several outlets on its hull, swarming with dozens of slim, beautiful yet deadly black Spiritual Energy fighters.

These fighters, like hummingbirds in the dark, nimbly shuttled through the battlefield, precisely cleaning crucial Insect Race node units.

The Dark Elf fleet, surprisingly helping Mine Star side in the Insect Race cleanup!

"What... what are they doing?!"

In the Peak Alliance observation ship, a high-level personnel member suddenly stood up, face ashen, pointing at the tactical screen showing that surreal scene, voice distorted by anger and shock, "Faithless! These damned Alien Race! They took our benefits but turned around to help Bai E?!"

"I said these Aliens are unreliable! These Dark Elves, they... they aren't humans at all!"

"It's over... all over..." Another person sat slumped in the chair, face like death.

Their carefully schemed "Drive Tiger Swallow Wolf" scheme not only failed to pit the tiger and wolf against each other but instead united the tiger and what should have been preyed sheep, starting a counterattack on the wolf!

Furthermore, observing those two figures invincible on the battlefield, Bai E's power seemed to have a breakthrough during the fight!

"We must evacuate immediately! We can't stay here!"

The leader decisively commanded, face ferocious, "Once Bai E and those elves clean up the insects, they'll certainly settle accounts with us next! Quick, go!"

Several Peak Alliance observation ships disguised as merchant or survey vessels hastily started their engines, turned around, and fled toward the deep space away from the battlefield, not even caring about concealing themselves.

They realized that this plan utterly failed, not only failing to remove Bai E, their most perilous threat, but might have exposed themselves, forging a mortal enmity.

...

Meanwhile, in a higher-dimensional space, amid eternal darkness and ambiguous concepts, four vast and ancient wills also watched everything unfolding in the material world.

"Failed."

The thought wave filled with endless fear and a desire for peering carried a hint of dissatisfaction, "Human internal betrayal did not succeed. That Human Emperor... instead sprouted under the pressure."

"War and slaughter... failed to devour him, instead became the nutrient for his growth? Such a... disturbingly familiar feeling." The dimension reverberating with battle cries sounded restless thunder.

Chapter 997: Rout! (Part 2)

"Has the seed of desire somehow failed to take root fully in that little elf's heart? She can still remain clear-headed and even guide him in return? Interesting... but also more troublesome." In the dimension interwoven with pink and pale purple, a lazy voice took on a note of seriousness.

"Then... execute the backup plan. Let chaos and disease spread over a wider range. A failure on one planet does not mean the entire game is lost."

In a dimension of decay and mutation, eerie laughter echoed.

...

The material world, Mine Star battlefield.

With the addition of the Dark Elf fleet clearing minor enemies and holding the line, Bai E and Yue Ying were able to focus more on the decapitation operation against the remaining Bug Race dreadnoughts.

Their cooperation became increasingly seamless, and the embryonic form of Bai E's new-found path was continually consolidated and strengthened in real combat.

Finally, with the combined efforts of the two, along with the Mine Star and Dark Elf fleets, the remaining Bug Race dreadnoughts were destroyed one by one.

The sky full of floaters and Bug Race debris gradually turned into cosmic dust with the subsequent sweeping attacks.

As the last Bug Race biotic dreadnought turned into burning wreckage in space, the battle outside Mine Star finally came to a close.

The stench of scorched matter and the afterglow of dissipating Spiritual Energy filled the starry sky, along with the ubiquitous fragments of Bug Race creatures.

The deadly swarms of floaters, deprived of the Spiritual Energy guidance and supply from their mothership, either exploded into ash or drifted aimlessly in the vacuum like headless flies, gradually losing vitality.

When the last Bug Race dreadnought vanished in flames, after a momentary silence in the starry sky, thunderous cheers erupted in the direction of Mine Star!

Salvation in desperation! They had defended their homeland!

The "Star Emperor" Mecha and Yue Ying's form hung silently at the center of the debris-filled battlefield.

Inside the Mecha cockpit, Bai E exhaled a long breath and looked toward the slender figure not far away, his heart filled with complex emotions—

Joy of reunion, gratitude for that special "lesson" just now, and deep confusion about why she appeared in the Dark Elf camp.

Yue Ying also sheathed her battle sword, with the mystical purple and silver-white Spiritual Energy glow slightly restrained.

She looked toward the "Star Emperor" Mecha, and her face seemed to soften for a brief moment under the hood, but soon reverted to that cool and slightly distant expression.

She did not step forward immediately, just sent a telepathic message, saying calmly, "Deal with your matters first."

Bai E nodded, suppressing his questions, and returned in the direction of the "Shield of Defense" space station.

The defensive forces of Mine Star quickly launched cleanup operations after the battle.

Surviving Seventh Legion warships and Planet Defense Army fighters formed formations, cautiously making their way through the debris field, using precise shots to clear any Bug Race units still showing signs of activity, and recovering relatively intact debris samples for subsequent research.

The newly built Orbital Defense Platform, although damaged in many areas, still had its main structure intact and began intense repairs and energy replenishment.

As Bai E stepped out of the cockpit, Catherine, Gong Yan, and others, who had been waiting for a long time, immediately came forward, faces showing relief after surviving a disaster and inescapable fatigue.

"My lord, are you okay?" Gong Yan asked urgently, quickly scanning Bai E's body for obvious injuries.

"I'm fine." Bai E shook his head, looking toward Yue Ying, who lightly landed afterward.

At this moment, Yue Ying had already put away the starlit icy battle sword, and the mystical purple and silver-white Spiritual Energy glow around her had fully retracted, leaving only a cool demeanor and the hood that almost hid half her face.

She did not speak, just stood quietly aside, like an observer out of place with the surrounding hustle.

Catherine's gaze swept between the two, hesitating to speak.

She recognized Yue Ying—

Wasn't this the one who fought Bai E to a standstill?

But how did they end up joining forces against the Bug Race?

Many questions echoed in her mind, but now was not the time to ask them.

"Assess losses, treat the wounded, soothe the civilians." Bai E's voice broke the brief silence, his gaze becoming sharp and pragmatic.

"Also, prepare a meeting room. We need to immediately summarize this attack, analyze the enemy and... friends."

"Understood!" Catherine immediately nodded and turned to make arrangements.

Shortly after, in a relatively intact medium-sized meeting room on the "Shield of Defense" space station, the core members of Mine Star and two special guests gathered together.

On one side of the long table sat Bai E, Catherine, Gong Yan, Kuang Xin, Black Beast, Xu Ruoguang, and others; on the other side were Yue Ying and an unnoticed arrival at the meeting room door.

It was a male Dark Elf, tall and elegant, wearing a magnificent and exotic dark robe, with slender ears and a face almost eerily handsome, with the hint of a subtle, enigmatic smile on his lips.

Precisely the "Prince Shadow Blade," who had previously given orders in the Dark Elf mothership hall.

His presence was silent, as if he had always been there, bringing an intangible sense of pressure.

"Uninvited, I hope you can forgive me." Prince Shadow Blade slightly bowed, his movement as graceful as attending a court ball, but his gaze was scrutinizing, scanning everyone present with interest, and finally focusing on Bai E.

"I just thought that some information, perhaps it's more beneficial for us to understand each other if I explain it myself."

Although Yue Ying was powerful, she actually did not manage affairs.

For external communication and negotiations... whether it was daily activities or the negotiations with Peak Alliance top management this time, it was he who stepped in.

After all, before Yue Ying, he was the highest leader of this Dark Elf force.

The atmosphere in the meeting room instantly became delicate.

Most of the Mine Star crowd had an innate wariness and a shred of gratitude towards the Dark Elves, and Prince Shadow Blade's attitude made it hard to discern his true intentions.

Bai E nodded, motioning him to sit.

"Please speak."

"First, let me introduce myself. I am 'Shadow Blade,' from... what you call the Dark Elves."

Prince Shadow Blade got straight to the point, his tone relaxed, "Our presence here is neither accidental nor entirely out of our own interest—though this battle was quite entertaining."

He glanced at Yue Ying, who remained silent, seemingly unrelated to her.

"Not long ago, we received an... invitation from some friends within the Peak Alliance."

Prince Shadow Blade's smile deepened, tinged with sarcasm, "They paid a rather considerable fee, requesting us to at an appropriate time, take action against all armed forces near this Mine Star... including humans and the Bug Race, as well as you—Mr. Bai E. Their phrase was: 'to enjoy a drama of destruction and, if necessary, make the protagonist leave early'."

Despite previous suspicions, when Prince Shadow Blade personally confirmed it, the meeting room burst into a series of suppressed gasps and whispers of anger.

Catherine clenched her fists, while Gong Yan turned pale.

Kuang Xin directly cursed, "Those bastards! They only stab their own people in the back!"

"We Dark Elves are not interested in human internal disputes."

Prince Shadow Blade shrugged, his tone lazy, "We are only interested in interesting things. And the fee they paid happened to cover our ticket to watch. As for whether to participate, and how to participate... that depends on our own judgment."

He looked at Bai E, his gaze profound, "It turns out, you are much more interesting than their description and our initial expectations. Your brilliance is quite special. And our lady..."

He paused, not continuing, just smiled meaningfully, "She made her choice. So, we changed the script."

Chapter 998: Reunion

This statement was vague, but the meaning was clear:

The Dark Elves were originally hired by hostile forces within the Peak Alliance to deal with Bai E and the Mine Star.

However, due to Yue Ying's intervention, they temporarily changed sides and decided to help the Mine Star fight against the Bug Race.

"Who are these people from the Peak Alliance?" Bai E asked in a deep voice. This was crucial.

Prince Shadow Blade shook his head and showed a helpless expression.

"Unfortunately, the one we contacted was just a middleman, a broker navigating the gray areas. They are very cautious and have not exposed the true identity of the employer. However... based on the flow of the 'reward' and some clues, it points to one or more factions within the Peak Alliance that are extremely uneasy about your and the 'Bauhinia's' rise. They might be stakeholders worried about you unsettling the current order, or simply cowards fearful of your personal power."

This answer was not unexpected.

Bai E had made too many enemies, from refusing the recruitment by the three titans, forcibly reclaiming the mining area, to the rise in reputation after the Karian incident, it had already touched the nerves of countless people.

It was just unexpected that they would be so despicable, daring to collude with the notorious Dark Elves, regarded as "alien races," and even resorting to using the Bug Race to attack, attempting to kill with a borrowed knife.

"Thank you for the information provided," Bai E said to Prince Shadow Blade in a calm tone, with no hint of emotions.

"You're welcome." Prince Shadow Blade nodded gracefully, "Well, that concludes my explanation. The rest is your internal matter. Sir..."

He looked at the always silent Yue Ying, "You seem to have more to say?"

Only then did Yue Ying lift his head, his gaze from under his hood seemingly falling on Bai E, and in a cool voice said, "I'll stay for now."

No reason was given, as if it were a matter of course.

Prince Shadow Blade was not surprised at all, even showing a "just as I thought" smile.

He stood up, "In that case, I'll head back to the ship first. Looking forward to our next meeting."

After speaking, his figure merged into the shadows, silently disappearing at the conference room door, coming and going like a ghost.

Only after Prince Shadow Blade left did the atmosphere in the conference room slightly relax.

But immediately came the heavy post-battle summary.

Catherine reported the preliminary statistics with a grave expression:

"Sir, our losses from this Bug Race attack are... very severe. The Seventh Legion's three main battleships, two were heavily damaged, and can't be deployed in the short term, requiring a great deal of time and resources for repairs; one light frigate was destroyed. Of the two newly built orbital defense platforms, one was structurally severely damaged and is basically a write-off; the other has lost over half its function. The Planet Defense Army's space fighters suffered over sixty percent losses. As for the Mecha unit... except for your Mecha and those of a few core members, the deployed auxiliary Mecha squad was nearly wiped out, and the personnel casualties... are still being tallied, but are expected to be significant."

She paused, her voice somewhat dry, "On the ground, the Sky Dome shield prototype of 'New Jing City' severely overloaded and was damaged while resisting orbital bombardment from the Bug Race, some buildings in the city were affected, with a few civilian casualties. Fortunately, due to timely evacuation, most people are safe. But panic is severe, and the progress of basic infrastructure will surely be

impacted. Overall, nearly seventy percent of the defenses we built up over half a year were lost in this battle."

The series of figures weighed heavily on everyone's hearts.

Although the Bug Race was successfully repelled, the cost was severe, and the development momentum of the Mine Star suffered a heavy blow.

Bai E nodded, his gaze sweeping over everyone, "The losses are great, but we are still alive, and our homeland is intact, that is a victory. Repair and reconstruction will take time, but we still have the aid promise from the Karian Federation, trade channels from the Golden Swallow Company, and perhaps... intelligence support from a newly secured ally."

He glanced at Yue Ying.

"The key is," Bai E changed his tone, his voice turning cold, "the enemy hidden in the shadows. They failed this time, but they will never give up. Colluding with the Dark Elves, bringing in the Bug Race... these methods have crossed the line. We must find them and eliminate them. At the same time, we must guard against them using official forces within the Peak Alliance to suppress and sanction us."

"As for the Star Alliance over there..." Catherine looked towards the corner of the conference room.

Sitting there were several individuals who had been silently observing, wearing uniforms of the Star Alliance, members of the delegation that had come for the assessment, led by the scholar Elorin.

When the Bug Race attacked, their spaceship was forced to land back on the ground, allowing them to witness the entire battle.

Elorin stood up at this moment, his expression more solemn than before, mixed with a trace of barely concealed shock.

He first bowed slightly to Bai E, "Mr. Bai Er, please allow me on behalf of myself and my team, to express the highest respect to you and the 'New Bauhinia' for the courage, resilience, and... astonishing strength demonstrated during this crisis. Your personal combat power, even among the top strong ones I know of in the center of the Milky Way, is definitely in the first echelon. Although there is no direct battle record to make precise comparisons, the strength you demonstrated is undeniable."

He paused and continued, "As for the accusations made by the Dark Elves regarding factions within the Peak Alliance colluding with foreign races to attempt to destroy you, the nature of this matter is extremely serious, not only violating the fundamental Star Alliance charter that prohibits members from bringing in high-threat alien races in internal disputes but also endangering regional stability and the continuation of civilization. Although our delegation's main duty is civilization assessment, as Star Alliance personnel, we are obligated to report such a major security incident. Upon our return, we will submit this matter along with our battle observation report to the Star Alliance Security Council and relevant investigative bodies. The Star Alliance has the responsibility to investigate this thoroughly and ensure the fairness of the investigation."

Chapter 999: Reunion (Part 2)

Elorin's statement was undoubtedly a positive signal.

This means that the Mine Star's efforts to resist the Bug Race and expose the conspiracy not only earned the personal recognition of the Star Alliance's observer but may also garner attention and even some degree of protection from the Star Alliance.

At the very least, those enemies hidden within the Peak Alliance will have to consider the Star Alliance's intervention before attempting to use similar despicable tactics again.

"Thank you, Scholar Elorin, for your fairness," Bai E nodded in acknowledgment, "We look forward to a just outcome from the Star Alliance's investigation. Meanwhile, regarding the sovereignty recognition and entry eligibility of the 'Bauhinia Republic'..."

"Rest assured," Elorin confirmed, "Through this incident, your side has demonstrated not only the potential for orderly governance but also the cohesive strength and survival capability of an entire political entity united from top to bottom in the face of impending catastrophe. This reflects the essence of a civilization far more than mere population or technological data. I will emphasize this point in my report. Although the final recognition requires due procedures, you have, in my opinion, already proven your value through your actions. As for entry eligibility, once approved by the competition committee, there will be no obstacles."

The statement from the Star Alliance personnel added a bright spot to this grim victory.

At least legally and environmentally, the "New Bauhinia" has gained a stronger amulet and a ticket to a broader stage.

The meeting was nearing its end.

Losses had been tallied, enemies identified, and short-term goals were becoming clearer:

Fully repair the damage, restore production and defense, and continue to strengthen technology and military preparedness; leverage the attention of the Star Alliance and support from allies like Karian to stabilize the external environment; meanwhile, internally enhance integration and training, remain highly vigilant externally, pursue and prepare to respond to those enemies lurking in the shadows.

After the meeting ended, everyone went their separate ways, busy with the myriad tasks of aftermath work.

Bai E walked alone to the observation window of the space station, gazing at the battlefield debris being gradually cleared away outside, and at the gray-brown planet in the distance, carrying countless hopes.

The war was far from over.

The threat of the Bug Race loomed ever-present, and internal human betrayal lingered like a ghost.

The path ahead was still fraught with thorns.

But fortunately, the old friends had all returned.

"How did you end up mixing with the Dark Elves?"

Bai E had heard of the existence of the Dark Elves, a group expelled from the orthodox Elf Race.

Elves had sensitive constitutions, able to feel supreme stimulation from even slight stimuli.

However, in high-dimensional space, there existed an Evil God named after "desire," and these elves, to prevent their souls from being devoured by the Evil God, each practiced self-restraint, striving to maintain inner peace.

Alas, not every elf could always achieve inner clarity.

Those elves who succumbed to desire easily attracted the attention of the High-dimensional Evil God, causing the entire race to fall under the gaze of the Evil God.

To prevent these fallen kin from implicating others, the elves who compromised with desire were expelled from the orthodox race and branded as "Dark Elves."

As it turned out, these Dark Elves, removed by the orthodox elves, indeed posed a significant threat.

They roamed the world chaotically, synonymous with disorder.

"What do you think?" Yue Ying stepped closer, her cloak sliding to her feet with her steps.

She had been suppressing desires, nearly losing control upon seeing Bai E.

Having finally seized the opportunity of these two being alone, the pink desire that surged up in that moment spread with her spiritual energy field.

Only with Bai E by her side could she indulge herself freely without fearing being targeted by certain entities of high-dimensional space.

Bai E didn't even have time to speak as his lips were blocked by a soft, cold touch... (over ten thousand words omitted)

...

"So you mean that after the accident, you returned to your Elf Race?"

Afterward, the two began communication about everything that had happened since the spaceship accident.

"Yes. My sister can always find our race, but because of me, she had to leave..."

"Does your sister have a way to take us back to the planet?"

Since leaving the mother planet, Bai E had lost the location of the mother planet.

If the spaceship hadn't been destroyed, they could still find the mother planet's presence from the star map records of the spaceship.

But with the spaceship entirely damaged, Bai E now had no clue how to find the whereabouts of the mother planet.

His original intention to establish the "New Bauhinia" sovereign nation in the universe was to bring all the people from the mother planet out.

Now, the development of New Bauhinia was going fairly well, establishing a stable foothold in the universe.

But the process of finding the mother planet was at an impasse.

Perhaps only Yue Ying's sister... the elf named Feng Ling, with her spiritual energy skills, might be able to find a way to the mother planet.

"I once asked, but she can't either..." Yue Ying shook her head slightly, her expression bewildered, "Initially, when I lost contact with you, I asked her if we could rebuild a spaceship to find your whereabouts from the mother planet. But..."

Separated by the vast universe, even the Prophet of the Elf race struggled to pinpoint an ordinary star accurately.

"I understand..." Bai E's tone couldn't help but carry a hint of discouragement.

Now that even this most hopeful expectation was dashed, he really didn't know how he could find the whereabouts of the mother planet in the short term.

If he couldn't find the place, there was no point in talking about bringing people out.

"But you can..." Yue Ying suddenly said, staring intently into Bai E's eyes.

"Hmm?"

"My sister said she couldn't, but you can."

"Me?" Bai E was dumbfounded.

Yue Ying imitated her sister, mysteriously pointing to the sky, "When the opportunity arrives, you'll naturally know it."

...

Feedback from the Star Alliance was incredibly swift.

A week after the war ended, "apologies" from the Peak Alliance had arrived.

The ones pushed out were, of course, a few inconsequential figures, but the direct target pointed to was a substantial sum of resources brought forth by several core member states within the three giants as compensation for this "private act."

While war undoubtedly resulted in losses, especially in personnel, in terms of resources, these compensatory resources completely filled the gap and even exceeded it.

And their attitude...

Now, across the entire Peak Alliance, New Bauhinia was fully acknowledged as a legitimate sovereign nation, representing the entire Star Domain of the Peak Alliance in battle.

This was no longer up for debate.

Even New Bauhinia itself was now incorporated into the Peak Alliance, becoming an official member country within it, even endowed with parliamentary discourse power, only ranking below the three strongest giants in the alliance.

Within just half a year, the nation had accomplished what some countries could not in decades or centuries since their founding... an achievement unimaginable for the now-defunct prior Bauhinia.

More importantly, even the Capital Star and the Colony Star, previously segmented away, were once again presented with both hands back under the name of "New Bauhinia."

"I wonder what the chief would feel seeing everything we have today..." Catherine stood beside Bai E, looking at the large-scale construction of planetary facilities outside the window.

Bai E remained silent.

If it had been the previous Bauhinia, without absolute control, it might not have developed into what it was today.

Next, what needed consideration was the ultimate competition about to commence at the center of the Galaxy, among the top human nations' most elite mobile warriors.

Chapter 1000: The Summons and the Old Pact

When Catherine projected the encrypted transmitted competition data onto the massive screen in the command center, everyone was attracted by the complex, brutal, and extremely demanding rules, while also feeling unprecedented pressure.

"The Star Alliance Finals, or the 'All-Human Civilization Peak Mecha Warrior Championship', is not only about showcasing the top military and technological prowess of various nations, but also a concealed contest over the distribution of Star Alliance resources, discourse rights, and even the shared authority over 'Divine Fragment' research for the next decade."

Catherine pointed to the beginning of the data, her voice stern, "Therefore, its competition design far surpasses the Stellar District selection matches we've participated in before. It is more... closely aligned with real combat and tests a nation's comprehensive foundation more rigorously."

"Every Star Alliance Finals adopts a different competition format, and this edition combines a 'points system' and an 'elimination system' in a hybrid format."

"The specific competition process is temporarily hidden, but I have thoroughly reviewed the information they sent over. The key rules within are very disadvantageous to us..."

Comprehensive Team Combat: Each team needs to send out 10 mech pilots to form a complete tactical squad for the confrontation.

Specific Environment Assault Operations: Each team must send out 5-7 mech pilots to carry out assault or defense missions under specific environments.

In addition, there are various types of individual confrontations.

"More crucially, no participant can compete in more than one match."

"In other words, we need at least a fixed team of 20 people... and we also need enough substitutes and specialists adept at different environments."

Gong Yan furrowed his brow, "Even if we count it all, those who can stably reach the level of front-line mech pilots and have enough team combat experience, apart from the adults, Catherine, Black Beast, and Victor, plus some experts from Dusk and the Seventh Legion, we still don't have enough for even the most basic fixed team."

Not to mention that the mech pilots from Dusk and the Seventh Legion all have combat styles leaning towards individual bravery, lacking formal team tactical training, which makes coordination problematic.

There are some promising talents in the Seventh Legion and the Planet Defense Army, but the time is too short to realistically grow to a level where they can compete on the stage with elite forces across the universe before the inauguration of the competition.

"And we also need mech pilots with different specialties."

Catherine added, "For instance, those who are skilled in long-range precision sniping, high-speed reconnaissance, heavy fire suppression, electronic warfare, or Spiritual Energy disruption... all of these require time and resources to train or find."

Because no one can repeat participation, no matter how capable Bai E is, he cannot ensure the team is without weaknesses when he is not present.

The pressure is evident.

The New Bauhinia's strength in mobile warfare may not be inferior to any force in top-level individual combat power, but in terms of depth and breadth, the gap is like a chasm compared to those established strong nations.

The mechanism of the Star Alliance competition is precisely designed towards a nation's overall military talent reserve and training system.

The key points pointed out by the two momentarily rendered the entire core layer of 'New Bauhinia' somewhat helpless.

The fact that the foundation is lacking due to the short time since its founding is undeniable.

If forced to put a team together casually, they might just end up becoming stepping stones for others.

Although even the last place in this competition can receive some resource tilt from the Star Alliance... but isn't taking last place a bit too much of a waste?

The Peak Alliance seized this 'opportunity' too.

Just when Catherine, Gong Yan, and others were at their wit's end, they sent a delegation led by Xing Zhuo to visit the Mine Star again.

This meeting was more harmonious and pragmatic than any previous ones.

Several encounters with the Insect Race Fleet had already shattered all of the Peak Alliance's ambitions from a military standpoint.

Their posture was very low, not just Xing Zhuo.

"Mr. Bai Er, Lady Catherine."

Xing Zhuo got straight to the point, with a sincere smile on his face, "First, once again, congratulations to 'New Bauhinia' for obtaining the qualification to participate. This is an honor for the entire Stellar District. Our Peak Alliance, as the leading consortium in this Stellar District, naturally hopes that our representative can achieve the best results in the Star Alliance Finals, as this pertains to the position and resource allocation of our Stellar District in the Star Alliance for the next century."

He continued: "Regarding the competition system of this Star Alliance Finals, we have also studied it. Frankly speaking, it requires a very high reserve of mecha warrior talent from the participating countries. To be frank, given 'New Bauhinia's current stage of development, cultivating or finding enough qualified and cooperative mech pilots within 9 months is... beyond imagination."

Catherine calmly responded, "We are making efforts."

"We understand your efforts."

Xing Zhuo nodded, "Therefore, our Peak Alliance is willing to offer assistance. We can allocate the most elite mecha warrior talent from within the alliance to form a joint team and participate under the name of 'New Bauhinia'. For instance, Remington Storm, Leia Xinghen, Iron Curtain, and other excellent pilots from the Blood Ming Empire and Thunder Dragon Empire. Our people have rich experience in major competitions and actual combat. They have also cooperated or competed with each other, so they can establish rapport quickly. This is far more efficient and reliable than training or finding unknown outsiders from scratch."

Catherine remained calm, knowing that a pie wouldn't fall from the sky, "Then what is the price?"