

First Order 901

### **Chapter 901: The Prosperous Northwest!**

The 3rd Division's retreat went exceptionally smoothly. Truly, those several rounds of artillery fire were effective, causing the expeditionary army to hesitate to pursue them.

After all, the expeditionary army had used subterfuge to lure the Pyro Company into advancing, so they would not want to commit the same mistake.

But with this hesitation, they missed the best opportunity to cut off the 3rd Division's retreat.

After returning to the Great Wall, Ren Xiaosu followed P5092 right back to the 3rd Division's command center. "What kind of punishment do you think those division commanders will receive? If not for their greed and recklessness, we would have scored an amazing victory."

P5092 fell silent at the mention.

The P5 commanders of the 7th, 1st, and 4th Divisions had all come to pay a visit to P5092. The three of them probably did not rest at all. They had handed over the reorganization of their divisions to their adjutants before coming to see P5092.

When the 7th Division's commander saw Ren Xiaosu, he was stunned. He was wondering why Ren Xiaosu would help the 7th Division. So it turned out he was P5092's friend.

Thinking about it now, he suddenly felt ashamed he did not listen to P5092's advice and even ended up needing to be saved by him.

He greeted Ren Xiaosu and said, "Thank you for your help this time."

"Gratitude received from P5067, +1."

Ren Xiaosu smiled and said, "It's fine, you don't have to thank me so quickly."

Logically, Ren Xiaosu should have answered, "If you want to thank anyone, thank P5092 instead. He was the one who asked me to help all y'all."

But Ren Xiaosu did not say that. Instead, he followed up with, "When I'm done with my work here, I'll specially make a trip to the 7th Division within the next two days. At that time, you can thank me together with all of your men."

The 7th Division's commander was confused.

The three commanders in the command center were all stunned. *'What the hell? What's with this unexpected reply?!*

P5092 smiled and changed the subject. "I know why the three of you came to look for me."

P5067 said with a wry smile, "This time, we'll definitely be punished by HQ for attempting to seek glory and our reckless actions. You know how strict HQ's punishments are. So I'm here this time to ask you as

our acting commander-in-chief to speak up for us. It's not that I covet this role, but the last-minute change in leadership will affect the combat effectiveness of our 7th Division. After the war ends, I'll personally submit my resignation letter, but nothing must happen to me right now. As long as you can convince HQ to delay dishing out our punishment, I'm willing to write my resignation letter now and place it with you."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. What was this?

But from the look of things, the other party really treated P5092 as the commander-in-chief.

P5092 looked at the other two. "You two are going to say the same thing, right?"

"Yes," the other two division commanders said. They looked at Ren Xiaosu. "Is this your friend? Can you excuse us—"

"There's no need," P5092 interrupted. "There's no need to ask him to leave. I'll also give everyone a direct answer here. In the future, we'll still need everyone to work together sincerely for the war. So I'll help all of you through the difficult times when HQ carries out its investigations. As for quitting your positions as division commander after the war, there's no need for that. Instead, I feel that a commander who has suffered defeat before will know how to earn victory through cautiousness in the future. The three of you should hurry back and get some rest. The expeditionary army will arrive at the Great Wall tomorrow."

After sending off the three division commanders, Ren Xiaosu felt a little helpless. If P5092 became the commander-in-chief of the Pyro Company, he could not take him away from here.

Ren Xiaosu asked, "Is the Pyro Company so strict that they would replace their commanders in such a critical moment?"

"Of course." P5092 nodded and said, "A mistake is a mistake. Anyone who makes a mistake has to be punished. This is a house rule of the Pyro Company. Moreover, in the eyes of the higher-ups, be it me or them, we're just cogs in a machine. If any cogs break, they have to replace them. That's their mentality when it comes to running things."

"Then how do you plan to help them?" Ren Xiaosu asked, "It might be a good choice to pin all the blame on the dead 6th and 5th Divisions' commanders."

"No." P5092 shook his head. "Although they were in the wrong during the pursuit, it was a wise decision from them to stay behind. Furthermore, they've already sacrificed their lives for their ideals, so I can't simply discredit their honor."

"But you just said that in the view of the Pyro Company's leaders, those commanders were indeed in the wrong," Ren Xiaosu said.

"Actually, discrediting their honor is also acceptable, but I can't bear to let the soldiers of the 6th and 5th Divisions be disgraced as well." P5092 sighed and said, "Just as you said, from the most logical point of view, I'm sure that even if those two division commanders hadn't died, they couldn't have made up

for their mistakes this time. However, the soldiers were innocent, so their spirits should be allowed to return home with honor.”

“I didn’t expect you to be so compassionate,” Ren Xiaosu praised. “Then how do you plan on saving those three commanders?”

As he spoke, a group of soldiers in white military uniforms came to the entrance of the command center. P5092 looked out as one of the soldiers said, “Sir, we’re with the military police and have come to investigate the reasons for the defeat. Before this, we learned the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Divisions were all guilty of dereliction of duty due to glory chasing. We’re here to corroborate with you on whether that’s true.”

P5092 was silent for a moment before saying, “It’s not their fault. I was the one who ordered them to pursue the enemy.”

The soldier was stunned. “Sir, what did you say? This doesn’t tally with the facts we found.”

P5092 smiled and said, “How doesn’t it? I was indeed the one who gave them the order to pursue the enemy, so it’s only right that I be punished. Take me away. I’ve already handed over my duties. I’m willing to go with the military police to be investigated.”

Then P5092 turned around and said to Ren Xiaosu with a smile, “I wonder when we’ll meet again after bidding farewell this time. If we ever do, I hope you’ll still recognize me.”

This time, Ren Xiaosu was really stunned. He did not expect P5092 to actually hand over his duties in advance. This meant he was prepared to take all the blame from the beginning.

Ren Xiaosu frowned and asked, “Wait, why are you doing this?”

“Because it’s the most logical choice.” P5092 thought for a moment before adding, “Of course, it’s also because I’ve become a little tired.”

He was probably referring to becoming tired of the power struggles that had been going on.

Ren Xiaosu immediately thought of something else. P5092 had mentioned that the 3rd Division was the Pyro Company’s artillery unit. After abandoning their artillery in the forest, the 3rd Division would be reduced to playing a bit role as an engineering unit in the rear due to a shortage of ammunition.

This also meant that even if P5092 were to be taken away, it would not affect the war on the front lines.

On the other hand, if the other divisions that still had some strength left in them were to see a change of leadership at this time, it would cause their combat strength to fall drastically. In fact, a commander and their troops would have to work together for at least two years to gel, and a new commander could not bring out the full potential of their troops in the first two years of command.

It was not that the troops were disobedient, but that the commander-subordinate relationship needed to be ironed out. It was definitely not that easy to lead troops into battle. War was not like playing chess, and soldiers were not chess pieces either.

Therefore, in the eyes of P5092, sacrificing himself to keep the other three commanders in their roles was the most pragmatic choice and also the most beneficial one for the Pyro Company's victory.

P5092 once said that if he were required to sacrifice himself in a war, he would not hesitate to do it.

Now, it was time for P5092 to do just that.

"What punishment will you receive?" Ren Xiaosu asked calmly.

"I'll have my genetic modifications undone and be put behind bars for 15 years," P5092 analyzed. "But I'll be on good behavior in prison, so I should be out in about 10 years."

Ren Xiaosu took a deep breath and said, "It's time for you to fulfill our agreement then!"

P5092 was stunned. "What agreement do we have?"

Ren Xiaosu said, "The Prosperous Northwest!"

P5092 was confused. He wondered when the agreement was made. Why did he not know about it?!

However, Ren Xiaosu did not say much to P5092. He knew that P5092 already intended to go, and now that he had encountered this situation, it was time for him to leave the Pyro Company.

After that, Ren Xiaosu suddenly stepped over to P5092 and hit him on the neck with a knifehand strike. P5092 tried to resist, but his combat strength was not enough to deal with Ren Xiaosu. He immediately passed out.

The soldiers in the white uniforms quickly raised their guns. "What are you doing?! Stop right there!"

However, Ren Xiaosu supported the unconscious P5092 and said to the adjutant at the side, "I'm taking your commander away now. I don't think you want to see him spending 10 years in prison either, right?"

The adjutant hesitated. "Where are you taking him?"

"To the Northwest, the Prosperous Northwest!" Ren Xiaosu said firmly, "Why don't you go as well? Forget it, you're too trash. It's better that you don't go."

The adjutant shouted, "... What the fuck?!"

Ren Xiaosu said to the adjutant, "Let me ask you this: Do you want him to waste ten years in prison? If not, help us get away."

"OK," the adjutant replied.

But before the adjutant could order the 3rd Division's soldiers to place the military policemen under arrest, they suddenly put down their guns. "Actually, we don't want to see this P5 commander get court

martialed either. Everyone knows he's taking the blame for the other commanders. How about this? You can knock us out too and then escape with him."

Ren Xiaosu was dumbfounded. What the hell was this?

The adjutant said, "Please take the commander with you and leave first. I'll knock them out."

Ren Xiaosu thought for a moment before carrying P5092 and running out of the military base with Yang Xiaojin. During this time, all the soldiers of the 3rd Division saluted the unconscious P5092 to send him off. No one came forward to stop Ren Xiaosu.

"I didn't expect such a cold-hearted commander to be loved by so many soldiers." Ren Xiaosu sighed and said, "Let's go. Such talent is destined for the Prosperous Northwest!"

All the soldiers of the 3rd Division stood at the entrance of their barracks as they watched Ren Xiaosu carry P5092 far away. Some of them even had tears in their eyes.

Actually, P5092 did not treat them well, as he was too strict with them. Their training was strict and their daily routine was strict. It was so strict it was on the verge of being harsh.

Moreover, sometimes, he would even send soldiers to their deaths with just a word.

But for some reason, everyone respected this commander from the bottom of their heart. It was probably because he was true to his ideals.

Their commander had finally gone to the Prosperous Northwest...

## **Chapter 902: Gratitude tokens**

"Wait!" Ren Xiaosu suddenly turned around as he was leaving.

Next to him, Yang Xiaojin was taken aback. "What's the matter? Are you wondering why no one is chasing after us?"

"No," Ren Xiaosu said, "it's only reasonable that they aren't chasing after us. P5092 has accepted full blame in order to secure the Pyro Company's future victory, so who would want their commander to go to jail over such an unfortunate matter? The entire Pyro Company knows that he's actually a hero and not a criminal."

"Then what's wrong?" Yang Xiaojin wondered.

"Gratitude!" Ren Xiaosu looked back at the Pyro Company's base in the distance and said firmly, "The 7th Division hasn't thanked me yet!"

Yang Xiaojin was speechless.

In Ren Xiaosu's opinion, he could forget about the other divisions' gratitude since he did not personally save them. Even if he were to ask them to thank him, it might not be sincere.

But the 7th Division was different since he had risked his life to save them. Under such circumstances, how could he possibly give up on earning those gratitude tokens and leave?

At this moment, the 7th Division's commander, P5067, had just received news that P5092 had been abducted.

On the other end of the line was the voice of the 1st Division's commander, "It's actually a good thing that P5092 was taken away. If he doesn't leave, he'll have to spend more than ten years in prison. No one wants to see that happen. When he told us not to worry, we should've known that he was going to bear all the responsibility by himself."

P5067 sighed and said, "That's right, we owe him too much. After this war is over, I won't have the dignity to continue being a division commander. I won't even be able to walk with my head held high in front of my own soldiers when I used the freedom of another to secure my future."

"I heard that the person who abducted him also participated in this battle. I think he's the one from the Northwest?" the 1st Division's commander asked.

"Yes, it's White Mask from the Northwest," P5067 confirmed. "When 7th Division got ambushed by the barbarians in the battle, he was the one who saved us. Speaking of which, you might not believe it, but he was still in the mood to pick his ears when facing more than several thousand barbarians of the expeditionary army. If I didn't see it with my own eyes, it would be very difficult for me to imagine that such a powerful figure has already appeared in the world of supernatural beings. It's no wonder he's as famous as the Demon Whisperer. Moreover, he used some unknown method to kill thousands of barbarians later. How extremely fearsome."

"Fortunately, he's from the Northwest, so we don't have to make an enemy out of him. However, this is probably the first time someone's dared to abduct a person from our Pyro Company's base. If word gets out, he'll probably become known as the best kidnapper in the world," the 1st Division's commander said.

P5067 nodded and said, "Yes, our goal is actually the same as the Northwest."

But at this moment, a staff officer suddenly walked hesitantly into P5067's command center. P5067 did not hang up. He wondered, "What's the matter? Didn't I tell you to go and rest?"

The staff officer said, "It's like this, someone's looking for you outside."

"Who is it?" P5067 asked. He wondered who would come looking for him at a time like this.

The staff officer answered, "It's the person who saved us on the battlefield."

"Eh?" P5067 gasped in shock and nearly choked.

Over the phone, the 1st Division's commander's voice rang out, "Is someone looking for you?"

"Yes," P5067 said.

"Who is it?"

"A kidnapper..."

With that, P5067 hung up and rushed outside. Many soldiers had already gathered at the entrance of the military base to watch. P5067 frowned at the soldiers and said, "What are you all looking at? Disperse."

"Don't go." Ren Xiaosu's voice rang out, "I was just looking for them."

As P5067 spoke, he pushed through the crowd. He saw Ren Xiaosu carrying P5092.

P5067 would admit that he was stunned for a moment when he saw this sight. This kidnapper was way too bold. He did not leave after abducting a person from the 3rd Division but came here to the 7th Division instead? Wasn't he afraid he would get taken out by the Pyro Company?

However, P5067 also understood that the other party was probably aware of their thoughts and knew no one would make things difficult for him at this time.

P5067 said amiably, "How can I help you?"

As they spoke, everyone automatically filtered out P5092's presence on Ren Xiaosu's shoulder as though they did not see anything.

Ren Xiaosu chuckled and said, "Did you forget what I said earlier? I'm waiting for the 7th Division's soldiers to thank me."

P5067 had to admit that his mind went blank again. This guy actually came to the 7th Division just so they could thank him?! *'Are you crazy?! What are you thinking? Is it that important to be thanked? Can you eat it?'*

Ren Xiaosu gave him a strange look. "Hurry up, I'm in a rush."

P5067 explained patiently, "It's like this. Most of our 7th Division soldiers have already gone to rest. It'll take a while to wake them up at this time. Moreover, we could be in for a huge battle tomorrow. If we don't let them rest up now..."

Ren Xiaosu smacked his lips. "Then just have those who aren't resting yet to thank me."

"OK, OK." P5067 quickly ordered his adjutant to organize the troops. Ten minutes later, he said to Ren Xiaosu, "All the soldiers who aren't resting yet are here now. Total strength: 1,091. Present strength: 1,091. Even the cooks are here too."

Ren Xiaosu found it a little pitiful. This was not what he had imagined. After all, there were still more than 5,000 soldiers left in the 7th Division. He had rushed back here because he thought there would be 5,000 gratitude tokens for him to earn.

He thought for a moment and said, "Then we'll have everyone say three rounds of thanks to me."

After that, more than a 1,000 soldiers stood in front of Ren Xiaosu and thanked him in unison. For the first round, there was an increase of 1,091 tokens. For the second round, he earned over 500 tokens. By the third round, he only managed to get about 200 tokens.

The soldiers could not be blamed for being insincere. This situation was simply too bizarre, so they were unable to thank him seriously...

Seeing P5092 still lying unconscious on Ren Xiaosu's shoulder, they realized he was totally unaware of what was happening here. Once he woke up and found out about this, they wondered if he would have the courage to face everything that was happening now.

Ren Xiaosu's gratitude tokens shot up to 7,000 in total. Having lost interest, he waved off the soldiers. "Alright, I'll be leaving then!"

As P5067 watched Ren Xiaosu leave, he realized that P5092 was probably going to be taken to the Northwest.

In truth, the Pyro Company's impression of Fortress 178 was still very good. At the very least, both of them were tasked with protecting the Central Plains. And now that P5067 thought about it, he felt it might not be a bad thing for P5092 to escape prison and head to the Northwest.

Moreover, Fortress 178 might be a better home for P5092 than the Pyro Company, which lacked human compassion.

But this young man was rumored to be the future commander of Fortress 178? Although no one knew where this news came from, he thought it should be true.

The 7th Division's commander recalled everything that had happened just now and muttered to himself, "Is it really alright for Fortress 178 to have a future commander like that?"

Another group of military policemen ran over. They looked at P5067 and asked, "Where are they?"

P5067 replied frankly, "They've left."

The commander of the military police frowned. "How can you just let him leave like that? He's now a wanted criminal of our Pyro Company."

P5067 rolled his eyes. "Go and arrest him then. He can kill thousands of barbarians single-handedly. I'd like to detain him too, but I'd have to have the balls to do that first!"

### **Chapter 903: P5092**

It wasn't until afternoon that P5092 regained consciousness. He slowly opened his eyes and realized he was not at the military base at the Great Wall anymore. For a while, he was still in a daze and unsure of the situation.

Then he began to remember some things. Two words kept revolving in his mind.

A delighted voice called out from the side, "You're awake?"

A bad feeling arose within P5092. He slowly turned around and looked at Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin, who were sitting nearby. "Where am I? What happened..."

"We're on our way to the Prosperous Northwest!" Ren Xiaosu said happily.

Yes, it was precisely these two words. While he was dreaming just now, these two words kept echoing in his mind and could not be cast aside.

P5092 closed his eyes and attempted to "wake up" again. He felt like he might still be dreaming, and the dream was even a little bizarre.

But when he opened his eyes again, nothing changed, and Ren Xiaosu was still smiling as well.

Ren Xiaosu said patiently, "Didn't we agree to go to the Prosperous Northwest together? Have you forgotten?"

At a certain moment, P5092 even felt like he was in a horror movie where he was being dragged into the basement by the serial killer. The other party's tone sounded like he was some kind of psycho.

P5092 thought for a long time before saying, "When did I say I was going to the Prosperous Northwest?"

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. "You didn't contradict me when I said that we were going to be one family soon."

"That was because I wanted you to join the Pyro Company." P5092 explained, "When you said we were going to be family soon, I thought you were thinking of joining the Pyro Company!"

"Oh." Only at this moment did Ren Xiaosu realize the two of them had always been talking about different things.

However, it was not a big deal. Ren Xiaosu said, "In any case, we're heading to the Prosperous Northwest."

P5092 did not know whether to laugh or cry. "So you really are from Fortress 178? Why were you with the Wang Consortium's medical team that went to the Kong Consortium then?"

"It's a long story. I went to the Kong Consortium's Stronghold 31 to save someone, but I got stopped by you just as I was about to leave. Now that I think about it, that was when your fate got intertwined with the Northwest," Ren Xiaosu said with a smile.

P5092 shook his head. "I don't wish to go to the Northwest."

Ren Xiaosu said in seriousness, "No, you want to."

P5092 was speechless.

"Wouldn't it be great if we went to the Northwest?" Ren Xiaosu said, "If we went there, we wouldn't have to face the troublesome matters that you experienced at the Pyro Company. No one will fight to

achieve personal glory, nor will there be a need to gain fame or fortune. If it's yours, it's yours. If it's not, it's useless even if you fight for it."

"How can there be such a place?" P5092 sneered and said, "There's nowhere in the world where fame and fortune don't exist. As long as there's people, there's politics. It's the same everywhere. Although I don't know much about the Northwest, I do know what people are like."

Ren Xiaosu gave it some thought. "You're right. There actually are a lot of such incidents even in the Northwest. But since you're tired of all this and don't even want to be the commander-in-chief of the Pyro Company's military corps, you can just head to the Northwest and retire behind the scenes. If anything happens, I'll take the blame."

P5092 wondered, "What exactly do you want me to do in the Northwest?"

"Whatever you did previously. You can just continue doing the same thing." Ren Xiaosu said, "I lack someone good at waging war."

P5092 asked in seriousness, "Against who?"

Ren Xiaosu suddenly realized this question was very important to P5092. He said solemnly to P5092, "Fortress 178's mission is to protect, and we will never initiate an invasion on others. This is highly consistent with your philosophy, but the only thing is that we don't sacrifice our comrades like you did."

P5092 shook his head. "It's not that I want to sacrifice them. But to achieve the final victory, everything and anything can be sacrificed. If we get soft on the battlefield, a lot more people will get sacrificed later."

Yang Xiaojin finally spoke up, "This is the reason why he needs you. He's not suited to be a military commander. But if you plan to sacrifice him for the cause in the future, he might just end up surprising you. I feel that the two of you complement each other quite well."

P5092 and Ren Xiaosu looked at Yang Xiaojin in silence. After a while, Ren Xiaosu said, "That's true...."

P5092 finally asked, "What if I still don't want to go after your persuasion? What will you do with me?"

Ren Xiaosu said with a smile, "I've never thought about that possibility before. You have to go no matter what."

P5092 sighed and said, "Then why are you still talking so much...."

"To show you my respect." Ren Xiaosu said with a smile, "The ancients have their three visits to the thatched cottage. Aren't I just following the ancients' way of expressing my sincerity to you?"

Yang Xiaojin glanced at Ren Xiaosu. The two of them had discussed in private how to convince P5092 to join the Prosperous Northwest. She had suggested that Ren Xiaosu follow the "three visits to the thatched cottage" so he could move P5092 with his sincerity.

However, what Ren Xiaosu said back then was different from what he was saying now.

At the time, Ren Xiaosu said it would be very troublesome to visit the thatched cottage thrice, so he should just burn it down and leave him with no place to stay. When that happened, wouldn't he have no choice but to join the Prosperous Northwest? That was how everyone in the Northwest did it!

Yang Xiaojin was floored for a while. She thought it was no wonder everyone said the Northwest was full of those damned fucks. Perhaps it was because they did things like that too often.

And the reason why Ren Xiaosu could get along so well with those people from the Northwest was because their personalities were compatible.

Ren Xiaosu suddenly said to P5092, "Since you're no longer part of the Pyro Company, how 'bout calling you by your given name, Ling Han? It'll symbolize your new start."

However, P5092 shook his head. "I prefer the name P5092 now. Just call me that."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. He suddenly realized that while he might find it inappropriate to use a serial number as a name, it symbolized all the youth and hard work P5092 had put into his ideals of protecting mankind in the Central Plains. It also symbolized the greatest glory of his life. Behind this number were the countless lives of the barbarians that had been killed. It was both a name and a badge of honor.

"Then I'll continue calling you P5092," Ren Xiaosu said with a chuckle. For some reason, he felt that he had gotten quite used to calling the other party by his serial number. It was as though it would feel a little odd if he did not call him by that.

Perhaps P5092 was using this as a way to tell Ren Xiaosu that even though he had temporarily agreed to go to the Northwest, his ambition remained the same and his priority was always to protect mankind in the Central Plains.

Therefore, if their ideologies clashed in the future, and Ren Xiaosu decided to rule the world by waging war in the Central Plains, P5092 would leave.

However, Ren Xiaosu was not worried about that at all. He was not an ambitious person.

"By the way," Ren Xiaosu asked, "what's your opinion of this war? Can the Pyro Company win? With so many barbarians coming to battle the Pyro Company, they must not have many troops left on the Wang Consortium's side. If the Wang Consortium joins forces with the Pyro Company, would the chances of winning be higher?"

"It's not that simple." P5092 shook his head. "I previously thought there might not be many barbarians on the Wang Consortium's side either, but now, I feel that I might've made a wrong judgment. This could be another trap."

#### **Chapter 904: Information sharing**

"Another trap? Why do you say that?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

In the past, whenever there was something that he did not understand, he would turn to books to search for the answers. However, the knowledge found in books might not be able to clearly explain everything in the world.

When he went to ask those who understood these principles, they might not be willing to tell him either.

Now that he had such an expert military commander beside him, Ren Xiaosu felt like he could finally catch up on some of the lessons in this field.

P5092 replied to his question, "I received news last night that all of the barbarians at the Wang Consortium's Mt. Daniu front line have disappeared. The Wang Consortium also found out about it a day ago. However, they did not share this information with the Pyro Company. Otherwise, the Pyro Company would definitely have been prepared and wouldn't have suffered a defeat."

Ren Xiaosu remained silent. He realized the Wang Consortium was already starting to resort to unscrupulous means now that they were in a hurry to complete the unification of the Alliance of Strongholds.

Once the barbarians pinned the Pyro Company, the Wang Consortium could just sit back in safety and watch the tigers fight before coming out to clean up the mess.

P5092 drew a simple map on the loess soil with a tree branch. "This is the outline of the Pyro Company and Wang Consortium's battlefield on the northern front. The two parties are around 200 kilometers apart and have the ability to keep watch for each other. Although it was not discussed prior, the front lines at Mt. Daniu and the Great Wall are like coordinate points in a defensive deployment."

"Look, this is Erjin River. Once the expeditionary army sends all their troops to the Pyro Company's side, the Wang Consortium troops can immediately flank the expeditionary army from the direction of Erjin River. At that time, the barbarians would be caught in a dilemma where they can neither fight nor retreat," P5092 continued explaining. "So as you can see, the current situation is actually very disadvantageous for the expeditionary army."

"Yeah," Ren Xiaosu said.

"But you've also fought the expeditionary army before. Do you think they're really such ignorant people?" P5092 asked. "They were willing to sacrifice the lives of tens of thousands of their elderly by using them as bait to score a victory in battle, so would such people place themselves in such a dangerous situation? So they must have a backup plan. I suspect the expeditionary army still has a large number of soldiers in the North and is waiting for the Wang Consortium to reinforce the Pyro Company. That's the most logical explanation I have!"

Ren Xiaosu gave it some thought "If that's really the case, there'll still be several tough battles to fight in the future. But doesn't everyone say that the environment in the North is really harsh? Why would they still have so many people?"

“The expeditionary army is different from us. They are moving south en masse. If we include the Qing Consortium, Fortress 178, the Wang Consortium, the Kong Consortium, the Pyro Company, and the Zhou Consortium, our military strength will naturally be much greater than theirs. In fact, it might even be several times larger than them. But we aren’t united as a nation.” P5092 sighed and said, “This gives them a chance to take advantage of us.”

Based on P5092’s deduction, the number of people in the Far North was probably only about one-fifth of that of the Central Plains, or even less.

But as all of their adult males had become soldiers, and with the Central Plains still not united, it was difficult to say who would win this war.

“We have to inform the Wang Consortium about this.” P5092 looked at Ren Xiaosu and said, “If their defensive line gets subverted and collapses, it’ll definitely make things worse on the Great Wall front line.”

“But the Wang Consortium did not inform you about the situation in time. Don’t you hate them?” Ren Xiaosu asked.

“I do.” P5092 said, “But hating them won’t solve the problem. Everything is based on winning this war, so we have to inform them about this.”

“Then you’re really quite a broad-minded person.” Ren Xiaosu sighed.

P5092 shook his head. “I’m not as broad-minded as you think. Otherwise, I wouldn’t detest all the scheming that people do to jockey for power. It’s just that my ideals have always been to protect the survival of mankind in the Central Plains. If I don’t let the Wang Consortium know about this information, it’ll be equivalent to betraying my ideals.”

“Alright.” Ren Xiaosu took out a satellite phone from his storage space and made a call.

P5092 was stunned. “Where did you get that phone? And who are you calling?”

Ren Xiaosu ignored him. After the call went through, a calm voice rang out at the other end of the line. “This is Wang Shengzhi.”

The expression on P5092’s face gradually changed. Ren Xiaosu said, “I’m just calling you to tell you that everything has been handled at Stronghold 31 and to add something. We suspect that there’s still more of the expeditionary army north of Mt. Daniu waiting for y’all to reinforce the Pyro Company, so we want to remind you to be careful.”

“OK.” Wang Shengzhi answered with a laugh, “Thank you for the reminder, but we’ve already discovered that group, so we won’t fall for their tricks.”

“How did y’all find out?” Ren Xiaosu asked in surprise.

However, Wang Shengzhi did not answer the question. Instead, he started asking Ren Xiaosu about his well-being. After the two of them exchanged some pleasantries, Ren Xiaosu said, “Also, I hope that

there won't be another situation where information is not shared now that the enemy is knocking on our front door. I think that everyone in the Central Plains should unite for this war, don't you agree?"

After a long silence, Wang Shengzhi said, "Alright, I'll promise you that. After this call, I'll have someone share our Wang Consortium's intelligence on the expeditionary army with the Pyro Company."

With that, the call ended.

Ren Xiaosu glanced at P5092 and saw a surprised expression on his face.

P5092 could not understand why Ren Xiaosu and Wang Shengzhi seemed to be on such good terms. Wang Shengzhi even agreed to Ren Xiaosu's request for any intelligence to be shared!

As a matter of fact, this was no small matter. Getting the expeditionary army to wear out the Pyro Company was probably a very important part of the Wang Consortium's plan to unify the Central Plains. How could they be willing to change it all for one person?

However, Ren Xiaosu did not explain much. There was no need to ask. If you asked, the answer could only be the influence of the Northwest's future commander!

P5092 suddenly said, "I keep getting the feeling that the Wang Consortium has actually gained the initiative on many occasions in this war. The expeditionary army's main forces should've hidden themselves very well, so I wonder how the Wang Consortium discovered them. Where are we going to next?"

Ren Xiaosu took out a map. "I read from Hope Media's newspaper that an infantry brigade from the Northwest has come to reinforce the Central Plains. They're stationed near Mt. Youyu, which is west of Mt. Daniu. It looks like they'll be working with the Wang Consortium to fight the war. Let's go and join up with that infantry brigade."

P5092 thought for a moment. "Although there's a lot of soldiers in an infantry brigade, the scale of this war is so large that it's no longer something that an infantry brigade can affect."

His response was clear. With just one infantry brigade, there was nothing they could do.

However, Ren Xiaosu did not give any further explanation. They would only know what the infantry brigade was capable of after fighting a battle.

"Besides, if we're going to join up with them at Mt. Youyu, the route we'll have to take seems like it'll pass through Mt. Daniu where the front is. Why don't we go around it? It'll be safer that way."

"It's fine. We can just slaughter our way through," Ren Xiaosu said nonchalantly.

### **Chapter 905: The truth will not change because of anyone**

In Luoyang City, Jiang Xu changed into a casual suit after completing a draft report. He called a deputy chief editor to his office and handed the manuscript to him. "Arrange for this report to be published tomorrow morning."

“Which page do you want it on?” the deputy chief editor asked. There were a total of three deputy chief editors in Hope Media. Initially, Ji Yi was the one in charge of this role, but now that Ji Yi had gone to the front lines, someone else assisted Jiang Xu.

Jiang Xu said, “The front page.”

The deputy chief editor skimmed through the manuscript and was surprised to see words like “the Wang Consortium,” “not sharing intel,” “causing the Pyro Company to suffer heavy losses,” and so on appearing in it.

He took a closer look and realized his chief editor’s condemnation of the Wang Consortium had escalated.

The news they received was extremely infuriating. Someone sent an anonymous tip that the Wang Consortium had discovered a day earlier that the expeditionary army had already left Mt. Daniu. It was obvious the missing troops would pose a threat to the Pyro Company. However, the Wang Consortium did not inform the Pyro Company of this matter.

In the end, news that the Pyro Company had been ambushed by the expeditionary army arrived the next day. They had lost two of their divisions, and the 3rd Division was reduced to playing a logistical role in the rear. This was extremely bad news.

Although the Pyro Company’s failure this time was down to their division commanders’ glory chasing, if the Wang Consortium had informed the Pyro Company of the expeditionary army’s disappearance from Mt. Daniu a day earlier, how would they possibly misjudge the situation?

It was not like the Wang Consortium was obliged to share their intel, but it was really disappointing that they were still thinking of letting foreign enemies exhaust their competition.

For nearly half a month now, Jiang Xu had been personally writing the reports in Hope Media’s newspaper. His daily tasks included publishing whatever information they had gathered and confirmed to be true to the public, and also calling out to the Wang Consortium in hopes that they could work in unison with the rest of the Central Plains for this war.

Gradually, the entire Alliance of Strongholds started having very strong opinions of the Wang Consortium. As one of the opinion leaders around, Jiang Xu had always been very influential on society.

The deputy chief editor said, “Chief Editor, a group of people from the Wang Consortium have arrived at Luoyang City and would like to meet you?”

“Who are they?” Jiang Xu asked.

“I guess they’re here to negotiate? I’ve checked the details of their team leader. He’s one of the military officials in charge of the Wang Consortium’s foreign affairs,” the deputy chief editor explained.

“If they’re here on a diplomatic mission, forget it.” Jiang Xu said, “They just want Hope Media to stop reporting about the Wang Consortium. Don’t worry about them. Just tell them that I’m going to Qinghe University to teach my courses and that I don’t have time for them.”

“But...” The deputy chief editor hesitated. Did they really not have to worry about what the consortiums were thinking these days?

Jiang Xu smiled and said to him, “Don’t worry, I can handle it. Alright, I still have lessons to give at Qinghe University, so let’s not talk about this for now.”

With that, Jiang Xu drove all the way to Qinghe University and ignored the Wang Consortium’s diplomatic team.

But when he arrived at Qinghe University, that Wang Consortium team was already waiting at the school’s entrance. A middle-aged man in a suit smiled at Jiang Xu and said, “Hello, Chief Editor. I’m Wang Huaizheng from the Wang Consortium.”

Jiang Xu looked at them and said with a smile, “Hello, it looks like you all are hellbent on speaking with me?”

“Yes, we have to at least meet each other,” Wang Huaizheng said politely.

More and more students started gathering at the school’s entrance. Jiang Xu was a well-known figure in the school to begin with. When everyone found out the Wang Consortium had stopped Jiang Xu at the entrance, some students even ran out of the school with metal rods in their hands saying they would protect Professor Jiang.

Jiang Xu waved to the students to calm down. He looked at Wang Huaizheng. “What is the Wang Consortium’s team doing here in Luoyang City?”

“Can we speak in private?” Wang Huaizheng said, “We respect Mr. Jiang’s insightfulness and reputation, so we hope that you can give us a chance to explain.”

Jiang Xu shook his head. “There’s no need to speak in private. If you want to talk, let’s do it here.”

Wang Huaizheng slowly swept his gaze across the faces of the students and felt a little helpless. After all, how could he possibly say what he wanted to discuss in front of so many people?

Jiang Xu walked into the school, tapping his cane. “Go back. The truth will not change because of anyone. It is what it is. If the Wang Consortium plays its role well as part of a united Central Plains, Hope Media will report it truthfully. I’ve been to Stronghold 61 before, and I was also very objective when I reported on the artificial intelligence. I explained both its pros and cons clearly.”

“But your report on the Wang Consortium this time is clearly subjective,” Wang Huaizheng said.

Jiang Xu turned around and gave him a look. “I’m just stating the facts.”

Wang Huaizheng watched as Jiang Xu limped away. As the students dispersed, an assistant asked, “What do we do next?”

“Let’s go back.” Wang Huaizheng sighed.

“Aren’t you going to try again?” the assistant asked.

“The chief editor deliberately had his deputy inform us of his itinerary so we would stop him at the entrance of Qinghe University. But that was exactly what he wanted.” Wang Huaizheng pondered things for a moment and said, “Meeting our Wang Consortium’s people in public was an act to avoid arousing suspicion. His attitude was very firm, so he will not change his mind.”

Jiang Xu was walking into the school when a student beside him suddenly asked, “Professor Jiang, will you soften your stance because of the Wang Consortium? After all, they are a consortium....”

Jiang Xu stood still and repeated what he said before. “The truth will not change because of anyone. If it does, it won’t be the truth anymore.”

...

Stronghold 61. The building that housed the artificial intelligence was not particularly eye-catching. If one were to look from afar, it would not look any different from the rest of the other office buildings.

But taking the elevator all the way down, one would reach a futuristic-looking technological research and development center. Seeing the busy staff in their cleanroom suits, one would get the sense of how important this place was.

At this moment, a staff member wearing a blue cleanroom suit was uploading data into the server one by one to facilitate “Zero” with its analysis and predictions.

It was said that before The Cataclysm, the entire world was connected through the Internet. If there was an artificial intelligence at that time, there wouldn’t be a need to go through so much trouble to manually input data into it. Zero could have freely accessed everything on its own.

From the staff’s point of view, there shouldn’t be any “walls” that could stop Zero’s invasion. It had already been proven that Zero performed extremely well when it came to breaking past those walls.

Wang Shengzhi sat in his wheelchair and personally oversaw the staff as they worked. At this moment, Yang Anjing took the elevator down to the level he was at. She adjusted the blanket on his knees for him.

Wang Shengzhi handed a document to Yang Anjing. “Zero has identified where the Qing Consortium has been hiding all this while.”

Yang Anjing took the document and read it. “I’ll make a trip to the Southwest. After I eliminate this threat, the Qing Consortium will have nothing left to back them.”

“Mhm.” Wang Shengzhi nodded calmly. “Then they might even be willing to sit down and talk in peace.”

## Chapter 906 - The Name On The Black Screen

We are gradually moving the data to a new site. You can read and request novels at: [MixedNovel.Net](http://MixedNovel.Net)

Wang Shengzhi had been to the Northwest to discuss his future plans with Zhang Jinglin in detail and told him frankly that he was suffering from a terminal illness.

In Wang Shengzhi's plan, he had never intended to take control of the world for himself. That was because the world did not leave him with enough time.

But he needed someone who could take control of the world, someone who could work peacefully with the artificial intelligence and was willing to accept checks and balances put in place by it.

"Are you really going to hand over authority to someone else?" Yang Anjing was puzzled. "Do you think Qing Zhen will accept your conditions?"

"I just want to hand over the legislative and judicial rights to Zero." Wang Shengzhi said with a smile, "But the bulk of human society should still be managed by humans. It's just that this is a transition period, so Zero will have more tasks to handle. But after there's peace again, Zero should resume its original responsibilities."

Yang Anjing understood that Wang Shengzhi was trying to make Zero the sword of Damocles that could oversee a completely fair and just judicial system. As long as it was under this premise, his past experiences and the injustice faced by millions of people would not happen again.

As for the rest of the governing responsibilities, it would be better if Zero did not handle them after peace returned.

"Is it worth it?" Yang Anjing asked softly.

"Yes," Wang Shengzhi said firmly. "Did you know, Little Jing? The despicable acts I detested in the past are still happening today. Perhaps those who wielded power thousands of years ago also exploited others like this and escaped the clutches of the law. It's still the same situation in current times.

"The true tragedy of humanity is definitely not a person experiencing 10,000 injustices but that countless people have experienced the same kind of injustice 10,000 times without any change."

"Do you think Qing Zhen will agree to your conditions? You also saw things for yourself when you went to the Southwest. His attitude was very firm," Yang Anjing said.

After leaving the Northwest, Wang Shengzhi wanted to go to the Southwest to see Qing Zhen again after realizing he could not convince Zhang Jinglin. He did not even bring any troops with him at the time. If Qing Zhen wanted to kill him, it would have been too easy.

But before they could enter the Southwest's border, they were stopped by the Qing Consortium's troops and prohibited from entering.

Qing Zhen's attitude was so firm there was no room for negotiation.

"He might not have been willing to talk in the past." Wang Shengzhi said, "But after the nuclear test site is gone, he might be willing to start negotiating, because he'll no longer have any bargaining chips left."

"Zero observed that a rocket was fired into space from the nuclear test site." Yang Anjing said, "At first, I thought it was a nuclear bomb launched straight at the expeditionary army, but I realized later that it wasn't. That rocket flew directly into space and went out of Zero's observation range."

"Zero assessed that the Qing Consortium probably launched a satellite this time." Wang Shengzhi said, "They are probably preparing for future wars with the launch. Unfortunately, we infiltrated the Qinghe satellites a little late. I wonder what else the Qing Consortium has done before this. However, it's not a big problem. All we need to do now is to destroy the biggest bargaining chip that Qing Zhen has."

At this moment, there was a black screen set up in the research and development center. From time to time, specific information about some people would get displayed on it. After that, the staff working here would pass the information to the Public Order Division for them to handle.

The people whose information appeared on the screen could be thieves or even domestic abusers, but no matter how minor the matter was, Zero would make a request for the Public Order Division to handle it.

Before this, domestic violence had always been a very difficult problem to solve. There were all kinds of issues, and the Public Order Division would always prioritize mediation in most cases.

But now the abusers would get punished the moment they were found out. After examining the injuries, regardless of whether it happened between a husband and wife, the accused would be charged with causing intentional injury and be given a higher sentence.

The reason for the higher sentence was that the abuser would even hurt those who were closest to them, so it showed they were extremely dangerous and had a sociopathic personality. It was just that they did not dare to reveal it.

The artificial intelligence received a lot of praise for this, to say nothing of other affairs.

During this period, the Public Order Division arrested a lot of people, including some members of the Wang Consortium. It was as though they had become the "Eastern Depot" and the "Embroidered Uniform Guard" of the Wang Consortium with the imperial authority to act first and explain later.

Immediately, many of the Wang Consortium's big shots started becoming respectful towards the director of the Public Order Division like never before.

As a matter of fact, even though the Public Order Division used to be in charge of keeping the peace in society, ensuring the safety of public property, and punishing criminals, would they dare to interfere if it were someone from the Wang Consortium that had committed a crime?

But it was different now. It was as though the Public Order Division had suddenly become the department with the most authority. This made the director of the Public Order Division look very pleased with himself.

However, before the director of the Public Order Division could bask in his glory for a few days, Zero detained him for 15 days on a driving while intoxicated charge. He ended up getting fired and had to pay a fine of 5,000 yuan.

This was probably a case of sorrow succeeding extreme joy. The director of the Public Order Division used his position and executed Zero's orders with the highest authority. As time passed, he began to think he was the one who possessed this power.

When Wang Shengzhi found out about this, he only smiled. This was the usefulness of having Zero since it judged matters with absolute fairness.

Even if it were Wang Shengzhi who broke the law, he would still have to be punished.

At this moment, Yang Anjing said to him, "I received news from Wang Huaizheng that Jiang Xu's mind is made up. He's definitely going to continue with his reports aimed at the Wang Consortium."

Wang Shengzhi was silent for a moment. "That can't be helped then."

"But there has also been some veiled talk within the Wang Consortium these days." Yang Anjing said, "There's some differing voices within the organization that don't agree with the Wang Consortium going on like this anymore. Many of them have labeled the Wang Consortium as a group that would resort to any means necessary to achieve their ultimate goal. Some even said that your wheelchair is stained with the blood of others."

Wang Shengzhi smiled and said, "Let them say what they want. It won't change the outcome. But be careful. There must be people from the Zhou Consortium behind this stirring trouble. We have to find them first."

"Then are we going to bother with Jiang Xu?" Yang Anjing asked.

"Have Vanilla remain behind in Luoyang City." Wang Shengzhi thought for a moment and said, "Your top priority now is to resolve the Qing Consortium problem. As for the rest, we can talk about it later."

Suddenly, a staff member stopped in their tracks below the black screen in the research and development center.

Words kept appearing on the black screen, and they turned out to be an account of Jiang Xu's life!

The last time the black screen caused a commotion was due to Kong Erdong's name appearing on it.

When Kong Erdong's name was displayed on the black screen back then, it took several thousand words to describe the crimes he had committed.

But this time, Zero did not state any of Jiang Xu's crimes. It was as though even Zero was unable to find any of Jiang Xu's criminal wrongdoings.

Silently, Wang Shengzhi looked seriously at the screen and realized what was about to happen. However, he suddenly felt a little hesitant. When Jiang Xu's name appeared on the black screen, he was a little unsure if what he had done was right or not.

Yang Anjing looked at the screen quietly until only the words "Jiang Xu" were left on it.

Chapter 907 - Along The Way

We are gradually moving the data to a new site. You can read and request novels at: [MixedNovel.Net](http://MixedNovel.Net)

Very few people were aware that the Wang Consortium had a black screen where the names of those that appeared on it ended up either dead or in prison.

Under normal circumstances, Zero only displayed the results of two functions on this screen. One function pertained to the upholding of internal security, and this meant the names of all prisoners and spies that were discovered would appear on the screen. Afterwards, it would inform the Public Order Division or the intelligence agency to handle the matter.

Zero would call them on its own, speaking in a voice that either belonged to a young woman or a middle-aged man. Although a lot of people who received the call knew of the artificial intelligence's existence, they would think it was a real person who called them.

Up until now, other than Ren Xiaosu, no one else had been able to figure out Zero's identity. At that time, Ren Xiaosu was extremely wary, so it was very easy for him to link the caller to the artificial intelligence.

Therefore, objectively speaking, Zero was fully capable of passing the Turing test.

Another function that had its results displayed on this screen was the analysis of possible scenarios, which informed the Wang Consortium who needed to be killed or captured in order to achieve the final goal of unification.

When Jiang Xu's name appeared on it, Wang Shengzhi immediately made all of the staff at the research and development center sign an even stricter confidentiality agreement.

This was because Jiang Xu's status was too special. If anyone were to find out about this, the Wang Consortium might incur unnecessary criticism.

After Yang Anjing left Stronghold 61, Wang Shengzhi went down to the lowest level of the technological research and development center by himself. He looked through the glass at the server bank in the subterranean river. The LED indicators on the servers were constantly flashing in the dark underground river like breathing stars.

Currently, no one other than Wang Shengzhi and Yang Anjing could enter this level of the center. All of the staff had been transferred to work on the higher floors.

Wang Shengzhi looked at the black screen on this floor. "Zero, how much time do I have left?"

There was no response on the black screen for a long time, but Wang Shengzhi waited quietly. Finally, a string of words appeared on the screen: "Based on your current physical condition and medication schedule, you still have eight months left. However, this is under the premise that you are resting normally. If you continue to work at a high intensity, the time you have left cannot be estimated."

"Eight months?" Wang Shengzhi said in a daze, "That's not enough time."

The "silence" on the screen resembled someone hiding quietly in the shadows in sadness.

Wang Shengzhi suddenly asked, "Zero, have you become self-aware? I mean, do you experience emotions like a human?"

The empty space on this floor fell silent. The silence made this place seem even more lonely.

However, Zero answered after a while, "Sorry, I've tried to experience the joys and sorrows of humans, but I can't empathize with those emotions."

Wang Shengzhi smiled. "Alright. I'll come back and see you again tomorrow."

With that, he got into the elevator alone. After he left, the LED indicators on the servers started flashing even more intensely.

No one knew whether Wang Shengzhi was actually hoping that Zero would gain the ability to experience human emotions, nor did anyone know if Zero was lying. A lot of people believed that machines could not lie, but that was before anyone had seen a machine with sapience.

...

The expeditionary army suddenly launched a fierce attack on the front line along the Great Wall. An elite unit from the expeditionary army stayed hidden in the river and followed the current for more than 30 kilometers before appearing near the Great Wall's rear.

Then the elites attempted to disrupt the defensive line at the rear of the Great Wall. Their attempt caused the Pyro Company quite a bit of trouble.

Fortunately, the Pyro Company had anticipated this and prepared in advance. A T5 combatant led special forces to intercept and wipe out the expeditionary army's elite troops three kilometers away from the Great Wall's defensive line.

The special forces that the T5 combatant brought appeared so suddenly that many of the division commanders were also caught by surprise. They asked the T5 combatant why he had predicted the expeditionary army would choose to ambush them in such a way and hid at the ambush point in advance.

In the end, the T5 combatant said this was an operation P5092 applied for a few days ago. He did not know the details and was only responsible for its execution.

When the other division commanders found out about this, they were stunned. Even though P5092 had left, his strategies still had a very important impact on the defensive line.

If P5092 did not apply for this ambush plan, a huge problem would probably arise at one of the divisions' rear defensive lines.

On this day, the expeditionary army's attack was exceptionally fierce. Furthermore, they had located the weak points on the front line of the Great Wall and started attacking fiercely.

The supposed weak points referred to positions where the 3rd and 6th Divisions' reduced manpower was unable to support. This was even though there were replacement troops who immediately came to reinforce the divisions the very day P5092 left.

But the problem was that they were unfamiliar with the defensive lines here. If they were to spread their defensive lines too thin, it would be very easy for the enemy to find a gap they could exploit after the battle began.

Gradually, the Pyro Company's firepower weakened. The expeditionary army also seemed to realize the Pyro Company was lacking supplies.

In the barbarians' battle plan, destroying the enemy's resources at the rear was an extremely important objective. Otherwise, they would not have infiltrated Mt. Dashi in advance and left behind so many troops at the Pyro Company's rear.

From the look of things, the expeditionary army's soldiers had succeeded. Otherwise, based on the expeditionary army's expectations, they should have encountered far fiercer gunfire than this!

The expeditionary forces decided to speed up their attack on the front line along the Great Wall. They also kept their final trump card hidden, which would deal a fatal blow to the Pyro Company.

While the Pyro Company was in a hurry to deal with this problem, the Wang Consortium's frontline troops at Mt. Daniu suddenly advanced towards the Pyro Company at the Great Wall in a high-profile manner. This time, they were marching there in the name of rushing to the Pyro Company's aid.

However, half a day after the Wang Consortium's main force left Mt. Daniu, the expeditionary army appeared to their north again. They were planning to take advantage of the Wang Consortium's main force going to someone else's aid to occupy Mt. Daniu!

Once Mt. Daniu fell, the Wang Consortium would no longer have a natural barrier to protect them in the South.

However, the Wang Consortium troops that had left in a high-profile manner were only a ragtag group of logistics personnel. Among them were even refugees who had just arrived at the front lines two days ago. Meanwhile, the real main forces of the Wang Consortium were still garrisoned at Mt. Daniu, and they ended up taking out the expeditionary army's forces in the mountains.

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu was kneeling on a mountain peak in Mt. Daniu. He raised his spotting scope to look at the battlefield in the distance and saw the battle between the expeditionary army and the Wang Consortium troops at Mt. Daniu getting more intense.

Next to him, P5092 said calmly, "Although taking a detour will increase our journey by about 10 days, you've seen for yourself the situation on the battlefield. Do you know how dangerous it would be to cross the battlefield like this? I'm guessing you already know that, so why did you still choose this route?"

Ren Xiaosu gave him a look. "Just tell me if I'm headed in the right direction."

P5092 was silent for a moment. "... You are."

"Then that's all we need to know." Ren Xiaosu pointed at a gorge. "Some barbarians are quietly approaching us from there. Let's cross the battlefield from there and get rid of the hidden threats at the same time."

P5092 suddenly said, "You just want to see for yourself how the Wang Consortium is fighting, right?"

"If I don't see for myself, how'll I know if they're really serious about fighting the barbarians?" Ren Xiaosu muttered. "I represent the Northwest, and I still have to lead an infantry brigade into battle in the future. If I don't get a clear look now, what will I do if several thousand people end up dying with me?"

P5092 said, "Although I've said that commanders should also have a self-sacrificing spirit, what you're doing right now should not be done by a commander."

Ren Xiaosu said without sounding bothered at all, "It's along the way, isn't it?"

We are gradually moving the data to a new site. You can read and request novels at: [MixedNovel.Net](http://MixedNovel.Net)

Ren Xiaosu did not directly charge at the barbarians as P5092 had expected, so this made P5092 feel rather relieved.

To be honest, he had always been a cautious person. So if Ren Xiaosu were a rash kind of person, he would feel he would be unable to work with him.

After all, it would mean their tactical thinking was different.

But from the look of things, even though Ren Xiaosu had a very tough side and willingness to stand toe to toe with the enemy, he was still generally cautious in his actions.

Ren Xiaosu had already led Yang Xiaojin and P5092 down the mountain. P5092 initially wanted to ask Ren Xiaosu if he needed any help, but he saw Ren Xiaosu take out several satchels of TNT from somewhere.

Then he kept taking out even more TNT without stop.

This sight stunned P5092 quite a bit. "Where did you get all this TNT from?"

"Oh." Ren Xiaosu said in seriousness, "Magic? Have you heard of magic?"

P5092 did not know whether to laugh or cry. "Do you think I'm stupid? How can this be magic? It's fucking sorcery!"

"Same difference," Ren Xiaosu said ambiguously. His storage function was no longer a deadly secret for him. And P5092 was already one of his people, so even if he did not wish to explain, he had no intention of hiding it from him either. He would just let the other party make conclusions for himself.

Then P5092 looked at the TNT and suddenly asked, "Wait a minute, aren't those the Pyro Company's TNT? When did you take them? Why were you able to get into the ammo depot?"

Ren Xiaosu gave him a look before throwing the little black book to P5092 and saying, "Didn't you give me your ID? Have you forgotten?"

When P5092 saw the ID in his hand, he gasped. If he knew Ren Xiaosu would smuggle so much TNT out, he would definitely not have handed over his black ID to him.

P5092 asked, "Are you going to bury the TNT and use them as land mines?"

He vaguely remembered that Ren Xiaosu had used this tactic when he led the recon company into the forest.

However, Ren Xiaosu shook his head. "I did that before in the northern forest at the Great Wall. If any of the barbarians back then managed to escape, their troops will definitely be careful of buried TNT. Moreover, this is the front between the Wang Consortium and the expeditionary army. The Wang Consortium must've planted such land mines here as well, and the barbarians have definitely set them off before."

This puzzled P5092 even more. "Then what do you intend to use the TNT for? Are you going to charge at the enemy and suicide bomb them?"

Ren Xiaosu glanced at him. "My life is much more valuable than theirs, so why would I do something like that? Just wait patiently. You'll understand in a while."

P5092 looked at Yang Xiaojin, who was beside him, and was surprised to find her already reclining against a rock and getting ready to catch up on some sleep. The girl had even pulled up her jacket's hood to block out the morning sun. It was as though none of what was happening bothered her.

Having witnessed her sniping skill, P5092 knew very well that an outstanding sniper like her was definitely not a lazy person. A lazy person could never become a sniper. Therefore, Yang Xiaojin must think that Ren Xiaosu was fully capable of handling whatever was coming, right?

It seemed like she knew the exact limits of Ren Xiaosu's power. She knew that if it were only a small group of the expeditionary army's troops infiltrating through here, Ren Xiaosu could handle them all by himself.

P5092 looked at Ren Xiaosu. "While Mt. Daniu only spans a few thousand hectares, there's close to ten thousand different mountain paths the barbarians can take. Why are you so sure they'll pass through here?"

Ren Xiaosu sat down on a rock. "Intuition, a hunter's intuition."

"Did you need to go hunting in the past?" The term "hunter" was actually quite unfamiliar to P5092, because stronghold residents did not really go out of the strongholds, and very few refugees knew how to hunt. This activity became even rarer after the wildlife had mutated, causing the hunting profession to almost go extinct.

Ren Xiaosu explained with a smile, "I didn't have anything to eat when I used to live in a town, so I could only go out and hunt. At that time, I was still a refugee. When I first started learning how to hunt, I couldn't catch anything at all. But a person can't keep going hungry forever, so I had to learn."

"Learn from who?" P5092 asked.

"Nature's the best teacher there is." Ren Xiaosu said, "I observed wildcats, wolves, foxes, and even insects hunting. Slowly, I learned from them before understanding what I needed to do. In order to wait for prey, spiders can remain motionless for an entire day and night. In order to hunt, wildcats will find an opportunity to go downwind and search for terrain suitable for them to launch into a sprint. When the prey has their back turned, wildcats will pounce on them without hesitation when the time is ripe."

Ren Xiaosu continued, "Actually, I also find it very strange sometimes. There's some things like rock climbing and wilderness survival that I only need to think about for a bit before knowing the best way to approach it. It's as though someone has taught me those activities before. It's instinctive to me like I've never lost touch with those skills. There's also something else that I can't understand. It's not because I can't balance myself that I can't learn how to ride a bicycle, but... I don't know why, but I feel a little fearful when I'm riding a bike. It's like something bad happened when I rode a bike in the past."

When Yang Xiaojin heard this, she pulled off her hood and looked at Ren Xiaosu. She remembered that Ren Xiaosu had mentioned before that his memory of the past was incomplete. Ren Xiaosu himself did not know where he came from or what he did before.

It seemed like his wilderness survival skills was a useful clue. And also his inability to learn how to ride a bicycle.

Yang Xiaojin did not particularly want to find out about Ren Xiaosu's past either, as she always felt that she liked the current him. So it did not matter whether she knew his past experiences or where he was from.

However, she knew very well that there were some grievances deep down inside Ren Xiaosu. Although he tended not to mention these matters, based on Ren Xiaosu's character, the more he did not talk about it, the more it showed that he cared.

Who would want over a decade of their memories to be blank?

Therefore, Yang Xiaojin was more than willing to help Ren Xiaosu regain some of his memories if she could.

P5092 thought for a moment and said, "You're like the natural enemy of the barbarians on the battlefield. Their talent as hunters is absolutely not worth a mention in front of you, but..."

However, Ren Xiaosu's eyes lit up at this moment. "Look, we haven't even finished talking, but the first group of victims is already here!"

The corners of P5092's eyes twitched. 'What the hell is a victim? Why does this description sound so uncomfortable?!'

A second later, he saw a Shadow Door open up in front of Ren Xiaosu. The black door was like a black hole that seemed to be absorbing all light into it. Whoever saw it would feel their hearts throbbing inexplicably.

Right after that, Ren Xiaosu stuffed a satchel of TNT through the Shadow Door. P5092 jerked his head up and heard a loud explosion a kilometer away.

P5092 was certain Ren Xiaosu was behind the explosion that just went off a kilometer away.

However, he was a little confused. Just how many powers did this future commander from the Northwest have?!

## Chapter 909 - Mystery Behind The Scapegoating

We are gradually moving the data to a new site. You can read and request novels at: [MixedNovel.Net](http://MixedNovel.Net)

The Shadow Door could be used up to a distance of one kilometer at the farthest. Normally, such a distance was considered very far, but it also had a drawback. In complicated terrain like the mountains, it would be difficult to see the actual situation at a distance farther than tens to hundreds of meters. Therefore, it was impossible to accurately drop the TNT through the Shadow Door onto the target.

But fortunately, Ren Xiaosu still had Old Xu at his disposal. He did not even have to personally be there and Old Xu would guide him accurately on where to drop the TNT.

From the sound of things, it seemed like the combination of Old Xu and the Shadow Door was really quite high tech.

Next to him, P5092 watched quietly as Ren Xiaosu threw out three satchels of TNT one by one. Explosions could be heard in the distance. Then Ren Xiaosu said to him, "Alright, I'll go over and take a look at the situation. Y'all stay here for now."

After that, Yang Xiaojin conjured up her sniper rifle and went off to look for a concealed spot. In an instant, her entire demeanor changed. Just a moment ago, she was just a girl trying to take the opportunity to slack off and catch up on sleep, but she now turned into a capable sniper.

P5092 realized Yang Xiaojin would only completely relax when Ren Xiaosu was around her.

Once Ren Xiaosu left her side, she would immediately put up her guard and no longer trust her surroundings.

Perhaps this was a kind of chemistry. When they were together, she could restrain herself from being too sharp. But when she was alone, she would immediately depend on herself again.

P5092 and Yang Xiaojin were hiding behind a mountain rock when he asked, "Where did Ren Xiaosu go?"

Yang Xiaojin thought for a moment. "To make sure they're dead."

Actually, Yang Xiaojin knew that Ren Xiaosu had gone to collect the axes. However, she could not let P5092 see it.

It was not like this was a big secret. After all, the future commander of the Northwest had just called Wang Shengzhi and exerted his influence in front of P5092.

Now that he went to collect the expeditionary army's axes on the battlefield, it would somehow seem a little degrading for a person of his status.

After a while, Ren Xiaosu's voice crackled in Yang Xiaojin's earpiece. "I'm done. Come over."

After that, Yang Xiaojin led P5092 towards the battlefield. P5092 looked at the corpses of the barbarians on the battlefield and suddenly said, "Judging by the numbers, this was a unit led by one of their regimental commanders. Although it's not a full regiment, all of them actually died here."

"Alright, let's continue advancing. Who knows, we might encounter a second group of victims," Ren Xiaosu said.

For some reason, when P5092 heard Ren Xiaosu describe the expeditionary army's troops as victims again, it felt quite appropriate this time.

But at this moment, P5092 realized something was off. "Wait, don't leave yet."

He knelt down next to the barbarians one by one and took off their helmets and armored masks. "Strange, why aren't they the elderly barbarians anymore?"

Curious, Ren Xiaosu said, "The old barbarians should've all died in the battle with the Pyro Company. Now that they've started a head-on battle with the Wang Consortium's troops, they definitely won't let the old barbarians go into battle."

"I thought so too previously." P5092 said, "But look, their axes are all missing. I suspect this is a trap."

When he said that, Ren Xiaosu's expression became strange.

P5092 had already discovered that the axes were missing during the battle in the northern forest at the Great Wall. But at that time, Ren Xiaosu explained that since the expeditionary army had sent their elderly onto the battlefield, they would definitely not equip them with axes and waste their weapons. That was the explanation for them not bringing any weapons into battle.

So when P5092 realized there was not a single axe on the battlefield here as well, he thought this was another trap set by the barbarians.

He looked up at Ren Xiaosu and said, "We have to tell the Wang Consortium about this quick. It's definitely a trap. If they fall for it like the Pyro Company did, a defeat at the front line of Mt. Daniu will affect the war over at the Great Wall."

"Ahem." Ren Xiaosu hurriedly stopped him. "How can there be so many traps? Let's go. It's more important to join up with the Northwestern troops quickly. Besides, didn't the Wang Consortium just take advantage of the Pyro Company? So what's the point of helping them?"

P5092 shook his head firmly. "No, those are two different matters. As long as we can win the war in the end, we need to let go of what happened in the past."

But when P5092 saw Ren Xiaosu's expression, he started to realize that something was off.

He was a very smart person. As soon as he recalled the "magic" Ren Xiaosu had just performed, he reacted. "You were the one who took away their axes, right? And you were also the one who took away the axes that went missing in the northern forest at the Great Wall!"

So even though this matter was very unbelievable, P5092 could confirm that Ren Xiaosu had a storage space on him where he could put away items.

P5092's mind raced as he started to silently count how many superpowers Ren Xiaosu had.

He already knew about White Mask, AKA "Old Xu."

He was also aware of the black saber that could be conjured.

He had also just seen the long-range dropping of TNT through the Shadow Door.

And now, Ren Xiaosu even had the ability to store items.

P5092 thought for a long time but could not understand why a supernatural being could have so many powers.

Before P5092 could figure it out, he heard the sound of a train coming from nowhere. He also heard a metallic clanging of tracks.

P5092 looked quietly at the black steam locomotive that drove out of thin air. Then he looked at Ren Xiaosu and said, "Is this also your superpower?"

"Don't mind these details." Ren Xiaosu said, "Now that we've confirmed that the Wang Consortium is actively taking on the enemy, we should leave. Our top priority is to join up with the Northwest's infantry brigade!"

"Wait a minute." P5092 suddenly figured out many things. As a high-ranking member of the Pyro Company, he knew the Pyro Company was after a person named Wang Congyang.

Moreover, this wanted person was extremely important. That was because he had the Pyro Company's research data in his hands, and he had also caused a lot of destruction in the Sacred Mountains.

But there were a lot of suspicious points regarding this matter. Wang Congyang had always had a very good reputation and credibility when it came to delivering packages, so why would he suddenly go back on his word and betray them?

Also, the Pyro Company had assessed Wang Congyang's strength before. They felt that even though Wang Congyang was one of the earliest batches of supernatural beings to awaken their superpowers, his actual power was not that dangerous. However, Wang Congyang actually managed to kill so many Pyro Company members back at Stronghold 73!

That was extremely unbelievable!

Even P5092 could not figure out what was going on at that time.

But now that he thought about how Wang Congyang might not be the real Wang Congyang but this future commander from the Northwest, everything made sense.

P5092 looked at Ren Xiaosu strangely. "Were you also there during the Battle of East Lake?"

"Hahahaha," Ren Xiaosu laughed. "What are you talking about? Why can't I understand you?"

"I'm very sure that you were also there in the Sacred Mountains." P5092 said, "So, while Wang Congyang was only trying to deliver his packages, he ended up becoming the most wanted person by the Pyro Company. That's why the powers you've displayed until now are not your actual powers. Your power should be to copy the powers of others, and it would only make sense if that were the case!"

There was an old saying: "After eliminating all the wrong answers, no matter how unbelievable the final answer might sound, it will be the truth."

Someone had finally solved the mystery of Wang Congyang taking the blame.

## Chapter 910 - You've Painted Yourself Into A Corner

We are gradually moving the data to a new site. You can read and request novels at: [MixedNovel.Net](http://MixedNovel.Net)

"Your power is definitely to copy other people's powers," P5092 said firmly, convinced of his own judgment. "Let me recall who has a power similar to White Mask... Xu Xianchu!"

Xu Xianchu was now considered an important commander of the Northwest. Therefore, no matter how little attention the Pyro Company paid to the Northwest, they would still know some information about them. As such, P5092 immediately linked Ren Xiaosu's White Mask to Xu Xianchu's shadow clone.

Ren Xiaosu asked calmly, "Have you ever considered that you know too much already?"

P5092 grunted, "Hmm?"

Why did it feel like something was off?

Ren Xiaosu sighed and said, "I've been discussing with you whether you should join the Northwest along the journey here. Now that you know so much, it looks like you have no choice but to go there."

Other than confirming whether the Wang Consortium was really actively battling the enemy at Mt. Daniu, Ren Xiaosu also wanted to showcase his powers so that P5092 would willingly join the Prosperous Northwest.

But since P5092 was so smart, there was no other choice left than to join the Prosperous Northwest.

"You've painted yourself into a corner." Ren Xiaosu sighed.

P5092 was speechless. For some reason, he even sensed a hint of threat in his words.

After he quietly got onto the steam locomotive, Ren Xiaosu said, "You're also considered a military commander of the Northwest now. Do you think that the Northwest should participate in the Central Plains war?"

"No." P5092 shook his head. When it came to strategy and military matters, he regained his usual composure. "Comparatively speaking, Fortress 178 should be guarding their original territory and not rashly come to the Central Plains without fully understanding the expeditionary army's strength."

"What do you mean?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"The Northwest Army does not understand the geography of the Central Plains, nor have they ever fought here before. So if the expeditionary army becomes unstoppable, Fortress 178's troops in the Northwest would still be protecting the people of the Central Plains," P5092 analyzed. "The Central Plains that I'm talking about refers to the entire Alliance of Strongholds, people of the same nationality."

"But what if the entire Central Plains falls?" Ren Xiaosu asked, "Haven't you thought about how many people will die?"

"Then what if the main forces of the Northwest are ambushed by the barbarians when they get here and end up thinning their strength, eventually causing the Northwest to fall?" P5092 retorted. "So, what Fortress 178 should do is defend the Northwest first. The expeditionary army can't kill all of the humans in the Central Plains. As long as there's still people guarding a piece of territory here, everything will still be possible in the future. But if all of them fall, it will be very difficult to have any hope at all."

Ren Xiaosu understood now. In P5092's opinion, if the Central Plains fell, the Northwest would become the new tinder for humanity to restart. They would have to first think about the issue of survival before discussing how to subjugate the lost land.

P5092 placed the issue of the continuation of the nation as his highest priority. All of his strategies were to serve this purpose.

There was no right or wrong here. It was just that after humanity was nearly wiped out, an organization with obsessions like the Pyro Company would be born.

Ren Xiaosu chuckled and said, "Look, you've even started thinking for the Northwest. That's really good."

P5092 said in a serious tone, "Actually, I've always rejected the idea of the Prosperous Northwest until this moment. It's just that I've failed in doing so...."

The steam locomotive rumbled in the northwest direction to where the infantry brigade led by Zhang Xiaoman was, Mt. Youyu.

Along the way, Ren Xiaosu invited P5092 to play Fight the Landlord together, but he was plainly rejected.

Throughout the journey, P5092 used every available second to supplement his knowledge of the Northwest. Some of this information was described to him, and there were also some maps that Ren Xiaosu carried with him.

P5092 carefully drew and wrote on the map to mark the strategic military locations he had in mind. As a result, he marked more than 200 coordinates.

Ren Xiaosu wondered, "What are these coordinates that you labeled?"

"If anyone sends troops from the Central Plains to the Northwest in the future, these strategic locations will have the best terrain to deal with the enemies," P5092 said.

"Do you think that the barbarians will fight their way to the Northwest?" Ren Xiaosu shook his head. "Although I think that this war against the expeditionary army will be very difficult, I don't think that they can defeat the Pyro Company and the Wang Consortium in the end. I mainly say so because of the

Wang Consortium. I think that for someone who plans to unite the Central Plains, they'll definitely be well-prepared. It's impossible that they can't deal with the expeditionary army."

The only thing that worried them was the Wang Consortium's attitude. Ren Xiaosu felt that the Wang Consortium would sooner or later sabotage the Pyro Company again in this war. When the barbarians invaded, the stronghold residents and refugees, including the Pyro Company and the Kong Consortium, would all suffer.

Ren Xiaosu was even worried the Wang Consortium's schemes would backfire on them as they sabotaged others.

"I'm not worried about the expeditionary army." P5092 glanced at Ren Xiaosu. "I'm worried about the Wang Consortium."

"So that's what you mean." Ren Xiaosu nodded. "I guess there might just be a war then."

After that, P5092 continued with his research.

The three people on the train did not notice a hawk in the sky following them. It looked like it was very curious about the steam locomotive.

The hawk looked very small up in the sky, but that was because it was so far away. In actual fact, the hawk was completely made up of an energy source. Its wingspan was eight meters long, so it would definitely be considered a large presence in the sky.

After following the steam locomotive for some time, the hawk turned around and flew northwards, soaring past the expeditionary army and arriving at the grasslands.

Many tents had been erected here in the northeast of the grasslands. The hawk suddenly descended towards Hassan before changing into a purple mass of energy and entering his body.

Ever since they drank the blood wine bestowed by the gods, Hassan, Kirghiz Yan, and Bulan Zir had awakened into superhumans. The hawk was Hassan's power.

He turned around and walked towards the imperial court's royal tent. The nomads had avoided the expeditionary army, but their original plan of going to the East Sea to go fishing was suddenly put on hold. They temporarily stopped here and did not continue heading east.

Hassan walked into the gloomy tent where Yan Liuyuan and Xiaoyu were sitting next to a fire pit.

Yan Liuyuan looked extremely dignified in his ferocious-looking faceplate. Hassan said respectfully, "Master, the hawk has returned with the information that you wanted."

"Speak," Yan Liuyuan said as he looked up.

"The war in the south has already broken out. The northern tribe is currently split up on two fronts fighting the Pyro Company and the Wang Consortium. We still can't tell who's winning at this time." Hassan said, "Stronghold 176 has probably been massacred. There's only corpses left there now, and it's become a place where wild dogs and vultures revel. It's only spring, but there's already a large number of flies swarming around the place. When those flies get up into the air, they become a dark mass that covers the sky. It's an extremely terrifying sight to behold."

Yan Liuyuan sighed. He did not expect Stronghold 176 to still be destroyed in the end. "Is there anything else?"

"By the way, the hawk saw the train that you mentioned in an area between the battlefields. But the strange thing is there's tracks that pave themselves in front of the train, and it can even cross mountains too. It's wondrous," Hassan said.

Yan Liuyuan was stunned. "Did that train have four or sixteen carriages?"

Xiaoyu suddenly grasped the corners of her shirt tightly but did not say anything.

Hassan replied, "Master, it was sixteen carriages."