

L Hero

Chapter 1141 New Blueprint and World Tree Progress

Word of the Black Star Cup incident spread around the universe rapidly. Tons of insults toward Manison appeared, but Manison did not respond at all. He completely ignored Han Xiao.

The popularity of news could only last a few days usually, which was even more true in the galactic society. News about the Black Star Cup lasted for a while in after dinner conversations, then followed the pattern and gradually faded out of popularity.

However, the army elites who became famous during the Black Star Cup gained a solid reputation that did not fade away. The base members had seen more army officers. The members in various Grades were given a position on the list of the strongest individuals.

For example, among the Calamity Grade officers, Hadavy was publicly recognized as number one, and Jotina number two, and so on according to the results they achieved in the Black Star Cup. As for those who did not participate or forfeited, the public were unaware of them.

After the closing ceremony ended, Han Xiao returned to Black Star Palace to deal with all sorts of affairs and settled Destiny's Child's sub-body Rody down to carry out all kinds of studies.

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Initially, he wanted to try and have 'Second Generation EsGod' Evans make an attempt to absorb Destiny's Child' sub-body, but after some pondering, he abandoned this plan.

Firstly, it was still unconfirmed whether the sub-body transformation of Destiny's Child was considered an Esper Gene awakening or a physical mutation phenomenon. Evans' Esper Ability could only target the former and not the latter.

Secondly, Destiny's Child was very mysterious, and the Information Form was a very deep and complex territory. Han Xiao was not sure if Evans would suffer from any side effects after absorbing it. He might even turn into a new sub-body, so he did not want to take the risk.

"I'd better ask the Holy Accord organization. They're the experts."

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Inside the lab, Han Xiao looked at Rody, who was sleeping inside the cabin, and shook his head.

The extent of how mysterious Destiny's Child was exceeded his abilities. He was not an expert in this area. He had yet to find a way to resolve Rody's sub-body transformation. The only thing he could do for now was to use regular Information Form Restrainers to stabilize Rody's body and slow down his transformation speed as much as possible. Han Xiao touched his chin. Speaking of which, the new date of the deal with the Holy Accord organization was quite soon. As long as he completed the trade, he would be able to freely spill the secrets of the Holy Accord without any worries.

For this, he had already operated on the Holy Light Particle in advance. After that, the Holy Light Particle had shrunk completely inside Aurora and isolated itself.

“Including the two Universal Treasure blueprints from Holy Accord, as well as two from the federation, I’ll have seven Gold blueprints...”

Han Xiao opened the interface and looked at it. Some time ago, he had released the last two Beyond Grade A captives of the federation and received the bailing fee for them—two new Universal Treasure blueprints.

One was equipment for the Mechanical Deity. It was called ‘Titan Spinal Center’.

The Mechanical Deity was formed by assembling countless mechanical soldiers, so it could change into any shapes or forms, basically like a pile of mechanical slime. What connected all the parts of the Mechanical Deity was Mechanical Force and special magnetic fields that acted as the neural network of the Mechanical Deity. The bigger the Mechanical Deity was, the more energy it consumed.

As the name suggested, Titan Spinal Center was a tool that acted as the body center. It would be installed inside the Mechanical Deity. Following the user’s mind, it could become a full bone structure in different forms. Human forms, beast forms, and all kinds of forms included. It would support the Mechanical Deity’s body. Controlling the Mechanical Deity with Mechanical Force through this device, which built a neural network for the Mechanical Deity, would largely decrease the energy cost and extend the duration one could use the Mechanical Deity.

As Universal Treasure Grade class-exclusive equipment, of course, it also provided all kinds of bonuses. The Titan Spinal Center could comprehensively enhance the basic strength of the Mechanical Deity, making it strong and faster than other Mechanical Deities of the same size. Also, it enhanced various abilities as well as the user’s Machinery Affinity.

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Not long ago, during the fight with Manison, Manison’s Mechanical Deity that was equipped with tons of Universal Treasure Grade equipment made Han Xiao very jealous. He felt like he was like a blank piece of paper in comparison, and the Celestial Punishment Edge in his hands did not feel as powerful anymore. Therefore, he decided to obtain more Mechanical Deity equipment, as the Mechanical Deity was the strongest trump card of Mechanics at this level. For others, it was a temporary last resort because its cost was too high, but for him and the Mechanic Emperor, they could both use it as a regular combat method. Hence, the more exclusive items the Mechanical Deity had, the better.

The other Gold blueprint was a special device called ‘Mechanical Territory’. From its effects, it seemed similar to Beyoni’s Land of the Fire Core and the Extinguish Army’s Land of the Ice Core. It was even somewhat similar to the Evolution Cube.

This was a large device that could increase the machinery production efficiency, mechanical life form enhancement chance, machinery power output, and so on within its range. It was a territory-type equipment. To Beyond Grade A Mechanics, the best way to use it was to put it in their machinery civilization or the Dimension Factory. It was basically like the machinery version of Evolutionary Totem. However, the requirements for building it were rather tough. The fundamental principle of this device was the Secondary Dimension Theory, by forming a territory that had special operating rules within its range like the advent of a secondary dimension. Therefore, the core material of it was the core fragment

of a secondary dimension-the higher the quality, the better. Furthermore, depending on the fragment, the product would also possess a small part of the secondary dimension's special traits.

There were countless unstable new secondary dimensions born every day, so core fragments were by no means in shortage. The only problem was the harvesting of it since the dimension might collapse after its core fragment was taken. Nonetheless, with money, these were all non-issues.

Han Xiao had an Evil Convergence core fragment in his hands, so he could use it on this.

"Two new blueprints, both with quite good effects. Most importantly, after I successfully build the finished products, I'll be able to get two more God's Trait Transformation Points... In addition to the deal with Holy Accord, I'll obtain four in total."

Han Xiao was excited and almost wanted to immediately isolate himself inside the factory for days on end.

Beep beep!

At this time, his communicator rang.

It was surprisingly a call from the dynasty's Exploration Army Commander, brother Tarrokov.

"What's up, Old Tar?" Han Xiao glanced at him and went back to what he was doing. The two of them were very close, so there was no need to be formal.

"I've got some news regarding what you previously asked me to ask around about," Tarrokov said.

Han Xiao's movements paused.

Not long ago when the two of them chatted, he had asked Tarrokov to ask around the dynasty's science institute about their progress on the study of the wormhole coordinates EsGod left behind. He was worried that that was the trigger to Aesop's prophecy. "What about it?"

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"They have made several breakthroughs." Tarrokov's answer made Han Xiao's heart skip a bit.

"... Any details?"

"They've already confirmed which area this wormhole coordinates led to in the unexplored universe, but they have yet to find the accurate location, only a rough range." Hu, so they did not fully discover the World Tree or get discovered by the World Tree. That's still fine.

Han Xiao was secretly relieved but also troubled.

The later the three Universal Civilizations came into contact with the World Tree Civilization, the better it would be for him. This was his biggest wish at this point.

He did not dare expose the existence of the World Tree Civilization because given the three Universal Civilizations' character, once they knew there was a powerful civilization in the unexplored universe, they would undoubtedly make contact with it actively and prepare for it in advance.

Emphasizing the danger of the World Tree Civilization would not work either, and explaining why he knew the details was not even the biggest problem. The problem was that the three Universal Civilizations might become more cautious and wary because of his reminder, but they would certainly not give up making contact. If they knew that there was a dangerous advanced civilization in the unexplored universe, they would not wait till the other side found them but would surely attack first.

Therefore, no matter how he leaked any accurate information about the World Tree Civilization and what method he used, it would only make the time when the two sides made contact come sooner.

EsGod was already sealed, so no one but him knew anything about the World Tree in the explored universe. He was the only one who could influence the World Tree version's overall path, and he had to be cautious.

"How did the dynasty react to this?"

Unsuspecting, Tarrokov said, "The upper echelons did not react to it much. The study project of these wormhole coordinates isn't a secret, which is why I could ask around about it in the first place... EsGod has been captured for decades. He's already in the past. Most of the studies about him are not important right now."

"Then, what does the science institute plan to do?"

"Continue to search for the accurate coordinates, of course. Although we don't know why EsGod treated this set of coordinates so importantly, the science institute will most likely do what was already done before. They will try to activate a wormhole with a fixed coordinate, throw a few detectors over, and wait for the results to come back."

Han Xiao hesitated before subtly saying, "I think that this kind of study should be stopped temporarily. The unexplored universe is full of danger, so no one knows what they'll find there. Now is the crucial time when the three Universal Civilizations are competing with the Super Star Cluster Alliance. If an incident similar to the Intelligent Plague happens again, it's going to be very bad for the dynasty."

Tarrokov looked at Han Xiao suspiciously and said, "Everything you said is filled with concern about this project. Do you know something?" "If I say it's my intuition, will you believe me?"

"Hehe." Tarrokov fake laughed, expressing he was absolutely not convinced, then continued casually. "I'll pass on your suggestion. As for whether they listen to it, it doesn't have anything to do with me."

"That'll be enough."

"Alright, I'll go do my things then. Also, don't forget to attend the three Universal Civilizations' award ceremony in two months' time."

"Hmm."

Han Xiao nodded, turned off the communication, and Tarrokov's remote projection disappeared.

After a short pause, he gave the order to the team escorting the Holy Light Particle that they could depart now and head to the agreed location to carry out the deal with the Holy Accord. It was located in the free competition zone of the Flickering World.

“The day of the deal is about to arrive.”

Inside a certain secret base of the Holy Accord organization, Oathkeeper opened his eyes and looked at the officers below him.

“Was the emissary carrying out the deal dispatched?”

“He was sent out long ago, absolutely loyal and reliable.”

“I don’t just want loyalty but also capability. I know Virtual Mechanics all too well. Black Star will certainly use the opportunity to attempt to track us, so we must be prepared. Has the emissary’s escape route been prepared properly?”

“The Black Star Army’s forces are too powerful in the Flickering World, so it’s not suitable to spark any conflict. We’ve already equipped the emissary with Information Form Invisibility Coating. As soon as he gets his hands on the item, he’ll activate the coating and evaporate from the spot.” “What about the guards?”

“There are guards but not many, only to prevent accidents from happening on the way there... After all, any number of guards will be meaningless in the Black Star Army’s territory.”

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“Hmm... not bad.” Oathkeeper nodded with satisfaction and said, “As long as the Holy Light Particle is acquired, we can start to fuse the Third Sanctum Key and start the preparations for the awakening ceremony. Therefore, after we complete the deal, we’ll fully enter ‘The Darkest Time’ and completely cut off any of our connections with the outside world... I’ll meet Black Star one more time after the deal is completed, probably for the last time. There most likely won’t be any need for us to cross paths in the future.”

“Understood!”

Hearing the subordinates’ response, Oathkeeper grunted and started daydreaming.

Honestly, if not for the deal, he did not even want to see Black Star’s face.

Even till now, he was still confused about who leaked their information. Did the spy or traitor exist at all?

Chapter 1142 Flawless Deduction

The deal location agreed by Han Xiao and Oathkeeper was a certain transit station planet in the Flickering World’s Dawn Star Cluster.

Feidin was appointed as the deal emissary, representing the army to wait and meet with the Holy Accord organization’s emissary there. The entire process would be monitored by Han Xiao from the headquarters.

Oathkeeper had also used spiritual projection long ago to meet with Han Xiao. The two of them both maintained communication to ensure that this deal would be carried out smoothly, clearly showing sincerity. Inside the office, a virtual screen hovered on the table and played the footage from the

surveillance camera. Inside the footage was a prosperous area with a lot of people. Feidin stood beside the wall of a building wearing a mask, looking at the pedestrians passing by. The Holy Accord emissary had yet to arrive at the designated location.

“When will your man arrive? We’ve been waiting for almost two hours.” Han Xiao leaned back in his seat and looked at the screen with boredom.

“Soon.”

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“You’ve said that seven times already.”

“... Really soon this time.” A while after, a man also in disguise finally appeared on the screen carrying a silver alloy suitcase. He walked right toward Feidin. The two of them met, but neither carried on to the next step.

“Is he the emissary?” Han Xiao asked.

“That’s right. What you want’s in the suitcase.” Han Xiao nodded, contacted Feidin, and told him to exchange the item. Oathkeeper also used his ability to give the same order. The two people on the screen received the order and exchanged the items right away, then backed off a few steps to check them. An armor suddenly appeared on Feidin’s body, shrouding both him and the suitcase. The next moment, with a flash of light, he disappeared right on the spot and suddenly appeared in Han Xiao’s office.

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“Here’s the stuff.”

The armor opened up, and Feidin placed the suitcase on Han Xiao’s table. This was the King mechanical suit Han Xiao had temporarily lent to Feidin. The Throne was in his hands to ensure he would take the item right after the deal was completed.

Han Xiao opened the suitcase, and cold air flew out. Inside were two cylindrical containers that contained two clusters of Primal Esper Ability Entities. One was green, and the other was blue. There was also a data storage device beside the two containers. Han Xiao turned it on and looked at it. It stored the data for two Gold blueprints. Everything Oathkeeper had promised in the deal was there. This time, a notification also popped up on the interface.

Primal Esper Ability Entities Acquired: 4/4

[Primal Esper Ability Collector] Milestone requirements met.

Effects: When you fight Espers, all your attributes will increase slightly. -12% to 20% damage received from Espers. You have received 1 (The Third Sanctum) Ability Fragment.

The mission is completed, which means these two were real.

Han Xiao was relieved. He waved at Feidin.

“Go back.”

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The three-minute duration had yet to end. He activated the King again and sent Feidin back to the location of the deal.

Oathkeeper turned and looked over. "Black Star, how is it?"

"Hmm, there are no problems. What about you?"

"What you gave me was indeed part of the Holy Light Particle."

Han Xiao raised his brows and extended his hand.

"So... nice deal?" Although Oathkeeper's spiritual projection had no physical form, he still made the gesture to shake Han Xiao's hands and said, "Nice deal."

The next moment, the Holy Accord emissary on the screen seemed to have activated some device and disappeared all of a sudden. "Oh? Your man fled really quick. Are you that worried about me?" Han Xiao asked with a joking tone. "Caution is a necessity." Oathkeeper did not deny it.

Seeing that his emissary had followed the plan strictly and left the scene, Oathkeeper finally heaved a sigh of relief and relaxed his tense nerves.

This deal was extremely important for the Holy Accord, and he was worried about a lot of things. Most importantly, he was worried about Black Star not fulfilling their agreement and attempting to chase the Holy Accord emissary by any means necessary. Now it looked like Black Star had no such plan, and the deal was carried out smoothly. With the Holy Light Particle, the success rate of opening the Third Sanctum would basically reach their expected percentage. Oathkeeper suppressed his excitement and said, "I will remember Your Excellency Black Star's generosity. Since the deal is complete, it's time for me to leave."

Every time he made contact with people like Black Star, it was a risk. The more he spoke, the more information he might leak.

Luckily, there was no need to ever make contact with Black Star anymore in the future. All Oathkeeper wanted to do now was immediately turn off the spiritual projection and never meet Han Xiao ever again.

Since Oathkeeper had always contacted Han Xiao using the method of spiritual projection, this meant that only he could contact Black Star while Black Star could not contact him. As long as he never contacted Black Star ever again, Black Star would never have the chance to see him in the future. At this time, Han Xiao suddenly smiled and said, "Don't be in such a rush. Who knows when we will meet again? Let's chat for a while. Also, I have some questions I'd like to ask you before you leave." Oathkeeper's heart skipped a beat. Oh, come on, why do you have questions again? You asking questions make me panic, every time! Oathkeeper tried to be patient and said with a cautious tone, "... Ask on then. I'll answer as much as possible." Han Xiao narrowed his eyes and smiled faintly.

Just like Oathkeeper, he had nothing to worry about now that he already had what he wanted from the deal.

After he acted like he was pondering for a few seconds, he decided to start from the questions that would probably shock Oathkeeper the least. "Do you... know about Destiny's Child?" Oathkeeper's eyes turned around, and his entire body became stiff.

Animal! What have you discovered again? He started into Han Xiao's eyes, hoping to figure out what he was thinking. However, Black Star's clear eyes were filled with sincerity, as if he was really just asking casually. Unable to calm his emotions down, Oathkeeper suppressed his shock and asked, "Why are you suddenly asking me? Did something happen?"

"Well, there's no need to hide it really. I once met a special individual who called himself Destiny's Child. Sadly, he died in a nuclear explosion. Then, not long ago, I came across a similar individual. After some investigations, I discovered that there seems to be a Primal Esper Ability called Destiny's Child that exists in the universe. It seems to be able to transform some life forms into special sub-bodies. You guys happen to be the experts in studying Primal Esper Abilities, so I came to consult you."

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"That's it?"

"What else? But from the way you reacted, your Holy Accord organization seems to know quite a lot of things." Han Xiao sized Oathkeeper up and wondered, "Could it be that Destiny's Child is in your hands? The way your emissary disappeared earlier does seem similar to Information Form-related technology. That was invented by you guys too, wasn't it?"

Oathkeeper was having a headache. He regretted his overreaction earlier. It was like he was infected with Black Star PTSD.

"It's not, nonsense."

"Really?"

"Nope." Oathkeeper denied it completely. "Alright then, I don't really care if it's in your hands I just want to know some information. You guys specialize in studying Primal Esper Ability Entities, so you guys definitely know something, or you wouldn't have asked me back earlier." Han Xiao tapped on the table, his tone casual. He looked like he believed what Oathkeeper said, but actually, he was about sixty percent sure that Destiny's Child was in the Holy Accord's hands from Oathkeeper's reaction. Nonetheless, Oathkeeper would certainly not admit to it, so the Great Mechanic Han decided to not continue asking. The most important thing was to ask about the mechanisms of Destiny's Child.

Oathkeeper pondered with resignation, selected some information, and said, "Destiny's Child is a very ancient Primal Esper Ability. We don't know much about it either. Most of what we know came from the other Primal Esper Ability Entities. It's said that Destiny's Child's ability is related to the changes of Information Form and strings of fate, and it has an unbelievably powerful foresight ability. "Strings of fate are also called 'cause and effect' in some cultures. Like a huge net, if you touch one of the strings, the vibrations will certainly pass onto more strings. Therefore, every time it uses its ability, Destiny's Child will have to read a lot of information and carry out an analyzing process similar to computing large groups of data. It is able to calculate the various possibilities and results that a certain event can produce, then use that to foresee the future.

“In this process, in order to read the so-called strings of fate, it will release special Information Form particles to collect information, and these particles will often cause information state disturbances. They will produce partial projections of themselves in random information bodies, take over part of their information, and that is how the sub-bodies are born. The targets are mostly life forms.

“Some Primal Esper Ability Entities say that Destiny’s Child can turn into a High Dimensional Information Form. If it doesn’t want to be discovered, no one can discover it. That is why no one had been able to capture it even till now... Therefore, you having met two sub-bodies is purely because you were lucky.” Han Xiao’s eyes sparkled, and his thoughts spun quickly. The information of Destiny’s Child Oathkeeper provided was almost identical to the mechanisms he had speculated it would have. However, he felt that Destiny’s Child’s ability did not stop there. Just foresight? Probably not! Since Destiny’s Child could produce sub-bodies, could it produce something else? Or even change the direction the strings of fate would take? There were many forms of the so-called ‘information state disturbance’, even physical mirages. Han Xiao did not forget how the Domino Virus that caused the Intelligent Plague appeared. In Version 1.0, the information he obtained from the Germinal Organization said that the ability of their Destiny’s Child was ‘influence’ over the future, not just ‘foreseeing’ the future. Han Xiao once thought it was only because the natives were not knowledgeable enough, but now that he thought about it, that might not have been a misunderstanding. Han Xiao asked a few more questions, to which Oathkeeper said he did not know, clearly not willing to expose more information.

Seeing this, Han Xiao had no choice but to change the topic. He narrowed his eyes and casually said, “By the way, last time you told me about how your spiritual projection ability works. After that, I did some research. There seems to be a Primal Esper Ability called Soul Flame that fits what you said.”

Hearing this, it seemed like this was no secret. Oathkeeper surprisingly nodded and said directly, “That’s right. I’m the master of Soul Flame.”

“Hmm, I did some further research following this information, and it seems like the last Soul Flame master in the universe was a Beyond Grade A Esper nicknamed Soul Emperor. His name was Rovell Sissock... Do you happen to know him?”

Then, Han Xiao stared closely at Oathkeeper, wanting to see every slight reaction he had. However, Oathkeeper did not look surprised at all this time and said, “I’ve heard about him too, but I don’t know him.”

Han Xiao frowned in his mind. Unlike the question about Destiny’s Child, Oathkeeper did not have any strange reaction to this question. He did not know if this was because Oathkeeper was completely mentally prepared about it, or Oathkeeper did not care about his identity being exposed, or he guessed wrong and Oathkeeper was not that Soul Emperor who might have faked his own death. Han Xiao then asked, “Since Soul Flame once spent time with this master, it must know more. Help me ask it then...”

Han Xiao felt weird as soon as he asked this. It sounded like asking a man to ask his current girlfriend about how her ex-boyfriend was.

“About what?” Oathkeeper did not agree nor disagree. “Hmm, I’m very curious about after Soul Emperor died, who took Soul Flame, and how did you obtain it?”

Oathkeeper's tone became slightly more serious, and he said, "Don't you think these questions are too personal?"

"As a man of science, is it wrong for me to be curious?" Han Xiao used a very justifiable excuse. Oathkeeper shook his head with resignation and said, "Alright, I know you're curious about who I am, and you think I'm Soul Emperor or one of the Beyond Grade As who killed Soul Emperor back then and took Soul Flame. But you've guessed wrong. I'm none of them. I did not rob Soul Flame from anyone. When I met it, it was already free, and it took me some effort to acquire it."

"Then can you help me to ask it, what did it experience after Soul Emperor died?" Han Xiao then asked.

"...It's not willing to say." Oathkeeper shook his head. He suddenly paused for a moment before saying, "However, it told me that Soul Emperor did not die in battle. Since you've already looked at information about him, I won't go into detail. Anyway, during Soul Emperor's last battle, his body was indeed destroyed. However, due to the specialty of his Esper Ability, his soul did not die and escaped. As for where he went, Soul Flame has no idea either."

Han Xiao pondered. He did not know if what Oathkeeper was true, but from his tone and the content, it did not seem like a

lie.

In Han Xiao's previous life, Soul Emperor did not revive, which meant that there was a very high possibility he was still alive. If Oathkeeper was not Soul Emperor, then who was? Could it be that he had run into the secondary dimensions and was never able to come back?

"Do you have any other questions? If not, I shall leave."

Oathkeeper was getting impatient.

He did not want to continue chatting with Han Xiao. He had more important things to do now. All his mind was focused on the awakening ceremony. The promise of many years was finally going to be fulfilled, so he did not want to wait another second.

To him, chatting with Han Xiao for a while was already very respectful, or he would have directly deactivated the projection and left right after the deal was complete. He would never come into contact with him again in the future anyway, so he did not mind being rude. "Alright, you do indeed have more important things to do. I won't delay you." Han Xiao stood up, did a farewell gesture, and deliberately sighed. "Sigh, buddy, I have quite a good impression of you. After you leave this time, god knows when you'll contact me again. I won't say much. When you revive the Primordial Ones, remember to send my regards to them."

Oathkeeper's movement to deactivate the spiritual projection stiffened in an instant.

The entire spiritual projection suddenly trembled like radio noise, which represented the extreme emotional turbulence Oathkeeper was going through. The sudden shock made Oathkeeper's spiritual frequency lose balance, so much so that he suddenly lost full control of his ability! He opened his eyes wide with disbelief.

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I have already investigated all the upper echelons. There are no spies at all!

When this thought appeared, Oathkeeper was suddenly stunned. Wait, I've fallen into a thinking blind spot. There's actually one upper echelon left who has not been investigated! Someone once said, when you have eliminated all possibilities, no matter how unbelievable and impossible the last possibility is, that's the truth.

Therefore...

Am I the spy?

Oathkeeper's brain exploded.

Chapter 1143 Purpose and Partnership

"H-how did you..."

Oathkeeper's heart was heavily shocked, and his mind was in a bit of a trance. He was filled with questions.

Black Star definitely knew this secret all along but had been hiding it, and I was totally fooled. This b*stard is so evil! Seeing Oathkeeper was appalled, Han Xiao looked surprised. "Hmm? Why are you still here? Weren't you leaving?"

"I know you don't want to leave me, but since you're in such a hurry, you'd better go back quickly."

"Act-Actually, I'm not in that much of a hurry. We can chat for a while... a while more..." Oathkeeper laughed awkwardly. This dog is definitely doing this purposely! How can I leave before I find out the whole truth? Han Xiao's words made Oathkeeper immediately give up on wanting to leave as soon as possible. Instead, he insisted on staying and making sure his questions were answered. "Since you're so enthusiastic, it'll be rude for me to refuse you then." Seeing that Oathkeeper looked emotionally unstable, Han Xiao stopped kidding and invited him back to his seat.

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Oathkeeper took a deep breath and cautiously asked, "So you know about our goal. Where did you hear about it?"

Black Star directly pointed out the Holy Accord's purpose, so he knew that there was no point in hiding it anymore. Furthermore, he felt that Black Star definitely had a motive, or he could have hidden the fact that he knew about this. Deliberately exposing their goal did not seem like something an enemy would do. He wondered what Black Star was planning. "I have my intelligence channels." Han Xiao gave a perfunctory answer, clearly expressing that he would never reveal his sources. Oathkeeper did not hold any hopes for it anyway. If he was in Black Star's position, he would not expose who the spy was either. Oathkeeper had no choice but to clench his teeth and accept that. He said, "Since you already know our goal, what are you planning?" He put himself at the lower position, which he had not done in a very long time. If he was facing an ordinary Beyond Grade A, Oathkeeper would most likely have thought of killing him. However, facing Black Star, he really did not have complete confidence he would be able to-Black Star was too damn tanky.

On the other hand, if Black Star wanted to, he could leak this intelligence out any time he wanted. Since his weakness was in Black Star's hands, he had to be cautious.

"What do you think I'm planning?" Han Xiao smiled faintly.

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"I don't know." Oathkeeper had several guesses, but he did not dare to say them out loud.

From the way he looked at it, there were only a few reasons Black Star would do this, including extortion or interrupting. It was not like Black Star only did this to scare him out of boredom... right? "Why not take a guess?"

"... I have no guesses."

"Tsk, you're so boring." Han Xiao shook his finger. "Why are you so nervous? Since I did not reject your deal, don't you understand my stance?" Oathkeeper's eyes flickered. "You're saying... you don't plan to stop us?"

"Why should I?" Han Xiao crossed his arms, narrowed his eyes, and said, "I'm the leader of the Black Star Army and the three Universal Civilizations' Special Consultant, but I'm also the vice president of the Beyond Grade A Association. If you'd paid attention to the Meeting of the Gods a few years ago, you'd know that the Mechanic Emperor and I have come to an agreement..."

Oathkeeper hastily thought back. Suddenly, a flash of insight passed through his mind and cleared the fog. "You're saying... there are too few Beyond Grade As?"

"That's right. The Mechanic Emperor and I both said that. Now you understand." Han Xiao smiled.

Oathkeeper suddenly felt that everything made sense now, and most of his questions got answered.

No wonder despite knowing our goal, Black Star still chose to let it happen. This might be the only chance of tremendously strengthening the Beyond Grade A level in the short run, so it fits his goal. However, Oathkeeper still had some questions.

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"I thought you were on the side of the three Universal Civilizations. I didn't think you'd do this."

"That's just because of the promotions recently. Of course, in terms of overall stand, I'm on the same side as the three Universal Civilizations, but that doesn't mean I've become their vassal. I stand against Mechanic Emperor only because his methods are too radical, but we both have the same wish for the total number of Beyond Grade As."

"So, you plan to work with us on a deeper level?"

"That's right. I won't stop you from executing your plan, but I have my demands too. I hope that the Beyond Grade As you revive will all be on my side."

Oathkeeper nodded before shaking his head. "This isn't that simple. They all have their own minds. Even if I'm the one who revives them, they won't become my puppets."

“By the way, I’ve always wondered, why do you guys want to revive the already dead Beyond Grade As?” Han Xiao asked.

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He had been curious about this question in his previous life. Logically speaking, the Holy Accord organization should have been very ambitious since they revived so many extremely strong individuals. However, the Holy Accord and the Revivors only appeared to fight the World Tree Civilization during the World Tree war, and they seemed to appear just because they had no choice. God only knew what they were doing before.

As for that group of Beyond Grade As who were revived during the Calamity of the Supers, he was still unsure whether they also came from the Holy Accord. “Because of a promise, an oath...” Oathkeeper’s voice became low and spoke in a storytelling tone. “Tell me about it.” Han Xiao was very curious.

Oathkeeper stayed silent for a moment, seemingly hesitating over whether he should leak more information. Then, he thought of his position, and he had no choice but to slowly explain. “The Holy Accord was founded toward the end of the exploration era by some of the Primordial Ones. Our purpose is to revive those who died in the war... Although when we talk about that history now, we say it quite casually, but Black Star, you should understand the frustration of the Primordial One. They spent their lifetime breaking through the limits of individual strength, only to be used as new tools of war, killing each other, dying one after another. “Even if they did not want to take part in the war, the unstoppable tide of the era still dragged them in. You can do some research. How many Primordial Ones met a good end? “At the same time, because we’ve evolved to a new level, countless people envied us, feared us. You know what it’s like. When an individual becomes too powerful, the masses will surely be wary about the individual. This has never changed... We’re just the extreme minority in the universe who are both admired and feared.

“Among the Primordial Ones, some regretted being born in the chaotic war era and hoped to go to the prosperous peaceful era, but they were limited by their life span. Some regretted dying in the war. Even after they were scarified, they tried to be reborn in the future. Therefore, many people started to look for ways to revive them secretly, and these people were separated into different factions. “Some of those people created the Holy Accord organization, and that’s our origin, also our promise...”

“I see...” Han Xiao started pondering.

He could understand why the Primordial Ones hoped to get through the exploration era using the method of getting revived in the future—they had reached the absolute peak of individual strength in the galaxy, yet they had become mere tools of war. At that time, there was no room for Beyond Grade A organizations. Other than the extremely few exceptions, most of them could only become the warriors of civilizations; maintaining a neutral stance was an extravagant wish. Anyone would feel frustrated in their position.

Furthermore, as the Beyond Grade As had just appeared, no civilization did not want to study them further. The environment the Primordial Ones were in was extremely harsh, far less free, safe, and comfortable compared to the modern Beyond Grade As.

The Primordial Ones had thought of all sorts of ways of reviving, and the Underworld might have been one of them, but very few chose to use that method. After all, not everyone was willing to become a subordinate of the sisters who were the former owners of the Underworld, and they were not that reliable either.

No wonder Onicelu said that the two sisters were once invited to take part in a plan related to the Sanctums that probably had something to do with the Holy Accord organization. However, the two sisters rejected it; they did not seem to want to be revived.

Han Xiao caressed his chin and pondered. "So, how do you plan to revive those Beyond Grade As?"

"I-I can't tell you that." Oathkeeper shook his head. Han Xiao said with a dissatisfied tone, "Humph, I can guess even if you don't say it. It probably has something to do with the Sanctums. Come on, I've already made my stance clear. Show some sincerity." Oathkeeper hesitated for a while before nodding solemnly. "Yes, it's the Sanctums. I really can't go into further details now. After I fulfil the promise, I'll share the method with you." Han Xiao curled his lips and changed the topic. "Then let's talk about our partnership. I can provide convenience for your plan and keep it a secret for you, and you will have to give me some things in return..."

Han Xiao then stated his requirements. Resources and intelligence were not the most important. What he mainly wanted to obtain was the way to revive the dead through the Sanctums, as well as a part of the special technology the Holy Accord organization had, while at the same time being on the good side of these Revivors.

Whether Oathkeeper was willing or not, he had no choice but to trust Han Xiao and accept him as a partner. Otherwise, if Han Xiao leaked any of their secrets, there would be even more trouble. Oathkeeper had no certainty that Black Star had no ulterior motives, but he was not to be trifled with either. He did not want to fight now, but he would not be afraid to fight if he had to. The two of them negotiated for a while and settled on the partnership agreement. Oathkeeper had no choice but to leave a stable communication channel so that Black Star could contact him anytime and not just wait for him to contact him.

After all this was complete, Oathkeeper went offline with a belly full of questions. He might have to see a therapist after he returned.

Han Xiao stayed in the office, crossed his legs, caressed his chin, and pondered.

Everything he told Oathkeeper was true but not the whole truth. He did indeed want to increase the number of Beyond Grade As. One reason for that was to make the Beyond Grade As' position more important across the universe while increasing his position in the association, and another was to deal with the World Tree. Aesop's prophecy and the progress of the dynasty's Science Institute led to him having no choice but to prepare in advance and find more helpers.

At the same time, he was also very curious about how the Holy Accord revived the Primordial Ones and wanted to find out more about the Sanctums' functions. Furthermore, he did not wish for the Holy Accord organization and a group of Beyond Grade As to hide out of sight. He suggested this partnership to have a stable means of contacting them, so he could monitor what they were doing.

The last motive was that the Great Mechanic Han wanted to try triggering a mission. He felt that the chance of that was quite high.

And as he expected, a notification did pop up on the interface.

You have triggered the hidden mission (Return to the History Stage] Mission Introduction: You found out from Oathkeeper that the Holy Accord organization's goal is to revive some of the Beyond Grade As who've died in history. You have chosen to work with Oathkeeper. Mission Requirements: Assist the Holy Accord organization to successfully complete their awakening plan. Reward: +25 Favorability of all the revived Beyond Grade As, +1 Legendary Point. Remarks: This mission is a Series Origin Mission. Once accepted, you will have a higher chance of triggering more hidden missions in the same series.

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"Series Origin Mission, meaning this mission is the entry point to a storyline... makes sense. If I did not work with the Holy Accord, what happens afterward would have nothing to do with me." Han Xiao accepted the mission without hesitation.

He had a feeling that this series mission might be related to many version main storylines.

In a certain secret base of the Holy Accord organization, Oathkeeper retrieved his spiritual projection and took a long breath. He was still a little stunned, digesting what had just happened. Law and Fay were standing below and saw Oathkeeper's expression. "Boss, how was it?"

"Did Black Star complete the deal, or did he change his mind?"

Oathkeeper regained focus, straightened his facial expression, and said reluctantly, "From now on, Black Star is temporarily our ally." Law and Fay's eyes widened with confusion. What happened? Why so sudden? The Holy Accord organization has never had a partner. This is the first! Wasn't this just a simple trade? Why have Black Star suddenly become our ally? We've heard a lot of Black Star's excellent skills in making friends. Did the boss fall to him too?

Chapter 1144 Butterfly: Can You Not Make Me Flap My Wings Every Day?

In the dedicated factory for the Army Commander in Black Star Palace, Han Xiao walked in with a suitcase, placing it on the table. He opened the lid with a click, taking out the two cylindrical containers containing the Primal Esper Ability Entities, and held them in his hands.

The emerald green Primal Ability was sticky in texture like a liquid, whereas the sky blue Primal Ability was like a cloud of light mist with icy debris.

The emerald green one was known as 'Natural Spirit Power', which could control various plants and greatly accelerated their growth. It could also call on beasts and possessed various powers of nature, just like a druid. Its frontal combat capability was slightly weaker, but it could extract and synthesize toxins from a variety of plants, which was good for research. The Holy Accord had utilized this ability to cultivate various magical plants and toxins.

The sky-blue entity was named 'Frost Authority', which not only allowed it to manipulate the cold but could also temporarily turn ice and snow into ice golem warriors like a Magic Colossus. It could also produce ice armors and weapons, move with the frigid winds, spreading death through the lack of

heat... It was said that a sufficiently powerful host could even allow it to freeze molecular motion for a short amount of time, creating the effect of freezing time and space. These two abilities are actually pretty good. After all, they're composite Primal Esper Abilities, but their effect is second. The main thing is to activate my milestone, Han Xiao thought to himself.

The (Primal Esper Ability Collector] milestone allowed him to be strengthened when facing an Esper, allowing him to gain innate advantages. The effect was impressive.

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As for (The Third Sanctum) fragments rewarded by the mission. While it seemed useless at the moment, Han Xiao felt that they would come into handy after he obtained the method to open the sanctum from the Holy Accord.

Who should I hand these abilities to?

Han Xiao searched his mind for candidates.

The first choice should be to give it to Evans, as with his talent, he should be able to ignore the issue of adaptability like EsGod and easily master the Esper Abilities.

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However, thinking about it, Han Xiao rejected this idea. Right now, Evans' first mission would be to level himself up and develop his own combat style through absorbing various abilities. If he gave Evans the two Primal Esper Abilities, he would not have any energy to concentrate on his research.

Moreover, with Evans' current level, he had no chance to fight, and the Primal Esper Ability would only be used for display. I should first look for a suitable host among the officers of the army. The last resort should be Evans.

Putting away the two Primal Abilities, Han Xiao opened the data storage and took out the two Gold Grade blueprints that the Holy Accord had given him to look through.

The blueprints provided by the Holy Accord were all relatively old technology, which were likely to have been preserved from the exploration era and not improved on much. One of the blueprints was called 'Psionic Obelisk', which had the effect of energy conversion and formation of energy barriers. What separated it from general psionic shields was that it had an extraordinary resistance to energy attacks and could absorb a portion of damage to restore its shield durability.

But this was only its basic function. The core function of the Psionic Obelisk was to provide a large field of energy that could be borrowed at will without a transmission pipeline. In simple terms, this item could increase the energy concentration of an area to become denser and more active.

Thus, this Psionic Obelisk was equivalent to a magic weapon which could increase the aura concentration of a place, similar to man-made blessings.

Because the Obelisk provided free energy that could be borrowed without any restrictions, it would be no different from what the surface civilization deemed as sacred objects or wonders. The extremely active energy factor would allow individuals to have more ways to utilize energy and also a higher probability of giving rise to other super systems. At the same time, obtaining a large-scale infusion from

the obelisk could result in temporary transformations, allowing an ordinary person to possess combat power. The effect of the Psionic Obelisk could be said to be somewhat similar to the Evolutionary Totem, but their focus was different. The former focuses on increasing the overall energy concentration within the area, while the latter focused on optimizing the genes of the individual. Comparing the two, the Evolutionary Totem was rarer. But this little toy still had its uses. Putting it in each base of the army could improve the training efficiency of the members, spawning more powerful players and at the same time allowing him to sell it for his business. Even if the sales volume might not match up to the Evolutionary Totem, it would still be a good cornucopia.

Because the Holy Accord paid attention to its secrecy, they did not sell their Psionic Obelisks. All of these blueprints were merely accumulating dust in the warehouse. They were not good at mechanical technology, and since they made most of their money through their Esper Ability technology, they chose to provide Black Star with a path to fortune.

In actual fact, the blueprint that the Holy Accord wanted to take out was not this one. Oathkeeper, however, felt that Black Star was an unfathomable person, so he changed it to a better blueprint in hopes that it would serve as a 'protection fee' of some sort.

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The other blueprint was named Getta Hadoken. While it sounded like a pugilist technique, it was actually a sort of compounded attack device.

This device required a combination of the Armed and Energy Branches. It had a complete set of complex equipment, but it was not assembled together like a firearm, scattered instead like an external carrier. Through special methods of energy gathering, compression, and transformation, this would launch a powerful attack, and the issued attack was known as 'Getta Hadoken'.

This equipment was also not a one-trick pony. According to the different operating routes of the device, the Getta Hadoken had many variations, including close, medium, and long ranged combat. Dozens of supporting operation routes were recorded in the blueprint, each operation route representing a method of attack. Each of them had their own unique names with the same prefix of 'Getta'.

"Rather than calling it a blueprint, this thing seems more like a pugilist manual for Mechanics. It seems like this is best suited for Mechanical Pugilists."

Han Xiao scratched his head.

With the Psionic Obelisk and Getta Hadoken being added to the other Gold grade blueprints Titan Spinal Center and Mechanical Territory obtained from the Federation, he finally obtained everything he was owed.

With the blueprints in hand, the next thing to do was to turn them into real objects.

"The public commendation ceremony for the three Universal Civilizations is about two months away. It's a good time to seclude myself and produce the four finished products, obtaining more God's Trait Transformation points... I've been in the limelight too much recently. It's better for me to stay low-key for a short period of time, to digest my influence and stabilize the reputation."

Han Xiao made up his mind, gearing up and hurriedly entering his manufacturing state.

In one of the secret training bases in the Crimson Dynasty, a group of officers were operating equipment in a room full of instruments. One of the walls of the room was a huge transparent viewing window. Two of the senior officers were standing in front of the viewing window; one of them was the supervisor of the base, and the other was the drill sergeant.

The two of them looked down the window, to see an inverted pyramid-like space below. A man was seated at the deepest point hundreds of meters down, releasing strong energy fluctuations and glowing energy particles. It spread around the walls before gathering back on top and falling back down, forming a cycle.

This was a special training facility for Supers that could improve the efficiency of their cultivation. At this time, the person within the facility was Gaud, and the instrument room was actually the monitoring room. The operators present were all paying attention to the energy fluctuations readings of Gaud.

“His progress is fast. This is a good seed.” The drill sergeant stared down at the silhouette below as he nodded in satisfaction.

“That’s right. He’s the most likely talent to reach Beyond Grade A in his class. Not only does he have potential, but his own abilities are extremely powerful. Maybe one day he’ll take on the position of Lord Clotti,” the base supervisor praised.

“Black Star is still in line. It won’t be his turn that soon.”

“I’m just guessing, and besides, Black Star is not of direct descent.”

The two of them conversed softly.

Gaud had already been training for many years, and he was making rapid progress. All sorts of barriers were easily passed, as though he had no bottlenecks. This sublimation in his life level in such a radical way was obviously dangerous, but he gave people the feeling that he was extremely familiar with this path.

In the eyes of both of them, even if Gaud’s talent was not as good as Black Star, who had broken all records, he was not too far off.

The drill sergeant gazed at the instrument’s readings, before exclaiming in amazement, “At this rate, I estimate he’ll enter the Beyond Grade A realm in two to eight years. This is the most efficient person I’ve seen... if we exclude Black Star.”

“It seems like we’re witnessing yet another rise of a Beyond Grade A.” The supervisor laughed, “The upper echelons have already sent down people twice. It seems like they’re very concerned with the progress of Gaud.”

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It was a feat to be able to cultivate a Beyond Grade A of direct descent, so as long as Gaud completed his promotion, the supervisor would also experience a ‘promotion’

After idly chatting a bit more, both men went back to work topics.

“Has the list of new trainees this semester been compiled?” the drill sergeant asked. “It’s been completed. I was preparing to hand it to you.” The base supervisor called up a virtual screen to show a list.

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This secret training base would select talents from the dynasty for a targeted training every once in a while. If there was potential, the dynasty did not mind raising even an infant all the way to the Calamity Grade, branding them a direct descent of the dynasty. Thus, they not only recruited Calamity Grades but also divided them based on different ranks and classes according to their Grade.

The lower their grade, the more intense the competition. In Grades below the Calamity Grade, there existed an implementation system. Either one passed the assessment, or they would pack up and return to the army.

If you cannot make it, then leave. Don’t continue to occupy the pit even if you cannot sh*t.

The name list was quite long, and every one of them was accompanied by a resume and record. There were countless people with varying honors; they were the elites of each fleet.

The drill sergeant looked carefully, and when he came toward the end, he was taken aback. He saw that among the group of elites with gorgeous resumes, there was a person with almost no merits on his resume, and his bearing in his photos gave off a silly air without any class.

“Karlott? Where did this guy come from? Why would the top pick a completely ordinary fellow to come in?”

The drill sergeant had an expression of befuddlement, even scrutinizing Karlott’s resume, but the whole thing basically screamed ‘ordinary’.

While this secret training base did not only recruit elite students, they had to have some characteristics. How did such a guy who was indistinguishable from a grunt get in?

Could it be through connections?

Don’t tell me that even the dynasty’s upper echelons are also corrupted now!

The drill sergeant was heartbroken.

“I didn’t understand as well, so I specifically went to inquire.” The supervisor hesitated. “It seems that Black Star publicly expressed optimism about this person many years ago, but so far, there has not been any outstanding performance from him. The upper echelons plan to give him a chance to see if you can train him.”

“So, it turns out it’s like this...” The drill sergeant frowned. “I feel that this is a waste of space. So many years have passed. If he had the potential, then he would have shown it already. What’s the point of cultivating him with the mentality of a gambler now?”

“If you strongly object to this, I’ll help you pass him on.” The supervisor could not care less. It was not him who was going to teach the students any way.

The drill sergeant frowned as he pondered, finally shaking his head. "Forget it. Since they've decided from above, I'll follow the orders and give him a chance... but I won't deliberately give him any slack. If he cannot pass the assessment, he'll still be eliminated."

There was no such thing as fairness in education here. The drill sergeant only liked the top students and was too lazy to spend energy on the poorer students. He even thought that it was a waste of time to look at them. Concentrating the resources on those top students with outstanding talents was the solution to maximizing resource efficiency.

"That's not bad." The supervisor glanced at the list before saying, "Then I'll put him in the most elite class and give him the most powerful opponent, so he won't stay long. I estimate that he'll leave in the first quarter."

The supervisor had the same mentality. It would not help his political performance to train a poor student into an elite. Only when an elite was trained into a top-tier combatant would they then gain merit.

Thus, he did not mind using his power within the rules to eliminate those poor students with insufficient talents to the greatest extent, in order to free up more places to recruit better potential stocks.

In his eyes, this was the proper use of limited resources, and the survival of the fittest was a natural law.

Within the Crimson Dynasty's Science Institute was the Wormhole Position Project Office.

The Science Institute was divided into many teams with different complex projects. The wormhole positioning was a large project, and any suspicious wormhole data collected by the dynasty was analyzed here.

The wormhole data left behind by EsGod was just one of the goals of the research team of this project, and it was a sample that was not so important.

As the research team leader was calculating the wormhole model in the laboratory, his secretary hurried in.

"Leader, the approval from above has been sent over. They rejected our batch of applications for the wormhole test."

"Rejected?" The team leader was surprised. "Isn't it just a procedure? Why did they stop us this time?"

After deducing part of the coordinates for a wormhole data, a directional shuttle test would usually be performed, and several multifunctional detectors would then be thrown through the wormhole for an on-site inspection and position to establish a more accurate coordinate system. This would allow them to test if there was any deviation in their data deduction, which was a conventional method of experimenting.

The team leader was quite interested in this batch of test samples, which included the wormhole data left by EsGod.

He did not care much about what was on the other side of the wormhole, and the reason was mainly because the sample was extremely difficult to calculate. After finally determining the scope, he was eager to know if his calculation was right.

The secretary pushed up his glasses, hesitantly replying, "I don't know the details, but it seems like this was a suggestion from His Excellency Black Star. The upper echelons thought his words made sense, so the review standards for most scientific projects have temporarily been tightened."

"What is this about Black Star again?"

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"He seems to have mentioned something about the Super Star Cluster Alliance being ready to move. Once a conflict breaks out, the three Universal Civilizations will not have any time to take care of anything else, so it is best to reduce the possibility of any random risks. The management accepted his proposal about our wormhole project."

The team leader could not help but grumble, "Black Star is only a half-baked scientist. Isn't he just causing us more trouble?"

At this moment, one of the researchers carefully asked, "Team leader, then... do we still do the shuttle test?"

Hearing this, the leader huffed in annoyance. "What do you want to do? Without approval from the upper echelons, do you dare study in private? You're really good, not even respecting your superiors. I must correct your teaching. Come here, take this uncalculated wormhole data and do the calculations! If you can't figure this out, then your holiday this year is cancelled!"

"... Eh, so we actually have holidays?" The researcher in question scratched his head in confusion. Then, where have all my past holidays gone?

Chapter 1145 The Third Sanctum and Awakening Project

In the Central Galaxy, the Abyss of Stars, the Shadow Realm...

The planet filled with dark gaseous air was still suspended here, as though it had existed since ancient times.

Streams of light could be seen a distance away from the planet, and a fleet arrived.

The dark planet suddenly became restless, the energy flowing on its surface rumbling and setting off a wave thousands of feet tall. Like shaking off a full body of lice, shadow servants appeared from the waves, ready to launch an overwhelming attack any time.

The spaceship at the head of the fleet suddenly released a burst of black-colored soul flames, which spread rapidly and quickly swept across the dark planet. The next moment, the pitch-black planet turned quiet, and the countless shadow servants returned to the black ocean, merging into the surface of the planet and disappearing.

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Oathkeeper stepped out of the spaceship, hovering in space and staring at the dark planet in front of him whilst speaking through mental fluctuations.

“The date has been brought forward. We must perform the ceremony immediately, otherwise we will not be able to keep up with the agreed date...”

“But I haven’t completely transformed all the materials yet...” “There’s no more time. If I miss the date of this appointment, even if I enter The Third Sanctum, I will not be able to bring anyone back. There’s no set cycle to this date, and I am not sure how many years it will take till the next date. We cannot miss this opportunity.”

“... Alright, I’ll try my best.”

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Oathkeeper nodded before turning to the fleet and commanding, “Prepare to synthesize the final key.”

As he spoke, the fleet moved. They spread out in the four cardinal directions, docking at different positions of the dark planet and forming a specific formation. The armor plates at the bottom of each spaceship shifted to reveal a circular device which let off a hazy light. These lights linked with each other to form a translucent energy cover, encapsulating the planet within.

A silvery white cannon muzzle then appeared from all of the spaceships, aimed toward the dark planet.

In the mental network built by Oathkeeper, the voices of the officers could be heard. “The 12th-level energy stabilization and compression force field has been constructed, and the target has been covered.”

“Transmitter has been activated. All Primal Esper Ability Entities have been loaded and sequenced.”

“Information Form template is loaded. The reconciliation process has been calibrated. The preparations are complete.”

“All standby, wait for my orders,” Oathkeeper solemnly said as he raised his palm.

Everyone stared at Oathkeeper’s palm, holding their breath. Law and Fay as well as the other officers clenched their fists, their chests rising and falling

Seeing that the mission of the Holy Accord over these years would end with the wave of this hand, everyone had some sort of fluctuations in their mood.

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Looking around, Oathkeeper slightly closed his eyes, waving his hand resolutely. “Begin!” Just as he spoke, it was as though they had pressed a start button on a sophisticated instrument. All the operators present had practiced this process thousands of times without any mistakes, and they started to synthesize in strict accordance with the steps of the ceremony.

Bang, bang, bang! The silvery-white cannons shot out colorful beams of light, each beam representing a Primal Esper Ability Entity, which was submerged into the dark planet.

Thousand Shadows’ abilities was the base behind the synthesis. Through its own ability mechanism, it began to compress and fuse the many Primal Esper Ability Entities. The dark planet changed in an

instant, the energy of different entities shuttling and flowing in the black sea on the surface of the planet, as though painting on the canvas.

Various energies of a different nature reacted fiercely, and the color of the dark planet turned brighter, gradually transforming into an incandescent ball, like a super large light bulb.

The force field covering it shuddered violently as it withstood the impact. It flickered uncertainly, trembling as though it would be disintegrated at any time. At this moment, the information form template came into play. It was as if an invisible big hand began to knead the ball of light, changing its shape and shrinking its original volume. Under everyone's eyes, it slowly decreased from a huge planet to a circle not past a hundred meters in diameter. However, the energy density was untold times higher in that slowly spinning circle, so dazzling that it could hardly be seen directly. "Success!"

Seeing this scene, the members of the Holy Accord cheered.

Oathkeeper suppressed the excitement in his heart, loudly saying, "Put in the other keys and open The Third Sanctum!"

The troops acted again, taking out the 'keys' they had gathered before and putting them into the center of this white ball through the traction field. It seemed that there was a special force present within, holding up these objects and making them rotate around the light circle.

When the last 'key' was thrown in, the circle suddenly emitted a bright light, projecting a picture in the cosmic space not far away, like the reflection of the world in a mirror.

Within the picture, there were six vague doors of light, which were also slowly rotating. They did not look far away, but they appeared untouchable, just like a mirage, as though they were in another world.

This scene only lasted for a moment, and five of the light doors suddenly disappeared, the remaining one growing rapidly as though turning from illusory to reality. The edge of the doorway was still shaking slightly and seemed quite unstable. There was only the radiance of the door within the passage, and nothing could be seen on the other end.

"This is the portal to The Third Sanctum. According to the information handed down, the time flow inside is strange. It's not long to the agreed date, and I've to go in early now..." This thought passed Oathkeeper's mind, and he took a deep breath, prepared to fly across the door of light.

At this moment, the white halo that was transformed from the dark planet suddenly trembled violently, and the black mist separated itself, turning into a face. Its mouth opened and let out an unwilling roar, which exploded in everyone's mind.

Buzz!

The sudden changes made the passage of The Third Sanctum turn fuzzy and illusory again, as though it was about to disintegrate any time.

"Thousand Shadows!"

Oathkeeper snapped his head around, his eyes spraying raging Soul Flames that instantly hit Thousand Shadows, burning the mist into nothingness.

This blow completely killed off the remaining consciousness of Thousand Shadows, and now, it was truly dead.

“He indeed counterattacked at the last moment...” Oathkeeper was not surprised and secretly sighed.

The Holy Accord initially wanted to wait until Thousand Shadows’ consciousness was completely swallowed up before performing the ceremony, but the agreed date was pushed forward, so they had no time to wait.

While Oathkeeper could have easily destroyed Thousand Shadows’ consciousness before, under normal circumstances, Thousand Shadows and its ability were one, unable to be forcibly separated. If he killed it, then even the ability itself would be wiped out, removing this Primal Esper Ability Entity forever from this world.

The synthesis ritual was able to eliminate anything superfluous to them, so Thousand Shadows had taken this chance to counterattack. It was only then that it briefly separated, giving Oathkeeper a chance to kill it.

It was just that even though Oathkeeper reduced the influence of the Thousand Shadows to the minimum, it still had a negative impact. Everyone saw that the portal to The Third Sanctum was turning unstable.

Without any delay, Oathkeeper rushed into the passage of The Third Sanctum, only leaving behind a sentence. “Before I’m back, Law and Fay will be the temporary leaders. Keep a low profile until I bring the rest back.”

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The next moment, the passage toward The Third Sanctum collapsed, and the many keys disintegrated.

Other than the Primal Esper Ability Entities, the other keys were basically a one-time use, and what the Holy Accord had spent many years gathering all disappeared into smoke.

As Oathkeeper disappeared, the locators that he specially carried on his body all became invalid, as if they no longer existed in this world.

A little more than a month later. In an asteroid belt somewhere within the Flickering World, two figures, one black and one red, shuttled through it, fighting fiercely.

“Torrent-Getta Hadoken!”

A bright blue ray was emitted, and the asteroids that were along the ray’s path were instantly vaporized and annihilated, leaving behind a blank path.

The red figure teleported to avoid the attack before backhandedly fanning out a red energy wave to retaliate.

The space around them flickered as the two of them continuously exchanged blows. They were Han Xiao and Hila, who were enjoying a routine spar.

The two of them fought against each other many times, so they knew each other's bottom line. Following Han Xiao's hit to Hila's abdomen with a heavy knee drop, he smashed her down so she could not stand up before landing a heavy neck chop with his palm, ending the battle.

"Cough cough cough..." Hila kneeled on a small star as she grabbed her neck and coughed. She said in a muffled tone, "I lost again."

"There's no need to be discouraged. Your progress is already fast enough. The Underworld is really a good thing." Han Xiao felt a little jealous.

Since acquiring the Underworld secondary dimension, Hila's growth rate also began to skyrocket. The faster the Underworld recovered, the stronger her Esper Ability would get.

Thus, in Han Xiao's recent battles with Hila, he had gone as heavy as he could. If he relaxed, Hila would complain that he was going easy on her.

"My improvement is not as fast as yours." Hila stood up, pointing at the floating device beside Han Xiao. "Your new machinery is not bad. Even I cannot eat a few shots of this thing."

"I'm after all a Mechanic. Our systems are different."

Han Xiao smiled as he stowed the Getta Hadoken away.

In the past two months, he had succeeded in creating all four new Gold Grade items from the blueprints. With (100 Million Mechanic Empire-Manison), the success rate and efficiency of creating Universal Treasures had been greatly improved, which greatly saved costs.

The Evolutionary Totem could easily be mass produced, but it was difficult for the Psionic Obelisk. However, Han Xiao managed to produce a batch of finished products, which had been installed in many of the army bases, while the Mechanical Territory was only provided to his Machinery civilization.

The scope of application for the Titan Spinal Center was limited to the Mechanical Deity. Only the Getta Hadoken was the most practical. It was not only adapted to a variety of fighting environments but could also combine various tricks and utilize weapon-like combos, winning the favoritism of the Great Mechanic Han.

The attack strength of the Getta Hadoken depended on the Power Output of the energy core as well as the strength of his own input. It would have an attack enhancement effect, which would increase one's original attack power by a set percentage. Its lethality was impressive-other than concentrated firepower, the Mechanic usually did not have any other methods that could dish out high damage, and the Getta Hadoken made up for this gap to a certain extent.

Every time Han Xiao used this weapon, he could not resist shouting out the name, as though this would increase the strength further.

The two Primal Esper Ability Entities were also dealt with. The Natural Spirit Power found its host, namely Emerald Grass, the director of the Pharmaceutical Research Institute in the Logistics Department. Her abilities were extremely compatible with it, and she succeeded in adapting to the

Entity. As for Frost Authority, it did not manage to find a host, so Han Xiao allowed it to remain as a Mysterious Energy Host for the time being.

After cleaning up the battlefield, Han Xiao casually said, "After a while, the joint award ceremony of the three Universal Civilizations for the Intelligent Plague will be held. Do you want to attend?"

"I didn't participate in clearing the Intelligent Plague. Why would I go?" Hila shook her head. "In fact, you're the one who's going up to receive the award. Are you prepared?"

"There's nothing much to prepare. Isn't it just some ceremonial words? I'll make some up." "Whatever." Hila rolled her eyes. She was normally dignified and grave, almost never engaging with her subordinates in idle chatter. She would only talk more when she was with Han Xiao. "Speaking of which, it seems like the free competition zone is a little weird nowadays." "Why?"

"The fourth exploration phase is estimated to be around eighty percent complete at the moment, and the expansion of the Super Star Cluster Alliance is growing bigger, no longer just content with exploration but also starting to invade and seize the other territories of the surrounding organizations on a large scale. They not only encompass the central zone of the free competition zone and multiple resource rich planets—they've also established a stargate transportation system, connecting multiple borders, obviously with strategic intentions."

Han Xiao did not find that weird as he replied, "It's normal. The Super Star Cluster Alliance is now in preparation. It's estimated that the three Universal Civilizations will soon have a formal conflict with them. They wish to obtain a piece of land to act freely in the Flickering World, and the three Universal Civilizations are unwilling to allow the Super Star Cluster Alliance to do so. With the excuse of free competition and anti-monopoly, the contradictions between the two parties cannot be reconciled."

"Oh... there's also some strange movements of other organizations, including many non-legal Immortal organizations. It seems like they're preparing to move as well."

"Alright, I'll pay more attention to this." Han Xiao nodded. The World Server war was imminent, with the Super Star Clusters seen in the shadows of this event.

Both of them chatted a little more before returning to their respective fleets. Hila returned to the free competition zone, while Han Xiao's destination was toward the planet where the three Universal Civilizations would hold the award ceremony, located in the Dawn Star Cluster, which was the gateway to the Flickering World.

After arriving and announcing his identity, the fleet, led by the Dynasty Guards, took the VIP channel, skipping past the other guests, and docked at the port.

As soon as Han Xiao disembarked, he saw Tarrokov waiting for him.

Both of them walked closer, reaching out for a strong handshake.

"Have you been waiting for long?"

"Not at all, Your Excellency Black Star. You came early."

“Hehe, I have a good sense of time.” After a few greetings, Tarrokov lowered his voice. “Because of secrecy, I could not inform you earlier, but I can now say that the leaders of the three Universal Civilizations are attending this meeting, so you have to be prepared.”

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Han Xiao’s brows jumped up. “You mean...”

“That’s right. They’ll appear in person this time, personally giving you the award.”

Han Xiao felt surprised.

I thought that I would just be here to parade around once. To think that it would be such a huge event.

It seems that the three Universal Civilizations have set their hearts on pushing up my fame!

Chapter 1146 Presenting Honors and Difficulties

After waiting for several days on the planet, Han Xiao witnessed the increase in the planetary security levels. A regular military force arrived, taking over the responsibility of protecting the planet, sealing the line defense, and making it nigh impenetrable.

Around half of the planet had entered martial law, and various advanced defense measures had also been arranged to prevent long-range strikes from threatening the celebratory planet.

While the Intelligent Plague broke out in the Ancient Star Desert, and it was more reasonable for the ceremony to be held there, the three Universal Civilizations took into account the fact that many of the Beyond Grade As were currently in the Flickering World and changed the venue, quoting symbolic significance. After all, this was another major exploration result of the galactic civilization after so many years. The leaders of the three Universal Civilizations attended the ceremony together, which was a rare scene. Due to their sensitive identities, such an event would generally be held in the Central Galaxy rather than other Star Fields. Even with careful security, life was unpredictable, so leaving the Central Galaxy was undoubtedly a risky move.

Han Xiao was sure that there would be some organizations with ulterior motives moving around. While the three Universal Civilizations had a mature operating system, such that their government would not be disturbed much even if their leaders were assassinated, there would still be some temporary chaos, which could be what these people were looking for.

Of course, if an organization really dared do this, then they would no longer have a place in the explored universe, as they would be hunted until every last one of them was dead. The relationship with the faction would forever be at ‘Hatred’. Moreover, with so many armies and Beyond Grade As gathered in a place, the success rate of an assassination was negligible.

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But well, this does not hinder them from scheming some deliberate framing.

Han Xiao suspected that the three Universal Civilizations might engage in a self-directed act, pretending to have some outsiders assassinate them during the ceremony, before using this to put blame on their targets to get an excuse for a crusade.

This method seems familiar, as though I've seen it somewhere before...

Could it be that I'm the one that inspired them?

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Han Xiao had experienced a 'back stab' not too long ago, so his memory was still fresh. At this moment, his thoughts could not help but be biased toward this aspect, and his imagination was running wild.

With his understanding of the three Universal Civilizations, it was not impossible that they would do such a thing. The chances of it happening was probably around twenty percent, and he could not ask Urranrell for verification just like that.

During the few days he stayed on the planet, he did not contact the head of the three Universal Civilizations but rather sat in the officially arranged guest house just like everyone else, waiting silently.

On the day the ceremony was held, Han Xiao and the guests were all transported to the ceremony site in official vehicles. The venue was a large hall decorated in the style of the dynasty. One could see countless invited guests lining up to enter the venue, but no loud noises were heard, only the rustling of quiet conversations. The entire atmosphere was quite serious.

Han Xiao's seat was arranged at the front table, with Kasuyi, Kant, and the other peak Beyond Grade As.

After greeting, Han Xiao sat down next to Kasuyi, glancing at the people, before whispering, "Mechanic Emperor didn't come?"

"He's here, but it's just his avatar." Kasuyi gestured toward the back.

A steel lump was sat at the edge of the venue, but even if it was covered in a layer of iron, Han Xiao could smell Manison's aura on it.

"He won't cause trouble during the ceremony, right?" Han Xiao blinked.

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"Manison is not that crazy yet," Kant replied.

Today, Kant appeared as a handsome middle-aged galactic human, with a tall nose, deep eyes, and sharp facial features.

Han Xiao glanced at the security personnel at the edge of the venue before whispering, "I keep thinking that this won't go so smoothly. Maybe there might be an assassination."

"With so many of us Beyond Grade As here, who'd have such big guts?" Sun Hunter said.

"It might be a self-directed act..." Han Xiao winked.

Secret Master could not help but roll his eyes at Han Xiao as he coldly snorted, "Enough with that. You think the three Universal Civilizations are like you, to perform such a lowly act?" "So what if it's lowly? What matters is that it's useful." Han Xiao clicked his tongue. "Wanna bet?"

"You dare bet!" Secret Master was stunned.

Aren't you clear what sort of luck you have?

If one were to liken my luck to a flawless gemstone, then yours would be like the moldy green moss along the wall of a stinking ditch. How dare you bet with me, a master of luck? Are you feeling that charitable?

"Alright, then what are you going to give me?"

"I'll bet Sun Hunter. If I lose, then I'll give him to you. How about that?" Han Xiao reached out his thumb and finger, pinching the tiny guy's head and pulling him up. "Huh?"

Sun Hunter, who was being dangled in midair, had the expression of the confused Nick Young meme.

What the f*ck does it have to do with me? Watch out before I blast your ass.

Secret Master was speechless, immediately patting Han Xiao to put Sun Hunter down. He apologized before whispering angrily to Han Xiao, "Who uses another person as a gambling stake? His Excellency Sun Hunter might be a little pocket-sized, but how can you make fun of his size."

"We have a good relationship, don't worry."

Han Xiao flicked his finger, bouncing it against Sun Hunter's head, earning him an angered glare from the other party before he sheepishly smiled and gave it up. He had always wanted to do so in his past life, and he had finally ticked it off his bucket list. With all of them being on equal footing, this little joke was harmless, but if it was an ordinary Beyond Grade A that did this to Sun Hunter, the person could probably apply for disability protection.

"Since you don't like this bet, then I'll change to something else." "What?"

"I know you have some issues with me, so let's do it like this. If you win, I'll stand still for ten minutes and let you vent your frustrations. If I win, you do the same. Fair?"

Secret Master simply shut his mouth and turned his head away, not wanting to speak with Han Xiao any longer.

Forget about it, who here doesn't know of your Indestructible Body's tankiness? Fair my grandpa, I still want to live for a long time.

The group at the table chatted for a while, and suddenly, a group of officers strode into the venue, surrounded by their respective leaders. The venue immediately calmed down as the atmosphere turned solemn.

The Dynasty's Ruler Urranrell, the Federation's President Bader, and the Arcane Church's Pope swaggered to the high platform of the venue under the eyes of everyone present, sitting at the specially arranged seats with the podium next to them.

Han Xiao had only seen Urranrell personally, and this was his first time meeting Bader and the Pope. While both of them had different temperaments, they possessed the same aura of power like Urranrell, causing everyone to turn serious subconsciously.

However, the focus of his observation was not the two leaders, but the personal guards around them, all of which were of the same stature as the Dark Lord Clotti.

On Bader's side was a male with a white complexion and similar body structure to humans, except that he had a straight horn on his forehead, forcing him to keep his hair to an appropriate length. His hair color was golden and was tied into a twisted braid that hangs down to the waist. He seemed to have some elf blood as he had long ears, deep purple eyes, and a well-proportioned mouth but did not have a nose. The part that was his nose that was supposed to be flat was strangely not ugly

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—it instead appeared harmonious with his features.

This person wore a robe that was dotted with light gold and ice blue colors, revealing an elegant nobleness and gentle temperament. This person was the Personal Guard of the Federation, the peak Beyond Grade A 'Golden Ring' Oulou.

Oulou's ability was to borrow the power of a specific secondary dimension. It sounded like the dead Traveller's ability, but his combat power was not the same. This guy was at the same level as the Dark Lord, able to fight Kasuyi hand to hand and not lose.

Han Xiao turned his head to the other side.

Next to the Church's Pope was a huge guy, not the kind that got to this size through training but rather naturally huge, as though he had some giant blood running within. This was the Chief Guard of the Church, the one who was stationed at the Temple of God, 'God's Chosen' Wuornos.

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Compared to Oulou's glamorous outfits, Wuornos' looks and temperament were low-key, as if he was just an ordinary middle-aged man with wrinkled eyes. He wore a silver-gray priest robe, and if not for the robe, one would probably not recognize him if they threw him into a crowd of people. "Oulou and Wuornos..." Han Xiao softly muttered.

Both of them were just like the Dark Lord, generally only following the Head of State, hardly participating in activities other than their duties.

Glancing at Han Xiao, Kasuyi leaned over and casually said, "This is your first time meeting them, right? Here's a piece of advice, you can joke with Oulou and fool around, but don't go and provoke Wuornos."

"What's with that?" Han Xiao was curious.

"While Oulou is the chief guard, his personality is different to Clotti's, warmer and not so indifferent. Other than occasionally showing some superiority, he's not bad. However, Wuornos... heh, just don't mess with him."

"You're making me more curious. You're the ally of the Arcane Church. Do you know some gossip?"

"Even if I knew, I wouldn't tell you. I can only say that he's the Beyond Grade A publicly acknowledged to be the strongest, and naturally, there's a reason." Kasuyi blandly smiled.

At this time, Urranrell stood before the podium, surveying the scene before speaking.

“Dear friends and guests, today, we’re holding a grand award ceremony to commend all the heroes who made great contributions in the Intelligent Plague disaster. The ceremony will honor every hero with an outstanding meritorious service. “First, on behalf of the three Universal Civilizations, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the heroes of the universe who will be receiving the Medal of Honor as well as the honorary titles, and I extend my highest respect to them. “We’ve gone through many ups and downs, and today, we have united as one and once again eliminated another new disaster.

“Since the establishment of the galactic society in the last years of the exploration era, generations of heroes with a sense of responsibility have given up themselves to overcome difficulty after difficulty, shaping the cornerstone of today’s galactic society. While many have passed away, their glorious deeds will always spread from generation to generation.

“Only by crossing new mountains can we see a wider distance. Under the leadership of the three Universal Civilizations, we have overcome obstacles, constantly explored the unknown universe, and expanded our territory. Now, we’re in the Flickering World, a milestone achievement and a fruitful result of our external exploration.

“Such an achievement cannot be achieved with the cooperation of the entire galactic society. It’s this bond of order that connects us and creates a never-ending pioneering spirit. Anyone who tries to disrupt this order and unity will become the enemy of the entire universe...”

The media was broadcasting Urranrell’s speech to the entire universe. When she finished speaking, there was a tsunami-like applause in the venue. Han Xiao and the other Beyond Grade As also gave face to clap a little.

Han Xiao heard that in Urranrell’s words she emphasized the importance of collectivism, on the correctness and achievements of the leaders of the three Universal Civilizations, vaguely throwing arrows at the Super Star Cluster Alliance as well as the Mechanic Emperor. While she did not explicitly mention anything, everyone knew who the so-called ‘people who disrupted galactic civilization and society’ were.

Bader and the Pope also gave some short speeches before entering the formal award process. One by one, the heroes came to the stage, accepting the honors and making a speech. Some also answered questions from the reporters.

Before long, the ceremony approached the end. There was only one person left, and everyone’s eyes were focused on Han Xiao.

“Black Star limited the outflow of the virus during the disaster and discovered the true character of the virus core at the critical moment, reversing our erroneous strategy and allowing us to reformulate our plan. He alone changed the course of the disaster. He later captured the virus core and destroyed it, completely eliminating any hidden dangers, putting an end to the crisis of a second outbreak of the Intelligent Plague, saving countless lives. His contribution is huge and thus needs to be rewarded.”

After Urranrell spoke, Han Xiao stood up, stepping onto the stage and shaking hands with the leaders. Numerous news media reporters in the audience took videos and photos, turning the stage white with their flashes.

“Black Star has many good qualities. He is determined, resolute, flexible, and strong in principle...” Bader gave a series of praise, finally coming to the conclusion. “In view of his achievements, we have decided to jointly award him the Galaxy Medal.”

The moment he finished speaking, everyone in the audience paused.

The Galaxy Medal, which was the highest symbol of honor jointly set up by the three Universal Civilizations since their establishment, was the golden glory of the explored universe. There were only a few winners of this medal in history.

While many of them had this expectation in their hearts, they were still shocked to hear it. They always felt that although Black Star had great achievements, there was still a certain distance from this medal. Now it seemed that the factor behind this medal was if the three Universal Civilizations would support them.

But no matter what they thought, the honor was real, and the audience burst into applause.

Pa pa pa...

Amid the warm applause, Urranrell took out a star-like dazzling medal, placing it in her palm, while the other two held it by the edges, handing it to Han Xiao.

This image seemed to freeze, and the flashes under the stage flickered, recording this historic scene.

The commotion lasted a long time, and it took dozens of seconds before all movement gradually ceased.

Han Xiao reached out to accept the medal, pinning it on his chest before shaking hands with all three of them once more. He came up to the podium, clearing his throat.

“Many thanks to the Crimson Dynasty, Federation of Light, and the Arcane Church. To be able to receive this award is an honor for me. As part of the explored universe, I have the responsibility and obligation to maintain our stability and prosperity...”.

Reading from his prepared script, Han Xiao raised his head to gaze at the clock on the venue before smiling. “Since I’m the last person, it means that the ceremony is about to end. I won’t do a lengthy speech. Everything is about the same, and I feel that everyone here is already tired of hearing it...”

The audience let out laughs.

Han Xiao smiled as he nodded. “In short, what sort of person I am can be seen from my actions. I believe that society has its own views of me, and I don’t need to repeat it, so let’s skip that and go to the questions... Anyone?”

Hearing this, many of the reporters raised their hands enthusiastically, hoping for him to point at themselves.

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Just as Han Xiao was about to pick someone, one of them stood up on his own and began to speak.

“Your Excellency Black Star, I heard that the Mechanic Emperor Manison also made a great contribution to the Intelligent Plague. Without him, the three Universal Civilizations would not have been able to find

the location of the virus core. Thus, it can be said that a third or even half of your Galaxy Medal belongs to Manison... but for this award ceremony, the Mechanic Emperor did not obtain anything, and you seem to have forgotten about it and ignored his merits, accepting the medal with a peace of mind. What do you think of this?"

The originally enthusiastic venue suddenly seemed to have been doused in cold water, instantly quieting down.

Everyone moved their eyes subconsciously to Manison, who had been sitting indifferently at the edge of the venue.

Han Xiao narrowed his eyes a little as he sized up the reporter. He saw the cold smile on that person's face, obviously wishing to embarrass himself and the three Universal Civilizations in public.

Chapter 1147 Only Interested in Causing Sensational News

The moment he started to ask his question rashly, the meaningful gazes of Urranrell, Bader, and the Pope immediately landed on him.

The reporter's chest had his nametag, and he was called Porters, belonging to a news group in the Primeval Star River. His position was not low, otherwise he would not be responsible for the interview of the three Universal Civilizations on behalf of his media. Having participated in many press conferences for the three Universal Civilizations, his performance had been normal. To suddenly get into trouble, naturally someone had to put him up to it.

Han Xiao's thoughts spun. At first, he suspected the Mechanic Emperor, but he quickly banished that thought.

The Old Man could not wait to pretend to be an ostrich right now. The more low-key he was, the better. This behavior of hiring people to question for himself was actually in some manner a self-damaging act... Manison was not so humorous and would not do such disturbing things.

Thus, the most likely suspect would be the Super Star Cluster Alliance, who contradicted the three Universal Civilizations most openly. Not only did they wish to sow discord, they also wished to badmouth the three Universal Civilizations in public. It cost little to do so.

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All they had to take out was a sum of Enas, which would be astronomical in the eyes of ordinary people, and the reporter would naturally be tempted. In such a grand scene, the negative impact of an untimely question would be further magnified.

The identity of a reporter acted as a shield for him, allowing him to add fuel to the fire. The three Universal Civilizations naturally did not wish to worsen the situation, and thus, they would not capture him or threaten him afterward. As the ruling party, a pawn was just a pawn to them. They had to show some class and go straight for the orchestrator behind the scenes.

The surrounding reporters look at Porters in surprise and agitation.

"Have you lost your mind!"

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“Quick, apologize and sit down!” “You don’t want to be in this business anymore!” Those who knew him whispered in low voices, wishing to pull him down, but Porters stood firm, staring straight at Han Xiao with a spirit of getting to the bottom of the matter.

Han Xiao pressed both of his hands on the podium, slowly saying, “Dear reporter, I don’t seem to have invited you to ask your question.”

“So, are you avoiding the question now?”

Porters turned a deaf ear to them, his gaze sharp and his bearing aggressive. Oh, there’s a hint of a western reporter’s flavor in his attitude.

“You guys, only thinking about sensationalizing news every day,” Han Xiao said with a smile that was not a smile. “I believe that the galactic society has a unified view of the Mechanic Emperor’s behavior, but looking at you, it seems like you wish to fight for him, huh?”

“I’m just asking the questions that the public might be curious about, based on the professional ethics of a reporter.” Porters straightened his back, with a conscientious attitude.

“Alright. This question is a little more sensitive. While I did not call upon you, I can answer this one.” Han Xiao tapped his fingers on the podium, his tone casual. “Manison did indeed make a contribution. This is an undeniable fact, but your statement is wrong. In fact, Manison discovered the problem of the virus core earlier than I did. This medal should have belonged to him, but he deliberately chose not to report it because of his selfishness. If it was not for me who revealed it, he would not have revealed this key information. In this manner, the three Universal Civilizations would always have been kept in the dark, and the universe would still be shrouded in the shadow of the Intelligent Plague.”

“So, you’re admitting that the Mechanic Emperor should be sharing the Galaxy Medal with you? You also think that it’s unfair he has not been awarded the medal?” Porters pressed on. “I only admitted that he has credit due in this area, not that he deserves the Galaxy Medal. Don’t distort my meaning at your own will. Moreover, Manison’s final decision is enough to make everyone here re-evaluate his motives.”

“Your Excellency Black Star, please don’t digress. We are not talking about the Mechanic Emperor’s choice, only his objective achievements.” Porters was skilled in such evasive methods.

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“No, they are not separable. Part of my credit comes from my plan to stop the Mechanic Emperor. If he did not do anything at that time, my credit would be limited. If you think based on this logic, technically, he might deserve half of the Galaxy Medal. Hmm, that actually makes sense... but seriously, if we were to hand him a medal, then those not in the know would believe that he has done a good thing, and those who have worked hard for the universe would feel that this is unfair. I believe the three Universal Civilizations only made such a decision after great thought.” “But the Mechanic...”

“I’ve answered your question. You may sit down now. There are still others waiting to ask their questions. Please do not flout the rules time and again, or I’ll have to ask you to leave.”

Han Xiao indifferently cut off Porters.

The other party's goal was to create trouble, so whatever he said would make the atmosphere uncomfortable. He would only stop at his own explanation, never thinking of making the other party speechless. As long as an earnest attitude was shown, most viewers would naturally listen to it, and continuing to argue would not only be pointless but also damaging to his image. Seeing the nearby guards already eyeing him, Porters could only sit back down in anger.

Ignoring the contempt, disgust, and complicated gazes of his peers around him, Porters suppressed the fear in his heart and tried his best to make himself look calm. He controlled the trembling in his hands and feet, secretly breathing a sigh of relief.

Hu... I fulfilled the requirements.

Most likely, the President of my broadcasting station is going crazy now. Luckily, it's not my problem anymore. I'll immediately resign once I return. Whether the station gets suppressed or not isn't my problem. Why would I still work when I've gotten my remuneration?

Dreaming of the future, Porters felt that a beautiful life was waving its hands at him.

The memory in his mind was extremely clear. Not too long ago, a few mysterious people suddenly contacted him, offering him a huge sum of money to make him launch a verbal attack during today's occasion.

He knew that the moment he did this, his career would come to an end. Even if the three Universal Civilizations were too lazy to deal with him, the people below would act spontaneously and demand that the media industry ban him.

He was mentally prepared for this. Not only was the amount raised enough to move him, but the other party also had huge backing. The moment they looked for him, he could not reject their offer, so he did not have much choice to begin with.

While his actions would invite investigations and industry bans for him, his employer not only gave him money but also promised to arrange an escape route, allowing him to change his face and move to their territory to live, thus avoiding the grasp of the three Universal Civilizations.

For the rest of his life, he would be a rich man and enjoy his limitless fortune... This was what Porters was looking forward to.

Seeing that there was nothing wrong with Black Star's answer, the atmosphere in the field quickly recovered. The reporters continued to enthusiastically ask questions, pretending that the episode just now did not happen.

From start to finish, Urranrell and the other two's expressions did not change one bit. Manison also remained silent, with no intention to interrupt, as though his soul had already left the venue, thinking about what he should get for dinner.

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No one else came to make trouble again. Han Xiao answered a few friendly questions before returning to his seat. The three Universal Civilizations' leaders then spoke for a bit more before the award ceremony ended successfully.

The guests left the area one after another, while the three Universal Civilizations' leaders left the scene under the escort of their guards. Han Xiao also left by the VIP passage after exchanging a few words with the other Beyond Grade As.

The moment he walked out of the venue, he received a call from Sylvia.

"Army Commander, I watched the live broadcast. What should I do with that reporter, Porters?" Sylvia immediately got to the point.

"What do you intend to do?"

"Get rid of him?"

"Let's not. We can only get rid of our anger, and it will even give the Super Star Cluster Alliance an excuse to gain a bargaining chip. The three Universal Civilizations will definitely not allow him to continue living his original life. That's enough."

"So, we just sit still and do nothing?"

"Let me think..." Han Xiao thought for a while before an evil grin stretched across, "Monitor the flow of funds for all his accounts. The Super Star Cluster Alliance will definitely find a way to launder the money and put the reward into his account. The moment he receives a large amount of income, hack his account and donate all his money, including his savings."

"Let him work for nothing? Heh, evil enough. I like this idea."

Sylvia's eyes gleamed, and she immediately cut the call.

Han Xiao left the quantum network, not even putting Porters in his heart. He was not willing to stoop to such a low level to deal with a tool.

He quickly threw this matter to the back of his mind, stretching out his hand to take off the Galaxy Medal and examine it closely.

The item details on his interface showed that this medal would bring to him a Universe Legendary Point, (Galaxy Medal Awardee), as well as a bonus effect of solidifying the relationship between him and the three Universal Civilizations at (Respect). This was equivalent to 3,000 Contribution Points.

"The number of faction points cannot beat even one Legendary Point."

Han Xiao nodded in satisfaction. He did not have much hope for this kind of medal anyways, so it was a surprise to obtain extra gains.

At this moment, two dynasty non-commissioned officers walked out and stopped in front, as though they were there just for him.

"Your Excellency Black Star, the three heads have invited you to meet with them."

Han Xiao's feet stopped, and he nodded. "Lead the way."

At the same time, in the temporary base of the Flickering World for the Super Star Cluster Alliance, the messengers of each ally met secretly in the round table conference room through remote projection.

A virtual screen was suspended, playing the live broadcast of the award ceremony.

After watching the live broadcast, many of them shook their heads.

“The effect was only so-so, not the level of influence we hoped for.”

“An ordinary reporter can only reach this level. I told you not to hold high hopes.”

“A little effect would be good. Right now, the prestige of the three Universal Civilizations has been consolidated once again, and hitting them will only bring us a weak effect.”

“This is only a trivial matter after all. Strength is still the most important principle.”

“That’s right, so let’s forget about this topic and return to the more important things. Come... what did we discuss previously?”

“We talked about the various support for the organizations. It’s time to act collectively, like with those Immortals Organization. This time, we’re attacking preemptively. We cannot wait for the three Universal Civilizations to take action before fighting back.” “The stowaways we sent out in the first phase of the exploration can now be officially activated. The three Universal Civilizations control the gateway to the Flickering World, while we’re alone. If we wish to obtain a steady stream of supplies and reinforcements, we must count on these buried chess pieces.”

“The first batch of targets to occupy have also been selected. Our regular army will not move, and all the agents will first take action. Before the three Universal Civilizations formally intervene, we’ll try our best to seize the territory within the free competition zone.”

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“What did the Beyond Grade A Development union say?”

“They basically choose to maintain neutral, but Black Star claims to have a private grudge with the Modo Civilization, so his attitude is currently unknown.”

“Troublesome guy... Hey, messenger of Modo, wait until the conflict officially breaks out. We might not have the energy to take care of you guys, so you will have to come up with your own plans. If you really can’t do it, sacrifice yourself to hold Black Star back. The overall situation is the most important.”

“Okay...”

“Everyone, the success or failure of this operation will determine the future of our respective civilizations. To gain further opportunities or to be ruled forever... at all costs, we can only succeed!”

Chapter 1148 The Participation Requirements of the Three Universal Civilizations

Han Xiao followed the two dynasty non-commissioned officers through the tightly guarded corridors to a large office, which had been refurbished for the three heads of state. Right now, the door of the innermost reception room was closed.

The Secretary of the Dynasty Ruler put down the work on his hands, approaching them with a respectful tone.

“Your Excellency Black Star, the three Rulers are still in discussion. Please wait for a moment.”

“Alright, I’ll sit by the side.”

Han Xiao casually found a place to sit down, while the Secretary assigned people to bring refreshments for him before sitting opposite Han Xiao.

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In order not to let Black Star feel left out, the Secretary turned into an escort and started talking

Having spent decades in the dynasty, Han Xiao knew quite a few of the high-ranking officials, and this was not his first time talking to the secretary. As they talked, the topic shifted to the little incident that had happened just now.

“Your Excellency Black Star, what do you think of that reporter?” the Secretary asked.

“Just an unlucky sod.”

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“Indeed.” The Secretary laughed. “The moment he was selected, his life was destined to be affected. It’s understandable why he would choose to gamble for the greatest benefits in the end.”

“Eh, I thought you’d have to maintain political correctness in your position. You should have said that he should have immediately reported the orchestrator.”

“Hehe, we pay attention to political correctness, but we also have to be practical. The upper echelons will never like a person who only knows how to blindly shout slogans.” The Secretary shook his head.

“He’s not our citizen, nor is there any patriotic factor about him. The probability of expecting him to actively expose the other party is low. Tell me, what would he get in return?”

“A tiny reward, maybe a medal?” Han Xiao casually joked.

“Haha, you’re quite humorous... However, these are extravagant hopes. What he’ll get is likely a downgrade of his position. He was originally a big-name reporter belonging to a news group, who was responsible for attending our official events, so it should be considered a top-level position. But if he exposes this matter, there won’t be preferential treatment for him... You also understand that the civilization is a huge system, with each department not just working for the civilization but also looking out for their own political achievements. So, why would the news department take such a risk to allow a suspicious person to remain? They will have a good talk with the news channel’s upper echelons, then that guy will likely be shifted elsewhere.”

“Doesn’t that mean that the person would be worth taking care of?” “Is there a need? It’s easier to swap with a new person. Is he working in a non-replaceable role?”

“Oh, that’s a little cold blooded. Aren’t you afraid of making people disheartened?” Han Xiao raised his brows.

“Haha, do you think we will surround and protect a small reporter so that others will see our care and increase their confidence in cooperating with us? So, in the future, it’s more possible for them to seek us out to expose others?” The Secretary laughed. “Isn’t that a good thing?” Han Xiao was interested.

“Different levels have different logics in dealing with matters. At our level, many times, the policies for dealing with such matters run contrary to ordinary people’s thinking logic. It’s basically a combination of many factors.” The Secretary blinked. “If it’s a higher position or character, even an organization with a certain power, we may make concessions as you mentioned.

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“But for a small reporter? We will not waste our time on him. Our war with the Super Star Clusters on public opinion has always been going on in the dark, and this is not the first time such matters have happened. If he has no contacts and is totally unable to fight for the protection that we have planned... he’s not an important figure, so we shall not focus so much on him.”

“I didn’t know this in the past, but your words are really bold.” Han Xiao sized up the Secretary once more.

“It’s just the truth. My authority might be huge, but the resources available to exercise them are also limited. In the end, it boils down to a question of distribution.” The Secretary smacked his lips as he said, “It’s no good for them to proactively expose it, so it’s better to agree to the orchestrator behind the scenes. At least, you can obtain a large sum of money, and the things you do are within your scope of normal duties. You have not crossed the line... After all, questions asked by the journalists are from their own free will. We cannot change that.”

“Can you really not?”

“... At least in name. There is no official budget for friendly questioning, so we can only rely on hard authority to make others more self-aware.” The Secretary smiled. “But authority is not always useful. There are not many reporters who dare make things difficult for us. Some do it for performance; some are instructed. All sorts of scenarios have been experienced before, but how could there always be the same root issue?”

Han Xiao stroked his chin before suddenly saying, “Why do I feel that your words carry a deeper meaning?”

“Haha, I’ve been seen through. My idea was actually to test you out and see how you intended to deal with this journalist, Black Star... With your swift and vigorous means, you’ve probably already deployed your measures.” The Secretary laughed.

What vigor and resoluteness, you might as well just say that I’m petty... Han Xiao secretly scolded but casually revealed his plan.

“It’s good that you did not fall for the trick. It seems that my reminder was unnecessary.” The Secretary smiled.

“... It’s really tiring to talk to you. Don’t hide things, just tell me directly.” Han Xiao was helpless.

“Hehe, we hope to downplay it and not impose any personal threats on the journalist, so we need your cooperation. If this person’s life is threatened, it’ll easily turn into a fuss...”

“I think it’s useless even if you don’t wish to do anything. The people behind might choose to silence him, which will also allow them to smear the blame on you.”

The Secretary folded his hands as he replied, “I understand, and there is indeed such a possibility, but the probability is low... First of all, such accusations are not damaging enough for us to make trouble. If someone tries to place the blame on us, there will be flaws, and it would be easy to reverse the case back onto them. Furthermore, how many would care about a journalist’s life or death? The moment the news is spread out, those with a discerning eye would immediately see through the issue of the problem. In addition, those who are likely to care about the news are also journalists themselves, and spreading the news will only spoil the image of the media industry... With so many factors, this is why we chose to downplay it.”

Hearing this, Han Xiao did not agree nor disagree. The higher one’s level, the wider their knowledge. The progress of his own methods over the years came, to a certain extent, from his exchanges with the people of different classes, influenced by their own methods.

After chatting a while longer, Han Xiao suddenly recalled a certain matter and changed topics.

“Urranrell’s term should be almost over, right?”

In his previous life, after the end of the Flickering World storyline, the Crimson Dynasty Ruler changed. The day was almost here.

The Secretary paused a bit before subconsciously lowering his voice. “I cannot share the specific details yet.”

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“Alright then, let’s just talk about you. If Urranrell were to retire, your position would also have to change, right? Any news for you?”

“The moment the Ruler retires, my term as Secretary will also come to an end. The change of position has not been decided yet, but I’ll definitely be one of the foreign delegates for the government, likely within the same rank as well...”

Just as Han Xiao was about to pursue the topic, the doors to the reception room opened.

The Secretary stopped talking at the right time, gesturing for Han Xiao to enter. Seeing this, Han Xiao walked into the reception room. The first thing he saw was the three leaders behind their desks, with the various Beyond Grade A personal guards beside them.

As the door closed, Han Xiao casually greeted them.

Dark Lord Clotti nodded slightly, with no intention to speak.

It was instead Oulou who swept Han Xiao from head to toe before slowly saying, “You caught quite a few of my friends previously. It’s a pity I was not there, or else you would not have succeeded.”

“Good day to you too. Pleased to make your acquaintance.” While he sensed the hostility in Oulou, Han Xiao remained indifferent, keeping a slight smile without trying to provoke the other party. “Humph.” Oulou snorted and did not continue talking, only raising his head slightly and showing an arrogant posture.

The first impression this guy gave off was really just arrogance. While Kasuyi had mentioned that Oulou was more moderate, this was in reference to the Dark Lord, who was known for being cold. Han Xiao did not expect Oulou to be enthusiastic toward him, especially given the fact that he had captured a few Federation allies not too long ago.

Wuornos did not even open his eyes to look at Han Xiao, as though he had fallen asleep.

Among the three, Han Xiao was the most curious about Wuornos. In his previous life, both the Dark Lord and Oulou had entered the main battlefield during the World Tree War and had perished. Only Wuornos had not been dispatched. Furthermore, his previous records were also few and between, making him extremely mysterious.

Even in normal times, when it came to Beyond Grade A powerhouses, Wuornos was rarely counted because he basically did not move against anybody, a weirdo just like Sorokin. However, their reputations lay at the two extremes.

At this moment, the Dynasty Ruler Urranrell spoke. “Black Star, how does it feel to have the Galaxy Medal?”

“I’m flattered.” Han Xiao was expressionless.

“But you don’t seem too satisfied?”

“... I’ve been seen through. Yes, I’m actually a little worried.”

“What are you worried about?”

“If I ever make new contributions to the universe in the future, will I then get a second or maybe a third Galaxy Medal? I feel that I might have to open a warehouse to store this stuff. It might even have no space in the future to store all these medals. What a headache.” Han Xiao sighed.

Urranrell was perplexed. Can you please speak coherently? “Let’s skip the polite remarks. You’re not just looking for me to encourage me, right? Just tell me if you have something.” Han Xiao spread out his hands. After putting up a front for the whole day, he did not wish to be polite anymore. Bader sighed before speaking. “Then let’s get straight to the point. I believe you’ve learned from your channels that the dispute between us and the Super Star Cluster Alliance is about to begin. For the Black Star Army, as the leader of the private armed forces in the Flickering World, we require you to provide a certain amount of assistance.” “Hmm?” Han Xiao frowned.

The three Universal Civilizations had been trying to get the Beyond Grade A Association to help them deal with the Super Star Clusters, even using the monopoly of Class Knowledges as a bargaining chip, but the union had never agreed. There had not been any unnecessary actions for a period of time, but now it had started once more. “You should be aware of the results of the Beyond Grade A Union’s vote some time ago. I thought we already gave our answer,” Han Xiao said.

“That’s right. We know that the Beyond Grade A Association plans to abide by its neutral stand, but that is your own agreement, not our request,” the Pope drily said.

Urranrell also added, “Black Star, we hope that you’ll work with us on this matter.”

The Crimson Dynasty originally allocated its territory to the Beyond Grade A allies, hoping that they could contribute at this time. But the development of the union exceeded their expectations, and now, their original allies wished to remain neutral. Of course, they were displeased.

While the territory of the Black Star Army was given as a reward for meritorious service, there was also a motive behind giving it away, and if it could not achieve the effect they wanted, they would not call it quits so easily.

“I thought that we had reached a common consensus on this issue, but it seems that you have misunderstood my position.” Han Xiao narrowed his eyes.

“Don’t misunderstand. We understand your intentions, but this is not beyond the scope of our agreement.” Bader interjected.

The three Universal Civilizations had created momentum for Black Star because they wished to gain a spokesperson for them within the union. They wished to utilize Han Xiao as a link to influence the entire Development Union. Such a juncture like this would be when the spokesperson came into play-on the Super Star Cluster Alliance’s side, they had their Beyond Grade As, so the three Universal Civilizations would not easily allow their allies to go on strike.

“If I do this, I’ll deviate from the united front and lose the bigger picture because of small gains.” Han Xiao waved his hand.

“Relax, we’ve taken this into consideration and have chosen an entry point for you...” The Pope leaned forward. “Since you’ve publicly expressed your personal grievances with the Modo Civilization, just use this as a reason to move a little. You can use these reasonable excuses to get more of the Beyond Grade As to intervene in the storm without damaging your reputation.”

/ We

“Will it not be damaged just because you say so? Don’t start.” Han Xiao waved his hands again. “Then we each take a step back. We will not force you to participate in the event throughout, but if the Super Star Cluster Alliance’s Beyond Grade As takes action, I hope that the Development Union will respond. Since you have shouted about regulating all Beyond Grade A conflicts, it should be implemented to the end. This perfectly falls within your jurisdictions.”

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Han Xiao immediately understood the intentions of the three Universal Civilizations and put on an embarrassed face as he explained, “But in such a situation, those who are willing to help the Super Star Clusters are definitely of their direct line. Since you also have your own direct Beyond Grade As, isn’t it appropriate for both direct lines to fight? It will not be suitable for the union to take action as it will make us biased.”

Bader deepened his tone in dissatisfaction, “If you put it like this, then what do we need you allies for?”

Han Xiao frowned, and he raised his tone, not ready to be outdone. "If you have the ability, just cancel all the Beyond Grade A ally contracts now."

Bader was rendered speechless.

You're good, I'll shut my mouth now.

Chapter 1149 Eve of the Incident

After rebuking Bader, Han Xiao felt much better.

While he might have become the Special Consultant for the three Universal Civilizations, his previous grudges against the church and the federation had yet to disappear, so being impolite to them felt pretty good.

Seeing this, Urranrell took over and solemnly said, "Black Star, this matter is of utmost importance. I hope that you can assist us in proposing it to the union."

Toward his own ruler, Han Xiao would naturally hold himself back a little. However, he remained firm. "The Development Union should not and cannot favor any party. If we act according to your requirements, when your direct lines step forward, will we need to restrain them as well? Can you accept mediation? If we treat you the same, will you be offended? You understand what I mean. I personally have a reason to deal with the Modo Civilization, so I declared that in advance. This is not against the united front, but it's better for the association itself to remain neutral."

He knew what the three Universal Civilizations were planning. The purpose of the Beyond Grade A Association was to mediate with all Beyond Grade A conflicts. The three Universal Civilizations wished to take advantage of this and turn the association into an indirect third-party ally.

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If the Super Star Clusters take out their direct Beyond Grade As, then we will fight you, but if the three Universal Civilizations take out theirs, then we'll pretend we did not see anything

In this manner, the final result would make people mistake the development union as the dog of the three Universal Civilizations.

Han Xiao naturally would not agree to this. He was the Vice President of the Beyond Grade A Association as well as a common ally of the three Universal Civilizations. His identity now was sensitive, and both sides needed him, so he could not go down the wrong path.

The three Universal Civilizations had an advantage in terms of the number of their Beyond Grade As, so they definitely would not agree to being treated fairly.

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Sure enough, after hearing Han Xiao's statement, the leaders rejected the proposal. As a ruler, it was impossible to give an external union a higher law enforcement power than themselves.

The Pope slowly spoke. "Black Star, let us be open. We understand your position very well. The Mechanic Emperor wishes to create opposition, but you are different. You don't wish to separate the

Beyond Grade A group from us. It's not as though you are refusing cooperation with us, so we are optimistic that there is actually some room for negotiation. Just say what you want." "That's right. My aim is to form an cooperative partnership between the Beyond Grade As and the advanced civilizations, not just being your vassals or sheltered under you. As for the premise of equality... you have to at least let go of most of the shackles against the Beyond Grade As, such as the monopoly of Class Knowledge."

"Isn't that what we proposed before? To use the removal of knowledge monopoly as a bargaining chip in exchange for the development union to deal with the Super Star Cluster Alliance, but you refused."

"How should I put it? Using this as a deal is actually a threat or coercion in the eyes of many of the Beyond Grade As. Another purpose of this union is to bring all the Beyond Grade As together and not continue to force them into factional disputes. Thus, most people hope that the three Universal Civilizations will unconditionally let go of many restrictions including the monopoly of knowledge as well as reform the alliance system. Only after this will we then be willing to talk about the new cooperation conditions. This is an issue with the order it is being done..." Han Xiao explained. The union could technically be likened to a strike, aimed at improving the welfare of the entire class and fighting for better treatment for themselves, so they would be quite united before the benefits were obtained.

"Assuming we do this, what form of new cooperation do you hope to achieve?" The Pope threw the question back. "To be honest, the opinions within the union have also not been unified as of now, but the majority suggest reducing the nature of allies and strengthening the employment relationship. That is to reduce compulsion and increase our freedom. The cooperative relationship should also be no longer limited to one, and it should be in the form of employer and employee. In addition, we will not be affected by the aftermath between faction battles..."

Han Xiao repeated the expectations of the development union. There were too many twists and turns in this, as the needs of the advanced civilization allies and the free Beyond Grade As were basically different. When different positions fought, it would be difficult to come to a result that everyone was satisfied with.

The three leaders shook their heads. Neither side could make any concessions, so the talks could only come to an end without any common goal reached.

Walking out of the reception room, Han Xiao sighed in resignation.

Following the rise in his position within the universe, the choices he faced every day were becoming increasingly critical. Every decision could have a profound impact on his own development, and if he did not pay attention, it would easily deviate from the tracks he envisioned and become difficult to remedy. Only through experiencing this would one then be able to understand the danger involved.

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The moment Han Xiao left, the three leaders shared a glance.

"It seems like there's no need to count on the development union to provide assistance. Black Star was not perfunctory at all. He has a clear conscience when accepting rewards and can reject without feeling guilt at all. Heh, his principles are really strong." Bader sneered.

“Enough. This was not our main objective in building momentum for him as well. This was something we expected. It would be too simple if such a small reward moved a pinnacle Beyond Grade A.”

“There’s no problem for Black Star to cherish his feathers. We cannot lose sight of our long-term goals just for some short term gains. We still need him to act as a link to guide the development of the union... It’s just that their requirements now are still a little whimsical.”

“The Beyond Grade As can’t be without restrictions. If their shackles are completely removed, it will be a hidden danger in the future.”

“We don’t have the time to deal with this now. Shelve the negotiations and observe Black Star a little longer. No matter what, having him in the top position is better than the Mechanic Emperor.”

Under the vigorous propaganda of the three Universal Civilizations, the various Star Fields broadcast the award ceremony, causing extensive discussions among the numerous galactic residents.

Among the hottest topics was Han Xiao himself. Some people thought that the Galaxy Medal he obtained was well-deserved, while others thought that his merits were not great enough when compared with the previous Galaxy Medal winners.

But in any case, the facts could not be changed. If one were to count Han Xiao’s deeds of catching EsGod, stopping the disaster, fighting the Mechanic Emperor, and contributing to the stability of the universe, most people would hold a positive attitude. However, the enthusiasm for the discussion of the award ceremony in galactic society lasted for only a few days before a sudden change attracted the attention of the entire universe.

Just a few days after the end of the award ceremony, the largest armed conflict so far broke out in the free competition zone. Many of the organizations launched attacks on multiple planetary strongholds without warning, as if they had agreed beforehand.

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The free competition zone suddenly fell into chaos.

Hong long long long!

The earth rumbled continuously, and a series of heavy ground combat vehicles tens of meters high advanced. Wherever they passed, mountains and forests fell, bunkers shattered, and ground defense lines were breached.

Troops of armored soldiers raised their weapons and fired frantically at the intruders. The muzzles ejected intense beams of light. However, a group of vigorous and powerful figures shuttled through the artillery fire, easily decimating the troops. The small team easily shredded the defending front, and the mud thrown up by the vehicles and explosives buried the corpses of the soldiers.

This was a resource-rich planet located in the middle of the free competition zone. It was originally discovered by a vassal Star System level civilization under the three Universal Civilizations, and they established a stronghold here. However, they were ruthlessly attacked today.

Their attacker was a large fleet bearing a common logo of a snowflake shaped emblem with two spears staggered at the bottom. This represented the organization known as ‘Northern Battlefront’. Established

in the free competition zone, they had no major records, but no one expected them to come and attack a planet occupied by a Star System civilization without warning.

The Northern Battlefront fleet had dispatched tens of thousands of Grade B players as well as a large number of warships and ground combat equipment. It did not take long for the defensive forces of the stronghold to fall into a full retreat as they were unable to withstand the Northern Battlefront's offensive.

This was because the Northern Battlefront was actually a player-formed organization, created by a large number of guilds banding together. They also recruited many solo players with capital, so they had a good foundation to support a certain level of interstellar warfare. After all, they had gone through four versions in Galaxy, so the guild had accumulated quite a lot of money.

There were tens of millions of active players in Galaxy, of which the Black Star Army probably recruited a little more than ten million and was the largest player faction. The rest of the players were scattered among various organizations, with equally large numbers each as the guilds could afford to recruit them.

Within the stronghold was a group of players from the three Universal Civilizations stationed on guard, with probably about one or two hundred of them. However, they were soon overwhelmed by the army and could not withstand the waves of attacks.

A warship of the Northern Battlefront was suspended high in the sky, and within the command room, the leader of the Northern Battlefront looked down on the battlefield with a smile.

"Victory is before us. Quickly deal with the enemies. We still have other strongholds to conquer."

He was the leader of the Northern Battlefront that was jointly elected by the many guilds forming the coalition, and he was responsible for the operation this time. His ID was 'Fire of Northern Sea', and he was the president of a large club in Europe.

"Where shall we hit next?" asked another senior who was part of the guild.

"Whichever is nearest. We'll carve a path for ourselves."

Fire of the Northern Sea waved his hand energetically.

The Northern Battlefront had communicated with the NPC organizations and reached an agreement with the Super Star Cluster Alliance, acting as an agent to help the Super Star Cluster Alliance conquer the various strongholds.

Every time they occupied a stronghold, they would get additional rewards, and they did not even need to struggle in occupying the planets. The Super Star Cluster Alliance was responsible for initiating the war, and the high resource sharing provided to them was equivalent to a steady stream of funds. At the same time, the Super Star Cluster Alliance would provide resource support to them during the campaign, such as material purchase discounts and other benefits.

It was not just the Northern Battlefront; even the Galactic Business Alliance and the 5C Alliance, other player made alliances, had also reached an agreement with the Super Star Cluster Alliance to temporarily fight for them.

The conflict between the three Universal Civilizations and the Super Star Cluster Alliance was an open secret, and the Super Star Cluster Alliance would not be afraid of the three Universal Civilizations and the Black Star Army like the smaller factions. The clubs of various countries saw this opportunity and hopped on the bandwagon to participate in this national war.

Them starting a national war was not just for entertainment but more for profit.

By doing so, they could utilize this channel to cozy up to someone powerful such as the Super Star Clusters, recruit more players through the wars and strengthen their organization, and obtain resources. Furthermore, they would fulfil the main storyline of faction war and perform some off-field preparations for the Pro League this season, easing the dominance those in the Black Star Army had.

And now, due to the Super Star Cluster Alliance being the preemptive one, the Northern Battlefront and the other guild alliances took the chance to attack and expand their territory in the free competition zone for the Super Star Cluster Alliance.

Fire of Northern Sea opened the star map, watching the real-time expansion of the Super Star Cluster Alliance's territory in the free competition zone as he excitedly clenched his fists.

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"This is an unprecedented event. The Black Star Army has too great an advantage in the Flickering World. Only if the Super Star Cluster Alliance wins will we be able to turn the tides and obtain equivalent resources to them!"

This similar war scene appeared on multiple planets in the free competition zones. In addition to the player alliances, other private armed organizations also robbed territory for the Super Star Cluster Alliance.

Around 2,400 planets were invaded on the same day, most of which were resource rich planets, transportation hubs, or other strategic locations. At the fourth exploration phase, the maps were basically complete, and the Super Star Cluster Alliance could accurately select the high value targets. Facing the sudden problem created by the Super Star Cluster Alliance, everyone was left shocked!

"Galaxy Chronicles—The First World Server War

"On February 25, 732, the three Universal Civilizations held an award ceremony for Black Star, awarding him the Galaxy Medal.

"On February 29, 732, a large-scale armed invasion broke out in the free competition zone of the Flickering World. The Super Star Cluster Alliance instructed multiple armed organizations to expand their territory, which eventually became the fuse for official conflict between them and the three Universal Civilizations. This was the prelude to a national war and went down in history as 'Eve of the Incident'."

Chapter 1150 Anti-Trust Regulations, Main Storyline of Counterfeiting

In the free competition zone, Emerald Star Cluster, Planet Rosende...

This was a resource rich planet located within the inner ring of the Star Cluster. It was occupied early on by a Star Cluster level civilization named 'Thunder Horn'. They had transformed it into a temporary base

camp for their exploration army, and the planet was heavily guarded and well stocked with materials and troops.

Right at this moment, the leaders of the Thunder Horn Civilization Exploration army were gathered in the conference room of the headquarters.

“The two stronghold planets in the central region were invaded successively and breached by the different organizations employed by the Super Star Cluster Alliance. What are your thoughts?”

The chief commander pressed his hands on the table, his sharp eyes looking at all the officers present.

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Bang!

A high-ranking commander with a bristly beard slammed the table as he angrily shouted, “Is there still a need for discussion? Immediately gather manpower for a crusade! My troops are guarding one of the strongholds, and they have been almost completely wiped out. We must fight back!”

Another tall and thin officer with a calmer temperament stroked the lightning-shaped blue horns on his head. This action was similar to a human stroking his beard. He slowly said, “I feel we should wait and see for now. The Super Star Cluster Alliance’s actions have a strategic intention behind. Even if we take our stronghold back, we will be attacked once more. Furthermore, the central region is currently in chaos due to the trouble caused by the Super Star Cluster Alliance, and it’s too dangerous to hold onto our land.” Now that the fourth exploration phase had been completed, the four Star Clusters in the free competition zone were divided into regions, with dozens to hundreds of Star Systems for each Star Cluster. According to their locations, they were divided into the outer edge area, inner ring area, central area, and finally the core area for a total of four layers.

At present, the main strategic goal of the Super Star Cluster Alliance was to completely control the core and central areas, having a stable rear base that could allow them to utilize space transmission methods such as stargates to maintain their supply and transportation channels.

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While this would cause them to be completely surrounded, there was no other way for the Super Star Cluster Alliance. Since guerrilla tactics were not suitable for them, they could only resort to sieging tactics. “Then, what are we going to do? Are we going to obediently pass the stronghold to them and let my men die in vain?” The hot tempered bristly beard lashed out. “Chief commander?” The calm officer turned his head. “I believe your thoughts align with mine.”

The Chief commander looked up when he heard this and replied, “I’m also in favor of waiting. The situation now is not clear.” “They’ve already started fighting. What’s not clear about that?” the hot-tempered officer shouted.

The Chief commander patiently explained, “In this storm, we’re not the main characters. The three Universal Civilizations and the Super Star Cluster Alliance are the true protagonists and chess players. While the fourth exploration phase is called the free competition zone, we’re only forces that have come to pan for gold and occupy land, the chess pieces that took the initiative to enter the chessboard.

We are far from being able to influence the overall direction, so we must wait for the three Universal Civilizations to respond.”

“So, we have to count on the three Universal Civilizations to take action for our forces in trouble, to start a war against the Super Star Cluster Alliance, huh?”

“Of course not, the three Universal Civilizations will not enter the fray so easily. After all, the principle of the free competition zone has not been torn apart yet. The Super Star Cluster Alliance has employed so many people. Other than strengthening itself, it was also to stick to the rules of the game. Everyone would use their agents to compete, and it will reach a more intense level once the two armies start fighting officially. However, this is not the time yet.”

The calm officer nodded. “That’s right. Chess pieces like us can only wait for the orders of the players. When the three Universal Civilizations show a reaction will be when we choose our sides, then we will no longer be alone and will have a large number of teammates.”

The other senior officers also nodded.

While they were unwilling to be pawns, the moment they chose to enter the free competition zone, it was tantamount to them consenting to being in the game. This was the rule formulated by the three Universal Civilizations. Of course, there would also be no shortage of benefits. Only by being a pawn could they obtain the benefits of the Flickering World, and how much they got depended on their ability.

Beep beep beep... At this moment, a virtual screen popped up at the center of the conference table. On it was an announcement issued by the three Universal Civilizations to the entire universe. The title jumped out in everyone’s eyes.

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“Supplementary Regulations on Anti-Monopoly within the Flickering World Fourth Exploration Phase.”

It’s here!

The eyes of the Chief commander flashed, and all of them immediately read the report.

The content of this announcement could be roughly summarized into a few points. Firstly, it defined the Eve of the Incident as the beginning of malicious competition and monopolization, and they believed that the Super Star Cluster Alliance was violating the ‘Regulations on Free Exploration’. Secondly, it ordered the Super Star Cluster Alliance to immediately stop the malicious expansion behavior, strongly condemning them on behalf of the civilizations in the universe. Thirdly, if the Super Star Cluster Alliance still did not repent, they would begin sanctions and redistribute the territory occupied by the Super Star Cluster Alliance.

In the appendix of the announcement, there were plans to implement the sanctions and redistribution. The Crimson Dynasty and the other two universal civilizations expressed that they were unwilling to destroy the ‘Free Exploration Regulations’, so they encouraged the organizations and forces in the free competition zone to launch a siege against the Super Star Cluster Alliance. They would then be given special support based on merit.

At the same time, in their distribution plan, they stated that they would not reclaim the planets that the various forces snatched from the Super Star Cluster Alliance. As a reward for helping them against the Super Star Cluster Alliance, they would reclaim their territory as appropriate after the event... In short, they were dangling a carrot to draw forces to attack the Super Star Cluster Alliance and increase the difficulty of the latter to woo agents over to their side.

One could either choose the three Universal Civilizations or the Super Star Cluster Alliance. There was no third option. If one wished to stay neutral, the end result would be to see their territory gradually being eroded away by the Super Star Cluster Alliance. This was also the scheme of the three Universal Civilizations, as they were confident that no one would silently get robbed.

And in the one in ten million possibility that people really chose to give up their territory than to get involved in the storm, the three Universal Civilizations would just send regular troops into the area, and after going through the Super Star Cluster Alliance, they would no longer reallocate the territory back to the other forces, instead occupying it.

As for the third party Beyond Grade A organizations, they were a special existence within this storm. Only they had the capital to remain neutral, and at the same time, the three Universal Civilizations as well as the Super Star Cluster Alliances would avoid their territory to a certain extent.

This was the influence brought about by the establishment of the Development Union, which was different from the trend in his past life. The butterfly effect had already begun to take effect!

Of course, this was based on the premise that the majority of the Beyond Grade As would keep to watching as much as possible. Their forces could also take the opportunity to expand, but taking advantage of this battle had to be controlled to a degree.

“An insidious strategy.” The chief commander coldly snorted before suddenly increasing his volume. “Have the organization leave with the fleet for the central area. The time is right. We now have enough indirect allies.”

Everyone stood up, giving a military salute.

“Understood!”

Meanwhile, at the Black Star Army’s frontline stronghold in the Emerald Star Cluster, the outbreak caused an uproar among the army players. A large number took to the frontlines to explore, causing the dining hall to be filled with a wave of black as all the players in combat uniforms gathered. “What’s happening? I went for a business trip a few days ago and didn’t come online, but how did the world change so drastically? What are these guild alliances doing?” “The Super Star Cluster Alliance wants to unify the free competition zone, but how did the Northern Battlefront and the Galactic Business Alliance come on board?”

“I read the forums, and they seemed to have gotten the main storyline mission from the Super Star Cluster Alliance.”

“But we don’t have a related mission. Does that mean that you have to be in the Super Star Cluster Alliance faction in order to obtain the mission?”

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“That might not be so. Haven’t some people analyzed the current situation? The three Universal Civilizations will definitely not let this slip. Since we’re in the Black Star Army, we should naturally stand on the side of the three Universal Civilizations.”

Just as everyone was discussing the matter, the announcement of the three Universal Civilizations popped up on the floating screen in the main hall, attracting everyone’s attention.

After reading the report, the atmosphere started to heat up once more.

“Haha, see what I said. Such a huge plot cannot just be a unilateral main storyline.” “So, this is a faction war, with the three Universal Civilizations and the Super Star Clusters on opposite sides?”

“We’re going to fight a national war!” The players were excited. But after a while, their interface still remained silent, leading to everyone feeling confused. “This can’t be. Didn’t they say it was a faction battle? How are we not involved in the main storyline?”

“Could it be that we have to trigger it ourselves? But who do we look for?”

“We’re members of the army, so maybe we have to wait for the army to issue an official announcement for the mission?” Just when everyone was in a state of uncertainty, the Phillip subprogram on everyone’s communicator suddenly popped up, issuing a notice.

Black Star Army Expedition Order.

In view of the contradiction between the three Universal Civilizations and the Super Star Cluster Alliance, the army has decided to carry out an armed crusade against the Modo Civilization Exploration Force. The reasons are detailed in the appendix ‘Kunde Civilization’ (Expand/Collapse). Only the Modo Civilization will be targeted, and there is no need to bother about the other Super Star Cluster Alliance Civilizations. If there are any forces that prevent our actions, you are allowed to retaliate. The primary strategic goal is to expel and kill the Modo Civilization and its affiliated organizations. All troops cannot deviate from this strategy.

As soon as the announcement popped out, a mission notice was seen on the interface of all the players present.

Except for the specific requirement, there was no difference from the main storyline missions obtained by the Super Star Cluster Alliance players.

Seeing this, many of them smiled with joy. “That’s right. We really need the army to issue an announcement before we can activate the main storyline mission.” “So, there’s a grudge between the Modo Civilization and us?”

“Sigh, one look and you’re the sort that did not read the background story of the version update. The Modo Civilization conspired to use the Kunde Race in the Flickering World to annihilate everyone. They’re such low people and deserve to be beaten up.”

The countless army players could not wait to immediately enter the central area.

However, what they were unaware of was that the task they triggered was actually problematic and was not the main storyline of the battle between the three Universal Civilizations and the Super Star Cluster Alliance.

The ordinary vassals of the three Universal Civilizations or Super Star Cluster Alliance mercenaries would not specify which civilization to fight; the players would improve their Mission Rating so long as they helped their forces expand. The missions for the army players, while in the same model, was simply to attack the Modo Civilization.

Because of the united front, the Black Star Army and the other Beyond Grade As could not respond to the call of the Crimson Dynasty and did not have the initiative to get involved in the storm. Thus, the army players would not have the main storyline of the fighting between the two factions!

"It's all thanks to my wit..." Han Xiao secretly breathed a sigh of relief when he saw the excited reactions of the players on the forums.

As early as when the development union required all its members to be neutral, Han Xiao had guessed that the Black Star Army would not be able to join the main storyline of the battle between the three Universal Civilizations and the Super Star Cluster Alliance. As the vice president, if he wished to maintain his status and power, he had to be subject to the collective resolution of the united front.

He had guessed the follow-up impact at that time and thus deliberately left the Modo Civilization as a goal so that the three Universal Civilizations and development union would feel that this was a private vendetta. In this manner, he could justifiably imitate a war mission and make the army players mistakenly treat it as the main storyline. While the mission was simpler than the actual main storyline, the players could only accept it. If there was not even a counterfeit main storyline, then the large number of players would be disappointed and might even switch factions to participate in the national war. There was no doubt about it. After this mission release, the negative impact would be minimized. While the specific missions were different, at least they would be able to enter the national war, which was enough for most players.

At the same time, this could show a contrast with the other Beyond Grade A organizations. Most of them would not be able to participate in the main storyline, but the Black Star Army had a fake main storyline. This would attract some players from the other factions to switch over to his side.

On the other hand, the players in the national wars during his previous life had a lot of room for free play. While they got to fight side by side, it also meant they just waged their own wars without caring for each other. The main point of him creating the main storyline was to integrate all his players to go against the Modo Civilization, having a greater chance to complete the mission [Kunde Race Leader's Last Wish)! In this manner, the hidden danger was basically solved. "United front, united front..." Han Xiao muttered helplessly.

Right now, the united front had become a new shackle to him. While it could be maintained at present, as this clause affected the interests of more members, problems would inevitably rise. It was estimated that the three Universal Civilizations also had plans to drag down the unity of the Beyond Grade A group.

To be honest, as far as he was concerned, he felt that the chance of reaching an agreement between both the development union and the three Universal Civilizations was low. There was a strong conflict of interest between the two sides' demands.

As far as the union was concerned, because of their different needs, the collective resolutions drawn currently were naturally not the best plan. It could only be said that it was a plan that no one strongly opposed. The development union wanted the three Universal Civilizations to unconditionally lift the monopoly of knowledge, before talking about other cooperation. In the eyes of the Beyond Grade As, this was a reasonable request because their current source of Ultimate Knowledge was obtained through meritorious service. They had paid enough for many years and collected all the Ultimate Knowledges, but they were not allowed to pass it on to others.

Only by breaking the monopoly of the three Universal Civilizations could the shackles of their factions be lifted. In this manner, the union itself would be responsible for the spread of knowledge, so current and future Beyond Grade As would no longer need to work for the three Universal Civilizations to obtain Ultimate Knowledge. After all, most people were originally not citizens of the three Universal Civilizations and had no responsibility toward them. In this manner, those who wished to join the three Universal Civilizations would only be looking for a strong backer and not for an ulterior motive. However, Han Xiao knew that the chances of the three Universal Civilizations allowing this was slim.

Unconditional? Even he himself thought that this was bullsh*t!

But as the Vice President, he had an obligation to convey the collective resolutions, and at the same time, he could not represent so many people to make claims, so he could only convey the meaning of the association truthfully. Based on Han Xiao's own ideas, it was not a bad option to agree to the deal proposed by the three Universal Civilizations, which was to deal with the Super Star Cluster Alliance in exchange for them lifting the monopoly on knowledge. However, many of them disagreed. Firstly, they did not wish to undermine their original intention, and secondly, they did not wish to take the risk to get involved in this turmoil. Everyone had a different viewpoint and position... If the two sides remained in this deadlock, Han Xiao concluded that the final result would be that the Beyond Grade A Association would not be able to bear it and start imparting knowledge privately, which would give the three Universal Civilizations an excuse to attack them. "This is difficult... but it's nothing to me." Han Xiao shook his head.

First of all, he had already obtained his Ultimate Knowledges. In fact, he did not care about the problem of the monopoly of knowledge.

Secondly, he knew where the turning point of this matter would be, so he did not care about the problems exposed at this moment. "Wait till the Calamity of the Supers or the World Tree appears, then I'll be able to break the existing pattern. Now is not the time... Speaking of which, I'm not sure if the Holy Accord has succeeded yet."

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Han Xiao smirked.

Temporarily dropping this thought, he picked up his communicator to give someone a call. In the turmoil caused by the Super Star Cluster Alliance, the Beyond Grade As would mostly not be involved, but there would be a small number of people involved in their own private affairs. One of them would definitely be Sorokin.

Their interests were in line this time, and perhaps they could work together quietly this time to turn the Modo Civilization into pigskins.

Furthermore, Han Xiao already had a bold guess about Sorokin's identity.

"Now's a good time to verify it..."